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## National News

### TIB demands meaningful steps of Parties to implement "Marrakech Roadmap"

To formulate a meaningful roadmap on climate finance by 2018 in the light of COP 22 proclamation, held in Marrakech, Morocco, November, 2016 Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) proposed a set of recommendations for the considerations of the stakeholders of national and international (Global) levels in a press conference organized by TIB at the Conference Room of its office in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on 23 November, 2016.

In the press conference, citing the outcome and expectations of Bangladesh from COP 22, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman called upon the Government of Bangladesh to play robust role in the international arena in achieving right to the promised climate compensation as climate-vulnerable country in the form of grants, rather than loans from the developed countries responsible for climate change. Mentioning various challenges of Bangladesh in receiving finance from different international funds, he further urged the development partners to provide promised compensation to trust fund established through local finances.

Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director, TIB was also present at the event. M Zakir Hossain Khan, Senior Programme Manager, Climate Finance Governance, TIB discussed on TIB's stand on climate finance followed by COP 22 proclamation.

For the considerations of parties of national and international (global) levels, TIB's important recommendations among others included, set a system which ensures allocation of adequate climate fund prioritizing adaptation in the "Roadmap to US\$100 billion" adopted by the developed countries; the climate funding should be in the form of public grant mobilizing required 'new' and 'additional' to ODA rather than loans to climate vulnerable countries recognizing the polluters' pay principle and defining climate finance; appropriately include transparency, accountability, practice of integrity and citizens' participation in the climate change related programmes especially in the climate finance initiated by the developed countries; continue financing in the development fund for poverty alleviation and ensure special fund allocation from GCF and adaptation fund for economic growth, the well-being and rehabilitation of climate induced displaced people; create a 'global fund' proposed by Bangladesh in the conference to help achieve the water Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and continue floating the global fund to support research, innovation and technology transfer in this sector; take effective and necessary steps in acquiring efficiency and ensuring adaptation of climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh in climate finance from Green Climate Fund (GCF) secretariat; ensure active participation of parties from all related groups including civil society and experts in the national level in formulation and implementation of further roadmap of Paris agreement; increase annual allocation in the BCCTF and continue floating the fund; strengthen the capacity of climate vulnerable countries like to introduce independent oversight mechanism for effective utilization of the funds; and the Government of Bangladesh should deploy all political, technical and diplomatic skill and expertise at its disposal to persuade the developed countries to deliver on their commitment to provide compensation avoiding intents and strategies of mega lending international agencies like World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

### Promoting integrity in Bangladesh's water sector

At the backdrop of widespread corruption and mal-governance across the sector, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), with the support of Water Integrity Network (WIN) of Berlin, formed Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN) in 2011 to promote integrity as an essential part of the solution for more sustainability in the water sector. BAWIN is a multi-stakeholder network that includes civil society water sector institutions at national and sub-national level as well as committed individuals. BAWIN activities include but not limited to research, campaigns and advocacy to promote the engagement of various stakeholders. A key stakeholder of BAWIN, Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (KWSA) has been successfully applying the Integrity Management (IM) Toolbox in their organization since 2015. IM is a systematic, bottom-up approach to improve performance and efficiency through increased integrity.

***“In terms of water sector integrity, we have made good progress, but there is still a long way to go - Iftekharuzzaman ”***

During a recent interview with WIN, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB highlighted the ongoing activities of BAWIN in promoting water integrity and good governance in the water sector of Bangladesh. BAWIN's support to KWASA in building capacity related to integrity and in institutionalizing water integrity is the first example of GO-NGO partnership in promoting integrity in the water sector of Bangladesh.

BAWIN is also playing a significant role in advocating integrity in the water sector of Bangladesh. A National Water Rights event was organized to celebrate World Water Day 2016 with eleven other organizations and the outcomes and recommendations related to water integrity forwarded to the Water Resource Minister. Moreover, school activities on the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and water integrity practices were organized for students and other stakeholders.

BAWIN's ongoing research on the use and effectiveness of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) in the garments industry of Bangladesh from a water integrity perspective is expected to generate more interest among policy makers in the institutionalization process of water integrity. Emphasizing on the need for evidence-based research, Dr. Zaman suggested undertaking a national survey to assess the nature and extent of integrity gaps, the opportunity and cost of corruption, and to identify potential entry points of integrity interventions in future. He also underscored the need for scaling up outreach activities to raise awareness of community, youth, and media, especially through building their capacity and skills on water integrity issues; and by exploring opportunities to work with national and international NGOs working on WASH issues.



Meanwhile, Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director of KWASA recently attended the World Water Week 2016, hosted and organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) from 28 August to 2 September 2016 and shared their experiences in applying the Integrity Management Toolbox. KWASA made major progress toward implementation and developed the integrity roadmap to guide the organization's change process. During an interview with SIWI, KWASA Managing Director Mr. Abdullah mentioned some of the KWASA's achievements after IM toolbox implementation in their organization. Earlier it used to take some 30 days to give water connection to a new customer, this has now been reduced to 20 days. KWASA also digitalized the billing system and introduced e-procurement system to scrap unethical practices and bring better financial sustainability for KWASA.

### **The Government of Denmark signs cooperation agreement with TIB**

Ambassador H.E. Mikael Hemniti Winther of the Kingdom of Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TIB to continue supporting the core programme of TIB under the project titled “Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change” (BIBEC) for the period 2017-2021 on 20 November, 2016 at a simple ceremony held at TIB head office.

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Winther and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB. Senior officials of the Embassy of Denmark (EOD) and TIB were present. Under the MoU, TIB will receive Taka 22 crore in two stages – the on-going BIBEC phase of 2017-2019 and for the post-BIBEC phase of 2019-21.

The Danish Ambassador reiterated that this grant, as part of the Framework Agreement of the Government of Denmark with the Government of Bangladesh, represent the Danish government's commitment to pursue development engagement with Bangladesh. He said that the embassy was happy to continue to support TIB's efforts to promote better governance and counter corruption in Bangladesh, which the Danish government considers indispensable for further progress in effective poverty reduction and to meet the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Thanking the Ambassador, and through him the Danish Government for the generous support, Dr. Zaman hoped that the project to be implemented under this partnership will help strengthen the institutional, legal and policy structure for accountable governance as well as deepen and widen the social movement against corruption in Bangladesh.

TIB's ongoing core project BIBEC (October 2014 – September 2019) aims at building and strengthening a series of mutually supportive and reinforcing integrity blocks to effectively promote better governance and reduce corruption. BIBEC's objective is to promote a more enabling environment for reducing corruption with twin objectives to advocate for strengthening laws, policies, processes, practices and oversight for improving governance in targeted institutions and sectors; and to accelerate people's demand for good governance and to strengthen citizens' capacity to challenge corruption.

BIBEC is supported jointly with the EOD by DFID of UK, SIDA of Sweden and SDC of Switzerland. DFID, EOD and SIDA have been supporting the TIB since 2002, and SDC from 2009.



### CCC News

#### Public Hearings organized at Sreemangal and Derai

With an aim to make accountable of the service providing government institutions, Public Hearings were organized at Sreemangal and Derai upazila respectively on 07 & 09 November, 2016. Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) jointly organized these Public Hearings with the support from the Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Durniti Pratirodh Committee (DUPRAK). Relevant Upazila Administration supervised the overall arrangement of these events. Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner of ACC attended the events as Chief Guest alongside inaugurating Anti-Corruption Rally and Human Chain at the both places.



**Sreemangal, Moulavibazar:** A discussion meeting was held at Zila Parishad Auditorium presided over by Md. Tofael Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Moulavibazar district followed by the rally and human chain. SWAJAN Co-coordinator Shah Arif Ali Nasim moderated the discussion meeting. Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner of ACC, was the chief guest and Uma Chowdhury, Director- Civic Engagement of TIB, Superintendent of Police Mohammad Shah Jalal, Upazila Parishad Chairman Ranadhir Kumar Dev was the Special Guests in meeting. Ms. Shireen Parvin, Divisional Director of ACC, Sylhet, Upazila; Nirbahi Officer Md. Shahidul Haque, CCC President; Syed Nesar Ahmed and DUPRAK Vice President Dr. Haripado Roy participated in the discussion meeting.

Later a Public Hearing was organized in participation with the service providers and service recipients of different government institutions moderated by DC Md. Tofael Islam where representatives from different institutions, civil society members, journalists, CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends members were present. Representatives from Upazila Land Office, Settlement Office, Sub-Registrar Office, Health & Family Planning Office, Accounts Office, Social Welfare Office, PalliBidduyutSamati, Cooperatives Office, Upazila Education Office and Project Implementation Officer's office effectively participated in the Question and Answer sessions and committed to resolve questions raised by the service recipients and local citizens.

ACC Commissioner Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed said Public Hearing is considered as an anti-corruption platform. He suggested citizens to raise their voice against corruption and demand their own rights. He advised the local authorities to ensure citizen's rights to their respective areas. Uma Chowdhury, Director-Civic Engagement of TIB, said, 'Public Hearing means mass awareness. We should lodge complaints against corruption without any fear. Fighting together against corruption will make our country corruption free in future'.

**Derai, Sunamganj:** A discussion meeting was held at Upazila Parishad Auditorium presided over by Sk Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj district and moderated by CCC member Khalil Rahman following an anti-corruption rally and human chain. Superintendent of Police Md. Harun Or Rashid, Mayor of Derai Municipality Md. Mosharaf Mia, Upazila Parishad Chairman Hafizur Rahman Talukder, DUPRAK President Hazi Sadiqur Rahman Chowdhury, CCC President Nurur Rab Chowdhury and TIB Programme Manager-Civic Engagement Chitta Ranjan Roy took part in the discussion. Ms. Shireen Parvin, Divisional Director of ACC, Sylhet delivered the welcome speech in this meeting.



Later, the Public Hearing was organized in participation with the government institutions moderated by DC SK Rafiqul Islam where representatives from different government institutions were present. Upazila Land Office, Settlement Office, Sub-Registrar Office, Health & Family Planning Office, Accounts Office, Social Welfare Office, PalliBidduyutSamati, Cooperatives Office, Primary Education Office, Secondary Education Office and Project Implementation Officer's office effectively participated in the Question and Answer sessions and made commitment to resolve problems raised by local citizens.

service providers and service recipients of 11



ACC Commissioner Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed advised the relevant officers to resolve the discussed problems within a short time and to make follow-up of the issues in future. He said, 'ACC organized this event not only for opinion sharing but also to take action against allegations. We will try together to make the Deraï Upazila corruption free'. He advised the local authorities to take few specific initiatives to reach this goal.

### **Transparency and accountability ensures good governance at Union Parishad**

Deputy Commissioner of Chapainawabganj district Md. Mahmudul Hasan said, 'Transparency and accountability ensures good governance at Union Parishads (UPs). UP chairman and elected members should ensure transparency and accountability through activating its standing committees'. He also made importance to citizen's participation in decision making process of the union parishad.

He was delivering speech as Chief Guest at an opinion sharing meeting jointly organized by Chapainawabganj Sadar Upazila Parishad and Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Chapainawabganj. Iftekhar Uddin Shamim, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Sadar Upazila presided over the program while Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Mohammad Taowfiqul Islam and Vice Chairman of the Upazila Parishad were present as special guest. The programme was held on 30 November 2016 at Chapainawabganj Sadar Upazila Parishad Conference Room.



Convener of the CCC Sub-Committee regarding local government affairs Golam Faruq Mithun delivered the welcome speech and CCC member Mahbubur Rahman Mintu presented the concept paper in this meeting. CCC member Umme Salma Happy moderated the programme.

ADC Mohammad Taowfiqul Islam said, 'CCCs suggestions including proactive information disclosure are appreciable to ensure good governance at UP. UP authorities should provide information to its citizens for overcoming challenges to ensure its services and development'. UNO recommended elected members to

follow the government rules and regulations for providing services of social safety net programmes to the people. He made importance to strengthen the capacity of female members of UP. CCC President Selina Begum expected to amplify the good practices to other UPs through Upazila Parishad initiatives.

Chairman and Secretaries of different union parishads, CCC, SWAJAN and YES members were attended in the meeting. DC Mahmudul Hasan moderated an oath taking session for reducing corruption at this event.

### **DC urges students to be honest and inspired by the Liberation War**

Deputy Commissioner of Jhalakathi district Md. Mizanul Hoque Chowdhury urged the students of Jhalakathi Government High School to be honest and inspired by the spirit of the Liberation War. He said, 'Corruption free country is the goal of our liberation war. Though we face many difficulties, for the development of the country, we should be honest in our student and professional life'. He was delivering his speech as special guest in an inauguration event of a Satota Store (Honesty Store) and oath taking programme at Jhalakathi Government High School on 24 November 2016. By the assistance of CCC, Jhalakathi, the school authority organized this event. DC Md. Mizanul Haque Chowdhury moderated the oath taking programme in participation with four hundred students.

Among others, Md. Liakat Ali Talukder, Mayor of the Jhalakathi Municipality, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Safiul Alam, District Education Officer Nikhil Ranjan Chakrabarty, CCC Vice Presidents and members, President of DUPRAK, Jhalakathi, teachers of the school, SWAJAN and YES members were present in the event.



### **Upazila Education Authority recommends to ensure transparency on raising funds by SMC**

CCC, Sreemangal organized an opinion sharing meeting with upazila education authority on 30 November, 2016 at Sreemangal Upazila Education office with aim to ensure transparency and accountability in primary education. Upazila Education Officer Md. Mosharaf Hossain presided over the meeting while CCC member Dwipendra Bhattacharjee shared the CCC's initiatives in education sector.

Head Teacher of Baruna Faizur Rahman Government Primary School Sushanto Kumar Pal shared that members of SMC do not attend in SMC meeting regularly. Most of the students are from poor family, so they do not attend classes regularly. He expected assistance from upazila education authority to fill up a canal in front of the school, so that the student can play without any fear.

Upazila Education Officer Md. Mosharaf Hossain appreciated the anti-corruption activities at Baruna Faizur Rahman Government Primary School. He suggested to maintain register and transparency on raising funds of different issues by the respective SMC members and provide receipts to the guardians and contributors. He assured to provide all types of support to continue the initiatives of CCC.

Among others, Assistant Upazila Education Officer Mohammad Ali and Md. Saiful Islam, CCC Vice President Didar Ahmed Shaheen and CCC member Md. Rahmat Ali spoke in the meeting.

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