



# Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of the Norwegian Sun of Norwegian Cruise Line.

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

Sadly, the month has seen a continuance of the attacks on civilians by Islamic extremists and others who have joined in across the world. We are clearly going through a very dangerous time and we all need to stay on alert, both in our work and as we transit to it. Your vigilance will save lives.

### BGOS NEW OFFICE

BGOS has just moved offices and is now near the zoo in Jawalakhel. Its new address is:

**British Gurkha Overseas Services (P) Ltd**  
**Shanti Chowk, Jawalakhel – 4, GPO 8975, EPC 775, Lalitpur, NEPAL**

Here's its location on a map:



## We Welcome

Norwegian Cruise Lines  
Sharda Gurung

Prestige Cruise Holdings  
Om Kumari Gurung  
Ranjita Bogati

## SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 747 men and 171 women on ships, a total of 918 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.

Editor of Newsletter



Derek Lin

## World Security

### Economics

There is not a great deal of news about the world economy, which seems to have taken the Brexit vote in its stride.

### Nuclear

There is no news at the moment.

### Europe

Both France and Germany have been victims of terrorist outrages.

On France's Bastille Day, 14 July, 84 people were killed and 303 injured when Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel, a radicalized Tunisian, drove a truck into crowds in Nice. On 19 July, Riaz Khan Ahmadzai, a teenage Afghan refugee armed with an axe and knife injured five people on and near a train near Wurzburg in southern Germany before being shot dead by police. On 20 July, an RAF serviceman jogging outside his base at RAF Marham, in Norfolk, England, was attacked by several men who tried to abduct him at knife point. He fought them off and police are hunting for the group. On 22 July, in Munich, Germany, a 19 year old Iranian-German youth named David Ali Sonboly, who was obsessed with mass shootings, lured children to a McDonald's in a shopping complex then shot many of them, killing 9. On 24 July, a 27-year-old radicalized Syrian refugee died when a bomb he was carrying in his rucksack went off outside a music festival in Ansbach, Bavaria, injuring 12 people were injured, three seriously. A few hours earlier, another Syrian refugee had attacked and killed a Polish woman he worked with in a fast-food restaurant with a knife, and injured two others in the town of Reutlingen in south-west Germany; this last incident seems to have been a crime rather than a terrorist attack. On 26 July, two radicalised Islamic men, Adel Kermiche and Abdel Malik Petitjean entered a church at Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in Normandy, France, and held several people hostage before cutting the throat of the 86 year old priest, Father Jaques Hamel; they were shot dead by police.

In Ukraine, tensions with Russia remain high. NATO forces are reinforcing the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Poland, to strengthen them against perceived Russian threats close to their borders.



"Love is stronger than hate" is the message at this memorial.

## The Middle East and the Arab World

The Syrian civil war has continued. In Iraq, government, Shia and Kurdish forces continue to battle ISIS, aided by western bombing for some time.

Elements of the Turkish army attempted coup d'état on 15 July but failed to take power. Over 300 were killed and over 2,100 injured. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan held onto office and launched a crackdown on his opponents, ordering the arrest of over 6,000 people and dismissing many judges, educators and others.

Conflict has not yet ended in Libya or Yemen.

## Afghanistan and Pakistan

The security situation in Afghanistan remains grave. On 23 July, two ISIS suicide bombs struck a Shia Hazara demonstration in Kabul, killing 80 and injuring 230. Pakistan has not suffered largescale attacks by Islamic militants recently but remains unsafe.

## Palestine

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

## Asia

On 12 July, in a case brought by the Philippines, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague ruled that China had no sovereign jurisdiction over the Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, which are all claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. China rejected the ruling. Tension also remains 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, although the President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, is now making peace overtures to the rebels.



One of the first signs to the outside world that there was unrest brewing in Turkey on Friday evening was when soldiers blocked off the Bosphorus Bridge, a vital part of the city's network.



China has opposed negotiations with Asean, a 10-member regional grouping.

## Thailand and Malaysia

The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues. The Thai army is attempting to gather public support in a referendum to approve the constitution they have drafted to seal their grip on power in Thailand. The corruption scandal involving the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Najib Razak, has widened as US investigators attempt to recover over US\$1 billion in assets allegedly stolen from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), and Singapore freezes three sets of bank accounts. Earlier, Switzerland had set up an inquiry into allegations that Swiss banks were being used to hide funds stolen from 1MDB. Najib seems immovable as he has dismissed those inside his administration who sought to uncover the truth of 1MDB's US\$3.5 billion losses and the US\$700 million which is alleged to have flowed into the Prime Minister's private account.

## 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 continue to threaten Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon. Many of the Nigerian girls enslaved by Boko Haram have yet to be recovered. In South Sudan, President Salva Kiir replaced his vice president and rival Riek Machar following a sharp surge in violence between the government and opposition fighters in the five-year-old country. This could potentially undermine last year's peace deal and reignite war in Africa's youngest nation.



Boko Haram has attacked many schools in northern Nigeria.

## Myanmar

There is no news of a security nature this month.

## India

There is little news of a security nature this month.

## The Americas

Communities have been rocked and polarized by the killings of black men by police in several cities in the USA. Revenge attacks on police have occurred. The 'Black Lives Matter' campaign is peaceful, but others have taken violent action. On 5 July, Alton Sterling, a 37-year-old black man, was shot several times at point blank range while pinned to the ground by two white Baton Rouge Police Department officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On 6 July, Philando Castile was fatally shot by a St. Anthony, Minnesota police officer, after being pulled over in St. Paul. On 7 July, Micah Xavier Johnson opened fire in an ambush, killing five police officers and wounding seven others and two civilians. The gunman was then killed by a robot-delivered bomb. On 8 July, more than 100 people were arrested at Black Lives Matter protests across the United States.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro continues to resist calls for him to resign as the country slides into economic ruin.



Protesters in Washington, D.C., after a grand jury decided not to charge a police officer in the death of Eric Garner.



Nepalese army personnel rescue flood victims at Nawalparasi, around 200 km west of Kathmandu on July 26th training.

## Nepal News

### Over 100 dead in South Asia monsoon flooding

**28 July-** Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, with many rescued from rising waters and housed in shelters. Nepal has suffered the highest death toll with over 75 people killed this week in floods and landslides.

Hundreds die every year across the region during the monsoon season between June and September.

In Nepal the army has been evacuating hundreds of people from villages submerged by rising flood waters, with western parts of the country worst hit.

Interior ministry officials say they fear the

death toll could rise as information comes in from remote areas.

A spokesman, Yadav Prasad Koirala, told BBC Nepali that at least 12 people were missing as search and rescue efforts continued.

Across the border in India's Bihar state, 22 people have died in heavy flooding and over 1.5 million people have been directly affected, with disaster response teams shifting many to safer places.

Vast areas of farmland and roads have been submerged along with several of the states' wild life sanctuaries where animals have sought safety on higher ground.

Several rivers, including the Brahmaputra, are flowing dangerously above their normal level or have burst their banks.

Downstream across the border in Bangladesh, the Kurigram and Jamalpur districts have taken the worst hit from the flooding.

The Bangladesh Disaster Management Bureau says that around 1.5 million people have been affected, more than a third of that number in Kurigram district alone.

The authorities have set up 70 shelter areas for those evacuated or fleeing. Eleven people have died in the last few days, the bureau says.



Village life in India's Assam state has been severely disrupted.

In Pakistan heavy rain and flash floods have killed at least 22 people in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces, the county's Dawn newspaper reported.

At least 58 people died in northern Pakistan and India as a result of flash floods and landslides at the beginning of this month with Pakistan's Chitral district worst hit alongside India's Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh states.

### Living on the edge- Chepangs do not own land, but face landslides every monsoon

**13 July-** Rajkumari Chepang lives in the forested Chure Hills of Makwanpur district. She was poor, but a landslide made her poorer. Two years ago, just when her ripe maize crop was ready for harvest, a landslide took away her farm.

With no land to till, the 47-year-old mother of three is now a construction worker. Accompanied by her husband, she walks two hours to reach the town of Manahari every day. At times, she has to travel even further.

"After the landslide, I can grow nothing but bananas, and this is not sufficient to feed my children," she said, staring at what is left of her terrace farm. "I need a job to feed my family."

In Raksirang, a village north of the East-West highway, Rajkumari is not the only Chepang woman who has been affected by landslides. Some have lost their homes while others have seen their fields swept away as the rains wash down the fragile denuded slopes around them.

Tara Maya Chepang of Raksirang also lost a patch of her maize field last year. Fortunately, she still has enough land for planting. She says: "Usually it does not rain on time. But when it does, it rains so heavily that we live in fear of landslides."

Raksirang lies in the Chure Hills, and is mostly inhabited by the Chepangs, one of Nepal's most neglected semi-nomadic forest dwellers. Nirguretar is a typical Chepang settlement in Raksirang, and has 14 households perched along a ridge. It has suffered multiple landslides in the last few years.

"We see small landslides eroding our land every monsoon," says Tara Maya. "I am afraid a big one will sweep us all away one day."

A report published by the United Nations Development Programme says over 90 per cent of the human settlements in the Chure region of Makwanpur face land degradation, and the threat of



The family of Man Maya Chepang and Tara Maya Chepang in the fast-denuding Chure Hills are victims of frequent landslides.

landslides is highest here. The report pinpoints deforestation and slash-and-burn agriculture as the main reasons for soil erosion.

Most Chepangs do not own the land they have been living on for generations. Even so, they have never tried to migrate to safer villages. Ram Kumar Chepang, one of the few literate men in Raksirang village, says: "Even if we want to leave these landslide-prone villages, we do not know where to go."

The Chure Hills occupy the southern half of Makwanpur, which is vulnerable to disasters caused by either too much or too little rain. "Because of its fragile geology, Chure is vulnerable to landslides," explains Subodh Dhakal of Tribhuvan University. "Poor and marginalised communities like Chepangs who live on steep hills are at risk."

The National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) has categorised landslides as the third most common natural disaster (after floods and forest

fires) in the district, recording 106 major landslides there between 1973 and 2013.

With climate change and erratic weather, fragile areas like the Chure are even more vulnerable. Pratibha Manandhar, a government meteorologist says: "It is not just landslides. Droughts are also getting more frequent with rising temperatures."

Some NGOs like the Manahari Development Institute-Nepal (MDI) have encouraged the Chepangs to plant bananas, pineapples and broom grass to generate income and bind the topsoil. "These plants strengthen the slopes and survive even in drought conditions," says Khop Narayan Shrestha at the MDI.

However, a majority of the Chepang families still practise slash-and-burn farming, which exacerbates the problem of land erosion and landslides, says Basanta Raj Gautam of the Rastrapati Chure Conservation Program: "The Chepangs are aware of landslide threats but unaware of what causes landslides, and do not know how to be safe."



Rajkumari Chepang was poor but a landslide last year made her poorer.



Karsang Lopchan (extreme left) at a climbing wall in Kathmandu last year during trekking guide training.

**Langtang’s new life- Survivors prepare for autumn trekking season with new skills and hope for the future**

2 July- Tourism has been slow to pick up after Langtang was devastated by the deadly earthquake/avalanche of 25 April 2015, but many survivors who were trained in the hospitality industry while taking shelter in Kathmandu last year are gearing up to restore Langtang — and rebuild it better — to welcome back trekkers.

Two such programs of instruction and guidance in small hotel and lodge management and professional guide training were provided by Tourism Cares, with support from the Rasuwa Relief, Harvard Kennedy School Nepal Fund and Langtang Management and Reconstruction Committee, at the National Academy for Tourism and Hospitality Management in Kathmandu. They have returned with updated knowledge, guide licences and cooking equipment, and are busy with construction in order to be ready for the autumn tourist season.

Lhakpa Jangba hosted over 120 guests in the spring trekking season after moving back, and plans to move to Kyanjin and open the Dorje Bakery with his wife. He is very proud of his new guest book, which marks a fresh beginning. His previous

one contains messages from trekkers he hosted between 2011 and April 2015, and fortunately survived the avalanche. It holds a special place in his heart as it captures stories and memories of his pre-earthquake life. source: imgur.com

One message from 23 April 2015 is signed by Sydney Schumacher, a 19-year-old American trekker who lost her life in Langtang last year. On the morning of the earthquake, she had come to his bakery to pack a couple of his famous cinnamon rolls before heading towards Kyanjin Ri peak.

Tsering Tamang took the hotel management course in Kathmandu along with her son and two daughters. She used to own Namaste Lodge and Buddha Guest House in Langtang, both of which were destroyed. She is rebuilding Namaste in Kyanjin, with her son — who is excited to use his new guide licence during the autumn trekking season — helping her out. An elder daughter and her husband are building a new hotel in Mundu called Golden Holiday.

Dhamchay Tamang remembers being heartbroken when she disembarked from the rescue helicopter in Kathmandu last year: she had narrowly escaped by hiding in the hole for storing potatoes in winter,

but had lost her husband, daughter and home. When her son Tsewang found her, she was completely covered in snow and in a great deal of pain.

Dhamchay now says she has to be strong to take care of her two surviving children, and with the knowledge gained from the training she has rebuilt her Small Start Guest House and renamed it Langtang View Guesthouse.

Phurpu Tamang and her husband ran the eight-room Peaceful Guest House in Langtang. He perished along with their son, while their daughter and another son are studying in Kathmandu. She has now reconstructed a smaller lodge and hopes to expand as she earns from trekkers in the coming season.

But labour is in short supply, and workers from down the Valley are helping out. Says Lhakpa Jangba: “Because of the labourers from outside, things seem busy in Langtang but once they leave, the village is going to feel so empty.” There is yet hope that a tourism revival will bring life back to Langtang, anew.



## Hong Kong News

### Hong Kong activists make their voices heard at July 1 protest

**2 July**- Tens of thousands took to the streets of Hong Kong for the annual July 1 protest march yesterday as the city marked the 19th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule, but fears of orchestrated violence by breakaway radicals proved unfounded.

Apart from scuffles at Government House that prompted police to use pepper spray against protesters, and the arrests of three people accused of carrying offensive weapons outside Beijing's liaison office, the mass rally was peaceful.

Leading muted official celebrations as a mark of respect for two firefighters who were killed in an industrial building blaze last month, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying vowed to uphold the city's core values, while President Xi Jinping said in Beijing that the central government would support the city's leader and continue to thoroughly implement the principles of "one country, two systems" and "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong".

The Civil Human Rights Front, the organiser of the annual mass rally, put the turnout at 110,000, compared with

last year's 48,000.

Police said the number of marchers peaked at 19,300, compared with 19,650 last year.

Professor Paul Yip Siu-fai, a statistician from the University of Hong Kong, estimated 26,600 people joined the march. The university's public opinion poll, conducted separately, put the figure at 26,000.

It was the last mass rally before the Legislative Council elections in September and next year's chief executive election.

Reasons for protesting cited by marchers ranged from the missing bookseller controversy to dissatisfaction with the government and fears about the city's future.

Lam Wing-kee, the bookseller who caused a storm by detailing his eight-month detention on the mainland, was supposed to lead the march, but pulled out at the last minute citing a "serious threat" to his safety.

In Beijing, Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office director Wang Guangya accused Lam of destroying "one country,

two systems" by selling books on the mainland that were banned there.

Localist groups shunned the march and its theme demanding the chief executive's resignation as a ritualistic waste of time.

Chinese University political commentator Ivan Choy Chi-keung noted that despite the organisers' claim of a higher turnout, a downward trend had emerged since the Occupy protests in 2014.

"A growing number of young people doubt the effectiveness of conventional protest methods. Some resort to radical and even violent means of protests, while others are so frustrated that they consider all protest methods are useless," he said.

But front convenor Jimmy Sham Tsz-kit said yesterday's turnout was double that of last year because people were feeling more empowered.

He denied inflating the numbers, even though Victoria Park, the starting point, appeared relatively empty at the beginning of the march. More people chose to join along the way, he explained.



The government issued a statement noting protesters' views on policies and initiatives.

"The government will continue to adopt a pragmatic and rational approach and strengthen communication with different sectors," a spokesman said.

On the bookseller controversy, the central government had agreed to discuss the existing notification mechanism between Hong Kong and the mainland over detention of residents, the spokesman said.

At one stage last night, police used pepper spray against demonstrators during scuffles outside the chief executive's official residence.

Clashes erupted at around 9pm when more than 100 protesters tried to make a U-turn and leave Government House, as police stopped them moving to the front gate from the back door.

A man was arrested outside Beijing's liaison office in Western on suspicion of carrying a knife. Hundreds of police officers and journalists expecting a radical, "black mask" protest by localist groups outnumbered stragglers who turned up there.

The force would not say exactly what weapon the man was carrying, but it was

reportedly a knife. He was arrested at 8.33pm.

Two others were also intercepted outside the liaison office and arrested for possession of offensive weapons.

Earlier the chief executive vowed to continue focusing on economic development in the coming year when he addressed the reception marking the 19th anniversary of the handover.

Leung also paid tribute to the two firemen who lost their lives in the Ngau Tau Kok blaze.

Thousands of people joined about 200 celebratory events.

**Pokemon Go**  
**Game on! Pokémon Go now available in Hong Kong**

**25 July - Pokemon Go, the augmented reality smartphone game which has taken the world by storm, was launched in Hong Kong on Monday, prompting multiple warnings against trespassing and straying into busy roads.**

**The city was quickly abuzz with excited talk about the game that allows players to use their phones' GPS and camera to hunt for virtual Pokemon – short for Pocket Monsters – in the real world.**

**"I wasn't really that interested at first, and then I got addicted," Jamie Sie-to Chuk-man told the Post outside the bustling Times Square shopping mall in Causeway Bay.**

**Using a cartoon map, the game encourages players to explore and find real locations to catch and collect Pokemon as they appear anywhere randomly.**

**In some countries, where the game was first released earlier this month, some players have got too caught up in the game to care about their surroundings; some have landed themselves in trouble for trespassing on private property, tripping and falling, getting hit by vehicles, and even being robbed by opportunist criminals.**

**Hong Kong Police Force, the Hospital Authority, religious centres and even the People's Liberation Army have all made clear that gamers hunting Pokemon should stay off their premises.**

**Police were proactive about it, posting a video on their official Facebook page to caution people against playing mobile phone games while crossing the road and while driving to avoid any accidents.**



Hundreds of people gather to play Poketmon Go at night in Tin Shui Wai.

# Conclusion

I wish BGOS every good fortune in its new offices. May we all prosper and be happy there!



**Nigel Collett**  
**Managing Director**



Our BGOS Directors and Star Cruise auditor team



Our Gurkha International (HK) Limited Directors and Team in Hong Kong