

# GURKHA INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Website: gurkha.com.hk

## Newsletter

Issue 269 – January 2020



### Shipping Companies And Ships Linked To Us

We are working with 19 shipping companies, and have 763 men and 149 women on ships, a total of 912 crew and staff under management.

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#### We welcome:

Rajesh Gurung      Prakash Thapa Magar

Sharmila Sherpa      Repa Lama

Vinod Gurung      Pramila Lama

Sujan Paudel      Bishal Gurung

Suraj Gurung      Prabin Gurung

Ujjal Gurung      Raju Gurung

Umesh Shah      Prem Bahadur Pun

Yogendra Thapa

Sagar Shahi

Mukesh Chaudhary

Narjung Gurung

Niraj Gurung

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### GI (HK) BUSINESS

We are providing security services for 30 Hong Kong Clients and have 190 security staff employed.



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

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

The new decade has indeed started badly. The novo corona virus that broke out in Wuhan at the end of last year has begun to spread into other countries. Here in Hong Kong, we have had only 18 cases and 1 death, but the virus has caused a degree of panic, especially as there is now a shortage of masks here. A very few Chinese passengers on cruise liners calling at Chinese and Japanese ports have been found to be infected.

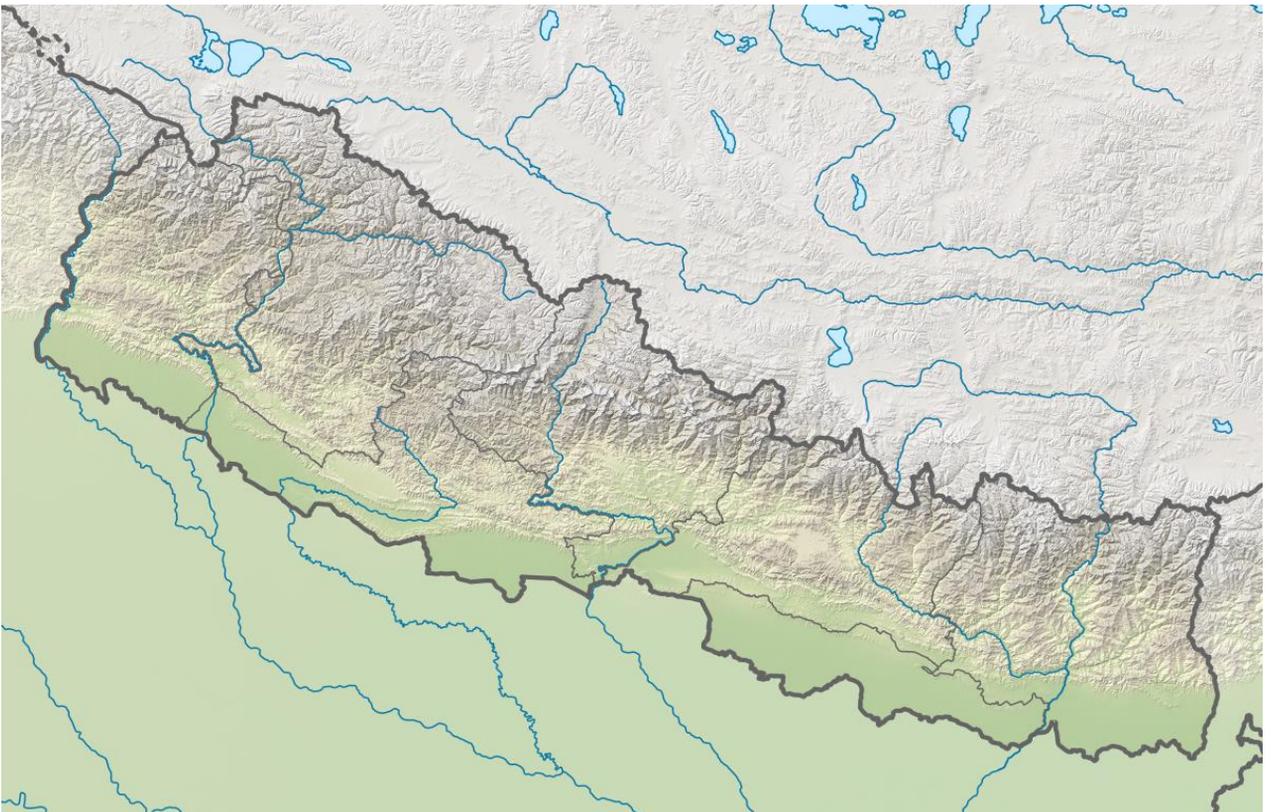
The situation has not been helped by hotheads trying to force the Hong Kong government to close all its borders. Some 7,000 government medical workers are now on strike to try to force the government's hands and there has been a series of small bomb blasts in toilets and other locations in hospitals, border crossing points and other locations.

Advice as to what and what not to do has been published, so we will have seen it, but we repeat it here:

- a. Don't panic. This virus is just about as lethal as annual flu.
- b. If you feel ill, have a cough or runny nose, wear a mask and see a doctor.
- c. Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently, especially after touching handles and railings that are touched by others.
- d. Do not touch your face.
- e. The virus is transmitted in tiny droplets of spittle and mucus from the nose and mouth. It is NOT carried only by the air.

# Content

Content Page	p. 2
World Security	p. 3
Nepal News	p. 4-5
Hong Kong News	P. 6-7
Conclusion	p. 8



# World Security

Conflict continues in Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and South Sudan.

Islamic terrorism struck Nigeria and Niger during the month.

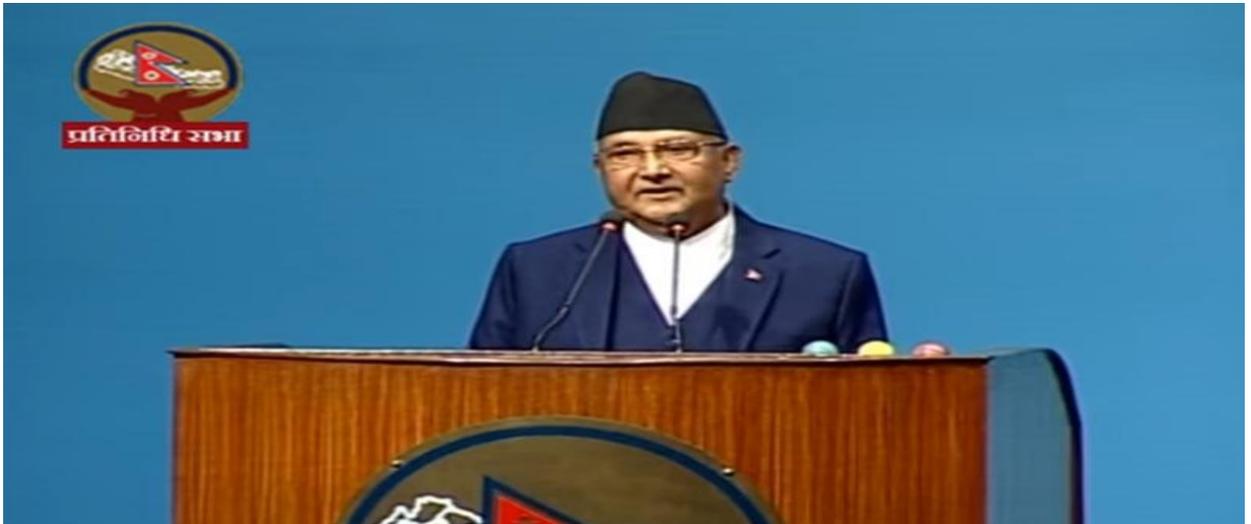
An Islamic terrorist who had just been released from prison stabbed and wounded two people in Streatham, London. He was shot dead by police.

An Islamic extremist stabbed three people in Villejuif, a suburb of Paris, killing one person and wounding two others. The attacker was shot dead by police.

Tension continues between Russia and the West, between China and the states bordering the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan over islands disputed there, and between Qatar and the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia that has been blockading it since June 2017.

# Nepal News

## [Hot debate on MCC likely this Bill session](#)



Although Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and leader of the opposition Sher Bahadur Deuba spoke in favour of the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact Programme at the first meeting of the House of Representatives today, some voices opposed the US-backed scheme in a sign that the MCC would be hotly debated this Bill Session.

This can also be gauged by the fact that many influential leaders of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) are publicly speaking against the \$500 million grant scheme, stating it is tied to the US-led Indo-Pacific Strategy, which they say is a military alliance.

Right after his swearing-in yesterday, HoR Speaker Agni Sapkota had said there was no need to endorse the MCC in haste amid the ongoing debate.

Addressing today's HoR meeting, Prime Minister Oli said the Parliament had many bills and proposals to endorse this session and MCC was among them.

"I will tell the Parliament about it in detail in future, but the MCC is a scheme that has gone through different phases under six or seven prime ministers. It is awaiting parliamentary endorsement," the prime minister said.

## [Oli directs authorities to bring back Nepalese from China](#)

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli today directed the line agencies to bring Nepali nationals from China where coronavirus was spreading like wildfire and quarantine them at four places of Kathmandu valley — Shivapuri, Surya Binayak, Ichangu Narayan and Kharipati. The PM also directed the line agencies to make provisions of treatment for the Nepalis who would be brought from China if they needed medical care.

One hundred and eighty Nepali nationals — mostly students — have filed applications at Nepali Embassy in China seeking immediate evacuation in the wake of coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, the capital city of the Hubei province.

According to PM's Press Adviser Surya Thapa, the PM also asked the line agencies to exercise caution and make adequate preparations within the stipulated time to deal with the risk of coronavirus infection as per the government's work plan.

The PM held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Ishwar Pokharel, Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa, Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali, Minister of Health and Population Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal, Tourism Minister Yogesh Bhattarai, Chief Secretary Lok Darshan Regmi and other high ranking officials and told them to bring back Nepali nationals from China and make adequate provisions for their quarantine at four places in Kathmandu valley. On the occasion, Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office Narayan Prasad Bidari presented the government's work plan to deal with coronavirus. The government also decided to provide 100,000 protective masks to China.

Meanwhile, parents of more than 25 Nepali nationals currently being confined to their apartments in Wuhan, the epicentre of coronavirus outbreak, today picketed the Ministry of Health and Population demanding that their children be brought back immediately from China.

**Source: [The Himalayan Times](#)**

# Hong Kong News

## **Coronavirus: Hong Kong to quarantine all travellers entering from mainland China for 14 days as city's leader invokes special powers**



All travellers from mainland China entering Hong Kong, including local residents, would be required to go into quarantine for 14 days, the city's leader said on Wednesday, as she also disclosed the government was setting aside a HK\$10 billion (US\$1.2 billion) fund to tackle the [deadly coronavirus](#) outbreak.

Confirming an earlier report by the *Post*, Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor said the quarantine measures would be done through invoking the chief executive's special powers under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance.

The measure would take effect on Saturday to enable residents affected to make adjustments to their plans, she added. But Lam did not make it immediately clear how the quarantine would be enforced, including where the travellers would stay.

**Source: South China Morning Post**

## Hong Kong food traders assure people of stable supply as desperate residents clear shelves amid coronavirus outbreak



Hong Kong traders have reassured people that the city's food supply remains stable as desperate residents cleared shelves of essentials, fearing a border closure to prevent the spread of the coronavirus outbreak would cut off shipments.

Representatives of fruits and vegetables, rice, pork, eggs, seafood, and poultry merchants also urged the government to exempt cross-border truck drivers from the 14-day mandatory quarantine requirements to ensure the city's food supply was not broken.

“There is absolutely no need to panic buy. We have always worked to ensure a stable supply of food and all these years, throughout all sorts of big events, we have never had a shortage,” Thomas Ng Wing-yan, chairman of the Hong Kong Food Council, said at a press conference on Thursday.

[Source: South China Morning Post](#)

# Conclusion

The Chinese New Year of the Rat fell in January this year, so was celebrated here in Hong Kong, though in a very subdued fashion.

I have postponed my February trip to Nepal and Thailand until the situation with the viral epidemic settles down. I am sorry that I shall not see those of you in Nepal then. I am rescheduling this for June, when I hope things are easier.

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

Nigel Collett  
Managing Director