



GURKHA INTERNATIONAL  
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# NEWSLETTER

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## THE LAST MONTH IN BRIEF

As I write, the demonstrations calling for the introduction of full democracy in Hong Kong are developing into a standoff between protesters on one side and the government, police and courts on the other. Three areas of the city remain barricaded off. Our business remains unaffected, but it is sad to see the intransigence on both sides leading to such a rupture in Hong Kong's civil society. I fear the damage this will do to will be long-lasting.

We publish this month a photograph of Disney Cruise Lines “**Disney Magic**”



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

## SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US



We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 763 men and 138 women on ships, a total of 901 crew and staff under management.

We welcome:

### **Star Cruises**

Padam Thapa

Nawaraj Rayamajhi

Naresh Tamang

Kalyan Bikram Adhikari

Bharat Dong Lama

Dipendra Basnet

### **Norwegian Cruise Lines**

Mohan Gurung

Suman Gurung

Sanju Thapa

Amrita Gurung

Chure Bahadur Gurung

### **V'Ships**

Bina Rai

### **Disney Cruise Lines**

Suresh Gurung

Suraj Eldrin Lama

Rajendra Gurung

## GI (HK) BUSINESS



We are providing security services for 30 Hong Kong Clients and have 110 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

## WORLD SECURITY

**Economics** – The world’s financial markets have been in turmoil this month due to fears of low growth and the planned withdrawal of Quantitative Easing, the United States Government’s printing of money to ease the flow of money across the world. The United States and the United Kingdom continue to grow, but the Eurozone seems headed for continuous sluggish growth or even recession. China is registering the slowest growth rate (although still over 7%) in many years. The price of oil is dropping.



**Nuclear** – There is no news of either the Iranian or North Korean nuclear programmes.



**The Arab World** – The United States and its Arab, Australian and European allies have continued bombing locations and forces of the Islamic State (ISIS) in northern Syria and Iraq. ISIS continues to expand towards Baghdad and is currently attacking Kurdish areas near the Turkish border, especially at the Syrian town of Kobani, which is inhabited by Kurds and is resisting an ISIS siege. Turkey has agreed after much United States pressure to allow Kurdish fighters to reinforce their fellows in Syria through its borders. Iraq continues to experience Sunni Muslim terrorism across the country. Tribal factionalism, particularly from the powerful Shia Houthi clan, which has been seizing territory and dominating the capital, Sanaa, and Sunni Muslim extremism continue to cause fighting in Yemen.

In Libya, security remains very weak.

**Palestine** – The situation in Gaza and the West Bank has reverted to its normal tense state broken by occasional small scale violence and killings.

**Afghanistan and Pakistan** – There is little news this month from Afghanistan and Pakistan, which remain very disturbed and unsafe in many parts of the countries.

**Asia** – Relations between Japan and China, between South Korea and Japan, and between China and states around the South China Sea (in particular Vietnam and the Philippines) remain strained over conflicting maritime claims. Occasional terrorist acts take place in Muslim areas of western China’s Xinjiang province, where Muslim Uyghur separatists have sent men to ISIS in the Middle East to train and return.

**Thailand** – The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.

**Somalia** – There are no new reports of piracy at present.

**Malacca Straits** – There are no new reports of piracy at present.

**Africa** –Islamic militants have continued their operations in northern Nigeria, where the Islamic fundamentalists Boko Haram have instituted barbaric medieval Muslim behaviours, such as mutilation of victims and enslaving women. The security situation in the Central African Republic, Mali and South Sudan remains grave. Ebola fever continues to spread widely in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, but Nigeria has succeeded in becoming free again of the disease.

**Ukraine** – The ceasefire in the Ukraine has held but Western sanctions imposed on Russia have remained in force. Relations between Russia and the west are at their worst since the end of the Cold War in 1991 and Russia is showing signs of again trying to bully its small Baltic neighbours (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Finland and Sweden) by threats and incursions of military ships and planes. The situation remains grave and very dangerous.

**The Americas** – there is no news of security interest at present.

**India** – There is no news of security interest at the moment.

**Myanmar** – There is no news of security interest from Myanmar this month.

**Nepal** –



**ATHMANDU, 15 October:** A meeting of the Legislature-Parliament passed the Finance Bill- 2071 BS with a majority on Wednesday.

In the meeting, Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat tabled the proposal seeking the house's approval to the Bill.

Similarly, proposals tabled in the meeting seeking considerations on the Bill on Raising National Debts-2071 BS and Loans and Securities (20th amendment) Bill- 2071 BS were endorsed by a majority.

Prior to this, Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party lawmaker Prem Suwal demanded the withdrawal of the Bill.

Taking part in the clause-wise deliberation on the Bill, lawmaker Suwal expressed his concerns over the use of remittance in the purchase of luxurious goods.

Dilli Prasad Kafle of the same party expressed his objection to the decision to impose tax on small traders.

CPN-UML's Surendra Pandey said the VAT collection failed to meet the target, stressing the need of adjustment in customs duty and price.

UCPN (M) Ram Narayan Bidari accused of rampant irregularities in tax administration and urged the government to be serious to control such irregularities. Gita Chhetri,

Narsingh Chaudhary, Chudamani BK, Brijesh Kumar Gupta were among those putting their views on the Bill.

The Legislature-Parliament will meet again at 11:00 am tomorrow, Thursday.

**BANKE, 22 October:** A European Union team with European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs recently inspected the flood-hit area of Udharapur VDC-2 in the district.

Piebalgs inquired about the condition of the flood victims, who have been living in tents since their houses and lands were swept away by floods two months ago. Likewise, the victims also shared their problems with the team.

“We cannot live in tents forever. But we do not have any other options as we do not have the money to build new houses,” said Birkhe Damai while sharing his problems with the team.

“We are living in tents since we were displaced by the floods. We do not know how long we have to endure such a situation,” said another flood victim Thagani Chaudhary.

Piebalgs was accompanied by EU ambassador to Nepal Reesje Teerink.

Two hundred thirty seven people in the village were affected by the floods. The EU team provided relief packages comprising tents, ropes and utensils to the flood victims.

Without any substantial income source or job opportunities in the district, around 75 percent of the people of this village go to India in search of work.

The flood victims said they are planning to repair their houses with money they hope to earn in India.

On Thursday, October 23, 2014, the third day of Tihar, Hindus revere the holy- cow in the morning while the goddess of prosperity and wealth – Lakshmi will be worshipped and offered Puja to, in the evening.

With the belief that Goddess Lakshmi visits only those houses that are cleaned and decorated, the Hindu households are specially made up to invite the Goddess on this day.

The night of Lakshmi Puja is also known as ‘Sukha-Ratri’ or the night of happiness.

On this day, a preparation made of cow dung and red mud is used to make a ‘sacred-way’ from the courtyard to the prayer-room, inviting Goddess Lakshmi in the house. Symbolic footsteps of the goddess are then made on the way.

There is an age-old tradition of young girls making groups and singing ‘bhailo’ from door to door in the neighbourhood in the evening.

The bhailo groups are offered rice, flowers, garlands, money and a special delicacy made of rice flour – sel roti.

Extending greetings to Nepali Hindus on occasion of Tihar, President Dr Ram Baran Yadav expressed his belief that the new constitution will be promulgated within the slated time, guaranteeing sovereignty, integrity and freedom of the country.

Likewise, Vice-President Paramananda Jha in his greetings message also said the new constitution is of primary concern for all Nepalis.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said people from all section of society must unite to institutionalise federalism, republicanism and incusion as the achievements of people's movement.

**KATHMANDU, 23 October:** Chief Secretary Leela Mani Paudyal on Wednesday called an emergency meeting to discuss ways to enhance infrastructure, management, and services at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) amid reports TIA has been named the world's third worst airport.

A high-level committee comprising representatives from Tourism, Home, Finance, Foreign Affairs and Labor ministries has been formed to regularly monitor the services at the country's sole international airport. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will monitor the committee's work.

According to The Guide to Sleeping in Airports, a travel website, TIA has been ranked the world's third worst airport due to the lack of cleanliness.

After the emergency meeting, Tourism Minister Deepak Chandra Amatya made an inspection of the airport. A separate team led by PMO Secretary Shanta Raj Subedi also inspected TIA.

According to Buddhi Sagar Lamichanne, joint-secretary at the Tourism Ministry, the government has decided to improve infrastructure, including toilets, and daily security duties to serve travellers more efficiently.

On March 1, the government had allowed Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) to hike the tourism service fee to Rs 1,130 from Rs 565 for foreigners. On July 17, TIA was also allowed to levy Rs 1,000 per passenger as airport development tax in addition to Rs 1,130 being levied as passenger service charge on international flights departing from the TIA.

A tourist flying out of TIA has to pay Rs 3,260. Nepali travellers will have to pay Rs 2,130 in taxes and fees, and Rs 2,921 for all travellers flying out to South Asian destinations.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (Caan), which had been collecting around Rs 1.70 billion a year from passenger service charges, will raise an additional Rs 1.40 billion following the enforcement of the development tax.

The TIA generates more than 90 percent of Caan's revenue.

There have been complaints the airport has not been providing efficient services and its toilet is never clean. International air passenger traffic through TIA rose 7.35 percent in

2013. According to TIA statistics, 29 international carriers flew 3.14 million passengers in and out of TIA.

**KATHMANDU, 23 October:** Nepal recorded a Rs. 10.5 billion deficit in the balance of payment in the first two months of the current fiscal year in the context it had Rs. 33 billion surplus in the last fiscal year.

According to the report unveiled by the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) on Wednesday, in the reviewed period, the current account has a deficit of Rs. 9.98 billion. In the previous year, it had a surplus of Rs. 18.35 billion.

There was deficit in government account in the period due to high increase of import of goods and services, and decrease of remittances and grant inflow, the NRB said.

The monthly remittance inflow has increased by 0.2 percent in August/September, as compared to the July/August of the current fiscal year. In the period, Rs. 341.5 million has been brought in as foreign investment under financial account.

The total foreign exchange reserve by mid September was Rs. 660.8 billion with a decline of 0.7 percent from Rs. 665.41 billion.

In this period, total export had come down to 14.43 billion with a decline of 4.8 percent. The annual inflation in the period is 7.6 percent, which, in the same period in previous fiscal year was 8.0 percent.

**KATHMANDU, 23 October:** Despite a rising number of outbound migrant workers, remittance inflow decreased 4 percent in the first two months of the fiscal year—the first drop in years.

The inflow has not decreased in any month over the last four years. Although the exact reason behind the decrease in remittance is yet to be ascertained, stakeholders said increased use of informal channels such as Hundi and the strengthening of the domestic currency against the US dollar over the last one year could be the reasons behind the decrease.

However, even in the US dollar terms, the remittance has decreased 1.1 percent, suggesting the inflow has decreased in absolute term.

The remittance grew at a meager 0.8 percent in the first month, and decreased 4 percent to Rs 84.48 billion as of the second month of the fiscal year.

There has been an abrupt break in the surging trend of remittance, which grew at an handsome 34.7 percent rate in 2013-14.

As remittance is the largest source of foreign exchange necessary to fund surging imports of both essential and luxury goods, a decrease in remittance has raised eyebrows. Remittance accounts for 29 percent of the GDP.

However, NRB spokesperson Manamohan Kumar Shrestha said the slight decline in remittance would not make any immediate difference to the country's foreign exchange reserves.



According to the central bank's statistics, foreign exchange reserves as of mid-September stands at Rs 660.80 billion, down 0.7 percent from Rs 665.41 billion in mid-July.

The forex reserves are adequate to fund merchandise and service imports for 9.1 months.

Stakeholders see no particular reason behind the fall in remittance. International Money Express CEO Suman Pokharel said although they were doing brisk business, increased inflow of remittance through informal channels might have played a role.

The remittance inflow has been escalating in the recent years, thanks to increased number of outbound migrant workers.

According to the Department of Foreign Employment, the number of outbound Nepali workers has been growing at an annual rate of 12 percent. In the last fiscal year, 527,814 Nepalis left the country for foreign jobs.

Meanwhile, the country's export earnings also declined in the first two months. The earnings declined 4.8 percent to Rs 14.43 billion. On the other hand, imports surged 20.9 percent to Rs 126.36 billion.

As a result, the country's trade deficit has crossed the Rs 100-billion mark in just two months, standing at Rs 107.73 billion.

**KATHMANDU, 23 October:** The National Sports Council (NSC) is gearing up for grooming fresh coaches with the ability of adapting themselves to the changes in the respective sports disciplines.

The Member Secretary of the sports governing body Yubaraj Lama said on Wednesday that it was the need of the hour following the poor showing of the Nepali athletes in the recently held 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea. The Nepali contingent comprised of 204-strong players in 25 disciplines but returned with just a single bronze medal in karate. "We need enthusiastic trainers eager to continuously update themselves to the changes in the rules and techniques in a particular game," said Lama. "Sports have become too competitive and physical training alone will not help producing better players. The coaches should be able to dig in to the psychology of their players as well."

Lama also informed that the sports governing body is planning to set an age bar for the players to be called in the national camps. "We are trying to focus on grass-root programmes that will serve as talent hunt. We will search for fresh players on whom we can apply new scientific methods of training," said Lama at a programme organised to felicitate Asian Games participating judo players. Nepal Judo Association (NJA) had announced that it would reward players with Rs 10,000 each if they succeed in keeping themselves in the ring during the entire game. Of the seven judokas, only Ramesh Magar (men's 66kg category) and Phupu Lhyamu Khatri (women's 63kg category) were able to stand the whole game against their opponents during their Asiad bouts. The men's bout lasts for five minutes and the women's four.

Despite returning empty handed, NJA President Deepak Harsha Bajracharya said he was happy with the way judokas fared from Asiad. “We had never hoped for medals but were rather looking for better performance, which I believe our players did,” Bajracharya said. “In the absence of good exposure, hoping medals from Asiad is unthinkable. We have to start planning big from now to realise that dream.”

## Hong Kong –

**15 October:** Near midnight, a group of protesters attempted to extend the occupy central frontline by swarming into Lung Wo Road, the arterial road north of the Central Government Complex at Central. They erected barricade and scattered concrete slabs to halt the traffic. Police started to clear the road at around 3am, using baton and pepper spray to force the crowds retreating to Tamar Park. Traffic was soon resumed and 45 protesters were arrested at the end.

During the operation, it was revealed by a news footage that one protester, Civic Party member Ken Tsang, was punched and kicked while handcuffed by six police officers in a secluded place. The beating lasted for about four minutes, and the footage had provoked wide outrage of the protesters. The officers involved were now suspended from their duties and the Police Complaints Council was investigating into the matter.

**17 October:** Clashes between protesters and police occurred at Mong Kok when the police dismantled the barricades and main tents at northbound side of Nathan Road to resume traffic. In the evening, at least 9000 protesters returned to Nathan Road to try to retake the northbound lanes, leading the police ushered riot control. During the charging 15 police were injured and 26 arrests were made. Around midnight, the police retreated and the protesters re-erected barricades on Nathan Road.

**21 October:** The government and the Hong Kong Federation of Students held the first round of talks on 21 October in a televised open debate. Chief secretary Carrie Lam and other government officers attended. During the talk the government stressed again the decision from NPCSC would not be drawn back, however, they were willing to write a new report regarding the movement in Hong Kong and the student’s concern to Beijing. The government described the talks as "candid and meaningful" in a press release, while the students expressed their disappointment at the lack of concrete results.

**23 October:** The Legislative Council meeting, which was set to resume at 9am, has been canceled until next Wednesday because of a lack of quorum when 36 lawmakers did not turn up. Legco president Jasper Tsang Yok-sing said the absent lawmakers had failed in their duty and owe the public an explanation. He said the meeting delay was not due to political factors but a lack of sense of responsibility.

## CONCLUSION

I write this on the first day of the Nepalese Tihar and the Indian Diwali/Deepavali festivals of light. I send you all and your families my warmest wishes for a very happy celebration, wherever you may be!

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

Nigel Collett  
Managing Director