



GURKHA INTERNATIONAL
[Website: gurkha.com.hk](http://gurkha.com.hk)



NEWSLETTER

Number 205 for September 2014

THE LAST MONTH IN BRIEF

It has been quite an exciting month for those of us based here in Hong Kong. As I write, demonstrations calling for the introduction of full democracy continue as does the disruption they have caused to the centre of the city. I mention more about this later in this Newsletter.

We publish this month a photograph of Norwegian Cruise Line “**Breakaway**”.



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 758 men and 137 women on ships, a total of 895 crew and staff under management.

We welcome:

Norwegian Cruise Lines

Sijush Manat
Zaw Win Myint
Kyaw Lin Tun

CHANGES OF APPOINTMENT

Wesley Ng, our Marketing Assistant, has gone back to study, so is no longer responsible for this Newsletter. We welcome his replacement, Mr Jacky Ng.

GI (HK) BUSINESS



We are providing security services for 30 Hong Kong Clients and have 130 security staff employed.

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

WORLD SECURITY

Economics – The United States and the United Kingdom continue to grow, though much of the Eurozone does not, and continues to suffer unemployment and deflation. China is addressing its huge debt problem and slowing down Japan is not experiencing much growth and it seems that there are dangers that the world economy is stagnating.



Nuclear – There is no news of either the Iranian or North Korean nuclear programmes.



The Arab World – The United States, Arab countries, Australia and the United Kingdom have begun bombing locations and forces of the Islamic State (ISIS) which has taken over much of northern Syria and Iraq. ISIS continues to expand and is currently attacking Kurdish areas near the Turkish border. Iraq remains in sectarian chaos, with Shia and Sunni Muslims fighting each other and in Syria the devastating civil war continues, with the Assad regime if anything getting stronger. Tribal factionalism and Muslim extremism continue to cause fighting in Yemen. In Libya, the government barely survives and has had to take shelter from armed factions seeking its overthrow.

Palestine – Violence between Israel and Palestine has ceased for the time being after the Israeli campaign in Gaza ended.

Afghanistan and Pakistan – Afghanistan has a new government, with power shared between the two contenders for the disputed presidential election, Ashraf Ghani, who is now president, and Abdullah Abdullah, who became Chief Executive Officer. This swiftly opened the way for an agreement permitting the retention of some United States troops in the country. Taliban attacks continue. Pakistan remains lawless and prone to acts of terrorist violence. The Pakistani Taliban has declared allegiance to ISIS.

Asia – Relations between Japan and China, between South Korea and Japan, and between China and states around the South China Sea (in particular Vietnam and the Philippines) remain strained.

Thailand – The military have imposed a conservative style constitution on Thailand and seem set to continue what is in effect army rule indefinitely. The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.

Somalia – There are no new reports of piracy at present. Government and allied forces have seized Barawe, the last major town held by Islamic militants Shebab.

Malacca Straits – There are no new reports of piracy at present.

Africa – Islamic militants have continued their operations in northern Nigeria, where the Islamic fundamentalists Boko Haram continue to hold the girls it captured many months ago. The security situation in the Central African Republic and Mali remains largely out of control. Violence and famine continues in South Sudan. Ebola fever has spread widely in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, with isolated cases appearing in Lagos and Port Harcourt, Nigeria and now among foreign medical staff treating patients. United States troops have been sent to Liberia to operate hospitals.

Ukraine – A ceasefire has been maintained in the Ukraine leaving the armed Russian separatists in the East of the country in control of the areas won for them by Russian

troops and weaponry. Western sanctions have been imposed on Russia, which has responded with sanctions of its own and threats of both military violence and political interference in other countries where there are Russian minorities. Relations between Russia and the west are at their worst since the end of the Cold War in 1991. The situation remains grave and very dangerous.

The Americas – there is no news of security interest at present.

India – Jammu and Kashmir have suffered large scale flooding, with Indian military involved in humanitarian actions. India and China edged closer to each other with economic agreements signed at a summit in Delhi during a visit by the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Myanmar – There is little news from Myanmar this month.

Nepal -



We shall reserve news from Nepal until next month's issue

Hong Kong –

4 Sept: A Taiwan based food company, Chang Guann Co., was discovered blending cooking oil with recycled waste oil and animal feed oil. The tainted oil, branded as *Chuan Tung Fragrant Lard Oil*, was distributed widely across Asia apart from Taiwan, including Mainland China, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. It was revealed that a number of food company in Hong Kong, including Maxim's Caterers, had been using the oil to produce food. Immediately after the discovery the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ordered to recycle a total of 500 tons of the products.

13 Sept: The 105th Mark Six lottery accumulated its highest 1st division prize in history, a total of 1.5 billion Hong Kong dollars. At the end the prize were shared by 2 winners.

15 Sept: Typhoon Kalmaegi hit Hong Kong. During the night the Hong Kong Observatory issued the longest No.8 Storm Signal since 1985, lasting a total of 12 hours. The storm caused 29 injuries, and forced the stock market to close.

22-27 Sept: On this day the students launched the first student movement to show their opposition towards the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress's 2016 and 2017 Hong Kong Political Reform policy. During the week of 22-26 Sept, students and teachers, mainly from the tertiary institutions, boycotted class and conducted assembly in universities, Tamar Park and Tim Mei Avenue, discussing the policy and civil rights. On 27 Sept night, after the assembly in Tim Mei Avenue, the stage suddenly called for a strike towards "Civic Square" of the Central Government Offices, indirectly triggered the Occupy Central movement.

28 Sept: Occupy Central was launched at midnight by Benny Tai Yiu-ting, initiator of the movement, followed by the student's occupation of the privatized Civic Square of the Central Government Offices. The movement demanded an immediate withdrawal of the decision of the proposed electoral reform, where the general public has the right to vote in the 2017 Chief Executive election, but not in the nominations of the candidates. The protests began with the occupation of Admiralty, where the whole Connaught Road and Harcourt Road were barred by roadblocks. In the same evening, the police attempts to use pepper spray, tear gas and batons to disperse protesters illegally occupying the area. However, the police action failed and soon received vast accusation from the students and the public regarding the unnecessary violence used. The riot spread to Causeway Bay and Mong Kok at night, where part of the areas were occupied by the protesters. The movement was still continued at the turn of October.

29 Sept: Due to the Occupy Central movement, many banks on Hong Kong Island were closed. Schools in Wan Chai District and Central Western District were also suspended since the day. Regarding the increasing number of protesters in the occupying areas, police changed their strategy, by retreating riot police and employing police negotiation cadres to urge the protesters to leave. Since the start of the movement, 89 protesters had been arrested, and there were 41 casualties, including 12 police.

3 Oct: Fighting broke out in Mong Kok between Occupy Central protesters and a group of people against the movement. The attackers destroyed the roadblocks, tore off the tents and banners, confronted and attacked the protesters. The outbreak caused 37 injuries, and 2 people were arrested. Later the protesters denounced the violent act used against the peaceful campaign, and accused the police for its slow and unfair employment of force.

CONCLUSION

We are living in disturbed times, which means our duty is to be very careful of the lives and property of those we guard. Don't let your clients and fellow workers down. Keep your eyes and ears opened for anything strange and if you see something, report it.

I wish you and your families all a very happy Dashain!



Nigel Collett
Managing Director