Editorial

May Day is recognised as the source of spirit for working people all over the world to establish the demand for eight working hours a day. History of this day is written through solidarity, struggle and conquest of world working masses. This year, May Day was observed nationally through different activities including seminar, discussion meeting, rally, human chain and other events with the participation of working people. Apart from this, Child Labour Elimination Day, International Domestic Workers Day, International Commemoration Day and Rana Plaza Commemoration Day were also significant during April-June quarter.

Various initiatives were taken during this quarter including raising awareness among working people on ensuring workplace safety and implementing Labour Law specially 'Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015'. Among those, Publishing Workplace Situation Report-2016 and study report on five labourious sectors including transport, security guard, hotel/restaurant, re-rolling and hospital/diagnostic center, launching Academy of Work by FES, BRAC University and BILS for trade unionists, recalling four years of Rana Plaza building collapse were main issues of April. International Domestic Workers Day was observed on June 16 aimed at raising awareness among the domestic workers regarding their rights who are most neglected and tortured in the society. Besides, workers participation on CSR issue, occupational health and social safety of workers at construction and ship-breaking sector were other discussed issues in June. Representatives of different international organisations visited BILS office during this period where various issues were discussed.

Different programmes and initiatives will be continued throughout this year for improving workers life style, ensuring their rights, safety and health. We hope, in near future we will be able to achieve our goal to ensure right for working people, fair wages along with workplace safety.

FES, BRAC University and BILS launch academic programme for Trade Unionists

In an attempt to create an all-inclusive representation of worker’s interests and a more effective social dialogue, the Academy of Work (AoW) was launched on April 20, 2017 in the presence of high profile delegates from both the national and international arenas. A joint collaboration of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies-BILS, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and BRAC Institute of Governance.

BILS observed May Day With due respect and solemnity

BILS organised different events including seminar, discussion meeting, human chain in Dhaka and Chittagong aimed at observing May Day 2017.

DWRN organised rally: Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN with the support of Oxfam organized a colorful Rally and Human Chain at National
May Day
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Press Club area on May 1, 2017 to observe May Day.
More than 300 domestic workers from DWRN member organizations, leaders and representatives of National Trade Union and Human Rights organizations took part in the programme. Coordinator of DWRN and Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies- BILS Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmad addressed the closing session of the event. Advisor of National Domestic Women Workers Union- NDWWJ Abul Hossain led the Rally and Human Chain. Trade Union leaders and representatives of DWRN member organizations gave their solidarity speech in the programme. DWRN also published a leaflet on that day. Leaflets describing rights of domestic workers as per the Domestic Workers Protection & Welfare Policy were widely circulated during the Rally and Human Chain.

Seminar held on role of safety committee: BILS, Karmojibi Nari and OSHE Foundation, under the management of Ministry of Labour and Employment jointly organised a seminar titled “Role of Safety Committee to Ensure Decent Working Environment at Workplace” on May 2, 2017 at National Press Club aimed at observing May Day-2017.
Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Labour and Employment as well as BILS Vice Chairperson and Karmojibi Nari Founder Shirin Akhter, MP chaired the programme, while Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Mikail Shipar was present as Chief Guest. Inspector General (Additional Secretary) of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments Md. Shamsuzzaman Bhuilayn, Director of the Department of Labour (Additional Secretary) Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, Bangladesh Employers Federation Labour Advisor Kazi Saifuddin Ahmed, Samik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) Joint Coordinator Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Jatiya Sramik League President Alhaj Sukkur Mahamood, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Md. Anwar Hossain, Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh Acting President Quamrul Ahsan, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Former Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defense and National Industrial Health and Safety Council Member Brigadier General (Rtd) Abu Naim Mohammad Shahidullah, Medical Officer of National Tuberculosis Control Program Dr. Saiyedul Bashar, OHSE Foundation Chairperson Saki Rizwan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmad discussed among others.

Giving highest importance on security, the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment said “Government has taken different positive initiatives along with amendment of labour law and formulation of labour rule. Emphasizing on Safety Committee formation and continuing its regular activities, he said, it is necessary to increase the number. If Safety Committee is not there then Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments will not renew the factory license, he added. Besides, he emphasized on strengthening awareness on this issue.

Director General of the Department of Factories and Establishments said, “Ensuring security of building and electricity is possible if regular supervision of concerned authorities is ensured during construction of buildings. He also said, nowadays, safety of the factories is properly ensured. He mentioned, 39 risky factories have already been closed among 3780 inspected by Accord, Alliance and NTPA. He said, 5000 Safety Kits are being developed for increasing awareness and skill of Safety Committee members which will be supplied among different stakeholders in all factories.

Discussion meeting and cultural programme held in Chittagong: A discussion meeting and cultural programme were organised by BILS observing May Day 2017 on May 5, 2017 at Kobi Nazrul Mancho of Chittagong DC Hill.
TUC District President Tapan Dutta presided over the meeting, while BILS Chittagong Office Coordinator Pahari Bhattacharjya was present as moderator.
Besides, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Central Committee President Anwar Hossain, BILS Secretary and Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Chittagong Division President A M Nazim Uddin, Jatiya Sramik League Central Committee Joint Secretary Md. Shafar Ali, Jatiya Sramik League Pahartali Industrial Zone President Shafi Bangali, BFTUC Joint Secretary Rizwanur Rahman Khan,
Seminar held finalizing report and implementing recommendations on spirit of May Day in five common labour sector

BILS organised a seminar to finalise report aimed at implementing recommendations titled “Spirit of May Day In five Common Labour Sector” on May 13, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The main objective of the seminar was to finalise the survey report and to discuss about way forward for the implementation of recommendations. A key note paper on “Spirit of May Day on Five Common Labour Sector” was presented in the seminar. Discussants in the seminar recommended to research elaborately on mentioned topics in research, to make necessary legal framework and implement it for ensuring labours’ wage and bonus, to take initiative for ensuring eight hours as working hour in it for ensuring labours’ wage and bonus, to take initiative

Advocacy and consultation meeting held implementing Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015

Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN, organised an advocacy meeting with the participation of respective parties in divisional level to implement “Domestic workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015” on June 7, 2017 at Industrial Relations Institute Auditorium (IRI) Tongi, Gazipur. The meeting was organised aimed at involving divisional level respective parties, taking their recommendations and fixing future programme outline and strategy. Jatiya Sramik League Women

LO-FTF officials visited BILS Chittagong Office

LO-FTF officials visited BILS Chittagong Office on June 16, 2017. They attended in a meeting with SBWTUF leadership at BILS–LRSC. The meeting was presided over by SBWTUF Convener Tapan Dutta. SBWTUF Joint convener A.M. Nazimuddin, Forum Treasurer Mr. Ritzwanur Rahman Khan, Members Mahabubul Alom, K. S. Nurullah Bahar, Md. Samsul Hoque Safi, Nurul Absar Bhyula, Md. Ali, K. M. Sahidullah, Kazi Anowarul Hoque (Hony), local leaders of different sectors and some activists were present in the meeting.

Training held for capacity building of sector and area based trade union leaders

BILS organised a two-day training programme titled “Formation and Carry out Advocacy for Speed-Up the Formation of Safety Committee” on May 23-24, 2017 at Railway Shishu Niketon of Tongi in Gazipur. The training was organised aimed at initiating area based collective action and formation of safety committee and developing the leadership skills for carrying out advocacy. The main objectives of the training were
Advocacy and consultation

Committee General Secretary and BILS-Oxfam Project Advisory Committee Member Samsunnahar Bhuiyan presided over the meeting, while Labour and Employment Joint Secretary Aminul Islam was present as chief guest. Among others, Jatiya Garhshasta Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abu Ihoassain, Deputy Inspector General DIFE Gazipur Farid Ahmed, Industrial Relations Institute Tongi Principle Belal Hossain Seikh, Gazipur DC office representative Assistant Commissioner Mahmuda Sahnin Madhobi, Gazipur City Corporation46 ward Commissioner Nurul Islam, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed and Oxfam representative Rokhsana Akhter discussed in the meeting.

Along with the representatives of Central Monitoring Cell, DWRN network affiliated National Trade Union Federations, Human Rights and Workers Right organisations, Domestic Workers and media representatives were present at the meeting.

DWRN, organised another consultation meeting in Mymensingh on June 17, 2017 at Uspara Training Academy, Digharkanda in city.

Sramik Kormochari Olksya Parishad- SKOP Mymensingh District Coordinator Mahbub Bin Saif presided over the meeting while BILS Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Mohammad Nazrul Islam presented the content. Oxfam representative and Mymensingh district Sramik Dal President Md. Abu Sayed, ADAB Vice-President Abul Kashem Rasel, NGO Forum representative Shishir Babu, IEED representative Nasrin Begum, District Women Committee President Ferdous Ara Mahmuda

Meeting between C&A

of activities and issues, to identify areas of mutual cooperation etc.
C&A Foundation Supply Chain Innovation and Transformation Head Jill Tucker, Programme Manager Naureen Chowdhury, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, and other officials were present in the meeting.

Seminar on finalizing report

for ensuring eight hours as working hour in a working day, to work for ensuring wage and appointment letter, to strengthen Trade Union movement based on results of such type of study in different sectors. BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan presided over the seminar while BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan was present as moderator. Besides, Jatiya Sramik League President Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Jatiya Sramik Federation President Quamrul Ahsan, Jatiya Sramik Jote General Secretary Nurul Amin, Transport Labour Union General Secretary Md. Selim, Bangladesh Sarak Senior Vice President Abdul Rahim Boks Dudu, Re-Rolling Steel Mills Sramik Front General Secretary Abu Naim Khan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress Joint Secretary Pulok Ranjan Dhar, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed along with BILS and BILS affiliated National Trade Union Federations Leaders, workers from five common labour sectors and researchers were present in the seminar.

People’s Budget Assembly

People’s Budget Assembly jointly organised by Parliamentary Caucus on National Planning and Budget, Centre on Budget and Policy and Democratic Budget Movement was held on May 24, 2017 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building, University of Dhaka. Fazle Hossain Badsha, MP chaired the inaugural session, while Distinguished Fellow of CPD Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Former Commissioner of Information Commission Dr. Sadeka Halim and Former Senior Research Fellow of BIDS Dr. Pratima Paul Majumder discussed among others.

BILS was one of the Co-organisers of this event. BILS leaders and officials attended a session titled “Agriculture, Labour and Employment.” Vice President of Khadya Niraporta Network Rezaul Karim Siddique presided over the session, while Member of Parliamentary Caucus on National Planning and Budget Tipu Sultan, MP, Coordinator of Niljera Kori Khushi Kabir and Senior Research fellow of BIDS Dr. Nazneen Ahmed were present as Special Guests.

Project Manager of Action Aid Dr. Afroza presented a summary of People's Budget Proposal. BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed was present at the session as Moderator.

A display Centre was arranged by BILS at the event.
Discussion meeting held on anniversary of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015

Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN organised a discussion meeting titled “Anniversary of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015: Formulation: Way Forward to Develop the Situation of Domestic Workers” on April 25, 2017 at VIP Lounge of National Press Club in the Capital. BILS Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan chaired the meeting while National Human Rights Commission Director (Finance and Administration) Israt Hossain Khan, BILS Joint Secretary General and Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, 

Internal evaluation and experience analysing workshop

BILS organised an internal evaluation and experience analysing workshop regarding capacity building training workshop programme on workers’ health and safety at RMG sector on May 31, 2017 at Ahsania Mission Conference Center. Preparing report based on training preparation and management experience of self organizations, submission and analysing, analysing experience of preparing report on using training manual, activities and accounts and fixing a plan for the development of future activities were the main objectives of the workshop.

Orientation workshop for journalists held on CSR and occupational protection and safety of construction workers

BILS organised an orientation workshop for journalists titled “Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Justice and Workers’ Welfare and Occupational Protection and Safety of Construction Workers” on June 21, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The workshop was organised aiming to discuss about necessity of workers’ participation in CSR activities, CSR national and international perspective, position of Trade Union and BILS activities on CSR and present situation, occupational protection and way forward for social safety of

Meeting between C&A Foundation and BILS

A meeting held between C&A Foundations Working Conditions Programme leaders and BILS officials on June 19, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised to introduce C&A Foundation Working Conditions Strategy, to know about BILS focused areas
Training on capacity building
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Building capability of the participants to describe and explain the current situation of workers of Tongi Industrial area, the position and situation of Trade Union and its problems, challenges and strengths, to indentify the strategy and procedure to form area based safety committee for construction sector workers, to identify the topic and strategy for advocacy in favor of the construction sector workers, to implement advocacy with DIFE DIG at Gazipur.

The participants in the training recommended for organising tripartite meeting to form safety committee, enhancing capacity of the newly formed safety committee members, issuing direction to all industries for immediate action to form safety committee and forming safety committee for construction workers in Tongi Area.

DIFE DIG Farid Ahmed, Jatiya Mohila Samik League General Secretary and Shamsun Nahar Bhuiyan, INSUB President Ranjan Ali, JSF Central Committee Leader A.S.M. Zakaria, BILS Senior Trainer Khandokar Abdus Salam and local TU leaders were present among others in the training.

Discussion meeting
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on recent actions carried out by BILS on minimum wage for workers and effectiveness of social dialogue as a tool to promote workers’ rights. South Asia Mondiall FNV representative Wilma Roos, Ruben Korevaar, Karen brouwer, Prabhu Rajendran, BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Md. Zafurul Hasan, Advisory Committee Member Roy Ramesh Chandra, Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin, Assistant Program Officer Rezuanul Haque Azam and Md. Syaduzzaman Mithu were present in the meeting.

LO-FTF officials visited
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Addressing the meeting, Tapan Dutta said that the Ship Breaking sector of Bangladesh is hazardous and risky sector. Once the condition of this sector workers was horrifying but gradually the condition is improving due to the activities of SBWTUF.

Forum Member, K M Sahidullah said that still Ship Breaking workers are victim of different kinds of accidents and violence. The main reason of their deprivation is lack of appointment letter and identity card. Though some Trade Union and Federation formed but still workers of this sector are not enjoying Trade Union rights. Even, during workplace accident and death, owners usually try to hide the incident. He mentioned that the government prohibited the ship owners not to run night shift in the yards, but it is going on. Workers work in the yards as no work no pay basis. Shahidullah said that owners are reluctant to provide compensation but due to pressure and lobby of SBWTUF, now a few owners are giving compensation to the injured and dead workers.

Forum Member Md Ali said that Ship Breaking sector is contributing in Bangladesh national economy but workers of this sector is deprived. The government has declared this sector as industry but workers of this sector lack proper wages, leave and recognition.

LO/FTF Council Head of Programmes Jorgen Assens was impressed by this visit. He said that international community knows the horrible condition of Ship Breaking workers of Bangladesh and role of SBWTUF. He urged the Forum leaders to focus on future activities, those are most essential.

SBWTUF Convener Tapan Dutta said, BILS organised a workshop on preparing draft terms of reference for conducting advocacy on April 20, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall.


‘We need to prevent accident. Employers must be compelled to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Besides, amendment of Labour Law and proper implementation of Labour Law are also essential’. International Consultant of LO-FTF Council Lone Iulum Christiansen said that they are very hopeful for the role of SBWTUF in Chittagong. If SBWTUF continue their activities, in future the workers condition will improve. LO-FTF will continue their cooperation to improve the present situation, she added.
BILS organised a daylong Trainers Training Conference-2017 on May 14, 2017 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium in the capital. BILS Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan inaugurated the conference as Chief Guest, while Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed chaired the inaugural session.

Among others, Jatiya Samik Federation Executive President Quamrul Ahsan, Jatiya Samik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BILS Executive Council Members Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Abdul Wahed, Pulok Ranjan Dhar, Unma Hasan Jhalmal, BILS Training Network Members, participants of Trainers Training Module-2 and Youth TU leaders attended the conference.

A session on preparation of resource document based on research findings was conducted by Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Jakir Hossain. Objectives of the conference were relationship development among network members, capacity enhancement of group training and resource document preparation and development through effective communication. BILS Senior Trainer Khandaker Abdus Salam facilitated different sessions of the conference. Participants took part at a brainstorm session and drafted outlines of their relevant presentations on different issues regarding workers rights.

BILS organised a discussion meeting with ILO Officials on injury compensation scheme of workers in RMG sector on May 16, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised to develop a proposal regarding benefit packages on health care and rehabilitation for the injured workers under the Employment Injury Insurance Scheme (EII).

Health Care and Rehabilitation Service Senior Expert at EII, ILO, Dhaka Dr. Jacques Pelletier, ILO National Consultant Salauddin Ahmed, ILO Programme Officer Shah Noushin, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin and Administrative Officer Niamat Ali were present in the meeting.

BILS, with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung-FES organised a study circle with young Trade Union leaders on-demanding due wages and festival bonus for Eid Ul Fitr. It was organized at Station Road, Chittagong which lasted for an hour. Ship Breaking Workers Trade Union Forum Convener Tapan Dutta, Joint Convener A M Nazimuddin, Md. Mosiuddowla, SBWTUF Member Md. Ali, Kamaluddin spoke on the occasion. Speakers said that, the Ship Breaking Workers work in yards all the year round. But it is very sad that they are poorly paid and even not paid in propert time.
Meeting held between BILS and FNV

In connection to the recent visit of FNV delegates’ to Bangladesh, a Meeting was organized on May 8, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall to share experiences and discuss the BILS-FNV Cooperation.

In the meeting, a paper on progress of project activities was presented. Presentation included information on Project goal, Implementation strategies and some changes in programme activities, beneficiaries, working area, ongoing activities and major challenges. After presentation, the discussion was held Foundation Working Conditions Strategy, to know about BILS focused areas of activities and issues, to identify areas of mutual cooperation etc.

C&A Foundation Supply Chain Innovation and Transformation Head Jill Tucker, Programme Manager Naureen Chowdhury, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, and other officials were present in the meeting.

Chittagong District Committee Tapan Dutta, BILS Executive Council Secretary and BJSD Chittagong Divisional Committee President A M Nazimuddin, Secretary Kajl Sheikh Nurulla Bahar, BFTUC Chittagong District Committee Joint Secretary Rizwanur Rahaman Khan, JSJ Chittagong District Committee Secretary Md. Rafiqul Islam, Ship breaking Sector TU leader K M Shahiullah, RMG sector TU leader Shahenowaz Chowdhury and Dolly Chowdhury, Construction Sector TU leader Md. Javed Alam and Habibur Rahman Biplob, Hotel & Restaurant TU leader Uzzal Bishwash and Rafiqul Islam, Health & Diagnostic Centre TU leader Md. Abdur Rahim and Chandan Rakhst, BILS Researcher Afzal Kabir Khan, officials of Chittagong Office Pahari Bhattacherjee, Ferdous Ara and Saiful Islam were present in the meeting.

Divisional Consultation Meeting on Labour Legislation held in Chittagong

BILS organized a Divisional Consultation Meeting on Labour Legislations which was held at the seminar hall of Hotel Miskha, Chittagong on April 5, 2017. The meeting was presided over by BILS Executive Council Secretary and Joint Secretary of JSJ Central Committee Md. Safar Ali. The meeting was participated by local/divisional level TU leaders, sector based organizers and TU representatives, researchers and BILS officials. A total of 19 participants were present in the meeting.

Vice chancellor of Feni University Professor Dr. Fasil Alam, President of TUC

Opinion sharing meeting

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Sramik Karmochhari Olkya Parishad-SKOP Coordinator and BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan moderated the meeting while NCCWE Chairman and BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Socialist Labour Front President Jahidul Haque Milon, Jatiya Sramik Federation Acting President Quamrul Ahsan, Bangladesh Labour Federation Joint Secretary Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress Joint Secretary Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Jatiya Sramik Jote Working President Md. Abdul Wahed and General Secretary Nurul Amin, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation President Rafaquzzaman, BILS Executive Council Member Umma Hasan Jhalmai, BILS Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation Secretary Shamim Ara, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin were present among others in the meeting.

Participants in the meeting recommended to share information about ILO observations, arrange group discussion with SKOP on ILO observations, identify problems for placing complaints, clarify participation process to ILC, give emphasis on issue based activities, arrange discussion meeting along with government and labour representatives after their returning from ILC.

Internal evaluation

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BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed explained the mechanism of the workshop while Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood coordinated and Khandakar A. Salam facilitated the workshop. Among others leaders of different Trade Union Federations participated in the workshop.
Opinion sharing and planning meeting of DWRN

Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN, with the support of Oxfam, organised an opinion sharing and planning meeting titled, “Formation of Combined Association for Organised Domestic Workers with the Initiative of Network affiliated National Trade Union Federations” on June 20, 2017 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Seminar Hall.

The meeting was organised aimed at forming a separate combined association for organised Domestic Workers with the initiative of network affiliated national Trade Union Federations as well as taking recommendations for outlining farther strategy. Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation President Rafiquzzaman chaired the meeting while BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Jatiya Sramik Federation Executive President Quamrul Ahsan, Trade Union Center Vice President Dewan Mohammad Ali, Oxfam Bangladesh Economic Justice Resilience Program.

Opinion sharing meeting on ILO Convention 87 held

BILS, with the support of ILO Dhaka office organised an opinion sharing meeting titled, “Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No.87) related ILO Observation (CEACR) and CAS Report Sharing” on June 15, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The meeting was organised aimed at sharing the ILO observation and CAS report as well as taking recommendations for outlining farther strategy. A keynote paper was presented in the meeting on ILO observations and CAS report.

Meeting with LO-FTF Councils held

A meeting between BILS officials and LO-FTF Council was held on June 14, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised to evaluate the activities of previous programmes and to discuss about forthcoming programmes.

LO-FTF Council Head of Programme Jorgen Assens, International Programme Consultant Lone Ilum Christiansen, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and other BILS officials were present in the meeting.

Trainers Training Module-2 workshop held

BILS organised a four-day Trainers Training Module-2 workshop on March 30- April 2, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall.

Developing union activists as more skilful trainers by their writing, speaking and real exercising was the main objective of the workshop.
Orientation workshop
(After Page 5)
construction workers. Two keynote papers regarding CSR perspective and Occupational Protection and Social Safety of Construction Workers were presented in the workshop. Discussants in the workshop recommended to increase compensation of construction workers considering the present situation, to take steps against those found to be responsible for violating the safety rules of the worker, to fix workers’ wage according to market price, to appoint doctors for protection of workers’ health in case of multi-storied building construction, to strengthen inspection system of government to form area-based safety committee. BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed moderated the workshop while BILS Advisory Council Member and BILS CSR Unit Chairman Roy Ramesh Chandra, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Bangladesh Labour Rights Journalist Forum President Kazi Abdul Hannan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Imarat Nirman Sramik Union Bangladesh General Secretary Abdur Razzak, Bangladesh Nirman Sramik Federation General Secretary Farid Ahmed, Nirman Sramik League General Secretary Sheikh Md. Nurul Haque and media representatives discussed in the workshop.

Orientation meeting to equip NTUCs on CSR issue
BILS organised an orientation meeting to equip NTUCs on CSR issue on June 21, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised to know about CSR and CSR activities, to know the ways of involving Trade Union on CSR activities and ways of implementation, CSR standards for workers and their recognition and problems and challenges for implementation and to orient the relevant stakeholders and CSR, its International instrument and National contest common position of BILS and Trade Union Leaders on National and International context.
BILS Advisory Council member and CSR Advisory Committee Chairman Roy Ramesh Chandra presided over the meeting while Joint Secretary General Md. Zafurul Hasan moderated the meeting and Secretary, CSR Component member and BLF General Secretary Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan delivered welcome speech. Besides, BILS Joint Secretary General, CSR advisory Committee Member and JSI General Secretary Md. Sherajul Islam, Professor of Department of Law at University of Dhaka Dr. Nakib M. Nasrullah, Former Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Dr. Mahfuzul

May Day
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Jatiya Sramik Jote Chittagong District General Secretary Rafiquel Islam, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh Chittagong District Convener Bodhipal Borua, BLF District Committee President Md. Nurul Absar Bhuiyan along with leaders of different Trade Union Federations in Chittagong delivered their speech in the meeting. Mentioning workers as an asset, speakers urged the workers to be united by forgetting all clashes among them to protect their rights.
BILS affiliated National Trade Union Federation Central and District Leaders, representatives of Civil Society and professional organisations were present in the discussion meeting.

Human chain formed
(After Page 7)
Those who are permanently recruited in yards get their wages and other benefits but the common ship yard workers do not get satisfactory amount and level of payment even in this risky job. Speakers said, workers work in all the shifts with inadequate PPE, in a very risky and hazardous working atmosphere. They are neither given food nor pure drinking water. Even it is a very common scene that on the eve of religious or social festivals they are deprived of their due wages and bonus.
Speakers urged the yard owners and concerned authorities to take necessary steps to ensure the payment of wages to all ship breaking workers.
“Implement Domestic Workers’ Protection and Welfare Policy 2015 and Ratify Domestic Workers related ILO Convention 189” following this slogan BILS, with the support of Oxfam observed International Domestic Workers Day on June 16, 2017. Posters and leaflet related to the contents of ‘Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015’ and ‘Decent work of domestic workers related ILO Convention 189’ were distributed on this occasion. A number of 17 rallies were held at 17 areas including Jurain, Jatrabari, Hazaribag, Modhubag, Hatirjhil, Mirpur, Tejgaon, Mirbug, Shipahibug, Banasree, Badda, Kollayanpur, Pallabi, Mohammadpur, Matijhil, Monipuripara. Leaders and representatives of different Workers Federations and domestic workers participated in the programme.

BILS organised a two-day training workshop titled “Capacity Building of Trade Union Leadership at Construction Sector” on June 22-23, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The main objectives of the workshop were to identify rights, occupational health and safety of construction workers in Labour Law, some necessary qualities of leadership, to enhance capability by practicing responsibilities and duties, to enhance capability of organising and awareness campaign programme, to identify occupational health, safety and risks, to enhance capability for recording information and prevention of accident.

BILS published a poster and a leaflet with the content of ‘Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015’ and ‘Decent work of domestic workers related ILO Convention 189’ on June 16, 2017 for observing International Domestic Workers Day, 2017. A total of 30000 copy posters and 5000 copy leaflet were distributed.

BILS published a brochure titled “May Day Brochure 2017” on May, 2017 for observing May Day. A total of 500 copy brochures were distributed.
working hour and wages in five different sectors, i.e. Transport, Security, Hotel/Restaurant, Re-rolling and Hospital/Diagnostic Centre.

Labour Law related various issues ensuring workers protection and workplace safety were discussed in the seminar. Research reports on workplace death and injury due to accident and humiliation in 2016 and working hours and wages in five working sectors were presented in the seminar.

BILS prepared a survey report on workplace accident, humiliation and road accident based on news published in different national Dailies in 2016. According to the report 699 workers were died at workplace accident, where 28 were female and 703 workers were injured, where 174 were female. Besides, 189 workers were died in humiliation. Among them 40 were female workers. In these cases, 390 workers were injured, where 81 were female.

Additionally, 149 workers were died in road accident, where 34 were female and 96 were injured, where 12 were female workers.

A total of 237 labour unrest and labour movement happened throughout the country in 2016.

In case of another research titled, “May Day Implications Versus Practices: Five Popular Labour Intensive Sectors,” research findings were presented to the journalists on workers working hour, wages, weekly holidays, rest, duty in public holidays including May Day, appointment letter, education, entertainment etc and were discussed elaborately.

The study has made it clear that eight working hours in the day which is core implication from the international workers day of May Day is more or less neglected in the Transport (highway) Sector, Hotel/Restaurants, Re-rolling Industry, Security Agencies and Private Hospitals, Clinics & Diagnostic Centers in Bangladesh. It is however, seriously neglected in the Transport Sector, Re-rolling Industry and Hotels & Restaurants though Trade Union involvement is higher in these sectors. Secondly, the situation of associated other main implications of the May Day like leave, rest, and decent income are also very much dissatisfactory in the study sectors.

Bangladesh Labour Rights Journalists Forum President Quazi Abdul Hannan, General Secretary Md. Ataur Rahman, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmad, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, Information Coordinator Md. Yousuf Al-Mamun, Research Coordinator Md. Monirul Islam, Trade Union leaders of different sectors and media representatives were present in the seminar.

Sramik Nirapota Forum

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Participants in candlelight vigil at Rana Plaza accident place
to prevent such kind of accidents in future and to ensure workplace safety. In their reaction leaders said, despite of repeated warning for preventing accident and strengthening awareness, accidents are happening one after another. Hundreds of workers are losing their lives in workplace accident like Tampaco Foil Factory fire, boiler explosions and other deadly workplace accidents. They emphasized to ensure workplace safety and proper inspection and proper application of labour law.

SNF Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Jatiya Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Trade Union Kendra President Shahidullah Chowdhury, Jatiya Sramik League President Alhaj Sukkur Mahmood, Jatiya Sramik DAI President Md. Anwar Hossain, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BILS Executive Council Member Md. Abdul Wahed and Umma Hasan Jhamal, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and leaders of different National Trade Union Federations, representatives of network member organizations and civil society were present at the programme.

Earlier on April 23, 2017 in the evening at 6:30 PM, SNF organized candlelight vigil in front of Savar Rana Plaza accident place recalling Rana Plaza building collapse and the victims who died in the incident.

Enam Medical College and Hospital Managing Director Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman, MP; SNF Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Awaj Foundation Executive Director Nazma Akter, BILS Executive Directive Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and local Trade Union leaders were present in the programme.

CSR issue

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Haque, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, JSJ working President Md. Abdul Wahed, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed were present among others in the meeting.
and Development (BIGD), the Academy of Work, is a three-month long training programme in the fields of international relations and social partnership for trade unionists. Twenty mid-level, active trade unionists from industries such as the readymade garments, construction, transport, as well as government service sectors like, postal services and telecommunication, are participating in the programme.

State Minister for Labour and Employment of Bangladesh Mujibur Haque, MP, Vice Chairman of FES and former President of International Trade Union Confederation and German Confederation of Trade Unions Michael Sommer, German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr. Thomas Prinz and Professor Martin Allespach from the University of Frankfurt attended and addressed the event. Executive Director of BILS Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Executive Director of BIGD-BRAC University Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and Resident Representative of FES Bangladesh Franziska Korn also spoke on the occasion.

Experts will conduct different sessions of AoW in their respective fields in Bangla. The course will focus on a number of areas i.e. industrial relations and labour policies, globalisation and trade, global supply chain and workers’ rights, health and safety, project management and leadership skills. The successful completion of the programme will qualify the participants for a comprehensive understanding of decent work in the global supply chain and will contribute in creating an effective dialogue amongst independent trade unions, employers and the government of Bangladesh.

**BILS - FEMNET e.V**

Delivered the welcome speech while BILS Advisory Council member Roy Ramesh Chandra was present as moderator at the workshop. FEMNET e.V representative Dr. Gisela Burckhardt presented a keynote paper on German Partnership for sustainable textile, latest developments. Besides, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, BGLWF President Babul Akhter, Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafiqu Baby, BJSF General Secretary Shamim Ara, BILS Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin were present among others in the workshop.

**Study circle**

May 15, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall as part of its regular activities.

The main objectives of this programme were to select participants and their ages and types and topics for forthcoming series of study circle.

BILS Executive Council Member Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, FES Programme Coordinator Arunduty Rani and BILS Program Officer Monirul Kabir were present at the programme among others.

Youth TU leaders from different national TU federations participated at the programme.

**Divisional Consultation**

At the beginning of the programme a research paper was presented on overall workplace scenario, where data, rhetoric and related information on the existing labour market of Chittagong region, type of industry, employment opportunities, employment procedure, type of workers, method of paying wages, health and safety condition of workers in RMG-Ship breaking-Hotel-Health and Construction, TU scenario, role of Labour Court, GO and NGO’s were briefly discussed. Related sections of the Bangladesh Labour Law-2006 in connection with the TU rights, living standards, health and safety, Registration and function of existing TU’s were also discussed.

Several opinions were shared by the participants and some recommendations were finalized in the discussion meeting.

**Discussion meeting held**

Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed along with leaders of DWRN network affiliated National Trade Union Federations, Human Rights and Workers’ Right organisations and Domestic Workers were present at the meeting. BILS Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Mohammad Nazrul Islam presented the key note paper based on survey report in the meeting.

Recently, BILS prepared a report on Domestic Workers humiliation and accident of 2016 based on a survey monitoring of 11 national Dailies.
BILS paid homage to Labour Leader Martyr Ahsanullah Master

BILS paid its homage to eminent labour leader martyr Ahsanullah Master on the anniversary of his martyrdom. BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz along with Executive Council Members Md. Abdul Wahed and Pulak Ranjan Dhar and other leaders and officials paid tribute to the martyr leader by laying wreaths at his grave in Tongi on May 7, 2017 in the morning. Expressing their deep sorrow BILS leaders said, his sad demise brought irreparable damage to Trade Union movement in Bangladesh. They also prayed for his departed soul.

Project Advisory Committee meeting held

A meeting with project advisory committee was organised under BILS-DGB BW Project on June 4, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The main objectives of the meeting were to formulate proposal for next phase, define strategy of campaign for achieving project results and develop a proposal for DGB BW Project 2019-2021. BILS Secretary A.M. Nazim Uddin, SBWTUF Convener Tapan Dutta, Vice President Anwar Hossain, PAC Committee member Md. Sirajul Islam, SBWTUF Treasurer Rizwanur Rahman Khan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, Research Coordinator Md. Monirul Islam, Programme Officer Rezuanul Haque Azom were present in the meeting.
Later, a research meeting was also organised on June 5, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall, where BILS leaders and officials were present.

BILS Ongoing Research

BILS Research Department have completed a research to assess the implication of working hours in five private business sector titled “May Day Implications and Practices in Bangladesh’s Five Popular Labour Intensive Sectors” on last 30 April 2017. Apart from this, another research titled “Situation Analysis of Workers’ Rights, Livelihood and Trade Union in the Selected Industrial Sectors of Chittagong” submitted successfully. Besides, A Position Paper on RMG Sector Minimum Wage is waiting for final touch during this duration of time.

Training workshop

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BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Construction Workers Union Bangladesh (INSUB) General Secretary Md. Abdur Razzak, Office Secretary Md. Azizur Rahma Aziz, Chittagong Metropolitan General Secretatry Shahidur Rahman, Jhalakathi district President Md. Faruk Hossain Mina, Mohammadpur Thana Organising Secretary Md. Awal, Narayanganj Thana Committee General Secretary Md. Al Amin were present in the meeting. BILS Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, Senior Trainer Khandokar Abdus Salam and Shakil Akhter Choudhury and leaders of different Trade Unions were also present in the meeting.
Occupational Health
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provide personal protective equipment.

DIG of DIFE Abdul Hai Khan hoped that such event would aware workers as well as owners regarding safety equipment.

BILS-DGB BW Regional Consultant Asia, Indira Gartenberg, Jatiya Sramik League General Secretary Sirajul Islam, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal president Anwar Hossain, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, BILS-DGB BW Centre Coordinator A M Nazim Uddin, Jatiya Sramik League Joint secretary Md Shafar Ali, Trade Union Centre Chittagong President Tapan Dutta, BILS-DGB BW Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan and Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood also spoke at the inaugural ceremony. There were 14 stalls in the safety fair.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies-BILS, Chittagong City Corporation, BSRM, Chattagram Mohanagar Nirman Sramik League, PHP, CPDL, Chattagram Mohanagar Nirman Sramik Dal, Young Power in Action (YPSA), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA), Ship Breaking Workers Trade Union Forum (SBWTUF), Imarat Nirman Sramik Union Bangladesh, Bismillah Marine Centre, Sanmar Properties Limited and Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment (DIFE) – participated in the fair.

A seminar was held on May 23, 2017 at Rajmukut Community Centre. At the seminar, Trade Union Centre Chittagong President Tapan Dutta presented a keynote paper on ‘Decent Work, Workers Safety and the role of Stakeholders’.

Another seminar on ‘Labour Rights, Compensation and Social Security’ was held on May 24, 2017 at Rajmukut Community Centre, Chittagong.

A cultural programme was held on May 24, 2017 at Rajmukut Community Centre, Chittagong. Workers enjoyed the cultural programme.

CCC International Coordinator
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floral greetings. During the meeting, leaders expressed their gratitude to Ineke mentioning her relentless effort and generous contribution that ensured support and cooperation to Rana Plaza victims for their better livelihood through compensation and rehabilitation. Underscoring her dynamic leadership and management, participants of the meeting mentioned that the Clean Clothes Campaign was finally able to make it possible for brands and retailers in providing compensation to the victims.

They hoped, the CCC will continue its support to the victims who are pursuing further payments in recognition of the pain and suffering. They hoped, better regulation of supply chains will be ensured in the future so that brands and retailers are careful and properly accountable for protecting workers rights.

Sramik Niramotta Forum Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, BILS Advisory Council Members Mesbahuddin Ahmed and Roy Ramesh Chandra, Vice Chairperson Shirin Akhter, MP, BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Ministry of Labour and Employment Joint Secretary Khondaker Mostan Hossain, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed were present at the meeting among others.

meeting of DWRN
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Manager Dr. Khalid Hossain, BILS executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin and Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Mohammad Nazrul Islam discussed in the meeting. Along with the representatives of network affiliated organisations, labour rights organisations, Domestic Workers organisers, Trade Union leaders and Domestic Workers participated in the meeting.

Discussants in the meeting recommended to form network affiliated Trade Union Federation based committee, form National Domestic Workers Association, area based single committee consisting of all the network affiliated federations working in that particular area and involve SKOP with domestic workers movement.

Trainers training
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SNF paid homage to the deceased workers of Rana Plaza building collapse.

Recalling four years of Rana Plaza building collapse Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF with the participation of Trade Union leaders and civil society representatives paid homage to the deceased workers at Jurain Grave Yard in the Capital on April 24, 2017. Leaders urged all to be careful.

BILS organised orientation seminar on labour situation-2016 and way forward to protect workers’ rights.

BILS organised an orientation seminar titled “Labour Situation-2016: Way Forward to Protect Workers’ Rights” for the journalists working with labour rights aimed at discussing elaborately about workers rights, workplace situation, working hour, protection and social safety on April 30, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The seminar was organised to discuss about workplace accident, humiliation, industrial dispute and workers action in 2016 and workplace situation.

Occupational Health and Safety Fair held in Chittagong.

A two-day BILS Occupational Health & Safety Fair was held on 23-24 May 2017 at Rajmukt Community Centre Chittagong. City Mayor A J M Nasir Uddin inaugurated the fair on May 23, 2017 at 10 am. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, he said that such fair is initiated for the first time in the country. The Mayor Nasir said that the main reason of workplace accident is lack of consciousness. It is the duty of owners to ensure workplace safety to stop workplace accident and death. City Mayor said that workers should be aware of their rights so that they can resist any sort of accident in workplace. If workers get united, the owners will be compelled to