



GURKHA INTERNATIONAL
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NEWSLETTER

Number 204 for August 2014

THE LAST MONTH IN BRIEF

This will be a shortened version of the Newsletter as I have been travelling during the month. We will resume normal content next month.

I had the pleasure of visiting Carnival United Kingdom's offices this month, and met many of their management. I was glad to hear good news of our crew onboard P&O and Cunard ships. My compliments to you all!

We publish this month a photograph of AIDA Cruise Line "**AIDAdiva**".



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 755 men and 137 women on ships, a total of 892 crew and staff under management.

We welcome:

Norwegian Cruise Lines

Upahar Malla
Chellamma Krishnan Santosh Kumar

REPORTING BACK HOME

We repeat this item once again as it is causing our Clients some concern. Late reporting on your return home may lead to missing joining dates as embassies continue to relocate their consul staff and procedures get a little more lengthy.

Please report back to our offices in your home country at the end of your tour immediately you are back in country.



GI (HK) BUSINESS

We are providing security services for 30 Hong Kong Clients and have 120 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 2 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

Hong Kong



28 Aug: The total retail sales value in July, provisionally estimated at \$38.7 billion, fell by 3.1% over a year earlier, the Census & Statistics Department announced today. The revised estimate in June dropped 6.9% year-on-year. For the first seven months of the year, total retail sales dropped 1.5% over a year earlier. After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, the total retail sales volume in July fell 4.5% year-on-year. The revised estimate of the total retail sales volume in June dropped 7.5% over a year earlier, while that for the first seven months of the year dropped 1.5%.

28 Aug: Hong Kong's overall median monthly household income dropped to \$22,900 in the second quarter of this year, down from \$23,100 in the first quarter. According to the Census & Statistics Department, 7.4% of domestic households had a monthly household income of \$80,000 and above during the period, while 16.1% of them had less than \$8,000. Median monthly employment earnings dropped to \$13,000. The number of domestic households was

2,429,400, up from 2,418,100 in the first quarter. The size of the labour force was 3,872,300, up by 38,400. After excluding foreign domestic helpers, the size of the labour force in the second quarter was 3,585,100. The number of unemployed people was 127,600, of which 69,900 were men and 57,700 were women. Those aged 15-24 or with lower secondary education had higher unemployment rates.

Nepal



28 Aug: The rate of road accidents, fatalities and injuries slightly decreased in the last fiscal year compared to previous fiscal years, according to the Nepal Police. In 2013-14, 7,675 road accidents were reported across the country, in which 1,653 people were killed 10,476 injured. In the previous fiscal (2012-13), the number of road accidents reported was 8,484, which claimed 1,816 lives and left 11,986 injured. Out of the total injured in different road accidents in the past three years, 11,244 people suffered serious injuries while 23,049 people sustained minor injuries. Likewise, 12,302 vehicles were involved in the accidents recorded throughout the country in 2013-14 against 13,582 in 2012-13 and 14,287 in 2011-12. According to the data of previous three years, motorcycles (15,313) topped the chart of road accidents followed by car, jeep and vans (11,505), buses (5144), truck and tankers (4331), tractors (1461) and tempos (648). According police records, major causes behind the accidents were carelessness on the part of drivers followed by mistakes on the part of passengers, speeding, overtaking, drinking and driving, mechanical breakdown, overload, condition of roads, cattle on the roads and climate. According to the data, majority of accidents took place during 12-6pm. Officials attribute the declining rate of accidents mainly to the drive against drunk driving initiated by traffic police. “The drive against drunk driving has significantly helped slash the number of road accidents,” said SSP Ganesh KC, Spokesperson for Nepal Police.

25 Aug: The Environment Protection Committee of the Parliament has decided to declare the Kathmandu Valley polythene bag free zone by mid-April next year and directed the government to make all necessary policy and structural arrangements so that the decision could be implemented. Today’s meeting of the EPC also instructed the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers to effectively implement the Plastic Bags Control and Regulation Directive 2011. Similarly EPC ordered the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and the Ministry of Urban Development to submit progress report on implementation of Waste Management Act 2011 within a week. The parliamentary committee also directed the Ministry of Industry to study how companies producing polythene bags could be transformed into cotton bag manufacturers. MoI has also been asked to make arrangements to encourage manufacturers and consumers to use jute, paper and cotton bags instead of plastic bags. The EPC has instructed the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment to amend Plastic Bags Control and Regulation Directive 2011, aiming at banning production, import, export, sell and use of plastic bags below 30 microns.

24 Aug: Fifty-nine people, including 38 foreigners, went through medical check-up at the health desk set up in Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA). The health desk was set up by the government on August 17 to prevent a potential outbreak of Ebola following health emergency declaration by World Health Organisation. “Fifty-nine people went through health screening in a week after the health desk was set up at TIA. No case of ebola has been detected yet. People travelling from Ebola affected areas have been asked to adopt additional precautions,” said Dr Baburam Marasini, Director at Epidemiology and Disease Control Division. People coming from West African countries undergo check-up at the health desk. The government has asked

them to be in touch with the Department of Health Services and register their address and phone number for follow-up. “We are in touch with those who went through health check-up and have been calling them to get updates on their health condition,” Dr Marasini added. To prevent an outbreak, health desks have also started operating in Kakarbhitta, Kanchanpur, Birgunj and Bhairawa.

23 Aug: In an attempt to create new Guinness world record of the ‘largest human national flag’, tens of thousands of people gathered in Tundikhel this morning to form the national flag of Nepal. As the country’s anthem was played, participants held up crimson, blue and white coloured cardboards for 10 minutes to form the national flag. Nepal’s national flag is the only non-quadrilateral flag consisting of two united pennant shapes in the world. According to the event organiser, Human Values for Peace and Prosperity, over 35,000 peoples assembled to form the ‘largest human national flag’ today. Bhawesh Khanal, HVPP president, claimed that the flag’s size was of around 115,000 square feet. The current record for the world’s largest human national flag was set in February 2014 when 28,957 people gathered in Lahore, Pakistan to create Pakistan’s national flag. According to Khanal, they will send the photographs, videos and the number of participants with bar codes to the head office of Guinness World Records in London. The organiser will send signatures of Maiti Nepal’s chairperson and 2010 CNN Hero, Anuradha Koirala, lyricist of the national anthem Byakul Maila and Chief Executive Officer of Mega Bank, Anil Shah, as eyewitnesses with the evidences. After receiving permission from the Guinness World Records officials about two months ago, HVPP had initiated the campaign with the theme ‘Breaking Record to Unite Hearts’. “The event was organised to deliver the message of unity,” Khanal explained.

CONCLUSION

My best wishes to you all.



Nigel Collett
Managing Director