

DEATH OF GARMENT WORKERS, LABOURERS

Trial of bldg owners, ministers, Rajuk officials demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental organisations yesterday staged a sit-in programme in the city demanding proper implementa-

PURCHASE OF FOREIGN SHIPS

NOC from Shipping Deptt a must

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Commercial Banks have to obtain no objection certificate (NOC) from the Department of Shipping before opening any LC to purchase foreign ships, a Bangladesh Bank (BB) circular said yesterday.

Foreign ship SS Norway, containing toxic substances that are dangerous for human life and environment, was recently heading for the country for scraping, the shipping department informed the BB, the circular said.

As only the shipping department has enough information on whether a ship is safe for human life and environment, the bank concerned should get suggestion form the department before opening any LC to purchase foreign ships, the circular added.

tion of the building code and trial of the building owners, concerned ministers and Rajuk officials responsible for the deaths of the garment workers in Chittagong and labourers in Dhaka.

They also demanded identification of vulnerable factories situated in the multi-storied buildings within 15 days to ensure workers' safety and adequate compensation to the victims.

Nagorik Sanghati, Dhanmondi Paribesh Unnayan Jote (DPUJ), Green Voice and Dhanmondi Abashik Malik Kalyan Samity (DAMKS) jointly organised the programme in front of the High Court.

They also submitted a memorandum to the ministry of Housing and Public Works regarding their demands.

Speakers said many buildings in the city were built violating the construction rules and tendency to violate the building code is leading the country to a dangerous position.

Despite the legal obligation of the workers' safety in the work place in the country, the law cannot be enforced for

some greedy men in the administration, they alleged.

Addressing the programme, Bapa president Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said although the garment sector is the leading foreign currency earning industry, most of the factories do not have proper worker safety arrangement.

He also said the building that collapsed at Tejgaon was built on a weak structure so the government must be strict in enforcing construction rules.

He demanded exemplary punishment to the ministers and Rajuk officials involved in the killing.

Dr A S M Atiqur Rahman, former proctor of Dhaka University and president of Nagorik Sanghati, Sharifuzzaman Sharif, general secretary of Nagorik Sanghati, Golam Kibria, coordinator of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, Dr Sultana Alam, convener of DPUJ, Rawshan Alam, president of (DAMKS) and Alamgir Kabir, coordinator of Green Voice also spoke on the occasion.