



# NEWSLETTER

## **Ships companies and ships linked to us:**



We are working with 20 shipping companies, and have 769 men and 163 women on ships, a total of 932 crew and staff under management.

## **We welcome:**

Kaji Bhujel  
Kesh Bahadur Gurung  
Raj Kumar Gurung  
Dhruba Bahadur Rana Magar

## **NEW EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER**

Anna Cheung leaves us this month to continue her studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. We thank her for her work as Editor of the Newsletter, and welcome her replacement, Jerry Pun, who is also from Hong Kong Baptist University.



Anna

Jerry

## **Seven Seas Voyager**



We publish this month a photograph Seven Seas Voyager of Regent Seven Seas cruise.

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

## **GI (HK) BUSINESS**

We are providing security services for 28 Hong Kong Clients and have 100 security staff employed.

## **NEWS**

We had good news from NCL this month confirming that they wish us to resume recruiting in Thailand. I shall be visiting TSTC in Bangkok shortly to interview some candidates.

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# WORLD SECURITY

## **Economics**

The talks between the US and China on trade continue. Hope remain that a trade war will be averted.

## **Nuclear**

There have been no developments, either in **North Korea** or **Iran**.

## **EUROPE**

Tension remains high between **Russia** and **NATO**, and between Russia and the **Ukraine**.

The government of the **United Kingdom** continues to fail to come up with a solution to the withdrawal of the country from the EU. Withdrawal has been delayed until May. A person was stabbed in a "far-right inspired" attack in Surrey.

## **France**

2 guards were injured when Micahel Chiolo, a radicalized prisoner, stabbed them with a ceramic knife when he was with his wife in Condé-sur-Sarthe. The attacker and his wife then barricaded themselves in the family unit, which the police stormed, killing the woman and injuring Chiolo.

## **Spain**

A Muslim knifeman tried to stab a group of police officers in Port Olimpic, Barcelona; the attacker was neutralized.

## **Holland**

A Turkish man shot at random people in a tram, killing 3 people and wounding 7 others in Utrecht; police arrested the 37 year old Turk.

## **THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ARAB WORLD**

Conflict continues in **Syria** and **Yemen** with many attacks and large numbers of casualties.

**Iraq** continues to suffer a large number of terrorist attacks with many casualties almost daily.

The blockade of **Qatar** by Saudi Arabia and its allies drags on.

## **Turkey**

3 soldiers were killed and 7 wounded in attacks carried out by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) near the Iraq border. 2 civilians were killed and 19 injured after nine rockets were fired from Syria in the city of Kilis and the district of Reyhanlı.

**Egypt**

3 security force members were killed and 5 injured by a roadside bomb in the north of the Sinai Peninsula.

**Palestine**

2 Israeli soldiers were injured in a ramming attack near Kafr Ni'ma; 2 Palestinian attackers were killed and another injured. 2 rockets fired from the Gaza Strip into the Tel Aviv area caused no damage or injuries. 2 people, including a rabbi, were killed when a Palestinian gunman opened gunfire after fatally stabbing a soldier in the area of Ariel. Another soldier was seriously injured in the attack.

**Algeria**

5 soldiers were killed and 2 wounded in an explosion in Tebessa province near the Tunisian border. 2 soldiers were killed and 1 wounded in a terrorist attack in the municipality of Djellal.

**Tunisia**

A soldier was injured by a landmine in Mount Orbat in the Gafsa Province.

**Libya**

The Islamic State killed a civilian and kidnapped 3 after raiding their houses in the town of Ghadwa in Southern Libya.

**ASIA**

Tension continues in both the South China Sea around the **Spratly and Paracel** Islands and in the Sea of Japan around islands held by **Japan** but claimed by **China** and **South Korea**.

**Afghanistan**

Violence remains widespread with many casualties daily.

**Pakistan**

3 civilians including two children were injured when an explosive rigged motorbike exploded near a bus terminal at the Mall Road area in Chaman. Militants crossed over from Afghanistan and attacked a Pakistani security post. 4 policemen were injured when a bike bomb was detonated near a police vehicle in Mianghundi, Balochistan. 2 people were killed and 7 others were injured an explosive rigged motorbike exploded near a market in the district of Pangjur. 4 people were killed and 10 others were injured when a bomb exploded on a train track in the Nasirabad District of Balochistan. 6 policemen were killed when Pakistani Taliban militants attacked a checkpoint in the Sanjawi area of Ziarat district. A religious scholar was attacked in Karachi by gunmen on motorcycles, killing 2 his guards and injuring 2 others.

**Thailand**

A series of small bombings shook the provinces of Satun and Phatthalung. A ranger was injured when a roadside bomb exploded in the Cho-airong District of Narathiwat.

### **The Philippines**

An off-duty soldier was killed in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao by the Bangsamor Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). A policeman was killed and another one was injured in an ambush attack by members of the New People's Army in Motiong, Samar.

### **Indonesia**

3 soldiers were killed by militants of the Free Papua Movement when the soldiers were guarding the construction of a major highway in the Nduga Regency. A rebel was also killed in the attack.

### **India**

Kashmir remains disturbed and terrorist attacks continue in many rural areas of India, almost on a daily basis, causing many casualties.

### **Myanmar**

9 policemen were killed, another one was injured and another one was left missing when Arakan Army militants attacked their outpost in the Yoetayoke village in Ponnagyun Township in Rakhine State.

### **The Malacca Straits**

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

## **AFRICA**

### **Somalia**

There are no reports this month of Somali piracy. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters, with many civilian casualties in terrorist attacks.

### **Nigeria**

Five farmers were killed and 20 injured when a mine planted by ISWAP exploded near their truck outside the town of Addamari/Khaddamari area in Borno State. A suicide bomber attacked the Shuwa community in Madagali area, killing himself and a resident. 8 people were killed and 7 injured when a convoy struck a roadside bomb in the area of Gwoza. 3 people were killed when Boko Haram attacked the town of Michika.



## Niger

7 Nigerien soldiers were killed and 38 Boko Haram terrorists were killed when Boko Haram attacked the outskirts of the village of Gueskerou. A car bomb planted by the Pro-Islamic State wing of Boko Haram (ISWAP) killed an army captain and several others in the area of Tomour. 8 civilians were killed and 20 injured when Boko Haram attacked with knives in the Dewa Kargueri, Gueskerou commune close to Nigeria in the Diffa Region. At least 7 people were killed by Boko Haram in several raids in the area of Diffa.

## Burkina Faso

A police commissioner was killed by gunmen in the Banh District. 2 soldiers were killed when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during a patrol in the Gourma Province.

## Mali

9 soldiers were killed and a number of others wounded when a roadside bomb struck the vehicle that they were traveling on in Boulkessi in the Mopti region. 15 French soldiers when Islamic State militants attempted a complex attack against the forces in the area of Akabar. 7 soldiers were killed when 2 vehicles struck IEDs in the areas of Hombori and Dialloubé in the Mopti Region. At least 23 Malian soldiers were killed when suspect Jihadists briefly seized a military base in Dioura. 154 Fulani Herders were killed in an attack on the village of Ogossagou and Welingara near the town of Bankass. The attackers were dressed as Dozo Hunters and the attack appeared to have been ethnically motivated and carried out by the Dozo Dogon Militants.



## Chad

23 soldiers were killed by Boko Haram militants who crossed from Neighboring Niger into the area of the town of Dangdala in the banks of Lake Chad.



## Democratic Republic of Congo

5 civilians and a soldier were killed by armed assailants from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) in Goma city of North Kivu. Six civilians were killed when suspected fighters of the Allied Democratic Forces attacked the town of Lubwasi near Beni. An Ebola treatment facility in Butembo was attacked by Mai-Mai militants, killing a policeman and injuring a health worker.

**South Sudan**

civil conflict continues.

**Cameroon**

3 civilians were killed when Boko Haram launched an attack on the town of Sandawadjiri.

**Mozambique**

13 people were killed by Islamic jihadists in the area of Mocimboa da Praia.

**Ethiopia**

5 people including 2 foreigners were killed in an armed attack in the area of the Nejo District in Oromia by the Oromo Liberation Front.

**THE AMERICAS**

**Venezuela** continues its slide into poverty and anarchy.

**Columbia**

2 people were wounded when ELN members triggered explosives on the road between Saravena and Fortul in Arauca Department. 5 soldiers were injured when they were attacked with explosives in the municipality of Fortul. 4 civilians were injured when gunmen on motorcycles hurled a grenade towards a security patrol in the area of Saravena. A policeman was killed and another one was injured when gunmen opened fire on patrols in the area of Corinto, Cauca Department. 3 soldiers were killed and two other civilians were killed when they stepped on mines in the Tibú area. A soldier was killed and 4 injured in a bomb attack by ELN militants in the area of El Tarra. 2 soldiers were wounded in a bomb attack in the area of Fortul.

**AUSTRALASIA****New Zealand**

A self-described "Ethno-nationalist, Eco-fascist" terrorist opened fire on worshippers attending Friday Prayer at Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand livestreaming the attack on Facebook Live, killing 50 people and wounding 50 others before being arrested.



# NEPAL NEWS

## Nepal, Japan sign labor agreement

### Workers will be paid at least Rs 200,000 per month

Nepal and Japan have signed labor agreement on 25 March.

Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security Ram Prasad Ghimire and Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Masamichi Saigo signed the memorandum of agreement (MoU) in presence of Minister Gokarna Bista. The agreement will come into effect from April 1.



Japan will take Nepali workers in the South Korean model as per the agreement. The workers going after passing Japanese language will get a minimum salary of Rs 200,000 per month.

Nepal had proposed to send workers to Japan through the government during the discussion between the technical teams of the two countries on January 16

to decide the process for sending workers.

Japan is planning to use migrant workers in 14 sectors including industrial, nursing, construction and sanitation. Japan aims to take 345,150 workers in the first five years including 60,000 nurses and 53,000 workers for restaurants.

Japan will take those workers from Nepal, Vietnam, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Mongolia. Japan has already implemented a new visa system to take migrant workers.

Source: Setopati

# For Nepal, a game-changer in TB control

## The Comstock Method and Gene Xpert can help reduce tuberculosis in South Asia

Tuberculosis killed 33 million people worldwide between 2000-2015, more than the entire population of Nepal. The infection still kills three people every minute all over the world, and 11 Nepalis a day. This perfectly curable medieval disease is the biggest infectious killer in the world today, more than HIV or malaria. In sharp contrast, Ebola, which receives far more media coverage, killed only four people in 2017.

World Tuberculosis Day on 24 March is an opportunity for governments to renew efforts to control this devastating disease. More than 40% of the world's TB cases occur in South Asia. While much research and funding focuses on HIV-associated TB and multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV infected individuals make up only 9% of global TB cases and less than 1% had MDR TB in 2017. Despite a huge sample size, there is a lack of research on TB in South Asia, particularly India, and on cases not associated with HIV. If nothing is done, TB will cost another 28 million lives in the next 10 years.



Source: [Nepali Times](#)

# British Army will be recruiting in Nepal for its newest specialist unit

The British Ministry of Defense plans to establish a specialist Gurkha unit to further enhance the combat effectiveness of the Gurkha Brigade.

The 3rd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles will be a specialized infantry battalion with approximately 300 personnel. The new outfit will be responsible for conducting Foreign Internal Defense missions around the world. And there are plans to raise an additional four specialized Gurkha battalions, bringing the total number to five, each assigned to a particular region of the world. That's similar to how each U.S. Special Forces Group is assigned to a specific region, for instance, the 1st Special Forces Group covers the Pacific, the 7th Special Forces Group covers Latin America, and so on.

According to the British Army, recruiting for the new outfit will begin later this year. All Gurkha recruits come from Nepal. Training takes place in the United Kingdom. For many recruits, the process is unique. Nepal is small, and its inhabitants don't tend to travel far. Thus, adding to the arduous physical and mental testing that aspiring Gurkhas have to go through, there is also the cultural dimension, since most recruits speak little English.

Mark Lancaster, Minister for the Armed Forces, said: "The Gurkhas have built an outstanding reputation for their skill and bravery as soldiers through centuries of service and sacrifice. They bring unique expertise and perspective to the United Kingdom and British Army which makes them an ideal choice to form a third battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles as a Specialized Infantry Battalion."



Source: [NEWSREP](#)

# HONG KONG NEWS

## Why is Hong Kong's MTR hurtling from one disaster to another? Is complacency or corporate structure to blame?

Images of smashed doors, twisted steel poles and shattered glass shocked Hong Kong last Monday, as commuters scrambled to make alternative plans when news broke of a train crash, the first ever on the city's MTR system.

The only saving grace was the two vehicles crashed outside operating hours, at 3am during a trial run of a new HK\$3.3 billion (US\$420.4 million) signalling system meant for seven of the MTR Corporation's lines. But the accident – which derailed one carriage and sent both drivers to hospital – caused a two-day breakdown in service on one line between Admiralty and Central, two major stations on Hong Kong Island.

It also sparked another bout of collective head-shaking as city residents wondered what had gone wrong with the once-revered paragon of Hong Kong efficiency and ingenuity.

Apologetic MTR bosses blamed a mysterious software fault for the signalling system failure, and suspended the trials pending further investigations.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor warned of tougher action if the transport behemoth did not reflect on its performance. "If it requires the government's intervention to instil change, I am more than willing to do so," she said.



# Hong Kong is no closer to legalising same-sex marriage, says Chief Exec. Carrie Lam

Hong Kong's government is no closer to legalising same-sex marriage, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said at a Bloomberg Invest Asia conference on Thursday. Lam said the issue of same-sex marriage remains controversial, but indicated that a recent court ruling in immigration arrangements for same-sex couples who married abroad "does help" to bring overseas talent to the city. She had been responding to concerns that a failure to legalise same-sex marriage could harm businesses who want to attract foreign talent.

Last July, the Court of Final Appeal upheld a lower court's judgement in favour of a lesbian expat known as QT, a ruling that has been hailed a "landmark decision" for the city's LGBTQ+ community.



The court ruled that denying a spousal visa to QT on the basis of marital status amounted to unlawful discrimination. Prior to the ruling, QT was only allowed to enter the city on a tourist visa, on the grounds that her same-sex union was not recognised under Hong Kong law.

In spite of the unanimous judgement, same-sex marriage is not recognised in Hong Kong.

Lam touted the city's commitment to the rule of law in abiding by the QT ruling, despite the government losing the case in court.

Source: [Hong Kong Free Press](#)

## Conclusion

The month continued the trend of violence spreading across areas affected by Islamic terrorism, especially in Africa, and with growing violence in Colombia. Keep your eyes and ears open and keep safe!

Nigel Collett  
Managing Director

