

## Editorial

Ensuring betterment of workers' livelihood, rights, workplace security and occupational health and safety, various initiatives and activities were taken by BILS throughout the year where as different significant activities were organised during this period.

Regarding this issue based programmes got priority in this period. Organising a roundtable on recent Labour Law reform for analysing its achievement was a notable activity, while objectives of this event were to review the existing situation of declared Labour Law by the government and determine the activities to implement a time befitting Labour Law as an important issue for protecting workers' rights. Another roundtable on RMG workers' minimum wage revision in a view to analyse its reality was considered as significant initiative in the context of declared minimum wage of RMG workers and determining the future activities in this regard. In line with this, organising BILS Journal publishing ceremony was another important issue as BILS Journal also plays an important role to observe the workers' situation of different sectors.

Moreover, several activities and initiatives were taken on different issues in Dhaka and Chittagong through organising inception meeting on study of RMG and water transport sector, forming human chain to protest torture on child domestic workers, arranging area base discussion meeting, advance training protesting gender base violence at workplace, organising workshop and training programme for the betterment of rickshaw-van pullers.

We hope, 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.

## Risk of termination of employment is the main obstacle to form Trade Union: Speakers at BILS roundtable



*Discussants are in the roundtable for reviewing the existing situation of Labour Law*

BILS organised a roundtable titled "Labour Law 2018 : Expectations and achievement-Practicable of Parties" on October 7, 2018 at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall in The Daily Star Centre aiming to review the existing situation of

declared Labour Law by the government and determine the activities to implement a time befitting Labour Law.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur

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## BILS organised roundtable on RMG Workers' Wage Revision



*Discussants are in the roundtable on RMG Workers' Wage Revision*

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies-BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a roundtable titled "RMG Workers' Wage Revision: Reality and Way Forward" on October 2, 2018 in

Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, at The Daily Star Centre in the Capital. The roundtable was organised aiming to analyze the reality in the context of declared minimum wage

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## Risk of termination of employment

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Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the roundtable while Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan moderated the programme. Among others Sramik Nirapotta Forum Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, BILS Advisory Council Member Shahidullah Choudhury, Abdus Salam Khan, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, ILO Country Office Dhaka Deputy Director Gagan Rajbhandari, ILO ACTRAV South Asia Labour Specialist Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Labour Law Specialist Advocate A K M Nasim and Advocate Nesar Ahmed participated in the discussion.

Discussants in the roundtable said that, workers did not get the desired result in the amendment of proposed Labour Law. In the Labour Law amendment the owners are benefitted but not the workers. The Labour Law should be amended in light of the decisions taken by the unanimous resolution of the Tripartite Consultation Council, they added. They also said that, Government has presented its position on Labour Law at international level and committed to remove obstacles to forming Trade Union through necessary corrections. But it is seen that, there are barriers in case of organising workers. While getting the news of forming Trade Union, owners keep the concerned workers under supervision and fire them from their jobs at a suitable time, they added. They opined, it is impossible to organise the workers until removing their fear of discharging from job. They said that, the workers who get appointment through the growing outsourcing are unable to participate in Trade Union. All workers at informal sector including agricultural and domestic workers have to bring under the protection of Labour Law.

Speakers also said that, Labour Law should be completely democratic according to ILO Convention 87 and 98. The wage discrimination among the government, private and EPZ workers should be removed, they opined. There should be a minimum standard in case of setting the compensation. In this case, loss of earning should be included. Speakers underscored, the discrimination of

maternity leave between the government and private sector is not considerable. It is necessary to add a section on sexual harassment in the Labour Law. It is also necessary to bring the opportunity of forming Trade Union in newspaper in the amendment, they added.

BILS affiliated and associated national Federations Trade Union Leaders, Labour Law experts, IndustriALL affiliated Federations Leaders, representatives of national and international Human Rights organisations who work with Labour Law were present in the roundtable.

### Recommendations:

- Including labour sectors occupied by women workers in the definition of Labour Law
- Ensuring maternity leave protection of women workers and eliminating discrimination of maternity leave at state and private sectors
- Ensuring the rights to form Trade Union of workers recruiting through outsourcing
- Defining a minimum standard of compensation
- Including the right to form Trade Union at newspaper in the amendment
- Including a complete section on sexual harassment in the Labour Law

## Roundtable on RMG workers

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of RMG workers and determining the future activities in this regard.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the roundtable, while BILS Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan was present as Moderator. Assistant Professor of Department of Social Welfare at Jagannath University Mostafiz Ahmed presented the keynote paper in the roundtable. Among others, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Centre for Policy Dialogue-CPD Research Director Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Bangladesh Supreme Court Lawyer Zafrul Hasan Sharif, Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation President Amirul Haque Amin, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, IndustriALL Bangladesh Council Secretary General Salauddin

Shapon, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha General Secretary Choudhury Ashiqul Alam, Jatiya Sramik Federation President Quamrul Ahsan, Bangladesh Textile and Garments Workers League President Z M Kamrul Anam participated in the discussion.

Discussants in the roundtable said that, in the present context this minimum wage at RMG sector is not appropriate. Basic wage was decreased to 51% in comparison with 67.69% in 2006. They opined that, this wage is comparatively low considering the national and international context. Comparing with ship breaking, tannery along with other sectors, minimum wage was not increased at RMG sector. It is necessary to take minimum wage at RMG sector in a standard level for achieving sustainable development goal, vision 21, 7th five-year plan and developing Bangladesh as a country of mid-level income, they added. It is necessary to focus the workers' position to government before the final declaration of minimum wage, they disclosed.

SKOP affiliated and BILS associated national Trade Union Federations leaders, IndustriALL Bangladesh Council leaders, Workers representatives from present and former wage board, researchers, journalists and leaders of various professional organisations were present in the roundtable.

### Recommendations:

- As increasing of other benefits depend on to basic wage, so it is necessary to increase the basic wage at a standard level. In this case, basic wage should be increased by 70%
- Including national minimum wage in the Labour Law
- Setting wage considering national and international perspective
- Ensuring balanced growth of wage in all Grade
- Determining wage according to per capita income
- In case of determining the wage it should be considered not only the workers but also the entire family of the workers
- Removing the discrimination of wage between government and nongovernment workers
- Setting the position and structure of wage board



## Agreement signing ceremony between BILS and Southern University, Chittagong



*BILS Secretary A M Nazimuddin and Southern University Vice Chancellor Dr. Md. Nurul Mostofa are in agreement signing ceremony*

As part of the BILS-DGB-BW project activity, a MoU Signing ceremony was held on October 29, 2018 at the campus of Southern University, Chittagong. As per the agreement between BILS and Southern University the students of the university will be able to join in the BILS-DGB-BW internship programs and activities, take part in numerous research initiatives and

will be able to enrich their knowledge on Labour Law and Trade Union rights, social justice and relevant issues.

Southern University Vice Chancellor Dr. Md. Nurul Mostofa, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Engineer M Ali Ashraf, Vice President Sarwar Jahan, Head of

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## Discussion Meeting held on draft recommendation of Minimum Wage at RMG Sector



*Part of discussion meeting on minimum wage at RMG sector*

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a discussion meeting titled "Draft Recommendation, 2018 of Minimum Wage for All Categories of Workers in RMG Sector by Minimum Wage Board" on October 20, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall.

"Draft Recommendation, 2018 of Minimum Wage for all categories of workers in RMG Sector by Minimum Wage Board" and Initiatives of Trade Union regarding objection and recommendations on Draft Recommendation, 2018

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## Protest rally demanding punishment to torturers of child domestic workers



*Leaders demand punishment to the torturers of child domestic workers*

Domestic Workers Coordination Council and Domestic Workers Rights Network jointly organised a protest rally and human chain on October 23, 2018 in front of National Press Club demanding fair trial and exemplary punishment to the criminals in the incident of continuous inhuman torture on child domestic workers all over the country. Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar

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## Advance training on protesting gender base violence at workplace



*Participants in advance training on protesting gender base violence at workplace*

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a two-day training titled, "Advance Training on Protesting Gender base Violence at Workplace in RMG Sector" on November 3-4, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. The training was organised aiming to set activities of Trade Union for protesting gender base violence at

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## Agreement signing ceremony

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Department of Business Dr. Israt Jahan, Registrar Dr. Engr. Md. Muzammel Hossain, Assistant Registrar Dr. Mohammed Shafiullah Mir, Deputy Director Rezwan Razan, BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazimuddin, and Member Tapan Dutta, Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan were present in the signing ceremony.

## Discussion Meeting on draft recommendation

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of Minimum Wage for all categories of workers in RMG Sector were the main discussed issues of the meeting.

BILS Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, IBC Secretary General Salauddin Shopon, JSJ Working President Md. Abdul Wahed, BILS-FNV Project Advisory Committee Member Towhidur Rahman, Garments Sramik Karmochari League Lima Ferdoush, Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad Coordinator Mahtabuddin Shahid, G-SKOP Representative Khalequzzaman Lipon and Ahsan Habib Bulbul, FNV Consultant Shahid Ullah and BILS Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin were present in the meeting.

## Protest rally demanding punishment

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Hossain presided over the human chain and Jatiya Garhastha Nari Sramik Union Advisor Abul Hossain moderated the programme while

Jatiya Sramik Jote Working President Md. Abdul Wahed, Bangladesh Sramik Federation General Secretary A A M Faye Hossain, BFTUC Secretary Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Jatiya Sramik League representative Kazi Rahima Akhter Sathi, Sramik Nirapotta Forum representative Sekander Ali Mina, National Domestic Workers Coordination Council representative Advocate Naznin Nahar Nirupoma, Ain O Salish Kendra representative Fatema Jannat Munia, Karitas Legal Aid Officer Rasel Hossain delivered their speech.

Representatives of BLAST, Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh Labour Foundation, Nari Maitree, Awaj Foundation along with network affiliated human rights organisations, leaders of National Trade Union Federations and representatives of professional organisations were present to express their solidarity.

Speakers in the human chain urged to implement "Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015" for the protection of domestic workers all over the country. Besides, they urged for giving punishment to the torturers of domestic workers, providing legal aid in domestic workers case and providing fair treatment and compensation to the victim domestic workers.

It is to be mentioned that, Fahima, Rubi, Bristy, Lamia, Sima and along with many more child domestic workers were tortured by the employers for past few days at different places in the country.

## Advance training on protesting

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workplace and to build capacity of Trade Union leaders on gender policy. Main objectives of the training were to build capacity of the participants

for analyzing gender, gender base violence and gender discrimination, analyzing behavior on sexual harassment, existing laws and punishments against sexual harassment according to national and international law, declaration and standard, analyzing acquiring knowledge and activities on gender policy in Trade Union and describing defined activities of Trade Union on protesting gender base violence.

Gender and gender based violence, sexual harassment and protest, national and international documents, involving gender at workplace and defined participants and activities of organisations on protesting gender based violence at workplace were the discussed issues in the training.

Leaders of Trade Union at RMG of SKOP affiliated and BILS associated National Federations and organisers and Trade Union leaders of area based committee of IndustriALL affiliated Federations participated in the training.

## Review and experience sharing meeting

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workers.

The meeting was presided over by BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Member and TUC Chittagong President Tapan Dutta while Chittagong DC Office Assistant Commissioner Mahfoza Zeren, JSL Chittagong Joint Secretary Md. Shafar Ali, BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazim Uddin, BILS-LRSC Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan and Paralegal Supporters Team Members participated in the meeting.



## Conference on women and informalisation of work



*BILS representatives are in the international conference on women and informalisation of work*

As part of the Asia Regional Activity 2018, in cooperation with the DGB Bildungswerk, the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) organized a five day conference titled, "Women and Informalisation of Work: A Future Search" on October 7-11, 2018 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The conference was organised aiming to co-create future scenarios for women

workers in Asia and the world and the response of trade union movement and to discuss best practices and reshaping future work strategy.

The conference basically focused on the existing scenario of female workers, barriers and way-out in the informal economy and the process of informalisation of work

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## Certification training held on workers' health sanitation



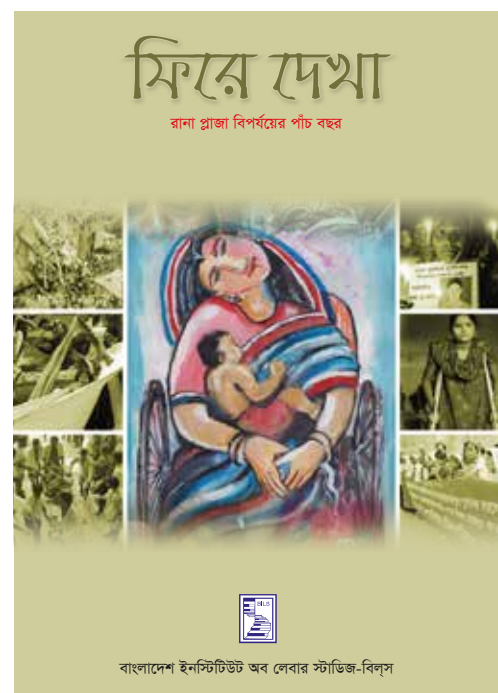
*Part of certification training programme*

As a part of BILS-SNV project activities a two day long certification training on 'Workers' Health, Sanitation and wellbeing at workplace: Laws and Policies' was held on October 6-7, 2018 at Marino Royal Hotel, Uttara in Dhaka With a specific focus on the workers' health and wellbeing of

readymade garment sector. The objective of the training was to reinforce delegates' understanding of existing National and International standards related to health, sanitation and well-being conditions at workplace, strengthen their competency to

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## BILS Publication



BILS published a book titled, "Flash back to five years of Rana Plaza disaster" on October. A total number of 500 copies of book were published and distributed.

## BILS ongoing research

BILS Research Department are conducting two researches on different issues to observe the present situation and find out the ways of improvement. These are:

- Analytical Study on Violence Against RMG workers
- Sector Wise Impact Assessment (SWIA): Fisheries sector in Bangladesh
- Scoping Study for Programme Development on Gender and Garment Industry in Bangladesh
- Workers' Rights And Decent Work For Youth In Informal Sector
- Study to analyse the role of different authorities in industrial dispute settlement (RMG) and developing comprehensive recommendations.

## The country's economic progress achieved through coordinated activities of the employers-workers-government: Mayor Nasir



*Chittagong City Corporation Mayor A Z M Nasir is delivering his speech*

BILS-LRSC Users' conference was held on November 17, 2018 at Hotel Saint Martin in Chittagong.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the conference while Chittagong City Corporation Mayor A Z M Nasir Uddin was present as chief guest. Besides, BILS Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, Advisory Council Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, Researcher on Labour issue Professor Dr. Fasiul Alam and Dr. Mohammad Shaheen Chowdhury, Trade Union Leaders Tapan Dutta, A M Nazimuddin, Md. Shafar Ali, Mosiuddoula were present in the conference.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor said that the government has taken various initiatives and activities for improving the livelihood of the workers. Government also has taken significant initiatives for the working people aiming to reform Labour Law including reducing child labour.

These initiatives should not be limited to formalities, workers and owners parties should be extended their helping hand to implement it.

Mayor said that, the country's economic progress is achieved in

coordinated activities of the employer-workers-government. In this case, participation of all parties in BILS activities, the organisation has played a vital role. He added that we all have responsibility for the development of the country. Positive environment will be created in case of economic advancement by doing our duties from respective position.

Labour leaders in the conference said that Workers' deaths and accidents have become a regular casualty in the institutional and non-institutional, especially risky industries of the country. Due to inactiveness of government inspection department, negligence of owners-authorities, mismanagement and lack of adequate supervision, working in a risky environment, helpless workers are being killed one by one in accident. Now, it is time to demand to prevent workplace accident, to enforce Trade Union and Labour Law. Government should play an active role in this case, they mentioned.

It is to be mentioned that, in this day-long conference five workshop were held. Important recommendations were taken aiming to determine the future activities for the betterment of the workers.

## Women and informalisation of work

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in Asian regions. The focus of the discussions were on how to ensure empowerment of women, bringing women and youth leadership in the fore-front. The conference discussed on various topics. Speakers in the programme presented and shared their national level experiences regarding women and youth issues. They also discussed on the current challenges and ways to overcome these.

BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Member Tapan Dutta, JSJB Central leader Umma Hassan Jhalmal, BILS-DGB BW Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, BILS-LRSC Information and Documentation Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee and representatives from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan and BMZ and DGB-BW officials from Germany took part in the event.

## Certification training

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conduct workplace assessment by using exclusive tool developed and enable delegates' ability to design, develop and implement effective health, sanitation and well-being programme in their respective organisations.

The session was conducted by Abdul Mottaleb, Managing Director- Global Sustainable Certification Services Limited-GSCS, where mid-level professionals at RMG sector attended.

Another training programme regarding same issue was held on October 20-21, 2018 at Marino Royal Hotel. Abdul Amin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Managing System Inc. and Abdul Mottaleb, Managing Director- Global Sustainable Certification Services Limited-GSCS conducted the training programme where mid-level professionals at RMG sector participated. The other certification training was held on same issue on November 10-11, 2018 at Hotel High Garden with the participation of mid-level management professionals at RMG sector in where Abdul Amin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Management System Inc. conducted the training.



## Half yearly joint media briefing held in Chittagong



*Part of half yearly joint media briefing*

A half yearly joint media briefing was held on October 28, 2018 at Saffron Restaurant, Chittagong aiming to acknowledge the workers and citizens of Chittagong about the BILS-DGB-BW project activities and upcoming events. BILS Executive Council Secretary and JSL central joint secretary Md. Shafar Ali read out the press note

during the media briefing while BILS Executive Council Secretary and BJSD Chittagong Divisional Committee president A M Nazimuddin and president of TUC Chittagong Zilla Committee Tapan Dutta answered the questions asked by the present press and media representatives.

## BILS Library Study Circle held



*Assistant Professor Mostafiz Ahmed is discussing about minimum wage at RMG sector*

BILS organised a study circle with the participation of intern students titled, "Minimum Wage at RMG Sector" on November 6, 2018 at BILS Library. The study circle was organized aiming to create knowledge based society on contemporary issue of Trade Union

that will make them enrich on labour issues, to take direction, suggestions and recommendations from experienced persons and to encourage participants to get ready for the future evolution at workplace and to take the direction

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## Discussion meeting with Trade Union leaders of different areas



*Part of discussion meeting with Dhaka-Mirpur area Trade Union leaders*

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a discussion meeting with the participation of Dhaka-Mirpur area Trade Union leaders on October 24, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. Main objectives of the meeting were to finalize the draft work plan which was prepared on previous planning meeting and to set the activities for conducting and implementing area based campaign activities.

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## Review and experience sharing meeting held in Chittagong



*Part of review and experience sharing bi monthly meeting*

A review and experience sharing bi monthly meeting of BILS Paralegal Supporters Team was held on October 22, 2018 at the BILS-LRSC Seminar Hall in Chittagong. The meeting was organised aiming to review the earlier activities of the team and encourage team members to be more pro-active in terms of providing paralegal support to victim

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*Part of discussion meeting held in Narayanganj*

### **Discussion meeting with Trade Union leaders**

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Workers wage, forming community solidarity forum and conducting activities, participation of Trade Union leaders in social dialogue and arranging campaign programme were the discussed issues of the meeting.

BILS Executive Council Member and Dhaka-Mirpur area SKOP Coordinator Kazi Rahima Akhter Sathi moderated the meeting while BILS Director and project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin delivered the welcome speech. Among others Dhaka-Mirpur Cluster Committee-IBC Coordinator Amirul Haque Amin and Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad-SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel and SKOP affiliated and BILS associated National Trade Union Federations leaders and IndustriALL affiliated Federations local leaders involved with RMG sector of Narayanganj area, BILS leaders and Officials participated in the discussion meeting.

Another discussion meeting with the participation of Narayanganj area Trade Union leaders regarding same issue was held on October 25, 2018 at Royal Palace Restaurant, Dholaipar in Narayanganj. Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad-SKOP joint Coordinator Alhaj Sukkur Mahamood

chaired the meeting and delivered the welcome speech and Narayanganj Cluster Committee-IBC Coordinator Hedayetul Islam gave the introductory speech while SKOP affiliated and BILS associated national Trade Union Federations leaders and IndustriALL affiliated Federations local leaders involved with RMG sector of Narayanganj area, BILS leaders and Officials participated in the discussion meeting.

The other discussion meeting with the participation of Gazipur-Tongi area Trade Union leaders was held on October 28, 2018 at IRI Auditorium, Tongi in Gazipur. IndustriALL Bangladesh Council Secretary General and Tongi-Gazipur Cluster Committee Coordinator Salauddin Shapan delivered the welcome speech and BILS-FNV Project Advisory Committee Member Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan moderated the discussion meeting while SKOP affiliated and BILS associated national Trade Union Federations leaders and IndustriALL affiliated Federations local leaders involved with RMG sector of Gazipur-Tongi area, BILS leaders and Officials participated in the discussion meeting.

### **Workshop on determining advocacy strategy**

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organising rickshaw-van puller of Dhaka city, to create awareness on their rights and to ensure their social safety.

Forming advocacy team, identifying parties, implementing advocacy plan and preparing advocacy paper were the main discussed issues of the workshop.

Senior leaders of Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad-SKOP and BILS affiliated national Federations and Presidents and General Secretaries involved with Rickshaw-Van Puller Workers Union of Dhaka city participated in the workshop.

### **Review and coordination meeting**

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aiming to encourage the participants to form newer Trade Unions and play a pro-worker role in their respective sectors.

BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee member and TUC Chittagong President Tapan Dutta presided over the meeting and BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazimuddin gave the inaugural speech while BILS Young Organisers Team members were present in the meeting.

Earlier on October 12, 2018 another review and coordinator meeting with young organisers team was held at Hotel Raz in Chittagong. Strengthening the efforts by the team members and encouraging them to organise and form newer Trade Union selected sectors of Chittagong were the main objectives of the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Chairman and BJSD-Chittagong President A M Nazimuddin, JZJB Central Committee International Affairs Secretary Monirul Kabir, BILS-LRSC Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Kha and young organisers team members were present in the meeting.



## Planning, review and sharing meeting of Right Reporters team held in Chittagong



*Chittagong Trade Union leaders are with Right Reporters team*

A Review and Experience Sharing Bi Monthly Meeting of the BILS Paralegal Supporters Team was held on October 22, 2018 at the Seminar Hall of BILS-LRSC, Chittagong.

Reviewing the earlier activities of the team and encouraging team members to write and publish features and other writings on vulnerable labour related issues were the main objectives of the

meeting.

The meeting was presided over by BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Secretary and JSL

Central Committee Joint Secretary of Md. Shafar Ali. Chittagong district Assistant Commissioner Mahfooza Zeren, BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee member Tapan Dutta, BILS-LRSC

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## Review and coordination meeting held in Chittagong



*Part of review and coordination meeting held in Chittagong*

As part of the BILS- DGB-BW project activity, a quarterly periodical review and coordination meeting of the BILS young organisers team was held on October 29, 2018 at the Seminar Hall of Hotel Mishkah in Chittagong.

The day long program was designed with 4-separate training sessions on some important labour related issues

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## Area based planning meeting held



*Participants in the area based planning meeting*

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised an area based planning meeting on October 14, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised aiming to coordinate area based committees regularly, to contribute in protesting violation of workers'

rights and gender based violence at workplace through the implementation of social activities and active participation in social dialogue.

Forming Union in garments sector, identifying challenges of Trade Union,

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## Workshop on determining advocacy strategy for rickshaw-van puller in Dhaka city



*Part of review and coordination meeting held in Chittagong*

BILS organised a workshop on determining advocacy strategy for ensuring rights and social safety of rickshaw-van puller in Dhaka city on November 1, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. The workshop was organised aiming to determine an advocacy strategy for

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## Capacity building training of discussion circle organisers of rickshaw-van pullers



*Part of Capacity building training of discussion circle*

BILS organised a two-day capacity building training of discussion circle of rickshaw-van pullers on November 16-17, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. Informing the participants on socio-economic situation, society, communication system and contribution of rickshaw-van pullers in national economy, legal rights of rickshaw-van puller, existing Labour Law, conditions from City Corporation, traffic rules, initiatives of social safety, initiatives of organising rickshaw-van pullers were the

main objectives of the training.

Leaders of national Federations affiliated Rickshaw-Van Pullers Workers Union, youth workers of National Workers Federation participated in the training.

Another two-day training regarding same issue will be held on November 29-30, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall with the participation of leaders of national Federations affiliated Rickshaw-Van Pullers Workers Union, youth workers of National Workers Federation.

### Planning, review and sharing meeting

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Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazimuddin, Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan were present in the meeting.

### Area based planning meeting

(After Page-9)

organising social programmes as well as social dialogue and protesting gender based violence at workplace were the discussed issues in the meeting.

BILS Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan delivered the welcome speech while IBC Savar-Ashulia Cluster Committee Coordinator and Bangladesh Textile and Garments Workers League President Z A M Kamrul Anam moderated the meeting. Among others, Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad-SKOP, Savar-Ashulia Coordinator Advocate

Abdul Aoual, BILS Director Nazma Yesmin and SKOP associated and BILS affiliated national Trade Union Federation and IndustriALL affiliated Federations of Savar-Ashulia area RMG oriented local Trade Union leaders, BILS leaders and officials were present in the meeting.

### BILS Library Study Circle

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for their development regarding this issue. Assistant Professor of the Department of Social Welfare at Jagannath University Mostafiz Ahmed was present as key person and discussed about the issue.

Earlier on October 2, 2018 another study circle with the participation of youth Trade Union leaders was held on "Future of Work" at BILS Library. BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan was present as a key person on the issue.

## Forthcoming Programmes

- Area base meeting of Domestic Workers' Platform National Domestic Workers' Coordination Committee identifying scope and strengthening area base organising programme will be held on December, 2018
- A number of 22 area base organising programme will be organised by Oxfam on December, 2018
- Day observational, campaign and advocacy programme will be organised by Oxfam on December, 2018
- A number of 12 preparatory meeting with 12 National Trade Union Federations will be organised by Oxfam on November, 2018
- BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV will organise rally and human chain in four areas on observing Human Rights Day 2018 on December 10, 2018
- BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV will organise a five day advance training on Trade Union leadership development on December, 2018
- A project advisory committee meeting will be held on December 2018
- Conference on adaption of charter of demand of Rickshaw-Van Puller will be held on November 25, 2018
- Conference on present situation, crisis and possibility of Jute industry
- BILS Trade Union policy develop on inclusive growth and employment will be held on December
- Yearly policy review workshop with Trade Union leadership will be held on November
- Regular collection and documentation on workplace health and safety of ship breaking workers will be held on December
- Day long consultation meeting with Trade Union leaders to formulate recommendations on ship breaking policy and rules will be held on November



## Journal publication and consultation meeting

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objectives of the meeting.

Discussants in the meeting recommended to follow some rules for more publicity and to ensure a qualitative standard. They also recommended for including contemporary issues, organising workshop and sending journal to all universities in Bangladesh for better promotion of the journal.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan presided over the meeting while Southeast University Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Md. Abu Taher was present as special guest. BILS Advisory Council member Mesbahuddin Ahmed delivered the welcome speech. BILS Journal Advisory Council member Shahidullah Chowdhury and Rowshan Jahan Sathi, Ministry of Labour and Employment Former Secretary Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Professor of the Department of Social Work at Jagannath University Dr. Rezaul Karim, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Research Director Khandokar Golam Moazzem, Assistant Lecturer of Journalism and Media Studies Department at Stamford University Mohammed Mosharrof Hossain, Assistant Professor of Social Science and Social Work Department at Peoples' University Md. Habibur Rahman, Labour Rights Journalist Forum President Kazi Abdul Hannan, BSS senior Journalist Ataur Rahman, Daily Sun Senior Journalist Md. Khairuzzaman, Sramik Awaj Editor Zafar Ahmed, Sokaler Khabar Business Editor Alamgir Hossain and BILS Officials participated in the meeting.

## Research findings sharing meeting

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Bhuiyan, BILS Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan, Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Professor of the Department of Sociology at Dhaka University Monirul I. Khan, IBC Secretary General Salauddin Swapan, BTUC Secretary General Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, JSF Acting President Quamrul Ahsan, MJF representative Advocate Jafrul Hasan Sharif, BJSF General Secretary Shamem Ara, BIGUF Organiser Shahnaz Parveen, NGWF General Secretary Md. Faridul Islam, Oxfam representative Joy Kyriacou and Zobaidur Rahman, JSJ Working President Md. Abdul Wahed, BSF General Secretary A A M Fayez Hossain, BLAST representative Md. Tayebur Rahman, BAWF representative Md. Touhidur Rahman were present in the meeting.

## Youth Conference 2018

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member of the platform.

Speakers in the conference said that, Bangladesh has to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of United Nation by 2030. Ten out of seventeen goals of SDG are directly related to the young people. The proper use of young people's knowledge, innovation and enthusiasm is very important in achieving these goals. These young people will be the beneficiaries and partners of the development.

In the inaugural session International Relation Advisor of Prime Minister Gauhar Rizvi was present as chief guest. He said, government does not want to leave behind anybody in the advancement of development. Poor, weak and aged persons have brought under the social safety net. Young people will play a vital role to achieve the SDG, he added.

Citizen Platform Bangladesh on

Implementing SDG Convener Debapriya Bhattacharya, Human Rights Activist Advocate Sultana Kamal, State Minister for Youth and Sport Dr. Biren Sikder, UNDP Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee, Citizen Platform Bangladesh on Implementing SDG Coordinator Anisatul Fatema Yousuf delivered their speech in the inaugural session.

During this day long conference a total number of eight session were conducted on employment and entrepreneur, participatory youth leadership, inclusive society, standard education, technology and innovation, good governance and law enforcement, prevention of extremism and drug addiction and health, nutrient and sanitation.

Stalls of different NGOs were set up at the premises of Krishibid Institution where various publications of BILS along with different NGOs were displayed.

## Inception meeting on study of RMG

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outline and taking directions were the main objectives of the meeting.

DOL Deputy Director Md. Rafiqul Islam Fakir, DIFE Joint Inspector General Md. Shamsul Alam Khan, BGMEA Additional Secretary Md. Rajiqul Islam, Professor of the Deptment of Sociology at Dhaka University Md. Monirul I. Khan, BTUS Secretary General Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, BSWF Joint Secretary Md. Wahidur Rahman, Bangladesh Jahaj Sramik Federation Organising Secretary Md. Sobuj Shikdar, Sarmik League district Women Secretary Hasina Rahman Simu, IBC Organising Secretary Shoheli Afroz Lovely, BAWF General Secretary Tahmina Rahman, FGW General Secretary China Rahman, AGWF Vice President Sima Akter, MGWF General Secretary Soniya Akter Sukhi and BILS Director Nazma Yesmin were present in the meeting.

## BILS participation in Youth Conference 2018



*BILS Stall in the Youth Conference 2018*

Citizen Platform Bangladesh on Implementing SDG organised a Youth Conference titled, "Bangladesh and Agenda 2030: Expectation of Youth" on October 14, 2018 at Krishibid Institution Auditorium where BILS participated as a

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## Inception meeting on study of RMG and water transport sector



*Part of inception meeting for preparing research outline and taking direction from participants*

An inception meeting titled, "Study to Analyze the Role of Different Authorities in Industrial Dispute Settlement and Developing Comprehensive Recommendations for RMG and Water Transport Sector" on October 9, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. Preparing a research

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## BILS journal publication and consultation meeting held



*Guests unveil the BILS journal in the meeting*

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung organised a journal publication and consultation meeting on October 28, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall with the participation of Trade Union leaders and academicians.

Taking directions, recommendations and initiatives from the discussion of leaders and academicians on recently published journal and also taking directions to make the journal more adequate to all were the main

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## Research findings sharing meeting held



*Participants are in an open discussion in research findings sharing meeting*

A research findings sharing meeting titled, "A Living Wage is Possible: Role from Brands/ Buyers is Important" was held on November 11, 2018 at BILS Seminar Hall. Sharing the research findings and taking directions from the discussants through an open discussion was the main objective of

the meeting.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the meeting while Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment Deputy Director Md. Mahfuzur Rahman

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