

# INSIDE

## National News

- Experts call for ensuring accountability and transparency in climate adaptation fund
- Promoting integrity of water sector works
- Building capacity of journalists for investigative reports

## CCC News

- Information Fair and Public Hearing held at Sirajdikhan
- Scout members vow to work on social movement against corruption
- Students take anti-corruption oath at Patiya
- World Water Day observance at CCC level

and swimming respectively in this year's South Asia Games. Mahfuza won gold in 100m and 50m breast stroke (women) and Mabia won gold medal in 63kg (women) weight lifting. The girls from Kolsindur football team of Mymensingh district were part of the Bangladesh Football team that won the Asian Federation Cup (AFC) Under-14 Girls Regional Championship in Nepal last year.

After receiving the citation and token gifts, both Mabia and Mahfuza including members of the Kolsindur Football team expressed solidarity with anti-corruption social movement by signing up TIB's anti-corruption oath. As part of this year's celebration, a video documentary highlighting women's views in fighting corruption was uploaded on TIB's YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/oWW7LH9fGxQ>

A concept note with a set of demands was circulated among relevant stakeholders where TIB stated that lack of accountability in the power structure increases corruption that prohibit social justice, rule of law and equal rights which is a pre-requisite for establishing women empowerment.

Therefore, ensuring legal and institutional obligation, awakened conscience for equal rights for female-male is crucial. Outside of Dhaka, speakers of different IWD events stated that our women are belonging backward position and underprivileged because of our existing patriarchal attitude. On the other hand, corruption is also hindering the process of women development. Hence, it is evitable to resist corruption and establish good governance in every sector of our society and state to achieve the desired development of women.

## National News

### Empowered Women, Awakened Conscience Shall Surely Resist Corruption

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) celebrated the International Women's Day 2016 with the theme of 'Empowered Women, Awakened Conscience, Shall Surely Resist Corruption'. A number of social mobilization activities such as rallies, discussions, orientation, human chain, seminar, fair and quiz/essay/debate competitions were organized by TIB's Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) groups across 45 locations in the country.

People from all walks of lives, public officials, professionals, civil society, media, and youth attended.

TIB also arranged a cultural programme in Dhaka's Rabindra Soroobar, Mukta Mancha in the afternoon. Various cultural performances by Dhaka YES members including theme-song choreography, two drama shows by network partners, dance and musical solo by leading artists Kona and Anima Mukti Gomez enthralled the audience.

The hallmark of this year's celebration included according public receptions to two young women athletes and a juvenile girl football team who recently brought glory for Bangladesh by snatching medals and winning in the tournament. Both Mabia Akter Simanta and Mahfuza Khatun Sheela bagged gold medals in weight lifting



## Experts call for ensuring accountability and transparency in climate adaptation fund

National and international experts on 29 March 2016 urged the governments of climate vulnerable countries to ensure the highest level of integrity, transparency and accountability in the overall management of their respective adaptation funds.

‘Following the Paris Agreement, Bangladesh and other climate-affected countries must work together for building individual and collective capacity to ensure the highest level of integrity, transparency and accountability to offset a range of governance deficits which can adversely affect the adaptation efforts of vulnerable countries’, they said during a day-long deliberation on adaptation financing.

Organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), the ‘Integrity Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Finance Transparency: Accountability and Participation’ was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), where delegates from Australia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka and the USA along with reputed national experts deliberated on multi-dimensional aspects of climate finance issues, more particularly climate change adaptation finance.



Touching on challenges of defining the word ‘adaptation’, there was a consensus among the panelists that, adaptation to climate change risk is already putting additional strain on development efforts in countries like Bangladesh. The speakers also voiced concern about the absence of concrete and time-bound commitment from the developed countries, meager flow of grant-based public fund, mal-adaptation or non- consideration of the local climate risks in adaptation projects and programmes and non-disclosure of project-related information.

Other areas of concern included the inadequate participation of local communities in adaptation planning and

monitoring of the implementation projects, absence of meaningful grievance redress system and complicated finance and accounting system.

The speakers unanimously agreed that climate change funds are not free from governance weaknesses. As many cases of irregularities in the planning and implementation phases of climate projects have already come under spotlight, it is now high time for precautionary action worldwide, they said. The speakers also highlighted that there should be transparency and accountability on the part of developed countries. They also urged the developed countries to fully implement their commitment abiding by the polluters pay principle where the affected developing countries would get climate finance as grant and not as loan. They also suggested using digital technology for disclosure of climate finance-related information to ensure transparency and accountability of all stakeholders.

Chief Guest of the concluding session Mr. Masud Ahmed, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh acknowledged that while it will take a while to reach the international standard, his office has so far successfully audited more than hundred climate projects.

Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Technical Adviser, Green Climate Fund and Executive Director of Centre for Global Change (CGC) also spoke in the concluding session as one of the Guests of Honour.

Inaugurating the dialogue in the morning session, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB said some 27 million people of Bangladesh are likely to be displaced as a result of severe climate change affects in the near future. He said TIB is keen to ensure that proper action is taken to shield climate finance are free from governance deficits.

Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, International Center for Climate Change and Development, Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadek, Member, Bangladesh Delegation to COP-21 and Coordinator Community Climate Change Project, PKSf and Mr. Alpha Kaloga, Lead Analyst, Adaptation Fund NGO Network spoke in the first technical session on ‘Scope and Challenges in Adaptation Finance – Sustained Flow of Fund after the Paris Agreement,’ moderated by Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, TIB's Deputy Executive Director.

The session on Transparency, Accountability and Participation in Adaptation Finance: Developed Country Perspective was moderated by Ms. Annaka Peterson Carvalho, Senior Program Officer, Oxfam America. Emeritus Professor Ainun Nishat, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research of BRAC University, Dr. Timothy Mark Cadman, Research Fellow, Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law, Griffith University, Australia, Mr. Sanjoy Vashisht, Director, Climate Action Network in South Asia (CANSA) from India and M. Zakir Hossain Khan, Senior Program Manager, Climate Finance Governance of TIB also spoke.

Mizan R. Khan, Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, North South University, Dhaka, Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque, Professor, Department of Economics, East West University, Dhaka, Bjoern Surborg, PhD, Climate Finance Governance Project, Principal Adviser, GIZ Office Bangladesh and Mr. Ian Tellam of Adaptify, Netherland spoke in the session on the 'Developing Country Perspectives on Climate Adaptation Fund,' moderated by Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advance Studies.

It may be mentioned here that adaptation fund is one of the seven major pots created under various international cooperation frameworks to fight against effects of climate change worldwide. TIB is the front-runner in the climate finance governance research and advocacy in Bangladesh since 2011 for ensuring integrity, transparency, accountability and participation in all types of climate funds in Bangladesh.

### **TIB join hands for ensuring water rights**

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) along with other organizations arranged a two day-long National Water Rights convention to observe World Water day. The convention was held on 20-21 March at the Krishibid Institute Auditorium, Dhaka prior to World Water Day on 22 March.

Twelve non-government organisations including Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), INCIDIN Bangladesh, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (BAPA), Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB), Water Rights Forum, Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) and Nijera Kori jointly organised the program. Water right activists from different organizations of Bangladesh attended this conference. Chaired by the Coordinator of Nijera Kori Ms. Khushi Kabir, the inaugural session was addressed, among others, by member of parliamentary standing committee on Water Resources Ministry AKM Fazlul Haque and member of parliamentary standing committee on the Environment and Forests Ministry Md Yasin Ali. The Chief Guest, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud observed that Bangladesh experienced a drastic fall in the Padma River's water flow during this dry season. A large part of allotted budget was spent on the maintenance due to river erosion, he added. A.K.M Masud Ali, Executive Director of INCIDIN Bangladesh and Dr. Mohammad Abdul Matin, General Secretary, BAPA also spoke.

Two parallel sessions on 'Water Law, National Water Law, Role of Management and Service Organizations and National Water Convention' and 'Water-related problems of Barind, Cholon Bil, Coastal and Haor areas of Bangladesh and Rights of Marginal People' were also held.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) presided over the session on Water Law. A.N.M Wahid, Chairman, Law and Justice Department, Rajshahi University; Saiful Hossain, Superintending Engineer, Bangladesh Water Development Board and M. Inamul Hoque, Former Director General, WARPO presented research papers.

Emeritus Professor Ainun Nishat, BRAC University moderated the other session on Water Related Problems where Dr. Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, Pro Vice Chancellor, Rajshahi University; Dr. Abul Hossain, Development Researcher; Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, Divisional Coordinator, BELA and Dr. M. Mokhlesur Rahman, Executive Director, CNRS were present as speakers.

During the two-day long convention, participants and speakers brought up many issues like health impacts of water pollutions, polder management, problems and prospects of shrimp farming, Indo-Bangladesh river water sharing, and using local knowledge for sustainable solutions.



### Building capacity of journalists for investigative reports

With participation of journalists from TIB's Committees of Concerned Citizens area, a day-long workshop on investigative journalism took place in TIB's office on 24 March. 21 Journalists from Savar, Mymensingh and Sylhet participated in this workshop. These journalists are also member of TIB's Committees of Concerned Citizens.

Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka, took session on 'Straightforward News vs. Investigative Reporting: Definition, nature and types'. He introduced many tools of investigative journalism for their use in the field.

Prothom Alo's Special Correspondent and TIB's IJ award winner Sharifuzzaman Pintu shared his experience as an investigative journalist and outlined how journalists can produce quality reports.

TIB's Communication Director, Dr. Rezwana-Ul-Alam highlighted on the implementation of Right to Information Act and also briefed how the newly introduced online anti-corruption tool can be helpful for exposing corruption. TIB's Director of Civic Engagement Department Uma Chowdhury presented detailed information on TIB's Advocacy and legal Advice Center (ALAC).



TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Sumaiya Khair were present in the closing session of the workshop.

### CCC News

#### Information Fair and Public Hearing held at Sirajdikhan

Information Fair and Public Hearing Meeting were organized at Sirajdikhan Upazila of Munshiganj district on 08 March 2016. 'Information is Power: Know, notify and will resist corruption'- based on the motto, the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Munshiganj and Durniti Pratirodh Committee (DUPRAK) jointly organized the Information Fair and the Public Hearing Meeting in front of Sirajdikhan Upazila Parishad.

Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner of ACC, inaugurated the Information Fair and the Public Hearing Meeting as chief guest following an anti-corruption rally. A discussion meeting was held presided over by Md. Fazle Azim, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Munshiganj district following the inaugural session. ACC Director (Prevention and Mass Awareness) Moniruzzaman, Divisional Director Nasim Anwar, CCC President Adv. Md. Humayun Kabir Shaheen and Senior Programme Manager (Civic Engagement) of TIB Kazi Shafiqur Rahman took part in the discussion meeting.



A total number of 33 public and private institutions provided their service related information to the visitors by installing booths in the information fair. YES members of CCC, Munshiganj shared the procedure of submitting RTI application to the related institutions among the hundreds of visitors of the day long fair.

The Public Hearing Meeting was moderated by Ms. Rounak Afroja Suma, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Sirajdikhan Upazila where representatives from different public service related institutions answered various questions raised by local citizens. Among other institutions, Upazila Land Office, Sub-Registrar Office, Upazila Health and Family Planning Office effectively participated in the Question and Answer session and made commitment to resolve 22 problems shared by local citizens.

### **Scout members vow to work on social movement against corruption**

A day long workshop for the members of Rover Scouts was held on 09 March 2016 at Muktagacha Upazila organized by Swachchatar Jonno Nagorik (SWAJAN) of CCC, Muktagacha. A total of 40 members of Rover Scouts were participated in the workshop held at Dhaka Regional Scouts Training Center in Muktagacha, Mymensingh. By the assistance of CCC, Muktagacha, the workshop was organized to make a clear concept on Right to Information Act-2009, Social Movement, Ethics Education and to build up leadership among scout members.

CCC Vice President Prof. Md. Ayub Khan inaugurated the workshop while Upazila Nirbahi Officer and President of the Muktagacha Upazila Scouts Dr. Umme Afsari Jahura was present as chief guest. Participants of the workshop prepared applications seeking information from different service oriented institution and made a draft plan to drive campaign against corruption while TIB officials facilitated the sessions. Shojon member A.B.M. Salim Jahangir presented a PowerPoint presentation on Ethics and Corruption free Bangladesh in Future in the workshop. Among other members, Shojon Convener Mohammad Mujahidur Rahman was also present in the workshop. At the end of a discussion meeting on role of social movement for ensuring good governance, transparency and accountability, the participants took anti-corruption oath and took part in a debate competition and expressed their firm stand against corruption.

### **Water can change workers' lives and livelihoods**

Committees of Concerned Citizens across the country observed the 22 March World Water Day with great enthusiasm on the theme 'Water and Jobs' under the Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN) programme of TIB. The theme is focusing on how enough quantity and quality of water can change workers' lives and livelihoods - and even transform societies and economies. Quiz and Essay Competitions were organized on that theme among the school students at local level in CCC areas. Different medium of campaign including rallies and human chain were organized to aware people on their rights to water and water related jobs at ease.

Different level stakeholders including teachers and students, professionals, developments workers and members of CCC, Swajan, YES and YES Friends participated in these events. Speakers said that the lack of accountability and transparency in water management and aquatic wealth conservation system has resulted in illegal possession of water bodies. The situation further worsened by emission of poisonous industrial wastage endangering both food and livelihood security, they added. The effects of climate change in Bangladesh especially southern districts are being visible already with increasing salinity in the agricultural lands which is likely to create food crises in future, the speakers added while speaking in the programmes. Issue based leaflets regarding the World Water Day were disseminated among the participants and mass people.

### **Students take anti-corruption oath at Patiya**

More than one thousand students of Union Krishi School and College of Patiya Upazila took anti-corruption oath organized by YES members of CCC, Patiya on 02 March 2016. Teachers of the institution also took part in the oath taking



programme. Mr. Subol Kanti Chowdhury, Principal (In-Charge) of the institution facilitated the oath taking programme. CCC Member Abdur Razzak delivered the welcome speech focusing the role of youth to establish a corruption free society and state. CCC, Shojon and YES members and TIB officials were present in the programme. All the participants vowed to work as anti-corruption social activist to build up a corruption free country by taking anti corruption oath.

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