

GURKHA INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Website: www.gurkha.com.hk

Newsletter

Issue 315 – November 2023



Shipping Companies And Ships Linked To Us

We are working with 11 shipping companies, and have 311 men and 76 women, a total of 387 crew and staff, under management.

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We welcome:

Bishal Khadka (Princess Cruise)

Sandip Kumar Shahi (Princess Cruise)

Amrit Limbu (Princess Cruise)

Samir Gajurel (Princess Cruise)

In November, 41 crew rejoined ships. We have another 73 scheduled to go back to work during the next month or so.



BOLETTE

We publish this month a photograph of BOLETTE , a cruise liner of Fred Olsen Cruises.

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

I am glad to be able to report that the year ends with BGOS filling new vacancies for Universal Shipmanagement and for P&O Australia.

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GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 21 Hong Kong Clients and have 88 security staff employed.

Editor of Newsletter:

➤ Mamta Gurung Tamang



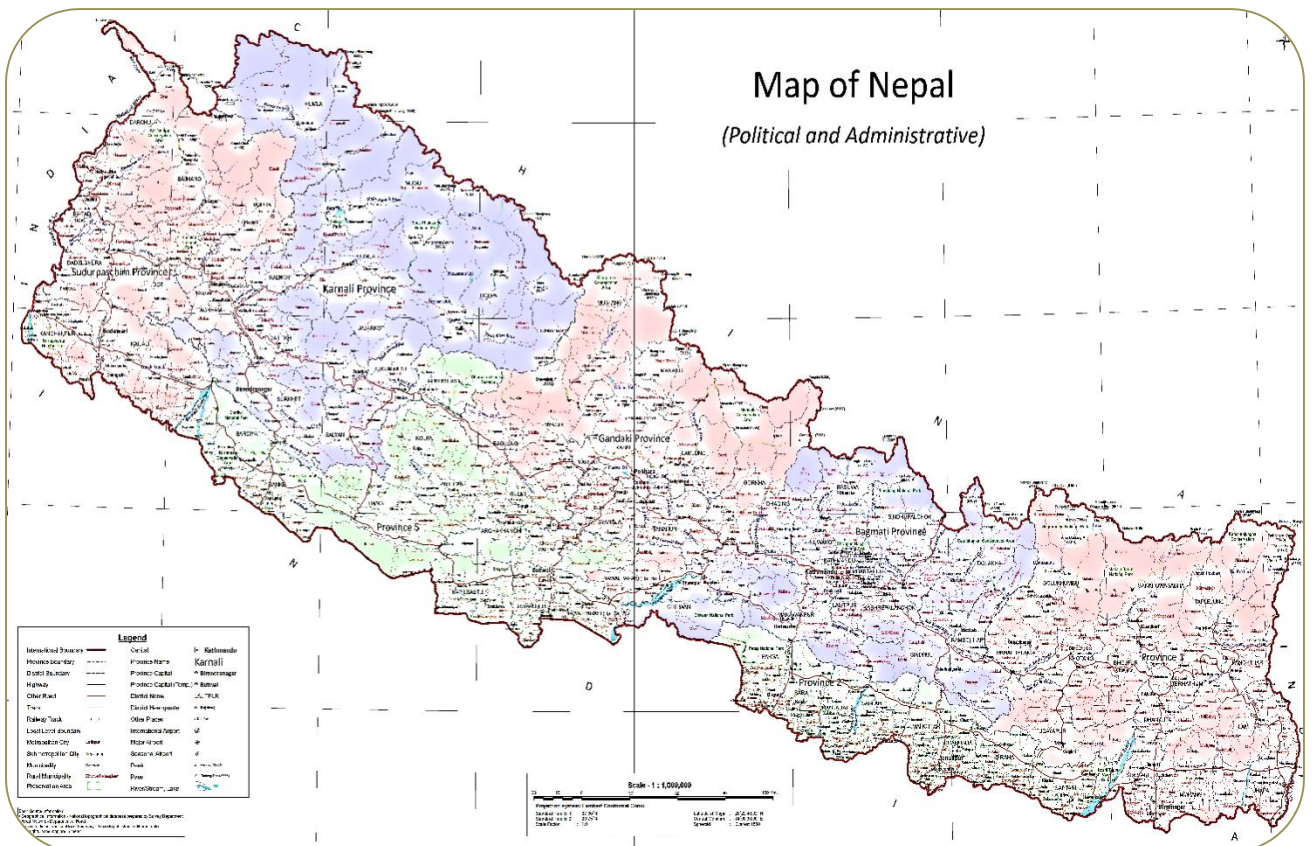
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World Security

The conflict in Palestine is now into its second month, with Israeli Defence Forces attempting to destroy Hamas, firstly in the north of Gaza, and now in a second phase in the south. Some of the hostages taken by Hamas have been released, others found dead. There remain some hostages still hidden somewhere in Gaza.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine continues without decisive developments.

In Paris, France, an Islamic extremist murdered a German tourist near the Eiffel Tower and wounded two others before being arrested.

Nepal News

Tihar begins, Kaag Tihar observed



Tihar, a major festival of the country, began on 11th November.

The five-day festival, also known as Yamapanchak, is celebrated from Trayodashi of Kartik Krishna Paksha (13th day of the waning moon in the month of Kartik) to Dwitiya of Kartik Shukla Paksha (2nd day of the waxing moon) every year.

The festival is considered to be of great importance as it shows reverence to Yama, the god of death, and animals including crow, dog, cow and ox, which maintain a close relationship with humans.

The first day of Yamapanchak, Kaag Tihar (worship of crows) is being celebrated on Saturday by offering sweets and food to the birds. According to Hindu mythology, crow is considered the messenger of Yama. As the cawing of the crows symbolises sadness and grief, devotees offer food to the avian to avert grief and misfortune from their homes.

According to Shree Krishna Adhikari, chairman of the Nepal Panchanga Nirnayak Samit (NPNS) Kukur Tihar and Laxmi Puja have fallen on the same day this year. Kukur Tihar will be observed on Sunday morning while Laxmi Puja will commence the same evening.

Likewise, Gai Puja will be celebrated on 13th November.

Tihar, which is also taken as a festival of light, will conclude with Bhai Tika on Wednesday. Even though Bhai Tika can take place throughout the day, the auspicious time is at 10:51am this year, NPNS said. The rituals can be carried out till sunset.

Translocated rhinos thriving in their adopted home



Pushpa and Anjali—the translocated female rhinos from Chitwan National Park—have been enjoying their new habitat in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Every day four-year-old Pushpa and three-year-old Anjali come out of their cages in the Pathari sector at 6 am and graze in the grasslands along with the reserve’s elephant all day before returning to their enclosures in the evening. The reserve employees have managed grass feed for the pachyderms in the enclosure too.

Pushpa and Anjali were relocated to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, the major habitat of wild water buffaloes (Arna in Nepali), on September 27. The Federal Ministry of Environment, based on the recommendations of conservationists and technicians, granted permission for the translocation of six rhinos from the Chitwan National Park.

“Pushpa and Anjali have adjusted well to their new environment. They haven’t shown any abnormal activities as of now,” said Birendra Gautam, Koshi Conservation Centre chief of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC). According to him, around two hectares of forest land near Pathari Wildlife Rescue Centre in Saptari district has been allocated as pasture for the two rhinos.

“The pasture has been fenced to avoid the intrusion of other animals,” Gautam said. An artificial pond has also been constructed in the grassland. According to conservationists, Pushpa and Anjali often go to the nearby Triyuga River to drink water and play in the mud.

Conservationists are optimistic regarding the successful translocation of rhinos in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. They argue that the reserve has a favourable climate for the pachyderms and there are no hunting animals like tigers and leopards in the reserve’s forests.

Source: South China Morning Post

Hong Kong News

Hong Kong district council election: city to host drone shows, fun fairs to convince voters to stay for December 10 poll



Hong Kong will host a string of large-scale entertainment events and offer free museum visits to encourage voters to remain in the city for the run-up to the district council election on December 10.

Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu on Tuesday said the city would hold an “Election Fun Day” ahead of the poll, with activities including outdoor concerts, drone shows and fun fairs. The public could also enjoy free usage of government facilities, he added.

“We are organising various activities on December 9, the day before the election, in the hopes of enhancing the public’s sense of engagement and the attention attached to the polls, so that the public will vote on December 10,” Lee said ahead of his weekly Executive Council meeting.

The event series will also feature daytime carnivals along Wan Chai and Kwun Tong’s waterfront promenades, similar to those held during the “Hong Kong Night Vibes” campaign to boost consumer spending.

The district council election on December 10 will be the first since the government overhauled the municipal bodies to align with Beijing’s “patriots only” policy direction.

Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific expects first annual profit in 4 years as passenger numbers soar towards pre-pandemic levels



Hong Kong flag carrier [Cathay Pacific Airways](#) has said it expects to report its first annual profit in four years and anticipates passenger numbers, excluding transit traffic, will reach 95 per cent of pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023 amid robust growth in travel demand.

Chief financial officer Rebecca Sharpe on Friday told analysts that the airline expected to return to profitability for the whole year after three consecutive annual losses.

“The strong performance of the airline and subsidiaries in the first half has continued,” she said.

“With respect to the consolidated group result, we expect that the second-half profit in 2023 will surpass the result from the first half and that the group will achieve a consolidated profit for the overall year, which will be our first profitable year since 2019.”

She said that Cathay, including low-cost unit HK Express, had recorded a better performance in the second half of the year compared with the first.

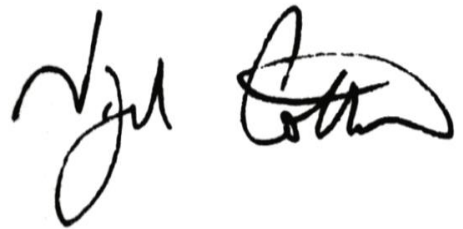
The group said it was on track to meet its target of operating at 70 per cent of pre-pandemic passenger flights covering 80 destinations in December.

“Our priority has first and foremost been on facilitating Hong Kong people travelling from and visitors coming to Hong Kong,” Sharpe said.

Source: [South China Morning Post](#)

Conclusion

The end of the year seems a dark one internationally, but as we approach Christmas and the New Year of 2024, let us hope that next year is a better one for all of us and for the world. On behalf of all of us at GIMS and BGOS, I send you our thanks for what you have done over the past year, our warm greetings for the festive season and our hopes that you and your families may have a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

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

Nigel A. Collett
Managing Director