



## INSIDE

### National News

- Call for ensuring transparency and accountability in Bangladesh's climate finance
- TIB Stall at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2017
- Airing of video documentary on KWSA

### YES News

- Dhaka YES Leaders stressed on replenishing innovative ideas
- YES -UU organizes anti-corruption seminar and essay competition

### CCC News

- Gaining satisfaction of citizens by means of service delivery is the prime task of government employee: Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed
- ALAC Launched in Natore
- Sharing meeting with service recipients and land authority
- Collective pledge to take necessary measures for building an educated society

### National News

#### **TIB study on Disaster Management: Sustained steps required to be adopted in responding to the governance challenges in the pre and post cyclone responses**

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) called upon the relevant institutions of the Government to ensure fairness in allocation and distribution of relief, maintain equity in the allocation and establish effective accountability through identifying probable challenges in disaster management especially cyclone responses. To overcome the challenges, TIB urged to concerned authorities to adopt sustained steps in response to disaster. Such calls were made in a press conference organized to release a research study titled, "Cyclone Roanu: Challenges of Good Governance in Disaster Management and Way Forward" on 1 February, 2017 by TIB.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chairperson of TIB Board of Trustees presided over the event while Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director; Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director; and Dr. Rafiqul Hassan, Director, Research and Policy, TIB were also present at the event. M Zakir Hossain Khan, Senior Programme Manager, Climate Finance Governance (CFG), and Nihar Ranjan Roy, Deputy Programme Manager, Research and Policy (R&P), TIB presented the study findings and recommendations at the event, accompanied by Nahid Sharmin, Deputy Programme Manager, R&P; and Newazul Mawla, Deputy Programme Manager, CFG, TIB.

Followed by the presentation, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, disaster management model of Bangladesh has been appreciated nationally and internationally. To elevate this achievement towards higher level and ensure its versatile perfection, and to sustain the core elements of good governance in the mainstream of disaster management in Bangladesh, this study identified the governance challenges of pre-cyclone preparedness

and post-cyclone emergency response. TIB expects that the presented findings, information, analysis and recommendations of this study will be instrumental in ensuring transparency, accountability, citizen's participation and integrity in adopted steps of disaster management in Bangladesh, and the study would contribute in formulating national and international policy framework, he added.

Citing the study findings and recommendations, Dr. Zaman also said, it is possible to achieve efficiency in disaster management up to a level where a natural calamity like cyclone Ruano won't be able to take a single human life. However, to attain such ability, accurate risks should be assessed first, and it is essential to ensure transparency, accountability, citizen's participation and integrity in addressing these risks.

Though the government has taken some positive initiatives in combating Roanu, the study observed weak governance in pre and post disaster periods of cyclone Roanu. Losses and damages due to the cyclone could be reduced, if the government would have taken proper initiatives such as timely disclosures of relevant information about warning signals and the relief allocations, active participation of communities in preparing the list of affected people, fair allocation and distributed the relief, properly constructed and maintained the cyclone shelter.

The study identified Governance challenges in responses to pre-cyclone Roanu and post-cyclone emergency response of the government, along with identifying process of the beneficiary selection for the rehabilitation programme. The findings of the research were analyzed on the basis of four governance related indicators which are transparency, accountability, participation, and integrity. Challenges identified in transparency are inadequate information regarding cyclone risk, lack of initiative to disseminate warning in remote areas, and lack of information to maintenance the cyclone shelter. Specified challenges identified in accountability are prior to

cyclone Roanu, failure to identify the risks of loss and damages properly by concerned authorities and local government, inadequate initiatives to evacuate the vulnerable people and a part of cyclone shelter was not useable due to lack of maintenance. Besides, challenges like absence of arrangement of regular rehearsal programme for building awareness and absence of community participation in maintaining the cyclone shelter were identified by participation indicator. Finally, the challenges in integrity are not taking actions regarding using the cyclone shelter by influential persons for personal purposes and cyclone shelters were not built in proper place due to the influence of powerful political persons.

At the post-cyclone period, the governance challenges identified by the study were: not disclosing the information regarding beneficiary selection process and requirement, allocation and distribution of relief; lack of coordination between government and non-government organization in selecting the beneficiary and distributing the relief some unions; absence of public grievance redress mechanism to lodge complain about relief allocation and distribution, Moreover, absence of participation of cyclone affected people in beneficiary selection process as well as in assessing the loss and damage in some areas of research areas; losses and damages determined by the local government representatives arbitrarily in some areas; irregularities and corruption in preparing the list of affected people; corruption in the relief distribution process and giving more importance to political supporter rather affected people in distributing the relief in some areas of five unions.

After analyzing the findings, the study identified causes, results and impacts of weak governances. It is found that due to lack of coordination in disseminating warning signal, cyclone warning signals did not reach in remote areas and broadcast of wrong signal. For discrimination in distributing the relief, absence of disclosure of information about the relief distribution was witnessed and improper allocating and distributing the relief was seen. For not applying the Right to Information Act, abuse of power,



partiality, and nepotism in the beneficiary selections took place and cyclone shelters were not built in proper locations and absence of grievance redress mechanism was found. For legal limitations and Poor accountability mechanism, Cyclone shelters were not useable and failed to ensure fairness and integrity in allocation and distribution of relief and absence of initiatives to maintain the cyclone shelters were identified. Due to lack of proper monitoring and Political influences in building cyclone shelter, a faulty list of loss and damages of households were prepared.

Given the state of governance at both pre and post responses to mitigate the disaster like a cyclone, the study came up with a set of recommendations for Disaster Management related organizations and duty bearers among which the most important recommendations were: Proper assessment of cyclone related lose and damage risks and adoption of steps including proper dissemination of risks to the community accordingly; through effective coordination of government and non-government organizations to ensure the best uses of community radio and mobile phone along with the existing cyclone warning system for proper dissemination of warning signals especially in remote and vulnerable areas; Coordination between Disaster Management Department and Meteorological Department should be increased for proper dissemination of the warning signal. Besides, accountability of electronic media should be ensured for broadcasting the proper warning signal; Effective measures should be adopted to evacuate and rescue vulnerable people to safe place through coordination among local government representative, GO and NGO and volunteer organizations; For regular maintenance of existing cyclone shelters, concerned schools should approve adequate budget and human resources from the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; Cyclone shelters should be constructed at appropriate cyclone-prone locations and cyclone shelters maintenance and management committees should be reformed through participation of vulnerable local communities; DMD should take initiatives to ensure the proper coordination between all government and non-government stakeholders in allocation and distribution of the relief; and Appropriate legal actions should be taken against corrupt individuals and organizations are involved in the corrupt practice during construction of cyclone shelters, relief allocation and distribution and at the same time positive incentives for remarkable contribution of the relevant employee should be provided.

## **Call for ensuring transparency and accountability in Bangladesh's climate finance**

A three-day inter-university debate competition concluded on 26 February 2017 urging the authorities to ensure the highest level of integrity, transparency and accountability in the overall management of various types of climate funds in Bangladesh.

A total of 96 debaters from 32 universities, both public and private, competed in the parliamentary-styled debate on the theme 'Good Governance in Climate Finance: information disclosure and citizens' participation' from 24 February.

The topic of the final debate was "corruption is the main obstacle to the effective use of climate fund for ensuring sustainable development in Bangladesh". Organized by TI Bangladesh, Chittagong University Debating Society (CUDS) emerged Champion by defeating American International University Bangladesh Oratory Club (AIUBOC), while Md. Kamrul Hasan of CUDS bagged the coveted 'Best Debater' award.



Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda, former Chief Election Commissioner, and Member, Board of Trustees, TIB, and Mr. Mukit Mazumder Babu, Chairman, Prokriti O Jibon Foundation, and Director, Channel i and Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman attended the final debate session and gave away prizes. Mr. Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka facilitated the final debate as the Speaker of the Parliament.

The final competition was recorded at the studio of the leading private TV Channel i on 26th February and broadcast during prime time on the following day, reaching to millions viewers across the country and abroad.

## **TIB Stall at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2017**

TIB installed its book stall at the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2017 following the tradition. Two new monographs titled 'Anti-Corruption Agency Strengthening Initiative Assessment of the Bangladesh Anti-Corruption Commission 2016', 'Undress Corruption How to Prevent Corruption in the readymade garment sector: Scenarios from Bangladesh', and the seventh volume of 'বাংলাদেশের সুশাসনের সমস্যা উত্তরণের উপায়' by TIB were released in the fair. In the month-long fair, 50 members of 13 TIB-inspired Youth Engagement Support (YES) groups attended the stall and shared their voluntary experience of the engagement in the anti-corruption social movement.

## **Airing of video documentary on KWASA**

Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN) programme of TIB produced a video documentary on the success story of Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (KWASA) in implementing Integrity Management (IM) Toolbox within their business model. The documentary broadcasted on 27th and 28th February, 2017 at four leading TV channels of Bangladesh, which are- ATN Bangla, NTV, ETV and RTV. The documentary highlighted the roadmap developed by KWASA to implement IM Toolbox and the achievement. Moreover, the documentary also manifested the opinions of service recipients about KWASA services.

## **YES News**

### **Dhaka YES Leaders stressed on replenishing innovative ideas**



Leaders of TIB-inspired Youth Engagement Support (YES) groups of Dhaka stressed on replenishing activities with more innovative ideas in a Dhaka YES coordination meeting held on 2 February, 2017 at Meghomala conference room of TIB. In the meeting, 28 YES Group Leaders and the Deputies from 13 YES groups of Dhaka shared their observation on YES performance. Organised to bolster the programme considering its performance till date, the meeting started with a projection on the 3rd year's compiled Dhaka YES work plan first and then the leaders focused on significant three issues i.e. challenges, way out and way forward with more innovative ideas and approaches to make Dhaka YES more effective. At the closing, TIB ED discussed on the points raised by the YES Leaders and concluded with a vote of thanks.

## **YES -UU organizes anti-corruption seminar and essay competition**

By virtue of their very nature and in their interest of building a just society, unlike other problems, Youth of today should shoulder the great responsibility of rooting out corruption at both the personal and professional levels. To ensure that no one is above law and order, and resist corruption, voice and protest of youth plays vital role and strengthens the fight against corruption. Such observation came out from an Anti-Corruption Seminar and Essay Competition organized by YES Group- Uttara University (UU) on 8 February 2017 on the theme “Role of the Youth in Corruption Prevention” at the Ashulia campus of the University. The programmes was organized to make the youth aware against corruption and showcase the activities of the group as a part of TIB’s anti-corruption social movement.

Professor Momtaz Begum, Treasurer, UU presided over the programme. Atia Afreen, Programme Manager, Outreach and Communication, presented key note paper in the seminar. Dulali Rani Saha, Assistant Professor of the Department of Education and Adviser of YES Group- UU conducted the programme.

A motivation documentary was projected in the programme. Deputy Group Leader Md. Al-Amin presented the activities of the Group. The event concluded with the prize-giving to the essay competition winners by Professor Momtaz Begum.

## **CCC News**

### **Gaining satisfaction of citizens by means of service delivery is the prime task of government employee: Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed**

“Mass people are the owner of the country. They provide our livelihood. Therefore, government employees can hardly mistreat them. The employee must remain accountable to mass people. We all have the responsibility to make the government employees accountable to the system” said Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in the speech of chief guest in a public hearing held in Patuakhali. ACC and TIB in association with Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Patuakhali and Durniti Protirodh Committee (DUPROK), Kalapara jointly organized the event at Upazila Parishad premises of Kalapara in Patuakhali Sadar on 01 February 2017. The event was followed by an anti-corruption rally led by Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, and Mr. A. K. M. Shamimul Haque Siddique, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali.

Pointing the event as first of its kind in Kalapara, Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed assured that there will be more such initiatives with TIB in the future. He also urged the service recipients to raise their voices against corruption. Addressing the government employees Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed stressed the need for making service delivery system transparent and accountable through ensuring free flow of information and sought cooperation from all in this regard.

Assistant Director of ACC Md. Mohin Uddin moderated the program where Barisal Divisional Director of ACC Md. Aktar Hossain delivered welcome speech. President of CCC, Patuakhali Md. Abdur Rab Akan and General Secretary of Upazila DUPROK Md. Mejbah Uddin Mannu also delivered welcome speeches. Among others Deputy Director of ACC’s Integrated District Office K. M. Mesbah Uddin, Mayor of Kalapara Municipality Bipul Chandra Hawlader, Upzila Chairman Abdul Motaleb Talukdar, UNO A. B. M. Sadikur Rahman spoke in the event.

The public hearing session was moderated by the Mr. A. K. M. Shamimul Haque Siddique where representatives of Upazila Land Office, Sub-Registry Office, Palli Bidyut Office, Health & Family Planning Office, Upazila Accounts Office, Upzlia Project Implementation Office, Upazila Social Services Office, Upazila Cooperative Office, Upazila Education Office, Head of Upazila Secondary Education Office related department were present in the public hearing session and answered the questions asked by the citizens regarding their complaints and sufferings. 27 questions were put forward in the hearing. The heads of the concerned departments were sanctioned time limits to solve the complaints. It was also shared in the program that ACC and TIB will continue follow up the steps taken in this regard.

Mr. A. K. M. Shamimul Haque Siddique expressed his thanks to TIB and ACC for organizing the public hearing session. He assured that the problems that are raised in the program will be scrutinized and necessary measures will be taken to reach solutions.

The event was followed by an anti-corruption rally led by Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, and Mr. A. K. M. Shamimul Haque Siddique, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali. Among others, Representatives from district and Upazila administration, Upazila Parishad, different Union Parishads, journalist, teachers, students, civil society members and grassroots people, TIB representatives attended the rally and public hearing.

## ALAC Launched in Natore

With a view to provide assistance to the people affected by and witness to corruption, an Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) was inaugurated in the auditorium of Nature DC office on February 28, 2017 under the initiative of TIB and Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Natore.

In the inauguration program, CCC Natore details the objectives and targets of ALAC which aims to assist and provide free legal advices to the citizens who are victims and witnesses of corruption in the field of education, health, local government, land, and climate finance governance. ALAC is an important tool through which CCC will be able to raise awareness of the local citizens to their legal rights and encourage them to take action against cases of corruption that they have witnessed or made victims of. Creating awareness against corruption and encouraging people to file complaint against corruption is a priority work of ALAC also.

In her speech, Ms Shahina Khatun, Deputy Commissioner, Natore focused on different awareness raising activities of ACC in reducing corruption. She expected that ALAC will specifically work on awareness raising activities against corruption as well. She urged the Panel Lawyers of CCC to extend their working areas and to fix a time for service hours so that none can return with empty hands. Pointing an increase of GDP by 2 percent if corruption is checked significantly, she further requested all to join hands in reducing corruption.

Adv.AKM Fazle Rabby, Chairman, Natore Zila Parishad assured that necessary support and measures will be provided to ALAC to ensure easy access of mass people to the services of ALAC. Municipality Mayor Uma Chowdhury said, besides providing free legal advices, all concerned including law enforcing agencies should work jointly. As the individual people behind every institutional corruption, anti-corruption drives cannot be confined within institution level, but should be expanded into family level, she added.

CCC President sought cooperation from district administration and other concern in implementing ALAC activities. In the meeting CCC member Professor Md. Abdur Razzaque delivered welcome speech while Fojila Khanom, Senior Program Manager of TIB presented a PowerPoint presentation on ALAC in the meeting and addressed the questions on ALAC implementation raised by the participants. The event was moderated by CCC Member Poritosh Kumar Adhikary where among others, ADC (General) Muhammad Maniruzzaman Bhuiyan, Executive Engineer Subash Kumar Shah, UNO Abdullah Arif Mohammad, Union Parishad Chairman, Lawyers, Educationist, Journalist, Women Leader, representatives of NGOs & Civil Society, CCC members, SWAJAN members, YES and YES Friends members were present.

## Sharing meeting with service recipients and land authority

“The people who come to Land Office for any information or services are provided required information or services but these are not recorded properly” - said Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Sreemangal Mr. Bishawjit Kumar Paul while he was addressing a sharing meeting as the Chief Guest organized by CCC, Shreemangal with service recipients and land authority in Upazila Land Office, Shreemangal on 14 February 2017. The event was organized in aim to improve the services in land sector. The meeting was presided over by CCC President Sayed Nesar Ahmed while Upazila Parishad Chairman Randhir Kumar Deb and UNO of Sreemangal Mohammad Mobashherul Islam were present as the Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively.

In the meeting, Convener of CCC's land related Sub-Committee Md. Rahmat Ali delivered welcome speech while Program Manager of TIB Chitta Ranjan Roy shared TIB's activities and expected outcomes on issues related to land. Few service recipients raised number of questions which ranged from harassment in getting land services, citizen and women friendly services to implementation of RTI in land services and free flow of information, reducing complexity on mutation and taxation process, khas land distribution and presentation of information to mass people etc. Among the participants, Shahana Begum, Firoj Mia, Hasina Begum, Alfu Mia, Mamata Begum, Askira Begum, Nitesh Sutradhar and Abu Sufian spoke in the meeting. Mr. Bishawjit Kumar Paul and Mohammad Mobashherul Islam answered the questions raised by the service recipients in the meeting.

In the meeting, Mr. Bishawjit Kumar Paul said that measures are underway in making the land related services easier. He observed that the complaints raised in the meeting have originated in the hands of the outsiders, not by the land office employees themselves. In order to keep the services easy, all should complete his/her own tasks. The service recipients should cooperate with the authority as well, he added.

Among others, employees of Upazila Land Office, representatives of other GO/NGOs, journalists, Civil Society, mass people, CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends members were present in the meeting.

### Collective pledge to take necessary measures for building an educated society

With a slogan 'A concerned parent can play a vital role in building an ideal society' CCC, Patiya a organized parents gathering meeting at Pyrole Government Primary School (PGPS) on 28 February 2017. In the gathering the parents pledged to send their children at school regularly, help them to prepare study at home and maintain liaison with teachers for the study of their child etc. The teachers also made commitment to teach the students in the classroom according to government policy/circular, to take care of the weak students, try to increase the number of students in the school through increased home visits.

The gathering was presided over by the President, School Management Committee (SMC) of PGPS Md. Saiful Alam Chowdhury while Assistant Upazila Education Officer Mr. Md. Sanaullah Kawsar was present as the Chief Guest and CCC member Ms. Meherunnesa Begum was present as special guest. Among others Head Teacher Kazi Nasima Akthar, Assistant Teacher Fatema Khairunnesa, parents Masud Parvez, Sumi Akther and Jinnat Ara Begum spoke in the gathering. In the gathering SMC declared free distribution of pencil-pen-notebooks, delivering awards to the meritorious students, the students for highest attendance in the classroom etc. In addition, they declared to initiate mid-day meals at school.



Mr. Md. Sanaullah Kawsar stated that the future of our society lies on overall development of the schools. Currently the education office has put emphasis on schools. There is no shortage of teachers and benches at this school. Now it is needed to implement the activities of teachers, parents and SMC's properly. He requested the parents to send their children at schools regularly. He advised the parents to be more aware and the teachers to be more cordial in discharging their duties. He also thanked TIB and CCC for working with PGPS. In the gathering, the meritorious students of class I, II and III were awarded with educational materials.

**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](mailto:advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org)**Join us :** [www.ti-bangladesh.org](http://www.ti-bangladesh.org) [www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh)