Editorial

Various programmes were organised by BILS throughout the year for the betterment of workers’ livelihood, ensuring their rights, workplace security and occupational health and safety. In this regard, this period has passed with various significant activities.

Trade Union Solidarity Support Organisations (TUSSO)-Global Union Federations (GUF) Conference was one of the most notable events which was held on August aiming to discuss the recent challenges of trade unions in Bangladesh to determine the need for cooperation in the coming years as well as to develop strategy for focusing Bangladesh Labour Rights globally.

Organising planning and opinion sharing meeting for the development of workers living standards as well as resolution of gender discrimination at workplace aimed at ensuring workers security, Trade Union challenges, organising social dialogue, discussion on ongoing activities review and progress and setting area based activities were considered as the important events. Consultation meeting regarding Labour Law amendment was also considered as notable event holding in this period aimed at taking decision on amendment of Labour Law and Labour Act, reforming recruitment procedure, allow development of working condition in informal sectors, ensuring workers rights and security, social-economic welfare and establishing justice.

Moreover, organising conference or adaptation of Trade Union Position Paper on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), arranging meeting between BILS and National Trade Union Leaders for providing aid to Rohingya Refugees, forming human chain and protest rallies for ensuring workers’ security, increasing the amount of compensation and demanding proper investigation and exemplary punishment to the criminals responsible for killing and humiliating domestic workers were also significant activities of this period.

We hope, in near future we will be able to achieve all relevant rights including the right to organise working people, fair wages along with workplace safety.

TUSSO-GUF Conference held reviewing challenges and opportunities for Trade Unions

A two-day long Trade Unions Solidarity Support Organizations (TUSSO)-Global Union Federations (GUF) Conference was held on August 23-24, 2017 at Hotel Lake Castle in Dhaka aimed at reviewing challenges and opportunities for Trade Unions. The conference was jointly organised by BILS, FES Bangladesh, Mondial FNV and Solidarity Center.

Conference for adaptation of Trade Union position paper on Corporate Social Responsibility

BILS organised a conference for adaptation of Trade Union Position Paper on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on July 29, 2017 at Dhaka Ahsanila Mission Conference Hall.

The conference was organised aiming to discuss Trade Union position in CSR activities, where workers participation as beneficiaries and their role to develop...
TUSSO-GUF Conference

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Objectives of the conference were to discuss current problems and challenges for Trade Unions in Bangladesh as indicators for what need to be supported in the years to come, to discuss with the partners on how to develop strategy on the opportunity of global focus on Bangladesh regarding workers’ rights, to exchange contact details of TUSSO and GUF for further coordination amongst them in order to coordinate and align support of funding and activities, to discuss the impact of the ILO expert committee and EU sustainability compact recommendation regarding Freedom of Association, to have and update political and labour situation developments in Bangladesh regarding the private sectors in particular, construction, tannery, telecommunication, transportation and RMG.

Participants in thematic session regarding Private Sector

Part of the thematic session regarding RMG Sector

Challenges, to know the sector-wise strategy, Trade Union rights and challenges, policy advocacy and union infrastructure.

BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, ITUC-APRO General Secretary Shoya Yoshida, Mondial FNV Policy Advisor Ruben Korevaar were present in inaugural session. UNI Apro Assistant Regional Secretary Rajendra Kumar Acharya, Asst. Professor of Department of Social Work at Jagannath University Mostafiz Ahmed, FES Bangladesh Resident Representative Franziska Korn, Solidarity Center Country Program Director Jennifer Kulhman, IndustriAll Global Union Regional Secretary-Asia Region Apoorva Kaiwar, UFGW President

Conference for adaptation

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Livelihood through CSR were also in the points of discussion. Underscoring the necessity of ensuring CSR in all sectors, discussants in the meeting said, welfare activities have become popular nowadays to extend the goodwill of the business. Ensuring benevolence for workers through CSR activities with their active participation could bring better business for employers as well as sustainable development for the country.

BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz presided over the conference, while Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan delivered welcome speech. BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed was present as moderator. Among others, BILS CSR Unit Advisor Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan, BILS Executive Council Secretary Rowshan Jahan Shathi, Chairman of Sociology and Social Work Department at Peoples’ University of Bangladesh Md. Habibur Rahman were present in the conference and discussed among others.
BILS Executive Council and Advisory Council joint meeting held

A Periodical Review Meeting with BILS Trainers Network, aimed at developing resource document for Trade Union training & advocacy, was held on July 29, 2017 at Dhaka Ahsanullah Mission Auditorium.

Objectives of the programme were to enhance capacity to develop teaching aid, to Develop 10 Resource Documents for using in the Trade Union training & advocacy and to improve team working capacity.

During this meeting, all teams presented their documents through

Opinion sharing meeting held between Oxfam and DWRN leaders

An opinion sharing meeting between Oxfam Australia, Oxfam Bangladesh and Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN held on July 18, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised to share the experience of implemented activities and to set the future activities.

Oxfam Australia Senior Contract Management Coordinator Jessie Meaney

Consultation meeting for recommendation on Labour Law and Rules held in Chittagong

A meeting titled “Consultation with Divisional and Sectoral Level TU, Member of Labour Court & TCC” was organised by BILS LO-FTF Project on August 7, 2017 at the Seminar Hall of Hotel Asian SR, Chittagong.

National and local level TU leaders,
Consultation meeting (After Page 3)

Labour Court members, Labour Court practitioners, researchers, BILS officials and intern students attended the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by BILS Secretary & BJSD Chittagong President, A M Nazimuddin. BILS Secretary and Labour Court Member Md. Shafar Ali was present as Moderator. BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed delivered the introductory address focusing on the necessity and importance of the issue. The meeting was addressed among others by BJSD President Anwar Hossain, BILS Executive Council Secretary Prof. Delwar Hossain Khan, TUC Chittagong President and Labour Court Member Tapan Dutta, TUC Chittagong Secretary Md. Mosluddowla, former Labour Court Member Fayeza Ahmed, Associate Professor of Law department at Chittagong University and researcher Md. Shaheen Chowdhury, Labour court practitioner Adv. Rajib Dey, BILS Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, BILS Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Nazrul Islam, BILS Information and Training Centre Coordinator Pahari Bhattacharjee.

Speakers in the meeting said, the labour law and labour rules are needed to be amended with a view to reduce discrimination at workplace, reform recruitment procedures, improve overall working condition in the informal as well as vulnerable sectors, assuring workers safety and rights, for standard living wages of working class and promoting socio-economic welfare and justice for them.

Periodical Review Meeting (After Page 3)

multimedia and these were improved by other participants’ comments and inputs. Experts contributed with their valuable comments on these presentations. Issues of these presentations were Occupational Health & Safety, Limitations of the Labour Law & Labour Rules to organise the unorganised, National Minimum Wages, Women Leadership Development & Gender Equality, Decent Work, ILO, International Initiatives and SDGs, Women's Reproductive Health & Maternity Protection, Social Security & Compensation, Formation of Trade Union & Collective Bargaining, Development Productivity & participation and Labour Court & Labour Judiciary. BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shariq, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan and Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed were present at the meeting as distinguished guests.

Opinion sharing meeting (After Page 3)

Davis, Jatiya Samritik Federation Executive President Quamrul Ahsan, Jatiya Samritik Jote Working President Md. Abdul Wahed, Jatiya Samritik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Jatiya Samritik League Women Committee General Secretary Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, Oxfam Bangladesh Senior Programme Officer Rokhsana Akter, BILS Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin and Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Nazrul Islam were present in the meeting.

BILS Trainers Training Module-3 held

A three-day long Trainers Training Module-3 programme was organised by BILS on September 13-15, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The training programme was organised aiming to identifying strong and weak points of conducting training, analysing basic principles and functions of participatory training management, explaining importance of organizing training programme, identifying strong and weak points of utilizing participatory process and conducting group management.

Identifying strong and weak points to conduct follow up training by achieved knowledge and skill from Module-2, Identifying utilization of training process, review and alert features of participatory approach, necessity, Importance of training for organising and development of Trade Union, challenges, limitations and actions to conduct training programmes at the organizational level, conducting session by following participatory approach and managing training by preparing plan, checklist, reporting, evaluation and development were the main discussed issues in the training.

BILS Executive Council Member Md. Shakil Akter Chowdhury, Trainer Abu Yousuf Molla, Khandokar Abdul Salam, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and a number of 16 representatives from different National Trade Union Federations participated in the training.
Half yearly joint media briefing in Chittagong

Informing media about the ongoing and completed activities of BILS DGB BW, an Half Yearly Joint Media Briefing was held on 11 July 2017 at BILS-LRSC, Chittagong. BILS-DGB BW Center Coordinator A M Nazim Uddin said that Chittagong city is different for its industrial belt-ship breaking and port. Due to continuous lobby with stakeholders, the conditions of different sector workers are improving gradually. Trade Union Centre Chittagong General Secretary Mosluddoula said that if the Industries would not run properly the economic situation will go out of control.

Workshop held on protesting gender based violence

BILS, with the support of Mondialal FNV organised a workshop on protesting gender based violence at workplace on September 16, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall aimed at setting role and activities of Trade Union including BILS to protest gender based violence at workplace and building capability of National Trade Union organisations and area based committees regarding gender policy.

Main objective of the workshop was to train the participants for explaining gender and gender equality and equity.

Experience sharing workshop on BILS intervention in ship breaking sector held

BILS under the BILS-LOFTF project organized a workshop on “BILS Intervention in Ship Breaking Sector” which was held on September 13, 2017 at BILS-LRSC, Chittagong. The workshop was organised aiming to discuss about the object of a research Initiative of BILS/LOFTF in ship breaking sector mainly focusing on the present status of the industry, TU scenario, achievements and obstacles in case of organizing the workforce, way forward etc.

SNF and DWRN formed human chain demanding workers safety and increasing amount of compensation

Sramik Nirapotta Forum (SNF) and Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN jointly formed a human chain on August 26, 2017 at National Press Club urging to stop the death procession of all workers including construction workers, domestic workers, electricians, to ensure safety of all workers by amendment of Labour Law and to increase the amount of
Workshop held on protesting

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analysing gender based violence, gender discrimination at workplace, discussing gender, gender equality at workplace, organisations, Trade Union and explaining women empowerment, defining sexual harassment, analysing with the declaration and standard of existing laws and punishment against sexual harassment and national and International laws, involving gender policy at workplace, preparing gender policy at BILS and Trade Union, defining activities of Trade Union to protest gender based violence and formulating gender policy.

BILS Executive Council Secretary Rowshan Jahan Sathi, Jatiya Sramik Jote Working President Md. Abdul Wahed, BFTUC Secretary Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Nalmul Ahsan Jewel, BMSF Oragnising Secretary Md. Shahidullah Badal, BSF General Secretary A A M Foyez Hossain, JSL representative Kazi Rahima Akter Sathi, JSL representative Shamsun Nahar Bhuyan, Bangladesh Labour Federation representative Firoza Mannan, Bangladesh Sramik Federation representative Ambia Khatun Shila, Jatiya Sramik Jote representative Hena Choudhury, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation representative Salma Akter, JSF representative Shahana Ferdousi, BJSD representative Lutfun Nahar Lata, TUC representative Shahida Parveen Shikha, JSJB representative Umma Hasan Jhalmal, TUC Women affairs Secretary Ayesha Islam, JSL Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary Promila Poddar, JSF President Quamrul Ahsan, BMSF President Lutfa Begum, BFTUC Secretary China Rahman, BJSD representative Nasrin Akter Dina and Hamida Khatun, BJSF representative Shamim Ara, SWF

Half yearly joint media

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development of a country stalled. To run an industry, the owners need to prioritize the well-being of workers. Unfortunately, owners are hostile to provide workers their due facilities as well as the workers are living inhuman life for years after years, he added. He suggested media to run more labour rights reports to improve the present condition of workers.

BILS-DGB BW paralegal coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan, Bangladesh Mukta Sramik Federation general secretary Nurul Ahsar, BILS-LRSC Chittagong coordinator Pahari Bhattacharjee were also present at the briefing.

Experience sharing workshop

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workshop shared their experience especially on organizing ship breaking workers, on the attitude of local people, role of employers, function of labour inspection department and other stakeholders.

Speakers emphasized on reforming the existing labour law mainly the present system of recruiting workers on contract basis, declaring the Industry as cluster one, implementation of labour law & TU rights, Increasing compensation amount up to the living standard, assuring workplace-safety and decent work beside topping deprivation and exploitation of ship breaking workers in numerous ways.

representative Shampa Basu, BILS Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin were present in the workshop.

Another workshop was held regarding this same issue on September 23, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. Leaders of SKOP and BILS affiliated National Federations RMG Trade Union and IndustriAll associated Federations participated in the workshop.

SNF and DWRN jointly

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compensation.

Speakers In the human chain said that day by day the number of accident at Industrial sector in Bangladesh is rising. Workers death procession is also getting bigger in line with this. The workers are falling dead because of mismanagement at industrial sector and for disobeying the Labour Law by the employers.

Participants in the human chain

They said that the proper Inspection activities of Department of Inspection for Factory and Establishments are not in progress, so workplace accidents are increasing. One of the main reasons of accidents at construction and electricity sector is not to use safety equipments.

Speakers In the human chain also said that, the amount of providing compensation to Injured workers in Bangladesh is Insufficient. They urged to bring all the workers under the Labour Law for ensuring their safety.

Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN Coordinator and Sramik Nira Potta Forum Member Secretary Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed along with leaders of network and forum affiliated human rights organisations and National Trade Union Federations participated in the human chain.
Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN organised a human chain on August 5, 2017 in front of National Press Club demanding fair investigation and exemplary punishment to criminals for killing domestic worker Laili Begum at Banasree in the Capital, recent killing of a child domestic worker at Mirpur and continuous torture and killing all over the country. Speakers in the human chain said, public discontent has been increasing in absence of fair investigation of torture and killing of domestic workers and exemplary punishment of criminals. As an urgent issue they expressed their opinion to take immediate initiatives for appropriate BILS organised a discussion meeting with the participation of national Trade Union Federation and sectoral leaders titled “Introducing Corporate Social Responsibility-CSR and CSR for Workers’ Welfare” on September 16, 2017 at Khulna BILS Liaison Office.

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a regular thematic discussion programme for youth organisers of National Federations on September 23, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The programme was conducted aiming to create a group of skilled and promising organisers in labour movement, those who will play an effective role in the development of living standards of working people and protecting their rights through their active contribution in self organisations and labour movement. Uttara Bank Limited Employees General Secretary Md. Imran Khan, BLF Youth branch Dhaka Metropolitan General Secretary Md. Hossain Ahmed, Bangladesh Sramik Federation Central Committee Executive.

A discussion meeting held between ILO and BILS representatives on July 23, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised to discuss about compensation scheme for workplace injury and further discussion on the draft legal framework for the Employment Insurance Injury Scheme and bridging solution. Global Programme for Employment Injury -Insurance and Protection Senior Actuary Hiroshi Yamabana, Senior Legal Expert & Consultant Douglas Stanley, Senior Actuary & Consultant Gilles Binet, National Employment Injury Compensation Project National Programme Officer of ILO Noushin Safinaz, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Nazmin Yesmin and Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Nazrul Islam were present in the meeting.
Human Chain formed
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measures and punishment to the criminals. Speakers demanded, exemplary punishment to criminals, to provide legal aid to domestic workers case and to provide proper compensation to the family of domestic worker Lalli Begum. They also demanded for implementation of “Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy 2015” to protect domestic workers.
Speakers also urged for taking departmental action against those professionals, artists, sportsmen and members of law enforcing agencies who torture domestic workers. They also called for raising awareness in different sectors, professions, workplaces, housing and flat associations. They demanded to stop appointing child domestic workers, raising awareness and consciousness among the family members regarding value of human rights and ensuring fair wages, fixed working hours, treatment, rest and leave.
Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh President Shirin Akhter, MP; Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Domestic Workers Rights Network Coordinator Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Jatiya Garhera Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain delivered speech in the human chain. Representatives of BLAST Nari Maitree and Domestic Workers Rights Network affiliated human rights organisations and leaders of National Trade Union Federations and professional organisations expressed solidarity in the human chain.

Discussion meeting held
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The meeting was organised aiming to inform the leaders of Trade Union Federations of Khulna region regarding CSR and to discuss as well as review the activities on BILS CSR issue.
Another discussion meeting regarding CSR Training for Workers’ Welfare was held on September 17, 2017 at Khulna BILS Liaison Office. Main objectives of the meeting were to involve the owners authority and leaders of Trade Union Federations Khulna region with CSR activities and to discuss about BILS CSR activities.
BILS Executive Council Secretary Adv. Delwar Hossain Khan, Executive Council Member B M Jafar, Jatiya Sramik Federation Khulna District Committee Vice President Md. Kallilur Rahman, BFFEA Director S. Humaun Kabir, JSF Khulna District Committee President Monir Ahmed, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh Khulna Metropolitan President Md. Shan Miah, TUC representative H. M. Shahidat, Jatiya Sramik Federation Khulna City General Secretary S. M. Faruque-Ul-Islam, BMSF Khulna General Secretary Farhana Sultana Urmeet, BFTUC Khulna Zilla President Choudhury Habibur Rahman, BFL Khulna Women Committee Secretary Doly, BMFS Khulna Women Committee member Asma Khatun, TUC Khulna City Committee General Secretary Rongolal Mridha, BFL Khulna District General Secretary Adv. Siddiqur Kalam, BFTUC Vice President Shirina Akter, JSL Khulna representative S. K. Pir Ali, JSL representative Monira Sultana, BILS Programme Officer Monirul Kabir and CSR Officer Jasmim Juy were present among others in the discussion meeting.

Regular thematic discussion
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member Humaun Kabir Mujib, Jatiya Sramik Federation member Md. Tofazzol Islam, Jubo Sramik League member M A Malek Khan, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation member Sri Debol Chandra Das, Jatiya Sramik League member Sumi Gomel, BLF Youth branch Dhaka Metropolitan member Shariful Islam, BJSF member Kishorey Nur, JSJ member Bachchu Miah and Md. Sagar Ali, BJSJ member Shafiq Ahmed Chowdhury, JSJB Gazipur Metropolitan member Md. Mostafizur Rahman, TUC member Mosa. Humaira Begum and Milli Akter, Dhaka University Fourth Class Employee Union member Md. Rezaul Islam, JSJSJB member S M Salam, Jubo Sramik League Dhaka Metropolitan member A K Azad, BJSJ member Md. A. Sobhan Miah and Nusrat Mirza, Jatiya Jubo Sramik League Central Committee Md. Shahjahan Patwari, BILS Executive Council member Shaki Akhter Chowdhury, Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, FES Programme Coordinator Aurunduty Rani and BILS Programme Officer Monirul Kabir were present in the programme.
Consultation meeting held on development of training manual on gender and protesting gender based violence at workplace

BILS, with the support of FNV organised a consultation meeting on development of training manual protesting gender and gender based violence at workplace on July 16, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The meeting was organised aiming to develop a training manual on gender and protesting gender based violence at RMG sector. Besides, conception and analysis of gender and gender based violence, gender discrimination and sectors, protesting sexual harassment, existing laws and penalties against sexual harassment were discussed in the meeting.

Umma Hasan Jhalmal from Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh, Nasrin Akter Dina and Hamida Khatun from Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Rahima Akter Sathi from Jatiya Siamik League were present at the meeting among Trade Union Leaders. Besides, BILS Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, Programme Officer Syaduzzaman Mithu participated at the meeting.

Foundation workshop for leadership development at RMG

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a four-day long foundation workshop titled “Leadership Development at RMG Sector” on September 11-14, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. The workshop was organised aiming to protect workers’ rights and contribute effectively in union through developing skill of organisers at field level who are working in RMG sector.

The main objectives of the workshop were building the capability of the participants to play an effective role for workers deserving rights, Identifying violations and preventions, to involve themselves actively in self union and union activities, to take solution plan and set implementing strategy jointly through identifying area based problems.

BTGWL Joint Secretary Mosa, Taslima Khatun, UFGW Organising Secretary Sheheli Afroj Laveli, BPSF Organising Secretary Humain Kabir Mujib, BRFWF Organiser Mosa, Moomoni Akter, Bangladesh Sramik Federation Trade Union Vice President Md. Swapon Ahmed, SBSWF member Md. Jewel, BJGSGF representative Md. Khasbu Ahmed Rana, Bangladesh Mukto Garments Sramik Federation representative Md. Asaduzzaman Asad, BGLWF representative Md. Shahidul Islam, SLF representative Faruk Hossen,

Area based planning meeting held

BILS, with the support of FNV organised several area based planning meeting aimed at coordinating area based committees regularly, implementing social programmes, protesting violation of workers’ rights and gender discrimination at workplace through the participation of social dialogue. Main objectives of the meeting were to discuss about forming union at RMG sector, Trade Union challenges, organising social dialogue and gender discrimination at workplace.

An area base planning meeting was organised with the participation of Savar- Ashulia Trade Union Leaders at RMG Sector on September 21, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. Another meeting was organised on September 26, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall with the participation of Dhaka-Mirpur area Trade Union Leaders at RMG Sector regarding this same issue. Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation president and BILS Advisory Council Member Amirul Haque Amin presided.
Area based planning
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over the meeting while BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed delivered the opening speech. BILS Executive Council member Kazi Rahima Akter Sathi, Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin and IndustriAll affiliated Federations and SKOP and BILS associated Trade Union Federations Leaders related to RMG sector of Dhaka-Mirpur area participated in the meeting.

Earlier on August 25, 2017 an area based planning meeting was organised at IRI Auditorium, Tongi, Gazipur. Another meeting regarding this issue was held on September 21, 2017 at Bangladesh Jahangir Federation Training and Cultural Center, Borofkal Ghat Khanpur, Narayanganj.

SKOP and BILS affiliated and IndustriAll associated Federations and Trade Union Federations Leaders related to RMG sector of different areas participated in the meeting.

Meeting between BILS
(After Page 11)
to inform the clause of labour law amendment 2013 on arbitration issue were taken in the meeting. BILS will prepare and publish an easy booklet to distribute among the workers and relevant stakeholder.

FNV Mondal representative Prabhu Rajendran, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin, FNV Consultant Shahidullah, Programme Officer Rezoonul Haque Azom and Syaduzzaman Mithu were present in the meeting.

Foundation workshop
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Workshop held on ongoing
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Camruzzaman Halal, Sramik Dal Joint Secretary Md. Liton Khan and Finance Secretary Abu Bakkar Siddik, TUC General Secretary Md. Siddik Ali Biswas and Sentu Mia, Treasurer Liton Mia and Joint Secretary Anwara Begum, JSF President A.S.M. Jakaria, INSUB President Md. Humaun Kabir, BBWF General Secretary Sheikh Anwar Hossain, BJSF Organising Secretary Abu Hanif, Jatiya Sramik Dal General Secretary Iman Hossain, Nirman Sramik League President Md. Ramjan Ali, General Secretary

SNF and DWRN jointly
(After Page 11)

It appears that the authorities have huge negligence on this matter. For this negligence several accidents are occurring and workers along with neighbors and pedestrians are also getting injured, Speakers demanded to strengthen inspection system of factories. They also urged concerned authorities for proper investigation of the incidents and giving appropriate punishment by bringing the offenders under law, providing enough compensation and proper treatment to the families of deceased as well as injured workers and taking effective initiatives immediately to implement labour law for ensuring safety of lives of the workers all over the country.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Garhastha Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh President Quamruul Ahsan, SNF Member Secretary as well as DWRN Coordinator Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed along with leaders of SNF and DWRN affiliated organisations, National Trade Union Federations and professional organisations participated at the human chain.

Din Islam Liton and Joint General Secretary Md. Motlur Rahman, Jatiya Sramik League Women Committee Member Secretary Majeda Begum, Jatiya Sramik League Tongi Women Committee Convener Suralya Farzana Happy, Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation Joint General Secretary Md. Moniruzzaman, JSJB Tongi area President Shahin Akter, Tongi SKOP Coordinator Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan participated in two workshops.
BILS organised a workshop titled “Ongoing Area based Advocacy Programme Follow up” on September 24, 2017 at Railway Shishu Niketon, Rail Gate, Tongi, Gazipur. The workshop was organised aiming to form safety committees at Tongi industrial area and to make it effective for ongoing area based advocacy programme. A planning workshop of the area based national Trade Union Centers on collective action was held on same day. Identifying problems and challenges of Tongi BSCIC and adjacent industrial area, preparing future plan for observing Human Rights Day 2017 and setting a plan for upcoming activities were the main objectives of the planning workshop.

BTUC Vice-President Tallyobur Rahman and General Secretary

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SNF and DWRN jointly formed human chain protesting workers killed in Gazipur and domestic workers tortured in Dhaka

Sramik Nirapotta Forum (SNF) and Domestic Workers Rights Network (DWRN) jointly formed a human chain on July 4, 2017 in front of National Press Club protesting 10 workers killed and nearly hundred workers injured as a result of boiler blast in Gazipur and domestic workers tortured in Mirpur DOHS and Paribag in the capital. Speakers in the human chain said, “Now boiler accident has become a regular incident. Such types of accidents are continuing to occur despite of several warning of safety management development and protection.”

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Meeting between BILS officials and FNV delegates

In connection to the recent visit of FNV delegate Prabhu Rajendran to Bangladesh, a meeting was organized on July 3, 2017 at BILS Office-Dhaka to share experiences and discuss the BILS-FNV Cooperation.

The meeting was organized to discuss about progress of BILS-FNV activities, Implementation strategies of the ongoing project activities and project development for next three years (2018-2020).

Some decisions such as to organise a meeting within current month along with NTUCs, IndustriALL and BILS Leadership to avail their opinion regarding activities on Paralegal Support for workers, to organize a multi-stakeholder workshop with Trade Union leaders, Workers, and victims regarding arbitration issues on next month and

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Opinion sharing meeting held on BILS-FNV project activities

BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting with the participation of National Trade Union Federations leaders, IndustriALL Bangladesh and BILS leaders regarding implementation of BILS-FNV project activities on August 12, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The meeting was organised aiming to
Opinion sharing meeting

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discuss about ongoing activities and progress of BILS-FNV project, to fix workout for conducting area based activities under BILS-FNV project and to discuss about objectives of foundation, Intermediate and advance training course under the project.

Discussants in the meeting recommended focusing RMG sector to fix BILS affiliated Trade Union Federations and IndustriAll Bangladesh associated four regions (Savar-Ashulia-Tongi-Gazipur and Narayanganj) for implementing project activities, to identify Mirpur area as a project implementation area for conducting project activities, to organise social events such as conducting mobile-health camp by Workers Welfare Centre at Industrial areas, establishing public toilet and park with the initiative of City Corporation at selected areas under the project.

BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra, Jatiya Sramik League representative Shamsunnahar Bhulyan, BRGWF representative Salauddin Swopon, BJ KP representative Hedayetullah, Jatiya Sramik League representative Kazi Rahima Akter Sathi, SGSF representative Khadija Akter, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed were present among others in the meeting.

BILS's Activities

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) published a booklet titled “Practicing Tripartism at RMG Sector In Bangladesh and Opportunities of Affordable Industrial Relations” on September 2017. A total number of 500 copies of booklet were distributed.

BILS published a booklet titled “Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) : Role of Government, Owner and Union” on August 2017. A total number of 1000 copies of booklet were distributed.

BILS published a position paper titled “Trade Union Position Paper on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)” on August, 2017. A total number of 100 copies of position paper were distributed.
Progress of Labour Law amendment process and recent labour situation review and way forward

BILS organised a meeting with the participation of members of SKOP affiliated Federations and Tripartite Committee regarding progress of Labour Law amendment process and recent labour situation review and way forward on September 20, 2017 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Seminar Hall.

BILS Advisory Council member Roy Ramesh Chandra and Abdul Matin Master, BJSF President Rafiquzzaman, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, BILS Executive Council member Kazi Rahima Akter Sathi, BFTUC Secretary Pulak

Workshop on amendment proposal for Bangladesh Labour Act 2006

Bangladesh Labour Court Bar Association and BILS jointly organised a workshop on Amendment Proposal for Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 on September 30, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall.
The workshop was organised aiming to reform Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 specially to identify its explanation and application weakness and to finalize the amendment. Presenting the progress of ongoing amendment activities of Labour Law, identifying weakness and legal compliant and

BILS/LO-FTF planning meeting held

BILS/LO-FTF organised a planning meeting on September 17, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall.

Tripartite committees formation, strength, function as well as role and recommendations of its weakness and prevention, recommendations implementation process and defining activities of workers members of tripartite committees and BILS for playing more effective role, setting future activities of committees and worker’s representatives to ensure more protection and welfare for the workers were the main discussed issues of the meeting.

BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra President Shahidullah Chowdhury, IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Secretary General Md. Touhidur Rahman,

Training for organisation based Leaders on CSR issue

A training programme titled “Corporate Social Responsibility-CSR, CSR for Workers’ Welfare” was organised by BILS for organisation based Leaders on September 27, 2017 at Chittagong BILS Office Seminar Hall.

The training programme was organised aiming to raise awareness among the
Training on CSR issue
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organisation based Leaders through this training programme and to plan activities for continuous advocacy programme to conduct CSR activities.

Planning and Review meeting with FES
BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a planning and review meeting with project Advisory Committee on September 20, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall for planning the programmes of next year.
FES Bangladesh Resident Representative Franziska Korn, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Jatiya Samik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal President Anwar Hossain, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin, FES Programme Coordinator Aurunduty Rani and BILS Programme Officer Monirul Kohir were present in the meeting.

BILS/Ongoing Research
BILS Research Department have completed a to assess the implication of working hours in five private business sectors 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 just wait for final touch during this duration of time.

Progress of Labour Law
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Ranjan Dhar, BLF President Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, BFTUC President Abdul Mukit Khan, JSF President Quamrul Ahsan, BSF General Secretary A A M Fayez Hossain, Samajtantrik Samik Front General Secretary Rakekuzzaman Ratan, IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Secretary General Md. Touhidur Rahman, BTUK President Shahidullah Chowdhury, Jatiya Samik Jote Working President Md. Abdul Wahed and General Secretary Md. Nurul Amin, Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal Secretary Md. Mohiuddin, Trade Union Sangha General Secretary Choudhury Ashiquil Alam, TUC Office Secretary Shahida Parveen Shikha, JSJB Education affairs Secretary Umma Hasan Jhalma, BJSF General Secretary Shamim Ara, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed were present in the meeting.

Workshop on amendment
(After Page 13)
finalizing amendment recommendations were the main objectives of the workshop.
SKOP Joint Coordinator Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan inaugurated and delivered the welcome speech. Besides, Labour Court Bar Association President Advocate Mahabubul Haque, Bangladesh Supreme Court Advocate Nesar Ahmed, Advocate A.K.M. Nasim, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust-BLAST Deputy Director Advocate Barkat Ali, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed and Labour Court Bar Association Lawyer representatives, Samik Kamochari Olkya Parishad representatives, BILS Leaders, Labour Court workers representatives, Labour Court case conducting organisations representatives and Samik Nirapota Forum representatives were present in the workshop.
Workshop held on role  
(After Page 16)
campaign programme to implement these recommendations. BILS Advisory Council member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Abdul Matin Master, Abdul Mukit Khan and Roy Ramesh Chandra, BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shirez, Vice Chairman Alhaj Shukkur Mahamud, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, JSJ General Secretary Md. Sirajul Islam, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, BFTUC Secretary Pulok Ranjan Dhar, BJSF President Rafiuzzaman, BILS Executive Council member Kazi Rahima Akter Sathi, BMSF Organising Secretary Md. Shahidullah Badal, BJSF Advisor Md. Mohiuddin, JSF President Quamrul Ahsan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Working President Md. Abdul Wahed, JSJ General Secretary Md. Nurul Amin, BILS Trainers Md. Touhidur Rahman, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha General Secretary Choudhury Asiquil Alam, BLF General Secretary Adv. Md. Delwar Hossain Khan, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Bangladesh Sramik Federation General Secretary A A M Fayeza Hossain, BTUC Office Secretary Shahida Parveen Shikha, JSL Women Committee General Secretary Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, BJSF General Secretary Shamima Ara, JSJB Education affairs Secretary Uma Hasan Jhalal, BJSD representative Nasir Akter Dina, Resource Person TIM Nurunnabi Khan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed were present in the workshop.

Opinion sharing and discussion  
(After Page 16)
MP were present as chief guest and Parliament Member Advocate Sofura Begum, Secretary of Labour and Employment Ministry Mikhail Shipar, Lalmonirhat District Council Chairman Motiar Rahman, Police Super S M Rashidul Haque, Patgram Upozila Chairman Md. Ruhul Amin Babul were present as special guests. Among others, Upozila Executive Officer, Municipal Mayor, officials of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment, Chairman of different Union Parishads, Trade Union Leaders, academicians, doctors, representatives of professional organisations and journalists of different print and electronic media participated in the meeting.
BILS Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Mohammad Nazrul Islam presented a keynote paper on BILS activities with Silicosis affected people. Lalmonirhat Civil Surgeon described the present situation of Silicosis patients. Patgram Upozila Chairman discussed about present physical condition of Silicosis-affected people. Leaders and officials of different organisations also discussed about various problems and remedy for workers.
The State Minister suggested workers to use mask at their working time and declared to provide mask from Labour Ministry. Besides, he committed to set up hospital for workers with the support of Labour Welfare Center where workers will get free treatment. He ordered officials of DIFE for monitoring the factories located at Patgram.

Opinion sharing meeting  
(After Page 16)
Cox’s Bazar district Jatiya Sramik League President Jahirul Islam, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh Cox’s Bazar district President Md. Abdul Jabbar, General Secretary Pradeep Das, Jatiya Sramik League Cox’s Bazar district member Faridul Alam and Mohammad Abdullah, Brihottor Salkat Hawkers’ Sramik League Cox’s Bazar district General Secretary Mohammad Yunus, BRSWF representative Syed A. Jafir, Minhar Fl. Ltd. BESC Cox’s Bazar President Sovdul Haque, General Secretary Md. Imran Hossain, Bangladesh Jobo Maltree Cox’s Bazar district General Secretary Md. Belal Hossain, Bangladesh Forth Class Govt. Employee Samity Cox’s Bazar district Publicity Secretary and Coordination Council member Anwarul Haque, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Cox’s City Corporation General Secretary Md. Iqbal Hossain, Painter Sramik League Ramu Convener Pradeep Dhar, Joint Convener Abdur Rashid and Salamat Ullah, Nari Sramik League Ramu Convener Sufia Khan, Joint Convener Golzar Begum, Jatiya Sramik League Joint Convener Md. Ariful Islam, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed were present in the meeting.

Orientation programme  
(After Page 10)
women workers and to utilize Right to Information Act for establishing justice.
Information Commissioner of information Commission Nepal Chandra Sarkar was present as an honourable guest in the inaugural session. Besides, a total number of 25 women workers from different sectors participated in the orientation programme.
Meeting with BILS and National TU Leaders for providing aid to Rohingya refugees

BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting with the participation of BILS and National Trade Union Leaders for providing aid to rohingya refugees on September 29, 2017 at BIWTA Inspector Banglow of Kostur Ghat in Cox’s Bazar. Identifying problems of local people, maintaining law and order both inside and outside of the camp, raising awareness among the local people specially boatmen and fishing workers, promoting campaign programme for creating public opinion through CSR activities were the discussed issues in the meeting.

Workshop held on role of trade unions to strengthen tripartite committee for ensuring workers rights

BILS organised a workshop titled “Role of Trade Unions to Strengthen Tripartite Committee for Ensuring Workers Rights” on September 19, 2017 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Seminar Hall. The workshop was organised to take recommendations from the concerned workers representatives for removing challenges and limitations from self sectors, to prepare a final recommendation and to take way forward for organising real based long term campaign programme to implement these recommendations.

Orientation programme on women’s advancement getting information

MRDI, with the support of BILS organised an orientation programme titled “Women’s Advancement to get Information, Orientation for Women at Formal Sector” on September 18, 2017 at BILS Seminar Hall. Main objective of the programme was to protect rights of

Opinion sharing and discussion meeting with silicosis-affected workers

An opinion sharing and discussion meeting was organised on July 20, 2017 at Deputy Commissioner’s Conference Room in Lalmonirhat district. The meeting was organised for raising awareness at local level to protect occupational health of workers engaged in stone crushing industry at Burlimari and setting role of concerned all. Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner Abul Fazal Md. Alauddin Khan presided over the meeting while State Minister for Labour and Employment Md. Mojibul Haque, MP were present.