



GURKHA INTERNATIONAL  
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# NEWSLETTER

Number 203 for July 2014

## THE LAST MONTH IN BRIEF

The month has been a relatively routine one, with the despatch to ships of some new crew and the usual rotation of old.

We have not, I regret, yet managed to solve the issue of transit to ship from Nepal through Malaysia. I am sorry for those of you who have been affected. BGOS is meeting with the Government in Nepal and is pressing for a solution. It is, I regret, a problem between the two nations so is not easy to sort out.



We publish this month a photograph of Olsen Cruise line vessel “**MS Balmoral**”.



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 759 men and 137 women on ships, a total of 896 crew and staff under management.

We welcome:

### **Star Cruises**

Rahul Gurung

### **Disney Cruise Lines**

Tek Bahadur Kandangwa  
Ash Bahadur Gurung

### **Norwegian Cruise Lines**

Dhan Bahadur Gurung  
Nirmala Gurung  
Anil Bikram Thapa  
Binaya Subba  
Ajay Kumar Gupta  
Vipin S. Nair  
Priyam S. Tom  
C.K. Santosh Kumar  
Rajesh Thiyyancheri

## CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Rajeev Venu for receiving the Vacation Hero Humanitarian Award from NCL for rescuing a guest from sea, and also his team who was presented the Vacation Hero Team Award during Venu's tenure.



## REPORTING BACK HOME

We repeat this item in case you missed it last month.

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

India

Tel: (+91) 8130545558

Email: [dchauhan.indio@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bgosnepal@gmail.com)

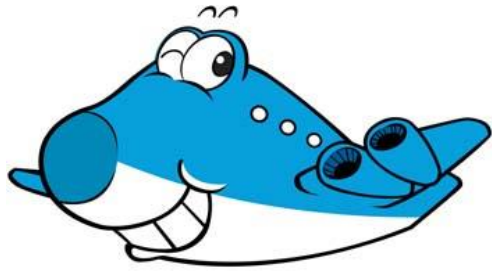
## WORLD SECURITY

**Economics** – There is little news of note at the moment. The United States, China, Germany and the United Kingdom continue to grow, whilst much of the Eurozone is still suffering unemployment and deflation. The new Government in India seems to be acting on at least some of its promises to open the economy and so start growth.



**Nuclear** – There is little news over either the Iranian or North Korean nuclear programmes.

## The Arab World



–Extremist Muslims ISIS have proclaimed an Islamic caliphate stretching across both Syria and Iraq and have begun to impose Sharia law across the area. Many have fled but the response from the Iraqi government has been weak. The Iraqi parliament has failed even to elect a new leader capable of uniting the country and its armed forces have proved ineffective. The civil war in Syria continues. In Egypt, the suppression of the Muslim Brotherhood. Bahrain continues. Muslim

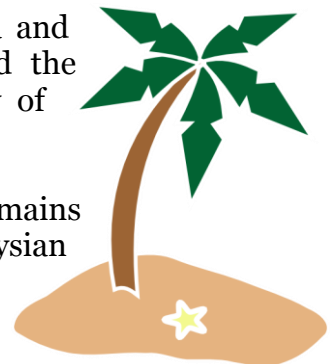
extremists continue to fight the government in Yemen, from where United States intelligence has sourced that bomb makers linked with Syrian extremists plan to use a lap top or mobile phone to detonate a device in an aircraft. In Libya, the government of Prime Minister Abdullah Al-Thinni has survived the attempted military coup led by a retired general, Khalifa Hifter and gained control again of eastern oil refineries.

**Palestine** – Violence broke out between Israel and Palestine after the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli youths in the West Bank, and the revenge burning to death of a Palestinian teenager in Jerusalem. Hamas began to launch rockets at Israeli territory, causing damage but no casualties, and Israel is now conducting a bombing campaign linked with commando force raids in Gaza which have killed over 125 people, many of them civilian women and children.



**Afghanistan and Pakistan** – The second round of Afghanistan’s presidential election has dissolved into chaos with allegations of massive fraud. There are now plans for a complete recount, but violence is increasing across the country and the number of civilian deaths is increasing. Pakistani forces have begun to conduct operations in the lawless north western provinces to attack extremists linked to the attack on Karachi airport last month.

**Asia** – Relations between Japan and China, and between China and states around the South China Sea (in particular Vietnam and the Philippines) remain strained. Japan has changed its old policy of refusing to commit its armed forces in aid of its allies.



**Thailand** – The situation in Thailand after the military coup remains quiet. The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.

**Somalia** – There are no new reports of piracy at present. Shebab, Islamic extremists based in Somalia have attacked targets in Kenya, and killed about 85 villagers in attacks on coastal regions in Lamu province.

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

**Africa** –Islamic militants have continued their operations in northern Nigeria, where the Islamic fundamentalists Boko Haram continues to hold the girls it captured over a

month ago. The security situation in the Central African Republic and Mali remains largely out of control. Violence and famine continues in South Sudan. Ebola fever continues to affect Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, with fears that it may spread to Ghana.



**Ukraine** – Ukraine armed forces retook rebel held Slovyansk and are massing to assault the two major towns still held by Russian separatist rebels: Donetsk and Lugansk. European and American sanctions continue and may be increased if Russia is seen to continue to interfere. The situation remains grave and very dangerous.

**Libya** – Milgic Militia groups have a battle at Tripoli Airport killing many people.

**The Americas** – there is no news of security interest at present.

**India** –



Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party presented its new budget, which won lukewarm praise for starting to liberalise the economy. dispute after sixty-six years over Kashmir.

**Myanmar** –



Violence by Buddhists against Muslims recurred in Mandalay leading to a curfew. The government cracked down on newspapers and sentenced the Chief Executive Officer of *Unity Journal* and four journalists to jail terms of up to ten years with hard labour. It also re-affirmed that the law would not be changed to allow Aung San Suu Kyi to stand for President. She is currently prevented from doing so because her husband was British and her children are British citizens.

**Nepal** -



**2 July:** Tourist arrivals by air in June dropped by 0.30 percent to 41,137, according to the statistics released by Immigration Office. The South Asian market segment registered negative

growth of 1.04 percent. India, which constitutes a major market to Nepal, recorded a negative growth of 2.21 percent. Also, arrivals from Pakistan and Sri Lanka have dropped by 5.54 percent and 28.97 percent respectively. However, arrivals from Bangladesh have increased by 17.43 percent. Arrivals from Asia (other than South Asia) have increased by 0.49 percent in aggregate. Visitor arrivals from China grew by 10 percent compared to the same month last year. Similarly, arrivals from Singapore and Thailand have increased by 12.56 percent and 5.79 percent respectively. Japan, South Korea and Malaysia markets saw declines of 13 percent, 31.8 percent and 1.98 percent respectively. An overall negative growth of 13.27 percent has been observed from the European markets with major decline from markets such as the UK, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, France and Germany 10.24 percent, 3.50 percent, 24.64 percent, 13.90 percent, 16.25 percent and 17.85 percent respectively. Arrivals from Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland increased by 71.05 percent, 6.67 percent and 12.77 percent respectively compared to the same month last year. Tourist arrivals from Australia, New Zealand and the USA have increased by 18.69 percent, 37.65 percent and 5.68 percent respectively. Arrivals from Canada decreased by 15.76 percent respectively.

**3 July:** All the seven Nepalese stranded in Iraq's northwest city of Tikrit have been rescued safely. Some of them having already reached Kurdistan, while others are on their way. The head of West Asia division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said four Nepalese were rescued by ICRC and had already reached northern Kurdistan province, which has remained relatively unaffected by the sectarian violence. Three other Nepalese were already rescued and are on their way to Kurdistan. These Nepali labourers were caught in the fighting between Sunni militants and pro-government Shia fighters and were left in the lurch by their employers, who had fled the city.

**10 July:** The average savings of Nepalese dipped to a ten-year low this fiscal, as they over spent on mostly imported food and non-food items according to the shows the latest Economic Survey. Savings as percentage of the gross domestic product dipped to 8.9 per cent this fiscal year — down from last fiscal's 10.1 per cent and the lowest since fiscal 2002-03 when the figure stood at 8.6 per cent.

## GI (HK) BUSINESS

We are providing security services for 31 Hong Kong Clients and have 115 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 1 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

## Hong Kong -



**27 June:** Hong Kong ranked fourth in global foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows last year in the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development's World Investment Report. Receiving US\$77 billion in investments, Hong Kong was the second biggest FDI recipient in



Asia after the Mainland, and ranked after the US (US\$188 billion), the Mainland (US\$124 billion), and Russia (US\$79 billion) globally. The report said Hong Kong had been "highly successful" in attracting transnational corporations, with almost 1,400 regional headquarters operating in the city last year. It added that Hong Kong continues to be one of the "major destinations" for the headquarters of transnational corporations targeting Asia-Pacific markets. Hong Kong, with US\$92 billion, ranks fifth in terms of FDI outflows, after the US (US\$338 billion), Japan (US\$136 billion), the Mainland (US\$101 billion) and Russia (US\$95 billion).

**2 July:** Police arrested 511 people for illegally occupying Chater Road and blocking traffic on 1 July protests. The protesters stayed on the road after a public meeting concluded, refusing to leave after repeated advice and warnings from Police. Secretary for Security told reporters the protest affected more than 30 bus and minibus routes, and Police arrested the protesters to restore order and traffic flow. The 351 men and 160 women were arrested for unauthorised assembly and obstructing Police.

**26 June:** The total number of reported drug abusers was 3,093 in the first quarter of this year, down 13% year-on-year, while the number of reported young abusers fell 43% to 236. The number of newly reported drug abusers decreased 23% to 477, while the number of newly reported young abusers dropped 41% to 110. Heroin remained the most common drug abused, while ketamine was the most common psychotropic substance abused. Both the number of heroin and ketamine abusers dropped 11% and 25%.

**3 Jul:** Hong Kong experienced its hottest June since records began in 1884, with a monthly mean temperature of 29 degrees Celsius according to the Hong Kong Observatory. The highest maximum temperature of 33.7 degrees was recorded on June 27.

**4 Jul:** The Land Registry recorded 34,189 sale and purchase agreements for all building units in the first half of the year, up 8.8% on the second half of 2013 but down 12.5% year on year. The total consideration for these agreements was \$212.49 billion, up 1.8% on the second half of 2013 but down 14.1% year on year. The number of assignments of building units was 39,066, down 3.8% on the second half of 2013 and 33% year on year.

## CONCLUSION

I hope you all enjoy calm summer sailing wherever you are. The world remains as dangerous as it has ever been, so whilst enjoying your cruising, never forget that we are there to make it safe for the passengers and crew we serve. Your ship would make a big target for a terrorist organisation, so don't let your guard down. Don't let any harm come to anyone on your watch!



Nigel Collett  
Managing Director