

# GURKHA INTERNATIONAL GROUP

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## Newsletter

Issue 268 - December 2019



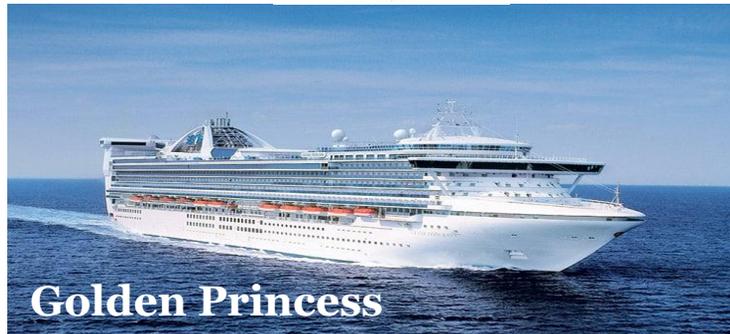
### Shipping Companies And Ships Linked To Us

We are working with 19 shipping companies, and have 756 men and 151 women on ships, a total of 907 crew and staff under management.

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#### We welcome:

Laxmi Prasad Koirala	Jit Bahadur Rana
Shree Ram Khadka	Hem Bahadur Rai
Narendra Kumar Rana	Vijay Kumar Gurung
Raj Kumar Rai	
Prabin Kumar Adhikari	
Bishal Dura	
Amit Gurung	
Dammar Upadhyaya	
Dinesh Gurung	
Durga Prasad Sapkota	
Jot Bahadur Thapa	
Karna Shreesh	
Mahendra Pun	
Milan Gurung	
Milan Rana Magar	
Mohan Lal Pun Magar	
Prabin Gurung	
Abhishek Gurung	
Mala Gurung	



**Golden Princess**

We publish this month a photograph of Golden Princess of Princess Cruises.

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

As the decade of the 2010s passes, Hong Kong remains sadly gripped by political stalemate and violence on the streets. Although the level of violence has reduced since the district elections here resulted in a massive swing against pro-government candidates, who lost control of 18 out of 19 district councils, outbreaks of disturbance occur weekly and every time there is a peaceful protest march (for the majority of opposition to the government remains peaceful) there are fringe elements who petrol bomb shops and MTR stations, smash traffic lights, tear down railings, dig up pavements to block roads, attack mainland Chinese bystanders and shopping outlets and fight with the police.

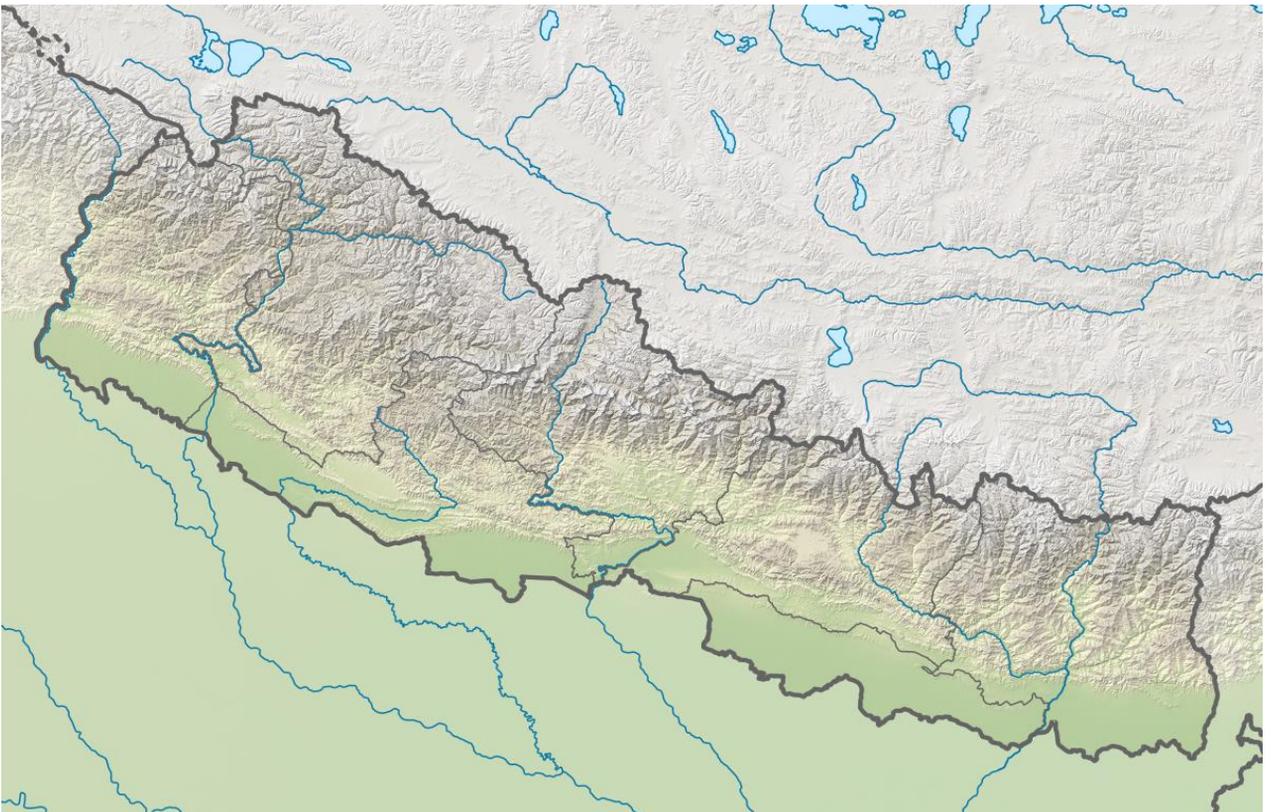
More worrying are signs of an incipient terrorism underground here. The police were fired on recently by a man with a hand gun, and in the follow up after his arrest, found an automatic rifle, ammunition and explosives in his flat. Others have been arrested with IED making material, and several IEDs were found dumped in the grounds of a school. The great fear now is that, as the government will not move, those on the fringes of the protest movement will seek to use greater degrees of violence to try to force change.

So, in Hong Kong, it is a sad way to end the decade and start the new.

All of you who work with us in Hong Kong have continued to do your duty under very trying conditions over the last half of the year, and on behalf of our Company, I thank you all for your perseverance and hard work. It has not been easy at times even to get to work, and I am personally very impressed by the way you have all got to duty somehow every day and have carried on. I am very proud of you and congratulate you all.

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# World Security

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

Islamic terrorism has struck Burkina Faso, Niger and Kenya. In the United States of America, a Saudi aviation student shot dead three and injured eight at a naval base in Pensacola; he was himself shot dead.

Terrorist attacks also occurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Antisemitism is on the rise in Europe and the US. In New York, an attacker stabbed five people in the home of a rabbi during Hanukkah. In another attack in Jersey City, two men shot dead four and wounded three in a Jewish shop and cemetery before themselves being shot dead by police. In England, where the Labour Party lost the election in part because of the antisemitism in its extremist wing, anti-Jewish slogans were painted on shopfronts in several towns over the Christmas holidays.

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

## A Rock and a Hard Place: Nepal's 2019 Diplomacy in Review



On the domestic front, Nepal secured political stability in 2019 but in its external engagements it faced new challenges, issues, and situations. Communist leader-turned-prime minister K.P. Sharma Oli's capability to handle those issues will largely shape the course of Nepali foreign policy in 2020.

At the beginning of 2019, Nepal faced a [Venezuela fiasco](#). Pushpa Kamal Dahal (commonly known as Prachanda), co-chair of the ruling Nepal Communist Party, issued a public statement [expressing](#) solidarity with the people of Venezuela and President Nicolas Maduro when Prime Minister Oli was out of the country. This prompted the United States, which supported self-declared interim President Juan Guaido, to seek [clarification](#) from Nepal's government. Though Oli personally conveyed to the American ambassador in Kathmandu that Prachanda's statement was flawed, the incident still created a climate of mistrust in bilateral relations.

On a brighter note, in January 2019, Oli [attended](#) the meeting of the World Economic Forum on Davos. This was the first time that Nepal's prime minister was invited to participate in the meeting. Oli tried to entice international investors to Nepal by emphasizing that the country at long last had political stability and was reforming domestic laws to make them investment friendly. At home, the prime minister's participation at Davos was taken as an achievement because it was seen as recognition of Nepal's newfound political stability.

## Visit Nepal Year promotional programmes held internationally

**KATHMANDU:** The Visit Nepal Year-2020 has been inaugurated internationally.

The promotional programmes to this regard have so far been organised in Beijing of China, Doha of Qatar, Pretoria of South Africa, Ottawa of Canada, Paris of France and Cairo of Egypt. The Nepali Embassy in these respective countries took initiation for organising tourism promotional events aimed to encourage citizens in those countries to visit Nepal.

On the occasion, officials of Nepali diplomatic missions in respective countries called on the people to visit Sagarmatha (Mount Everest), world's highest mountain peak; Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Budhha who remains as a symbol of world peace and world heritage sites of archeological and historical importance in Nepal enriched by natural, cultural, religious and linguistic diversities at least once in life.

Egyptian nationals who had successfully completed the expedition to Mt Everest were invited to the programme held in Cairo. Information about various aspects of Nepal's tourism was shared on the occasion.

It has been reported that the Nepali Embassy in Cairo has ensured a separate service desk for the support of Egyptian citizens wishing to visit Nepal.

Source: [The Himalayan Times](#)

# Hong Kong News

## **Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam insists she will remain in office to tackle challenges including protests and economy as Beijing replaces its top envoy in city**



Hong Kong's embattled leader has insisted that she will stay in office to help tackle public health and economic challenges, when asked if she was concerned that Beijing might replace her after changing its top representative in the city.

Chief Executive [Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor](#) also believed that she could work well with Luo Huining, who took over from Wang Zhimin as director of the central government's liaison office in the city on Saturday in the first major leadership change since [anti-government protests](#) broke out in June, sparked by the now-withdrawn [extradition bill](#).

Luo's appointment was announced by Xinhua news agency, which did not give a reason for the change, but a source familiar with the operation of the liaison office previously said Wang's departure was a gesture towards holding him accountable for the pro-establishment camp's defeat in November's [district council elections](#). The bloc lost heavily, winning just 60 out of 452 seats across the city.

# Hong Kong Open: Promising local golfers Leon D'Souza and Taichi Kho drive away pre-tournament jitters



Hong Kong's most promising golfers are returning to the Hong Kong Open with a vengeance after debuting in the tournament two years ago.

Leon D'Souza and Taichi Kho, who were both raised in the city but currently study at US universities, appeared much more comfortable as the amateurs prepare to share the Fanling composite course with world-class players for the second time.

“I didn't know what to expect the first time so that whole week, I didn't feel too comfortable being in my own shoes. There were a lot of really big names around me,” recalled 19-year-old Kho, a University of Notre Dame student.

D'Souza, a former Hong Kong Amateur Open winner, had a remarkable Open in 2017 having made it through the cut and shooting a memorable 65 featuring seven birdies on the third day. Despite a scintillating debut, the 21-year-old conceded that tournament jitters are a real thing.

# Conclusion

At the start of the decade of the 2020s, I send you our greetings and wishes that this year and the rest of the decade be a time of peace, happiness and prosperity for you and your families. Happy New Year to you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Collett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Collett  
Managing Director