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NATIONAL

TIB expresses concerns over project inauguration by ACC top leadership

TIB in a statement urged the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) to maintain clean image and refrain from activities that are inconsistent and against its mandate. TIB urged this as the ACC Chairman laid foundation stones of two bridges at Lakshmipur which is inconsistent with its mandate.

In a statement on 2nd February TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "Inauguration of bridges and participation in political party's programmes by ACC leadership may create conflict of interest for ACC and hinder the institution from working independently and impartially". "Its top leaders should keep in mind that, ACC is not a government institution though established by the government. If they fail to refrain themselves from conventional inauguration culture practiced by ministers and bureaucrats, it will jeopardise ACC's professionalism and affect its image", he added.

Dr Zaman also expressed concerns over slow investigation progress being carried out by the ACC against former and current lawmakers over unusual accumulation of wealth. He also called upon the ACC to demonstrate impartial and professional attitude in investigating wealth disclosure of the aspiring parliamentarians of the 10th parliament. Mentionable that, the ACC chief laid foundation stones of two bridges in Lakshmipur district on February 1st and participated a dinner organised by local municipality mayor – a local political leader. The ACC leaders must not take part in any such event apart from investigating alleged corruption cases and anti-corruption campaigns, the statement urged.

Message development workshop on Climate Finance held

TIB organised a message development workshop on 'Climate Finance' from 18-20 February for its staff; Climate Finance Governance Network (CFGN) and YES members to strengthen their knowledge and skills on systematic process of message development so that they are capacitated with the knowhow of message development on climate finance. A total of 25 participants with varied capacities and skills attended the workshop. Participants were oriented with different tools and techniques of message and material development and proven communication method. Participants were divided into five groups – each group developed one problem statement and recommended solutions focusing on desired behavior, barrier to communications, motivational factor (benefit) to be applied and preferred media to be used to communicate solution.

Chief Whip's speech is unconstitutional and a bad omen for governance

TIB urged the Chief Whip to withdraw his anti-constitutional remark 'demanding cash instead of crest' in a reception at Patuakhali on 7th February. TIB also urged the Prime Minister and the Speaker to examine whether such corruption friendly remark coincides with the honor of this high esteemed position.

In a statement issued on 9th February TIB's Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "Chief Whip's speech aired and published in the media is not only abhorrent but also a bad omen for governance and democracy. Such unprecedented speech is directly against Prime Minister's zero tolerance against corruption stance. It will inspire corrupt persons to act similar". "According to section 20 (2) of the constitution any such income is illegal and we call upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Speaker and the parliament to inform the nation about steps taken in this regard." said Dr Zaman.

"By saying so, he has not only violated the constitution but also stood in favour of corruption. We are also anxious about an earlier call to pay taka one million as subscription by the MPs elected uncontested. Such stance of the government will create a realm of immorality in running the government and government affairs." he added.

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TIB feels that such remark of the Chief Whip is not mere joke rather a sign of institutionalisation of black money and abuse of power to accumulate illegal wealth revealed recently from affidavits submitted by the aspiring MPs. Chief Whip's clarification to defend his position is quite unacceptable and the parliament should immediately pass the Code of Conduct of MPs Bill to stop such practices.

CCC NEWS

Good governance stressed to protect right of the indigenous

Speakers at an opinion sharing meeting urged to promote good governance and fight corruption to protect rights of the indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Rangamati Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) organised the meeting titled "Good Governance to Fight Corruption" on 27th February at Rangamati Zilla Parishad auditorium. They demanded to stop violence against women, indigenous land grabbing in the name of various development like forestation and tourism. They also demanded effective steps to promote good governance, resist corruption, full implementation of peace treaty and exemplary punishment of human rights violators in the region. Barrister Debashish Roy, Chief of Chakma Circle, attended the meeting as the Chief Guest with CCC President Nirupa Dewan as the Chair.



Collective effort is must to improve quality of medical services

CCC Kishoreganj organised an opinion sharing meeting with the Kishoreganj District Sadar Hospital authority on 19th February at the hospital auditorium. The objective of the meeting was to address the governance challenges at the hospital to improve the quality of services. CCC Vice-President Swapan Kumar Barman chaired the meeting. Participants identified a few governance challenges including irregular presence of doctors, absence of doctors in emergency, infrastructural problems, irregularities at outdoors, lack of discipline, scarcity of beds etc. They drew attention of the Civil Surgeon to solve these problems. District Civil Surgeon Dr Mrinal Kanti Pandit said that despite of various limitations, the hospital authority is always ready to provide quality medical services to the citizens. He stressed on collective efforts of citizens, CCC members and hospital authority to improve the overall quality of medical services. Hospital doctors, nurses, other officials, CCC and YES members attended the program.

Face the Public program between Candidates and the citizens

CCCs in different areas organised a number of Face the Public (FTP) programmes in February with the objective of bringing more transparency and accountability in upazilla elections. To this end public meeting were organised where citizens had an opportunity to meet with the aspiring candidates and know about their future plans and past accomplishments. Information leaflets containing their profile and wealth, income and expenditure information based on halafnama provided by the candidates. Whether they win or suffer defeat, candidates promised to work together for the development of their upazilla and establish their upazilla as a model of transparency and accountability. Citizens asked different questions and they answered these in an open manner. They pledged to abide by electoral rules by signing a memorandum and promised to play active role in making their upazilla corruption free. On the other hand Citizens vowed to cast their votes for honest and competent candidates. These FTPs were held at Lalmonirhat, Jhinaidah, Mymensingh, Barisal, Chakaria, Patiya, Khagrachari, Chandpur, Munshiganj, Savar, Rajbari and Kurigram.

CRC on Nayagaon Government Primary School released

CCC Munshiganj in collaboration with Nayagaon Government Primary School of Munshiganj sadar upazilla organised the release of Citizens Report Card (CRC) on 17th February. The CCC conducted CRC survey from April 2012 to May 2013 that threw light on state of education, identified some problems in delivering quality education and tabled a few recommendations to address these problems. A total of Three Hundred respondents from the school were interviewed to conduct the CRC survey. Besides, group discussion, interviews of key informants, direct observations and official data were also reviewed. The CRC recommended among others adopting effective measures to stop collection of unauthorised money, measures to bring back dropped out students, continuation of guardian and mothers meeting on regular basis, circulation of scholarship information, active role of SMC members and ensuring of teachers regular presence. The school authority pledged to implement the recommendations within their capacity. CCC President Ms Khaleda Khanam chaired the event and Upazilla Assistant Education Officer Ms Sakina Begum attended as the Chief Guest. Union parishad member, school teachers, SMC members, guardians, YES members and local citizens were also present.

Shaheed Dibas and International Mother Language Day observed

CCCs across the country observed the Shaheed Dibash (language martyrs day) and International Mother Language Day on February 21. CCC and YES members paid their homage to the language martyred at local Shaheed Minar. To mark this occasion, day long anti-corruption campaign was organised with the slogan 'Corruption is antithetical to the spirit of Ekushey.' The campaign included oath taking, anti-corruption rally, art competitions, cultural programmes etc.



YES NEWS

YES members learns climate finance governance

Climate Finance Governance Project (CFGP) of TIB organised an orientation programme titled "Challenges to Transparency and Accountability in Climate Finance in Bangladesh" on 11th February at R.C Mojumder Auditorium of Dhaka University. Objective of the programme was to orient YES (Youth Engagement and Support) members on climate finance governance, sensitize them to promote governance in this sector and apply applicable learning in future. Mr M Zakir Hossain Khan, Coordinator, CFGP facilitated the orientation attended by more than Hundred YES members from Dhaka University. He made a presentation on impact of climate change in the global and national context and focusing of flow and utilisation of climate fund both by the government and non-government organisations. The orientation session was followed by questions and answers on governance challenges in climate finance and adoption of appropriate adaption measures in Bangladesh to cope with climate change impacts.



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