

Plan to sue shipping secy, BIWTA chairman, Launch Assoc chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Consumers' Society (BACSU) will file a case against the secretary of shipping ministry, BIWTA chairman and the president of the Launch Owners' Association seeking court's directive to stop carrying passengers and cargo beyond capacity in the passenger launches.

"We are consulting the matter with the lawyers and will file case with the High Court soon," BACSU executive president Muhammad Anisul Haq told journalists at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday.

He demanded judicial inquiry into the Chandpur launch disaster

by a sitting judge of the High Court.

Despite recurrence of launch mishap, launches are carrying excessive commuters and cargo due to reluctance of authorities concerned, Anisul Haq said. "We want its prevention and that is why we're going to the court," he added.

He also demanded trial of the officials whose negligence led to the biggest ever launch capsiz in Chandpur recently under Speedy Trial Tribunal and exemplary punishment to them for killing more than 600 passengers.

Anisul Haq blamed the shipping minister and other officials concerned for negligence of duties. He demanded immediate

resignation of the minister for his failure to stop recurrence of launch capsiz.

"Thousands of passengers are becoming victims of regular launch mishaps due to negligence of duties of the officials concerned, Anisaul Haq said.

The BACSU demands include stop operation and cancellation of registration of faulty and risky launches, insurance coverage of passengers of riverine routes and compensation for the launch victims.

BACSU acting president Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, general secretary Faruq Ahmed, leaders Firozur Rahman and Ershad Majumder attended the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR

Bhula Jubo Parishad brought out a mourning procession at Muktangon yesterday in remembrance of the people killed in recent launch disaster in the river Meghna.

Father demands arrest of son's abductors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The father of an abducted son yesterday demanded arrest of and punishment to those responsible for kidnapping his son.

The abductors of Aminul Islam Mithu, 30, are now making threats to his family for filing a case against them, his father M Eskendar Ali Farazi said at a press conference and sought protection from the government.

Eskendar Ali, who hails from Katipara village under Rajapur thana of Jhalokathi district, said he gave Tk five lakh to M Shah Alam, former chairman of Suktagar union under Rajapur thana, for sending his son to Japan.

"Instead, he abducted my son on February 14 last year and misappropriated the money," Eskander alleged.

"My son had stayed at Shah Alam's residence at Malibagh in Dhaka for about two months before the abduction," he added.

Receiving no news of his son, worried Eskander Ali tried to contact him over his cell phone but

failed to get any response.

Later, he came to Dhaka to know the whereabouts of his son and contacted Shah Alam who said Mithu has left his house with the passport and the money Eskander gave to him.

Eskander filed a General Diary (GD) with Ramna police station on February 16, 2002, and filed a case against six people Shah Alam, his wife Hasi, Faruq, Panna, Masud and Kalam on February 23, 2002.

Later, the Detective Branch (DB) police arrested Shah Alam and two others Farruk and Panna and recovered Mithu's passport, dress, shoes and briefcase and a police cap and handcuffs.

But they came out within two months, Eskander said, and told him over phone to take back his son after paying a ransom.

He said the abductors are now threatening him and have filed four false cases against his family.

The victim's mother, sisters and a brother were present at the conference held at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity office.