

Call for creating enabling environment to strengthen the anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh

9 December marks the International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD). To celebrate IACD 2017, Transparency International Bangladesh's (TIB) organized a number of people and youth engagement activities promoting the message: Together against corruption. TIB called upon the Government to create enabling environment for the anti-corruption fighters, so that anti-corruption fighters and researchers can smoothly broaden the anti-corruption social movement. Those entrusted to fight corruption such as the Judiciary, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the law-enforcing agencies are able to discharge their duties without fear or favor, TIB demanded.



In a weeklong diverse set of events to celebrate IACD 2017 in both local and national level, from oath-taking to human rallies and competitions, people and youths from all walks of society with TIB's stakeholders pledged to eradicate the menace collectively. In different campaigns like airing anti-bribery TVC and bus branding to increase mass awareness, anti-corruption messages, cartoons and ways of tackling corruption were highlighted.

The significant moment of this year's celebration was marked with success of TIB's persistent advocacy for years as for the first time, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) officially observed the IACD, decision taken on 10th July 2017 by the Cabinet. To mark the IACD, Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Deputy Commissioners joined hands with TIB to observe the IACD officially on 9 December 2017 by organizing human chains in their respective 64 districts highlighting the key message: Together against Corruption.

At the national level, TIB began a week-long observance of IACD on 5 December 2017 through anti-corruption oath-taking event held in the morning at the Central Shahid Minar, Dhaka. Wearing green caps and badges with 'Together against Corruption' message, hundreds youngsters from various parts of the capital joined this colorful anti-corruption oath-taking event. Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chair, Board of Trustees of TIB administered the anti-corruption oath. Observing that the invincible youth can steer fundamental change, she urged all including to youth to play their due role to reduce ill-effects of corruption from the society.

Committing to have the highest regard for the independence, sovereignty, culture and values for Bangladesh, these youngsters pledged that they shall refrain from adopting any dishonest means in all aspects of academic and professional life and shall discharge their responsibilities with integrity and accountability. Commending

the Government of Bangladesh for officially observing IACD from this year, TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman underscored the need for bringing the corrupt into justice by implementing political commitment of the Government to control corruption. 'We urge the government to create enabling environment so that those entrusted to fight corruption such as the Judiciary, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the law-enforcing agencies are able to discharge their duties without fear or favor.'

Highlighting that the Government had committed under the UNCAC Article 13 to fight corruption engaging the people, Dr. Zaman urged the Government for removing obstacles or roadblocks so that anti-corruption fighters and researchers can smoothly broaden the anti-corruption social movement.



Followed by the human chain, six cartoonists and three photographers were awarded for their outstanding contribution to the promotion of anti-corruption messages using the creative art forms of cartoons and photos in Anti-Corruption Cartoon and Photo Competition and Exhibition 2017 organized at Jainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.



At the award-giving ceremony, terming corruption as 'anti-development, the Chief Guest H.E. Mr. René Holenstein, Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, appreciated the courageous role of the cartoonists and photographers for generating a strong collective voice and creating greater awareness and motivation among the young generation to Say No to Corruption through their beautiful art works. Commending the

Government of Bangladesh for officially observing the IACD from this year, Ms. Refika Hayta, Charge d'Affaires of the the Royal Danish Embassy in Bangladesh said, satirical and real life presentation of facts, stories and messages depicted by cartoonists and photographers provide a strong collective voice for change. Referring to long-standing partnership with TIB, Ms. Aislin Baker, Team Leader Governance, DFID Bangladesh lauded the use of cartoons and photos as effective tools for sensitization for creating awareness and developing a sense of responsibility and commitment among the youths of Bangladesh.

At the same time, the week-long exhibition comprising 57cartoonsand 21photographswas also inaugurated. A total of 273 cartoonists under two age categories: 13-18 years, and 19-25 years, sent a total of 469 cartoons entries for the 12th competition. Besides, 87 photographers, both professional and amateur sent 223 entries for the 3rd anti-corruption photo competition.

Later in the evening of the same day, a three-day anti-corruption moot court competition, first of its kind ended with the final round, the award-giving and concluding ceremony held at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. TIB collaborated with Dhaka University Moot Court Society (DUMCS) DUMCS, the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka for enhancing awareness among law students on anti-corruption legal regime among the students of law faculties throughout Bangladesh.

In the competition, the participants underscored the need for acquiring knowledge on anti-corruption laws to ensure successful prosecution of corruption cases. Mr. Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain, Hon'ble Judge, High Court Division, of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh attended as the Chief Guest of the event while Mr. Justice Md. Miftah Uddin Choudhury, Hon'ble Judge, High Court Division, of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, Hon'ble Judge, High Court Division, of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh along with others were present at the event.

Observing that effective conviction will deter indulgence of corrupt practices by the powerful people, TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman thanked the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka for extending collaborative support for organizing such innovation competition, which is considered to be first among more than 100 chapters of Transparency International. A total of 16 universities, among which three are public, competed in the anti-corruption moot court competition while Judges of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh adjudicated in different rounds of the competition.

Barendra University team from Rajshahi became the Champion in the competition defeating the Runner-Up University of Dhaka. University of Chittagong team won the Spirit of the moot award and while the Best Memorial award was bagged by University of Dhaka team. Sanjana Huq Miftah from University of Chittagong team became the best Mooter, and Md. Zahid-Al-Mamun from university of Dhaka team became the Best Researcher of the competition that began on 7th December at the department of Law Faculty, University of Dhaka, inaugurated by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka.

In the evening, six television channels broadcast a 60-second anti-bribery commercial highlighting integrity issues in the recruitment in the country.

Earlier on 7 December, TIB organized a media Dialogue on Investigative Journalism in anti-corruption movement at its Head office where reputed journalists and media personalities discussed on the challenges and prospects of investigative journalism in Bangladesh. The discussants stressed on government's encouraging assistance on identifying the internal corrupt officials and prohibitors which eventually would result in favor of government in keeping its political will to control corruption. Citing the prevailing dismal atmosphere regarding freedom of speech in the country, the discussants urged to ensure enabling

environment for the journalists to establish good governance and accountability in all level as investigative journalism is a proven tool in corruption prevention and ensuring transparency.



Urging the media to exercise caution when dealing with government officials involved in corruption, Chief Guest of the event Professor Dr. Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to Prime Minister, said that journalists played a vital role in Bangladesh, and if people from the government did not understand that, it was their failure. “Poverty can never be alleviated from a country where there is corruption, and therefore we have to stay alert against those people as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given clear instruction that we have to alleviate poverty from Bangladesh,” Dr Rizvi said emphatically.



TIB announced the winners of the Investigative Journalism (IJ) Awards 2017 where five journalists and four camerapersons of print and electronic media were selected for the awards. Arup Roy from the daily ProthomAlo and H M Alauddin from the daily Purbanchal won the awards in two categories of print media: national and regional. In total, seven journalists comprising three reporters Md. Badruddoza, Md. Shabuj Mahmud, Md. Zahidmamor Islam Saad and four camerapersons Mehedi Hasan Sohag, Golam Kibria, Rakibul Hasan, Tanvir Mizan from the electronic media were selected for the awards in two categories of electronic media: TV report and TV documentary where Md. Shabuj Mahmud and Md. Zahid Mamor Islam Saad jointly won the award in the documentary category. Each award winning journalist was awarded with cheque worth BDT 1 lac, a crest and a certificate of honor; and each cameraperson was awarded with cheque worth BDT fifty thousand, a crest and a certificate of honor.

At the local level all across the country, to observe the day CCCs and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Group with the support of YES Friends and SWAJAN (Citizens for Transparency) members undertook series of events including rallies, discussion meetings, human chains, information fairs, various cultural events, video drama projections, bus branding to increase mass awareness, anti-corruption signature collections, cartoon exhibitions, satellite Advice and Information Desks, different competitions, cycle rallies, cultural programs, anti-corruption oath-taking etc. across the country.

In the events of IACD, the speakers stated that corruption is the main constraint of development. They demanded ensuring appropriate punishments to corrupt people and urged everyone to raise their collective voices in ensuring transparency and accountability in the public service deliveries. The speakers also urged the youth to contribute in spreading the social movement against corruption in every corner of the country.

A large number of officials and representatives including Member of Parliaments (MPs), DC, SP, ADC, ASP and other official, professionals, representatives of ACC/Duprok, local representatives, NGO officials, journalists, civil society representatives, students and teachers from schools, colleges and universities and CCC, Swajan, YES & YES Friends members attended the IACD events organized by CCCs around the country.



Day-long Training on effective investigation for ACC investigators
Effective investigation by investigators is must for controlling corruption



To prevent wide-spread corruption, effective investigation plays the larger role in deterring corruption and thus, investigators are needed to be sufficiently efficient and skilled with updating knowledge. To keep pace with global advancement, 30 investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Bangladesh gathered at TIB head office on 28 December 2017 to participate in a training workshop titled Effective Investigation of Corruption. TIB organized the daylong programme to enhance capacity of ACC investigators about inquiry, investigation, analysis of information and documents especially on money laundering cases and aimed to enhance practical knowledge and skills for effectively implement prevailing anti-corruption laws.

The training programme was designed following the set of recommendations stated in an assessment of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Bangladesh carried out by TIB as part of an initiative by Transparency International (TI) to engage with anti-corruption agencies in a process of conducting evidence based research to examine their performance and identify the challenges in selected jurisdictions.

In the opening of the programme, TIB stressed on updating best practices, knowledge and techniques by the investigators in countering corruption. Justice Md. Azizul Haque, reputed former Judge of High Court Division of Bangladesh highlighted



various legal interpretations of the existing anti-corruption laws that have created enabling environment for the investigators to pursue vigorously in bringing the accused to justice. Justice Aziz further engaged in an open discussion with the participants. Followed by the lecture, the participants divided into three different groups and engaged in group discussion on certain topics i.e. legal weaknesses in inquiry and investigation, analysis of information and documents and interrogation techniques, external factors affecting inquiry, investigation and charge sheet processes; came out with observations on the issues which were presented through the group presentation.

The training programme consisted of subjects such as legal weaknesses in inquiry and investigation, analysis of information and documents and interrogation techniques, external factors affecting inquiry, investigation and charge sheet processes, illicit financial flows, trade mis-invoicing, anonymous companies etc.

In the afternoon session, Mr. Kamal Hossain, Joint Director, Bangladesh Financial Unit (BFIU), Bangladesh Bank discussed on Inquiry and Investigation on money-laundering cases. The participants then engaged in a group discussion on illicit financial flows, trade mis-invoicing, track and prevent transaction of anonymous companies etc.

During the group discussions, participants examined number of closed corruption case studies. Based on the cases, they reviewed the entire process of investigating from receiving allegations, implementing an effective investigative strategy and obtaining evidence abroad to concluding the investigation and delivering results.



In the concluding session, Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Adviser-Executive Management, TIB said, effective investigation of corruption is must to prevent corruption where investigators play meaningful role. Terming the training as an initial effort by TIB to strengthen anti-corruption capabilities of ACC, Dr. Khair expressed her hope that the training would help the ACC investigators doing better in their profession and wished to continue such efforts for the investigators of ACC in future. After the short speech, Professor Khair handed away the certificates among the trainees.

UDCs playing potential role in public service delivery, TIB urged for specific policy formulation focusing long-term institutionalisation and increased public awareness

In a TIB research report released on 3 November 2017, Union Digital Centre (UDC) was identified as a praiseworthy initiative to speed-up the deliveries of public, commercial and information services and make it accessible to communities. Introduced to ensure user-friendly public service delivery to the door-step of citizen, the user survey of the research revealed that service recipients' satisfaction on UDC services is fairly high and largely 60.7% of service recipients were satisfied about UDC services and relevant issues.

In a press conference organized at TIB Head Office to release the study, TIB in its 11 points recommendations, called to formulate a specific policy for effective and transparent management and supervision of UDCs. At the event, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman; Adviser- Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair; and Director of Research and Policy (R&P) division Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan; Senior Program Manager Md. Waheed Alam; and Deputy Program Manager Md. Nure Alam of R&P were present. Member of the research team Program Manager Juliet Rossette presented the research findings.



With aim to assess prospects and challenges of UDCs in ensuring e-services at the grassroots, TIB conducted the research during June 2016 to August 2017 using qualitative and quantitative research method. The research survey was conducted among 3053 household level, 91 UP Secretaries and 104 UDC Entrepreneurs.

According to the survey findings 93.2% service recipients found UDC entrepreneurs available during operating hours. The study observed that in 2016, one-third households in rural areas took services from UDCs and overall 60.7% service recipients experienced their satisfaction on UDC services. Time, cost and visits for government services (applications for land records, migrant labour registrations, hajj registrations etc.) have reduced considerably because of their deliveries from UDCs instead of their traditional deliveries points from districts and central authorities. As interactions between services providers and recipients have reduced because of digital services, risks of becoming victims of corruption or bribery reduced. The UDCs have been providing services to considerable number of rural population despite considerable number of equipments remain non-functional, inadequate power supply and slow internet connectivity.

The research observed some challenges that would pose risks for the sustainability of UDCs. Some specific instructions are absent regarding UDC management like entrepreneur selection process, technical proficiency of entrepreneurs, profit sharing between the entrepreneurs, monitoring mechanism and information archiving. There is a lack of technological efficiency among some entrepreneurs to ensure quality services. All service delivery institutions are not fully digitized, so that integrated service delivery could not be introduced. The lack of campaign on the extent of services at local level is notable. A section of the public representatives at local level are reluctant to own this initiative and playing the catalyst role.



Based on the findings of the study TIB put forward below recommendations for the considerations of policy makers and relevant stakeholders. Regarding policy reform and changes and for the better management of UDCs, policies should be adopted in the circular issued by Local Government Division and accordingly recirculate it such as Transparent and competitive entrepreneur selection process; Provision to giving preference to technically proficient candidates; Longer term agreement tenure for the entrepreneurs; Profit distribution mechanism between the entrepreneurs; Conditions under which financial assistance from UPs can be given; Monitoring guideline for supervisory authorities, and Standardization of service charges

To enhance UDCs' performance, initiatives should be taken for the long term institutionalization of UDCs by assessing their potentiality and challenges. Also, the extent and breadth of public services should be expanded uniformly in all UDCs in line with the main objectives of UDCs. Instant Power Supply (IPS) as alternative source of power should be installed for ensuring for uninterrupted power supply. Internet access through optic fiber cable should be ensured as soon as possible for high speed internet connectivity and non-functional equipment should be replaced with new ones and old, erased and torn down information boards and banners should be replaced as well. Among other recommendations, the research observed that receipts against the government services should be given mentioning the government fees and service charge separately and further simplification measures should be taken for complete and integrated digitalization of all public services. In this regard, digital signature might be introduced. Also, orientation for understanding the essence of public-private partnership should be arranged to encourage the entrepreneur for necessary investment

To strengthen the involvement of stakeholders, the research stressed on campaign by miking, leaflet, yard-meeting, advertisement through cable network at local level and broadcast of TVC on BTV at national level should be arranged, especially the issues of cost minimization through taking services from UDCs. It also

highlighted on orientation on UDCs and importance of e-service should be organized for the newly selected UP representatives.

TIB concerned about unprecedented anarchy and risk in banking sector

Citing grave concern on prevailing unprecedented anarchy and risk in the banking and financial sectors, TIB called for formation of an expert committee to combat irregularities, corruption and risks in the banking sector and urged the government to enact and implement a thorough and time-befitting policy keeping in mind short, middle, and long-term risks as per the recommendation of the expert committee.

On the one hand, misuse of power, political influence and lobbying have led to unrestrained forgery, corruption and dominance of loan defaulters, while on the other hand, ineffective ad hoc measures by a section of the regulatory authorities leading to unprecedented anarchy and risk in the banking and financial sector, reads a statement released on 17 December 2017 by TIB.

In the statement TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, the committee should be formed of independent and impartial individuals. There is no alternative for the government, especially Bangladesh Bank, to solving the crisis and bringing good governance to the sector, he said. Dr. Zaman also said, a section of people in the authorities took ad hoc measures to stop unbridled forgery, corruption and institutionalisation of defaults on loans. By ignoring the actual problems and showing a lack of foresight, they created a dip in confidence and anarchy unprecedented in the banking sector.

“In their bid to prevent forgery, corruption and institutionalization of loan defaulting mediated through misuse of power, political influence and lobbying, a section of the regulatory authorities has not only been engaged in steps on ad hoc basis, rather unprecedented anarchy and crisis of trust have been created through imprudence and visible helplessness by leaving main problem unnoticed,” Dr. Zaman added.

Dr. Zaman also mentioned that despite some recent steps by Bangladesh Bank to tackle some crisis in both state-owned and private commercial bank, including Farmers Bank and NRBC Bank, the anomalies are still remaining unrestrained as the individuals who are involved in it are yet to be meted out with exemplary punishment. He also noted that risks of institutionalization of patrimonialism has been created by the latest amendment of the company act.

TIB is of the opinion that the existing unrestrained trend of showing disregard towards the law cannot be stopped unless the vested interested quarters cannot be identified in the sector, he said, adding that TIB expects that the government must show the political will and guts to ensure that the regulatory authorities do not bow to any pressure in meeting their responsibilities.

TIB emphasized increasing skilled manpower, ability and purview of the authorities concerned, including the BB, to bring discipline in the banking and financial sector. It also called for modernization of the institutions.

TIB demands Education Minister to step down regarding comments on corruption and bribery

TIB has strongly condemned the statement recently made by the Education Minister, in which he advised officials to take bribe at a 'tolerable limit', and demanded to step down on ethical grounds for the sake of validating the courage he showed by declaring himself corrupt and set an example.

According to the reports published by several print and electronic media highlighting Education Minister's remarks at a laptop and certificate distribution ceremony of the Directorate of Inspection and Audit (DIA) on 24 December, 2017, Nurul Islam Nahid advised officials of his ministry at a programme to take bribe at a 'tolerable limit'.

In a statement released on 26 December, 2017 TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "At the programme broadcast live in social media, he [the minister] at one point of his speech commented that apart from government officials, he and his cabinet colleagues are corrupt." He said the ill-attempt that the minister made to term all the government officials and ministers corrupt was unrealistic and unacceptable and such a comment of the education minister is a matter of concern for the nation. At the same time, it only reflected his confusion and frustration.

Mentioning the government's strong position against corruption and bribery in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and development action plan, the TIB statement said: "Such statement from a sensitive ministry like the ministry of education, which is dedicated to constructing the nation's future, is no way tolerable". The minister's statement acknowledging him as corrupt could be a testimony to his boldness, the TIB said, adding that at the same time the minister might set an example of his honest courage by quitting his existing position from an ethical perspective.

TIB urges to review Civil Services Act Provisions

TIB called upon the government to take measures to revise a number of provisions of the Bangladesh Civil Service Act 2017 drafted by the Ministry of Public Administration recently. It also stressed the need for reviewing some provisions of the draft law to make sure the professional excellence of the government service holders and neutrality beyond the politicisation and uninterrupted work atmosphere.

In a statement released on 13 December 2017, TIB also called for taking stakeholders' opinion through participatory interactions and publication of the draft on website prior to finalising the act. TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman in the statement said, some of the provisions were found risky for ensuring the work environment for the public servant employees and the special jurisdiction of the President in the provision of appointing ten percent employees in the highest four levels in contract basis may cause the increase for the risk of grouping and reduce professionalism in the public administration. "If the scope of satisfactory promotion is not enforced without specific criteria, then the democracy, efficiency and experience of the public administration will be depreciated and the professional development will be hampered," said Dr. Zaman.

Dr. Zaman also said, "The draft act is a long-awaited and timely initiative. However, the revision of several provisions of the draft law is needed to ensure the proper environment for the employees. The employees should be evaluated on the basis of better professionalism, talent, expertise and experience-based assessment, and especially in the public administration, without any political interruption."

"If the scope of 'satisfactory' promotion is not enforced without specific criteria, then the democracy, efficiency and experience of the public administration will be depreciated and the professional development will be hampered." Moreover, the provision to fire the employees without any reason to any employee at any time after the completion of 25 from employment years is also risky, Dr Iftekharuzzaman said.

The use of the official word 'Government' in the title of the draft law, instead of the Republic, is contrary to the constitutional spirit. Iftekharuzzaman said that according to section 8, the government's desire to

control the government employees will constrain the political division in the public administration by narrowing the possibility of objectivity. He said, "Despite the provisions of Article 197 (1) of the Criminal Procedure, the provisions for the government's permission to arrest before filing a charge and a case against an officer and employee on duty is discriminatory and contrary to the constitution."

CCC News

Combined initiatives by all political parties are important to stop corruption

'Corruption is not a national issue, it is a global problem. Political will, lawful punishment of the corrupt people, increased effectiveness of the institutions involved with national integrity systems and the exercise of the rights of mass people are needed in order to strengthen the social movement against corruption. Combined initiatives by all political parties are important to stop corruption', said Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), while delivering his speech as key speaker at an opinion sharing meeting organized at Gazipur.



Committee of Concerned Citizen (CCC), Gazipur organized the meeting titled 'Social Movement Against Corruption at Local Level: Prospects and Challenges' at the Hall Room of Gazipur Zilla Parishad on 10 December 2017. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Gazipur Dr. Dewan Muhammad Humayun Kabir was present as Chief Guest.

In the speech Deputy Commissioner (DC) stated that a corruption-free Bangladesh by 2030 is attainable when practice of Right to Information Act, proper exercise of power and the use of information technology are ensured. The DC emphasized the need to changes of conscience besides external changes in order to fight corruption. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rasel Sheikh said that corruption resembles addiction. Direct protest is important in eliminating corruption. Working for 20 years, TIB has gained acceptance to all. This is a huge achievement for TIB, ASP added.

In the meeting, the discussants demanded introduction of rewards for those who practice integrity and punishment for those who are corrupt. They also emphasized the need for bringing in a change in people's habits in order to fight corruption. The discussants also demanded punishments for those who provoke corruption. They also stressed the need of awareness of the spirit of liberation war for both the service providers and service recipients in order to resist corruption.

The meeting was presided over by the president of CCC, Gazipur Professor Md. Ayesha Uddin while CCC's Vice-President Associate Professor Mukul Kumar Mallik delivered welcome speech. Among others Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad Mahbub Alam, Chief Executive Engineer of LGED Md. Amirul Islam Khan, District Election Officer Md. Tarikuzzaman, Deputy Director of Social Services Shankar Sharan Shaha, PTI Super Md. Hasanarul Ferdous, CCC's Vice President Fatema Johra, CCC Member Professor Md. Shahid Ullah, Professor M. A. Bari spoke in the occasion.

Commitment to provide better services

Open Dialogue between Service recipients and District Sadar Hospital

CCC, Gaibandha organized an open dialogue between the service recipients and Gaibandha District Sadar Hospital on 18 December 2017 at the hospital premises with a view to increase transparency, accountability and improvement of hospital services. The dialogue was presided over by the Superintendent of Sadar Hospital Dr. Amal Chandra Saha while CCC's health related Sub-Committee's Convener Mohammad Ali has been the moderator.

In the event, Dr. Amal Chandra Saha briefed about the present scenario of the hospital. In the discussion the CCC members emphasized the need of hanging the updated list of medicine on regular basis, increasing the cleanliness of the hospital, display of the different important instructions in the visible places of the hospital premises etc.



In the dialogue, the service recipients discussed different issues regarding hospitals services which included the continuation of Information Desk, timely presence of doctors in the hospital, improvement of hospital services, ensuring all-time presence of doctors in the emergency unit, gender friendly services, stopping undue payment, giving priority to children and women for services, ensuring separate toilet for female patients etc. The Superintendent of the hospital said that even with the insufficient number of doctors and support staffs they are trying to provide better services. As per CCC's recommendation, a Breast Feeding corner has been introduced in the hospital. Female doctors have been assigned for female patients. The Superintendent added that they are trying to become a gender friendly hospital. He also expressed the need of overcoming the manpower shortage soon.

Among others Dr. Shahinul Islam Mandal, RMO, Specialists Doctors, CCC's Vice-Presidents Afroza Lupu and Anis Mustafa Toton, CCC-SWAJAN and YES members, representatives of different organizations, Civil Society, Nurses and employees of the hospital attended the program.

Sharing Meeting with Union Parishad

An effective initiative for Improvement of Services

With the slogan 'We want transparency and accountability in Local Government' CCC, Jhalakati organized a sharing meeting with Nabagram Union Parishad on 12 December 2017. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of Nabagram Union Parishad Md. Mujibul Haque Akand while other members of this union parishad were present.



The meeting took a number of decisions which included the effective initiatives for the improvement of services and taking initiatives for addressing the complaints of service recipients recorded in the register book. The meeting reviewed the initiatives taken by Nabagram Union Parishad according to the 2017-2018 budget allocation of earmarked for the women and marginalized people. It was decided in the meeting that after preparing a list of destitute women, sewing

machines will be provided to them accordingly. In addition, it was decided that budget, plan, allocation, list of development plans, list of beneficiaries of different social safety net programs under Union Parishad etc. will be displayed in the UP's notice board as proactive disclosure. Moreover, for the improvement of transparency, accountability and integrity, the meeting decided to use the Integrity Management Toolbox.

UP members Most. Shahanaz Parvin, Shafia Begum, Taslim Hossain, Abdul Mannan Talukdar, Aynal Haque, Hadisur Rahmna Laskar, Deez Das Banerjee, Shanti Ranjan Halder and Gopal Krishna Halder took part in the meeting. Among others CCC's Vice-President Hemayet Uddin Himu, CCC's Local Government related Sub Committee Convener A. K. M. Shamsul Alam Belal, Secretary of Nabagram Union Parishad Shapan Kumar and YES members attended the meeting.



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