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International Women's Day 2019 observed



Participants in the rally on International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2019, BILS and its different networks associated with a number of workers' rights organizations, organized human chain and rally in front of the National Press Club on March 8,

2019. Keeping in front the slogan titled 'Implementation of the policy and enacting the law in order to safeguard the rights of domestic women workers', those events were

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Workplace Situation Report 2018

Bangladesh is going to be a middle income country by 2024. In a view to fulfill this demand, the government has taken a number of initiatives for addressing challenges and embracing opportunities in economic sector. This is to be mentioned that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) has to be achieved by 2030 "Decent Work and Economic Growth" is one of the major important goals of SDG. The trend of labour market, employment and workplace situation play important role to fulfilling this goal.

According to Labour Force

Survey-2016-17 published by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics-BBS in 2018, the employed population of Bangladesh including formal and informal sector was increased by 1.3 million, while in contrast, unemployed population was increased by 0.1 million but the unemployment rate was unchanged which is 4.2.

If we look back to 2018, we can find out that reformation of Labour Law and declaration of minimum wage in different sectors in where RMG was the main focal point, were the

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International Women's Day 2019 observed

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arranged throughout the day in the capital, where leaders of human rights

workplace', Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad-Skop (Workers- Employees Unity Council) and IndustriAll Bangladesh Council (IBC) Mirpur and Narayanganj Cluster Committees, in

Another human chain along with a rally was held with the initiative of the Central Women Committee of BILS associated National Trade Union Federations on March 8, 2019.

Prior to the initiative of the Gender Platform, a candlelight vigil was organized in front of the National Press Club on March 7, 2019, from 5pm to 6pm.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (BJSD) President Anwar Hossain, National Domestic Workers' Coordination Council Convener Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, General Secretary of Jatiya Mohila Sramik League Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, MP, Advisor of Garhostyo Nari Sramik Union Abul Hossain, Secretary General of IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Salauddin Shapon, IBC Dhaka



BILS affiliated National TU Federation Women's committee formed human chain and rally

and labour rights organizations of different areas and more than two hundred domestic women workers were present.

In the rally, the speakers demanded to ensure the protection and welfare of domestic workers, their dignity, prevention against violence, fair wages, compensation and Decent Work environment in line with the 'Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015'. They also demanded to enact a law in line with the policy.

Keeping another slogan titled 'Enacting law against sexual harassment based on the High Court's verdict to ensure women-friendly

cooperation with BILS, organized a rally in front of the National Press Club on the same day.



Participants in the human chain in front of National Press Club



Participants in the rally in Chattogram

Mirpur Cluster Committee Coordinator Amirul Haque Amin and Narayanganj Committee Coordinator Hedayetul Islam were present on the occasion among others.

To observe International Women's Day-2019, BILS, with the support of DGB-BW organized a rally and a discussion meeting in Chattogram on March 8, 2019. More than 200 women participants from various TU organizations gathered at the DC Hill, Chattogram premises and a colorful rally was brought out. The rally covered some major roads/highways and ended at Cheragi Pahar, Chattogram.

BILS organised workshop on ensuring rights and safety of fishing workers



Participants in the Workshop at Daily Star Centre

BILS, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a workshop titled, "Rights and Safety of Fishing Workers: Existing Condition and Way Forward to Development" on November 27, 2018 at Azimur Rahman Hall, The Daily Star Centre. 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 Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the programme, while Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan was present as moderator. Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha General

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Conference held on livelihood, rights and social safety of rickshaw-van puller



Discussants in the conference on livelihood, rights and social safety of rickshaw-van puller in Dhaka city

BILS organised a conference on presentation of study report titled, "Livelihood, Rights and Social Safety of Rickshaw-Van Puller in Dhaka City" on November 25, 2018 at CIRDAP Auditorium. Presenting a study report on livelihood, rights and social safety of

rickshaw-van puller in Dhaka city and accepting the study report and taking suggestions and opinion for future were the main objectives of the conference.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the

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Advance training for leadership development at RMG sector



A group photo of advanced training programme on leadership development at RMG sector

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a four-day advanced training programme on leadership development at RMG sector on February 10, 11, 18 & 19, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka. This training programme was organised aiming to enhance skills of union formation, training for youth leaders' of federations and area based labour leaders at RMG sector.

The main objectives of the workshop

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SNF formed human chain recalling six year of Tazreen Fire



SNF formed Human chain in front of National Press Club

Sramik Nirapotta Forum paid homage at Jurain Grave Yard and formed a human chain in front of National Press Club on November 24, 2018 recalling six year of Tazreen garments fire accident.

Speaker in the human chain demanded to bring persons under justice who are responsible for this fire and also urge to

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Advance training for leadership development

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were building the capacity of the participants to play effective role for ensuring workers rights, identifying violations and prevention against those, involving them actively in union activities and implementing strategy through identifying area based problems.

Youth leaders and organisers of SKOP affiliated Trade Union Federations at RMG sector and IndustriAll associated Federations and area based union committees participated in the training programme.

BILS organised workshop on ensuring rights

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Secretary Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam presented the keynote paper. Among others, FES Residential representative Tina Blohm, BILS Advisory Council Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Chairman of Social Work Department at Jagannath University Professor Rezaul Karim, BILS Executive Council Members Umma Hasan Jhalmal, Md. Abdul Wahed and Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Bangladesh Sramik Federation General Secretary A A M Fayeze Hossain, fishing workers leaders from Chittagong, Khulna and Barishal and Youth Trade Union leaders participated in the workshop.

Mentioning fishing workers' social-economic crisis, speakers in the workshop recommended to stop collecting fine illegally from fishing workers, take effective measure for protecting their lives, maintain charity system, provide government aid without interest, find out the missing workers and take effective initiatives to bring the workers back to the country who are trapped in neighbour country for fishing in the sea, provide compensation to the families of missing workers, take initiative to launch community radio, raise awareness

among the workers through providing training, bring women workers under protection, form a monitoring cell with the government for taking immediate decision in any problem, take a welfare project for the workers like one house one firm project, implement properly in providing identity card if there is a provision, inspire owners to provide life jacket, wireless, start tracking device system in fishing trawlers.

Conference held on livelihood rights and social safety

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conference while BILS Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan moderated the programme while Professor of Jagannath University Dr. Rezaul Karim presented the keynote paper. Senior Trade Union Trainer Khandoker Abdus Salam presented the claims. BILS Secretary and Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal General Secretary Nurul Islam Khan Nasim, Samajtantrik Sramik Front Secretary General Razekuzzaman Ratan, Motor Sramik League President Insur Ali, Bangladesh Rickshaw Malik Federation Senior Vice-President Md. Harunur Rashid Khan and Rajdhani Rickshaw Malik Samiti General Secretary A K M Gias Uddin participated in the panel discussion.

Speakers in the conference demanded for providing license to rickshaw puller, standard living place sanitation system, arranging pure drinking water for workers and application to the City Corporation for number plate.

Emphasizing on license of rickshaw puller A K M Gias Uddin said, City Corporation shows negligence in case of providing license to the rickshaw puller whereas their expenditure is more than their income. Basically the workers, working in field are started to work as rickshaw puller. In this sector workers are being tortured by administration to general people in various ways, but they can not make complain to police against it as they do not have any organisation. Even

rickshaw pullers have to take help from pedestrians to bury their dead body. How many rickshaws will run in Dhaka city that should be determined from City Corporation. He urged to control the rickshaw business and the allover development of rickshaw pullers considering the issue of their humanity. Nurul Islam Khan said, organising rickshaw puller in Dhaka city has been trying for a long time. In this case, the owners and workers must be united. He urged to publish a short claim immediately by specifying the main points from the claim published by BILS. Md. Harun Or Rashid said, there are no owners of battery powered rickshaw. These pullers do not get any place to stay and any garage to keep their rickshaw. Accidents are also high in these rickshaws. The owners are more victim than the pullers as these rickshaws do not have any license. He emphasized on ensuring better accommodation for rickshaw pullers.



Participants in the Conference at CIRDAP Auditorium

Razekuzzaman Ratan said, it would be better if there is a chapter containing with Trade Union organisations' contribution to rickshaw pullers. Trade Union can play a vital role in case of implementing a policy to determine the rickshaw fare. Trade Union can contribute to provide training on behavioral rules of rickshaw pullers, taking necessary measures to protect their health and managing the case. Besides, he urged to bring the rickshaw pullers under health camp by providing health card among them.

Besides, BILS and SKOP affiliated national Federations Trade Union leaders, human rights organisations leaders were present in the conference.

Research report dissemination on workers' rights and Decent Work for youth in informal sector



Participants in the Roundtable at Daily Star Centre

BILS, with the support of Action Aid Bangladesh organised a roundtable to disseminate the research report titled, "Decent Work for Youth in Informal Sector: Status, Challenge and Way Forward" on December 19, 2018 at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, Daily Star Centre.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan presided over the

roundtable while Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan moderated the programme. Associate Professor of Department of Social Work at Jagannath University Mostafiz Ahmed presented research findings regarding this issue. The research conducted on these five sectors of construction, beauty salon,

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Seminar held on current status, crisis and possibility of Jute industry



Participants in the Seminar at CIRDAP Auditorium.

BILS organised a seminar titled, "Current Status, Crisis and Possibility of Jute Industry" on November 25, 2018 at CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka. BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan presided over the seminar and BILS Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan moderated the

programme while BILS Advisory Council Member Shahidullah Chowdhury presented the keynote paper. Among others BJMC former Director General and Scientific Advisor Dr. Mubarak Ahmad Khan, Prominent Economist and Dhaka University Professor Dr. M M Akash,

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Workshop held on ending violence at workplace



A group photo of Workshop at BILS Seminar Hall

BILS and CARE Bangladesh Jointly organized a workshop titled "Ending Violence and Harassment at Workplace" on March 28, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

Main objectives of this workshop were to make recommendation and work plan to ending violence and harassment at workplace.

Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF Convener Dr. Hameeda Hossain, BILS Vice Chairperson Shirin Akter, MP, Jatiya Mohila Sramik League Secretary Shamsun Nahar Bhuiyan, MP, BILS Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, CARE Bangladesh Women and Girls Empowerment Project Director Humaira Aziz, ITF Bangladesh Member Secretary Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, BJSF President Shamim Ara, JSJ General Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, JSJ General Secretary Md. Nurul Amin, ITUC-BC Women Committee General Secretary Nasrin Akter Dina, BILS Executive Council Member Umma Hasan Jhalmal and Kazi Rahima Akter Shathi, JSJ Working President Abdul Wahed, BFTUC Secretary Pulak Ranjan Dhar, BTUC Office Secretary Shahida Parveen Shikha, BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin were Present at this Workshop.

Workplace Situation
Report 2018
(After Page-1)

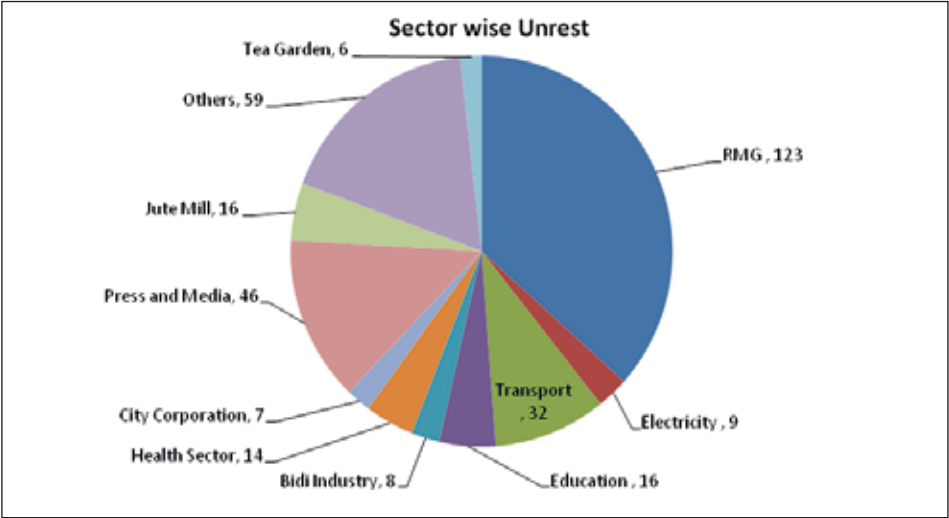
significant initiatives of the government to address labour market and workplace situation. Besides, government's attention on migrant workers and campaign for raising awareness among the migrant workers for working in different countries as well as constructive discussion to create job opportunities

different times based on the minimum wage and due wage issues. We tried to highlight the issues in our report as how much unrest occurred in which sector and the reasons behind the unrest. Besides, we also tried to focus the issues of violence and accident at workplace.

Industrial relations and workplace unrest

In 2018, a total number of 334 workplace unrest were occurred in

garden. In last year, one worker was died due to unrest in RMG sector while 388 workers were injuread and among them 216 workers were men and 172 were women worker. Moreover, the highest number of workers was injured in RMG sector due to unrest whereas 126 were men and 172 were women workers. 75 workers were injured in transport and 14 were injured in jute mill sector due to unrest in 2018.



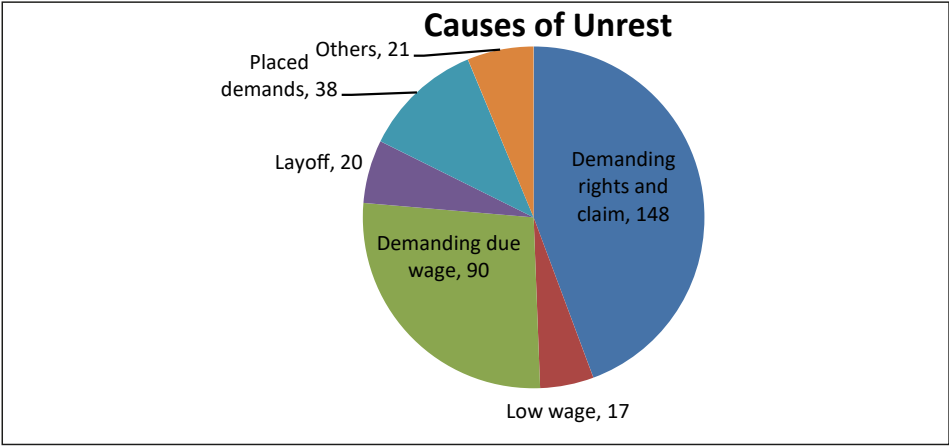
Sector wise Unrest	
Working Sector	Number of Unrest
RMG Sector	123
Press and Media	46
Transport Sector	32
Education Sector	16
Jute Mill	16
Health Sector	14
Electricity Sector	9
Bidi Industry	8
City Corporation	7
Tea Garden	6
Others	57

in various countries were noticeable. In line with this, political parties' response on decent work and workers' rights in their election manifesto was the matter of attention. Although Accord and Alliance, for inspection factories of RMG sector left our country completing their contract, the condition of factories of RMG has changed enormously. As a result, now workers are working in a better environment than earlier.

different sectors. The highest number of unrest was occurred in RMG which was 123 and the reason behind the unrest was minimum wage issue. 46 incidents were occurred in press and media sector, 32 were in transport sector, 16 were in education sector, 16 in jute mill, 14 in health sector, 9 in electricity sector, 8 were in bidi sector, 7 incidents were in city corporation and 6 incidents were occurred in tea

According to the survey report 2018, 148 incident were occurred demanding rights and claim, 90 were occurred demanding due wages, 38 for placed demands, 20 were occurred for layoff and 17 for low wage.

Considering the workplace situation and labour market, BILS publishes a survey report on the basis of news published in different national newspapers regarding workers' unrest, violence and workplace accident. Regarding this, analysing the workers condition at workplace in 2018, workers' unrest in RMG sector has become the crucial fact. Basically, last year the maximum number of unrest took place in RMG sector in



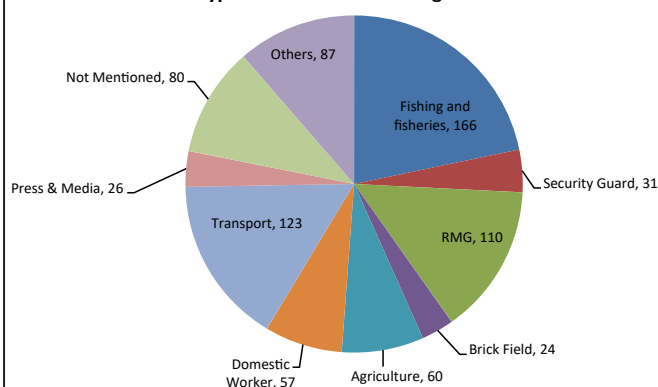
According to the workplace survey report it is found that, in last year 764 workers were victim of violence in different sectors, while 279 workers were murdered, 263 workers were injured, 170 workers were missing and 31 workers committed suicide. The highest number of workers was victim in fishing sector which was 166 in where 145 fishermen were missing, 19

murdered, 35 were injured and 4 committed suicide. The report also shows that, men workers in different sectors were more victim than the women workers in where among 593 men workers, 227 were died, 173 were injured, 169 were missing and 17 committed suicide, while among 169 women workers, 52 were murdered, 90 were

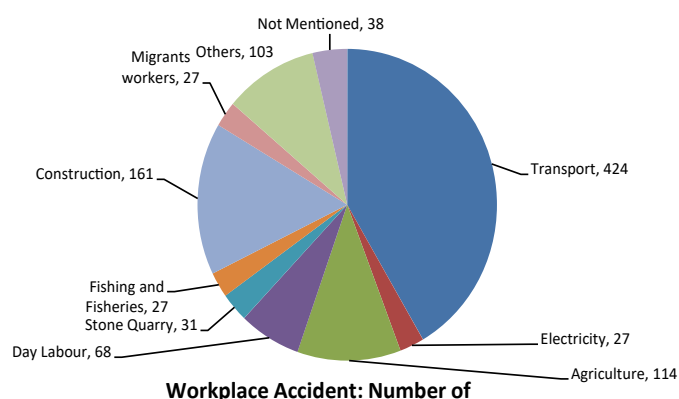
fisheries workers, 27 workers in electricity sector and 27 migrant workers were killed in 2018. Moreover, 103 workers were died in different sectors including ship breaking, rice mill, RMG, tea garden, hawker, water transport etc. During this time, 38 more workers were killed in different areas, where their sectors were not mentioned in newspapers.

Workplace violence

Types of violence according to the sector



Workplace accident and OHS



were injured and 2 were murdered. The second highest number of workers was in transport sector which was 123, in where 91 workers were murdered, 29 workers were injured and two worker was missing. In RMG sector 110 casualties were occurred whereas 32 workers were murdered, 63 workers were injured, 11

injured and 14 were committed suicide.

According to the survey report, 1020 workers were killed in workplace accident, while 1002 were men and 18 were women workers. Conferring to the other sector, the death toll was high in transport sector which was 424, whereas all of them were men. The second highest number was counted in construction sector, which was 161 and all of them were men. The third highest death toll, counted in agricultural sector, was 114. Apart from this, 68 day labourers, and 31 stone quarry workers, 27 fishing and

Comparing the survey report with one of 2017, it has been found that in 2018 the numbers of death were not only high in transport and construction sector like the previous year but also it was increased more than the previous year. In 2017, 307 workers were killed in transport sector which was 424 in the next year.

Similarly, in construction sector 131 workers were killed in 2017 which was 161 in 2018. Result shows that, workers in construction sector are not aware of their risk of life and the owners are not taking initiatives as well as providing Personal Protection

Causes of Unrest	Number of Unrest
Demanding rights and claim	148
Demanding due wage	90
Placed demands	38
Layoff	20
Low wage	17
Others	21

workers committed suicide and 4 workers were missing. In agriculture, 60 casualties were occurred in where 26 workers were murdered, 27 were injured, 6 were missing and 1 committed suicide. 57 casualties were occurred in case of domestic workers whereas 18 domestic workers were

Violence					
Sector	Murdered	Injured	Missing	Suicide	Total
Fishing and fisheries	2	19	145		166
Transport	91	29	1	2	123
RMG	32	63	4	11	110
Agriculture	26	27	6	1	60
Domestic Worker	18	35		4	57
Security Guard	18	12		1	31
Press & media	2	24			26

Equipment among the workers to reduce the number of death. It is found that the number of death in agriculture sector was increased comparing the number of injury because of lightning. In contrast, the numbers of death in rice mill, RMG and ship breaking sector were decreased comparing the previous year report which was respectively 5, 3 and 15 in 2018 and 20, 16 and 21 in 2017. The numbers of death in other sectors such as electricity, fishing and fisheries, day labour in last year were close to the numbers of previous year. In last year, 482 workers were injured whereas 448 were men and 34 were women. In 2018, the highest number of workers was injured in construction

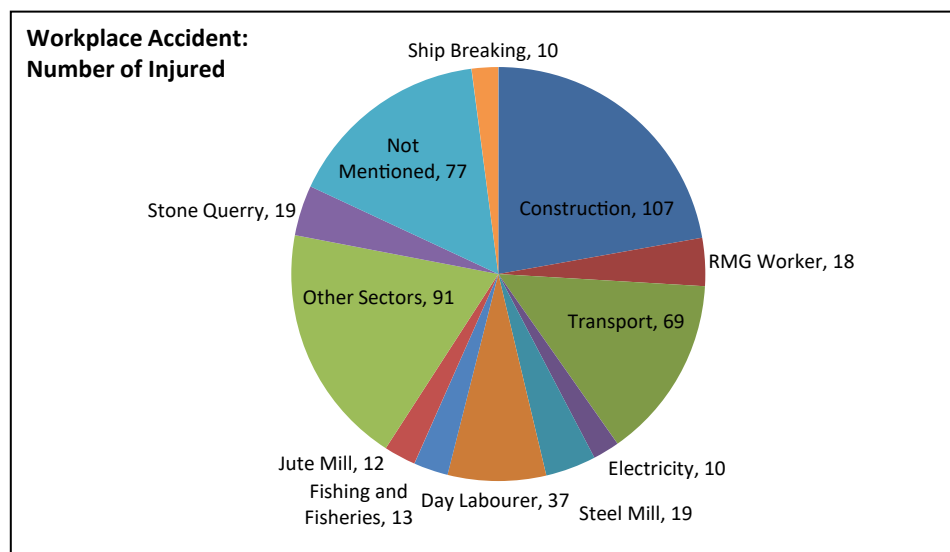
Sector	Number of Death		Total
	Male	Female	
Transport	424		424
Construction	161		161
Agriculture	113	1	114
Day Labour	66	2	68
Stone Quarry	28	3	31
Fishing and Fisheries	26	1	27
Electricity	27		27
Migrants workers	25	2	27
Others	95	8	103
Not Mentioned	37	1	38

The numbers of injured workers in construction and transport sector were increased in 2018, while the numbers were respectively 92 and 48 in 2017. On the other hand, the number of injured workers in RMG sector was declined comparing the

workers were declined paralleling to previous year which was respectively 13, 21, 15, 29 and 54 in 2017. Moreover, the survey report shows that, the number of injured women workers was declined in 2018 comparing previous year's report. The number was 109 in 2017. It is found that the number of men workers was greater than before.

The number of missing workers was increased in last year, which was 79, while all of the workers were men. The number was 6 in 2017. The highest number of workers was missing in fishing and fisheries sector which was 64, while in 2017 the number was 2.

Reason behind the accident shows that, a total number of 1190 incident was occurred in which 650 were occurred by road accident, 134 were occurred by electrocution, 124 were occurred by lightning, 79 incidents were happened by falling from height, 48 were occurred by building collapsed, 26 by drowned, 23 by fire and 22 incident were occurred by



sector which was 107 and the second highest number was in transport sector which was 69. Besides, 37 day labourer, 18 RMG workers, 10 workers in electricity sector, 19 workers in Stone Quarry, 19 workers in steel mill, 13 workers in fishing and fisheries, 12 jute mill workers and 10 workers in ship breaking sector were injured. 91 workers were injured in other sector including agriculture, overseas job, stone quarry, water transport, coal mine, media and NGO while 77 more workers were injured whereas their sectors were not identified.

The result shows that the number of injured workers was decreased by a few numbers which was 517 in 2017.

number of previous year, which was 158. Similarly, in stone quarry, ship breaking, restaurant, rice mill and day labourer, the number of injured

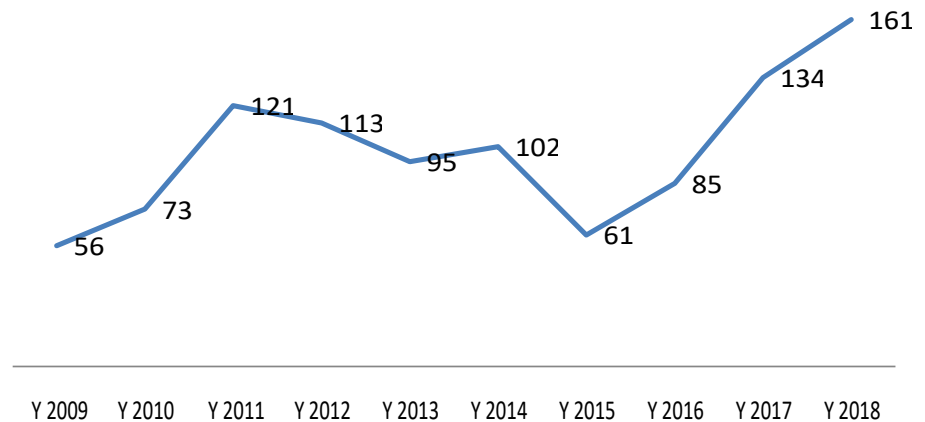
Sector	Number of Injury		Total
	Male	Female	
Construction	106	1	107
Transport	69		70
Day Labourer	36	1	37
RMG Worker	6	12	18
Electricity	10		10
Steel Mill	19		19
Stone Quarry	19		19
Fishing and Fisheries	7	6	13
Jute Mill	6	6	12
Ship Breaking	10		10
Other Sectors	83	8	91
Not Mentioned	77		77

explosion. Comparing with previous year the number of incident increased in case of road accident, electrocution, and explosion and building collapse.

In case of occupational health and hazard one incident was occurred in RMG sector where 35 workers became sick by drinking unhygienic water and one worker was died for extra pressure of work.

Analyzing the survey report, it is found that last year huge number migrant workers were victim of violence which was 338. Among them 326 were tortured, 7 were murdered and 2 were kidnaped. Transport, construction, RMG, fishing and fisheries sectors were in the focal point of discussion. In every year the death and injury rate of workers in transport and construction sector are increasing. Last year, RMG sector was another issue of discussion regarding the fixation of their minimum wage issue which creates an unstable environment in this sector. Fishing and fisheries sector was highlighted in the last year because huge number of workers in this sector was victim of violence comparing to previous year. In this case, kidnapping is the main reason, while being tortured by the

Construction Workers Workplace Accident Death 2009-2018



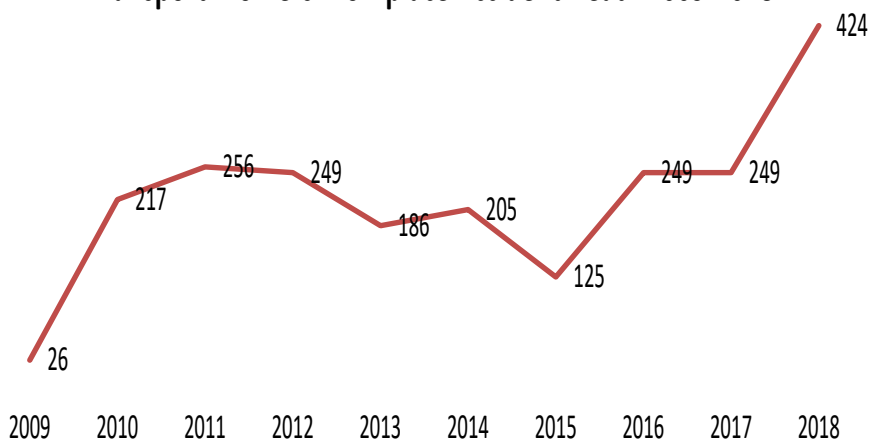
robbers was one of the major reasons. The report also shows that, as an informal sector the condition of domestic workers is unchanged comparing to previous year whereas the number of torture, rape, mystery death has increased.

Transport and construction sector are in the focal point in current phase because of the high death rate of workers in these two sectors. Analyzing the survey report from 2009 to 2018, it is found that, in transport sector the death rate of workers was the lowest in 2009 which was 26 and the highest was in 2018

which was 424. It is observed that, in 2013 and 2015 the number of workers' death was declined and it was below 200 while it was more than in 2010, 2011, and 2014. It is also found that, in 2012, 2016 and 2017 the number of workers' death was same which was 249. The following graph chart analysing 10 years survey report of transport sector shows that the rate of mortality started rising in 2010 which declined in 2015 and again started to rise from 2016.

According to the survey report from 2009 to 2018 it is found that in construction sector the number of workers' death was the lowest in 2009 which was 56 and highest in 2018 which was 161. It is observed that in 2010, 2013 and 2016 the number of workers' death was under 100 which was respectively 73, 95 and 85 while the number declined to 61 in 2015. It is also found that, in 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2017 the number of workers' death was more than 100. Analysing 10 years survey report of construction sector it is found that, the rate of mortality started rising in 2011 which declined in 2015 and again started to rise from 2016.

Transport Workers Workplace Accident Death 2009-2018



Research report dissemination on workers'

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automobiles, hotel restaurants and online businesses shows that 88 percent of youth workers do not have written agreement for employment, 88 percent have no identity card, 93 percent have no service book, 62 percent discharge without notice, 62 percent do not get overtime allowance, 98 percent have no knowledge on minimum wage, 60 percent earnings below 10 thousand. 30 percent adolescence exists in these sectors especially in restaurant, construction and beauty salon which are unsafe. 43 percent workers do not have knowledge on risk at workplace and in 80 percent there is no Trade Union.

Among others ILO Skill for Development and Practice Project Chief Technical Advisor Kishor Kumar Singh, Department of Labour Deputy Director Rafiqul Islam Fakir, Action Aid Manager Nazmul Ahsan, Voluntary Service Organisation Project

Coordinator Shafiqur Rahman, National Skill Development Council Deputy Director Abdul Majed, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar Hossain, Bangladesh Labour Federation General Secretary Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan, Bangladesh Motorjan Sramik Federation President Anwar Hossain Khokon, Informal Sector Industry Skill Council representative Abdul Aziz Munsu, Oxfam representative Tosiba Kashem, Karmojibi Nari representative Sanjida Khatun, BILS Executive Council member Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Trade Union Centre Office Secretary Shahida Parveen Shikha, Bangladesh Mukta Sramik Federation Secretary Shahidullah Badal were present in the roundtable. Mentioning the importance of training for youth workers to raise awareness among them regarding their rights discussants in the roundtable said, "According to International Policy decent work was not convinced fully in Bangladesh Labour Law 2006". They said, "Youth

workers are not aware of their rights. Government, private organisations and civil society have to come forward to make them aware of this. They recommended arranging job oriented education, compulsory signature of the owner's workers contract in the recruitment of workers, ensuring workers' rights and Trade Union rights through proper implementation of ILO Convention 87 and 98, taking necessary steps for improving workers' skills, taking joint initiatives of government and private through Trade Union in order to raise awareness among the workers on unsafe and decent work, implementing policy for informal sector, emphasizing gender issue at decent work, protection of Laws for women workers, removing of child labour, providing identity card to workers, stop harassment of taking maternity leave, arranging pension system, bringing all sectors under Labour Law and giving proper importance to youth labour force.

Women Day in Picture



BILS LO-FTF partnership Meeting



Part of partnership meeting between BILS and LO-FTF delegates

Partnership Meeting of BILS LO-FTF project was held on March 3 & 7, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall. The workshop was organised to evaluate previous activities and to discuss about forth coming activities of the project.

Special Consultant of LO-FTF Council Mr Jens Aarup, Head of SRO

Manila, Philippines Peter Lunding, BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, Director, Kohinoor Mahmood, Deputy Director M A Mazid & Yousuf Al Mamun along with other BILS officials were present in the meeting.

Opinion Sharing Meeting held on Decent Work situation at RMG Sector



Participants in the opinion sharing meeting at BILS Seminar Hall

An Opinion sharing meeting held on Decent Work situation at RMG Sector on February 28, 2019 at BILS seminar Hall, Dhaka.

Leaders Discussed about the draft report on Decent Work status at RMG Sector and shared some recommendations to finalize the

report.

BILS Advisory Council member Roy Ramesh Chandra and Quamrul Ahsan, JSJB president Saifuzzaman Badsha, BJSF President Shamim Ara, SSF General Secretary Rajekuzzaman Ratan, JSJ General

BILS Publications

- In observance of International Women's Day BILS published and distributed a Poster titled "Think Everyone, Do Something New, Make a New World of Man and Woman Equality".



- In observance of International Women's Day Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN published and distributed a leaflet titled "Think Everyone, Do Something New, Make a New World of Man and Woman Equality".



Opinion Sharing Meeting held on Decent Work situation at RMG Sector

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Secretary Md. Nurul Amin, IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Secretary General Salahuddin Shapoon, BILS Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Council Member Abdul Wahed and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan were present at the meeting.

Consultation meeting with Chattogram based leadership

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attended the meeting.

The consultation meeting was presided by BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Member and TUC President Tapan Datta. The meeting was addressed among others by BILS Secretary and Joint-Secretary of JSL Central Committee Md. Safar Ali, BILS Secretary and A M Nazimuddin. President- BJSD Chattogram. Among others, leadership from different TU Federations namely Md. Mosiuddowla of TUC, Sheikh Nurrullah Bahar of BJSD, Uzzal Biswas of JSL, Kaji Altaf Hossain of BMSF, Anwarul Huq of BFTUC, A K M Mominul Islam of JSJ, Md. Nurul Abser Bhuiyan of BLF, Bodhipal Barua of BJSJ, Jahed uddin Shahin of BJSF spoke on the occasion.

Program participants were thoroughly briefed on the project activities. The consultation mainly focused on the ultimate goal of the 3-year project. It was discussed in the meeting that under BILS-DGB-BW activities, a "Core Organizing Team", a "Trainers Team" and a "Campaign & Advocacy Team" will function. Workers from RMG, Construction, Hotel, Health, Port and Railway will be covered under the project activities. The ultimate goal of the project activities are to ensure Decent Work, to promote social justice and democratic practices. Mainly women and youth in trade union will be encouraged and equipped through numerous activities.

six year of Tazreen

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provide compensation to the victim according to international standard and long term treatment to the injured workers. Besides, they urged to ensure suitable measures for avoiding this kind of accident.

Leaders of Sramik Nirapotta Forum, SKOP and BILS and Garments Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad affiliated Trade Union Federations, Human Rights organisations and different Garments Trade Union organisations participated in the activities.

Study Circle Programme with youth TU organizers

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movement in future.

The participants discussed on different issues for the betterment of study circle including organizing it actively and regularly, giving emphasis on leadership in informal sectors, forming fact finding group and organizing sharing meeting on accident, compensation and any other emergency situation at workplace.

During the programme, all the participants stood up for observing one minute silence remembering persons who died in the Chawkbazar Fire incident.

The programme was facilitated by Senior Program officer of BILS Monirul Kobir.

BILS-FNV Project Advisory Committee meeting

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the meeting took some decisions from the discussion of the meeting.

BILS Vice Chairman and BILS-FNV Project Advisory Council Member Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud presided over the meeting while BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra and Amirul Haque Amin, Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, Lifetime Member Md. Touhidur Rahman, BILS Director and Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin and Programme Officer Md. Syaduzzaman Mithu were present in the meeting.

BILS participation in International Migrant Workers Fair 2018



BILS received award through participation in the migration fair

"Rights of Migrant Workers, Dignity and Justice" following this slogan BILS participated International Migrant Workers Fair 2018, organised by Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment on December 18, 2018 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center. BILS also set up a stall where a number of publications regarding BILS activities and research were displayed.

Joint meeting of BILS Advisory and Executive Council

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and Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Finance Secretary Md. Kabir Hossain, Secretary Md. Alauddin Mia, Abdul Kader Hawlader, Nurul Islam Khan Nasim and Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Council Member Kutubuddin Ahmed, Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Pulak Ranjan Dhar, Umma Hasan Jhalmal, Nasrin Akter Dina and Kazi Rahima Akter Sathi were present in the meeting.



BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan addressed the meeting

Joint meeting of BILS Advisory and Executive Council



Participants in the meeting at BILS Seminar Hall

BILS Advisory and Executive Council joint meeting held on February 9, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the meeting while BILS Advisory Council Member Shahidullah

Chowdhury, Roy Ramesh Chandra, Quamrul Ahsan and Amirul Haque Amin, BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan

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Consultation meeting with Chattogram based leadership



Participants in consultation meeting in Chattogram

BILS organized a consultation meeting with Chattogram based leadership under its' DGB-BW project on March 27, 2019 at Asian SR Hotel Seminar Hall in Chattogram.

BILS associated Trade Union Federation leaders from Chattogram division

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Study Circle with youth TU organizers



Participants in the study circle at BILS Seminar Hall

A Study Circle with youth Trade Union organizers organized by BILS-FES partnership was held on February 27, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

Objectives of the Programme were to draw recommendations for the betterment of upcoming new study circle and to identify the next six months activities.

Joint Secretary General & Executive

Director of BILS Md. Zafrul Hasan inaugurated the programme, while Director (Research & Development) Nazma Yesmin delivered welcome address.

Praising the role of youth leadership, Md. Zafrul Hasan mentioned that they can give their best effort for creating a democratic and fair labour

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BILS-FNV Project Advisory Committee meeting



BILS-FNV project advisory committee members discuss in the meeting

A Project Advisory Committee meeting held under BILS-Social Dialogue, Gender Equality and Decent Work Project on February 9, 2019 at BILS Library, Dhaka.

The meeting was organised aiming to present the activities of BILS-FNV Project and to present and determine the area based activities. Discussants in

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SNF Human Chain

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rehabilitation of the victims.

Speakers of the human chain said, at least 27 workers died in Chawkbazar Tragedy and seven injured workers are still under treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Many of those who are admitted in the burn unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital have no improvement in physical condition, not only that many of them are in critical condition.

Speakers also said that those responsible for the accident are still not brought under punishment. There is no obvious report on the progress of government and non-government assistance and cooperation.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, BILS Executive Council Member Abdul Wahed, TUC Joint General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Acting General Secretary of Bangladesh Mukto Sramik Federation Shahidullah Badal, Awaj Foundation President Momtaz Begum, SNF Acting Member Secretary Sekendar Ali Mina, Blast Project Manager Abdul Malek, Trade Union leaders and human rights organizations leaders of SNF and BILS Leaders attended the event.

Speakers placed following demands:

- Set the compensation for victims/workers at 10 lakh taka.
- Carry out the treatment expenses of the injured and ensure rehabilitation for them.
- Considering the level of inability of the injured workers and other locals, the compensation should be set, which is no less than five lakh taka.
- Above all, publish the report of all the investigation committees.
- Set compensation according to the amount of damage to the neighboring property
- The people responsible for the accident must be brought under the law.
- Remove all the chemicals from Old Dhaka to remote areas.

Seminar held on current status, crisis and possibility

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Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association Secretary General Shahidul Karim, BILS Advisory Council Member Md. Asharaf Hossain, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Trade Union Sangha President Khalilur Rahman, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, CPD Research Director Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Khulna Jute Workers' leader Mohiuddin Ahmed, Chittagong Jute Workers' leader Mahbubul Alam, Karim Jute Mills, Demra Trade Union leader Abul Hossain, Delawar Hossain from Latif Bawani Jute Mil, Mosharraf Hossain from UMC Jute Mil, Md. Sohnaab from Khulna Ispahani Jute Mil and representatives of organisations associated with jute industry, BILS affiliated and SKOP associated national Federations leaders, expertise and Trade Union leaders of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong and Khulna area were present in the seminar. Speakers in the seminar said that, it is necessary to identify jute properly and its proper use must be understood. If the parts of the jute mills are not modernized like other industry, its economic potential will be reduced, they added. As well as explanation of the idea, speaker also advised to consider the capacity and growth in this regard. Urging the government to take an initiative to discuss in the right way of India's antidumping; they said that the success of private sector will be used in the jute sector.

Professor M M Aksah said, considering the international market, we have to produce our products at affordable prices. In comparison to India our export of jute products has increased in the past six years. The market price should be determined considering these progresses. Right plans have to be taken on hand to survive the old factories. For this, we have to step down from BMRE and have to select the factory on priority basis. To implement the wage declared by the government, BJMC has to reap the loss again in case

of providing double salary. So, concerned all including the government have to come forward to take correct measures by reviewing this for maintaining labour rights. If the productivity can make double then it can be possible to provide double wage, he said. Emphasizing on taking initiative of imposing a huge amount on rehabilitation of workers at dead factories he said, considering the balance of BJMC human resource will be reduced. He suggested reducing the burden of loan under its subsidies. He urged to remove existing corruption and nepotism immediately in case of buying raw jute.

Dr. Mubarak Ahmad Khan said, as jute gets a sufficient priority in Bangladesh, so Bangladesh has a complete ministry on jute. He mentioned, global market has realized the necessity to step down from using polythene while realizing the bad impact of polythene. Mentioning the necessity of adequate research to facing the challenge in order to cope up with the competition to synthetic and developing the products quality he said,

government should come forward. He also said that there is necessity to come forward for the utilization of jute like lignin and cellulose jute economically. There is possibility of using this type of jute in garment industry.

Shahidul Karim said that, there should be coordination in determining price. Due to the high production price, it could not catch the local market.

Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem said, government wants to create a market in the country. There is a need to make this potential. But the reality of all the mills that are closed have to be understandable. In this case, right decision should be taken considering debt, financial loss, reserves, arrears, and other related matters. He commented that, other closed jute mills which are under BJMC could be taken to build new factories.

BILS Advisory Council member Md. Asharaf Hossain said, despite many possibilities in the jute industry, it has been continuously deteriorated. In this case workers existence and rights should be considered.

BILS-DGB-BW Project Launching Ceremony

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Chancellor of Feni University Professor Dr. Fasiul Alam, Researcher and Associate professor of the Department of Law, University of Chittagong Dr. Muhammed Shaheen Chowdhury, Assistant Director of Labour, Chattogram Md. Moksedul Alam were present in the Programme as special guests. More than 60 participants from different local TU & CSO's were present during the Programme. BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazimuddin, Member-Secretary Md. Safar Ali, Member Tapan Dutta & local TU & CSO representatives also spoke on the occasion. BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said, "Since 1995 BILS has been conducting different activities with an

ultimate goal of strengthening the trade union movement in Bangladesh with a view to ensure the national and international law and convention covered rights of the working class, to develop the livelihood of the workers and in a broad to establish Decent Work and Social Justice for them. Through recent Three years BILS-DGB-BW joint efforts we have tried our level best to assist, support and promote trade union activities at the local level. Our upcoming activities and efforts will definitely help the trade union movement and ensure the capacity building and empowering women and youth as a whole.



Participants in the project launching ceremony in Chattogram

Workshop on Inclusive Growth and Employment

(After Page-16)

trade union leaders for preparing a position paper based on a research analysed workers inclusion in development goal. Leaders of BILS and National Trade Union Federations discussed on different issues bringing changes in the nature of job market like restructuring, automation, virtual employment, Fourth Industrial Revolution etc. in a view to formulate necessary recommendations for ensuring Decent Work, rehabilitation, social safety net and dignity of the workers.

Professor of Department of Institute of Bangladesh Studies at Rajshahi University Dr. Jakir Hossain briefed the discussion points of the research with a presentation. Among others, BILS Vice Chairman and Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Anwar

Hossain, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh President Saifuzzaman Badsha, BILS Secretary Rowshan Jahan Sathi and Executive Member Umma Hasan Jhalmal were present at the meeting.



Participants in the Workshop at BILS Seminar Hall

Workshop held on manual development for inspection

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& Information) Kohinoor Mahmood delivered welcome address. Joint Inspector General (Safety) Farid Ahmed and Deputy Inspector General (Safety) Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) Head Office and Labour Inspectors from Chattogram Polash kumar das and Suvankar Dutta, Ship Breaking Workers Trade Union Forum Joint Conveners A M NazimUddin and Md. Shafar Ali were present at the workshop among others.



Participants in the workshop at BILS Seminar Hall

Objective of the workshop was to develop manual for factory inspectors aimed at upgrading livelihood and workplace environment of Ship-breaking workers in line with national and international laws and tools regarding Ship-breaking industries.

Different points like national and international instruments, health hazard, role of government, employers and trade union, legal aspect and good practices were discussed as part of the plan to develop the manual.

A follow-up meeting of the workshop was held at BILS Library on February 19, 2019, where DIG (Safety) Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan, former DIG Kazi Habibur Rahman, Ship Breaking Workers Trade Union Forum Convener Tapan Dutta, Trade Union leaders and BILS officials took part in the discussion about further development of the workplan for the manual.

SNF human chain held in remembrance of one month of Chawk Bazar Tragedy



Participants in the human chain in front of national press club

A human chain organised by Sramik Nirapotta Forum-SNF was held in front of the National Press Club on March 23, 2019 to commemorate one month of Chawkbazar Tragedy and to demand proper treatment, compensation and

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Workshop held on manual development for inspection at Ship-breaking sector



Participants in the workshop at BILS Seminar Hall

A workshop aimed at developing manual for labour inspectors at Ship-breaking sector was held at BILS Seminar Hall on February 2, 2019.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the inaugural session of the workshop, while Director (Programme

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BILS-DGB-BW Project Launching Ceremony



BILS Advisory Council Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed Addressed at the project launching ceremony

BILS organized a Project Launching Ceremony of its' DGB-BW project (2019-2021) on March 12, 2019 at Hotel Asian SR Seminar Hall, Chattogram.

The Programme was presided over by BILS-DGB-BW Project Advisory

Committee Chairman Mesbahuddin Ahmed. BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan was the chief guest of the Programme, while BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Researcher and Former Vice

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Workshop on Inclusive Growth and Employment



Participants in the workshop at BILS Seminar Hall

BILS, as part of its LO-FTF project activities, organised a workshop for trade union recommendations titled, "Making Economic Growth Work for Bangladesh's Workers: Growth Patterns, Challenges and Strategic Direction for Inclusive Development" on February 24, 2019 at BILS Seminar

Hall. BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the programme, while Joint Secretary General Md. Zafrul Hasan acted as moderator.

The workshop was organised aimed at formulating recommendations from

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