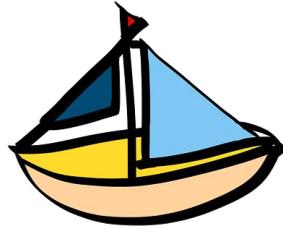




GURKHA INTERNATIONAL
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NEWSLETTER

Number 202 for June 2014

THE LAST MONTH IN BRIEF

I am glad to announce that both Carnival United Kingdom (Cunard and P&O) and NCL have requested us to recruit a batch of Guards for the summer to autumn period. BGOS is now beginning the process.

We publish this month a photograph of **Columbia Ship Management “Thomson Dream”**.



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

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 750 men and 138 women on ships, a total of 888 crew and staff under management.

We welcome:

STAR CRUISES

Suresh Kumar Gurung
Ganesh Awal
Ramesh Kumar Rajbhanshi
Niranjan Sedhai

UNIVERSAL SHIP MANAGEMENT

Dhan Bahadur Thapa
Raj Kumar Gurung
Rajesh K.C.

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINES

Raj Kumar Gurung
Hari Krishna Kandel
Dipak Tilija Pun
Gopal Gurung

REPORTING BACK HOME

Please do not omit to report back to our offices in your home country at the end of your tour. There has been some confusion in the crew employed by some of our clients, who have been instructed to report back to different agents in India and Myanmar. If you are told on board ship to report back to a different agent, please tell your superior on the ship and also tell us, so that we can sort it out. You should report back to:

India –

Ms. D. Chauhan
302 Bhatnagar Enclave
17 Viman Nagar
Pune 411 014
India
Email: dchauhan.indio@gmail.com

Myanmar –

Human Power –

Human Power Service Company Limited
No. 99 (G/F), 38th Street (Lower Block)
Kyauktada Township
Yangon
Myanmar
Tel: +95 1 253091 / 392229, Hot Line +95 973 240934

Unisuccess (including our crew recruited by Talisman) –

Unisuccess Maritime Services Co., Ltd
248/B, 4th Floor, Pyi Myanmar Building
East Race Course Road
Manaung QTR,
Tamawe TSP,
Yangon
Tel: (951) 700546, 700626

Nepal –

British Gurkha Overseas Services (P) Ltd. (BGOS)
Bakhundol - 3
Kupandol Height
Lalitpur
Kathmandu
Nepal
Tel: +977 1 5530900, 5548940
email: bgosnepal@gmail.com

WORLD SECURITY

Economics – To fight what appears to be the imminent prospect of deflation in the Eurozone, the European Central Bank reduced its interest rate below zero, which means that banks will have to pay it to deposit their money. Deflation will make paying back Europe's debt impossible.



Nuclear – The French Government report that negotiations with Iran over its nuclear programme have stalled at the final stage. There is no news about the North Korean nuclear programme.



The Arab World – President Bashar al-Assad won the Syrian presidential election with 88.7% of the vote, which was only held in areas controlled by his forces in Syria's vicious civil war, which continues unabated. Extremist Muslims of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) alternatively translated as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which controls areas of north-eastern Syria, seized the northern Iraqi areas around the oil city of Mosul and are advancing on Baghdad.

Iraqi government forces seem to have run away before them and over 500,000 inhabitants of the cities seized are now refugees. Kurdish forces have seized Kirkuk. This is the biggest crisis in Iraq, and perhaps the Middle East, since the second Gulf War that toppled Saddam Hussein. Egyptian Field Marshal Abdel Fattah el-Sisi won the Egyptian presidential election with 96.1% of the vote, and continues the suppression of the Muslim Brotherhood. Bahrain continues to be tense due to the oppression of the Shia population. Muslim extremists attacked power lines in Yemen, cutting off power to all provinces. In Libya, the government of Prime Minister Abdullah Al-Thinni seems to be clinging to power after an attempted military coup led by a retired general, Khalifa Hifter. Control over the eastern city of Benghazi seems to be weak and the airport there remains closed.

Palestine – Palestine formed its new unity government of the two factions of the PLO of the West bank and Hamas of Gaza, under President Mahmoud Abbas and a technocratic cabinet led by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah. Israel denounced this and threatened to withhold the customs dues and other taxes it levies for Palestine. The United States accepted the move.



Afghanistan and Pakistan – The second round of Afghanistan's presidential election take place over the weekend 14-15 June. In Pakistan, 10 guerillas of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan attacked Karachi international airport, resulting in 36 deaths before control could be re-asserted. Violence continues in the lawless north western provinces.

Asia – Relations between Japan and China remain strained. China and Vietnam continue to dispute the events that led to the deliberate sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat by a larger Chinese ship near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea in an area claimed by both countries.



Thailand – Just after I wrote last month the Thai military conducted a coup and seized control of the government, instituting a curfew nationwide, preventing all political activity and protest, closing down free media and suppressing opposition. They claim to intend to 'reform' the constitution and hold elections after 18 months, but it is clear that they intend to hand back power to the conservative elite that has been unable to win a democratic election in Thailand since the 1990s. The country is currently calm, though scattered flash demonstrations have occurred despite prohibition. People opposed to the military interference in government have begun to use the three fingered salute popularised in the film *Hunger Games*. The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.

Somalia – There are no new reports of piracy at present.

Malacca Straits – There are no new reports of piracy at present.

Africa –Islamic militants have expanded their operations in northern Nigeria, where the Islamic fundamentalists Boko Haram continues to hold the girls it captured over a month ago. Boko Haram has also attacked many villages and killed their inhabitants. Nigerian forces seem unable to deal with the rebels, who have spread to neighbouring countries like Niger. The security situations in the Central African Republic and Mali remains largely out of control by government forces. Violence continues in South Sudan. The incurable and highly infectious Ebola fever has now reached Sierra Leone, which has declared a state of emergency, closing its borders, schools and cinemas. 17 people have died there so far. Guinea, where 241 have died, most in the capital, Conakry, and Liberia, with 1 death, are also affected.



Ukraine – In Ukraine, tycoon Petro Poroshenko won the presidential election and has started to attempt to restore government control of the eastern provinces in which separatists who are Russian or who are backed by Russia have tried to break away. Russia continues to support the forces destabilising eastern Ukraine. Poroshenko met President Putin in France and some progress was made in defusing the issue, but the successful Ukrainian government assault on the rebel held Donetsk airport caused many casualties. Rebels unsuccessfully attacked the government held Lugansk airport. Eastern cities are being shelled by both sides and refugee numbers are growing. The situation remains grave and very dangerous.

The Americas – In Venezuela, the government of President Nicolás Maduro has ordered the arrest and trial of opposition leaders accused of attempting to assassinate him, and has accused the United States of fomenting rebellion in the country. Students rioted in Santiago, the capital of Chile, after the inauguration of President Michelle Bachelet.



India –



Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party has commenced to form a new central government. At the inauguration of the new Prime Minister, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Nawaz Sharif, perhaps indicating the start of a thawing of the current icy relations between the two countries, still locked in dispute after sixty-six years over Kashmir.

Myanmar –



There is no important news to report this month.

Nepal -



15 June: The Nepal Trust has made public the entire property of ex king Birendra, queen Aishwarya and the royal family, on Sunday. At a news conference in the capital, Secretary at the Trust Shreedhar Gautam said that there was no huge property of former royal family as expected by the people. Secretary Gautam said very few of the movable and immovable properties were found in the name of royal family members. The moveable property includes shares in banks, hotels and Nepal Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC), he added. He said that only 4,545 British Pound and Rs 10,000 was found as the movable property while 144,472 shares in Nabil Bank, 6,750 shares in NIDC and 30,720 shares in Hotel Annapurna were found in the name of former royal family. A total of 248 million received as rent in the last seven years has been deposited in the bank account of Trust and Rs 230,000 in bonus was received from the Hotel Annapurna on June 11. Likewise, some 6,244 ropanis of land was found as the immovable property and there are some bungalows in Pokhara, Chitwan, Kathmandu, Hetauda and other cities. Secretary Gautam added that more properties were found in different districts after the Trust deployed 4-5 officials by running Intensive Property Finding Programmes this year and the efforts were underway to bring the property under the name of Trust.

9 June: The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) quashed the contractual appointment of 1,346 individuals under the Health Ministry. A large number of officials were appointed through secretarial level decision without prior public notice on June 1. Issuing a letter to the ministry on Monday, the CIAA has directed not to implement the decision and appoint the required staffers in a new way through open competition by issuing public advertisement. The ministry had appointed staffers for the post of Assistant Health Worker, Health Assistant, Lab Assistant among other posts. In a press statement, the CIAA has stated that it issued a letter to the ministry directing not to implement the decision after the commission investigation found irregularities in the appointment procedure. The public accounts committee of the legislature parliament also started investigation regarding the contractual appointment made without meeting the required procedure.

14 June: Despite Department of Education's commitment to increase the success rate by double digits in the School Leaving Certificate examinations, a mere two percent increment was seen in the results published by the Office of the Controller of Examinations. The SLC pass percentage rose slightly to 43.92 this year from 41.57 last year after going down continuously for six years. Out of the 566,085 students who had registered for the examination, 528,559 sat the tests while hardly 188,027 got through the school-end assessment. Among 37,526 who missed the exams, 17,837 were barred due to their failure to attend school for the required number of

days. Out of the 394,933 students who took their exams that were held for nine days starting on March 20 under the regular category, 173,436 were successful. The number of examinees under the regular category had decreased for the first time in a decade. As many as 18,110 students secured distinction with 80 percent and above marks; 83,637 got the first division, while 67,942 scored below 60 percent in total marks. At 5,531, a small number passed in the third division. Some 15,074 students passed after they were given grace marks of five in a maximum of two subjects. The number was 14,456 last year. The SLC Board led by the education secretary determines the grace marks to increase the pass percentage.

Hong Kong -



4 June: May's total rainfall of 687.3mm was more than double the normal amount for the month, and the seventh highest May rainfall on record according to the Hong Kong Observatory. May was characterised by gloomy and rainy conditions during the first part of the month and persistent hot weather in the latter part. The accumulated rainfall of 1066.8mm for the first five months of the year was 67% above the normal figure of 640.7mm for the same period. With about three quarters of the sunshine occurring in the second half of the month, the total duration of bright sunshine was 107.8 hours, about 23% below the normal figure.

3 June: The total retail sales value in April, provisionally estimated at \$38.8 billion, fell 9.8% year-on-year according to, the Census & Statistics Department. The department said the revised estimate in March dropped 1.5% year-on-year. For the first four months, total retail sales rose 0.7% over a year earlier. After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, the total retail sales volume in April fell 9.5% year-on-year. The revised estimate of the total retail sales volume in March dropped 2.5% over a year earlier, while that for the first four months rose 1.2%. Analysed by broad type of retail outlet, the sales value of wearing apparel increased by 11.3% in April. This was followed by sales of commodities in supermarkets (+6.8%); medicines and cosmetics (+8.6%); food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (+5.2%); and motor vehicles and parts (+15%). The sales value of jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts fell 39.9% in the month. This was followed by sales of commodities in department stores (-1.3%); electrical goods and photographic equipment (-8.3%); and miscellaneous consumer durable goods (-22.3%).

5 June: The number of Mainlanders visiting Hong Kong during the recent Tuen Ng Festival dropped 2.5% on last year, after increases in previous years. The number of Mainland visitors grew 60% year-on-year in 2010, and the year-on-year increases were over 20% for the next three years. A reduction in Mainland tourist numbers will affect the economy and employment, so the Government is gauging views from the business sector and the general public to formulate a solution.

17 June: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 3.1% in March-May, the same as in February-April according to the Census & Statistics Department. Underemployment rose from 1.4% to 1.5%. Non-seasonally adjusted increases in unemployment were seen in the information and communications, and food and beverage service sectors, while decreases were seen in construction and transportation sectors. Total employment rose by about 19,000 to

3,743,800 in March-May. The labour force also expanded by about 18,500, to reach 3,864,700. There were 120,900 unemployed people, not seasonally adjusted, and 59,800 underemployed people. The labour market remained tight in March-May, with the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate staying at a 16-year low of 3.1% for the fifth consecutive month.

GI (HK) BUSINESS

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

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

CONCLUSION

I am sorry to have to write more and more unhappy news every month. The world is currently going through a change in its security and political systems which is making life more and more dangerous for those caught up in the processes unleashed. This is not going to go away in the near or medium future. For us, this makes our job more interesting and challenging. In this worsening situation, we have great responsibility to look after those in our charge. Do not let anything happen to them or to you on your watch!



Nigel Collett
Managing Director