

INSIDE

National News

- Transparency, Accountability and Participation in Climate Finance: The Invincible Youth Together Against Corruption

CCC News

- Corruption disrupts development: Speakers at a meeting
- CCCs celebrate Right to Know Day
- Concerted efforts to improve the quality of health service
- Chandpur Municipality will ensure proper delivery of its services

National News

TIB urged to create an enable environment for implementing the Right to Information Act

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) urged to government along with all other stakeholders to play positive role for effective implementation of Right to Information Act. TIB stated it on 28 September to mark the International Right to Know Day 2016. In a statement, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekhar Zaman said, "Significance of the collective initiatives for implementing the right to information has been increased in Bangladesh as the UNESCO has declared the day as 'the International Day for Universal Access to information' in year 2015.

Dr. Zaman said, "It is very agitating that in spite of prioritizing the Right to Information Act on other laws for ensuring constituency avowed freedom of speech and right to information, some law and policies has been drafted which are contradicting the Right to information Act. The scope of people's freedom of speech and right to information are shrinking by the National Broadcast Policy, Section 57 of ICT Act and the proposed Cyber Security Act, which is creating the risk of diminishing the spirit of Right to Information Act." He urged to government for avoiding the contradictory position and creating favorable environment for effective implementation of Right to Information Act.

TIB recommend for canceling all the existing rules and laws, institutional and structural policies which are the antithetical to the spirit of right to information. It also urged to government and public representatives for actively playing role to ensure the constituency avowed rights of opinion, freedom of speech and disclosing of information and taking initiatives for ensuring access to information in all government and non-government institutions and organizations.

Like each year, this year also TIB and 45 Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) established by TIB's inspiration, observed the day locally and nationally with various activities along with information fair, rally, human chain, discussion meeting, seminar, quiz competition, debate competition, cartoon exhibition, extempore speech etc. Moreover, to mark the day TIB produced sticker, poster and brochure on Right to Information Act. TIB also called for proactive discloser of information in all government and non government organizations.

Besides all the campaigns, TIB organized an orientation programme for University students to aware them about RTI act. Around fifty young star from twelve institutions participated in the event.

TIB believe that the day should be observed significantly in all sectors of government and non government that will increase public awareness regarding RTI, which will be persuade the implementation of Right to Information Act. TIB urged to establish transparency and accountability in every sphere of society through ensuring people's right to information.

Transparency, Accountability and Participation in Climate Finance: The Invincible Youth Together Against Corruption

3 days long 'TIB-KDS Inter-University Debate Festival 2016' held at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology Campus during 29th September to 1st October. The festival was organized by jointly Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and KUET Debating Society (KDS) titled "Transparency, Accountability and Participation in Climate Finance: The Invincible Youth Together Against Corruption".

The inauguration programme was held at the auditorium of the University. Professor Dr. Muhammad Alamgir, Vice- Chancellor of KUET; Dr. Sobhan Mia, Director, Students Welfare; Mr. Tanmoy Chakraborty, Moderator, KDS; Mr. AK Hiru, Vice President, CCC Khulna and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB were present at the inaugural programme.

Dr. Zaman said, “We can develop and enrich our country exquisitely, if we can stimulate our young stars with the spirit of freedom fight. We desire that the youth will be able to flourish their talent by logic and debate, and will play a significant role in the movement for good governance.”

In the speech of chief guest Dr, Alamgir said, “We all have to come forward to constructing a corruption free country by acute the talent of youth through practicing debate.”

Around 100 debaters took part in the debate competition from various Universities. The festival also contained cartoon exhibition and rally in the campus. Besides the debate festival, a human chain was held in front of the Central Shahid Minar of Khulna city at morning on the same theme as the debate festival.

In the human chain, Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support group of Khulna and TIB urged to ensure the transparency, accountability and participation in using national climate fund and also to ensure the commitment of developed countries concerning climate finance. TIB and CCC Khulna placed ten recommendations with the demand for adequate fund for adaption, and transparency, accountability along with ensuring participation of victims in fund distribution and use under the Paris agreement in COP 22 convention. Distinguished recommendations are-



Demand for continuous development fund to ensure sustainable development and reduce poverty, promise for providing the covenanted climate fund and prompt guidance for implementing the fund, grant from polluter not loan any way, prioritizing adaptation issue for donating fund to victim countries from green climate fund, adequate fund flow to carry out Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) and Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF), proactive discloser of financial reports to ensure the transparency and accountability of the all financial underinvestment of all activities under climate finance etc.

CCC News

Corruption disrupts development Speakers at a meeting

Speakers at a meeting made importance on political commitment for ensuring transparency and accountability to strengthen democracy in Bangladesh. The meeting was held in Jessore in participation with local civil society members, elected representatives, government officials, journalists, teachers, multi-level stakeholders and members of CCC, Swajan, YES and YES Friends. CCC, Jessore organized the meeting on 28 September, 2016 titled ‘Social Movement against Corruption at the local level: Opportunities and Challenges’. The meeting was organized at Jessore Press Club Auditorium with a view to strengthen good governance and amplify anti-corruption social movement engaging multi-level stakeholders and cross section people of the society.

As the key speaker Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), addressed that, corruption is main restraint for development in our country. It should be restrained by our own initiatives based on our patriotism, ethics and values. He also said, social movement against corruption contributes a lot to strengthen democracy and to achieve the goal of Independence Movement. In 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman also asked citizens to fight against corruption. Dr. Zaman argued to fight against corruption jointly with local civil society members, service holders, journalists and young people.

M. R. KhairulUmam, president of CCC, Jessore presided over the program. In open discussion, speakers said that political commitment is needed to ensure good governance, in addition to this, combined efforts of administration and citizens to implement the political decision is also very important. Dr. Zaman answered various questions of the participants regarding different issues including social movement against corruption in the meeting.

CCCs celebrate Right to Know Day

Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) across the country celebrated the 28 September Right to Know Day with great enthusiasm on the theme 'Information is Power: Know, notify and will resist corruption'. At local level, rallies, discussion meetings, information fair, anti-corruption cultural programs, RTI application procedure and different medium of campaign were organized to encourage proactive disclosure of information and to aware the people on their rights to get information at ease.

All CCCs, its YES, YES Friends and Swajan members joined hands the local administration to celebrate the day. 17 CCCs organized one/two days long Information Fairs where different government agencies, departments and NGOs installed stalls and provided service related information to the visiting people.

Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura, Chairman of the Task Force on Rehabilitation of the Returnee Refugees, inaugurated the program in Khagrachari. Similarly, Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman, Member of the Parliament, inaugurated the fair at Savar. Beside these, senior govt. officials like Divisional Commissioners, Additional Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, DD-LG, Civil Surgeons, Superintendent of Police, Upazila Nirbahi Officers and local elected representatives including Mayor of Municipalities, Upazila Chairman and Vice Chairman and senior officers of TIB attended in the local celebration. Different awareness raising materials like Right to Know day issue based leaflets and posters were distributed among the participants and visitors in the fair.

Concerted efforts to improve the quality of health service

Mr. Mohammed Elias, Member of the Parliament of Cox's Bazar-01, made a commitment to take necessary actions against the raised allegations for ensuring rights of service recipients at the Chakaria Upazila Health Complex immediately. Answering to a service recipient, he made such commitment in an Opinion Sharing Meeting organized by CCC, Chakaria. Addressing as chief guest, he also said, 'One of the goal of Vision 2021 is to increase living standard of people through ensuring health rights. Service recipients of this hospital are mostly poor people. So it's not acceptable to take bribe for providing services to them'. He advised the Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer to take necessary actions against the irregularities.

CCC, Chakaria organized the meeting in participation with the authority of Chakaria Upazila Health Complex to improve the services of the hospital based on a slogan 'Transparency and accountability in health sector'. Mr. Abdus Salam, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, presided over the program. Hure Jannat Mili, Vice President of CCC Chakaria, delivered welcome speech while CCC member Zia Uddin moderated the sessions. The meeting was held on 21 September 2016 at the Chakaria Health Complex Auditorium. Mr. Abdus Salam said, 'Collective participation and cooperation of all of us need to improve the quality of hospital services'. The participants in the meeting raised different service related issues.

Chandpur Municipality will ensure proper delivery of its services

Chandpur Municipality will take initiatives to ensure proper delivery of its services to the citizens. This is announced by its Mayor Nasir Uddin Ahmed in an opinion sharing meeting organized by CCC, Chandpur. Md. AbdusSabur Mondal, Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur district, was present as chief guest at the program arranged in the auditorium of the Chandpur Municipality Library on 29 September 2016 with an aim to uphold citizen's expectations for good governance and overcome the challenges. CCC President Kazi Shahadat presided over the program titled 'Implementation of Traffic control and opportunities for tourism: Challenges and way forwards for good governance'.

As the chief guest, DC Abdus Sabur Mondal said, we will act our activities in line with current laws and rules. We wish to make Chandpur as model district through increasing the standards of services to the citizens. He informed in the meeting that detail plan has been taken for beautification of the city along with traffic flow. He thanked to the participants who delivered their speeches for arguing development of the district.

Chandpur Municipality Mayor Nasir Uddin Ahmed said, for raising political awareness and by the assistance of police administration, the city has become more peaceful. For ensuring citizen's rights, the municipality organizes Ward Shava regularly and problems are discussed locally to find out the solutions. Md. Nazrul Islam, Assistant Police Super (Sadar Circle) of Chandpur district also delivered speech as special guest. Conveying their gratitude to CCC & TIB, speakers urged to organize this type of event in which elected representatives and authorities will face the public for ensuring accountabilities to their responsibilities.

Among others, editors of local newspapers, Chandpur Press Club President and General Secretary, local journalists, representatives from different organizations and associations made recommendations regarding ensuring good governance and development in Chandpur. CCC member Dr. Pijus Kanti Barua presented the keynote paper while CCC president and respective Area Manager of TIB moderated the program. Teachers and students from different institutions, cultural activists, representatives from public transport associations, member of CCC, Swajan, YES and YES Friends were present at the program.

Editor: S M Rezwan-ul-Alam Sub-Editor: Zahidul Islam Design: Barkat Ullah Babu

Write us : Transparency International Bangladesh, e-mail: advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org

Join us :  www.ti-bangladesh.org  www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh