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National seminar on industrial dispute settlement



Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoLE Md. Mujibur Haque MP remains present as chief guest.

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a national seminar titled, "Analysing the Role of Different Authorities in Industrial Dispute Settlement and Developing Comprehensive Recommendations"

on October 22, 2019 at Azimur Rahman Hall, The Daily Star Centre, Dhaka.

The main objective of the seminar was to present the study report

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Report Sharing Meeting on Decent Work and workplace safety Situation 2019



BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud delivers his speech.

BILS Organised a report Sharing Meeting on "Decent work and workplace safety situation 2019" on December 30, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka. Research reports on Decent work situation, workplace

Accident and humiliation, industrial dispute and workers action in 2019 were shared in the meeting. BILS prepared this report on the basis of National News Papers.

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National seminar on industrial dispute

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titled 'Study to Analyse the Role of Different Authorities in Industrial Dispute Settlement and Developing Comprehensive Recommendations' to concerned stakeholder of RMG and inland water transport sector and to take recommendations through discussion for dispute settlement in these sectors and to enrich the study report by determining the possible role of concerned stakeholders. Professor of Sociology Department at University of Dhaka Dr. Monirul Islam Khan presented the keynote paper regarding this issue.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the programme, while BILS Advisory Council member Naimul Ahsan Jewel act as a Moderator. BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan delivered welcome speech, while Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Labour and Employment Md. Mujibul Haque Chunnun was present as chief guest. Bangladesh Employers Federation President Kamran T. Rahman, Member of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Labour and Employment Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, MP; Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment A K M Rafiqul Islam, BIWTA Joint Director (Port) Saiful Islam Khan were present as special guests. IndustriAll Bangladesh Council General Secretary Z M Kamrul Anam, Bangladesh Trade Union Shanga General Secretary Choudhury Ashiqul Alam, ILO SDO and IR Project Programme Officer Uttam Kumar Das, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) representative Md. Abdul Wahed, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Assistant Director of the Department of Labour Masuda Sultana, BKMEA Senior Joint Secretary Sharif Hossain, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr.

Wajedul Islam Khan participated in the discussion.

Discussants in the seminar recommended for arranging social dialogue for building good relationship between the owners and workers, increasing price of products to prevent factories shutdown, proper implementation of Labour Law, inclusion of service benefit in the Labour Law, proper implementation of arbitration mechanism for resolving disputes effectively, both owners and workers have to work jointly for developing belongingness, skill development of the workers for ensuring their job guarantees, national TCC should be formed with the coordination of sector based TCC representatives, raising awareness among the owners and workers about dispute settlement mentioned in Labour Law and Labour Rules, building capacity of the government officials who are involved with this issue, arranging open mind discussion with the participation of owners and workers in order to resolve the disputes.

Representatives of SKOP affiliated national trade union federations, IndustriAll Bangladesh Council affiliated trade union federations, officials of government and private organisations, leaders of BGMEA, BKMEA and BEF, researchers, lawyers, representatives of civil society, human rights organisations and media were present in the national seminar. A total number of 80 participants were present.

Consultation meeting on elimination of violence

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Representative Md. Shahabuddin, BILS Director Kohinoor Mahamood and Nazma Yesmin, Care Bangladesh representative Nargis Begum were present at the meeting.

TU leaders visit accident affected plastic factory

(After Page-7)

December 18, 2019 at Hizlatala, Keranigonj.

Jatiya Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Somajtrantik Sromik Front President Razekuzzaman Ratan, Sramik Nirapotta Forum Acting Member Secretary Sekandar Ali Mina, Awaj Foundation Director (Operations) Nahidul Hasan Nayon, Ain O Salish Kendra Senior Deputy Director Nina Gowshami, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Assistant Director (Law) Rashedul Islam, Bangladesh Srama Adhikar Forum Joint Secretary Lovely Yeasmin, Nagorik Uddoyog Programm Officer Mahbub Juel and BILS Programm Officer Saifuzzaman Mehrab were present.

Sramik Nirapotta Forum leaders demand fair trial and exemplary punishment to the criminals in Plastic Factory of Keranigonj, Luxury Fan Factory of Gazipur and all other workplace accidents, proper compensation and rehabilitation for the victims and to strengthen inspection system, security and protection at workplace immediately without any delay.

They said that risky factories in residential areas not only increase workers' safety risk, but also threaten the livelihood of residential people in the area. During the meeting, the speakers demanded to identify all the risk factories and demanded immediate action.

This is to be mentioned that at least 20 workers were killed and 12 critically injured were hospitalized after a fire incident at Prime Pet and Plastics Industries at Hizaltala area of Chunqutia, South Keraniganj on December 11, 2019.

Roundtable on Tea Workers' rights and social protection



BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain chaired the roundtable.

BILS with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organized a Roundtable titled "Tea Garden Workers' Rights and Social Protection: Present Situation and Way Forward" on November 29, 2019 at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall of The Daily Star building, Dhaka.

Analysing the present situation of tea workers' rights and social secu-

urity, creating advocacy strategies for formulating policies aimed at making positive changes in their quality of life are the main objectives of the programme.

Speakers at the roundtable said, tea workers are still victims of discrimination, just as they had been during British rule. Without improving workers' living standard, the goal to become middle income

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Study Circle with youth Trade Union leaders held



Trainer Shakil Ahmed conducts the session

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a study circle on December 8, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

Developing a set of skilled and committed youth trade union

leaders who are playing the role in the national trade union federations for improving the standard of life and rights of the working class people was the main objective of the programme.

BILS Joint Secretary General and

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Orientation workshop on counseling and volunteerism



Trade Union Leaders participate the workshop

International Labour Organisation-ILO, BILS and NCCWE jointly organised "Capacity Building Training" for TU leadership on ILO supervisory mechanism, which was held on October 20-21, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka. Main objectives of this training were to enhance skill and knowledge of TU leaders on ILO supervisory mechanism, to provide an in-depth knowledge on International Labour Conference (Steps,

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BILS Executive Council meeting held



BILS EC members participate in the meeting

BILS Executive Council meeting held on November 13, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz, Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud and Anwar Hossain, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan, Dr.

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Report Sharing Meeting on Decent Work

(After Page-1)

BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud Chaired the meeting while BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan delivered welcome speech. BILS Vice Chairman and Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Jatiya Sramik Federation General Secretary and BILS Advisory Council Member Amirul Haque Amin, Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation President Touhidur Rahman, BILS Director Nazma Yesmin also spoke at the meeting. BILS Decent Work Desk Officer Fariba Tabassum presented the report, while Deputy Director (Information) Md. Yousuf Al Mamun and Researcher Moushumi Nishat Shimul discussed on different issues according to the questions of the Journalists.

According to the report, a total of 423 incidents of labour unrests took place in the industrial sector in 2019, while at least 131 unrests occurred in readymade garment sector this year. The report showed that 63 incidents of unrests took place in jute mills, 61 in transport sector and 26 in media during the time.

Most of the unrests took place over unpaid wages and allowances, labour rights, lay-offs and low wages according to the report, which was prepared on the basis of media reports from January 1 to December 25 of 2019.

At least 1,175 workers, including seven women workers, killed in workplace accidents in 2019 across the country. In 2018, the death toll in workplace accidents was 1,020. It also showed 508 workers death in transport sector, 131 workers in construction sector, 116 in agricultural sector, 85 day labourers, 62 fishermen, 35 electricians, 29 migrant workers, 24 plastic factory workers, 23 brick kiln

workers, 14 ship breaking workers and six workers at garment sector.

Besides, some 329 workers were killed including 48 women and several hundred were injured in a total of 1,285 instances of violence including murder, torture and rape. In 2018 Number of incidents of violence was 764. It showed that 577 migrant workers, 125 garment workers, 115 transport workers, 78 fishermen, 67 brick kiln workers, 51 domestic workers and 49 agricultural workers faced abuses during the time.

According to the report, 125 RMG workers killed in violence in 2019. The number of men workers was 39 and women workers was 86 including 38 dead, 75 Injured, 5 missing and 7 workers suicide. The report said in 2018, at RMG sector a total number of 131 workplace unrest were occurred in RMG Sector. In last year, one worker was died due to unrest in RMG sector while 187 workers were injured and among them 187 were Male and 63 were Female worker.

Report said, At least 11,000 workers have been fired for their alleged involvement in the recent labour unrest in the country, demanding due implementation of the wage structure and removing discrimination. some 5,845 workers have been sued cases in Savar, Ashulia and Gazipur over the RMG sector unrest, and over a hundred of workers are in jail. Besides, the owners are hanging photos of the terminated workers at factories, which is also creating untold sufferings for the workers.

Speakers said, it is a matter of concern that the number of workplace accidents and violence are increasing gradually. Ensuring a decent salary and safe workplace environment for workers are imperative if we want to make the country's economic progress sustainable. Trade union right is one of the preconditions of ensuring Decent Work in the industrial sector, they added.

Roundtable on Tea Workers'

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country cannot be achieved, they added. They demanded permanent residential facilities for tea workers. The workers' children have been deprived of primary education due to lack of schools near their residence, they underscored.

BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain chaired the meeting, while BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan delivered welcome speech. BILS Advisory Council Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary General Dr. wajedul Islam Khan, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Society for Health Extension and Development-SHED Director Philip Gain, Bangladesh Tea Workers Union Chief Advisor Tapan Datta, Bangladesh Tea Workers Union General Secretary Rambhajan Koiri, BILS Secretary Abdul Kader Howlader, Executive Council Members Abdul Wahed and Pulak Ranjan Dhar, FES Programme Coordinator Arunduty Rani, Representatives of Chattagram and Sylhet area tea workers, BILS and SKOP affiliated National Trade Union Federations representatives were present at the meeting.

BILS Executive Council meeting

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Wajedul Islam Khan and Md. Serajul Islam, Finance Secretary Md. Rafiqul Islam Rafiq, Secretary Md. Kabir Hossain, Adv. Delwar Hossain Khan, Md. Alauddin Mia, Abdul Kader Howlader, Md. Safar Ali and Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Council member Kutubuddin Ahmed, Md. Abdul Wahed, Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Umma Hasan Jhalmal, B M Zafar, Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Nasrin Akhter Dina, Kazi Rahima Akhter Sathi and Shamim Ara were present among others in the meeting. BILS Director Kohinoor Mahamood and Nazma Yesmin also attended the meeting.

National workshop on finalizing advocacy strategy for fishing workers



Participants in the national workshop

BILS with Supported by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organized a “National Workshop with NTUC’s and other Stakeholders to Finalize the National Advocacy Strategy for Rights & Social Protection of Fishing Workers” on November 30, 2019 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Conference hall, Dhaka.

The workshop was organised aiming to conduct national based continuous advocacy programme for ensuring fishing workers’ rights and safety and to determine strategy for implementing the activities.

BILS Advisory Council member Mesbahuddin Ahmed chaired the programme and BILS Executive Council Member Abdul Wahed was

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Oxfam Delegation Visit BILS Office



Oxfam Deligation and BILS Officials in a group photo

A Five Member delegation of OXFAM Australia and OXFAM Ireland visited BILS office on December 3, 2019.

A meeting was held between the delegation and BILS officials at BILS Seminar Hall. Workplace situation in Bangladesh RMG Sector and BILS initiatives in this regard were discussed in the meeting.

Public Engagement Director of Oxfam

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Inception of Securing Rights project 16 Days of Activism observed



Shirin Akhter, MP delivers speech as Chief Guest.

Under the Securing Rights of Women Domestic Workers in Bangladesh (SRDW) project, number of mass awareness Program organised to make people aware about Women’s Rights and Gender Justics as well as the Domestic Workers Protection and

Welfare Policy-2015. Oxfam along with all implementing partners of the project observed the occasion in Dhaka through various public events. BILS is one of the partners in this project, while other partners are Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), UCEP, Nari

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National roundtable on developing strategy for strengthening TCC in RMG



Shirin Akhter, MP presides over the meeting

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a roundtable titled “National Roundtable on Developing National Advocacy Strategy for Strengthening and Functional TCC in RMG” on November 21, 2019 at Tawfiq Aziz Conference Hall, Daily Star Center, Dhaka. Taking recommendations from the

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Orientation workshop on counseling and volunteerism

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procedure of adopting labour standard), applying and promoting ILO standards and ILO supervisory mechanism, ILO Complaint Procedure, follow up mechanisms of complaint and TU role in national and international level after submission of complaint.

ILO Country office Bangladesh officer in Charge Neeran Ramjuthan, NCCWE Chairman Anwar Hossain, ILO India Expert Adv. Ramapriya Gopalakrishnan, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment (LPR) Khondaker Mostan Hossain, NCCWE Member Secretary Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, BILS Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, Program Officer of ILO Bangladesh Md. Saidul Islam, BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, Labour Law expert Adv. Nazrul Islam and National TU leaders were present at

Study Circle with youth Trade Union leaders

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Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Zakir Hossain, BILS Senior Trainer Khandaker Abdus Salam, FES Programme Coordinator Arunduty Rani, Trainer Shakil Ahmed, BILS Sr. Programme Officer Monirul Kobir and Youth Trade Union Organisers from different trade unions were present at the programme.

National workshop on finalizing advocacy strategy

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Act as a Moderator at the programme. BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan delivered welcome speech. FES Programme Coordinator Arunduty Rani

also addressed at the programme. Fishing workers leaders from Khulna, Cox's Bazar, Chandpur and Barishal areas shared their experience.

Another workshop was organised on on advocacy and strategy on November 14, 2019 at Fishing Cooperative Association office in Chandpur.

Chandpur Fisheries Merchants Cooperative Association Ltd. President Haji Abdul Khalek Mal, Secretary General Haji Md. Shobeborat, Chandpur District Fishing workers league President Md. Manik Dewan, Secretary General Shah Alam Mollik, Chandpur Fishing workers and Boat Owners Association General Secretary Yousuf Miji, Socialist Workers Front Chandpur District President Shahjahan Talukder, FES Programme Coordinator Arunduty Rani, BILS Sr. Programme Officer Monirul Kobir were present at the programme.

Oxfam Delegation Visit BILS Office

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Ireland Emer Mullins, Ambassador of Oxfam Ireland Lorraine keane, BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hassan, Director Nazma Yesmin, Consultant Abu Eusuf Mollah, Deputy Director Md. Yousuf Al Mamun and Md. Monirul Islam, SPO-GWL of Oxfam Bangladesh Rifat Tanjila, Volunteer of Oxfam Ireland Jeannie O'Brien, and Anika Tasneem were present at the meeting.

BILS participated International Migrant Fair

(After Page-7)

Minister Imran Ahmad presided over the programme, while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present as chief guest. Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, President of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) Benjir Ahmed, MP, Expatriates'

Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Md. Selim Reza, and IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri also spoke at the event. High Officials of Ministry and concerned NGO representatives participated in the day long programme.

Experience sharing meeting of Campaign Team

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others by BILS Senior Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee and Rizwanur Rahman Khan, team members namely Nasrin Akter, Nurul Kabir Swapan, and Nazma Akter also spoke on the occasion.

The meeting briefly shared and discussed on the team performance. Finally, to increase the campaign initiatives several field-level programmes were finalized from the ongoing BILS/DGB-BW project. The meeting urged the local TU leadership to provide necessary support to the team members especially the women and youth.

Another experience sharing meeting of the trainers' team was held on December 14, 2019 at Hotel Asian SR, Chattogram.

National roundtable on developing strategy

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discussants aimed at making TCC more effective and strong was the main objective of the meeting.

BILS Vice Chairperson Shirin Akhter, MP chaired the meeting, while Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan act as a Moderator at the working session. Among others, BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, SKOP Joint Convener Mesbahuddin Ahmed, BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, FES Residential Representative Tina Marie Blohm, TCC Member Quamrul Ahsan, Naimul Ahsan Jewel and Adv. Delwar Hossain Khan and IBC President Ruhul Amin were present at the roundtable.

Consultation meeting on elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work



Participants in the consultation meeting

BILS and Care Bangladesh organised a Consultation Meeting with TCC members titled "Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work" on November 27, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

The Main Objective of this meeting was to point out the roles for TCC Members in the Ratification of ILO Convention 190 (Violence and Harassment Convention) from their

respective position. TCC Members Abdus Salam Khan, Mesbahuddin Ahmed and Quamrul Ahsan, BILS Vice Chairperson Shirin Akhter, MP, Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud and Anwar Hossain, IBC President Ruhul Amin, Secretary General Z M kamrul Anam, BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, BLF Secretary General Adv. Delwar Hossain Khan, JSJ President Shamim Ara, BSF

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BILS Journal launching ceremony



Participants with newly published Journal

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a journal launching ceremony and consultation meeting with trade union leaders, journalists, academicians and civil society representatives on November 29, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall.

Taking directions, recommendations and initiatives from the discussion of leaders and academicians on recently published journals were the main objectives of the meeting.

In the meeting the discussants recommended to increase the

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BILS participated at International Migrant Fair 2019



Visitors visit BILS stall in International Migrant Fair

BILS participated in International Migrant Fair 2019, organised by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment on December 19, 2019 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center. BILS also set up a stall where a number of publications regarding BILS activities, research were displayed.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

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TU leaders visit accident affected plastic factory in Keraniganj



TU Leaders at the accident affected place.

Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF, Sramik Karmochary Oikyo Parishad-SKOP, a number of National Trade Union Federations and Human Rights Organisations visited accident affected Prime pet plastic Industries in Keraniganj and discussed with victim workers on

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Inception of Securing Rights project

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Maitree, Hellotask Limited (An employment agency) and Red Orange Limited (A communications agency). On November 25, 2019 during the inception workshop of 'Securing Rights' project the inaugural programme of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was organised by the project at Chuti Resort, Gazipur.



Oath taking moment by all participants

Oxfam in Bangladesh country team with participation from all six implementing partners continued the campaign at the National Press Club Auditorium on December 05, 2019. They organized a human chain, rally and discussion session on 'Workplace safety and Prevention of violence against women Domestic Workers' in implementing partners and Oxfam. Shirin Akhter, MP was present as the Chief Guest at the event, while Coordinator of Domestic Worker Rights Network (DWRN) Abul Hossain and Executive Director of Nari Maitree Shaheen Akter Doli were remain as Special Guests. Senior Programme Officer of Oxfam in Bangladesh Tarek Aziz was the session moderator. The Chief Guest said that women workers need to be trained in various issues through which they will be able to work well in homes and understand the laws that are essential in giving

them a safe and secured life.

The project also organised a human chain and opinion sharing meeting to observe International Human Rights Day as part of 16 Days of Activism on December 10, 2019 respectively at Humayun Road and Dnet office in Dhaka.

The sharing session titled 'Rights of Domestic Worker Our Role' was presided over by Executive Director of CAMPE Rasheda K Choudhury, while Panel Mayor of DNCC Aleya Sarwar Daisy and Executive Director of BILS

Md. Zafrul Hasan were present as Guests of Honor.

In her speech, Ms. Rasheda K Choudhury requested all to address domestic workers as co-workers. She mentioned that the issues and demands came-out from the sharing meeting are very much rational and relevant in the context of our society.

Md. Zafrul Hasan said that Domestic worker are marginal community in our society and they are deprived of citizen amenities due to work as household chore. As the government had developed a policy and recognized them as Domestic Workers, so it is inevitable to enact law for implementation of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare policy-2015, he added.

Followed by an oath taking moment by all participants to end violence against women the Panel Mayor, DNCC concluded the discussion session.

Journal launching ceremony

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publicity of the journals and to follow some rules and arrange academic conference for increasing the circulation of the journal.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the programme, while BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan delivered welcome address. BILS Advisory Council Member Shahidullah Chowdhury, Former Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Assistant Professor of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Stamford University Bangladesh Mohammad Mosharrof Hossain, President of Labour Rights Journalist Forum Quazi Abdul Hannan, Senior Journalist of BSS Aatur Rahman, Joint News Editor of Bangladesh Khabor A T M Saiful Islam, Sr. Sub Editor and Shift Incharge of Daily Ittefaq Mohammad Al-Mamun, Sr. Programme officer of CAMPE Abu Reza, Programme Coordinator of FES Aurunduty Rani, Deputy Director (Information) of BILS Md. Yousuf Al-Mamun were present in the meeting.

Consultation meeting with SKOP

(After Page-9)

BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain Chaired the meeting, while BSSF President Shamim Ara, JSJ Working President Abdul Wahed, BSF General Secretary AAM Fayeze Hossain, BJSF General Secretary Mojibor Rahman, BFTUC Secretary Pulak Ranjan Dhar, BTUK Office Secretary Shahida Parveen Shikha, BILS Executive Council Member Nasrin Akhter Dina, BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin and youth trade union leaders attended the meeting.

Consultation meeting with IBC on elimination of violence at workplace



Participants in the Consultation meeting

BILS and CARE Bangladesh organised a consultation meeting titled "Elimination of Violence and Harassment at Workplace" on November 13, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka. IndustriAll Bangladesh Council-IBC leadership was invited to attend the meeting.

Objective of the meeting was to finalize recommendations on mobilizing the stakeholders for joint initiatives through consensus

for creating pressure to ratify the ILO Convention 190.

The meeting was presided by BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, While BILS Executive Members Kazi Rahima Akhter Sathi, BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, Senior Officer Md Hafizul Hossain and IBC leaders attend the meeting.



Experience sharing meeting of Campaign Team



Participants in the meeting

BILS, under its' DGB-BW project organised an experience sharing meeting of the campaign team on December 17, 2019 at the seminar Hall of BILS-LRSC, Chattogram.

The meeting was chaired by senior trade union leader and BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Chairman and BJSJ Chattogram President A M Nazimuddin. It was addressed among



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Consultation meeting with SKOP on elimination of violence at workplace



Participants in the meeting

BILS and CARE Bangladesh organised a consultation meeting with SKOP Leadership titled "Elimination of Violence and Harassment at Work Place" on October 26, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

The objective of the meeting was to finalize recommendations through consensus to convince the

stakeholders for ratification the ILO Convention 190. During the discussion, participants shared their experiences on violence and harassment at work place and discussed on how they tried to address the issue.



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Finalizing of NTUC guidelines on women and youth issues



Participants in the meeting

BILS, under its' DGB-BW project organised an opinion sharing meeting on December 15, 2019 at Hotel Asian SR, Chattogram to finalize the guidelines on addressing women and youth issues .

The meeting was chaired by senior trade union leader and the President of TUC,



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Dhaka City Public Transport and Rickshaw

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Department at Dhaka University, Dr. Adil Mohammad Khan General secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, Dr. Rezaul Karim, Professor of Social Work Department at Jagannath University were present as Expert Discussants. Also Representatives from BILS Associated National Trade Union Federations, ILO, and Rickshaw Van Owners Association were present at the meeting.

Speakers at the meeting said, the rickshaw is an essential vehicle for everyone, but rickshaw pullers are harassed regularly. Their human rights, livelihood, legal protection demand special attention. The city corporation has to make short and long-term plans regarding rickshaws. Everybody must look at the human aspect of rickshaw pullers. The City Corporation, as well as political parties, will have to come forward.

They said, the rickshaw is the most important mode of transport, as there is a huge shortage of mass public transport in the capital for serving the large number of middle-class people. Make public transport available, and then stop rickshaws. Otherwise, middle-class people will buy cars, which will further increase traffic jams. Only 5 percent of Dhaka city residents have own private cars. This city is largely dependent on rickshaws. They urged the government to find new means to rehabilitate rickshaw-pullers.

Decent work in shipbreaking industry

(After Page-12)

Secretary of the Ministry of Industry Mijanur Rahman, deputy secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Begum Shaheen Akhter, Deputy Director of the Department of Labour Hafiz Ahmed Mojumdar, Deputy Inspector General of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments

Chattogram Md. Al Amin, Bangladesh Metal Federation President A M Nazimuddin, Shipbreaking Workers Trade Union Forum Convener Tapan Datta, Joint Convener Md. Safar Ali, SKOP Representative Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, ILO Representative Shahbuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Metal League General Secretary Shahidullah Badal were present at the programme. Also Representatives of National trade Union Federation, Human Rights Organisation, Govt. Official, Lawyer and experts personnel were present at the program. BILS senior officer Pahari Bhattacharjee presented a Key Note at about Current situation of shipbreaking workers.

Chief Guest Shib Nath Roy Said, The number of accidents in the shipbreaking sector is increased over the years, so preventive measures are needed. Many industries don't follow labour laws and safety issues for workers. We are trying to compel them to follow the laws but the labour laws are very weak, he said many government agencies are working to ensure Decent Work in the sector. However, there is a lack of coordination. Many industries don't follow labour laws and safety issues for workers. We are trying to compel them to follow the laws but the labour laws are very weak, he added.

Discussants said, workers are neglected in the sector and they become unproductive after spending 10-15 years, their wage should be higher, but no yards follow the minimum wage of Tk 16,000. Powerful and healthy trade unions can play a vital role in ensuring safety and decent workplace. However, there is some legal obstacles to forming trade unions and getting registration for them. Shipbreaking industry should improve working conditions at yards by following labour laws, ensuring minimum wages, and training up workers, said rights activists and government officials. They also called for a change in the mindset of owners so that they invest to ensure compliance as well as adopt advanced

technologies and raise safety awareness among the workers. shipbreaking industry needs trained labour force and advanced technologies to reduce the number of accidents. "To change the situation, the mindset of owners needs to be changed.

Discussants called for profit-sharing. With the fund, a central welfare fund can be formed for the wellbeing of the workers. They also emphasised ensuring group insurance, setting up a model shipyard, and making mandatory the use of personal protective equipment for workers.

SNF recalls deceased workers of Tazreen Fire

(After Page-12)

Speakers demanded to bring all workers under Labour Law regardless of formal and informal sectors, to prepare a national standard of compensation and to ensure proper rehabilitation of the victims, to establish special unit at every hospital and specialised hospital for providing treatment to the workers affected by occupational accident. They said, "We demand safe jobs for everyone, compensation and rehabilitation for the victims".

In the programme, Sramik Nirapotta Forum Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) Joint Coordinator and BILS Advisory Council Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Samajtantrik Sramik Front President Razekuzzaman Ratan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh President Saifuzzaman Badsha, BILS Director Nazma Yesmin, Sramik Nirapotta Forum Acting Member Secretary Sekandar Ali Mina and leaders and representatives of Safety and Rights, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samiti, Bangladesh Labour Federation, Karmojibi Nari, Awaaz Foundation, Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation, Naripokkho and BILS delivered their speech.

Half-Day consultation meeting with Sector based central leadership



Sr. TU leader Tapan Datta presides over the meeting

BILS, under its' DGB-BW project organised a consultation meeting on December 13, 2019 at Hotel Asian SR, Chattogram.

The consultation meeting was chaired by senior trade union leader and the President of TUC, Chattogram District committee, as well as the Member of BILS-LRSC Coordination committee Tapan Datta. BILS Senior officer Rizwanur Rahman Khan conducted the meeting.

The meeting was addressed among others by BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazimuddin, BILS Senior Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee, Assistant Programme officer Fazlul Kabir Mintu, M R Manju

of BJSD, A K M Mominul Islam of JSJ, Md. Nurul Abser of BMSF, Zaheduddin Shahin of BJSF and Shahenewaz Chowdhury of BJSD, Kazi Anwarul Huq of BFTUC and Didarul Alam of TUC.

In the consultation meeting, the existing problems of selected sectors were briefly discussed. Then, the problems were noted down. Based on discussion of the participants, the meeting decided to carry on the project-related activities in most effective and participatory way by the concerned team members and sector leadership. Several field-level follow-up programs were chalked out during the consultation.

Finalizing of NTUC guidelines on women and youth issues

After Page-9

Chattogram District Committee, as well as the Member of BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Tapan Datta. BILS Senior officer Pahari Bhattacharjee conducted the meeting. The meeting was addressed among others by BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazimuddin, BILS senior officer Rizwanur Rahman Khan, Assistant Program officer Fazlul Kabir Mintu, M R Manju of BJSD, A K M Mominul Islam of JSJ, Md. Nurul Abser of BMSF, Zaheduddin Shahin of BJSF and Shahenewaz Chowdhury of BJSD, Kazi Anwarul Huq of BFTUC

and Didarul Alam of TUC.

In the meeting, the existing problems of selected sectors were briefly discussed. Then, the problems were noted down. Based on discussion of the participants, the meeting decided to carry on campaign and advocacy on "Ensure Standard Living Wages, Workplace Safety & Free Trade Union Rights" within the ongoing BILS/DGB-BW project phase. The meeting urged the local TU leadership to initiate more and more activities ensuring the comparative increased participation of women and youth.

Human Rights Day-2019 Observed

(After Page-12)

Committee A. M. Nazimuddin. To mark the event, a concept paper was drafted by senior trade union leader and the President of TUC, Chattogram District Committee, as well as the member of BILS-LRSC Coordination committee Tapon Datta. BILS Assistant Program officer Fazlul Kabir Mintu read out the aforesaid concept note at the beginning of the discussion meeting.

In his concept note, titled "Role of Youth in Protecting Human Rights" labour leader Tapan Dutta said, "If we cannot ensure the human rights, we cannot uproot poverty from the universe. In our country, there is a Human Rights Commission but the role of this organization is unknown in terms of reducing poverty, ensuring freedom of speech, fulfilling basic needs and protecting legal rights of common people". However, he said, "In order to establish human rights in all spheres of life, we have to uproot poverty at first. To remove the social inequality, injustice and poverty, youth have to come forward with the spirit of International Human Rights Day."

In the concluding speech A M Nazimuddin said, "The rights of workers being violated everywhere. In most informal sectors, workers are deprived of their rights. We have to build up strong TU movement to ensure the rights and dignity of the working class."

The meeting was addressed among others by local NTUC leadership Sk. Nurullah Bahar of BJSD, Chowdhury Mohammed Ali of BLF, Bodhipal Barua of BJSJ, Uzzal Bishwash of JSL, Md. Nurul Abser of BMSF, Rizwanur Rahman Khan of BFTUC, Zaheduddin Shahin of BJSF and Shahenewaz Chowdhury of BJSD. The event was moderated by BILS Senior Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee.

International Human Rights Day-2019 Observed



A M Nazimuddin addresses the meeting

BILS, under its' DGB-BW project organised a discussion meeting held on December 10, 2019 at the auditorium of Chattogram Press club.

The discussion meeting was chaired by the Chairman of BILS-LRSC Coordination

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SNF recalls deceased workers of Tazreen Fire



SNF human chain at Jurain Graveyard

Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF organised commemorative events on November 24, 2019 to remember deceased workers of Tazreen Garments Fire, happened Seven years ago. In memory of those workers SNF paid homage to their grave at Jurain Graveyard early in the morning.

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Roundtable on Dhaka City Public Transport and Rickshaw



BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz presides over the meeting

BILS Organised a Roundtable titled "Dhaka City Public Transport and Rickshaw: Reality, Problem and Way Forward" on November 26, 2019 at Tofazzol Hossain Manik Mia Hall, National Press Club, Dhaka.

BILS Chairman Md. Habibur

Rahman Shiraz Chaired the meeting, while Shirin Akhter, MP Present as Chief Guest. BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan delivered welcome address . M M Akash Professor of Economics

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Roundtable on decent work in shipbreaking industry: Role of different stakeholders



Inspector General of DIFE Shib Nath Roy addresses the roundtable

BILS organised a Roundtable titled "Decent Work in Shipbreaking Industry: Role of Different Stakeholders" on December 22, 2019 at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, Daily Star Center, Dhaka.

BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar Chaired the

programme, while Secretary Abul Kalam Azad act as a Moderator. Inspector General of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) Shib Nath Roy was present as Chief Guest. Among others, Deputy

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