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Pointing out that the 'global average of corruption control' is 43, Dr. Zaman said, Bangladesh also scored 26 in CPI 2012, meaning that the corruption situation has remained static in the last five years and a lot more will have to be done in curbing corruption in the country. However, it is assumed that the score of Bangladesh has increased one point considering that its legal, institutional and policy framework have become stronger than previously. Due to lack of exercise, we couldn't achieve more.

Dr. Zaman stressed that strong political will to fight corruption is a must and institutions of accountability and rule of law must be allowed to function independently and effectively free from partisan influence. He also said that conducive environment must be created for people at large, particularly media, civil society, and NGOs to raise and strengthen the demand for accountability.

All South Asian countries – Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka scored more and ranked higher than Bangladesh in CPI 2016, except Afghanistan.

Dr. Zaman also pointed out that corruption is a global problem and no country or territory has scored 100 percent since CPI started in 1995. According to the findings of CPI 2016, Denmark and New Zealand performed best with scores of 90, closely followed by Finland (89) and Sweden (88). For the tenth year running, Somalia is the worst performer on the index, scoring only 10 this year. South Sudan is second from the bottom with a score of 11, followed by North Korea (12) and Syria (13).

It is also shared in the press conference that due to lack of precise idea about CPI, sometimes wrong clarification like 'Bangladesh is corrupted or all the people of Bangladesh practices corruption'- are provided. Though corruption is the hardest impediment on the way of achieving economic growth, poverty eradication- above all sustainable development goals, however its mass people are not corrupted in reality. They are vulnerable and victim only. They can't be labelled corrupted at all for the corruption of the powerful people and the failure of the leadership of the country and relevant organizations in protesting that corruption.

## National News

### CPI 2016: Bangladesh slightly improves scores and ranking Strong political will is imperative to control corruption in the country

Compared to 2015, Bangladesh has slightly improved its score and ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2016 released on 25 January 2017 by Transparency International. On a scale of 100, Bangladesh has scored 26 among 176 countries, an increase by one point compared to 25 of CPI 2015. Counting from below, the ranking has moved up two steps from 13 in 2015 to 15 Bangladesh has been placed at 145th position from the top, slightly by six positions compared to 139th position in 2015. All South Asian countries – Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka scored more and ranked higher than Bangladesh in CPI 2016, except Afghanistan.

Coinciding with the global dissemination, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) released the CPI results of Bangladesh through a press conference on 25 January 2017 held at its head office in Dhanmondi. Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chair, Board of Trustees of TIB; TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman; TIB Trustee Board Members M Hafizuddin Khan and Ali Imam Mazumder; and Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, TIB Deputy Executive Director were present.



Citing this year's CPI, Advocate Sultana Kamal said, "it is comforting that we have slightly improve in terms of ranking and position from bottom. However, we cannot be complacent as we have not reached the satisfactory level yet."

The CPI scores and ranks countries/territories based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be. It is a composite index, a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. CPI is produced by research department of TI Secretariat in Berlin. It's methodology has been designed by experts from Department of Statistics and Political Science of Columbia University and Department of Government of London School of Economics & Political Science. Scores are validated by the German Institute of Economic Research.

CPI is generated on the basis of data collected from multiple reputable sources (there were 13 sources for CPI 2016). This year's data for Bangladesh were collected from seven sources: Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Ratings, Global Insight Country Risk Ratings, Political Risk Services International Country Risk Guide, World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment, World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey, World Justice Project Rule of Law Index and Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index. No nationally generated data, including TI or TIB's research or that of any other national chapter of TI is considered for the CPI. Unlike TI chapters of other countries, TI Bangladesh releases corruption perception index only.

According to CPI 2016, the overall global performance has worsened. About 69 per cent of the 176 countries scored below 50 in CPI 2016. The biggest decliners this year are: Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi-Arabia, Cyprus, Lesotho, Jordan, Syria, Macedonia, Mexico, South Sudan, Chile, United Arab Emirates, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Netherlands, Mozambique, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana, Yemen and Djibouti. The biggest improvers this year are: Suriname, Belarus, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Guyana, Georgia, Laos, Argentina, North Korea, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Turkmenistan, Sao Tome and Principe and Afghanistan.

Bangladesh was earlier placed at the bottom of the list for five successive years from 2001-2005. In 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Bangladesh was ranked at no 3, 7, 10, 13, and 12 respectively while in 2011 and 2012 we were 13th, 16th in 2013, 14th in 2014, and 13th in 2015.

### **TIB urges the government to ensure transparency, equity, accountability and integrity in climate finance projects**

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) called upon the government to ensure transparency and accountability, maintain equity in resource allocation and enhance capacity of the local government institutions (LGIs) implementing climate finance projects in Bangladesh. The call was made during a press conference held on 23 January 2017 in TIB's Dhanmondi office on the occasion of releasing the findings of a research study titled 'Climate Finance and Local Government Institutions: Governance in Project Implementation'.

At the event, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chairperson of TIB Board of Trustees said, "The concerned authority should be sincere about the BCCT Fund as it is formed with the public money and it should be used in a legal way instead of used for political gains." She also opined, there is no alternative to increase the fund management skill of BCCT.

Citing the study findings, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB urged the government to increase allocation of the BCCTF. He also called on the government to reform the Board of Trustees of BCCTF with the people having climate change expertise who will work above personal and political interest. Dr. Zaman called upon the concerned authority to implement the climate finance projects with integrity and accountability.

Abu Said Md. Juel Miah, Senior Programme Manager, and NahidSharmin, Deputy Programme Manager of TIB's research and policy division jointly presented the findings. Among others, TIB Deputy Executive Director Professor Dr. SumaiyaKhair and Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan, Director, Research and Policy division were also present at the press conference.

The qualitative research study found weaknesses in the project design phase. Projects were designed without assessing the adverse impact of climate change, without proper participation of people, issues addressed by were incoherent with climate change induced disasters, overlapping with other development projects, personal or political influence in the project approval process, BCCTF as additional funding source in the face of LGD fund limitation, BCCT Fund was used for regular infrastructural development and developing project proposal without any feasibility study. The study was carried out in between March and November, 2016.

The other weaknesses discovered by the study also included non-disclosure of project information in many cases, lack of transparency in vendor selection process, nepotism and abuse of power in vendor selection process, selection of less vulnerable areas for implementation, irregularities during direct beneficiary selection, use of political consideration to change implementation authority, tricks in contractor selection to evade tax and VAT and unnecessary cost over the beneficiaries in building disaster resilient houses.

The research also found some positive aspects in the projects: One project located in cyclone prone area and prone to salinity intrusion built disaster resistant houses for the vulnerable households. Another project located in low disaster prone area took initiative on waste management. Two projects maintained transparency measures to disclose project related information in the project locations. They provided open board with related information where the activities were being implemented. Four projects among the six selected projects maintained consistency during the implementation of plans chalked out in the project proposals.

Considering the climate hotspot, geographical location, six themes of Bangladesh climate change strategy and action plan (BCCSAP), types of LGIs, implementation period and the budget, six projects were chosen for the research. Four projects were selected among 91 projects being implemented by municipalities, one from 14 projects of zila parishad and one from three projects being implemented by City Corporation. The objective of the research was to identify the governance challenges in the LGIs implemented climate finance projects.

In the study, several recommendations were put forward for consideration of the government. Those included reformulation of the BCCT Trustee Board, raising the BCCT Funds, approval of projects after verification of local climate vulnerabilities, strengthening the capacity of the LGIs, revision of the role and strengthening the capacity of the BCCT, amendment of relevant laws, policy and guidelines, enhancing information disclosure mechanism, enhancing coordination for strengthening accountability mechanism and monitoring system.

### **TIB Members: Ensure Transparency in Formation of New Election Commission**

To ensure free, fair and inclusive election, the process of formation of new Election Commission (EC) comprising of skilled, impartial and resolute persons should maintain the highest standard of objectivity and transparency. At the same time, to ensure transparency in the process, the committee should disclose the final selected list publicly before submitting to the honorable President. Such call was made by the members of TIB in a meeting organized as a part of its 'Member's Day' at TIB Head office on 30 January, 2017.

In the meeting, the members also expressed optimism on the initiatives taken by the 'Search Committee' – dedicated to form a new EC, especially the effort to include stakeholders in the process. The members said that the establishment of good governance and progress in resisting corruption are subject to the viability of election commission as one of the integrated institution within national integrity strategy, composed by the government. The members also expressed grave concern on the lack of law regarding appointment at the EC despite clear constitutional obligation. They also call on the government to compose a law regarding appointment in EC as soon as possible by integrating relevant all stakeholders in the context of current noticeable national consensus.

Voluntarily involved with TIB in the anti-corruption social movement, 35 professionals from different tiers attended the meeting.

TIB Member Mr. Tanbirul Islam Siddiqui chaired the meeting and TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman moderated the event. The meeting began with observance of one minute silence as obituary for the untimely demise of two members: Mr. Mahbubul Haq Shakil and Israt Jahan Akhond. In the meeting, Dr. Zaman updated the members about TIB's activities undertaken since the last meeting, and the forthcoming events. Dr. Zaman also participated in the open discussion session and answered the questions raised by members. Rezwan-ul-Alam, Director (Outreach and Communications), TIB briefed a review of the activities held since Annual Meeting of Members 2016. The members discussed on variety of issues which included membership subscription, member selection in general assembly, TIB's ongoing activities, development and outcome in the anti-corruption initiatives etc.

### **CCC News**

#### **Public Hearing held at Badalgachhi: Service providers will resolve complaints within timeline**

A public hearing on service delivery followed by an anti-corruption rally was held at Badalgachhi upazila of Naogaon district on 15 January 2017. Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in association with Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Bogra and local Durniti Pratirodh Committee (DUPROK) jointly organized the event at Zila Parishad Auditorium, Badalgachhi. The anti-corruption rally was arranged in the morning before the event.



Followed by the rally, at the event, Mr. Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan, Director of ACC, welcomed the participants for attending the event and shared the objectives of the program. Md. Asaduzzaman, Director General of ACC said, ACC has taken many initiatives to prevent corruption. It is gradually increasing its area of activities and obtaining success. It jointly works with TIB on different issues especially mass awareness at grassroots level.

Mr. Masudar Rahman Helal, president of CCC, Bogra stressed to make mass awareness among people. Md. Hasan Ali, Senior Programme Manager of TIB said, engagement of mass people against corruption is necessary to prohibit corruption. Accountability of service providers should be established. He urged to disclose information proactively to mass people.

Mr. Abdullah Hel Bakhi, Additional District Magistrate of Naogaon said, nowadays corruption takes institutional shape. It hinders our development initiatives. Anti-corruption campaign should be started from family. We should work together to combat corruption, he added. Mr. Rumi Chowdhury, Upazila Chairman of Badalgachiupazila emphasized on anti-corruption for building a beautiful world for future generation. Mr. Md. Rokibul Akter, Assistant Police Super of Naogaon said, we should change ourselves to build corruption-free Bangladesh. Hossain Sawkat, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Badalgachchi thanked the ACC and TIB for arranging such public hearing.

In the public hearing session, Mr. Abdullah Hel Bakhi, ADM, Naogaon moderated the question and answer session. Representatives of upazila land office, electricity office, primary education office, secondary education office, Sub-registrar office, law enforcement agencies attended in hearing session. Major complaints raised by victims included fake registration of land, syndicate of deed-writers at bribery at upazila land office; illegal demand of money by electricity officials, delay to connect electricity line, demanding extra money at education office, delay to receive certificate at sub-registry office, fake case and inquiry report at police station, illegally claimed money to file cases etc. Victims raised their complaints with evidence. Moderator of public hearing gave time limits to the respective service providers to resolve the complaints. The representatives from the public offices addressed the questions, queries and others raised by the victims.

Among others, representatives from district and upazila administrations, Upazila Parishad, different Union Parishads, media, teachers, students, local civil society members and grassroots people attended the rally and public hearing attended the event.

### **‘Effective implementation of relevant laws and policies will combat corruption properly’**

‘Corruption is a global problem. By the initiatives of different institutions, both government and non-government, many policies have been prepared. Now it is important to implement the laws and policies properly to combat corruption’. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said. Dr. Zaman was addressing as key speaker at an opinion sharing meeting titled ‘Social Movement against Corruption at local level: Opportunities and Challenges’ organized at Munshiganj on 19 January 2017 organised by Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Munshiganj.

President of CCC, President Adv. Humayun Kabir Shaheen presided over the program while Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Munshiganj district Ms. Saila Farjana was present as chief guest. She said, we are committed to fight against corruption. For combating corruption, role of the chief of an institution is very important. Respective authorities should appoint the appropriate person in such type of position. She further assured to provide all kinds of assistance from district administration to strengthen social movement against corruption. Police Super of Munshiganj, Mohammad Jayedul Alam PPM said, local police authorities have taken initiative to prohibit corruption at Police department. He stressed to organize such events on accountability of the service providers.



Among others, Civil Surgeon Dr. Siddiqur Rahman; ADC (General, Education and ICT) Mohammad Harun-Or-Rashid; Principal of President Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed Residential Model School and College Major Towhiduzzaman; District Education Officer Mr. Shariful Islam; District Primary Education Officer Panchaynan Bala also spoke at the event. They shared different ideas and suggestions regarding strengthening the anti-corruption social movement.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Munshiganj Sadar Upazila MsSuraiya Yasmin was also present in the meeting. In the open discussion session, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman answered various questions regarding social movement against corruption. CCC Vice President Tanvir Hasan moderated the program in which CCC member Shahjahan Gazi delivered the welcome speech.

Representatives from different institutions, teachers, journalists, development and cultural activists, locally elected representatives, CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends members were also present in the meeting.

### **Annoyance for referring patients to private clinics**

Though the facilities are available at government hospitals, the doctors, nurses and officials refer patients to private clinics which make us ashamed. The remark was made by Dr. A S M Shafiuddin, Civil Surgeon of Barisal district while delivering speech as chief guest in an opinion sharing meeting organized by CCC, Barisal on 19 January 2017 at Barisal General Hospital Patients Welfare Samity's meeting room.

Prof. M. Moazzem Hossain, Convener on health issues of CCC, Barisal presided over the program. Member of the Health related sub-committee of CCC and SWAJAN coordinator Bidhan Sarker delivered the welcome speech in the meeting. Various issues were discussed at the meeting such as display of Doctors Duty Roster for ensuring transparency and accountability, separate queues for male and female at Ticket Counter and Medicine Counter, separate seats and toilets for male and female service seekers at Outdoor, set up of Information Desk, reallocation of Breast Feeding Corner, start complaint redressal system, maintain Register Book for providing information, set up Dental Unit, Free Ambulance service for poor and marginalized expecting mothers, effectiveness of Health Management Committee and Public Hearing in participation with service recipients.

Among others, CCC President Principal Mr. Gazi Zahid Hossain, CCC member Prof. Shah Sajeda, SWAJAN member Dr. Habibur Rahman and different officials of the hospital participated in the discussion. YES members of CCC, Barisal were also present in the meeting.

### **'Union Parishad should be transparent and accountable to its citizens'**

With an aim to ensure effective and citizen oriented union parishad, CCC, Gazipur organized a Face the Public program at Mirzapur union parishad of Gazipur Sadarupazila in which the UP chairman and elected members answered different questions of the local citizens. The Face the Public program was held on 17 January 2017. Professor Ayesh Uddin, president of the CCC, Gazipur presided over the program.

At the beginning of the event, CCC Vice-President Professor M A Bari shared the goal and objectives of the event. UP chairman Alhaz Mosharaf Hossain Dulal said, to ensure transparency and accountability, elected representatives should be accountable to the citizens. We are trying to do such practice. Mirzapur UP Secretary Mr. Enamul Haque Mollah shared about different sector based allocations in this fiscal year and the progress of various development projects.

At the event, citizens made multiple questions about Social Safety Net programs, LGSP projects, water supply etc. Respective ward members, female members and UP chairman addressed the questions in detail.

At the event, Chairman Mosharaf Hossain Dulal assured the solution seekers that their complaints will be resolved with due considerations. In Parallel to the meeting, YES group of CCC, Gazipur conducted daylong Satellite Advice and Information Desk in the premises of the union parishad complex with available information on public services of the area.

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