



## News Inside

- BILS published research report on rights and safety of rickshaw drivers (P-3)
- Condolence meeting on BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra (P-3)
- Quarterly Meeting of the Centre Coordination Committee (P-3)
- Chattogram based leadership consultation meeting (P-3)
- May Day in Picture (P-4)
- Quarterly Meeting of LRSC-Civil Society Network (P-5)
- Two Day workshop on mainstreaming Gender & Youth issues (P-5)
- Seminar with Core Organising Team for Orientation on Plan of Action (P-5)
- BILS-Migrant WEP Project Advisory Committee meeting (P-5)
- Opinion Sharing Meeting on role of trade union to ensure the safe immigration (P-7)
- Discussion meeting with Cluster Committee on finalizing Community Solidarity Forum guideline (P-7)
- Quarterly BILS-LRSC & civil society network meeting held (P-7)
- BILS Participation in migrant fair in Manikganj (P-7)
- Research report sharing meeting with area based Cluster Committee (P-9)
- Trade Union Strategic Planning Workshop for Bangladesh (P-12)
- Trade Union activists remembered the victims of Rana Plaza Tragedy (P-12)
- BILS and LRJF jointly organized seminar on workers social security (P-12)
- Capacity development of the Core Organizing Team held (P-12)

## May Day-2019 observed demanding eight working hour for workers



*TU leaders at the human chain*

BILS and its network on the demand to ensure eight hour of work, rest and holidays for the workers, organised number of events on May Day.

Workers Rights Network (DWRN), a domestic workers' gathering was organized at Paltan area on May 1, 2019. In addition, BILS and CARE Bangladesh organised a domestic

Under the initiative of Domestic

» Page 2, Column-1 »

## BILS press conference on International Commemoration Day



*Leaders are in the press conference*

BILS, on the occasion of International Commemoration Day, organized a press conference on 28 April, 2019 at National Press Club in Dhaka.

At the press conference, a survey

report was disseminated based on different news published in the national level newspapers on workers' unrest, workplace accidents and violence in 2018. BILS joint secretary general Dr. Wajedul

» Page 6, Column-1 »

## Demanding eight working hour rest and leave

(After Page-1)

workers human chain and rally at Paltan intersection. Besides, human chains and rallies were held under the



Part of Human Chain observing May Day initiative of Narayanganj Cluster of BILS FNV Project. Apart from this, a temporary information center was set up by the initiative of BILS. Various publications related to labour rights were distributed from the information center. On the other hand, a rally was organized by BILS at Joyra Bus Stand area of Manikganj demanding the protection of migrant workers.



Red Colored Umbrella Rally in Chattogram Human chain and rally were also organized in Savar Bus Stand area under the initiative of Savar Cluster of BILS FNV Project.

In Chattogram, BILS observed May Day-2019 on May 4, 2019, while a rally with red-colored umbrellas revolved central Chattogram and ended at the Old Railway Station premises where a discussion meeting was arranged.

BILS Advisory Council Member Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar and Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Executive Committee member Shakil Akhter

Chowdhury, Pulak Ranjan Dhar and Abdul Wahed, Jatiya Garhostho Nari Sramik Union Adviser Abul Hossain, Bangladesh Metal, Chemical, Garments and Workers' Federation President Shahidullah Badal, BILS Programme Director Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin along with more than 200 workers from different parts of Dhaka city including BILS and national trade union federation leaders and human rights activists, civil society

representatives, students, researchers and newsmen were present in these events.

Speakers demanded the implementation of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy-2015 as well as to ensuring their welfare, fair wages and compensation.

**Seminar on May Day Perception, Centennial of ILO Convention-1 and Working Hour Situation in Bangladesh:** BILS organised a seminar titled "The May Day Perception, the 100th Anniversary of the ILO Convention 1, and the present situation of the

Working Hour in Bangladesh" held on May 4, 2019 at the Zahur Hossain Conference Hall of the National Press Club.

BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud chaired the inaugural session of the seminar while, Inspector General of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment, Shibnath Roy attended the seminar as the chief guest. Among others, BILS Advisory Council Members Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Shahidullah Chowdhury and Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Secretary Rowshan Jahan Sathi, Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Zakir



Part of rally observing May Day

Hossain, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh AKM Nasim, Program Officer of ILO Bangladesh, Saidul Islam, Secretary General of the IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Salauddin Shapon spoke at the seminar. BILS Deputy Director Md. Yousuf Al-Mamun presented the concept paper of the seminar.

The speakers said that the ILO Convention-1 was ratified by Bangladesh, reasonable working

» Page 4, Column-1 »



Inspector General DIFE Shibnath Roy delivered speech



## BILS published research report on rights and safety of rickshaw drivers in Dhaka city



*Leaders and participants at the research report sharing meeting*

On the initiative of BILS, the publication ceremony of a research report on the life-struggle of the rickshaw drivers of Dhaka city, their needs, contribution in transportation of product and people and their right to organise was held at BILS Seminar Hall at Dhanmondi on June 27, 2019. BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz presided over the programme, while Vice Chairperson Shirin Akhter, MP was present as the chief guest. Jatiya Mohila Sramik League General

Secretary Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, MP, SKOP leader Chowdhury Ashikul Alam, Jatiya Rickshaw Van Sramik League General Secretary Md. Insur Ali, BJSD General Secretary Nurul Islam Khan Nasim, Bangladesh Rickshaw-Van Owner Association President Harun Ur Rashid Khan, Bangladesh Labour Federation General Secretary Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan, Assistant Inspector

» Page 8, Column-1 »

## Condolence meeting held in remembrance BILS Advisory Council Member Roy Ramesh Chandra



*BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz delivered his speech*

A condolence meeting was held on June 30, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall for remembering and discussing life, struggle and work of eminent Trade Union leader, BILS Advisory Council Member and former General Secretary of Jatiya Sramik League Roy Ramesh Chandra.

Mentioning the vital role of Roy Ramesh Chandra for establishing workers' rights, leaders in the meeting said that he was devoted to the welfare of country as well as society. Recalling his working life, speakers said that he had always stood beside the workers during

» Page 9, Column-2 »

## Quarterly meeting of the Centre Coordination Committee held



*Part of coordination meeting*

BILS organized a quarterly meeting of the Centre Coordination Committee which was held on May 9, 2019 at BILS-LRSC, Chattogram.

The meeting participants reviewed the implemented activities up to April 2019. Discussants put emphasis on the coordinated efforts of all involved with BILS especially the CCC members and LRSC staffs for the better and qualitative implementation of all activities designed

» Page 4, Column-1 »

## Chattogram based leadership consultation meeting held



*Participants in the consultation meeting*

BILS, organized a leadership consultation meeting held on June 25, 2019 at the seminar hall of Hotel Regent Park, Chattogram.

The meeting was presided over by BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Chairman Labour leader A M Nazimuddin. Veteran TU leader; Member

» Page 8, Column-3 »

## Demanding eight working hours

(After Page-2)

hour, rest and leave got constitutional recognition and eight working hour was secured by the Labor Law, but in reality these are not accepted everywhere. Informal sector is more vulnerable than formal sector, they added. In Labour Force Survey 2016-17, the issue of additional working hour has been observed, in

reality it can be more, they mentioned. Referring to the issue of additional work hour in the RMG sector, the speakers said that workers are physically, mentally, and socially affected due to excessive work pressure. They said that the workers were forced to work extra hours

without getting the Living Wage. Describing the issue of increasing punishment for violation of work hours, rest and holidays, the speakers demanded to pay Living Wages along with ensuring eight work hours, rest, and holidays for all workers.

## May Day in Picture



Savar



Manikganj



Paltan



GPO

## Quarterly Meeting

(After Page-3)

in the PIP. The meeting concluded with several decisions regarding the ongoing and upcoming events. Chairman of the centre coordination committee labour leader A M Nazimuddin presided over the meeting. Apart from BILS-LRSC staffs, veteran TU leader; Member of the BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee and TUC Chattogram District Committee President Tapan Datta, BILS-LRSC Member-Secretary

and Joint-Secretary of JSL Central Committee Md. Safar Ali, BILS Information & Documentation officer Pahari Bhattacharjee, Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan, took part during the discussion.

## Opinion Sharing Meeting

(After Page-7)

Islam Khan, BILS Executive Council Member Md. Abdul Wahed and Pulak Ranjan Dhar were Present the meeting.

## Two day workshop on mainstreaming gender & youth issues

(After Page-5)

Researcher on Labour issues Ahmed Fazlullahhil Baki, BILS Senior Officer Rizwanur Rahman Khan were present during the workshop while BILS Senior officer Pahari Bhattacharjee conducted various sessions at the workshop.



## Seminar with the Core Organising Team for Orientation on Plan of Action



*Participants in the seminar at Hotel Saint Martin Seminar Hall in Chattogram*

BILS organised a half day seminar with the core organising team for orientation on plan of action, formation of sector-based batches on June 18, 2019 at the seminar hall of hotel Saint Martin, Chattogram.

The inaugural session of the meeting was presided over by BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination

Committee Chairman labour leader A M Nazimuddin. Veteran TU leader; Member of the BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee and TUC Chattogram District Committee President Tapan Datta, BILS-LRSC Member-Secretary and Joint-Secretary of JSL Central Committee Md. Safar Ali,

Page 10, Column-2

## Quarterly meeting of the LRSC-Civil Society Network



*Part of quarterly LRSC- civil society network meeting*

BILS organized a quarterly meeting of the LRSC-Civil Society Network (Sromik Shanghoti Forum, Chattogram or SSFC) on June 25, 2019 at the seminar hall of Hotel Regent Park, Chattogram.

The meeting was presided over by veteran TU leader; member of the BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee and TUC Chattogram District Committee President

Page 6, Column-2

## Two day workshop on mainstreaming gender & youth issues held



*Leaders and participants of the workshop*

BILS organized a two day workshop on "Mainstreaming Gender & Youth Issues" on June 29-30, 2019 at the seminar hall of Hotel Asian SR, Chattogram.

The inaugurating session of the workshop was presided over by BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Chairman labour leader

A M Nazimuddin. Regional Consultant of DGB-BW, Asia, Dr. Indira Gartenberg was the Chief guest at the workshop. Veteran TU leader, member of the BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee and TUC Chattogram District Committee President Tapan Datta,

Page 4, Column-3

## BILS-Migrant WEP Project Advisory Committee meeting held

A Project Advisory Committee meeting held under BILS- Migrant WEP project on May 14, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

The meeting was organised aiming to present the activities of BILS-Migrant WEP Project and to present and determine the activities. Discussants in the meeting took some decisions from the discussion of the meeting.

BILS Joint secretar General and BILS/Migrant WEP Project Advisory Committee Convenor Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan presided over the meeting while BILS Executive Council Member Md. Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Md. Abdul Wahed and Pulak Ranjan Dhar, BILS Director Nazma Yesmin and Project Coordinator Syeduzzaman Mithu were Present at the meeting.

## **BILS press conference on International Commemoration Day:** (After Page-1)

Islam Khan read the written statement at the conference. BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud presided over the meeting. Among others, BILS Advisory Council Members Amirul Haque Amin and Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Finance Secretary Md. Kabir Hossain, Executive Council Member Abdul Wahed, Former IBC Secretary General Towhidur Rahman and Bangladesh Labour Rights Journalists Forum President Quazi Abdul Hannan were present at the press conference.

In the written statement it is said that being one of the source of export earnings of Bangladesh, the garment industry contributes 18 percent to the GDP of the country and 83.44 percent of the export earnings comes from the ready-made garment industry last year. So to save the industry and sustainable development, it is necessary to ensure workers living wages, safe workplace and workers' dignity. It is said in the written statement that in sub-contract factories, garment workers are working in a highly risky environment. Although many factories have infrastructural changes, but inner work environment are largely unchanged. 22 percent women workers of this sector are still being physically and mentally abused. Apart from this torture, other problems such as lack of clean drinking water, unhealthy environment, lack of adequate light-winds, adverse environmental conditions etc. make the workers' workplace vulnerable.

After the Rana Plaza accident, there was an expectation of Labour Law amendment. However, in the current amendment there was no proper reflection of the workers' interest, the press conference said. Referring to the EPZ Act, the speakers said that there is no concurrence to have two labour laws in the same country. The speakers demanded the withdrawal of false cases filed against the trade union leaders of garment industry. Besides, the demand was placed for maintaining the garment workers' database under the government initiative instead of keeping it under BGMEA and BKMEA.

According to BILS newspaper survey, 3 workers were killed and 18 injured in the accidents in the garment industry in 2018. In spite of the lower number of accidents, there has been an increase in the number of violence against workers in this sector, which is counted as 110 cases, including 26 tortures, 21 murders, 11 rape and 9 gang rapes. In addition, 123 workers unrest happened in the garment industry in the year 2018 and 298 workers were injured in the clashes. For demanding wages, 54 workers unrest happened. Labor dissatisfaction also arises in the protest of workers' death, closure of factories, fair wages and labor rights.

It is to be noted that International Commemoration Day is celebrated every year in memory of the dead and wounded workers in various professional accidents. In order to ensure safe, healthy and dignified work environment, Bangladesh also observes this day with special emphasis as part of International Campaign.

## **Quarterly meeting of the LRSC** (After Page-5)

Tapan Datta. BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Chairman labour leader A M Nazimuddin, BILS Senior officer as well as Paralegal Coordinator under DGB-BW project Rizwanur Rahman Khan, network members and NGO organization representatives namely Sharif Chowhan from Bangladesh Nari Progoti Shangha-BNPS, Liton Chowdhury of Song Shaptok, Md. Rafiqul Islam of Agrajatra, Saiful Mahmood of OSHE Foundation, Tamizuddin Ahmed of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association-BELA, Sharmin Akter of Bangladesh Lehgal Aid & Services Trust-BLAST, Md. Alauddin of Awaj Foundation, Md. Ali of Ship Breaking workers Trade Union Forum-SBWTUF took part in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the earlier decisions and activities of the platform. It also discussed over the ToR of the network, drafted by BILS and finalized in an earlier meeting. It is to be mentioned that, 5 member organizations of SSFC signed it on the spot. The meeting also decided to enhance

communication with each other regarding the vital labour issues which are needed to be addressed jointly. The meeting unanimously, on the 100 year of 8-hour workday, decided to organize a discussion meeting on July 27, 2019 at Chattogram Central Shahid Minar premises. For this, a further preparatory meeting has been scheduled on 11th July 2019 at BILS-LRSC office or Networking secretariat.

Leadership and NGO officials said, we have to take campaign initiative for the immediate implementation of minimum wages in RMG, Ship breaking and others sectors.

## **Discussion meeting with Cluster Committee on finalizing Community** (After Page-7)

A meeting of same type was held on June 26, 2019 at Hotel Ahar, Mirpur. SKOP Mirpur Cluster Committee Coordinator Kazi Rahima Akhter Sathi chaired the discussion meeting; while organisers and Trade Union leaders of SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Mirpur area based cluster committee participated.

Another meeting was held on June 25, 2019 at IRI Auditorium, Tongi, Gazipur. SKOP Tongi-Gazipur Cluster Committee Coordinator Shamsun Nahar Bhuiyan, MP chaired the discussion meeting, while IBC Tongi-Gazipur Cluster Committee Coordinator Salauddin Shapon moderated the meeting. Besides, organisers and Trade Union leaders of SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Tongi-Gazipur area based Cluster Committee Members also participated.

A discussion meeting of same type was held on June 24, 2019 at Hotel Royal Palace, Narayanganj. IBC Narayanganj Cluster Committee Coordinator Md. Hedayetul Islam chaired the meeting, while organisers and Trade Union leaders of SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Narayanganj area based Cluster Committee participated in the meeting.



## Opinion sharing meeting held on role of Trade Union to ensure the safe migration for women workers



*Participants in the opinion sharing meeting at BILS Seminar Hall*

BILS Empowering Migrants Workers Project organised an opinion sharing meeting on role of trade union to ensure the safe migration for women workers on June 26, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

The meeting was organised aiming to present the activities of BILS-Migrant WEP Project and take recommendations from Trade

Union leaders to create awareness and rights of women migrant workers.

BILS Vice Chairman Alhaj Shukkur Mahamud chaired the meeting While BILS Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary and BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul

» Page 4, Column-2 »

## Quarterly BILS-LRSC & civil society network meeting held



*Part of civil society network meeting*

A Meeting of Sromik Shanhoti Forum-Chattogram (A BILS-LRSC & Civil Society Network established under BILS-DGB-BW Project) was held on April 4, 2019 at Hotel Asian SR Seminar Hall, Chattogram.

The meeting mainly focused on the finalisation of the ToR of the Network, selecting specific labour issues based on the reality for advocacy and fixing a next programme.

» Page 10, Column-1 »

## Meeting with Cluster Committee on finalizing Community Solidarity Forum guideline



*Leaders and participants in the discussion meeting at IRI Auditorium, Tongi*

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a number of discussion meeting on finalising the guideline of Community Solidarity Forum. A discussion meeting held on June 29, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall. The meeting was organised aiming to form area based Community Solidarity

Forum SKOP Savar-Ashulia Cluster Committee Coordinator Adv. Abdul Awal chaired the discussion meeting, while organisers and Trade Union leaders of SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Savar-Ashulia area based cluster committee participated in the meeting.

» Page 6, Column-3 »

## BILS participation in migrant fair at Manikganj



*BILS Stall at Migrant Fair at Singair Upazila parishad*

BILS participated Migrant Fair organised by BRAC and IOM on April 25, 2019 at Singair Upazila Parishad Complex. BILS also set up a stall where a number of publications regarding BILS activities and research report were displayed.

## BILS published research report on rights and safety

(After Page-3)

General of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments Md Asaduzzaman, Joint Secretary General and Executive Director of BILS Md. Zafrul Hasan were present at the programme among others. Besides, leaders of National Trade Union Federations of BILS and SKOP and journalists of print and electronic media were present at the programme. BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood was present at the programme as moderator, while the research report was presented by Khandoker A Salam.

Shirin Akhter, MP said that the City Corporation has to make short and long term plans on rickshaw. In particular, there is a need to quickly and lightly control the vehicles and control mechanized vehicles, she added. Rickshaw drivers humanitarian issues should be considered, she mentioned. Shirin Akhter, MP underscored that Rickshaw pullers have to be organized and in this case, City Corporation should come forward. Political parties have to come forward too, she added.

Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, MP said that the government has announced a special allocation for Social Safety Net. In this case, the issue of Rickshaw drivers can be raised.

In the welcome speech, Md. Zafrul Hasan said, Rickshaw is a very important vehicle for everyone, but rickshaw pullers are constantly being harassed. Their human rights, living standards and legal protection need to get special attention.

The speakers said that the battery-operated rickshaw were being illegally run throughout the country. The cause of traffic congestion and accidents are due to them. The administration should come forward to stop them. Before banning Rickshaw in the city, alternative employment should be provided for Rickshaw drivers. In this case, Rickshaw drivers need to be

organized to get their rights.

They said, Rickshaw drivers need a good life guarantee; they need social movement to ensure their rights as workers. They also said that separate lanes were introduced for Rickshaws but those could not be kept later. They also commented that Rickshaw owners are being harassed like Rickshaw pullers. They also wanted the intervention of the Honorable Prime Minister to consider the Human Rights of the Rickshaw drivers.

In the closing speech, BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz said, government policy regarding Rickshaw requires intermediate intervention. Considering the humanitarian situation, it is necessary to make timely decisions. In this case all parties have to be integrated and united. Important decisions can be taken if this matter is presented and discussed in the Parliament, he added.

According to the study, nearly 1.5 million Rickshaw pullers in Dhaka and their families are dependent on the occupation and 60 percent of city dwellers use Rickshaws for commuting. These Rickshaw pullers are deprived of their rights due to a lack of policy, the study said, claiming that the government wants to limit their number without a proper rehabilitation plan.

Data of the study were collected from surveying 200 Rickshaw pullers from Badda, Hazaribag, Jatrabari and Shajahanpur areas; 20 garage owners; two city corporation executives and two traffic police.

The study revealed that most Rickshaw pullers living in the city come from northern parts of the country, including 36 percent from Rajshahi and 22 percent from Rangpur. On an average, they earn Tk 13,382 a month. Among them, 54 percent have loans and 94 percent do not receive any assistance. The study also found that 95 percent Rickshaw pullers are harassed by law enforcers, passengers, transport workers and Rickshaw owners. The study also found that 96 percent of them hire Rickshaws on rent from garage owners and 20 percent do not

receive any facility from there.

It is also found in the study report that 94 percent of Rickshaw pullers suffer from diseases including fever, cough, pain, weakness, jaundice and diarrhoea, and they go to quacks for treatment or purchase medicine from pharmacies

## Chattogram Based leadership

(After Page-3)

of the BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee and TUC Chattogram District Committee President Tapan Datta, BJSD Secretary of Chattogram Division Sheikh Nurrullah Bahar, BJSF Chattogram Secretary Zahiduddin Shahin, BFTUC Chattogram President Kaji Anwarul Huq, BJSJ Chattogram Convener Bodhipal Barua, BLF Secretary of Chattogram City Rokeya Khanom, NTUC & sector-based leadership namely M R Monju of Railway, Syed Ahmed Badol of Port, Md. Didarul Alam & Javed Alam of Construction, Md. Abdur Rahim, Mizanur Rahman & Karmi Barua of Health, Uzzal Bishwash & Md. Rafiqul Islam of Hotel were present during the consultation. BILS Senior Officer Rizwanur Rahman Khan was also present.

The meeting elaborately discussed on the existing sector-based problems and planned some activities on behalf of the sector leadership with the support and assistance of BILS-DGB-BW. The consultation meeting also reviewed the 2019-2021 project phase activities of the teams and batches. Leaders in the meeting opined that, in most sectors workers are working without any appointment letter or ID cards issued to them. Most workers do not receive in time wages and other law-covered benefits. They are deprived from specific working hour, bonus, overtime, leave and social security. In most sectors, the existing labour law of the country is not being implemented, workers face physical & verbal abuse by the employers too. The employers are reluctant due to the less vigilance of the concerned government bodies.



## BILS and LRJF Jointly Organised seminar

(After Page-12)

"Wage board is the right of the journalists, it is not alms, so we have to force the government to implement it as early as possible," said Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of The Daily Observer as chief guest at a seminar on "Labour Sectors Professional and Social Security: Its Implementation Challenges." The seminar was chaired by BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury urged all journalists irrespective of their political affiliations, to be united as a



*BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz delivered his speech at the seminar*

force to implement the Ninth Wage Board as early as possible.

Noticing the trend of termination of the journalists during implementation of every wage board, Farida Yasmin, General Secretary of NPC said that such actions should be stopped. Drawing the attention of the senior most journalists, she suggested that in this regard they should meet with the owners of the newspapers to ensure journalist's professional security.

Condemning such discrimination against journalists, Shamsunnar Bhuiyan, MP, said this discrimination against journalists cannot be accepted as they write about the inequalities faced by the marginal people of society. She also promised that she will talk with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina regarding the issue and also suggested that labour representation in the Cabinet should

be increased so that they can talk for the interest of the labourers.

Kazi Abdul Hannan, a senior journalist and also the President of the Bangladesh Labour Rights Journalists Forum (BLRJF) disensed at the programme.

Two presentations were made by BLRJF General Secretary Ataur Rahman and BILS Deputy Director Md. Yousuf Al-Mamun to show the present status of the labourers and the journalists across the country. Besides, senior journalists also spoke at the seminar.

## Condolence meeting held in remembrance

(After Page-3)

their crisis and worked for the workers welfare.

The condolence meeting was presided over by BILS Chairman Md. Habibur Rahman Shiraz, while BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar, Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary General and Executive Director Md. Zafrul Hasan, Bangladesh Trade Union Shangha General Secretary Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, Workers Specialist of ILO, ACTRAV, South Asia Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, ILO CTO-SDIR Project Neeran Ramjuthaan, Samajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation General Secretary Mojibor Rahman, Bangladesh Sramik Federation General Secretary AAM Faye Hossain, leaders of National Trade Union Federations, family member of Roy Ramesh Chandra and BILS officials were present in the meeting.

It is to be mentioned that veteran trade union leader with international reputation Roy Ramesh Chandra died on May15, 2019. He was 68. He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

## Research report sharing meeting with area based Cluster Committee



*Part of Research report sharing meeting at Hotel Golden Sun, Dholaipar, Narayanganj*

BILS, with the support of Mondiaal FNV organised a research report sharing meeting in difference place. A research report sharing meeting held on May 28, 2019 at Hotel Golden Sun, Dholaipar, Narayanganj. The meeting was organised aiming to share the research findings and taking comprehensive recommendations from the area based RMG leaders. A keynote paper was presented on "Study to analyse the role of different authorities in industrial dispute settlement and developing comprehensive recommendations." SKOP Narayanganj Cluster Committee Coordinator Alhaj Sukkur Mahamud chaired the meeting, while IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Narayanganj Cluster Committee Coordinator Md. Hedayet Islam, Bangladesh Federation of Workers' Solidarity President Md. Ruhul Amin, SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Narayanganj area based Cluster Committee organisers and Trade Union leaders were present among others.

Another research report sharing meeting was held on May 26, 2019 at IRI Auditorium, Tongi, Gazipur. SKOP Tongi-Gazipur Cluster Committee Coordinator Shamsun Nahar Bhuiyan, MP chaired the meeting, while IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Tongi-Gazipur Cluster Committee Coordinator Salauddin Shapon, SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Tongi-Gazipur area based Cluster Committee organisers and Trade Union leaders were present in the meeting.

## Quarterly BILS-LRSC & civil society network meeting held

(After Page-7)

The meeting was attended by the TU leaders, academicians, journalists, labour practitioners and Chattogram based NGO & CSO representatives.

The meeting was presided over by BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination Committee Member and TUC Chittagong District Committee President Tapan Datta. BILS Secretary and JSL Central Committee Joint-Secretary Md. Safar Ali, BILS Secretary and BJSD Chattogram President A M Nazimuddin were present during the meeting. Among others, Researcher on labour issues and Associate Professor of Chittagong University Dr. Muhammed Shahin Chowdhury, Chattogram Labour Court Practitioner Advocate Ashish Kumar Datta, representatives and member organization of the network namely Sharif Chowhan of Bangladesh Nari Progoti Shangha-BNPS, Md. Rafiqul Islam of AGROJATRA, Md. Obaedur Rahman of Shangshaptok, Sharmin Akter of Bangladesh Legal Aid & Services Trust-BLAST, Shamim Akter of MAMATA, Md. Saiful Islam of OSHE Foundation, Md. Tamiz Uddin of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association-BELA, Wahidul Islam of Young Power in Social Action-YPSA, Abdur Rahim Master of Ship Breaking Workers Federation took part in the discussion. The meeting was moderated by BILS Senior Officer Rizwanur Rahman Khan.

## Capacity development of the Core Organizing Team

(After Page-12)

The inaugural session of the training programme was presided over by veteran TU leader; Member of the BILS-LRSC Centre Coordination

Committee and TUC Chattogram District Committee President Tapan Datta. BILS Secretary and Joint-Secretary of JSL Central Committee Md. Safar Ali, BILS Secretary and BJSD Chattogram President A M Nazimuddin were present and spoke during the event.

The training program was participated by selected 21 participants from different TU organizations who were the members of the Core Organizing Team.

The objective of the training was also to boost up the confidence of the Trade Union Organisers and trainers so that they can contribute in the plant-level organisational efforts and activities. The training program was conducted with a view to enhance the capability of the trainers so that they can implement and conduct further follow-up training programs.

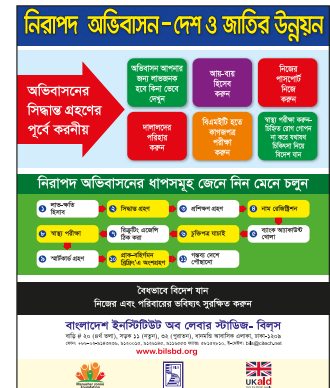
## Seminar with core organising

(After Page-5)

BILS-DGB-BW Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood, Kaji Anwarul Huq of BFTUC, Sheikh Nurullah Bahar of BJSD, Bodhipal Barua of BJSJ, A K M Mominul Islam of JSJ, Jahiduddin Shahin of BJSF spoke on the occasion. BILS Information & Documentation officer Pahari Bhattacharjee conducted the session. BILS-DGB-BW Project Coordinator Kohinoor Mahmood presented a power point presentation on "Core Organizing Team: Expected Result, Activities & Project Goal" while "BILS-LRSC Project 2019-2021 Activities" was presented by BILS Paralegal Coordinator Rizwanur Rahman Khan. A total number of 120 TU activists from different TU federations, who are the members of the core organizing team, took part in the seminar.

## BILS Publication

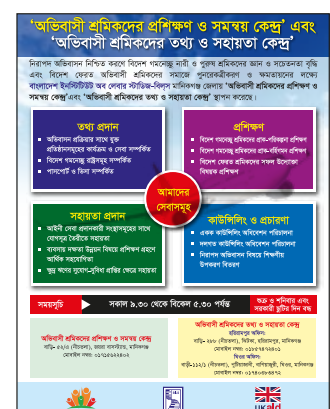
- BILS Published and distributed 1000 copy leaflet and poster titled "Safe Migration-Development Country and Nation"



- BILS published and distributed 3000 copy hand bill on May Day titled "May Day 2019 be successful"



- BILS published and distributed 2000 copy poster titled "Migrant Workers Training and Coordination Center and Migrants Workers Information and Support Center"





## Trade Union Strategic Planning

(After Page-12)

Centre in identifying and prioritizing challenges and opportunities for the development of a strategic plan and to develop a SMART action plan in line with global and national development framework and context. Issues of the workshop were Global Setting, Bangladesh Development Framework, Decent Work Country Programme, Freedom of Association, Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations. Participants of the workshop were members of NCCWE, representatives from women committee and youth committee, ILO representatives and officials from BILS.

The inaugural session was chaired by NCCWE Chairman Shah Mohd. Abu

Shangha-BTUS General Secretary Chowdhury Ashiquil Alam, BJSD President Anwar Hossain, Shamajtantrik Sramik Front General Secretary Razequzzaman Ratan, Jatiya Sramik Federation President Quamrul Ahsan, NCCWE Member Secretary Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Joint Secretary & Executive Director of BILS Md. Zafrul Hasan were present at the workshop.

In the opening session, Toumo Poutianen addressed on the Decent Work situation of Bangladesh. He discussed on the International Labour Organisation-ILO's centennial activities for Social Justice & other International Labour Standards. In his speech he pointed out the role of functional tripartite social dialogue in the world of work, role of Trade Unions in the future of work especially to the Youth &

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, presented a short presentation to orient the programme modality, objectives. He also described the needs & priorities and expected outcome of workshop.

## Trade Union activists remembered

(After Page-12)

23 and 24, 2019, while commemoration programmes were organised at Rana Plaza accident site in Savar and Jurain graveyard.

People from different sectors went to those spots with wreath, while the injured victims organised mass candle lighting event to remember their colleagues.

Labour organisations and trade unions from protest rallies urged the government to declare the day as mourning day and establish a monument there in the memory of the victims of the worst industrial disaster of the world.

## Research report sharing meeting with area based Cluster Committee

(After Page-9)

Earlier, a meeting was held on May 25, 2019 at Mirpur SKOP Office. IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Mirpur Cluster Committee Coordinator Amirul Haque Amin chaired the meeting, while SKOP Mirpur Cluster Committee Coordinator Kazi Rahima Akhter Sathi, SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Mirpur area based Cluster Committee organisers and Trade Union leaders were present in the meeting.

A meeting of same title was held on May 23, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall. IndustriAll Bangladesh Council Secretary General Salauddin Shapon chaired the meeting, while SKOP Savar-Ashulia Cluster Committee Coordinator Adv. Abdul Awal, BILS Advisory Council Member Amirul Haque Amin and Executive Council Member Md. Abdul Wahed, FNV Representative Shahid Ullah, SKOP, BILS and IBC affiliated Savar-Ashulia area based Cluster Committee organisers and Trade Union leaders were present in the meeting.



*Participants in the workshop at the BILS Seminar Hall*

Zafar, while ILO Bangladesh Country Director Toumo Poutianen was the Chief Guest. The session was moderated by BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood, while Workers Specialist of ILO, ACTRAV, South Asia Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, ILO CTO-SDIR Project Neeran Ramjuthaan, Dhaka University Professor Dr. Monirul Islam Khan, Director of Labour Directorate Anamul Haque, Workers Education Expert of ILO Tauvik Muhamad, Programme Officer at ILO Bangladesh Jafar Iqbal, Ex Joint Secretary of ERD Dr. Mostain Billah, Jagannath University Prof. Habibur Rahman, Ex-official, ILO, Country Office, Bangladesh Golam Nabi Khan, Jatiyo Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Trade Union

Women in labour market, role of TCC in policy level and collective voice of Trade Union in the future of work to establish rights of the workers. He mentioned about the ILO supervisory mechanism for improving workers' rights and Trade Unionism. He told that the positive priority of the labour movement can improve the situation.

Shah Mohd. Abu Zafar mentioned about the new concept in the world of work, automation, job change, role of new generation workforce in the labour market. He emphasized on the role of TCC for Labour Laws & Policy issues. He also mentioned about the close relation of BILS, NTUC's & as well as NCCWE to work collectively to combat future challenges of Trade Union movement.

## BILS and LRJF jointly organised seminar on implementation of workers social security



Editor of the Daily Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury delivered his speech

BILS and Bangladesh Labour Rights Journalist Forum (BLRJF) organized a seminar on implementation of workers social security at the National Press Club on April 3, 2019.

» Page 9, Column-1 »

## Capacity development of the Core Organizing Team held



Participants in the training

A three day training program of the trainers (ToT) as part of capacity development of the Core Organising Team was held on April 25-27, 2019 at Hotel Regent Park Seminar Hall, Chattogram.

» Page 10, Column-1 »

## Trade Union Strategic Planning Workshop for Bangladesh



ILO Bangladesh Country Director Toumo Poutianen was present as chief guest at the workshop

ILO-NCCWE in cooperation with BILS organised a Workshop titled "Trade Union Strategic Planning Workshop for Bangladesh" on April 1-2 and 5-6, 2019 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

The main objectives of the workshop were to enhance skills and

knowledge of National Centre of Trade Unions in better organising workers, formulating policies, and implementing programme at national level according to the trade union priorities, to facilitate National

» Page 11, Column-1 »

## Trade Union activists remembered the victims of Rana Plaza Tragedy on its sixth year



participants in the Human chain in front of Rana Plaza

Hundreds of Trade Union activists and civil society members remembered the victims of Rana Plaza Tragedy on its sixth year and demanded proper compensation for the survivors and exemplary punishment of those who were responsible for this deadly collapse. Sufferings of the survivors of

the world's worst factory building collapse deepened as many of them facing various physical and mental problems.

The day was observed by BILS-FNV Project Cluster Committees and Sramik Nirapotta Forum respectively on April

» Page 11, Column-3 »

Published by: BILS Information Department



www.bilsbd.org

**BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF LABOUR STUDIES- BILS**

House # 20, Road # 11 (Old # 32), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209  
Phone: 88-02-9116553, 9120015, 9143236, 9126145, Fax: 88-02-58152810  
E-mail: bils@citech.net, Web: www.bilsbd.org

Printed by: Print Touch, 85/1, Fokirapool

Publication Support:

