

GURKHA INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Website: www.gurkha.com.hk

Newsletter

Issue 322 - June 2024



Shipping Companies And Ships Linked To Us

We are working with 11 shipping companies, and have a total of 233 crew and staff on board.

We welcome:

Ashok Kumar Shrestha (Disney Cruises)

Jung Bahadur Ghale (Disney Cruises)

In June, 14 crew rejoined ships. We have another 72 scheduled to go back to work during the next month or so.



DISNEY DREAM

We publish this month a photograph of DISNEY DREAM, a cruise liner of Disney Cruises.

You will notice a change in the statistics we publish monthly to show our crew numbers. Up till now, we have shown all the crew who are on board ships and in Nepal, either on leave or awaiting allocation to ship. These figures have always been to some degree inaccurate, as some of the crew in Nepal who find that they are waiting too long, or prefer other work, take employment elsewhere, and we are often unaware of this. In future, we shall publish numbers for those on board and at work.

GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 20 Hong Kong Clients and have 81 security staff employed.

Editor of Newsletter:

➤ Mamta Gurung Tamang



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OHS 740461

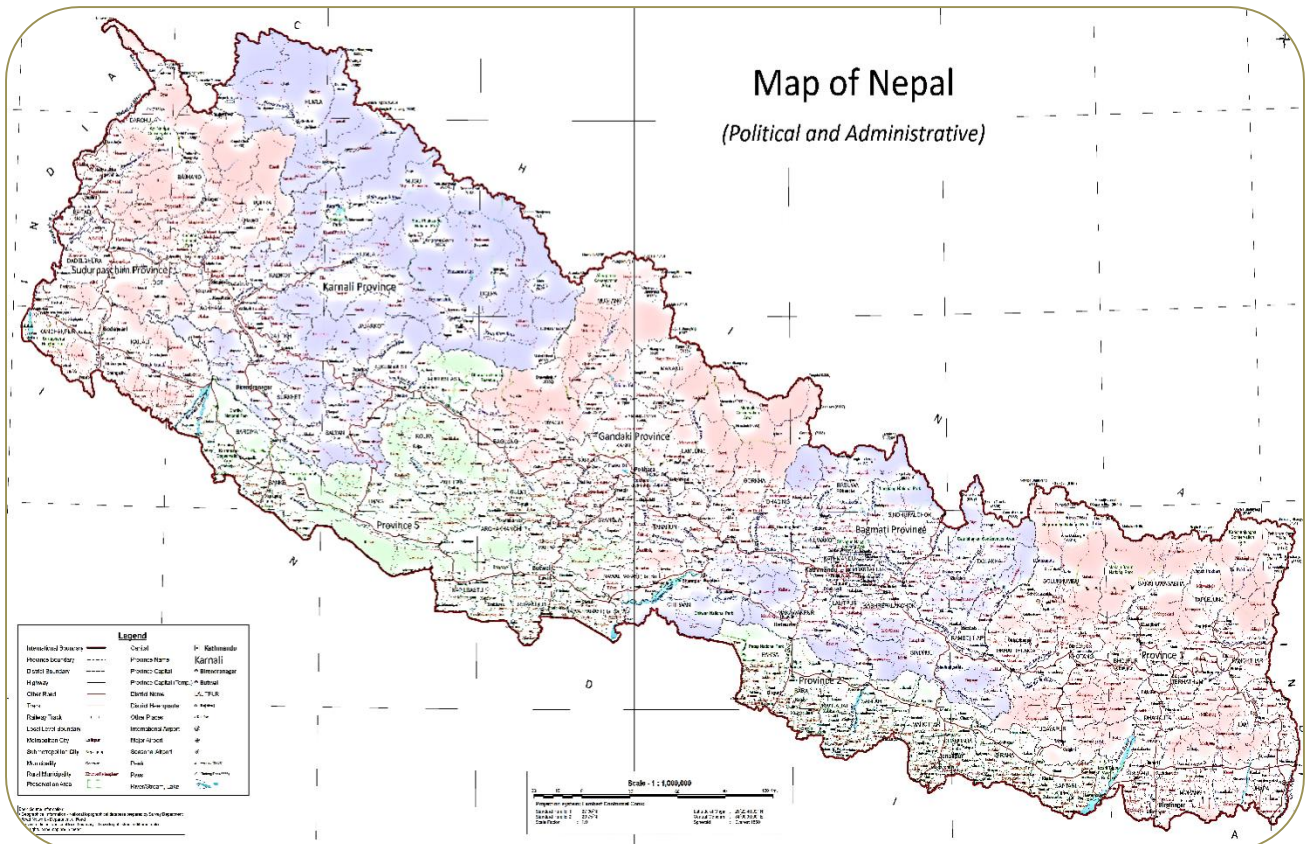
Corruption

We regularly publish notices warning everyone against corruption and asking everyone both not to pay moneys to anyone demanding them in exchange for work, and we do so now as a reminder to our crew as they get back to work. Rightly, the cruise industry will not tolerate corrupt behaviour and will both end contracts with agents who are found to be involved in extorting money and dismiss any crew who have found a vacancy through corrupt means. So please remember, do not pay under the counter money to anyone who asks for it. It is also your duty to report anyone who demands bribes to do their job.

Our Companies will immediately dismiss without compensation any staff or crew involved in demanding, taking or offering bribes.

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World Security

It is now over nine months since the conflict in Gaza began. Israeli operations in Rafah and other places in southern Gaza continue. Hezbollah forces in Lebanon continue to fire rockets at Israel's northern settlements, which have been evacuated, leading to Israeli retaliation across the Lebanese border.

Houthi forces in Yemen continue to attack shipping in the Red Sea leading to retaliation by coalition ships.

Pro-Palestine violence has affected some parts of the world, including the UK before and during its general election, France and Serbia, where a Muslim terrorist attacked the Israeli embassy, shot a security guard with a crossbow and was shot dead by police.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine continues. 22 people were killed and 46 injured in Islamic State mass shootings in Dagestan; 5 terrorists were killed.

In Borno State, Nigeria, 32 people were killed and 48 injured in three bomb blasts.

In Kashmir, Resistance Front terrorists forced a Hindu pilgrim tour bus into a ravine, killing 9 and injuring 41.

Nepal News

Nepal reaffirms commitment to regional cooperation at ACD ministerial meeting



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha has reiterated Nepal's commitment to regional cooperation and multilateralism and stressed the need to implement the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Vision 2030 and the ACD Blueprint 2021-2030.

The foreign minister made the remarks in his address to the 19th ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue held in Tehran, Iran, on 24th June, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press statement.

Shrestha said ACD has evolved as an Asia-wide regional forum for open and consultative dialogues on pressing issues impacting the region and beyond.

According to the foreign ministry, he highlighted challenges posed by Covid-19, climate change, global economic recession, rising conflicts, and geopolitical rivalry. Shrestha also underlines the importance of collective vision, unity, solidarity, and mutual collaboration for a more integrated, resilient, and prosperous Asia.

The ministerial meeting adopted the documents, namely, the Guiding Principles for the Functioning of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Secretariat and the ACD Rules of Procedures, which provide a framework for cooperation among ACD members and an important basis for institutional strengthening of the ACD Secretariat.

Large cardamom could be Nepal's trade booster



Large cardamom traders and experts have urged the government to negotiate with Pakistan and Bangladesh to reduce “heavy taxes” on exporting one of the world’s most expensive spices. Nepal needs to diversify its products beyond India, they say.

In the context of Nepal graduating from the least developed countries by 2026, they say it was high time that Nepal negotiated with the countries where it could get high prices for its products.

Traders say that earnings from the large cardamom could double or triple if the spice reaches these Muslim-majority countries directly.

India is the biggest buyer of Nepal’s large cardamom, absorbing 99 percent of its exports. The spice is re-exported to Pakistan and the Middle East, where it fetches high prices because of local preference for Nepali products.

Pakistan is the largest importer of large cardamom, purchasing roughly 60 percent of India’s exports. Pakistanis use large cardamom pods in biryani, a famous fried rice dish, to symbolise prosperity and wealth.

Nepali traders have also been trying to export large quantities of cardamom to Bangladesh directly through the Kakarbhitta-Panitanki-Phulbari route as demand has increased.

The 44-km route provides the shortest access to the Bangladeshi border point of Banglabandha for Nepal's trade with and through Bangladesh.

Nepali large cardamom or black cardamom has a distinct flavour profile due to a specific method of postharvest drying in bhattis (ovens), which explains the roasted smell and taste.

Source: South China Morning Post

Hong Kong News

Hong Kong leader John Lee to ‘fully pursue’ economic growth, progress on livelihood issues



Hong Kong authorities will focus on the economy and livelihood issues in the coming year rather than constitutional reform, the city’s leader has said ahead of a visit later this week to Guangdong province with top officials to discuss collaboration on a wide range of topics.

Chief Executive [John Lee Ka-chiu](#) will travel to Guangzhou on 27th June to attend the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference, where officials will explore new avenues for collaboration especially in the areas of finance, health and innovation and technology.

“Constitutional reform is not a matter I will prioritise,” Lee said ahead of a regular Tuesday meeting of the government’s top advisory body, the Executive Council.

“We have dealt with the legislation of Article 23 of the Basic Law and completed our constitutional responsibility,” he added, referring to the recently implemented domestic national security law.

“We have also improved our district level governance, we will now fully pursue economic growth, advance development and improve people’s livelihoods.”

Source: [South China Morning Post](#)

Climate change: Towngas, French energy group to launch Hong Kong's first green hydrogen project



The Hong Kong and China Gas Company (Towngas) has teamed up with the French water, waste and energy group Veolia to launch the city's first [green hydrogen](#) project, which will convert biogas from a landfill site into a [sustainable fuel](#).

Towngas and Green Valley Landfill, a subsidiary of Veolia, signed an agreement to jointly develop the facility at the South East New Territories Landfill Extension (Sentx) in Tseung Kwan O. The launch of the project comes a day after the government released its [strategy for hydrogen development](#).

The initiative aims to convert rubbish into energy by using biogas to produce green hydrogen, and to promote a range of hydrogen energy applications, according to a joint statement from the companies.

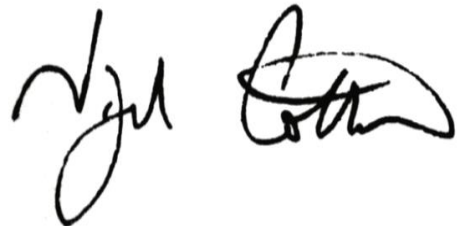
The first batch of locally produced green hydrogen is expected to be available next year. The projected daily production capacity of around 330kg of hydrogen will be enough to power seven or eight hydrogen buses for a full day.

“The pilot cooperation between Veolia Hong Kong and Towngas is the first local [green hydrogen production](#) demonstration project, playing a pioneering role in advancing Hong Kong's low-carbon hydrogen energy development,” said Tse Chin-wan, the secretary for environment and ecology, at the launch ceremony.

“Looking ahead, the government will continue to support and encourage the industry to explore more diverse hydrogen energy trials and collaborative projects, jointly supporting the promotion of hydrogen energy applications and industrial development, with the aim of accelerating Hong Kong's low-carbon transformation and the development of new quality productive forces.”

Conclusion

The current round of elections in the west (in the EU, UK, France and later the US) have tended to create some disturbances, both on the streets and among parties vying for power. We are in a volatile period when I expect threat levels to rise, at least in some areas. As always, keep your eyes and ears open and report what you come across!

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

Nigel A. Collett
Managing Director