

Barapukuria strike ends after talks with employers

KONGKON KARMAKER

Striking workers of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) yesterday agreed to return to work after their Chinese contractors agreed to meet their demands, ending the two-week production disruption.

The impasse came to an end after a five-hour successful meeting between the leaders of the Barapukuria Coal Mine Labourers-Employees Union and their Chinese employers at the headquarters of Petrobangla in the city.

"The issue has been resolved. We will now go back to work," said

Mohsin Ali Sarker, an adviser to the Union, which had been observing strike at the mine since August 23.

"The workers will return to work, as the companies have agreed to meet our demands," he told The Daily Star by telephone after the marathon meeting.

Sarker said the new agreement would see monthly pay rise for every worker by Tk 450 to Tk 500. Each worker will receive 20 kilogram of rice free every month. Besides, they will get Eid holidays for up to six days with pay.

"The companies will also graduate 10 percent of the unskilled workers to skilled level every

year," he said, adding that the process would start this year.

The five-hour-long meeting with the Chinese contractors and the Petrobangla officials began at around 1:30pm, as another discussion at the Bangladesh Secretariat on Monday ended without any major breakthrough.

Production at Barapukuria had remained suspended since August 23 as contractual miners and staff of the company went on strike demanding regularisation of their jobs.

State Minister for Land Mostafizur Rahman took the steps on Monday as a local parlia-

mentarian to end the deadlock.

The mining company employs about 954 workers. Of them, 57 are foremen, 191 skilled workers and 706 ordinary or unskilled workers.

Officials said the strike is seriously affecting production. The mine produces coal worth Tk 3 crore a day.

Hossain Monsur, Petrobangla chairman; Lu Weijun, mission director of CMC, the main contractor; Qin Ronghong, general manager of XMC, the subcontracting company; and Mohammad Qamruzzaman, managing director of the BCMCL, were also present.



AAM Zakaria, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, inaugurates the Bhaluka branch of the bank at Mymensingh on Monday.



Md Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of NCC Bank, and Mohammed Nurul Amin, managing director, attend a workshop on "Documentation of loans and advances" for the bank's credit officers and executives at its training institute in Dhaka recently.



Asrafuzzaman Amjad, Rajshahi divisional in-charge of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd, attend the business development meeting 2011, organised by the Sirajganj zonal office and service centre of the insurer, in Sirajganj recently.



Ashraf Bin Taj, business director of ACI Ltd, and Mohamad Sayeed Khokon, managing director of 3A Group, attend the opening of an exclusive showroom of ACI Consumer Electronics, a division of ACI, at Banani in Dhaka recently. 3A Group will operate the showroom.

PANASONIC

Bhutan: The costly 'Shangri La'

AFP, Thimphu, Bhutan

The isolated kingdom of Bhutan is one of the most expensive holiday destinations in the world and a haven for celebrities and the well-heeled. In 2012, it will become even more costly.

Foreign tourists are required to book through licensed tour operators, who charge a minimum high-season price of 200 dollars per day per person for an all-inclusive package including accommodation, food and transport.

The pristine Himalayan kingdom of snow-capped mountains and gushing mountain streams pursues a policy of "high-end, low-impact tourism," deliberately keeping out the hordes who might spoil its untouched environment.

From the start of 2012, the high-season daily fee will rise to \$250 per day per person, meaning a stay in one of the basic hotels as part of the package will cost a travelling couple at least \$500 a night.

"It may not make economic sense now to be high end, but Bhutan will be preserved for future generations of visitors," the director general of the Tourism Council of Bhutan, Kesang Wangdi, told AFP in an interview.

"If we opened up, our revenue would go through the roof, but at what price? We restrain ourselves from going wantonly along the economic development path without considering the social impact and the environment."

Nevertheless, next year the council hopes to boost visitor numbers by more than 50 percent to 100,000 by offering new types of holiday and improving flight links to cities such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Bhutan famously follows an economic development doctrine known as "Gross National Happiness," which takes into account the mental well-being of its nearly 700,000 citizens instead of simply measuring financial gain.

The remote and reclusive country, never colonised despite its position between India and China, puts protecting the environment and preserving its unique culture at the heart of its policy decisions.

Citizens have to wear national dress when visiting government offices and many choose to sport the elegant woven outfits in every day life out of national pride.

Bhutan's decision to keep out the masses -- backpackers looking for cheap holidays in the Himalayas head for neighbouring Nepal --

makes it an appealing destination for anyone wanting to escape it all.

Hollywood stars Leonardo di Caprio and Keira Knightley are among those to have recently stayed at the ultra-high-end Uma Paro resort, one of a number of luxury hotels catering to wealthy travellers in the country.

Staying at a luxury hotel is an additional cost on top of the basic \$200-a-day visiting package, meaning a night in an Uma Paro suite costs upwards of \$1,000 a night.

Ravi Nischal of the Taj Group, the Indian-owned chain of luxury hotels with a property in Thimphu, says Bhutan has a "snob value" because not many people have been to the country and most can only dream of visiting.

"The destination has connotations of luxury," he said. "There is also a lot of mysticism that surrounds Bhutan. It's known as the last Shangri-La," he added, referring to the Himalayan paradise described in the 1933 novel Lost Horizon by James Hilton.

The "Land of the Thunder Dragon," as it is also sometimes known, had no roads or currency until the 1960s and allowed television only in 1999 in a bid to shield itself from foreign influences.

Nicole Feerbrucker, a 56-year-old therapist from the Netherlands, told AFP that she had wanted to visit since seeing a photo spread of the former king's coronation in National Geographic magazine in 1974.

She says the daily tariff and the costly flight on the only airline linking the country to the outside world -- state-owned Druk Air -- made

the holiday expensive for her and her husband and daughter.

"But I think coming here and having to pay such an amount of money keeps the country the way it is. The influences of outside have been diminished by that," she says.

The target of 100,000 visitors next year is causing unease for some in Bhutan who fear the impact of a sudden influx.

Karma Tshiteem, the influential head of the Gross National Happiness Commission, an agency that vets government policy, says the new tourists can be easily absorbed with minimum harm.

"The key part of our strategy of reaching 100,000 without any of the accompanying negative impacts is spreading the number throughout the year and throughout the country," he told AFP in an interview.

At present, almost all tourists arrive in spring and autumn for week-long cultural holidays in the three valleys that are easily accessed from the town of Paro, where the country's only international airport is located.

The Tourism Council wants to attract visitors for spa-type "wellness" holidays, conferences, and adventure tourism -- though mountaineering will remain off-limits because Bhutan's peaks are considered sacred.

By doing a better job of marketing Bhutan overseas and increasing flight links, tourism officials hope more people will visit but without disrupting one of the world's most protected countries.



A view of the dining area at the Uma Hotel in Paro in Bhutan.

AFP

China starts to reshuffle engineers of economic boom

REUTERS, Hong Kong

China has begun work on an 18-month reshuffle of its top economic and regulatory policy officials as part of a leadership transition that will see President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao hand their posts to a younger generation.

Sources and analysts with ties to China's ruling elite say the political musical chairs among ministers, cabinet officials, agency chiefs and provincial governors is under way and will run its course by early 2013.

In the meantime, with officials unsure of where they will end up, the jockeying could lead to a slowdown in the reform

agenda in the world's second-largest economy. That slowdown could approach policy paralysis as a Communist Party Congress late next year finalizes the changes to the teams that have led China's runaway growth over the past decade.

The heads of the banking and insurance regulator, China's massive social security fund, and the agency that governs the country's oil majors, telecoms and other strategic sectors should all be replaced. New faces also are likely at the central bank, a key architect of yuan currency policy, and the finance and commerce ministries.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 295 OF 2011

In the matter of:
An application under Section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994

A N D

In the matter of:
Mrs. Ayesha Hussain, wife of Al-Haj Md. Nur Hussain daughter of late Dr. Abdul Aziz Promanik and Mrs. Latifunnessa Begum, of 47/1A R.K. Mission Road, Police Station-Sutrapur, Dhaka-1203, Sponsor Shareholder-Director of Jamuna Bank Ltd. **Petitioner**

- Versus -

1. Jamuna Bank Limited, Registered Office: Chini Shilpa Bhaban 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
2. Mr. Md. Belal Hossain, 3. Alhaj M.A. Khayer, 4. Eng. A.K.M. Mosharruf Hussain, 5. Engr. Md. Atiqur Rahman, 6. Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi, 7. Mr. Fazlur Rahman, 8. Alhaj Nur Mohammed, 9. Mr. Md. Tajul Islam, 10. Mr. Sakawat Abu Khair Mohammad, 11. Al-haj Md. Rezaul Karim Ansari, 12. Mr. Md. Mohamudul Hoque, 13. Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam Varosha, 14. Mr. Farhad Ahmed Akand, 15. Mr. Shaheen Mahmud, 16. Mr. Kanutosh Majumder, 17. Mr. Md. Ismail Hossain Siraj, 18. Mr. Gazi Golam Murtoza, 19. Dhaka Insurance Limited, represented by Mr. A.S.M. Abdul Halim, 20. Mr. Md. Motior Rahman, 21. Mr. Malik Muntasir Reza, above respondent No. 2 is the Chairman, respondent Nos. 3-19 are the Directors respondent No. 20 and 21 are the Managing Director and Company Secretary of respondent No. 1, Jamuna Bank Ltd. all address at Chini Shilpa Bhaban, 3 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
22. The Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, 10 Dilkusha C/A, Police Station-Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.
23. The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firm of Bangladesh 1, Kawranbazar, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka.
24. The Dhaka Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Building, 9/F Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
25. The Chittagong Stock Exchange, CSE Building, 1080 Sheikh Mujib Road, Arabad, Chittagong-4100.
26. The Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel, Dhaka. **Respondents**

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under Section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994 for rectification of Share Register of the respondent No. 1 company, namely, Jamuna Bank Ltd. was filed and moved before the Company Bench of the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The Company Bench of the High Court Division of the said Hon'ble Court presided over by Mr. Justice Mamnoon Rahman was pleased to admit the same on 21st August, 2011. The learned Company Judge while admitting the matter was pleased to pass the following interdicted orders:
"Considering the facts and circumstances, the respondent No. 1 Bank and others is directed not to issue any bonus or right share, if any, to the respondents without making any offer to the petitioner in proportionate to her present share holding and also restrained from transferring the shares as claimed by the petitioner which were declared and accrued in the 9th and 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM)'s of the respondent No. 1 Bank held on 13.06.2010 and 19.05.2011 respectively for a period of 3 (three) months from date"
The matter was fixed by his Lordship for hearing on 10.10.2011.
Any one desirous of opposing the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through advocate to contest the matters on the date fixed.
Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed charges.
(Shah Mohammad Ahsanur Rahman)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No. 205, Supreme Court Bar, Main Building, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000.
Mobile: 01711815819, 9141401 (Res), E-mail: ahsan1157@yahoo.com.