

Labour Unrest in Bangladesh: 100 RMG units closed, BGB deployed



Siam Sarower Jamil Dhaka, Jan 10

At least 70 people, including 10 law enforcers, were injured in clashes between police and apparel workers in Savar, on the outskirts of Dhaka, and in Gazipur as the workers continued demonstration demanding wage hike for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday. Thousands of workers at Ashulia, Gazipur and Uttara, defying call from the government and labour leaders to resume production, also demonstrated in the labour-intensive industrial belts to press their demand forcing closure of at least 100 units, said police. State minister for labour and employment Monnuzan Sufian at a media briefing at Nam Bhaban on Wednesday call upon the apparel workers to resume production as the government would solve the problems, if there were

any, in wage structure. "There may be mathematical mistakes in the new wage structure; we will solve it through discussion," she said. She said that the 12-member committee formed on Tuesday would seat today to analyse the mistakes. Monnuzan said that wage could never go down; it should go up. She suspected that a third party might have misguided the workers through provocation to get political benefits. She said that she was sorry for the "unwanted" incident of worker's death and other casualties in clashes in the last four days at different industrial belts. She assured the workers that she would solve the crisis and if needed she would go even to prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association vice-president Mohammed Nasir said a tri-party meeting decided

to resume production on Tuesday and urged the workers to join work as they would make necessary amendment to the wage structure but workers continued demonstration, which was unexpected. He warned they would take their further action after discussion with the stakeholders. "If production halt continues we will be forced to shut factories for an indefinite period," he said. Border Guards Bangladesh spokesperson Mohsin Reza said that eight platoons of BGB were deployed in the industrial belt of Savar, Ashulia and Gazipur on Wednesday. Protesters said in November 2018, the monthly minimum gross wage of apparel workers in the seventh grade was increased to Tk 8,000 from Tk 5,300. But the wages in other grades did not increase at the same rate. They also said that the wages should be increased proportionately in all the grades without any delay.

Assam Protest Continues Agitators block roads

Agency Guwahati, Jan 10

Widespread protests against the Citizenship Bill continued in Assam on Wednesday with agitators blocking roads and marching with their clothes off in several parts of the state. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that seeks to provide citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and

Afghanistan was passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Agitators across the Northeast, including Assam, have been blocking roads and rail tracks, seeking revocation of the Bill. In Guwahati, members of 70 organisations, led by Akhil Gogoi's Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti and Asom Jatiyatadabi Yuba Chatra Parishad, protested outside central government offices

and also tried way through the barricades to the state secretariat, leading to a scuffle with police. "Police had to resort to mild lathicharge and fire rubber bullets to disperse the protesters who refused to move back despite warnings. Some of them were also taken into custody to prevent deterioration in law and order situation," a senior officer said.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, Jayant Kumar Jain, do hereby declared that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandon the use of my old name Jayant Jain as I have assumed my new name Jayant Kumar Jain. Hence I shall be called and known as Jayant Kumar Jain from today.

Sd/-
Jayant Kumar Jain
Surajmal Shanti Kumar
Paona Bazar Laxmi Market
Imphal West

IND No. plate lost

I, the undersigned have lost my IND No. Plate of my vehicle (Eon Era Car, red colour) bearing registration No. MN 01 X 4991, on the way between Nagamapal to Paona Bazar on 07/01/2019. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Kongbrailatpam Radhaparyari Devi
Khwai Brahmapur Nagamapal,
Imphal, Manipur.

Certificate Lost

I have lost my Certificate issued by Manipur University, Bachelor of Arts(Hons) year 1999 bearing Roll No 715388 on the way between Singjamei to Governor Road. Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Oinam Athouba Singh
Singjamei Oinam Thingel
Opp Dr. Nongthon
Phone: 8131945299

Bank Pass Book lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my bank pass book issued by State Bank of India (SBI) Paona Bazar Branch, bearing Account No. 30039575165, on the way between Keishampat to Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai on 7/1/2019. Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Aribam Ibemnungshi Devi
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Imphal West, 795001
Contact - 9436022351

Is Manipur, a sinking Ship Now?

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Is there any local/domestic product we used (dawn to dusk) in our day-to-day life? Nobody ever ask and think about this. Nobody never thought, asked and estimated, how much money an individual require (based on present market index) to meet the basic need just to survive in a day, and also never try to earn the requirement even if he/she knows it. It may be due to lack of work culture or no work /job to do. After reading our folk tale story of a widow's lazy son Chandrakangan (*Lukhrabimacha katan Chandrakangan, who got a golden ring which can be used to get anything he like, because of which he could marry a princess*), I sometimes feel, since time immemorial there has not been work culture in our society (my personal view). And sometimes I feel that our people might have been the habits of getting money without much effort and enjoy without doing any work. Though in most of our families, rice container (Chengfu) are covered with spider web, on the road many are acting like or imitating like English Gentleman, English lady with second hand clothes, second hand cars and luxurious car bought on loan which causes traffic problems and pollution. Our local rice is being replaced by superfine as no enough food grain is produced to meet our necessity. Government officials never delivered their services promptly. It takes days to months to move an official file of a person from one table to other without something (Which everybody knows). Sometimes peons are more powerful than an officer. What is this?

I think it may be true that we are suppressed people. Because of this we are treading towards a suppressive way of life resulting mistrust, no respect among ourselves and even loss self-conscience and belief at the highest degree. Are not these, the questions that everybody asked? Have we got so far, the positive results of tussles, challenges, people's movement for discontentment, and protest for many unwanted incidents that has been taking place for last so many years at the cost of our people's valuable time and properties? Answer will be, no. Who suppressed us? Symptoms of suppression is seen vividly. But the question is: are we suppressed by state actor or non-state actor? Nobody is answering this question. Instead we all are blaming each other like the story of a hungry cow-boy who was entrusted to look after cow. Cow damage paddy field as cow-boy did not look after cow properly. He could not look after the cow as he was not given food, he was not given food for the cook as the fire wood was wet, fire wood was wet as it was rained, and it was rained because frock crook, frock crook as it was its time to crook. In the same manner the process continue pulling down

one another like crab society. Isn't the mistrust and not listening to each other among us? This could be one of the reason why and how countless social organizations (with the sole objective of delivering their services for common cause, welfare, to root out social evils, protect our liberty, property and life) are coming out. People feel discontentment but nobody has the guts to raise their voices against anybody for the dare consequences they will face. Isn't the act of suppressing among ourselves? Because of such action, our people cannot express their opinions and thinking independently even if 19th Article of Indian Constitution provides the fundamental right of an individual. Doesn't it cause our society a suppressed society? Examples of such actions either by state or non-state actor are seen & known by our people. Broad day light looting, merciless threatening, causing fear psychosis has been and still going on like a culture among ourselves and in our society. Will it be exaggeration to say that our society is like sinking Titanic, after seeing all these incidents?

Isn't domestic violence, crime against child & women, rape case by powerful group of peoples occurring every day in our society give the social index of differences between powerful and weaker sections of our society which was nonexistent earlier? Now a days the differences between the two sections of society is like sea and stream. Who is listening and intent to listen the grievances of farmers, laborer, fishermen, weavers, street vendor's women and all sections of our society? We have already been burdened with the influx of legal or illegal migrants or immigrants, problems of Rohingya, problems of drugs, alcoholism, HIV AIDS, another big of AFSPA. In addition to these, in our state there is problem of apprehension of the consequence of Passing Citizen Amendment Bill 2016 on 8th January 2019 in Lok Sabha. At this point of time, people from all angles started asking, what all organizations established for our welfare are doing and where havethy gone? The voice of our people now is that: can we come up from this sinking state to the fast moving state of global civilization and advancement? But now it seems the voice of our people gradually losing its acoustic due to fatigue and started looking in all directions with the sense of no hope like a scapegoat, thinking that our society will be sunk like Titanic. Our people are waiting the answer of their questions from all stakeholders.

(The writer can be reached at Sjugeshwor7@gmail.com or WhatsApp No: 9612891339 for any suggestions and comments)

Fate still in balance, CBI chief Alok Verma takes charge, brings back key men

Agency New Delhi, Jan. 10

Hours after resuming charge as CBI Director following a Supreme Court judgement, Alok Verma Wednesday reinstated "with immediate effect" key officers considered close to him, who were moved out after he was sent on leave last October following a bitter spat with his then No.2, Special Director Rakesh Asthana. Meanwhile, the high-powered selection committee, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, met to decide on the future of Verma. However, no decision was reached, with the committee scheduled to meet again at 4 pm

Thursday. Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri attended the meeting on behalf of CJI Ranjan Gogoi, with Mallikarjun Kharge, leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, taking part as the third member. Inside the CBI, a key return on Verma's orders was that of A K Sharma, a Gujarat-cadre officer, who returned to the important post of Joint Director (Policy). Sharma had been transferred to the Multi Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA). The other significant comeback was that of Anish Prasad as DIG of SU-1 (Surveillance) unit. Prasad, who had been transferred to the Administration and Personnel Department, was at the centre of a tussle between Asthana and Verma last July — Verma had ensured that Prasad was brought back from Tripura. Among the others reinstated were DIG M K Sinha, Additional SP S S Gurm, and DySPs A K

Bassi and Ashwani Gupta. Last November, in his plea in the Supreme Court against his transfer, Sinha had accused National Security Advisor Ajit Doval of interference in cases against Asthana. Sinha had been transferred to Nagpur, Bassi to Port Blair, and Gupta sent back to his parent cadre of the Intelligence Bureau. Gurm, who was considered close to A K Sharma, had been transferred to Jabalpur. Most of these officers were probing corruption charges against Asthana, including the FIR that he had demanded and received Rs 3 crore in bribe through conduits. Asthana, who was also sent on leave along with Verma, has denied the charges and approached the Delhi High Court to quash the FIR — the court is yet to decide on his plea. Of all the key transfers and postings made by interim chief M Nageswara Rao on October 24, 2018, Verma

chose to let Joint Director Sai Manohar stay in place. Manohar, an MP-cadre IPS officer, is investigating the Vijay Mallya and Agusta Westland cases. Agusta middlemen Christian Michel has been extradited to India, and the CBI secured a favourable order in the Mallya case. During the selection panel's meeting, sources told The Indian Express, Kharge said the agenda was not circulated among the members and documents not made available for discussions. Justice Sikri, sources said, was also of the view that the relevant documents were needed to proceed further. The members were then provided with a copy of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) report against Verma on the basis of which the government divested the CBI chief of all powers on October 23, 2018. Sources said Kharge carried a letter with him for the meeting in which he demanded that Verma be

allowed to complete his two-year tenure with an additional two-and-a-half months added for the time he was on leave. In the letter, sources said, Kharge claimed that the case containing allegations against Verma also included the names of NSA Ajit Doval, Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha, Central Vigilance Commissioner K V Chowdhary and R&AW Special Secretary Samanth Goel. The letter questioned why the government "singled out" Verma, and attributed "ulterior motives" to this move, sources said. On Tuesday, in its order reinstating the CBI Director, the Supreme Court had asked the selection committee to consider Verma's future in the agency within a week. The court had also barred Verma from "taking any major policy decisions till the decision of the committee permitting such actions and decisions becomes available".

Assam Rifles Organizes Musical Night

IT News Kakching, Jan. 10

A Fashion show and musical night was organized by Kakching Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) on 8th January 2019 at Novokom village auditorium, Chakpikarong on the occasion of Youth Day celebrations. A total of 12 girls and boys participated in the Fashion show conceptualized by Mr. Benzamin, Fashion

Designer from Delhi. A musician's team from Kakching battalion Jazz band performed with music ranging from Hindi, Manipuri and other North Eastern melodies to some classic English numbers liked by the locals. It was a scintillating performance with as many as 600 locals including SDO Chakpikarong, Naga village chief and some Government officials who attended the function. The locals acknowledged the efforts of the Kakching Battalion and pledged to



work in close coordination with Assam Rifles to make their state a peaceful and prosperous one.