



Editorial

May Day is recognized as the source of spirit for working people all over the world to establish the demand for eight working hours a day. History of this day is written through solidarity, struggle and conquest of world working masses. In this regard, this year May Day was observed nationally through different activities including seminar, discussion meeting, rally, workers gathering and others events with the participation of working people. Apart from this, Rana Plaza was also a significant issue during this period. The day was observed with paying homage, organising civil tribute in front of Savar Rana Plaza and arranging roundtable on five years of Rana Plaza and its experience, achievement and way forward was a notable programme in order to take decision for avoiding this type of industrial accident in future.

Besides, various activities and initiatives were taken ensuring betterment of workers' livelihood, rights, workplace security and occupational health and safety. Press conference on workers' compensation seminar on implementation 'Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015' and human chain demanding investigation and punishment for construction workers death, organising capacity building workshop, seminar on labour related different issues were considered as significant programmes.

Recently, workers workplace safety has become a major issue whereas women workers are the main victim. In this case, raising awareness among the workers basically women workers BILS is working through organising domestic workers conference ensuring their dignity and rights, consultation on ending violence and harassment in the world of work, national consultation on involvement of Trade Unions in global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration.

Our hope and aspiration, 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.

May Day-2018 observed with due respect and solemnity



Participants in the rally demanding their rights observing May Day-2018

BILS Organised different activities including rally, Human chain, Workers gathering, discussion meeting in Dhaka and Chittagong aimed at observing May day 2018.

Human Chain and Rally in Dhaka:
On the occasion of May Day-2018, BILS

organised a number of events in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka on May 1, 2018. BILS and National Trade Union Federations leaders attended in mass gathering, human chains and rally to mark the day. On this occasion

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Roundtable held on Five years of Rana Plaza and its experience, achievement and way forward



Participants in the roundtable for discussing Rana Plaza experience achievement and way forward

BILS, in cooperation with mondiaal FNV organised a roundtable titled, "Five Years of Rana Plaza : Experience, Achievement and Way Forward" on April 23, 2018 at AzimurRahaman Conference Hall of The Daily Star

Center recalling Five Years of Rana Plaza building collapse.

Speakers in the programme emphasized for all parties' initiatives aimed at taking

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Part of discussion meeting on the occasion of observing May Day in Chittagong

May Day-2018

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BILS set up a stall in the area, from where different publications like posters, brochure, leaflets, handbills, stickers, position papers etc. were distributed to workers and union members. To mark the day, BILS published commemorative brochures and greetings cards.

Domestic Workers Rights Network- DWRN organised a rally and human chain early in the morning on this occasion, where a good number of activists were present.

Trade Union leaders and representatives of DWRN member organisations gave their solidarity speech in the program me. DWRN also published a leaflet on that day. Leaflets describing rights of domestic workers as per the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy were widely circulated during the Rally and Human Chain.

Workers' gathering, rally and discussion meeting held in Chittagong

BILS organised workers' gathering and rally on May 1, 2018 at Chittagong DC Hill Chattar on the occasion of observing May Day. Trade Union Leaders participated in the gathering and rally.

A discussion meeting on "Workers Condition:Chittagong Perspective" was held on May 25,2018 at the Seminar hall of Hotel Miskha, Chittagong under its DGB-BW project.

The discussion meeting was presided over by A. M. Nazimuddin, Centre Coordinator, BILS-LRSC and the president of BJSD- Chittagong while BILS- LRSC Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan conducted the meeting. The meeting was addressed among others by Researcher and Associate Professor, Law Department, Chittagong University Muhammed Shaheen Chowdhury, BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Member Tapan Dutta, President of BMSF-Chittagong Kaji Altaf Hossain, BLF-

Chittagong Secretary Md. Nurul Absar Bhuiyan. MD. Nurul Absar of BMSF, Shahenewaz Chowdhury of BJSD, Fazlul Kabir Mintu of TUC, sector and team-based TU organisers namely Shahidur Rahman, Sheikh Farid, Didarul Alam of Construction sector, Ozifa Khatun of RMG, Md. Rafiq of hotel and restaurant also took part in the discussion.

The speakers pointed out that due to the historic struggle and sacrifices of the American working class more than a hundred years ago, nowadays, workers all over the world are enjoying minimum working hour, leisure, minimum wage and other benefits covered by the national constitution, labour law and regulations of each country. It is unfortunate that, in Bangladesh, due to the improper implementation of Labour Law, workers are being victimized in terms of their basic rights and even of health and occupational safety at workplace. Besides, they are being deprived of standard living wages, TU rights and safe workplace and related other facilities. There is a role of all stakeholders to play, the speakers emphasized. We all need to come forward and take necessary steps for the greater well-being of the working class the speakers opined.

achievement and way forward

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permanent measures to prevent major workplace disasters in future. They also recommended for ensuring stable relation between owners and workers by ensuring Trade Union rights, Collective Bargaining and important issues such as treatment, rehabilitation and compensation for managing this kind of disaster.

The roundtable was chaired by BILS Vice Chairman Shirin Akhter, MP while Sramik Nirapotta Forum Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, BGMEA Vice- President

Mohammad Nasir, Former Secretary for Ministry of Labour and Employment Mikail Shiper, BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, ILO Country Office Bangladesh Acting Director Gagan Ra ibhandari, Director General of Department of Inspection for Factory And Establishment Md. Shamsuzzaman Bhuiyan, Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brig. Gen. Ali Ahmed Khan, PSC; Director of National Orthopedic Hospital and Rehabilitation Institution Director Professor Md. Abdul Gani Molla, BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra, Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Secretary Rowshan Zahan Sathi, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, CRP Executive Director Md. Shafiqul Islam, Accord Bangladesh Executive Director Rob Wayss, FES Country Resident Tina Blohm, CPD Recommendations Research Director Khandokar Golam Moazzem, Industri All Bangladesh Secretary General Md. Towhidur Rahman. BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmmed participated in the roundtable. Besides, experts associated with workplace safety, leaders of National Trade Union Federations and human rights organisations, owners organisations, specialists and organisations at occupational health, NGOs, lawyers and media representatives participated in the roundtable.

Recommendations from the roundtable:

- Forming a special committee following national construction policy and its proper implementation
- Institutionalizing workplace safety according to the experience of five years
- Providing compensation and accident insurance to the victims according to the standard of ILO
- Bringing workers under insurance and changing their wage structure for ensuring their lives security
- Forming an effective Safety Committee
- Resolving industrial problems by establishing Trade Unions
- Building mutual trust between owners and workers through social dialogue, coordinating the concerned stakeholders
- Building hospitals at field level
- Establishing mini fire station and chemical park in industrial area
- Clarifying the role of industrial police to concerned all and specially to Trade Union

Multi stakeholder consultation on ILO Convention on ending violence and harassment in the world of work



BILS Vice Chairman Shirin Akhter, MP addressing with others in the consultation on ending violence and harassment in the world of work

BILS and Care Bangladesh jointly organised a consultation with multi-stakeholder on ILO Convention titled “Ending Violence and Harassment in the World of Work” on May 23, 2018 at A S Mahmud Conference Hall of The Daily Star Center.

Taking recommendations from the concerned people and defining future activities to stop violence and

harassment at workplace were the main objectives of the meeting.

A keynote paper titled, “Reducing violence and harassment in the world of work: Policy position” was presented by Care Bangladesh Director- Women and Girls Empowerment Humaira Aziz where she said, the importance of global value chains and their impact on

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Domestic workers conference 2018 held ensuring domestic workers’ dignity and rights



Part of domestic workers conference 2018 for ensuring domestic workers’ dignity and rights

BILS, with the support of Oxfam Bangladesh organised Domestic Workers Conference-2018 on June 30, 2018 at National Press Club Conference Lounge.

Veteran Human Rights leader and Former Advisor of Care Taker Government Advocate Sultana

Kamal were present as chief guest in the conference while human rights leader Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Jatiya Sramik League President Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud, BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Joint Secretary General Dr.

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Human chain protesting construction workers death at Concord Tower



Part of human chain and protesting meeting demanding punishment to the criminals

Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF organised a protest meeting and human chain demanding punishment to the people responsible for the accident and death of three construction workers at Concord Tower in Dhanmondi on June 11, 2018 in front of National Press Club.

Speakers in the protest meeting and human chain said that, construction workers work in a risky situation whereas they have no safety of life at work place. It is necessary to ensure occupational safety of construction workers at workplace. Leaders demanded for fair investigation of the incidents of workers death at Dhanmondi Concord Tower and recently at Mirpur. They demanded punishment to the responsible person and providing compensation to the victims, strengthening inspection system at construction sector and defining 15 lac taka as compensation and starting social insurance for workers.

Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Jatiya Sramik Federation General Secretary Amirul Haque Amin, Sramik Nirapotta Forum Member Secretary A M Fayej Hossain, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra Office Secretary Shahida Parveen Shikha and National Trade Union Federation Youth Leaders delivered their consolidation speech in the human chain. Besides, Leaders of National Trade Union Federations, different human rights organisations and workers’ rights organisations participated in the protest meeting and human chain.

Consultation with multi-stakeholder

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the conditions faced by the workers, not only in formal situations but also throughout the value chain, must be addressed in the instruments. Citing examples of garment sector, she said complexity in the supply chains adds to the risk of poor conditions for the workers, also including violence and harassment.

The meeting was presided over by BILS Vice Chairman Shirin Akhter, MP while Additional Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Khondaker Mostan Hossain was present as chief guest. Besides, Care Bangladesh Assistant Country Director Prabodh Devkota, BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamood, BILS Executive Council Secretary Rowshan Jahan Sathi, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem were present among the discussants. BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed was present as moderator.

Khondaker Mostan Hossain said 127 countries will attend this year's ILO conference where Bangladesh government will try to raise its labour related issues. Bangladesh made significant progress in improving workers' condition and emerged as a labour-friendly country, he said. He stressed the need for changing mindset to tackle workplace harassment.

Care Bangladesh Country Assistant Director Prabodh Devkota said, any types of violence including sexual, mental, cultural and physical have negative impact not only on the workers but also on their families and productivity. He added that women, who had significant contribution in the production are the worst sufferer of sexual harassment at workplace and it should be stopped. Commitment from policy makers will be required to tackle workplace harassment, he said.

Alhaj Sukkur Mahamood said Industrialists do not want to understand the law, they do not want to accept the law. He added, owners decided what to

say in the ILC meeting.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem said that, Bangladesh government needs to focus on implementing different labour related international conventions which it ratified earlier.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan demanding ILO Convention on the issue said that it would create pressure on the government along with increasing public awareness.

Among others, high officials of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Leaders of owners association, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad-SKOP and Trade Union organisations at National level, leaders of IndustriAll Bangladesh Council and G-SKOP, leaders of human rights organisations, representatives of non-government organisations and different professional organisations were present in the consultation.

Recommendations from the meeting :

- Add multinational companies in the definition of owners
- Create a violence-free working environment for migrant workers
- Continue proper monitoring
- Raise awareness
- Develop leadership for promotion of higher posts
- Take initiatives to stop disturbance through mobile and messenger
- Form a model for providing health service

The meeting was presided over by BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan while BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed was present as moderator. Besides, FES Residential Representative Tine Blohm, Tannery Workers Union of Bangladesh President Abul Kalam Azad, Representative of IndustriAll Bangladesh Ruhul Amin, Jatiya Sramik Federation President Quamrul Ahsan, Asst. Professor of Department of Social Work at Jagannath University Mostafizur Rahman, JSJB General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, JSL Youth Trade Union Leader Abdul Halim were present among the discussants in the meeting.

Domestic workers conference 2018

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Wajedul Islam Khan, Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad-SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Jatiya Garhastha Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain were present among others. Besides, leaders of Domestic Workers Rights Network- DWRN affiliated human rights organisations and national based Trade Union Federations, professional organisations and leaders and domestic workers representatives involved with organising domestic workers of 19 areas in Dhaka city were present in the conference.

Speakers in the conference said that domestic workers right is a human right, but this right is being violated at present in everywhere. The level of torture on domestic workers is increasing which occurring all brutal killing. The Government has already declared 'Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy-2015'. In this case, it is necessary to bring the policy under Labour Law-2006 for protecting domestic workers and ensuring their human dignity, they mentioned. Besides, they urged to the government for ratifying ILO Convention 189 regarding Decent Work for Domestic Workers. In the conference they demanded to ensure domestic workers protection and welfare as well as to establish their allover dignity, to stop torture and any kind of violence and to ensure fair wage, compensation and Decent Work through the implementation of 'Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy-2015'. Keeping in mind the dignity of domestic workers, the speakers urged not to address them as 'Bua'.

Addressing Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan as Coordinator, National Domestic Workers Coordination Council was formed with 23 members.

Seminar on consciousness of society in the implementation of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015



Higher Officials of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Trade Union leaders and domestic workers are in the seminar

As part of activities of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, with BILS, a seminar titled, "Consciousness of Society in the Implementation of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015" was organised on May 3, 2018 at National Press Club VIP Lounge.

The seminar was chaired by BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud

while Inspector General of Department of Inspection for Factory and Establishment Md. Shamsuzzaman Bhuiyan were present as chief guest and Director General of Labour Department Shibnath Roy and Joint Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Md. Aminul Islam were present as

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Press Conference held on workers compensation



Leaders are in the press conference on workers compensation

Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF organised a press conference with the participation of Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), National Coordinating Council for Workers Education (NCCWE), IndustriAll Bangladesh Council (IBC),

Garments Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (GSKOP), Imarat Nirman Sramik Union-INSUB, Nirman Sramik League and Tannery Workers Union on June 6, 2018 at National Press Club Conference Lounge demanding

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Discussion meeting on project evaluation report held



Part of discussion meeting on project evaluation at BILS Seminar Hall

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a discussion meeting on April 16, 2018 at Railway Shishu Niketon, Tongi, Gazipur aimed at preparing a project evaluation report based on activities of last one year and four months.

Participants in the meeting discussed elaborately about their benefits and achieved knowledge and the way of informing the Union as well as the workers by participating in several training programmes. They also recommended for conducting such activities, which will play a leading role for creating awareness of the workers.

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Meeting on BILS-FES Cooperation



BILS and FES Officials are in the meeting for finalizing activities

A meeting regarding BILS- Friedrich- Ebert- Stiftung (FES) cooperation was held on April 9, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. Finalizing the activities of BILS-FES cooperation for April to November, 2018 was the main objective of the meeting.

Advocacy for strengthening and effective functioning of the 'Tripartite Consultative Council-TCC' in RMG Sector, advocacy for

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Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015

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special guest. Besides, BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Jatiya Garhastha Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain, Disaster Management activist Gawher Nayeem Wahra, Deputy Director of Local Government section of Dhaka DC Office Md. Ziaul Haque, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Bangladesh Labour Rights Journalist Forum President Kazi Abdul Hannan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and Leaders of Trade Union and human rights organisations and representatives of Central Monitoring Cell, Oxfam Bangladesh, National Human Rights Commission, City Corporation participated in the discussion.

Besides, Ministry of Labour and Employment officials, leaders of National Trade Union Federations, BILS, human rights and workers organisations, representatives of domestic workers organisations and domestic workers, media representatives and leaders of different professional organisations were present in the seminar.

Press Conference held on workers compensation

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to increase the amount of compensation, to start workplace accidental compensation scheme according to ILO Convention-121 and social security immediately and to ensure workplace safety for all workers.

Defining the standard of compensation in Labour Law in order to ensure compensation for all victim workers at workplace accident, determining the amount of taka15 lac as minimum compensation, starting 'Universal Social Insurance Scheme' at available and affordable price, and approving 'Employment Injury Scheme' proposed

by ILO, including all workers of country in Labour Law and ensuring their allover safety, compensation and health care, providing regular health checkup and free treatment aimed at occupational health protection of workers and creating a legal basis to provide financial support from workers welfare fund to the workers at informal sector were the demanding issues in the conference.

Sramik Nirapotta Forum Acting Coordinator and BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan read the written statement in the press conference while BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Secretary A M Nazim Uddin, Jatiya Garments Sramik Jote President Md. Abdul Wahed, NCCWE Chairman and Jatiya Sramik Federation General Secretary Amirul Haque Amin, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Secretary General Towhidur Rahman, Jatiya Garments Sramik Front Vice-President Khalekuzzaman Lipon and Member Shamsunnahar Josna, Bangladesh Mukto Sramik Federation Organising Secretary Shahidullah Badal, Safety and Rights Society Executive Director Sekendar Ali Mina, Awaz Foundation President Momtaj Begum, Ain O Salish Kendra Coordinator Abu Ahmed Foyzul Kabir Farid, BLAST Deputy Director (Advocacy) Advocate Mahbuba Akter, Garments Industry Sramik Jote President Sardar Khorshed, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin and representatives of Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), National Coordinating Council for Workers Education (NCCWE), IndustriAll Bangladesh Council (IBC), Garments Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (GSKOP), Imarat Nirman Sramik Union-INSUB, Nirman Sramik League and Tannery Workers Union were present in the conference.

Discussion meeting on project evaluation report held

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Leaders from Tongi-Gazipur area National Trade Union Federations and IndustriAll Bangladesh Council who participated in foundation, intermediate and advanced training course under this project took part in the meeting.

Another meeting regarding the same issue was held on April 11, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall with the participation of Leaders from Mirpur area National Trade Union Federation and IndustriAll Bangladesh Council who participated in foundation, intermediate and advanced training course under this project.

Meeting on BILS-FES Cooperation

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workers' rights and Social Safety at informal sector (Tea Garden and Fishing Workers), capacity building of youth Trade Union Leaders and organizers, regular publication of BILS to equip the TU and other stakeholders with necessary for updating information were the discussed issues in the meeting.

FES Country Representative Tina Blohm and Programme Coordinator Arunduty Rani, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, Programme Officer Monirul Kabir and Information Coordinator Md. Yousuf Al-Mamun participated in the planning meeting.

Meeting on research planning and strategy



A meeting between BILS and SNV on research planning and strategy was held on April 15, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall.

National Consultation held on involvement of Trade Unions in global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration



Discussants in the national consultation at BILS Seminar Hall

BILS and Solidarity Center Bangladesh jointly organised a National consultation titled "Involvement of Trade Unions in Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" on May 12, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall.

The consultation was organised to share and brief two keynote papers regarding "Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration" and

"National Perspective of Migration TU Involvement".

The consultation was chaired by BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar while Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel delivered the welcome speech. Solidarity Center Bangladesh Senior Programme Officer Dr. Lily Gomes, BILS Secretary

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Memorial speech and discussion meeting held on 200th birth anniversary of Karl Marx



Shekhar Dutta is delivering his speech

BILS organised a memorial speech and discussion meeting on observing 200th birth anniversary of Karl Marx on May 29, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised to discuss about glorious work and life of the scholar.

Discussants in the meeting discussed about the contribution of Karl Marx for establishing May Day as the reflection of workers' rights through highlighting the positive side of the lifestyle of Karl Marx, the trends of observing May Day all over the world as well as in Bangladesh and the

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BILS Publication

- "My child should be safe in all jobs" following this slogan BILS published a poster on April, 2018 in observance of recalling five years of Rana Plaza building collapse. A total number of 1000 copies of poster was published and distributed.



- "Life lose for livelihood is no more" with this slogan Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF published a poster and leaflet on April, 2018 in observance of recalling five years of Rana Plaza building collapse. A total number of 1000 copies of poster and 1000 copies of leaflet were published and distributed.



- BILS published a souvenir on May, 2018 in observance of May Day. A total number of 700 copies of souvenir were published and distributed.



Media Briefing held in Chittagong

BILS organized a media briefing on May 3, 2018 at the Tai Wah Restaurant in Chittagong under its DGB-BW project activity.

The media briefing was organized to focus on the earlier project activities of BILS especially on health and safety issues and to focus on 2-day BILS-Occupational Health and Safety Fair-2018 to be held on May 4-5, 2018 at Chittagong Muslim Institute Hall premises. A written briefing note was read out by JSL Central Committee Joint Secretary Md. Shafar Ali.

BILS-LRSC Center Coordinator A. M. NazimUddin, BILS-LRSC Center Committee Member Tapan Dutta, Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan, Information and BILS LRSC Documentation Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee, Accounts Officer Md. Saiful Uddin and representatives from different print and electronic media participated in the media briefing.

Refresher course for right reporters held in Chittagong

BILS with the support of DGB BW organised a three-day training titled, "Refreshers Course for right reporters on May 14-16, 2018 at Seminar Hall, Hotel Asian SR in Chittagong.

Main objective was to boost up the participants for preparing, sending and publishing their write on different labour issues especially focusing on the right violation and existing workplace situation with a view to promote decent work and social justice for workers.

Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Chittagong Professor Mohammed Morshedul Islam, The Daily Suprovat Bangladesh, Chittagong Assistant Editor Subash Chandra Dey, Chittagong BTUC President Tapan Dutta, JSL Central Committee Joint Secretary Md. Shafar Ali, BILS-LRSC Center Coordinator A. M. Nazim Uddin and local level participants from different Trade Union Federations participated in the training programme.

Planning, Review and Sharing Bi Monthly Meeting

BILS organized a discussion meeting titled "Planning, Review and Sharing Bi Monthly Meeting" of the Right Reporters Team on June 25, 2018 at the Seminar Hall of BILS-LRSC Chittagong under its DGB-BW project.

The main objective of the team was to focus on the right violation of the workers and creating awareness among the various sections of the society and ensuring decent work, workplace safety and the implementation of the existing Trade Union right for the workers as per the national regulations and the Labour Law.

Discussants in the meeting talked about their latest development in terms of writing and preparing report, letter, feature etc. and sending and publishing those accordingly in local media.

BILS Secretary and JSL Chittagong Central Committee Joint Secretary Md. Shafar Ali, BILS-LRSC Centre Coordinator and BJSD Chittagong President A.M. Nazim Uddin, BILS-LRSC Information and Documentation Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee, Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan were present in the meeting.

Review and coordination meeting of young organisers held

A review and coordination meeting of BILS-Young Organisers Team was held on June 11, 2018 at BILS Labour Resource and Support Centre in Chittagong.

In the meeting, team members emphasized to form new Union in four sectors such as construction, RMG, hotel-restaurant and health-diagnostic, to start activities after completing registration process.

The meeting was presided over by BILS-LRSC Coordinator A. M. Nazimuddin while District TUC President Tapan Dutta, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Divisional General Secretary Sheikh Nurullah Bahar, BILS-LRSC Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan, Team Member Jahed Uddin Shahin, Mizanur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam Mohammad Ali, Kurmi Barua, Ariful Islam participated in the discussion.

orderly and regular migration

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General Nazrul Islam Khan and Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Socialist Labour Front General Secretary RazekuzzamanRatan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan UddinAhmmed and Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Mohammad Nazrul Islam participated in the discussion.

200th birth anniversary of Karl Marx

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challenges and barriers faced by workers for observing May Day at present time in Bangladesh.

The programme was presided over by BILS Advisory Council Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed while Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust President Shekhar Dutta, BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Professor of Sociology Department at University of Dhaka Dr. Monirul Islam Khan, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Youth Trade Union leaders and BILS Officials participated in the meeting.

Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan urged to the young Trade Unionist to carry out the Trade Union movement ahead inspired by May Day spirit.

Shekhar Dutta reviewed the world Trade Union movement and the contribution of Karl Marx in this movement.

Razekuzzaman Ratan shared his inspiration getting from Karl Marx's biography as well as his philosophy towards Trade Union movement.

Dr. Monirul Islam Khan discussed about approach of young Trade Union leaders for facing the challenges in Bangladesh in the context geopolitics.

Study and training camp held for youth organisers of NTUF



BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed is conducting the session on time management at WVA Seminar Hall

A day long youth study and training camp held on April 7, 2018 at Dhanmondi lake aiming to boost up the youth Trade Union organisers. Organisers from different National Trade Union Federations attended the event held at Dhanmondi Lake, BILS office and WVA seminar hall.

Main objectives of the programme were to create common understanding

on contemporary labour and TU issues among the participants and to develop participants' skills on different Trade Union issues, to create positive motivation and encourage to youth organisers for promotion of values towards Trade Union development and leadership skill. The programme was conducted through a number of

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Condolence meeting held recalling BILS founder Chairman Abul Kashem Choudhury



BILS Advisory and Executive Council Members and Trade Union Leaders are in the condolence meeting

A condolence meeting was held on April 24, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall recalling the contribution of struggling worker's leaders, BILS Founder Chairman and Advisory Council Member Abul Kashem Choudhury.

Mentioning the vital role of Abul Kashem Choudhury for establishing workers' rights Leaders in the meeting said that he was devoted to the welfare of country as well as society. Recalling his working life and leading role for ensuring workers' rights, speakers said that, he had always stood beside the workers during their crisis and worked for the workers welfare.

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Opinion sharing meeting between Oxfam and DWRN representatives held



Part of opinion sharing meeting at BILS Seminar Hall

An opinion sharing meeting between Oxfam and DWRN representatives was held on April 30, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised aiming to share opinion between Oxfam and Network representatives on activities, challenge and way forward of Domestic Workers Right Network.

Oxfam Portfolio Manager Min WahVoon, Jatio Garhastha Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain, BILS Executive Council Member Md. Abdul Wahed, BLAST Deputy Director Advocate Md. Barkat Ali, Oxfam Senior Programme Manager

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BILS capacity building workshop held



Special Consultant of LOFTF Council Thail Jens Aarup is conduct the workshop

A four-day capacity building workshop under BILS-LO FTF Project held on June 25-28, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. The workshop was organised to take decision for the improvement of some identified areas.

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Leadership orientation on international instrument in ship breaking

An orientation programme titled, "Leadership Orientation on International Instrument in Ship Breaking" was organised under ongoing research programme of BILS-LO FTF Project on May 25, 2018 at Hotel Mishkah.

Basel Convention-1989, IMO Hong Kong Convention-2009, EU Ship Recycling regulation-2013, ILO guideline on Safety and Health in Ship Breaking for Asia Countries and Turkey-2004 were the discussed issues in the programme.

SBWTUF Convener Tapan Dutta chaired the programme while Associate Professor of Department of Law at Chittagong University Muhammad Shaheen Choudhury presented the keynote paper. SBWTUF Leaders A. M. Nazimuddin, Md. Mosiuddoula, Sheikh Nurullah Bahar, Kazi Altaf Hossain, Rizwanur Rahman Khan, Md. Nurul Absar, A K M Mominul Islam, Dilip Kumar Nath, Abdur Rahim Master, Md. Ali were present as discussants.

Seminar held on research report dissemination

A seminar held on research report dissemination on May 5, 2018 at Muslim Hall Chattar in Chittagong. In the seminar a final report on four sectors in construction, RMG, hotel-restaurant and health- diagnostics was presented by Associate Professor of Department of Law at Chittagong University Muhammad Shaheen Choudhury and Assistant Professor of Department of Social Work at Jagannath University Mostafiz Ahmed.

Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra Chittagong District President Tapan Dutta chaired the seminar while BILS-LRSC Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan was present as moderator. Jatiya Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed, DIFE DIG of Chittagong Division Abdul Hai, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Chittagong Trade Union Leaders participated in the discussion.

BILS capacity building workshop held (After Page-9)

BILS strategy, monitoring and evaluation, operational manual and outline and content for core staff training were the main discussed issue of the workshop.

Special Consultant of LO-FTF Council, Thailand Jens Aarup, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin and BILS Officials participated in the workshop.

Research Report dissemination meeting held (After Page-12)

Exploring the link between trade and labour standards in Bangladesh's RMG sector as well as footwear sector are the main objective of the study. Professor of Institute of Bangladesh Studies at Rajshahi University Dr. Jakir Hossain presented a keynote paper on the research where he explained the three types of certification such as legislation, core labour standards and noncore labour standards that are necessary to export any product from Bangladesh to abroad.

Discussants in the meeting took decision on translating and publishing the research report in Bengali for better understanding of national stakeholders. They recommended to sensitize national and international Trade Union leaders about the core labour standard situation in RMG and Footwear sectors in Bangladesh and Identify the role and responsibilities of trade union leaders for way forward

Study and training camp held for youth organisers of NTUF (After Page-9)

sessions such as Yoga, research and reporting, time management etc.

FES Residential Representative Tina Blohm, INCIDIN Bangladesh Executive Director A.K.M. Masud Ali, Yoga Facilitator Amia Enam, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed and BILS senior officials, BILS cultural group and youth Trade Union organisers from different National Trade Union Federations participated in the study and training camp.

BILS Ongoing Research

BILS Research Department are conducting two researches on two burning issues to observe the present situation of these sectors and find out the ways of improvement in this sectors.

- Research to examine the wages practices in Bangladesh's RMG & their implications to workers life
- Study/Review of relevant laws/policies/ rules and to identify knowledge/policy gaps in relation to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at factory level

Opinion sharing meeting between Oxfam and DWRN representatives held

(After Page-9)

Roksana Akhter and Representative Amanur Rahman, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin, Advocacy Coordinator Adv. Mohammad Nazrul Islam were present in the meeting.

Condolence meeting held recalling BILS founder Chairman

(After Page-9)

The condolence meeting was presided over by BILS Chairman Md. HabiburRahman Shiraz while BILS Advisory Council Member Ashraf Hossain, Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Abdul Matin Master, A AMukit Khan, Vice Chairman Md. MojiburRahmanBhuiyan and Anwar Hossain, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Secretary RowshanJahanSathi, Abdul Kader Howlader, Nurul Islam Khan Nasim and AbulKalam Azad, Executive Council Member NasrinAkter Dina, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan UddinAhmed and Leaders of Trade Union Federations and BILS Officials participated in the meeting.

Citizens from all walks paid homage

(After Page-12)

BILS Vice Chairman and Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BLAST Honourary Executive Director Barrister Sara Hossain, Safety and Rights Executive Director Sekendar Ali Mina, BILS Executive Council Member Md. Abdul Wahed, Awaz Foundation Director Nahidul Islam Noyon and Sramik Nirapotta Forum affiliated organisations, SKOP Leaders, National Trade Union Federations and BILS leaders were present in the programme at Jurain graveyard.

Recalling deceased workers of Rana Plaza collapse, leaders said that quick trial and exemplary punishment are not yet ensured while five years of this incident already have passed away. They urged to ensure trial and punishment of responsible persons through proper judgment. Emphasizing on building national culture in order to ensure workplace safety they urged to ensure long term treatment and rehabilitation of injured and victim workers considering their loss of earning on the basis of ILO Convention 121 and Fatal Accident Act 1885 and compensation order given by the honourable High Court.

Prominent Lawyer and Constitution Expert Dr. Kamal Hossain, Gonosastha Kendra Founder Dr. Zafrullah Choudhury, Manobadhikar Sangskriti Foundation Founder President Advocate Sultana Kamal, prominent journalist and columnist Syed Abul Maksud, BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and Leaders of Trade Union Federations at National Level and representatives of civil society participated in the programme organised at Savar Rana Plaza accident site.

Recalling this disaster of Rana Plaza leaders urged to strengthen workplace

safety all over the country. Besides, they urged to take necessary actions for building specialized hospital for injured workers, initiating accident insurance, rehabilitation for victim workers and to help them for getting rid of mental trauma. Leaders demanded to identify the reasons behind the repetition accidents of this kind through proper investigation and disclose it publicly in future.

Occupational Health and Safety Fair

(After Page-12)

Dutta presided over the programme while Jatiya Sramik League Central Committee Joint Secretary Md. Shafar Ali was present as moderator. JSJ President and BILS Advisory Committee Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed, JSL Leader Shafi Bangali, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin A Hmmed, Fire Service & Civil Defense, Nandonkanon Sub-Station, Chittagong Station In Charge Abdul Mannan, YPSA Project Director Md. Ali Shahin, Sangsaptak Lead Trainer Jainab Begum Chowdhury, Agrazatra Haliashor Café In Charge Gulzar Begum, CUFL H R Department Official KanonBarua, BSRM Safety Department Official Aman Ullah participated in the discussion in the inaugural programme.

In the programme, A J M Nasir Uddin urged to the concerned all including owners and workers to come forward for ensuring workers occupational health and safety.

An issue based seminar on "Role of Stakeholders in Improving Occupational Health and Safety at Workplace: Chittagong Perspective" was held on May 4, 2018 at the premises of Muslim Institute hall, Chittagong under its DGB-BW project.

The seminar was organized aiming to focus on the existing health and safety scenario at various sectors and workplace especially in Chittagong like RMG,

Construction, Hotel and Restaurant, Health and Metal sector. Through sharing opinion and experiences drawing recommendation on occupational health and safety situation at Chittagong was the main objective of the seminar.

The speakers pointed out that, due to improper implementation of Labour Law workers are being victimized in terms of their health and occupational safety at workplace. Later, several recommendations were finalized in the discussion. The half-day programme was conducted by BILS LRSC Documentation Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee.

Meeting held between ILO

(After Page-12)

on labour law review and process of ILO insurance scheme.

Discussants in the meeting recommended for taking initiatives to unite Trade Union movement, campaigning for living wage, implementation of more structural and strategic ILO activities, functional role of DIFE and wage board in terms of workers interest, increasing workers minimum wage on the basis of current living standard, forming institutional framework for monitoring factory improvement.

BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar and Roy Ramesh Chandra, Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha General Secretary Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh President Quamrul Ahsan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Working President Md. Abdul Wahed, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed and Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin participated in the meeting.

Meeting between ILO Governing Body and Trade Union leadership



Discussants in the meeting for discussing pm contemporary issues of labour

In connection to the recent visit of Ms. Catelene Passchier, Chairperson of the Workers' Group, ILO Governing Body to Bangladesh, a Meeting was organized on April 1, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised aiming to discuss about contemporary issues of labour and Trade Union movement, observation of ILO

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Research Report dissemination meeting



Part of Research Report Dissemination Meeting

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a meeting for dissemination of research report titled, "Core Labour Standard Plus (CLS+) : Linking of Trade and Decent Work in Global Supply Chains in Bangladesh" on April 26, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall.

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Citizens from all walks paid homage to the deceased workers recalling five years of Rana Plaza building collapse



Leaders are at Jurain graveyard paying homage to the deceased workers of Rana Plaza

Sramik Nirapotta Forum paid homage to the deceased workers of Rana Plaza on April 24, 2018 at Jurain graveyard while a civil tribute programme was organised in front of Savar Rana Plaza.

Sramik Nirapotta Forum Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, BILS Advisory Council Member and Jatiya Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed,

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Occupational Health and Safety Fair 2018 held in Chittagong



Chittagong City Corporation Mayor A J M Nasir Uddin delivering speech in the seminar

BILS organised two-day "Occupational Health and Safety Fair 2018" on May 4-5, 2018 at the premises of Muslim Institute hall, Chittagong.

In the fair 17 stall from different organisations were set up where different activities, publications and materials on workers' occupational

health and safety were displayed.

Being present as chief guest Chittagong City Corporation Mayor A J M Nasir Uddin inaugurated the fair. Bangladesh Trade Union Centre Chittagong District President Tapan

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Published by: BILS Information Department



www.bilsbd.org

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Printed by: Print Touch, 85/1, Fokirapool