



Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of the Saga Pearl II of *Saga Shipping - V' SHIPS*.

If you have pictures or postcards of your ship, please send them in to us for future Newsletters.

We Welcome

Norwegian Cruise Lines

- Ram Prasad Rai
- Jyoti Kumal
- Nir Bahadur Rai
- Madhu Kumar Rai
- Phadindra Lamichhane

The last period has been a very bad one for terrorist attacks worldwide, with major incidents in the United States of America, Niger, Bangladesh, Turkey and Iraq. I give details of these below, but want to emphasise here the importance of what you all do to keeping safe the passengers, crew and ships of the companies for which you work.

The threat of terrorist attacks is very real and growing. It is up to all of us to do our best to ensure that none succeed due to failures on our part to follow procedures, to keep a vigilant eye open and to react swiftly if something unusual occurs. You are really on the front line. Please never forget that.

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 747 men and 170 women on ships, a total of 917 crew and staff under management.



GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 28 Hong Kong Clients and have 104 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 0 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

World Security

Economics

The vote on 23 June for 'Brexit', the British withdrawal from the European Union, took markets by surprise and caused large losses on the world's stock exchanges. However, by the end of the next week these had largely been regained. The Pound dropped by over 10% but recovered to some degree.

There will be continued uncertainty in financial markets as the British negotiate to withdraw, but this will take over another two years, so there is no emergency foreseen here. The situation of Italian banks, which have large loans that are in need of writing off but which cannot be remedied under current EU rules, is causing concern.

Nuclear

North Korea's fired several missile tests, most failures, over the period.

Europe

The British vote for Brexit has caused dismay across Europe and political confusion in Britain, where the Prime Minister, David Cameron, resigned. This uncertainty will continue for some time.

In Ukraine, tensions with Russia remain high.



A woman watching the Brexit vote in The Churchill Tavern reacts as a graph shows the British Pound falling in value following the announcement that Britain would leave the European Union, in New York

The Arab World

The Syrian civil war has continued. In Iraq, government forces recaptured Fallujah, which had been held by ISIS for some time. ISIS car bombs in Baghdad killed 126 people, including twenty-five children.

Forty-eight people were killed and 239 people were injured when ISIS suicide bombers attacked Atatürk Airport in Istanbul.

Conflict has not yet ended in Libya or Yemen.



Children play on swings on the first day of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, in the rebel held Douma neighborhood of Damascus, Syria July 6, 2016.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

The security situation in Afghanistan remains grave. Taliban forces are in control of many rural areas. Pakistan has not suffered largescale attacks by Islamic militants recently but remains unsafe.

Palestine

There is little new currently in Gaza or the West Bank.

Asia

Six ISIS terrorists held hostages in a café in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, and killed 20 of them before security forces stormed the building and killed all of the terrorists.

Tension continues in the areas of the Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, which are all claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, and in the Sea of Japan around islands claimed by China, Japan and South Korea. China's insurgency problems in the Muslim areas of far-western Xinjiang province and in Tibet continue. The Black Flag Movement, an ISIS-linked group, continues Muslim terrorism in Mindanao in the southern Philippines, and terrorist recently hijacked an Indonesian ship in the area.



China began a week of naval exercises in waters around the Paracel Islands. China asserts sovereignty over almost all of the resource-rich South China Sea despite rival claims from Southeast Asian neighbours.

Thailand and Malaysia

The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.

The Malacca Straits

There is no news this month of piracy in the area.

Somalia

There have been no more reports of Somali piracy. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters.

Africa

Boko Haram Islamic terrorists killed 30 soldiers from Niger and 2 from Nigeria in the Niger town of Bosso, which they temporarily overran. Bosso is near the border with Nigeria.

Myanmar

There is no news of a security nature this month.

India

There is little news of a security nature this month.



Children walk inside the Assaga refugee camp near Diffa in the south-east of Niger.

The Americas

A Muslim gunman killed 49 people and wounded 53 more before being killed himself in a gay club in Orlando, Florida.

Venezuela continues its slide towards bankruptcy and civil disorder. In Brazil, moves continue to impeach the president. Dilma Rouseff amid an economic crisis in the country.



Opponents of the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro take part in a demonstration in Caracas on May 14, 2016. Venezuela braced for protests Saturday after Maduro declared a state of emergency to combat the "foreign aggression" he blamed for an economic crisis that has pushed the country to the brink of collapse.



Durga Kami attends class at Shree Kala Bhairab higher secondary school.

Nepal News

Nepali grandfather of eight goes back to school

15 June- Nepalese grandfather Durga Kami brushes his bushy white beard, puts on his school uniform and, with the aid of his walking stick, trudges for over an hour to class for another day of learning.

Poverty prevented Kami from finishing his studies as a child and achieving his goal of becoming a teacher. Now 68, the father of six and grandfather of eight goes to school six days a week, to complete his studies and escape a lonely home life following the death of his wife.

Walking into the Shree Kala Bhairab higher secondary school and the buzz created by 200 children is a welcome contrast to the

hush of the isolated one-room home, with its leaking roof and frequent power cuts, where Kami lives in Syangja district, about 155 miles (250km) west of Nepal's capital, Kathmandu.

"To forget my sorrows I go to school," Kami, one of the oldest students in Nepal, told Reuters in the classroom where he studies alongside 14- and 15-year-olds.

A teacher at the school, DR Koirala, invited Kami to go back to school, providing him with stationery and a school uniform including grey trousers, blue striped tie and white shirt.

"This is my first experience teaching a person who is as senior as my father's

age," Koirala said. "I feel very excited and happy."

Kami's scholarship does not stretch to cover food, though, meaning his breakfast – a dish of rice with a fermented green vegetable known as gundruk – must sustain him until dinner.

The 20 children in his class have dubbed Kami "Baa", which means "father" in Nepali, but despite his age their elderly classmate joins in all activities, including volleyball in the playground.

"I used to think, 'why is this old man coming to school to study with us?', but as time passed I enjoyed his company," said Sagar Thapa, one of Kami's 14-year-old classmates.

"He is a little bit weak in studies compared to us but we help him out with that," he added.

Kami said he wanted to study until his death, adding that he hoped it would encourage others to ignore the obstacle of age.

"If they see an old person with white beard like me studying in school, they might get motivated as well," he said.



Durga Kami poses with classmates.

Sex education lifts off as Nepal launches mission to get message to young people

15 June- Which contraceptive protects you against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases?" In a flurry, the group of young people crowded into a room in the Marie Stopes centre in Kathmandu grab cards on which "condom" is written, and shout out their answers. There'll be a prize for the quickest and the loudest.

It's a warm Saturday morning in the Putalisadak district of Nepal's capital, and the young men and women are attending a sex education class – part of a three-year programme, funded by Australian aid, to get young people talking about sex.

The programme is called Rockets and Space – rocket representing the penis, space the vagina – and its message, carved out in bright orange and yellow letters on notebooks, keyrings and T-shirts, is being promoted by a band of youth volunteers through sessions at youth space stations, based in four of Marie Stopes's 36 centres in Nepal, and visits to schools and communities. The volunteers also set up stalls along streets and in busy centres, handing out leaflets and condoms that are wrapped in card with illustrations of different sexual positions.

Cartoon characters, including a scientist and myth-busting "astronauts", are used to communicate facts about safe sex and discuss topics such as masturbation, menstruation and wet dreams.

The programme has a Facebook page, which has attracted more than 100,000 likes, and a website is due to be launched this month.

Deepa Pradhan, one of the volunteers, says using games to engage young people reduces the embarrassment of talking about what are still taboo subjects in Nepal, and helps keep the interest of those listening.

"Games make them see [sex education] is really important and helps them keep these things in mind," says Pradhan, a social work graduate who has been working with Marie Stopes for two years. "Lecturing makes young people bored.



Marie Stopes's Rockets and Space sex education programme in Nepal.

They are not interested in lectures or presentations.

"I really enjoy my job. I give young people information that they might not want to talk about, but [which] they really need. It's very important for the youth, as our society doesn't allow us to talk about sexual health openly."

Rahul Thapamagar, another volunteer at the centre, adds: "We want to help them sort out their problems so that they won't be harmful to their futures."

The 22-year-old business studies graduate admits that at first he felt embarrassed talking about sex but, after some training, he now "feels more comfortable to talk with them about these topics".

Thapamagar says that while sex education is taught at Nepalese schools, what is covered, and the quality of the information, varies widely – a trend found across the world.

In May, the International Planned Parenthood Federation said sex education globally was "too little, too late and too biological", and called for more funding for services to give the world's 1.8 billion 10- to 24-year-olds better information.

Nepal had the third-highest teenage pregnancy rate in south Asia in 2014, according to World Bank figures, with 73 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19. Of the 15- to 19-year-old girls who are already married (almost 30%), an estimated 17% have at least one child and 86% are thought not to use any modern contraception.

Last month, the ministry of health held the country's first national conference on adolescent health and development, which brought together government officials, NGOs, academics, UN agencies and representatives from the private sector to share ideas to reduce the numbers and hit internationally agreed targets on universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including information and education.

The government has already proposed scaling up its family planning services over the next five years. Government figures (pdf) show that 25% of people who want to use contraceptives are unable to access services. Only about 52% of married or cohabiting women between the ages of 15 and 49 use family planning in Nepal, according to the UN.

"In Nepal, if you approach young people about family planning, they hesitate to talk about it. They think they don't need to think about it," says Shreejana Bajracharya, senior communications consultant at Marie Stopes Nepal.

She says the Rockets and Space programme was designed with the input of young people and complements a free helpline, set up in 2011, and a weekly radio show that both offer sex and relationship advice. "We asked young people what they wanted and designed it for them," she says.

Bajracharya hopes that as well as promoting safe sex, the programme will help Marie Stopes shed the image that it only offers abortion services, which is a barrier to people coming to its centres. "People think Marie Stopes is just for safe abortion. They don't know we provide family planning services."

The second chapter--Survivors of trafficking help one another rebuild their lives

24 June- As far back as 1996, police raided prostitution dens in Mumbai and rescued 500 young women. More than 100 of them were from Nepal.

The story received wide coverage in both the Indian and Nepali media, and spotlighted the enormous problem of young Nepali women being trafficked into the sex industry in Indian cities.

At the time and in the years since, the Nepali media has been accused of being obsessive and insensitive, compounding the problem for rescued young women who were stigmatised and ostracised by society — sometimes including their own families — as they tried to start new lives back in Nepal.

Sunita Danuwar, now 41, was one such rescued woman, and remembers being subjected to constant scrutiny and judgment.

"Families would refuse to accept their daughters, out of fear of being excommunicated by the community," recalls Danuwar, whose own relatives disowned her upon her return, because she had worked in the sex industry. "Even doctors testing us for HIV were scared of touching us."

The discrimination and stigma prompted 15 of the trafficked women to set up Shakti Samuha in 1997. It is Nepal's first anti-trafficking organisation run by survivors to help survivors, and also address the push factors that lure the women away.

"We have a simple objective: to fight trafficking, and help trafficking survivors rebuild their lives by providing them with the kind of support that we didn't receive," says Danuwar, a founding member of Shakti Samuha and its current

president.

Shakti Samuha has set up a nationwide network to help bring victims of trafficking together and facilitate their reintegration into society by providing legal and psychosocial counselling, livelihood and skills development training, and support in income generation.

There are now 22 such groups in 10 districts, including Shakti Sahara in Kohalpur here in Banke, which has 21 members.



Meena Salami

Meena Salami, 37, was a teenager when she was trafficked to Delhi by labour recruiters promising to send her to Kuwait for employment. Fortunately, her family tracked down and rescued her before she could be sold to a brothel.

"When I returned, people gossiped about me," Salami recalls. "Many said I was a bad woman just because they assumed I had worked in the sex industry."

Frustrated with the humiliation and lack of economic opportunities resulting from the stigma attached to being a trafficking survivor, Salami found herself once again being enticed by an agent's false promises.

"I was despondent, and convinced myself that there was no other way to improve my life and my family's, other than to go abroad and earn," says Salami, now married with three children.

A chance meeting with Nirmala Thapa, a Shakti Samuha member who worked in the district, changed her mind. Salami says, "She said one should go abroad legally and be aware of one's rights before doing so."

This year, she opened a small clothing store in her village with an interest-free

loan provided by the group. Although business is slow, Salami says: "Shakti Samuha's support encouraged me to shed my fears and to believe in myself."

Sita Sunuwar also obtained a zero-interest loan from the organisation to start a buffalo farm, and says she is now more confident and aware of her rights.

"There's a great sense of solidarity among the members because we have all been through the same things," explains Sunuwar, recalling her own ordeal after paying an agent to take her to Kuwait to work as a domestic helper.

Shakti Sahara distributes interest-free loans to members, which have to be repaid after a year and redistributed to other members.

"Our goal is to provide the initial support, and make you capable of running your own groups," Dilip Koirala, legal and training coordinator for Shakti Samuha, was telling rescued women in Kohalpur recently.

In 2013 Shakti Samuha received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for its fight against trafficking, and last year it was conferred the French Human Rights Award. But despite groups like Shakti Samuha, around 7,000 Nepali girls and women are trafficked every year, according to a UNICEF report.

"The state has failed to provide opportunities for youth," Danuwar says. "When people are desperate, it is easy to be tempted by fake assurances."

Last year the Ministry of Labour and Employment revised the ban on women working in Malaysia and the Gulf countries, and allowed women aged 24 and older to work as domestic helpers. But no labour agreement has been signed with any of the countries.

Shakti Samuha has set up counselling desks at District Administration Offices to provide information about safe migration and trafficking to women wishing to go abroad. Says Danuwar: "We don't want to stop women from migrating, we just want them to do so in a safe and legal manner."



Hong Kong News

Battling exhaustion, Hong Kong firefighters continue to combat deadly blaze at Ngau Tau Kok industrial building

21 June- At 10am on Wednesday, firefighters continued to battle the massive blaze that earlier claimed the life of one of their colleagues and hospitalised four others.

Fire department personnel had raised four ladders and were shooting water into the third floor of the burning Ngau Tau Kok industrial building as white smoke continued to billow out, swallowing nearby residences.

The heat and smoke could be felt from a nearby footbridge leading to the MTR station, with all passers-by covering their faces during the five-minute walk, though some stopped to take pictures of the scene.

Mr Chan, who lives in Tak Po Garden nearby, said his family could not open their windows and were avoiding the area for fear of the smoke.

“We saw the fire right after it started, and we saw how the firefighters have been trying to put it out all along. They have a hard time and deserve our respect.”

Student Lester Cheung said there were fire trucks driving in and out of the area throughout the night.

“I am not scared because they are here. They would have told us to run away if there was any danger.”

In the nearby Choi Ying Estate, worn-out firefighters were seen resting and drinking water.

Some residents walking by cheered them on, saying “good luck!”. One of the firefighters, looking too tired to speak, replied with a thumbs-up.

An elderly resident from a nearby care home was seen being moved to an ambulance, while a nurse directed a dozen of them sitting in a park further away from the scene. It is yet to be confirmed whether the resident was affected by the smoke, and the nurse refused to comment.

The fire has been contained, but the third floor of the building, where the 2,400 square metre SC Storage site is located, remains ablaze after more than 20 hours.

The blaze was first upgraded to a third-alarm fire at 12.14pm on Tuesday and a

fourth alarm at 7.46pm. Fires are rated on a scale of one to five according to seriousness.

Fireman Thomas Cheung, a University of Hong Kong graduate and senior station officer, died on Tuesday night after being found unconscious inside the building.

Director of Fire Services David Lai Man-hin said Cheung was leading another teammate to the site when he was caught by a sudden rise in temperature and smoke.

The teammate managed to pull out and report the situation, but lost contact with Cheung.

Four others firefighters were earlier taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and dehydration.

Three of the injured firemen were later discharged, while the other was in stable condition on Tuesday night.

Cheung is survived by his wife and a four-month-old child.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said he was saddened over the death of the senior station officer during a visit to the injured firemen at United Christian

Hospital in Kwun Tong, and said the government would try its best to help his family.

Crews were first called to the storage facility on the third floor of the Amoycan Industrial Centre on Ngau Tau Kok Road at 10.59am.

Thirty engines and about 120 firefighters were deployed.

When asked whether there were physical clashes between firemen and their senior officers at the site over how to fight the blaze – as some media reported on Tuesday night – Lai did not give a direct response.

“We encountered some difficulties in the blaze due to a large area, severe heat and dense smoke,” Poon Wai-lun, deputy chief fire officer (Kowloon) of the Fire Services Department, said.

He said there were more than 200 mini-storage cubicles and the passageway to them was narrow.

“Each cubicle was locked by occupants. We had to break them open to hose them.”

Crews used six water jets and deployed 12 teams equipped with breathing apparatus to enter the building. Poon said water was sprayed into the

premises through the use of two aerial ladders.

Deadly Kowloon Bay fire exposes industrial building risks

22 June - A fourth-alarm blaze that killed a firefighter in an industrial building in Kowloon Bay has raised questions about the safety of hundreds of similar structures that house mini storage facilities in the city, the Hong Kong Economic Journal reports.

One of the firefighters at the scene, Cheung Yiu-sing, 30, was found unconscious by colleagues and rushed to United Christian Hospital, where he was pronounced dead from smoke inhalation.

The fire broke out around 11 a.m. Tuesday on the third floor of Amoycan Industrial Center on Ngau Tau Kok Road.

The unit was being rented by SC Storage, a provider of low-cost self storage facilities with a variety of sizes.

As the blaze got bigger, firefighters raised the third alarm at 12:14 p.m. and the fourth at 7:46 p.m.

The fire was contained later in the night with 45 firefighting trucks, two aerial ladder trucks and about 200 firemen dispatched to the scene.

Cheung, the lone fatality, was a senior fire station officer who graduated from the University of Hong Kong. He left behind a wife and a four-month-old baby.

Five other firefighters were injured.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying later arrived at the hospital to visit the injured and express condolences over the officer's death. He pledged the government will assist Cheung's family.

He was accompanied Secretary for Security Lai Tung-kuok, Secretary for the Civil Service Clement Cheung Wan-ching, and Director of Fire Services Lai Man-hin.

According to the Fire Services Department, the blaze got so big because highly inflammable materials might have been stored in the mini storage facility, which housed around 200 storage units.

The lack of sprinkler systems in the old industrial building also contributed to the spread of the fire while the narrow passageways made it difficult for the firemen to reach the facility and put out the blaze.

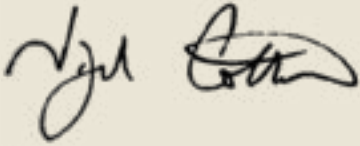
It was also learned that the mini storage units are not covered by insurance, although SC Storage promised to compensate the affected renters.



Firefighters had to use aerial ladders to put out the fire at the Amoycan Industrial Center on Ngau Tau Kok Road in Kowloon Bay on Tuesday; SC Storage facility where the blaze started.

Conclusion

I send you all my greetings and best wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable summer sailing!



Nigel Collett
Managing Director



Congratulations to Sajeesh Sukumar