

GURKHA INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Website: www.gurkha.com.hk

Newsletter

Issue 329 - January 2025



Shipping Companies And Ships Linked To Us

We are working with 11 shipping companies, and have a total of 275 crew and staff on board.

.....
We welcome :

- Amresh Chaudhary (P&O Australia)
- Ajaya Rai (P&O Australia)
- Kiran Gurung (P&O Australia)
- Suraj Sunar (P&O Australia)
- Aman Gurung (P&O Australia)
- Suvash Giri (P&O Australia)
- Birat Thapa (P&O Australia)
- Minraj Adhikari (P&O Australia)

In January, 37 crew rejoined ships. We have another 48 scheduled to go back to work during the next month or so.



AIDABELLA

We publish this month a photograph of AIDABELLA, a cruise liner of AIDA Cruises.

2025 has begun with the hopeful sign of peace in Palestine. The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has ended the bitter conflict which has ruined so many lives and destroyed most of Gaza. We hope that this bodes well for the other conflicts in the rest of the world.

As we predicted in our earlier Newsletter, the installation of America's new president, Donald Trump, has begun to upend some of the ways business has been done in the world. We shall watch developments and report those that affect security as the months pass.

.....
GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 20 Hong Kong Clients and have 79 security staff employed.

Editor of Newsletter:

➤ **Mamta Gurung Tamang**



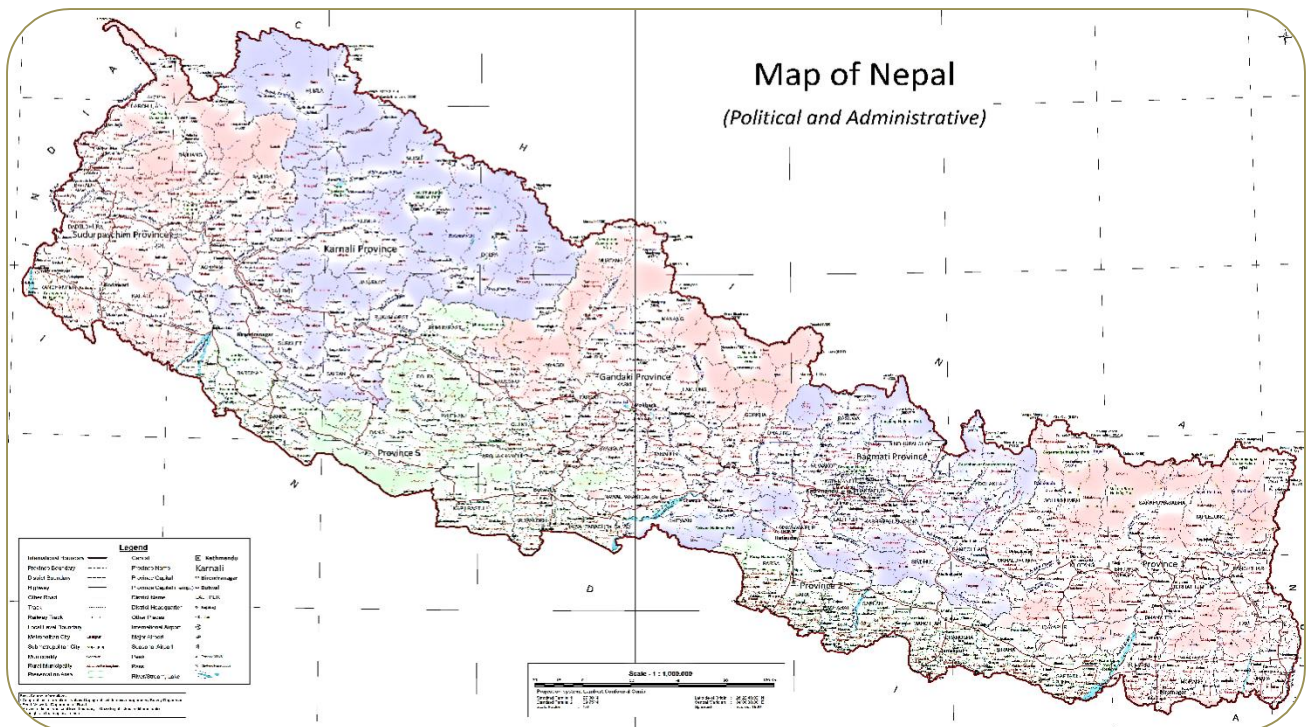
FS 740460



OHS 740461

Contents

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



World Security

As mentioned above, there is now a tense peace in Gaza. The hostages that Hamas has held for over a year are being returned in exchange for the release of many Palestinian prisoners and the end of the campaign. Lebanon and Syria are, at the moment, also at peace.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine continues, without major developments in the month. Now that President Trump has played his part in the Gaza ceasefire, it is likely he will turn his attention to ending this conflict.

Random attacks by terrorists inspired or organized by Islamists have marred the New Year in America, Germany and France. On New Year's Day, an Islamist drove a truck into a crowd in New Orleans, killing 14 and wounding 57 people, before being killed himself. An American, seemingly protesting against the inauguration of President Trump, blew himself up outside the Trump Tower in Las Vegas, wounding 7 people.

Naxalist Maoist terrorists killed 9 District Reserve Guards in a roadside bombing at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

Islamist Boko Haram terrorists attacked the presidential palace in Chad, killing 2 members of the security forces and wounding 5. 18 terrorists were killed and 6 injured. On the same day, Islamist terrorists of the Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal-Muslimin attacked a border security post in Benin, killing 30 soldiers.

On 16 January, terrorists of the Colombian National Liberation Army killed over 100 and wounded over 20 people in Catatumbo, Columbia.

An Afghan knifed 2 people to death, 1 of them a child, in a car park in Aschaffenburg, Bavaria; the perpetrator was arrested. It has been recorded that there are 120 knife attacks in France every day, most of them related to drug crime, some of a fanatical religious nature. Knife crime increased in 2024 by 4.4% in the UK, where it was revealed that the case of Southport murderer, Axel Rudakubana, who murdered 3 schoolgirls at a dance class and injured 10 more in July 2024, was indeed inspired by Islamist terrorism. Sweden has acknowledged that it has lost control of its immigrant populations and is suffering a rising amount of violent crime as a result, especially in its major cities of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. Sweden now has one of the highest homicide rates in Europe.

Nepal News

Gandaki CM Pandey calls for coordinated efforts for regular international flights in Pokhara



Gandaki Chief Minister Surendraraj Pandey has emphasised the need for greater coordination and cooperation between the federal and provincial governments to make the Pokhara International Airport fully operational.

Speaking as the chief guest at the 'Gantabya Gandaki' event organised by Kantipur Media Group in Pokhara on Wednesday, Pandey highlighted the difficulties the region faces due to the inability to operate international flights. He underscored the importance of connectivity for development, noting that road infrastructure in Gandaki remains a significant challenge.

Pandey further pointed out that air travel is frequently delayed due to weather conditions and management issues, which prevents passengers from reaching their destinations on time. Despite the completion of the international airport, he stated that Gandaki continues to face many hurdles.

The chief minister said that the province is witnessing growing tourism from neighbouring countries, India and China, and reiterated that the regular operation of international flights will offer improved and efficient connectivity for tourists visiting Gandaki.

Highway to Everest is paved with hope



In November 2011, over 3,000 tourists were [stranded in Lukla](#) after adverse weather conditions halted flights for over a week. This caused a great uproar among tourists and the locals as food stocks were depleting.

Tourists were forced to return to Kathmandu by helicopter, paying up to \$500 per person instead of \$180 for an aeroplane ticket. During the tourist season in spring and autumn, hundreds of tourists are often stranded at Lukla airport as no flights can land due to bad weather and high winds.

Problems intensify during the winter and monsoon seasons, though the areas at those times receive almost no tourists. In bad weather, trekkers can also walk up to Jiri, retracing the footsteps of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa during their historic ascent to the top of the world on May 29, 1953.

The walk from Jiri to Surkhe, just below the Lukla Airport, takes 12 days.

The government then decided to open a track to the Everest region. The project, dubbed the Highway to Everest, started in 2014. However, the 2015 earthquake stopped it.

After the 2017 elections that installed local governments under a federal dispensation, Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality took the initiative to push the road project.

Nearly a decade on, last week, the Khumbu region became accessible by road.

On January 4, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli inaugurated the dirt motorable road up to Surkhe. The road will end in Chaurikharkha, which falls between Lukla and Namche Bazaar.

“This is a monumental development for the Everest region,” said Jagat Prasad Bhusal, chief administrative officer of the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality. “The road will significantly reduce transport costs for trekkers to the Everest region while bringing supplies for the locals.”

Hong Kong News

1.4 million mainland tourists to visit Hong Kong over Lunar New Year: John Lee



Hong Kong will welcome more than 1.4 million mainland Chinese tourists over Lunar New Year, the city's leader has predicted, saying the trend of having overseas visitors will also be noticeable in the Year of the Snake.

Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said that a 23-minute fireworks display and a parade featuring international performance groups would be among a string of celebratory events for the holiday, which runs from January 28 to February 4 on the mainland.

“[We] estimate that more than 1.4 million mainland tourists will visit Hong Kong via different borders during the eight-day holiday,” Lee said before his weekly meeting with the key decision-making Executive Council.

He said the estimated number of daily visitors would represent increases of 3 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, over the figures for the National Day and Lunar New Year holidays last year.

Lee said the fireworks display would light up Victoria Harbour on January 30 and was expected to attract more than 100,000 residents and tourists.

Source: South China Morning Post

Hong Kong public secondary schools can offer foreign languages to younger pupils



Hong Kong public secondary schools will be able to offer foreign language courses to students in Form One to Three from the next academic year, with each institution receiving HK\$250,000 (US\$32,000) in government funding to cover two years of operations.

The Education Bureau said on Wednesday that the subsidy covered courses for Japanese, Korean, French, German, Spanish and Urdu, in addition to Arabic and Russian if conditions permitted.

Schools could not charge students fees to take the extra language courses under the pilot scheme, it said in a circular.

The bureau said schools should apply before April 30 if they wished to offer the courses.

Institutions approved for the subsidy would receive HK\$250,000 to hire external service providers to offer students in-person or online courses, and for buying learning and teaching materials over a two-year period.

The scheme is supported by the Quality Education Fund.

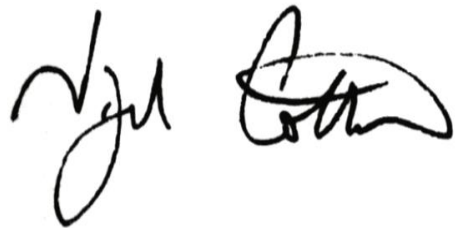
“[The scheme is for] developing their learning interests and capabilities, as well as enriching their learning experiences and heightening their global competitiveness,” the bureau said.

Last October, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu announced in his policy address that authorities would aim to encourage all public secondary schools to provide junior form students with the opportunity to learn other languages.

Source: South China Morning Post

Conclusion

Hong Kong, where the economy is gradually growing again after some very poor years, celebrated Chinese New Year last month. On behalf of all of our staff there, we wish you all a Happy New Year of the Snake!

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

Nigel A. Collett
Managing Director