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# Bangladesh

Latest news and events



International  
Labour  
Organization

## New international labour standard to combat violence and harassment at work adopted

A new Convention and accompanying Recommendation to combat violence and harassment in the world of work have been adopted by the [International Labour Conference](#) (ILC).

The Convention recognizes that violence and harassment in the world of work “can constitute a human rights violation or abuse...is a threat to equal opportunities, is unacceptable and incompatible with decent work.”



[Read more](#)

## A centenary recognition for the ILO

In April 2019, Government of Bangladesh honoured ILO for its 100 years of service to humanity & for promoting decent work in the country.

Country Director of ILO Bangladesh, Tuomo Poutiainen received the special award from Honourable Commerce Minister, Tipu Munshi.



[Watch the moment](#)

NEWS AND VIEWS



## Community action to fight child labour

On any given day in the remote, rural communities in Rangpur, North-West Bangladesh, you will see people going about their daily business, shopping, working, children playing. But, on closer inspection you will also see children working - on tea stands, construction sites, farms and in brick fields and fishing. [Read the story](#)



## Rana Plaza anniversary: Enforce building code for all public establishments

The Rana Plaza building collapse in April 2013 took the lives of 1100 workers. Many more were injured and often could not return to work. On the 6th anniversary of that tragic incident, the Country Director of ILO Bangladesh, Tuomo Poutiainen reflects on working conditions in present-day Bangladesh. [Read more](#)



## Safe work safe food

Every minute, hundreds of blue and yellow tubs of yoghurt glide along a conveyor belt in batches of eight. Hordes of women and men clad in crisp white aprons, gum boots and protective masks lift the cartons and store them in a freezer. Amidst the snaking lines of yoghurt, a tall man with glasses quietly taps away on a mobile tablet while asking a factory worker questions. [Read the story](#)



## My skills my future

20-year-old Marufa Akhter is one of five women taking a graphics design course at the Technical Training Centre (TTC) in Gaibandha, an impoverished district in northern Bangladesh. Marufa recently sat for her higher secondary school completion exam, and decided to take the four-month course while nervously waiting for her results. [Read the story](#)



## 24 companies awarded for maintaining safe and healthy workplaces

Bangladesh proudly celebrated its fourth National Day on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) on 28 April, 2019. On the occasion, Government of Bangladesh presented OSH Good Practice Awards to 24 companies for maintaining consistently high safety and health standards in their factories belonging to apparel, finished leather, jute, pharmaceutical and tea sectors. [Read more](#)



## Social dialogue is key to establish minimum wages

In the wake of a wage-related labour unrest in January 2019, ILO Bangladesh office issued a press statement calling upon all parties to continue tripartite dialogue and work towards setting minimum wages at an appropriate level. [Read more](#)



## ILO and partners pledge to develop 21st century skills for Bangladesh

More than 100 delegates from 12 countries participated in an International Skills Conference in Dhaka from 9-10 March 2019. The latest knowledge and best practices on skills development were discussed at the two-day long event. [Read more](#)



## Challenges and opportunities of good skills governance

Bangladesh needs a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) for good skills governance, speakers said at a roundtable discussion held by the ILO's Skills 21 project. SWAp is a process in which funding for the sector supports a single policy and expenditure programme, under government leadership. [Read more](#)



## ILO's Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity (B-SEP) Project comes to a close

ILO's landmark BSEP project had developed capacities of vocational training institutes and the industry and created linkages between them in order to match the supply and demand for skilled workers. By providing training and job placement opportunities for disadvantaged groups such as women, indigenous people and persons with disabilities, the project also succeeded in promoting social inclusion. [Read more](#)



## Bangladesh becomes first Asia-Pacific government to commit to Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth

Bangladesh government's a2i - Innovate for All programme has pledged to train 250,000 youth on digital skills and deliver 340,200 apprenticeships by 2023. The programme's commitment to the SDG-driven "Decent Jobs for Youth" initiative was announced in March 2019 at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok. [Read more](#)



## Celebrating innovative approach towards gender equality

To mark International Women's Day 2019, the UN honored three Bangladeshi women who defied tradition, challenged gender stereotypes and social barriers put in front of them because they are women, and became a successful community activist, an entrepreneur and an employee in a non-traditional sector,

empowering many others on the way. [Read more](#)



### Bangladesh factories set for more female supervisors

The ILO and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) launched the second phase of an innovative training scheme to get more women in supervisory roles in Bangladesh's garment sector. The Gender Equality and Returns (GEAR) initiative has been scaled up to train 700 female operators and their managers in 70 factories. GEAR is implemented by Better Work Bangladesh, a flagship programme of ILO and IFC. [Read more](#)



### Promoting responsible business practices in the RMG industry

The Government of Bangladesh, led by the Ministry of Commerce, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) held a high-level meeting in Dhaka on 30 April 2019 to look at the need for ongoing responsible and efficient business practices in the country's \$30-billion Ready-Made Garment (RMG) industry. [Read more](#)



### Good governance can protect the labour rights of migrants in destination countries

Every year, more than 400,000 workers leave Bangladesh in search of better paid employment overseas. The ILO has been working closely with the Government of Bangladesh to ensure social protection and decent employment conditions for these migrant workers and to improve overall management of the labour migration system. [Read more](#)



### Labour inspectors trained on safety checks

As part of the ILO's ongoing initiative to improve safety standards in Bangladesh's garment sector, a group of 33 government engineers and officials were trained on industrial safety regulations by Bureau Veritas. The participants, which included seven women, are responsible for monitoring safety remediation in circa 700 garment factories. [Read more](#)

## IN FOCUS

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### Centenary Talk Show on Future of Work

A panel discussion on "future of work" was broadcast by a private TV station, ATN News on 11 April 2019. The panel addressed questions on workplace safety, automation, labour cases, skills training, employment and migrant protection.

Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ummul Hasna; ILO Country Director, Tuomo Poutiainen; President of Bangladesh Employers Federation, Kamran T Rahman; worker leader, Razekuzzaman Ratan; and a young entrepreneur, Shoaib H Khan participated in the discussion. [Watch the show](#)



### Green Jobs: Providing Sustainable Prosperity

Bangladesh ranks 173 out of 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) and it is also one of the most climatically vulnerable countries in the world. How can we change this situation for sustainability of the planet? Green jobs provides one such solution. Green jobs are decent jobs that are good for the environment and help fight against climate change. [Watch the video](#)

## RESOURCES

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Country Leaflet: The ILO in Bangladesh



Breaking Gender Barriers in the World of Work



Booklet: Reintegration of Returnee Migrant Workers



Sustainability Compact for the Bangladesh RMG Industry



Employment Injury Insurance Scheme



Guidebook: Implementation of Public-

FROM THE WORLD OF WORK

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2019	<a href="#"><u>The ILO Centenary</u></a>
8 July 2019	<a href="#"><u>Report: Working on a warmer planet: The effect of heat stress on productivity and decent work</u></a>
24-29 November 2019	<a href="#"><u>Global Social Protection Week</u></a>

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