



# Newsletter

## Contents

- The Last Month in Brief, Shipping Companies ..... 1
- Gurkha International Manpower Services Ltd promotion.....2
- GI (HK) Ltd promotion..... 2-3
- GI Football Team.....4
- GI (HK) Business, World Security: Economics, Nuclear, Europe ..... 5
- The Arab World, Afghanistan & Pakistan, Palestine, Asia ..... 6
- Thailand and Malaysia, The Malacca Straits, Somalia, Africa, The Americas, Myanmar, India ..... 7
- Nepal News.....8-10
- Hong Kong News ..... 11 - 12
- Conclusion .....13



We publish this month a photograph of AIDAsol of AIDA Cruises.

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

## We Welcome

### Norwegian Cruise Lines

Rebika Tamrakar  
Dhan Bahadur Gurung  
Laxman Gurung  
Jeet Bahadur Pakhrin

### Columbia Ship Management

Naren Bahadur Gurung  
Bishnu Prasad Wagle

In Hong Kong, we have, for our Gurkha International (Hong Kong) staff, at last been able once more to establish a system of paying a small increment to those who have loyally served the Company for over five years. With effect from 1 May, we have re-instituted the position of Senior Guard for those with over five years' continuous service with the Company. Senior Guards will, in future, wear shoulder epaulettes with two gold stripes. A list of those so promoted is below.

In May, I travelled to Thailand to our trainers, Chemstar, and met our crew from Nepal and Myanmar who were there under training for NCL. It was very good to see everyone and hear their experiences. I then went on to Yangon, where I carried out pre-selection for some men and women whom we shall put forward top NCL for their final selection. It was very good to be back with Humanpower and, for the first time, to recruit with our new agency there, Theda Crewing and general Services.

## SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 735 men and 170 women on ships, a total of 905 crew and staff under management.

## GURKHA INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES LTD PROMOTION

I am delighted to announce the promotion of Mr Suraj Gurung of our Hong Kong office from Assistant Manager to Manager with effect from 1 April 2017. Suraj worked with BGOS from 2003-2006, then emigrated to Hong Kong, where he has been with the Company ever since. He will continue to handle our maritime operations. I give him our warm congratulations!



Mr Suraj Gurung

## GURKHA INTERNATIONAL (HONG KONG) LTD PROMIOTIONS

We are very pleased to announce the promotion of the following from Senior Guard to Supervisor with effect from 1 May 2017:

### **Mr. Dal Bahadur Thapa**

He will hold the post of Supervisor at Raceview Mansions, Happy Valley. Dal first joined the Company in 1998 and remained with us in various posts until 2009. He rejoined the Company in 2010, and for many years held the post of Guard for ZIM Israel's Hong Kong office. I give him our warmest congratulations!

## GURKHA INTERNATIONAL (HONG KONG) LTD PROMIOTIONS

We are also very glad to announce the promotion of the following from Guard to Senior Guard with effect from 1 May 2017:

**Mr. Dhan Bahadur Limbu**  
**Mr. Gam Bahadur Gurung**  
**Mr. Jagat Bahadur Gurung**  
**Mr. Shiba Rana**  
**Mr. Surendra Thapa**  
**Mr. Uttam Thamsuhang**  
**Mr. Yuraj Roka Magar**



Mr. Uttam Thamsuhang



Mr. Gam Bahadur Gurung

I offer them all our warmest congratulations!



## GURKHA INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM

A new chapter was written in the history of the Gurkha International Group and the Nepalese Community in Hong Kong in the year 2016. After much hardwork and persuasion in the application process behind the scene; our football club was successfully admitted to the Yau Yee League hence becoming the first Nepalese club to be admitted to the Yau Yee League in its history, a proud and joyous moment for the Nepalese community in Hong Kong!

The Yau Yee League is a 'premier amateur football league' in Hong Kong formed in 1979 and has amateur clubs based on 'friendship and goodwill' comprising players both young and old with varied talents and skills and experience, coaches and officials from various ethnic backgrounds and different cultures. Since its formation, the Yau Yee League has grown into a very popular and competitive amateur league which comprises 48 teams with 12 teams in each of its 4 divisions.

Our first season in the Fourth division has just ended and despite several issues and challenges; we finished sixth in the Division. We are now actively involved in recruitment of new players and collecting funds from the sponsors. The first season was a learning curve for the club and have identified our weaknesses and shortcomings on all areas affecting a typical football club and have already taken measures to improve the club. We are hoping to get promotion to the third division in the next season.



Gurkha International Football Club

**“Gurkha Int’l Football Club -GIFC”** Please follow us on Facebook!



## 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 no major news about the world's economy this month.

## Nuclear

North Korea fired another test missiles this month, this time into Japanese waters.

## Europe

Tensions between Russia and NATO countries remain high. A British Muslim of Libyan extraction named Salman Ramadan Abedi carried out a suicide bombing of a concert at the Manchester Arena in Manchester given by American singer Ariana Grande, killing twenty-three people including himself and injuring 116. This is the worst terrorist attack in the United Kingdom since 2007 and led to a series of arrests of suspected members of Abedi's group. Abedi appears to have been a supporter of the Islamic State (ISIL) and was trained in Libya.



Some victims in Manchester Arena Bombing



## The Middle East and the Arab World

The Syrian civil war continues. Iraqi forces have continued to make slow progress in finishing the recapture of Mosul from ISIL.

Conflict continues in Libya and Yemen.

## Afghanistan and Pakistan

The security situation in Afghanistan remains grave, but that in Pakistan continues to give less cause for concern.

## Somalia

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



Battle of Mosul

## Asia

Tension continues in both the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan around islands claimed by China.

Suspected suicide bombers killed 3 police officers and wounded 10 people at Jakarta's Kampung Melayu terminal in the worst Islamic militant attack in Indonesia so far this year.

In the Philippines, Islamic militants of the Maute group linked to ISIL took over the town of Marawi in Lanao del Sur province of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. The Philippines military attempted to retake the town but as of 30 May had not succeeded in doing so, and by then over 80 militants (including some foreigners), 20 members of the security forces and 19 civilians had died, with 61 people wounded so far.



Police patrol near the scene of an explosion at a bus station in Kampung Melayu, Jakarta, Indonesia.

## Thailand and Malaysia

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

## Palestine

There is no news at present.

## Africa

Nigerian forces continue to attack Boko Haram Islamic terrorists in the north of the country. Civil conflict continues in South Sudan. Part of the Ivory Coast military (largely consisting of ex-guerrillas of the Forces Nouvelles de Côte d'Ivoire, who had been integrated into the Ivory Coast Army) mutinied for a second time this month (having already mutinied in January). Civil war continues in the Central African Republic between rebel Muslim Seleka and Christian Anti-balaka fighters, who have broken the country up into ungovernable areas controlled by militias. Over 80,000 refugees have fled their home, 20,00 of whom have entered the Democratic Republic of Congo. In May, fighting in the southeast between the Antibalaka and a Muslim militia named UPC killed up to 100 people in Alindao, and about 115 people in Bangassou. About 15,000 people fled from their homes and six U.N. peacekeepers were killed.

## Myanmar

Fighting continues in Shan State between the army and several local militia.

## The Malacca Straits

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

## India

Kashmir remains disturbed.

## The Americas

Dozens of people have been killed in anti-government protests in Venezuela, where the left-wing government of President Nicolás Maduro attempts to cling to power and has bankrupted the country.



Violence saw rebels attack civilians, target authorities, and loot aid organisations



Opposition supporters clash with riot police during a rally against President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela.





## Nepal News

### Mount Everest rescue team attempts to retrieve body of climber

**24 May-** Nepalese climbers are preparing for a risky mission to retrieve the body of an Indian national who died on Mount Everest at the weekend, as another rescue team discovered four more bodies on the mountain.

Ravi Kumar, who was 27, reached Everest's summit on Saturday afternoon but died hours later after descending to about 8,400 metres (27,560ft). He was one of four people who died on the mountain at the weekend, including American doctor Roland Yearwood and Australian climber Francesco Marchetti.

A further four climbers were discovered dead in their tents on Wednesday at camp four, at a height of about 7,950 metres, by a team dispatched to retrieve the body of a Slovakian climber who died on the mountain on Sunday. Local media said two of the dead were foreign climbers and two were Nepalese guides.

It was unclear on Wednesday whether the bodies were from a recent expedition or one whose members had gone missing during last year's season and were presumed to have died.

"We tried to check each and every

expedition team [currently on the mountain] but no one has said their members are missing," said Gyanendra Shrestha, a Nepalese tourism ministry official.

Kumar's body was spotted on Monday deep inside a 200-metre crevasse well into the "death zone", where oxygen levels plummet and the risk of altitude sickness is high. Other retrieval missions are searching for bodies thought to be along known climbing routes.

The chair of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, Ang Tshering Sherpa, criticised the mission to recover Kumar's body. "It's not just risky, it's a most dangerous act to try to bring a frozen dead body from such a dangerous zone," he said.

Kumar's body may have accumulated enough ice to weigh about 130kg, he said, and ferrying such a heavy load at an extreme height was putting other climbers' lives at risk.

"It would have been a different thing if [Kumar] was alive," he said. "We should be mindful and not be taking the decision to get the body from such a danger zone. The family should understand that."

The agency that organised Kumar's climb and is conducting his retrieval told the Guardian it was undertaking the mission reluctantly. "It's too dangerous to recover a body from such a difficult place," said Chowang Sherpa, the managing director of Arun Treks.

"There are many bodies of those killed in the past several years buried in the route of Everest that we haven't been able to dig out. This one is more difficult. It's not on the proper route. It's in a steep place."

He said the mission was being undertaken under great pressure, including from the Indian embassy in Kathmandu. "The family has put pressure on us to anyhow bring the body. The family has used sources like the Indian embassy, which is putting pressure on us," he said.

"We have been saying that it's too dangerous to go to such a difficult place, and we had discussions with the Indian embassy, but they told us the same."

Asked why his company did not refuse the request, he said: "It would not be logical and would show our weakness. So we are trying at least once, adopting all safety measures and by carrying all gear that is needed."





Pictures of missing women submitted to Mati Nepal, a Kathmandu-based NGO, which works to protect

**‘Will I ever get justice?’: Nepal accused of failing trafficking survivors**

26 May- Rights groups in Nepal say they do not know of a single survivor of human trafficking who has received compensation under a law introduced a decade ago.

An act that came into force in 2007 guarantees compensation for trafficking victims (pdf), but only after the perpetrator has been convicted, a caveat that has left survivors facing years of traumatic court proceedings and threats from their traffickers.

A new report in which 125 trafficking cases were reviewed found that, while courts awarded compensation in more than half the cases, no one has so far received it.

Sabin Shrestha, executive director of the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), which produced the study, said: “The biggest tragedy for us is that the conviction rate is good. The perpetrators are being punished ... but not a single survivor has benefited.”

Four other experts, with decades of experience in the field, also said they were unaware of any case where a survivor had received compensation.

The government initially rebutted the claims. Radhika Aryal, a senior civil servant at the women, children and social welfare ministry, said: “The government agencies provide compensation to the survivor, according to the court’s verdict. We have

been doing so in many cases ... without delay.”

Aryal later admitted, however, that she knew of only two cases of trafficking victims receiving compensation.

More typical are the stories of women like Shanti, who was trafficked to India at the age of 13. Shanti (not her real name) waited nine years for her case to go through the courts, but is yet to receive any payment.

“I have faced threats from the traffickers ... I couldn’t spend a single day in peace as I always felt insecure before the verdict,” she said. “I couldn’t develop as a person, as I had to keep visiting my past through the courts.”

The law states that compensation should be paid out of the fine levied on the perpetrators, leaving survivors in limbo until the legal process is complete. If the trafficker cannot pay, the government must do so. Proving that the perpetrator does not have the funds is itself a lengthy and difficult process, however.

“Though the court verdict says I should be getting compensation, as far as I understand ... I will have to prove that the culprit is not rich enough to pay compensation; only then will the government give me the amount,” said Shanti.

Even if Shanti eventually secures the payment, it is unlikely to reflect the ordeal

she has been through. Research by the FWLD found that, in almost two-thirds of cases, courts ordered compensation of just 50,000 Nepalese rupees (£380).

The funds awarded are typically only 50% of the trafficker’s fine, with the remainder going to the government.

“How can the government keep half of any compensation given to survivors?” said Benu Gurung, executive director of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal. “We demand all of the fine is given to the victim.”

Gurung added that some people find it is easier, and more lucrative, to accept hush money from the traffickers than go through the courts.

“From a survivor’s perspective, rather than face threats from traffickers, or risk being exposed as a victim of trafficking, it is better to accept a payoff, especially when you have no confidence that you will ever receive compensation,” said Gurung.

Rights groups are calling for immediate interim financial support for survivors, higher rates of reparations and greater efforts to make survivors aware of their right to recompense.

“We survivors demand the government compensate us first and later get the money from the culprit,” said Shanti. “How long will it take? Will I ever get justice?”



Nepal's Foreign Secretary Shankar Das Bairagi and China's Ambassador to Nepal, Yu Hong (L), exchange documents during a signing ceremony relating to the One Belt One Road initiative in Kathmandu.

**Nepal joins China's 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, possibly alarming India**

12 May-Nepal on Friday signed an agreement to be part of President Xi Jinping's ambitious plan to build a new Silk Road linking Asia, Africa and Europe, a move that could alarm India, which jostles with China for influence in Kathmandu.

At a special function held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi, the ministry's top bureaucrat, and Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Yu Hong inked the deal, the ministry said.

"This is Nepal joins China's 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, possibly alarming India," said Foreign Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat, who witnessed the signing to bring the Himalayan nation into Beijing's initiative to expand its economic and geopolitical heft across several continents.

The massive infrastructure project is commonly referred to as "One Belt, One Road", short for Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Ministry spokesman Bharat Raj Paudyal said the main objective of the agreement is "to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between Nepal and China in various fields such as the economy, environment, technology and culture."

The agreement targets boosting connectivity in areas such as transit, roads, railways, trade, aviation and power. Specific agreements on these areas are to be worked out later.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara, who also witnessed the signing, is leaving for Beijing later Friday to participate in the two-day OBOR Conference there starting Sunday.

Although Nepal had made verbal commitments in the past to support OBOR, Friday's signing officially translates that commitment to a binding agreement. Nepal's Cabinet made a decision earlier this week to officially join the initiative.

Sandwiched between economic, military and geographic giants India and China, tiny Nepal relies heavily on imports from India and completely on Indian ports for sea access. Analysts in Nepal say the landlocked nation was under pressure from New Delhi to stay away from joining the initiative.

Nepal's engagement with China at the people-to-people level as well as in trade and commerce is constrained by the impenetrable Himalayas.

However, Nepal and India share an open border that nationals of the two countries

can cross without a visa. Nepal is culturally close to India and cross-border marriages are common.

India, which has traditionally enjoyed greater economic and political clout in Nepal, has faced increasing competition from China in recent years.

In September 2015, after Nepal adopted a constitution that was received frostily by New Delhi, India imposed a five-month-long trade blockade on Nepal ostensibly in support of agitation by Indian-origin Madhesi protesters in the country's south.

The blockade proved to be a blessing for China as it pushed Nepal closer to its northern neighbour.

Faced with crippling shortages of fuel, cooking gas, and even medicine, the then coalition government led by nationalist communist leader Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli signed agreements with Beijing to secure sea access via Chinese ports and to import petroleum products from China, breaking India's monopoly over Nepal's fuel supplies and access to seaports.



## Hong Kong News

### On top of the world – teacher Ada Tsang becomes first Hong Kong woman to conquer Everest

**21 May-** A school teacher who cheated death in a previous bid to scale Mount Everest has become the first Hong Kong woman to conquer the world's highest peak at the third attempt.

Ada Tsang Yin-hung, 40, reached the summit with fellow Hongkonger Elton Ng, a physiotherapist, and Zhang Jianguo, an amateur mountaineer from Jiangsu province at 6am on Sunday with the help of two Sherpa guides.

The feat is the culmination of seven years of training and harrowing experiences that the former life education teacher at a secondary school in Ma On Shan has under her belt.

Tsang has said that one of the key motivating factors in her pursuit of mountaineering's biggest prize was to lead by example and inspire her students with a lesson from outside the classroom.

News of her success was first announced on social media by Mingma Sherpa, the first Nepali and first South Asian to scale all 14 of the world's highest mountains: "Mrs Tsang Yin-hung officially registered her name as the first Hong Kong lady to the top of Everest," he said.

"Very happy to hear [that] Ada made her summit of Everest today at 6am local time. This is her third Everest attempt.

She made her first attempts in 2014 and 2015 but returned home empty-handed. Congratulations."

By Sunday night (Hong Kong time) the team had reached Camp 4, about one-quarter of the way back down the mountain.

Earlier, on her blog, Tsang had said: "For students, every dream seems so far away and words of encouragement are not enough to conquer the frustration of failed attempts. Many would easily give up their dreams ... a dream is not defined by the way you think of it, but by the actual efforts you put in.

"I could share my experiences with them only by recollecting events from my past ... But what are my own future goals in life? How will I best teach these students how to pursue their goals?"

The former secondary teacher decided to quit her job and give her pupils a "life lesson" by becoming the first Hong Kong woman to reach the summit of the 8,848-metre Mount Everest.

Tsang made her first attempt in 2014 but was forced to abandon her trek after an avalanche near the base camp killed 16 Nepali Sherpa guides, leading to the suspension of all expeditions that season.

She returned to the Himalayas the next year. This time she was caught up in an avalanche triggered by a 7.9-magnitude

earthquake that killed 17 climbers and left Tsang with a fractured skull.

News of her achievement sparked fanfare on social media.

"Congratulations on Ms Tsang's success in making it to the top of Mount Everest! Her spirit of rising to challenges is worth learning for all students," the city's education minister Eddie Ng Hak-kim wrote on his official Facebook page.

"Ms Tsang made it! It is our turn to work hard, isn't it? Hope Ms Tsang returns to the base camp safely," her former students said in a Facebook post.

Another user said: "Salute to your perseverance over all these years! Proud of you being the first lady on top of Everest. Safe trip home!"

Illustrating the dangers the team faced, an American climber died on the mountain on Sunday, the third death in the past month.

Roland Yearwood, 50, from Alabama, perished at an altitude of about 8,400 metres in an area called the "death zone" known for its thin air, Murari Sharma of the Everest Parivas trekking company that sponsored his climb said.

A day earlier a 26-year-old Indian climber, Ravi Kumar, disappeared in the same area during his descent from the peak.



### **Officers arrest 21 over faked concrete test results for Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge project**

**23 May-** Hong Kong's anti-corruption agency has arrested 21 employees of a government contractor accused of faking concrete test reports for the multibillion-dollar bridge that will link the city to Zhuhai and Macau, raising serious safety concerns.

The government said it was investigating whether there were any safety implications for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge, while an expert warned that it might even have to be rebuilt in the worst-case scenario.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on Tuesday revealed that the operation codenamed "Greenfield" was launched a week ago, netting two senior executives, two senior site laboratory technicians, 12 site laboratory technicians and five laboratory assistants employed by the contractor for the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD).

They were released on bail pending further inquiries.

Development minister Eric Ma Siu-cheung pledged that the government would examine the safety of the bridge construction.

"If the situation is not that serious, reviewing the existing construction is already enough. Otherwise we will take serious measures and follow up actions," he said.

A government spokesman said on Tuesday night that the Highways Department had instructed workers last week to immediately conduct non-destructive concrete strength tests on three main projects – the boundary crossing facilities, the Hong Kong link road and the tunnel being built from Chek Lap Kok to Tuen Mun.

Tests so far have found nothing abnormal, although they are continuing.

The department will also recruit an independent professional body to help conduct tests in the coming weeks on crucial parts of the three projects, including the bridge body and the tunnel.

The civil engineering department has been working with the contractor since January 2013 to conduct compression tests on concrete samples for the bridge. All concrete samples were required to pass the tests within a set period of time.

"It was revealed that when some of the tests were not conducted within the set time frame in compliance with the contract requirements, the site laboratory technicians and laboratory assistants might have adjusted the times on the testing machines to cover up the irregularities," the ICAC said on Tuesday.

The ICAC further alleged that some laboratory staff might have replaced the concrete samples to falsify the tests, and suspected the offences might have started in early 2015.

"ICAC inquiries [also] revealed that the two senior site laboratory technicians

had certified the false test reports. It was suspected that they might have corruptly connived at the submission of the false reports to the CEDD," the graft buster said.

The contractor said it had conducted an internal investigation after the department found irregularities in the test reports, but failed to disclose that staff might have used a metal calibration cylinder and high-strength concrete cubes to make it look like the tests had been conducted properly, according to the ICAC.

Greg Wong Chak-yan, a former president of the Institution of Engineers, said whether safety had been compromised would depend on the quality of the concrete, and where and how much of it was used on the bridge.

"If the concrete is far below standard and is used in one-third or two-thirds of the supporting pillars or bridge columns, of course it would pose safety risk and the government needs to take extra time to replace them," Wong said.

"That would be the worst thing that could happen. Otherwise simple measures could be taken in remediation."

Work on the Hong Kong part of the bridge, costing more than HK\$110 billion, began in 2011 and was delayed for a year to the end of this year amid a string of construction obstacles.


Ten workers have died and more than 600 have been injured while building the bridge, in a total of 275 incidents.



The concrete tests were carried out on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge project.

# Conclusion

Terrorist attacks are to be expected across the world as the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq is finally extinguished. Make no mistake; we and the people we protect are all targets. Do not let an attack happen on your watch that could have been prevented by keeping vigilant. If it's strange, or unusual, report it immediately. Do not just wait and see. Keep safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Collett', written in a cursive style.

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