



# BILS Bulletin

www.bilsbd.org

January - March 2016

## BILS observed International Women's Day



BILS observed International Women's Day, 2016 with the slogan "Ensuring security and dignity of women in family, society and workplace for equality".

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies – BILS, with a view to observe 'International Women's Day 2016', organised an assembly and rally on March 8, 2016 in front of the National Press Club. Slogan

for this year was "Ensuring security and dignity of women in family, society and workplace for equality". Women workers and representatives of different women committees of BILS

» Page 2, Column-1 »

## Opinion sharing meeting held with journalists on labour issue



Leaders with journalists at the view exchange meeting on "Recent Initiatives on Labour Issue: Introduction to Policy, Law and Rules."

BILS organised an opinion sharing meeting with journalists titled "Recent Initiatives on Labour

Issue: Introduction to Policy, Law and Rules" on 30 March, 2016 at BILS seminar hall.

» Page 7, Column-3 »

## Workshop for Trainer Network on Training Manual Development.



Members in training workshop at Savar Gonoshasthya Kendra.

BILS organised a three day long workshop titled "Refreshers Course for Members of BILS Trainer Network and Training Manual Development" on March 25- 27, 2016 at Savar Gonoshasthya Kendra.

» Page 2, Column-2 »

## Human chain held protesting domestic worker's death at Krishnokoli's residence



DWRN formed human chain in front of Press Club

A human chain and rally was organized by Domestic Workers Right Network (DWRN) on March 29, 2016 in front of the National Press Club, demanding proper investigation and exemplary punishment to the people involved with mysterious death incident of domestic worker Shilpi Akhter (15) who worked at singer Krishnokoli's residence at Taltola of Agargaon in Dhaka.

» Page 2, Column-3 »

## Women's Day

(After Page 01)

associated and SKOP affiliated organizations participated in the rally. Starting in front of the National Press Club, the rally ended at the same place after rounding Mukhtangan area. Sramik Nirapotta Forum Convener Dr. Hamida Hossain, BILS Chairman Habibur Rahman Shiraz, Jatiyo Sramik Jote Bangladesh President and BILS Vice Chairman Shirin Akhter MP, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, BILS Secretary Adv. Delwar Hossain, BILS Secretary & former MP Rowshan Jahan Sathi, Bangladesh Jatiyotabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Domestic Workers Rights' Network Coordinator &



DWRN organised rally demanding the end of humiliation on Domestic Workers and implementation of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy-2015

BILS Asst. Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, National Domestic Women Workers Union Advisor Abul Hossain, BILS Program Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin and Advocacy officer Adv. Nazrul Islam were present in the rally.

Leaders and representatives of BILS associated and SKOP affiliated organizations, leaders of National Trade Union Federations, leaders of Sramik Nirapotta Forum and Domestic Workers Rights' Network were also present in the event.

## Domestic Worker killing

(After Page 07)

worker involved in scavenging Mozammel (14) at Tongi, Gazipur and torturing child domestic worker Shilpi.

Speakers at the human chain demanded proper compensation to victims and their families and exemplary punishment to the responsible persons of these incidents. They also demanded for immediate implementation of the newly enacted "Domestic Workers Security and Welfare Policy-2015" for the security of the domestic workers of all over the country.

With the moderation of Jatiya Garhostho Nari Sramik Union advisor Abul Hossain, BILS Vice Chairman Shirin Akhter MP, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, DWRN Coordinator Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Somajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Bangladesh Jatiyotabadi Sramik Dal president Anwar Hossen, Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad- SKOP joint coordinator

Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Tanary Sramik Union General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and other leading personalities were present in the human chain.

Besides, local domestic workers, representatives of civil society and leaders of various workers organisations also participated in the human chain.

## Workshop Held

(After Page 01)

A total of 19 senior trainers from different trade union federations participated in the workshop. BILS Asst. Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood jointly coordinated the training program.

Major objectives of this training program were to sharing experiences of the trainers from previous training programs, enhancing skills of the members of the training network through their participation and practices, and preparing training manuals including effective session plan with the active participation of the trainers team and following standard training methodology.

## Singer Krishnokoli's residence

(After Page 01)

The speakers also demanded for immediate implementation of the newly enacted "Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015" for the security of the domestic workers.

Besides, they demanded for exemplary punishment to the torturer of domestic workers, legal support from Government in any case related to domestic workers and proper treatment and compensation to the victim domestic workers.

Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan led the human chain and National Domestic Women Workers Union Advisor Abul Hossain coordinated the event. Nagorik Uddog Chief Executive Zakir Hossain, Somajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, National Domestic Women Workers Union General Secretary Murshida Akter and Domestic Workers Rights Network Member Secretary Nazma Yesmin were spoke in the human chain and rally.



## Photo Journalist team of LO-FTF Council visited Bangladesh



*Eric Rainer and Preben Christian visit a metal factory in Dhaka*

Photo Journalist Eric Rainer and Preben Christian LO-FTF Council visited Bangladesh from February 29 to March 3, 2016 as a part of BILS/LO-FTF project activities. They came to make a documentary on construction and metal industry workers.

At the time of their visit, they

inspected and depicted several construction sites and metal industries at Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Jurain. They also interviewed the workers and trade union leaders.

During the visit, the team exchanged views with BILS officials and trade union leaders.

## Opinion sharing meeting held on implementing Domestic Workers Protection & Welfare Policy-2015



*Discussants at the meeting*

An opinion sharing meeting of Domestic Workers Rights Network (DWRN) on drawing recommendations for implementing "Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015" was held on January 27, 2016 at BILS library.

Joint Secretary (Labour) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Md. Aminul Islam chaired the meeting.

»» Page 7, Column-3 »»

## Thematic regular discussion meeting held on National Federation Youth Study Group



*FES Residential Representative Franziska Korn, in a Photo Session*

BILS, with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung-FES, organised a thematic regular discussion meeting on National Federations Youth Leadership on March 21, 2016 at BILS seminar hall.

Creating awareness, exchanging information and enhancing skills among the youth on recent national and international issues on Labour

Rights, Human Rights and Development were the main objectives of this meeting. Forthcoming discussion meeting will be held regarding ensuring social, economical and professional security of informal sector workers. This discussion meeting will be held once in a

month and will be continued till November, 2016.

FES Residential Representative Franziska Korn, Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, BILS Assistant Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, FES Program Coordinator Aurunduti Rani, BILS Program Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, Advocacy Officer Adv.

Nazrul Islam, Program Officer Monirul Kobir, Asst. Program Officer Shoriful Islam, Trad Union Members Asma Akter Mukti, Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Kanok Bormon, Hasi Akter, A. Hakim Khan, Anisuzzaman Manik, AKM Rafikul Islam, Nasrin Choudhuri, SM Monjurul Hoque, AB Siddik Mintu, Md. Khorshed Alam, Rejaul Islam Reza, Shamima Akter and Roksana Akter were present in the meeting.

## BILS Research Activities

BILS has four ongoing research activities from January to March 2016 quarter.

One of the researches is “Safe Migration, Decent work and Combating Trafficking”. 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 are the main objectives of this research.

Title of another research is “Labour in Fishing Sector of Bangladesh Mapping, Status and Awareness about Rights”. Socio-economic state, awareness and status of worker rights and OHS of the workers in fishing sector of Bangladesh; identify the worker issues for advocacy session of advocacy in each study area participated by BILS (research team) and stakeholders are the main objectives on this research.

BILS Rresearch Department has also two other ongoing study on, “Strengthening Tripartism towards a Sound Industrial Relation in Bangladesh” and “Mapping the Current Status of Corporate Social Responsibility Activities and the Scope of Workers Participation”.

## Thematic discussion held on Youth Leader of National Federations

BILS, With the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung–FES, organised regular thematic meeting on National Federation of Youth Leadership on March 30, 2016 in Khulna

Creating awareness among youth on recent national and international issues on labour & human rights, and development were the main objectives of this meeting. Besides, increasing the exchange of information and expertise was also one of important purposes of the discussion. In future especially in case of informal workers to protect their social, economic and professional issues, the Young Trade Union leadership will start regular thematic discussion based on the national and international development issues relating to labour and human rights. This discussion will be held once in a month and will be continued



*Youth labour leaders at the thematic discussion in khulna until November 2016.*

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) Khulna Area coordinator and Khulna district Jatiyo Sramik League-JSL president B M Jafor, Khulna TUC general secretary Shahdat Hossain, Bangladesh Sramik Federation Khulna City General Secretary Faruk-UI-Hasan, BFTUC leader Chowdhury Habibur Rahman, BJS leader G M Mahbubur Rahman and Kazi Aminul Islam, Dowlotpur Jute Union leader Abdur Rahman Mollah, TUC leader Sahina Akhter, JSL leader Kingkor Saha, Laboni Akhter, Mita Akhter, Akhi Khatun, BLF Leader Jesmin, BFTUC leader Shanta Islam and Moin Chowdhury, SSF leader Sheikh Mohammad Badal, JSFB leader Kamal Hossain joarder, JSJF leader Mohammad Wasim. JSF leader Joshna khatun and among others were present in the discussion meeting.

## Human chain held protesting the killing of Sultana and Jahanara



*Human Chain at Press Club*

Domestic Workers Rights Network (DWRN) formed a human chain on February 27,

2016 in front of the National Press Club protesting the killing of two Domestic Workers and demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits. Those who were killed are child Domestic Worker Sultana (10) at Khulshi, Chittagong and elderly Domestic Worker Jahanarara (60) at a secretary's residence at Baily Road, Dhaka.

Members of DWRN demanded for immediate implementation of the newly enacted “Domestic Workers

Security and Welfare Policy-2015” for the security of the domestic workers of all over the country. Besides, they also demanded for exemplary punishment to the torturer of Domestic Workers, legal support from Government in any case related to Domestic Workers and proper treatment and compensation to the victim Domestic Workers.

Jatiyo Grahostho Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain moderated the Human Chain. Bangladesh Trade Union Center Ggeneral Secretary Dr. Wazedul Islam Khan, Domestic Workers Rights Network Coordinator



## Meeting held on awareness of SDG and Seventh Five-Year Plan



Labour leaders speak at the discussion meeting

BILS organized a discussion meeting on February 6, 2016 at BILS seminar hall aimed at informing Trade Union Leaders about recently adopted development plans.

BILS working team, members of trainer team, researchers, officials of BILS and a total of 17 people participated at the discussion meeting. Recently adopted different development plans like Development Plan-SDG, Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021, the 7th five-year plan, the national strategy of social security, labor law, labor policies and regulations, policy of 7th Five-year plan, involvement of labor-related issues and the way to go ahead with the labour

movement by identifying the lack of the policy were discussed in the meeting.

BILS Program Coordinator Nazma Yesmin delivered welcome speech. Executive Director of Development Synergy Institute Monowar Mostofa presented a report on "Second Part of the National and International Development Plan on Labour and Employment Issue". In his report he mentioned, 7th Five-year plan is divided into eleven (11) specialized sectors. But there is no clear recommendation on labour issue and no major difference is found between 7th and 6th five-year plan in case of thought."

## BILS Publications

- BILS published a leaflet with the slogan "Construct the world of dignity and equality for ensuring safe and sustainable development and ensure dignified participation of women at workplace, family and society". Some 2000 copies of leaflet were distributed.



- BILS published brochure with the slogan "Stand beside the fishing workers to save their lives and livelihood, organise them, build union". Some 1500 copies of brochure were distributed.



## Discussion meeting with Trade Union leaders on recently adopted development plans

A discussion meeting held on January 23, 2016 at BILS seminar hall for discussing recently adopted Development Plan-SDG, Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021, the 7th five-year plan, the national social security strategy, labour law, labour policies and regulations.

Members BILS Working team,

trainer team, researchers and officials were present at the meeting.

Main objectives of the meeting were to identify labour issues, to implement recommendations for advancing the movement regarding those issues and to fix a date for further discussion.

## Training workshop on Region-based Trade Union Leadership Skill Development



Participants at the training workshop held in a local hotel at Dholaipar

BILS organised a two-day training workshop titled "Region-based Trade Union Leadership Skills Development" on February 28-29, 2016 at Hotel Golden Sun, Dholaipar, Dhaka.

Main objectives of the workshop were informing the trade union and regional committees about law and policy on forming safety committee in metal, construction and garments sectors and its implementation process, taking initiatives for ensuring workers' Occupational Health and Safety and Rights according to labour law, and initiating joint effort for achieving future advocacy program aimed at strengthening region based organizational structure and developing skills among the leaders

of newly formed union at Shyampur – Postagola area.

BILS Advisory Council Member Mesbah Uddin Ahmed chaired the program, while Coordinator of IndustryAll Bangladesh Abu Yousuf Mollah was present as Moderate. Deputy Director General of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment Mahfuzur Rahman, Jatiyo Sramik Jote General Secretary Md. Nurul Amin, Nirman Sramik League General Secretary Sheikh Md. Nurul Haque, Nirman Sramik Federation Senior Vice President Jafor Ahmed, BILS Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, BILS Senior Trainers Khandakar Abdus Salam And Advocacy officer Adv. Nazrul Islam were present among others.

## Opinion sharing meeting on raising awareness among TU Leaders about tuberculosis diseases

BILS, with the support of Challenge TB organized an opinion sharing meeting titled "Raising Awareness among TU Leaders about Tuberculosis (TB) diseases: Challenges and Future Action" on January 20, 2016 at BILS seminar hall.

BILS Assistant Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed moderated the meeting and Challenge TB Technical Advisor Dr. Reti Kemp presented and

discussed about different things related to TB. BNGWEL President Sirazul Islam Roni, Nahidul Islam from Awaz Foundation, Abbas Uddin and Shefali Begum from Bangladesh Garments and Industry Worker Federation, Habibur Rahman from UFGW, Sazeda Begum from JSL, BILS Research Officer Afroza Akhter and Advocacy Officer Adv. Nazrul Islam were present in the meeting.

## Human Chain held protesting inhuman torture on Domestic Worker Sonia Akhter



Domestic Workers Rights Network (DWRN) formed a human chain on February 26, 2016 in front of National Press Club protesting inhuman torture on Domestic Workers Sonia Akhter (14) at Dhanmondi and demanding exemplary punishment to the persons involved with this incident.

The speakers also demanded for immediate implementation of the newly enacted "Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy-2015" for the security of the Domestic Workers of all over the country.

Besides, they demanded for exemplary punishment to the torturer of domestic workers, legal support from Government in any case related to Domestic Workers and proper treatment and compensation to the victim domestic workers.

DWRN Coordinator Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed coordinated the human chain, while Jatiyotabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Somajtantrik Sramik Front Senior Vice President Abdur Razzak, Somajtantrik Mohila Forum General Secretary Engineer Sompas Basu, Morsheda Jahan from Karmojibi Nari and DWRN Member Secretary Nazma Yesmin spoke among others.

## Preparatory meeting held observing International Women Day-2016

BILS, with the participation of Trainer Network Members organized two preparatory meetings to observe International Women Day-2016 on 28 February and 5 March 2016 at BILS seminar hall.

Selection of participants from women committee of different trade unions and their participation in different activities were discussed at the meeting.



## Gazipur boiler burst

(After Page 08)

Gazipur City Corporation Councilor Bozlor Rahman Bachir led the rally. BTUC General Secretary Dr. Wazedul Islam Khan, JSL Central President Alhaji Sukkur Mahmud, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, SNF Member Secretary and BILS Assistant Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, SSF Vice President Abdur Razzak and Mohila Sramik League General Secretary Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan were present at the rally.

Speakers at the rally demanded immediate judgment of the responsible persons and international level compensation to the families of those deceased workers. They also urged government for taking initiatives to prevent these incidents in future.

On January 23, 2016 about 8 people died in the boiler burst incident at the Smart Metal & Chemical Industry Ltd.

### Human chain held demanding compensation to boiler burst in Gazipur

Sramik Nirapotta Forum formed a human chain demanding compensation and ensuring proper treatment to the victims of boiler burst in Smart Metal and Chemical factory at Pubail in Gazipur on January 26, 2016 in front of the factory.

Speakers demanded immediate exemplary punishment to those who are responsible for this incident. They also urged the Government to take necessary steps so that such incidents will not happen anymore.

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) Joint Coordinator Naimul Hasan Jewel, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra Vice President Lutfor Rahman, Jatiyo Sramik Jote Vice President A. Wahed were present in the Human chain.

## Elected industry representatives

(After Page 08)

Secretary MD. Nurul Amin Babul, T M Liakat Hossain, Organizing Secretary MD. Hadiul Islam, Office Secretary MD. Akram Hossain, Outreach Secretary MD. Akter Hossain, Labour Law Secretary MD. Delwar Hossain, Social Welfare Secretary MD. Helal Uddin, Sports and Cultural Secretary Abdur Rahim, Accountant A. Razzak, newly elected Tannery Workers Union Member MD. Nurul Haq, MD. Mamun, Jhorna Begum, BILS Program Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin,

## Women Day-2016 at Chittagong

(After Page 08)

chaired the meeting, while BILS Information and Training Center Coordinator in Chittagong Pahari Bhattacharjee was present as Moderator. Journalist and writer Abul Momen, former General Secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalist Nizam Uddin Shamol, TUC District President Labour Leader Topon Datta, BJS Divisional President A M Nazim Uddin, TU Leaders MD. Mosihuddoula, MD. Mamun, Kazi Altaf, MD. Mahin Uddin, MD. Nurul Absar Bhuiyan, Shahnewaz Chowdhuri, Sharmin Akhter, Nurzahan Begum were present at the discussion meeting. Besides, local Leaders from BILS affiliated labour organization and women correspondents from trade unions also participated the meeting.

## Human chain held

(After Page 04)

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Nagorik Uddog Executive Director Jakir Hossain spoke at the human chain. Local Domestic Workers, Representatives of Human Rights Organizations and Civil Society, Leaders of various national Trade Union organizations were present at the human chain.

Research Officer Afroza Akhter and Assistant Program Officer Jesmin Jui were present at the meeting.

Besides, representatives from Apex Tannery Ltd, East Asia Tanneries, Exim Tannery, Bey Tannery Ltd, Reliance Tanneries Ltd, Phoenix Leather Ltd, Dhaka Hide and Skins Ltd, Somota Leather Complex, Mitali Tannery Ltd, Millat Tannery, Mukti Tannery, Karim Leather Ltd and Dhaka Tannery Ltd. were present at the workshop.

## Journalists on labour issue

(After Page 01)

the Ministry of Labour and Employment Aminul Islam, BILS Assistant Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Program Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, Advocacy Officer Adv. Nazrul Islam and representatives from different mass media were present in the meeting.

## Welfare Policy-2015

(After Page 03)

Domestic Workers Rights Network Coordinator Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Nari Maitree Executive Director Shahin Akter Doli, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association Director Adv. Towhida Khandokar, BLAST Deputy Director Adv. Borkot Ali, Domestic Workers Rights Network Member Secretary Nazma Yesmin and BILS Advocacy Officer Adv. Nazrul Islam were present in the meeting.

The meeting recommended for organising a workshop on "Implementation of Domestic Workers Protection & Welfare Policy 2015" with the joint initiative of DWRN and Ministry of Labour and Employment.

## Meeting held with journalists

(After Page 04)

BILS Advisory Council Member and Jatiyo Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed moderated the meeting. Deputy Secretary of

## Protesting rally held demanding compensation to victim's family at Gazipur boiler burst incident



Leaders at the protest in Gazipur.

Local labour organization of Gazipur organised a rally on January 31, 2016 at Pubail, Gazipur demanding compensation to the families of those workers died in the boiler burst incident at the Smart Metal & Chemical Industry Ltd. They also demanded immediate arrest of the owner.

» Page 7, Column-1 »

## Discussion meeting held observing International Women Day-2016 in Chittagong



Journalist and writer Abul Momen delivering speech at the discussion meeting

BILS Information and Training Center Chittagong arranged a discussion meeting to observe International Women Day on March 8, 2016 at Chittagong Press Club Auditorium.

BILS Executive Committee Member M. Safar Ali

» Page 7, Column-2 »

## Orientation workshop held on labour law and rules for newly elected industry representatives



Leaders at the orientation workshop

BILS organised an orientation workshop titled "Labour Law and Rules for newly elected industry representatives" on January 30, 2016 at Jhigatola Government Community Center.

BTUC General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan chaired the inaugural session, while BILS

Assistant Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed was present as Moderator. Labour Law Expert AKM Nasim, Tannery Workers Union President Abul Kalam Azad, Tannery Workers Union Vice President Abul Khayer, Tannery Workers Union General Secretary Abdul Malek, Assistant General

» Page 7, Column-2 »

## Human chain formed protesting Domestic Worker killing and torture



Domestic Workers Rights Network (DWRN) and Sramik Nirapotta Forum (SNF) Jointly formed a human chain and rally on January 26, 2016 in front of the National Press Club protesting the killing of Domestic Worker Munni Akhter (13) at Banasree, adolescent worker

» Page 2, Column-1 »

### Contact Address :



**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](mailto:bils@citech.net), Web: [www.bilsbd.org](http://www.bilsbd.org)