



# BILS Bulletin

www.bilsbd.org

April - June 2016

## BILS Annual General Meeting held with spontaneous presence of members



State Minister for Labour and Employment Md. Mujibul Haque, MP addressed in BILS Annual General Meeting

BILS Annual General Meeting held on May 5, 2016 at BIAM Foundation Auditorium. A new committee was formed for the next two years. BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz and Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan were re-elected.

Election conducting committee Chairman Mesbahuddin Ahmed conducted the election process.

BILS new Executive Council Members name were declared in

» Page 2, Column-1 »

## May Day-2016 observed with due respect



A part of domestic workers rally and human chain on May Day in front of press club Domestic Workers Rights Network 2016 in front of National Press Club. After forming a human chain, a rally started from the

» Page 4, Column-1 »

## SNF recalled three years of Rana Plaza building collapse



SNF Leaders paid homage at Jurain Graveyard

Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF organised a human chain and protesting rally to mark three years of Rana Plaza building collapse on April 24, 2016 at National

» Page 6, Column-2 »

## Discussion meeting on Public Budget Parliament



A part of discussion at DU Senate

Parliamentary Caucus on National Planning and Budget, Dhaka University Centre on Budget and Policy and Ganatantrik Budget Andolon jointly organised a discussion meeting on Labour and Employment budget titled "Public Budget Parliament- 2016" on May 21, 2016 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka.

» Page 6, Column-1 »

## BILS Annual General Meeting

(After Page 1)

the meeting. 25 members of newly elected Executive Council are Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz, Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Shirin Akhter, MP, Alhaj Shukkur Mahmood and Anwar Hossain, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan, Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan and Md. Serajul Islam, Finance Secretary Md. Kabir Hossain, Secretary Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan, A M Nazim Uddin, Rowshan Jahan Sathi, Md. Alauddin Miah, Abdul Kader Hawlader, Nurul Islam Khan Nasim, Md. Safar Ali and Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Member Kutub Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Wahed, Umma Hasan Jhalmal, B M Zafar, Shakil Akhter Chowdhury and Pulak Ranjan Dhar.

BILS Vice Chairperson Shirin Akhter moderated the meeting, while State Minister for Labour and Employment Md. Mujibul Haque, MP was present as Chief Guest Head of Mission of Royal Danish Embassy Jacob Hugard, FES Bangladesh Residential Representative Franziska Korn, Solidarity Center Country Programme Director Alanzo Suson and ILO Dhaka Office Director Srinivas B Reddy were present as Special Guests. BILS Advisory Council Member Alhaj Shukkur Mahmood and Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad Joint Coordinator Anwar Hossain were also present in the meeting.

Taking necessary steps to enact Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015 into Law, the State Minister said, "60 Thousands child will be benefited by the initiatives which Bangladesh Government is going to take to decrease child labour within a short time". He urged BILS to implement the project.

The State Minister also said, "BILS plays a vital role to build unity among the trade unions which will play important roles in the country's overall development and social justice. Praising BILS achievement on labour rights and labour issues, speakers in the meeting said that BILS plays a vital role to unite the working people. They also said, in future, realizing the rights of working people BILS will continue relentless efforts. They hoped that government, owners and different affiliated organisations would continue their solidarity in this regard. Different International organizations such as ILO, Solidarity Center, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung



Newly elected Members of BILS Executive Committee



Leaders in General Meeting



A part of workshop in General Meeting

(FES), Royal Danish Embassy along with different national and international organisation representatives assured their participation and all over cooperation of BILS activities to develop labour situation in Bangladesh.

In the General Meeting four different workshops held on different issues.

**Workshop on recent trends of employment and TU movement in present situation of rights and social safety:** A workshop held at the venue on "Recent Trends of Employment and Recruitment: TU and BILS Movement in Present Situation of Labour Rights and Social Safety". The main objectives of the workshop were to take initiatives for direct labour recruitment by

tripartite discussion, to unite all workers of national trade union organizations, to take initiatives for cancelling those sections of labour law and labour rules that are not friendly with labour rights, to create movement to stop contract based recruitment, to create public opinion on labour rights and security of 88% workers in unorganized and informal sector and to conduct motivational activities and to motivate for taking initiatives of publicity and Programme for the workers so that they may enjoy rights and opportunities which they deserve.

Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra President Md. Shahidullah Chowdhury Chaired the workshop, while Advocate A K M Nasim, Md. Abul Kalam Azad

## Opinion sharing meeting held on partners coordination about CSR position



A part of opinion sharing meeting with stakeholders on CSR position for workers welfare BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting titled "Multi Stakeholder Consultation to Prepare a Common Position on CSR towards Social Justice and Workers Welfare" on April 2, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The main objectives of the

meeting were to form a forum with affiliated organisations for strengthening CSR activities, to prepare CSR activities according to national and international standards and to make a CSR policy.

» Page 6, Column-3 »

## Training workshop held on fisheries workers rights



Participant Leaders in workshop

BILS, with the support of FES organised two training workshop titled " Training on Fisheries Rights, Occupational Safety and Organisation" held on April 25-26 , 2016 and June 24-25, 2016 in Khulna.

The main objectives of the workshop were to know the current social

» Page 6, Column-3 »

## Thematic discussion meeting held on youth leadership of national federations



Participants in thematic discussion meeting of youth leadership

BILS, with support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – FES organised a thematic discussion meeting on youth leadership of national federations held on June 27, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The main objectives of the meeting were raising awareness among the youth on recent national and international labour rights and development, sharing information and increasing skill. National International labour related and development issues, human rights as well as various thematic topic were discussed among the trade union youth

leadership for ensuring social, economical and professional safety of informal sector workers in future.

ILO Consultant T I Nurunnobi Khan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and youth leaders of different trade union were present at the discussion meeting held on June 27, 2016 in Dhaka.

As a part of series discussion, several thematic discussion meeting of youth leadership were held on April

7, 2016 at Gazipur, April 24 at Khulna and June 23, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

FES residential Representative Franziska Korn, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, FES Programme Coordinator Aurunduty Rani, Jatiya Sramik League Mohila Committee General Secretary Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, BILS Advocacy Officer Adv. Nazrul Islam and Programme Officer Monirul Kabir were present in the discussion meeting held on April 7, 2016 at Gazipur.

Khulna SKOP Convener B M Zafar, H M Shahadat, Faruk-UI-Islam, Monir Ahmed, Md. Siddikur Rahman present among others at the meeting held on April 24, 2016 in Khulna.

Dr. Lali from FES, BILS Vice Chairman Shirin Akhter, MP, FES Residential Representative Franziska Korn, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, BILS Executive Committee Member Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Programmeme Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, Senior Trainer Khandokar Abdus Salam were present at the meeting held on May 29, 2016 in Dhaka.

Khulna SKOP Convener B M Zafar, BILS Member and Senior Trainer Mojibur Rahman, Trainer Monira Sultana, H M Shahadat, Faruk-UI-Islam were present at the discussion meeting held on June 23, 2016 in Khulna.

## May Day-2016

(After Page 1)

National Press Club and after passing the Mukhtangan it gathered in the Press Club again. The Speakers from the human chain and rally demanded to the government to take initiative for implementing "Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy- 2015" and ratification of ILO convention 189. Besides, they also demanded for increasing involvement of the guardians of domestic workers, local government, administration and civil society to protest continuing violence on domestic workers and to protect them.

BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz, Parliamentary Standing Committee Member of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Israfil Alam, MP, SKOP Coordinator Kamrul Ahsan, Jatiya Garhostho Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain and BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed were present in the human chain and rally.

Besides, Domestic Workers Rights Network, Jatiya Trade Union Federation, National Human Right organization and domestic workers of different areas of Dhaka city participated in the human chain and rally.

**Seminar held on contribution of Labour Welfare Foundation:** As part of implementing activities of the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of Bangladesh aimed at observing May day, BILS and Karmojibi Nari organised a National seminar titled "Labour Welfare: Contribution of Labour Welfare Foundation" on May 2, 2016 at National Press Club VIP Lounge.

Speakers at the seminar said that only a few number of companies are paying money on a regular basis, while according to Labour Law, five percent of dividends have to pay to Labour Welfare Foundation. They



A part of Seminar on contribution of Workers Welfare Foundation

said, it is possible to spread the helping hand for all types of workers by ensuring participation of all companies. Total process from application to getting compensation have to make easier for reaching the benefit of the fund to the workers, they mentioned. The existence and activities of fund should be informed to the marginalized people of country. Besides, companies will be forced to pay five percent of their dividends to the fund by audit Programme.

Parliamentary Standing Committee Member of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Shirin Akhter, MP chaired the seminar, while Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Mikail Shiper was present as Chief Guest and Inspector General (Additional Secretary) of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment Syed Ahmmed, Jibon Bima Corporation Managing Director (Additional Secretary) Md. Forhad Hossen were present as Special Guests. BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafique Baby, Jatiya Sramik League Executive President Md. Fazlul Haque Montu, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary and BILS Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Bangladesh Labour Federation Secretary and Sramik Kalyan Foundation Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar and Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Aminul Islam were present in the seminar among others.

**Discussion meeting and cultural Programme held observing May Day in Chittagong:** BILS organised a discussion meeting and cultural Programme aimed at observing May Day on May 3, 2016 at Shaheed Minar Chattar in Chittagong.

The main objectives of the meeting were to build awareness on workers legal rights according to labour law and labor rules, to sensitize the working force in Chittagong on workplace health and safety issues, to rise the workers feeling to be unionized and to make them capable enough to claim their compensation regarding workplace accident and to motivate workers on solidarity. TUC President Tapan Dutta, Md. Mosihuddoula from TUC, Zilla Nirman Sramik Dal President Md. Abdul Mannan, Nazrul Islam Khokon from JSL, Md. Solaiman, Md. Ripon, Md. Jahed, Abdur Razzak from BJSD, Pradip Das, Sujon Choudhury, Abdul Muktedir, Md. Mizanur Rahman from Chittagong X-ray Pathology Clinic Association, Md. Sumon from Gous Fashion Sramik Union, Rekha Rani Borua from BFTUC and Coordinator of BILS Information and Training Centre in Chittagong Pahari Bhattacharya were present in the discussion meeting and cultural Programmeme.

## Workshop held on theory of change



A part of workshop in General Meeting

BILS organised a workshop titled “Theory of Change to Support Programme Development and Monitoring” on May 30 to June 1, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

Main objectives of the workshop were to discuss and develop theory of change and results framework for BILS cooperation with the LO/FTF Council.

LO/FTF Council Representative Lone Ilum Christiansen, TOC Denmark Facilitator Susan Pravegard Anderson, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, BILS LO-FTF Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, Social Safety Net Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin and other BILS officials, were present in the workshop.

## BILS research activities

BILS has four ongoing research activities from April to June, 2016 quarter and one research activity has completed.

One of the researches is “Safe Migration, Decent Work and Combating Trafficking”. The main objectives of this research are to promote safe migration, to ensure security of migrant workers and their family members, to build a link between migrant workers welfare and migration with development.

Title of another research is “Labour in Fishing Sector of Bangladesh Mapping, Status and Awareness about Rights”. Through this research information will be collected on

Socio-economic state, awareness and status of worker rights and OHS of the workers in fishing sector of Bangladesh. This information will help strengthen advocacy programme for Fishing Workers.

BILS Research Department has also two other ongoing study on, “Mapping the Current Status of Corporate Social Responsibility Activities and the Scope of Workers Participation” and “Pilot Project of Providing Identity Card to Construction Workers”. Besides, a research has been completed titled, “Strengthening Tripartism towards a Sound Industrial Relation in Bangladesh”.

## BILS Publication

- BILS published a leaflet with the slogan “Be vocal, be active to ensure the fearless and safe workplace” on the occasion of observing May Day 2016. Some 2000 copies of leaflet were distributed.



- BILS published a poster with the slogan “Unbeaten Consciousness of May Day” on May Day 2016. Some 2000 copies of leaflet were distributed.



- BILS published a leaflet titled “Open letter” on the occasion of International domestic workers’ day on June 16, 2016. Some 1500 copies of leaflet were distributed.



## Public Budget

(After Page 1)

Karmojibi Nari Acting President Dr. Pratima Paul Majumder chaired the meeting, while BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed was present as Moderator. Representatives of BILS, Safety and Rights Society, Karmojibi Nari and LIFD participated in the meeting to discuss about Sustainable Development Goal through reduction of budget inequality on "Labour and Employment" budget and 7th Five-Year Plan implementation and strategy. According to survey data of Bangladesh Labour Force Survey 2013, the number of working people at the age of 15 or more than 15 are 10 crore 65 lakh. Among them the number of economically active labour force is nearly 5 crore 81 million, in which 1 crore 68 million is active women work force.

In the session Professor of the Department of Economics at University of Dhaka M M Akash said, "As we are unemployed, therefore, we want the right to be employed. As the initiator of industry, the government should be more responsible for employment in the country. Day by day the government is closing the state owned industries under the donor's pressure and releasing all the industries in private sector. These private companies responsibility is to place new industries with their profit. But they are not doing this. They are sending profit where they may skip taxpaying."

Bangladesh Labour Foundation President Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Local Initiative for Development- ILF Advisor Abdullah Shahriar, Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafique Baby, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad- SKOP Joint Coordinator Kamrul Ahsan, Safety and Rights Society Executive Director Sekandar Ali Mina, Professor of the Institute of Bangladesh Studies at Rajshahi University Dr. Jakir Hossain, Bangladesh Supreme Court Lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra Dhaka City President Aslam Khan, United Labour Federation President Abul Hossen, Tannery Sramik Union President Abul Kalam Azad were present in the meeting.

## Three Years of Rana Plaza

(After Page 1)

Press Club. Earlier, SNF leaders paid homage at Jurain Graveyard.

The speakers demanded for conserving the grave of deceased workers at Jurain, building a permanent monument, providing lifelong treatment to victim workers and implementing Bangladesh Labour Law to ensure workplace safety. Inauguration of centres to provide information, suggestion and medical support to victim workers in Dhaka and Savar were held during the event

SNF Convener and Human Rights Activist Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh President Shirin Akhter, MP, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. wajedul Islam Khan, Jatiya Sramik League President Alhaj Shukkur Mahmood, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust- BLAST Executive Director Barrister Sara Hossain, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad- SKOP Joint Coordinator Kamrul Ahsan and Anwar Hossain, Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafique Baby, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Bangladesh Sramik Federation General Secretary S M Foyej Ahmmed, Safety and Rights Foundation Executive Director Sekandar Ali Mina were present in the human chain. Besides, Sramik Nirapotta Forum affiliated organisations and National human right organisations and leaders of National Trade Union Federations participated in the human chain and rally.

## Held on Skill Development

(After Page 8)

The National Apparels Limited Union President Taslima Akter, General Secretary Aklima Akter, Finance Secretary Rehena Akter, Hashmatullah Knitwears Union President Nasrin Islam, Oshan Garments Limited Union Vice President Hachan, Local Garments Limited Union General Secretary Md. Alam Mia, Ba. Tra. Ga. Karmochari Federation General Secretary Ismael Hossen, Nasrin Garments Limited President Rahela Begum, Bondhu Barry Apparels Finance Secretary Sanjida Afrin were present in the workshop.

Earlier, another training workshop held on May 20, 2016 on the same issue.

## workers killing and torture

(After Page 8)

Speakers at Human chain and rally demanded proper investigation and appropriate punishment to the persons involved with the incidents. They also demanded to provide compensation and treatment to the victim workers. Besides, they urged to the concerned authorities to take initiatives for the implementation of labour law to ensure life security of workers of all over the country.

Somajtantrik Sramik Front Office Secretary Khalekuzzaman Lipon, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed were present in the human chain. Besides, Sramik Nirapotta Forum, National Trade Union Federations, professional organizations and National Leaders expressed the solidarity in the human chain and protesting rally.

## Coordination About CSR Position

(After Page 3)

BILS-CSR Advisory Committee President Roy Ramesh Chandra chaired the meeting, while BILS Executive Council Secretary as well as BILS CSR Advocacy Advisory Committee Member Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan was present as Moderator. BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Former Labour Secretary Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Chairman of the Department of Criminology and Police Science at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University Mohammad Jahirul Islam, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress President A. A. Mukit Khan, Jatiya Sramik League General Secretary Md. Sirajul Islam, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan were present among others in the meeting.

## Fisheries Workers

(After Page 3)

protection of workers in fishing sector, living standard, and occupational health protection and to create an advocacy strategy aimed at formulating policies and Programmes for the positive changes.

SKOP Convener of Khulna B M Zafar, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha General Secretary Choudury Ashiqul Alam, Labour Director of Khulna Mohor Ali Molla, BILS Member and Senior Trainer Mojibur Rahman, Trainer Monira Sultana, H M Shahadat, Faruk-Ul-Islam, Profullo Kumar Sarkar and BILS Programme Officer Monirul Kobir were present in the workshop.

## Opinion sharing meeting held on providing identity card to construction workers



Leaders in opinion sharing meeting

BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting titled "Providing Identity Card to Construction Workers" on June 12, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

Decisions were taken at the meeting on involving all workers in this activity, coordinating piloting Programme with ILO Construction Workers training Programme and conducting piloting Programme by dividing Dhaka city into probable 7 zones.

BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed chaired the meeting, while BNSL President Md. Shariful Islam, BNSL General Secretary Sheikh Md. Nurul Haque, BNSF President Md. Nurullah Bahar, BNSF Secretary Lion Farid Ahmed, INSUB Vice President Md. Abul Kashem, JSJ Executive

President Abdul Wahed, BCWWF President Nur Mohammod Akond, BCWWF Secretary Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Jagannath University Social Work Department Asst. Professor Mostafiz Ahmed, BILS Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin, Programme Officer Khandokar Abdus Salam were present in the meeting.

Earlier, an opinion sharing meeting was held on same issue on May 11, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall. ILO National Project Coordinator Harunur Rashid, Programme Assistant Zamal Uddin Ahmed, Consultant S K Al Farabi, Md. Firoz Alam Molla, Md. Abdul Jalil, BILS Executive Committee Member Shakil Akhter Chowdhury were present in the meeting.

## Training workshop held on area based skill development

BILS organised a training workshop titled "Capacity Building Training and Mobilisation Support for Area Based Structures" on April 23-24, 2016 at BILS Liaison Office in Khulna. The main objectives of the workshop were to explain the trade union organisation situation, problems, challenges and strength in Khulna area, Siddikur Rahman from Bangladesh Labour Federation, Sheikh Mohammad Badal from Bangladesh Mukto Sramik

Federation, H M Shahadat from TUC, Md. Rahman Molla from Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, Mahbubur Rahman from BJSD, S M Humaun Kobir Sakib from Jatiya Sramik Federation, S M Faruk-UI-Alam from JSF, Rehana Sultan Urmi from BMSF, Choudhury Habibur Rahman from BFTUC, Kamrul Shekh from Imarot Union, Jesmin Begum from BLF and BILS Senior Trainer Khandokar Abdus Salam were present in the workshop.

## BILS joint implementation management committee meeting held



A part of BILS Project Implementation Committee Meeting

BILS Joint Implementation Management Committee meeting was held on June 2, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The main objectives of the meeting were to know about BILS 2015 Programmes, to fix the Programme for new year, to update the CSR Programme and to discuss about BILS research activities.

BILS Chairman Habibur Rahman Shiraz, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, LO-FTF Council Representative Lone Illum Christiansen, Buddhi Ram Achariya, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood were present in the meeting.

## Workshop held on software orientation

BILS organised a five day orientation workshop on accounting software for BILS Accounts Department on June 12 to 16, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The main objectives of the workshop were to orient and develop skill of BILS Accounts Department on new accounts management software.

LO-FTF Council Finance Officer Gee-ar Cadelina, BILS Programme Officer M A Majid, Senior Accounts Officer Hafizul Hossain, Jahangir Alam, Assistant Accounts Officer Md. Riazur Rahman Khan, Humayun Kabir, Assistant Programme Officer Chowdhury Borhan Uddin, Al-Mamun Siddik, Anup Das and Maria Rozario were present in the workshop.

### Opinion sharing meeting held with domestic workers rights organisations



Leaders in opinion sharing meeting

An opinion sharing meeting was held on assessing challenges and finding way to future for organising area based domestic workers organising meeting on June, 7, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

As a part of 3rd level Programme of BILS-National Campaign on Safety Net for Workers Project, area based domestic workers organising meeting started from July 2016 which will continue till July, 2016. The activity of organising domestic workers was discussed in detailed in the meeting. Woman organisers presented their experience for organising domestic workers and they expected the overall cooperation from BILS to conduct area based domestic workers organising Programme from July, 2016.

Domestic workers Rights Network Secretary Member and BILS Social Safety Net Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin, BILS Advocacy Officer Adv. Nazrul Islam, Asst. Programme Officer Md. Syaduzzaman and Women Leaders of Trade Union Federation were present in the meeting.

### Training workshop held on skill development of newly formed TU leaders of RMG sector

BILS organised a training workshop titled "Skill Development of Newly Formed Trade Union Leaders of RMG Sector" on May 27, 2016 at Pallabi in Mirpur.

The workshop discussed about basic concept of union, its policy, necessity, objective, and duties and responsibilities of newly formed union.

### SNF organised a human chain and rally protesting murder of cleaning worker



A part of human chain in front of National Press Club

Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF organised a human chain and rally on April 11, 2016 in front of National Press Club, protesting murder of two Cleaning Workers in Faridpur and demanding proper justice and exemplary punishment to the people involved with this murder.

SNF Member Secretary and BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan

Uddin Ahmmed addressed the human chain, while Somajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel were present among others. Besides, National Trade Union Federations, workers organizations and National leaders expressed solidarity.

### SNF organised a human chain and rally protesting workers killing and torture



A part of human chain of SNF in front of National Press Club

Sramik Nirapotta Forum organised a human chain and rally on April 15, 2016 in front of National Press Club to protest workers killing and torture all over the country and demanded workplace security for the workers.

Three workers died and five workers injured while working in

septic tank at Fotulla in Narayanganj, Child Labour Alauddin (13) was beaten to death at Ananda Bekary in Lokshampur, Shrimp Worker Abdul Mannan (23) was killed at Kolarowa in Satkhira and Rojina Akhter (13) was brutally tortured at Sundorgonj in Gaibandha. The human chain and rally were

## Opinion sharing meeting held with LO-FTF Council representative



Worker Leaders with LO-FTF Council Representatives in Chittagong

BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting with SB workers organisers and leaders with LO-FTF representative, held on May 31, 2016 at BILS Information Training Center, Chittagong.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss on-going project activities, to share the present status of SB workers, to interview some yard-based workers and to sort out existing challenges and why forward.

BILS Secretary and Joint General Secretary of JSL Md. Safar Ali, TUC Chittagong District President Tapan Dutta, Shafi Bangali from JSL, Rijwanur Rahman Khan and Dilip Kumar Dutta from BFTUC, Nurul Absar and Md. Idris from BMSF, Ismail Hossain Kamal from JSD and BILS Information and Training Center Coordinator Pahari Bhattachariya were present among others in the meeting.

## Human chain formed protesting death of ship breaking workers



A part of human chain in Chittagong

Ship Breaking Workers Trade Union Forum (SBWTUF) formed a human chain protesting ship breaking workers death and injury in Siko and Lashker ship breaking yard on June 10, 2016 at Bogula Bazar, Shitakundo.

Workers leaders in the human chain said, "It is a matter of sorrow, but true that at present Ship breaking industry has become deathtrap for the workers. On the behalf of workers organisations, the owner

and authorities were warned for the several times, but the procession of workers death is not stopped yet"

SBWTUF Convener and District TUC President Tapan Dutta, Forum Joint Convener and Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Chittagong President A M Nazimuddin, Forum Finance Secretary Rizwanur Rahman Khan, Forum Member Md. Mochiuddoula, Dilip Kumar Nath and Shamsul Alam from Jatiya

## Human chain formed demanding compensation for workers

Construction, Garment and Metal workers jointly formed a human chain demanding proper compensation for dead and injured workers and ensuring workplace safety on June 25, 2016 at Tongi Press Club.

In the human chain workers leaders urged for providing proper compensation to the families of dead and injured workers. They also urged for ensuring workers safety at workplace.

Lion Farid Ahmed, Md. Mosharrof Hossen, Joynal Abedin from Bangladesh Construction Workers Federation, Rezaul Kabir Razi, Md. Moniruzzaman, Sheikh Md. Shahidullah, Md. Abdul Kader from Tongi Press Club, Md. Humayun Kabir, Md. Siddikur Rahman, Md. Ajjilul Islam from INSUB, Alhaj Sheikh Md. Shahidullah from BSS, M A Kashem Rana from Bhorer Kagoj and BILS Senior Trainer Khandokar Abdus Salam were present in the human chain.

## Support providing activities of BILS

BILS Social safety Net Project provided a cheque of 20000 Taka to each of Rani Bagum and Rekha Begum, the two victim women workers of Rana Plaza as their rehabilitation aid. Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha General Secretary Choudhury Ashiquil Alam, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel and BILS Social Safety Net Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin were present at the Programme.

Sramik League, Didarul Alam Choudhury from Jatiya Sramik Federation, Mofizur Rahman from JSFB, Nurul Absar Bhuiyan from BLF, Md. Rafikul Islam from Jatiya Sramik Jote, Nurul Absar from BMSF, Md. Ali from Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal spoke in the human chain.

SBWTUF formed a human chain on the same issue on June 6, 2016 at the same place.

## BILS Annual General Meeting

(After Page 2)



A part of workshop in General Meeting

from TUC, Ahsanul Karim, Monirul Islam Bulbul, Shaheda Parvin, A K M Fazlul Haque Molla, Khan Azijur Rahman, Md. Abdul Matin, Lutfun Nahar, Hamida khatun from BJSD, Md. Sultan Hossen from BLF, Md. Mosharrof Hossen from JSL, Mokaddem Hossen from BSSL, Abul Kalam Niaji from JSF, Altaf Hossen from BMSF and Samsuddin Bhuiyan from BFTUC participated among others.

**Workshop held on further development of the image of TU movement, its challenges, opportunities and initiatives:** Another workshop held on "Further Development of the Image of TU Movement: Challenges, Opportunities and Initiatives". The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss shortly the current situation of TU, to share leaders' experience, to talk about the challenges and to find out the strategy for developing the

image of TU movement.

Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress President Abdul Mukit Khan chaired the workshop, while Md. Fakhru Alam, Syed Saed Ahmed, Hena Choudhury from Jatiya Sramik Jote, Omor Ali, Md. Sirajul Islam, Rasheda Khan and Hosne Ara Bhuiyan from BJSD, Tahmina Parvin, Md. Akbor Ali from JSL, Dilip Kumar Nath, Shahida Parvin Shikha from TUC and Yasmin Akhter and Md. Maeenuddin from BFTUC were present.

**Workshop held on BILS future work plan, development-achievement, limitations and priorities towards goal:** The third workshop held on "BILS Future Work Plan: Development-Achievement, Limitations and Priorities towards Goal". The main objectives of the workshop were to analyse BILS implemented activities, to observe the linkage

between BILS goals and initiatives, to prepare a future action plan and implementation strategy for BILS to move forward.

BILS Secretary Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan chaired the workshop, while Abdul Wahed from Jatiya Sramik Jote, Khaleda Anwar from BMSF, Pulak Ranjan Dhar from BFTUC, Momin Uddin Ahmed from BLF, Nurul Islam Khan Nasim, Md. Mojibur Rahaman, Nasrin Akhter Dina, Roksana Karim Mili from BJSD, Bodruddoja Nijam, Samsunnahar Bhuiyan from JSL, Umme Hasan Jhalmal from BJSJ, Md. Mosiuddoula from TUC, Adv. Naznin Nahar Nirupoma and Md. Yousuf Al-Mamun from BMSF were present among others.

**Workshop held on industrial relation and tripartite process development and advocacy strategy of trade union federations:** BILS, with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung-FES organised a workshop titled "Industrial Relation and Tripartite Process Development: Advocacy Strategy of Trade Union Federations in Garment Sector" on May 5, 2016 at BIAM Auditorium in Dhaka.

BILS Advisory Council Member Ray Ramesh Chandra, FES Residential Representative Franziska Korn, Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Jakir Hossain, BILS Senior Trainer A B M Sajjad Hossen, Senior Trainer Md. Towhidur Rahman and leaders of different trade union organisations were present in the workshop.

### Opinion sharing meeting held with CSR advisory committee

BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting with CSR advisory committee on May 31, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

Main objectives of the meeting were to discuss about forthcoming programme and activities. Building a network with relevant stakeholders by a forum, making a national guideline, forming a consultation committee and guidelines for CSR unit and setting TU strategy for advocacy on CSR issues were given importance in the meeting.

LO-FTF Council Representative Lone Illum Christiansen, BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra, BILS Executive Council Secretary Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan, Former Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, BILS Executive Council Member Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Peoples' University Assistant Professor Md. Habibur Rahman, BILS Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin were present at the opinion sharing meeting.

## Workshops held on labour

(After Page 12)

State Minister for Labour and Employment Md. Mujibul Haque, MP was present at the inaugural session as Chief Guest. Taking initiatives to increase the number of labour court, the State Minister said, "It is urgent to take initiatives so that the victim workers would get their rights at the right time after the execution of judgment." He also emphasized on alternative dispute resolution. Besides, he commented that two new labour courts will be established in Sylhet and Rangpur and initiatives will be taken to establish more labour courts in Gazipur, Norshindi and Narayanganj.

The main objectives of the workshop were exploring activities and giving directions aimed at specifying development fields to strengthen the activities of Labour Court.

BILS Chairman Habibur Rahman Shiraz chaired the session, while BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed was present as Moderator. BILS Acting Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan, Jatiyo Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Labour Court Former Chairman Advocate Md. Abdul Mannan, Labour Court Member Choudhury Ashiqul Alam, Md. Humayun Kabir, Md. Alauddin Miah, Kamrunnahar, BILS Executive Council Member Abdul Matin Master, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Labour Law Expert Advocate A K M Nasim, BILS Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Advocacy Officer Adv. Nazrul Islam were present in the workshop.

Dhaka, June 5, 2016: BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting with the participation of labour court members titled "Labour Judiciary Procedure to Protest Workers' Rights: Present Situation and Way Forward" held on June 5, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Advocate A K M Nazim, Advocate Al Amin, Advocate Md. Nesar Ahmed, Labour Court Member Abdul Kader Hawladar, Md. Mohiuddin, Safar Ali, Saofi Bangali, Shamsunnahar from JSL, Ain O Salis Kendra Advocate Md. Mizanur Rahman, Md. Humaun Kabir, Md. Mamunur Rashid from BNWL were present in the opinion sharing meeting.

Chittagong, June 23, 2016: BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting with labour court members of Chittagong on June 23, 2016 at BILS Information and Training Center in Chittagong.

The main objective of the meeting was to present and discuss previously adopted recommendation to the labour court members, Chittagong and other relevant lawyer.

Md. Safar Ali from Jatiya Sramik League, First Labour Court Former Member and BILS Secretary A M Nazim Uddin, First Labour Court Member S M Jamal Uddin, First Labour Court Former Member Sheikh Nurullah Bahar, Second Labour Court Member Shafi Bangali, Labour Court Former Member Foyez Ahmed, Md. Mochiuddoula, Shamsul Alam, TUC President Tapan Dutta and BILS Information and Training Center Coordinator Pahari Bhattachariya were present in the meeting.

## Workshop held on CSR

(After Page 12)

Programme, research organisations, CSR specialists, researchers and BILS leaders participated in the meeting.

LO-FTF Council Consultant Jens Aarup, International Consultant Kamilla Vejergang Lembcke, Former Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra, BILS Executive Council Secretary Adv. Delwar Hossen Khan, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Mahtab Uddin Ahmed from CPD, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, BMSF Organising Secretary Shahidullah Badal, Education Secretary Advocate Naznin Nahar Nirupoma, Kutub Uddin Ahmed from BLEF, Nondon Borua from Delta Pharma were present in the meeting.

At present various companies of Bangladesh have been conducting different Programmes under CSR

## NGO fair

(After Page 12)

Former Advisor of the Caretaker Government Sultana Kamal, Former Advisor and CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K. Chowdhury, NGO Bureau Director General and Dhaka district NGO fair Convener Aklima Khatun spoke on this occasion.

At BILS Stall, labour rights related different books, brushier, leaflet, poster, handbill, journal, souvenir, bulletin and various publications were presented and distributed in the fair. On the last day of the fair BILS Admin Officer Titu Mizan received the greetings crest from Additional District Commissioner Md. Mojibur Rahman.

## Workshop held on tea workers

(After Page 12)

The main objectives of the workshop were workers awareness and motivation, conducting a series of advocacy to solve problem, increasing capability of effective participation in dialogue and bargaining with concerned authorities and persons, law implementation for ensuring rights of tea workers and increasing capability of local, regional and national trade union leaders and professional organizations, public representatives for ensuring proper utilization of schemes.

FES Residention Representative Franziska Korn, Fotikchori sub district Vice Chairman Adv. Uttom Kumar Mohajon, Labour Inspector Md. Shah Alam, Plant Inspection Department Assistant Director Md. Abdul Hye Khan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Bibirhat Hospital Residential Officer Dr. Pradip Choudhury, BTUC President Topon Datta, BILS Advocacy Officer Adv. Nazrul Islam and Programme Officer Monirul Kabir were present in the workshop.

Programme, which are contributing positively in the society. The participation of all concerned specially working people is very important to make this Programme and initiative more effective. BILS has been working for the implementation of this goal.

## Three day workshop held on CSR



A part of workshop on CSR

BILS organised a three day opinion sharing meeting titled “Opinion Sharing Meeting with Partners about CSR” held on June 7 to June 9, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall. National Trade Union Federations leaders, representatives of industrial organisations affiliated with CSR

» Page 11, Column-2 »

## Training workshop held on tea workers rights



A part of workshop with tea workers in Chittagong BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a two day training workshop titled “Tea Workers Rights and Security: Capacity Development of Valley Committee Trade Union Leadership” held on May 27-18, 2016 at Monira Community Centre of Fotikchori in Chittagong.

» Page 11, Column-3 »

## Workshops held on labour judiciary procedure to protest workers’ rights



State Minister for Labour and Employment Md. Mujibul Haque, MP along with Leaders in workshop BILS organised a number of titled “Labour Judiciary Procedure to Protest Workers’ Rights: Present Situation and Way Forward” was held on June 26, 2016 at BILS Seminar Hall.

**Dhaka, June 26, 2016:** The workshop

» Page 11, Column-1 »

## BILS participated in Dhaka NGO fair



BILS Stall at NGO fair in Shishu Academy

NGO Coordination Council, with the support of Dhaka DC Office organised a two day long fair titled “Dhaka district NGO Fair” for the first time in Bangladesh, held on May 7 and 8, 2016 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy Premises. A total of 40 NGOs participated in the fair. The fair was inaugurated by the State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz

Chumki. In her inaugurated speech she said, “If we want to be a developed nation by 2041, the national and international organisations have to work together and accountability and transparency should be ensure in this regard.” Dhaka District Commissioner Md. Salauddin Chaired inaugural ceremony of the

» Page 11, Column-3 »

### Contact Address :



www.bilsbd.org

## BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF LABOUR STUDIES- BILS

House # 20, Road # 11 (Old # 32), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209

Phone: 88-02-9116553, 9120015, 9143236, 9126145, Fax: 88-02-58152810

E-mail: bils@citech.net, Web: www.bilsbd.org