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Manager of TIB's Research and Policy Division combined presented the findings of the report. Presided over by Chairperson of TIB's trustee board Advocate Sultana Kamal, the press conference was attended by Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Deputy Executive Director Dr. Sumaiya Khair and Director of Research and Policy division, Mohammad. Rafique Hasan.

Using the Community Series of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), TIB's Research and Policy team conducted the survey through a three-stage Stratified Cluster Sampling method. Collecting data from November 1 to December 25 in 2015, the survey collected information on corruption and harassment covering the period from November 2014 to October 2015. An advisory committee comprising nationally and internationally reputed experts provided guidance to ensure quality and validity of this survey, conducted among 15,206 households. Data was collected from 10,783 rural households (70.6%) and 4,663 urban households (29.4%) covering 64 districts and Dhaka and Chittagong City Corporations.

Considering the importance and influence on people's daily lives and a minimum level of interaction rate, a total of 15 sectors were included in this survey: Education, health, local government, land administration, agriculture, law enforcement agencies, judicial services, electricity, banking, tax and tariff, NGO, passport, gas, BRTA, insurance. However, based on data provided by respondents on various other sectors/sub-sector/institutions, a 16th sector "Others (WASA, BTCL, Postal service etc.)" was also reported.

### National News

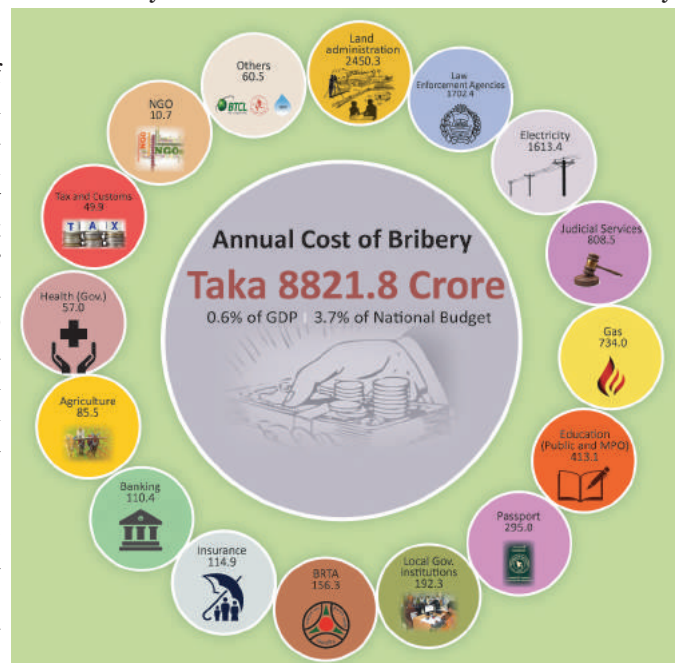
#### Corruption in Service Sectors: National Household Survey 2015 is published 68% households are victims of corruption

A report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) titled 'Corruption in Service Sectors: National Household Survey 2015' released on 29 June said some 67.8% households became victims of corruption last year while some 58.1% had to pay bribe at an average of Taka 4538.00. While the rate of corruption and harassment (67.8% versus 67.3%) in 2015 remained almost same in comparison to 2012, however, the households had to pay additional 1500 crore taka compared to 2012.

The most corrupt sectors identified in 2015 survey are: passport (77.7%), law enforcement agencies (74.6), education (Government and under MPO) (60.8%), BRTA (60.1%), land administration (53.4%) judicial services (48.2%), and Health (37.5%)\_. The burden of corruption is higher on the low-income households compared to high-income households. Some 71% respondents said they had to pay bribe, because, "if we do not pay bribe, we do not get service."

Releasing the findings of the report today in the morning at its head office here, TIB said that the national estimates of bribery is around Taka 8828 crore, which is 0.6% of 2014-15's GDP and 3.7% of national (supplementary) budget.

Md. Wahid Alam, Senior Programme Manager; Farhana Rahman, Programme Manager and Nur-E-Alam, Deputy Programme



Although the overall rate of corruption remained unchanged, corruption has decreased in land administration, judicial services, health, banking, NGO and other sectors but increased in local government, electricity and insurance. It was unchanged in education, law enforcement agencies, agriculture and tax and tariff sectors. Compared to 51.8% households that fell victim of bribery in 2012, the rate in 2015 increased to 58.1% in 2015. However, the rate of bribery is decreased in six sectors including health, judicial service and land administration. It increased in education, electricity and NGO sector. The rate of bribery in law enforcement agencies, agriculture, tax and tariff and other sectors is unchanged. Across location, corruption victimization is higher in rural areas in comparison to urban areas (62.6% versus 69.5%). Similarly, the rate of bribery is also higher in rural areas (53.4% versus 59.6%).

It should be mentioned here that this household survey does not have any connection with Transparency International's (TI) Corruption Perception Index (CPI).

During the press conference Advocate Sultana Kamal decried that corruption has become way of life in Bangladesh and strict enforcement of laws are necessary to provide relief to the victims of corruption. For curbing the menace of petty corruption, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman stressed on ending impunity to the corrupt by bringing them to justice, effective implementation of political will and ensuring effective role of service providing agencies, especially that of NIS institutions.



Aimed at measuring the nature and extent of corruption and harassment experienced by the households in getting various public services, the survey report also put forward a number of recommendations to prevent and control corruption. These included, among others: bringing corrupt people to justice; ensuring transparency and accountability in service-providing institutions by strictly adhering to code of conduct, enhancing participation and communication of local people in service sectors; arranging public hearing; providing penalty or reward for employees according to their performance, strengthening social movement to prevent corruption and increasing manpower, infrastructure, and logistics at various service providing institutions.

It may be mentioned here that the present Government made some specific commitments around enhancing good governance and curbing corruption in the election manifesto, 7th Five Year Plan, and Perspective Plan. The Government has endorsed the UN Convention against Corruption and thus reiterated its commitment towards preventing corruption. The Government has also formulated National Integrity Strategy 2012, Right to Information Act 2009 and Disclosure of Public Interest Information (Protection) Act 2011 with a view to enhancing good governance and curbing corruption. These initiatives have created conducive environment for reducing and eliminating corruption. However, continued corruption and irregularities in different aspects of administrations are preventing the improvement in the quality of service sector scenarios.

This survey is expected to assist in taking forward the anti-corruption commitments and activities of the ruling party and their alliances. Besides, the findings of this survey will assist in taking appropriate measures according to the nature of corruption in different service sectors. The findings of this survey will also help the people become aware about issues related to corruption and mobilize the people to raise their voice against it, and reinforce the policy-level advocacy initiatives.

## **Public Discussion on Climate Change at National Press Club Urged to Ensure Transparency and Accountability in Climate Change Projects**

A public discussion on climate change and natural disaster was held on 6 June 2016 at National Press Club in Dhaka to observe the World Environment Day 2016. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) along with some like-minded organizations arranged the discussion titled 'Roanu Disaster: Impact on Living Being'. TIB called for some specific steps to make climate related government projects corruption free by ensuring transparency and accountability in the sector. Expressing concern over the government's move to establish Rampal coal based power plant in Sundarbans, speakers called on the policy makers to review the decision.

TIB put forward some recommendations for eco-friendly sustainable development which includes implementing the Bangladesh Water Law 2013 to prevent water pollution and illegal possession of water bodies; establishing strong rules on industrial waste management; ensuring participation of local people and utilize their knowledge in climate, environment, water related projects; launching 'reward' and 'penalty' system in industries accordingly to ensure the usage of affluent treatment plant; engaging more women, indigenous and marginalized people in climate change related projects; reforming National Irrigation Law and other legislation to ensure sustainable development and environmental harmony.

## **World Environment day observed by Dhaka YES groups**

5 June World Environment Day was observed by Dhaka YES Groups in different campuses through various activities. Seminar, Cartoon Exhibition, Tree Plantation, Quiz Competition, Experience sharing, Anti-Corruption oath taking, Rally and Photo Exhibition were arranged as a part of the day.

YES Groups of Institute of Social welfare (ISW) of University of Dhaka (DU), East West University, Uttara University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Stamford University were the organizers of those events.

Climate finance governance, different environmental issues, finding solutions for environmental crisis were discussed on the seminars. The speakers put emphasis on making people aware on the issues of climate change and environmental crises. They also urged for raising voice to ensure transparency and accountably on climate finance governance.

Students, YES Advisors, teachers and TIB officials attended those programmes.

## **CCC News**

### **CCC creating horizontal network with NGOs and like-minded organizations**

CCC, Sunamganj organized a networking meeting with NGOs and like-minded organizations on 22 June 2016 with a view to strengthen communication and coordination. The meeting was presided over by CCC President Nurur Rab Chowdhury while CCC member Professor Parimal Kanti Dey delivered welcome speech.

In the meeting, the representatives from different organizations shared their activities and best practices. They discussed about how to work effectively for the disadvantaged people. The participants praised the initiatives to unite the organizations through this type of meeting. They emphasized on strengthening coordination among different organizations to avoid overlapping of activities in the same issue and urged to practice transparency and accountability within their organizations.

Among others CCC members, representatives of different organizations attended the meeting.

### **Open Budget Declaration: Accountability Tools Practiced in Local Government**

With an aim to establish an accountable and citizen friendly municipality Kurigram Municipality authority has declared budget for the fiscal year 2016-17 with the participation of its citizens. As a part of its continued programmes CCC, Kurigram in collaboration with the municipality authority organized the session along with a Face the Public programme at municipality auditorium on 13 June 2016. The municipality Mayor Md. Abdul Aziz declared the annual budget of total amount of BDT. 42,57,82,496 to accomplish its incomplete works.



As a part of the event, the local people raised service related questions to the municipality authority which included problems in getting different services from municipality; development of roads, children park and drainage system; allocation of separate budget for women development, modernization of the city, water problems etc. The municipality Mayor, Secretary and Councilors answered the questions raised by local citizens. The Mayor shared his expectation and future plan and briefed about the progress of different development work of the municipality.

CCC, President Adv. A. T. M. Enamul Haque Chowdhury presided over the programme while CCC's Local Government related Sub-Committee's Convener Ahsan Habib Nilu was moderator. CCC members, Councilors and Secretary of the municipality, TIB representative and local citizens also took part in the discussion. Among others local citizens, journalist, representatives of GO/NGOs and mass people attended the programme.

### **Mothers Playing Role in Improvement of Schools Education**

A Mothers Gathering was organized with this theme 'We want transparency and accountability for the improvement of education sector' on 2 June 2016 at Ghatkul Government Primary School premises. This was arranged by CCC, Chittagong Metropolitan in cooperation with School Management Committee (SMC) of Ghatkul Government Primary School and Active Mothers Forum. CCC Members Jasmeen Sultana Paru and Swajan Member Rowshan Ara Chowdhury were present as guest in the gathering while Head Teacher of this school Tajnim-E-Jannat Jubly and on behalf of the mothers Ms Raju Akhtar delivered welcome speech. SMC President M. A. Sabur presided over the programme.

In the open discussion, the mothers pointed out some problems of the school which included inadequate ratio of teacher and students, shortage of benches in the classrooms, lack of sitting arrangement for mothers at the school premises, need of hall room for arranging different programmes at the school, insufficient toilet facilities for girl students etc. In response, SMC President shared that school authority is communicating with respective authority for the posting of required teachers at the school. One toilet is already allocated for girl students and an additional toilet will be arranged for them immediately.



Jasmeen Sultana Paru told that mothers must play vital role to educate their child. Rowshan Ara Chowdhury stated that mothers must be sincere for child education and become aware whether the teachers are performing well or not in the class.

In the programme, meritorious students of Sanoara High School who obtained GPA-5 were awarded. SMC members, all teachers and around two hundred mothers attended the gathering.

### **Orientation on Right to Information Act**

'Vigilant conscience, invincible youth shall surely resist corruption' with this theme and active participation of the students of Barguna Govt. College YES group of CCC, Barguna organized a training workshop and quiz competition on Right to Information Act, anti-corruption oath taking programme etc. on 2 June 2016. CCC member Sukha Rangan Sil presided over the orientation programme while Vice-Principal of Barguna Govt. College Mr. Abdus Salam was present as chief guest. CCC President Alhajj Abdur Rob Fakir delivered welcome speech in the programme.

Chief Guest stated that Right to Information Act holds a huge prospect for ensuring transparency and accountability of public institutions if properly implemented. Secrecy in providing information increases corruption while free flow of information helps resist corruption, he added. Among others YES Leader, YES members spoke at the orientation.

In the orientation the participants learnt about Right to Information Act, the process of filling in application and appeal form to seek information etc. After orientation a quiz competition on Right to Information Act was organized where 85 students participated. At the end of these events, CCC's YES related Sub-Committee's Convener Sukha Rangan Sil moderated an oath taking programme.

## World Environment Day observed

The World Environment Day 2016 was observed by the CCCs as elsewhere across the globe on 5 June 2016 with a focus on creating awareness on the protection of national resources, including the wildlife and forests. The day is aimed at stimulating awareness on environment and enhancing political attention and positive environmental action. This year the theme of the day was 'Go Wild for Life'. Various programmes, including colorful rally, human chain, discussion meeting, quiz competition, memorandum submission etc. were taken up across the country by different CCCs in observance of the day.

The discussants of different events told that the theme carries the message of fight against the illegal trade in wildlife which not only contributes to the erosion of biodiversity, but also threatens the survival of many species. They also emphasized on to come forward along with government efforts to protect environment and biodiversity. They expressed concern over the risk of environment and biodiversity due to the increase of population and human-induced activities, which are contributing to rise in global warming.



Different level stakeholders including teachers and students, professionals, developments workers and members of CCC, Swajan, YES and YES Friends participated in these events. Issue based leaflet regarding world environment day were disseminated among the participants.

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