**Country Report**

As of 12th May 2021, 413,111 Covid-19 confirmed cases in Nepal. This is about 20 Covid-19 cases per 100,000 people.  More than 5000 cases are reported daily in the last few weeks where the trend of reported cases is increasing on a daily basis while a month ago about 100 cases were reported in a day. According to the government figures cited by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) 44% of Nepal's COVID tests came back positive, last weekend.

The Nepal government has halted national and international flights, tightened the border security and has imposed lockdown in its hot spot areas including Kathmandu valley.

Even though the lockdown and travel restrictions are imposed, the cases are on the steep rise. The government of Nepal has already announced that the public hospitals are fully occupied to its full capacity and there is no availability of beds. According to the government's Covid-19 response plan from last May (2020?), the country only has 1,595 intensive care beds and 480 ventilators for its about 30 million people. As of Saturday, there were hospital bed shortages in 22 of the country's 77 districts, according to Nepal's Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC).

Receiving treatment has been a challenge for all citizens throughout the country. Public and private hospitals are fully occupied. It is also important to note that private hospitals are not affordable to the large population. The situation has become so worst that the patients are receiving the treatments under stairs, parking areas, and lobbies of the hospitals. Unfortunately, many have lost their lives because of the lack of timely treatments.

The private hospitals too are running in full capacity, but not all the patients can afford the treatment in private hospitals which have led to the people even receiving treatments under the stairs, in the lobby, and even in the parking lot of the public hospitals while some even losing their lives due to not receiving treatment. The hospitals have started calling for new recruits and volunteers to help in this dire situation. The situation mentioned above clearly depicts the medical situation in the country.

The government has already requested for international support which might take some time to reach to the people in need. The government of China has decided to provide 20,000 empty cylinders to Nepal out of which the government has decided to airlift 400 cylinders by next week.

Amidst such situation, Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC) celebrated 132nd International Labour Day (May Day) virtually which was joined by more than 400 union members from across the country. The sharing meeting was on "Increasing Covid-19 Infection in Nepal and its Impact on the Labor Sector". The chair of the program was Mr. Pushkar Acharya, President of NTUC. The program was aired live on National TV "Prime Time TV", one of the top online portal "Desh Sanchar.com" and NTUC Facebook page. The guest to speakers were

1. Dr. Shashank Koirala, General Secretary of Nepali Congress Party as a keynote speaker
2. Dr. Govinda Pokharel, Former Vice President of Nepal Planning Commission, GoN
3. Dr. Sher Bahadur Pun, Virologist, GoN
4. Dr. Richard Howard, Director, ILO Country Office, Nepal
5. Mr. Shekhar Golchha, President of FNCCI
6. Mr. Laxman Basnet, General Secretary, SARTUC
7. Mr. Khila Nath Dahal, Immediate Past President of NTUC

On the occasion of 132nd May Day, Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli addressed the working-class people of Nepal expressing the solidarity to the same. During his address, the Prime Minister has assured that the monthly wages of the workers would be increased by NPR 1,550 from current NPR 13,450 to NPR 15,000 and daily wages of the workers would be increased by NPR 60, thus increasing the minimum daily wage from NPR 517 to NPR 577 effective from Fiscal Year 2078/79.

The announcement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on May Day that the above-mentioned rate will be reviewed has directly interfered with the labor law and the processes and procedures dictated by it. NTUC has serious objections to the mockery of the rule of law and good governance by the head of government at the time before a decision is taken by the concerned body, and this is a mockery of the rule of law. As opposed of the announcement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal we NTUC and Joint Trade Union Coordination Center (JTUCC) issued the Press Release which is attached herewith for your kind information and also announces the series of protest program on it. JTUCC is the common platform of Nepali working class. It serves as the coordinating mechanism of 10 recognized National Trade Union Centers affiliated on it.

At present, amid a raging coronavirus crisis, the country has fallen into another political chaos as the PM lost the vote of confidence motion making KP Sharma Oli as a caretaker Prime Minister on 10th of May 2021 (Monday). The government at present closes its eyes to the rising number of cases. The President of Nepal Honorable Rt. Bidhya Devi Bhandari has given time until 9pm Thursday to stake claim to a coalition government.