



GURKHA INTERNATIONAL
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NEWSLETTER

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THE LAST MONTH IN BRIEF

Nepal has a new Government, under the Premiership of Sushil Koirala, 75, the leader of the Nepali Congress, who heads a coalition between the Nepali Congress and the moderate left United Marxist Leninists. Koirala has promised to pass a new constitution through the second constituent assembly within the year.

We publish this month a photograph of **Seabourn Spirit**.



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

REPORTING TO THE OFFICE ON RETURN FROM SHIP

Please remember to call in at the office on the way home and notify us that you are back. Processing gets increasingly complicated and if we do not know you are back home and what plans your companies have for your next tour, we cannot take action in time. Delays to your joining ship will result, which costs you wages and loses your companies money. Please contact us as soon as you are home.

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US



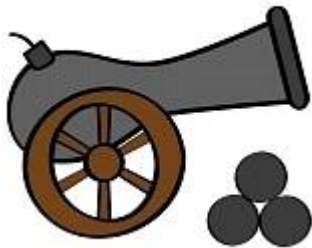
We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 728 men and 140 women on ships, a total of 868 crew and staff under management.

WORLD SECURITY

Economics – Economies in the developing world remain at risk from the gradual ending of monetary easing (the printing of new money to buy government bonds) by the United States Federal Reserve. Economies in India, Turkey, Argentina and Thailand remain weak. Concerns remain in the European Union about the economic health of its southern members whose debt remains vast, especially Greece, Cyprus and Italy.



Nuclear – Negotiations continue concerning the nuclear programme in Iran. North Korea has tested more ballistic missiles.



The Arab World – Peace talks between Syrian government and opposition forces produced no result and the civil war continues. Violence continues across Syria and the number of refugees in foreign camps is increasing. Iraq's internal struggles between majority Shia and minority Sunni Muslims factions continue, with casualties from bomb and other terrorist attacks reaching nearly 1,000 a month across the country. The Shia Muslim Government has yet to regain control of the town of Fallujah, seized over a month ago by Sunni tribal forces. Violence in Egypt has continued. Bahrain

continues to be tense due to the oppression of the Shia population. In Yemen, at least 40 people were killed in three days of fighting between Shia Muslim rebels and Sunni tribesmen, in al-Jawf province, 140km northeast of the capital Sanaa. The Shia Muslim Houthis, who control much of the northern Saada province bordering Saudi Arabia, blew up a three-storey Sunni religious education centre in Hamdan. In Libya, the struggle between militia backing the western-leaning Prime Minister Ali Zidan and Islamist factions is continues. Islamists seized a North Korean flagged oil tanker in the port of As-Sidra and the Libyan government is threatening to assault it.

Palestine – Peace talks between Israel and Palestine have so far produced no result.

Afghanistan and Pakistan – Afghanistan remains highly dangerous and unstable. The President, Hamid Karzai, is indicating that he will not sign an agreement to retain United States and allied forces in the country, and is seeking talks, so far unsuccessfully, with the Taliban. In Pakistan, air force jets bombed Taliban forces in response to earlier killings of Pakistani policemen.



Asia – Relations between Japan and its neighbours, China and South Korea, remain tense due to the quarrels over disputed islands and Japanese politicians provocative remarks denying war guilt and ill-treatment of 'comfort women, sexual slaves, kidnapped and abused during the Second World War.

Thailand - The political situation in Thailand remains uncertain. Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, sister of the exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, is attempting to hold elections in areas that had been prevented in the recent general election. She is facing challenges in the courts over the emergency provisions and corruption connected with the failed government rice subsidy scheme. Opposition demonstrators have withdrawn from most of Bangkok to assemble in Lumpini Park. The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.



Somalia – There is now little active piracy in the waters off Somalia, but Somalia remains a lawless state and Islamic groups operating out of it threaten nearby Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Africa –Islamic militants remain a sever threat in north east Nigeria. Religious warfare has eased in the Central African Republic. Large numbers of the Muslim population are refugees outside the country. Mali remains lawless state after the recent suppression of the Muslim insurgency in the north of the country. Violence continues in South Sudan between government forces and rebels led by Riek Machar in Upper Nile state.

Ukraine – The situation in the Ukraine has worsened dramatically as Russia has carried out an annexation of the Crimea, part of the country with a slight majority Russian ethnic population. Eastern Ukraine, which has many Russian inhabitants, though not a majority is also being threatened by a Russian take over. The West is not united in its response and has few options. It will not go to war over Ukraine, but sanctions are being discussed. The situation is highly dangerous.



The Americas – Venezuela has descended into many weeks of chaos across the country as many protest against the government of President Nicolás Maduro, who has continued the policies of his predecessor, the left-wing populist and ex-General Hugo Chávez, and led the country into further inflation and violence. Barricades are in place in many places and security forces are in action across the country.

GI (HK) BUSINESS

We are providing security services for 31 Hong Kong Clients and have 99 security staff employed.

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



HONG KONG MATTERS

25 Feb: The Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Finance Ministers' Meeting, originally scheduled to be held in Hong Kong from September 10 to 12, will be postponed and relocated to Beijing. The Central People's Government notified the Hong Kong Government that the change was needed due to the number of events and the broad range of themes and issues covered in the meetings. The Government said it fully respects and understands the decision, and thanked the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Council's Hong Kong & Macau Affairs Office, and the Legislative Council for their support and co-operation.

4 Mar: The Land Registry has received 3,159 sale and purchase agreements for residential units in February, down 29.6% month-on-month and down 49.9% year-on-year. It received 3,987 sale and purchase agreements for all building units in the month, down 31.5% month-on-month and down 58.7% year-on-year. The total consideration for sale and purchase agreements was \$25.9 billion, down 22.9% month-on-month and down 56.1% year-on-year. That for residential units was \$21.1 billion, down 22.7% month-on-month and down 45.5% year-on-year. People made 297,619 land searches in the month, down 10.1% month-on-month and 11.4% year-on-year.



NEPAL MATTERS

25 Feb: Over 50 notorious gangsters have been arrested in Kathmandu after SSP Ramesh Kharel assumed the office as the top police of Kathmandu last month and launched a crusade against hooliganism, extortion and robbery. It is an attempt to crackdown on criminal activities in the capital city as part of a special drive initiated by SSP Kharel against gangsters.

5 Mar: Although Kathmanduites are persistently haunted by ever-rising prices of commodities, Kathmandu is one of the least expensive cities in the world. Kathmandu is among the least expensive out of 131 cities across 93 nations, according to Worldwide Cost of Living 2014 published by Economist Intelligence Unit. The last year's report had ranked Nepal's capital as the sixth least expensive city in terms of cost of living. According to the report, India's financial hub, Mumbai, is the cheapest city. On the other hand, Singapore has replaced Tokyo as the most expensive city, making Asia home to both most and least expensive cities. The report prepares the ranking based on comparison of all cities taking New York as its base, which has an index

set at 100. Worldwide Cost of Living survey compares more than 400 individual prices across 160 products and services. These include food, drink, clothing, household supplies and personal care items, home rents, transport, utility bills, private schools, domestic help and recreational costs. Though Kathmandu is ranked one of the cheapest cities, the report has called Nepal one of the countries with 'well documented security issues or domestic unrest', same as Pakistan and Syria. According to government statistics as well, the rate of price rise is less in Kathmandu than in other regions. The yearly inflation statistic of fiscal year 2012-13 show that Kathmandu recorded 7.4 per cent price rise, while the Tarai and hill regions posted year-on-year inflation of 8.1 per cent and 9.7 per cent, respectively. The national inflation stood at 9.9 per cent in the year. Kathmandu is the centre of distribution for most food items and non-food commodities such as clothing, utilities, furnishing, among others, making the Valley relatively less expensive than other parts.

11 Mar: A Nepali woman, Jamuna Gurung , who migrated to Australia some 20 years ago as a student, has been listed as one of the wealthiest women in the island continent. She was enlisted as the 11th wealthiest woman with an estimated net worth of \$150 million in a list prepared by Business Review Weekly, an Australia-based newspaper. Along with her husband Shesh Ghale, Chairman of Non Residential Nepali Association, Gurung was listed as 180th wealthiest person in Australia with a net worth of \$265 million, last year. She is the first woman from the South Asian region to have made it to the list of the richest people in the country. Jamuna first went to Australia in 1990 on student visa along with her husband Ghale. She is currently residing in Melbourne and is the Managing Director of Melbourne Institute of Technology and is also associated with several other business ventures. Likewise, Gurung has invested on Sheraton Hotel, which will begin its construction shortly with a total investment of Rs 7 billion. She has been assisting her husband in several of his business ventures. Gurung's institute is renowned for providing higher education on several courses to local as well as foreign students. Vicky Toh is on the top of the list while Hollywood actor Nicole Kidman secured the 6th position with \$330 million. Likewise, Mrs Theres Rin, wife of the former Australian premier Kevin Rudd found herself on the 10th position with a net worth of \$135 million dollars.

CONCLUSION

The sad news of the loss of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200ER on Flight MH370 somewhere between Kuala Lumpur and Vietnam is unfolding as this newsletter is being written. It is not clear why the plane has gone missing. However, it is now clear that two passengers with stolen passports boarded the plane. It is possible that this was a terrorist attack. Do not let this happen to you. You may have the safety of thousands of your fellow crew and passengers in your hands. Check those seeking access very carefully and if you are suspicious, start to ask questions. Act as soon as you are suspicious. Thinking about it and reporting later is TOO late. Keep safe!



Nigel Collett
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