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etc. Moreover, it has been difficult to enforce the existing laws in a proper manner due to the obscurity and limitation in the legal frameworks. On the other hand, there are deficiencies of capacity in relevant stakeholders to ensure oversight and control in the process of labour migration.

### National News

#### Governance in Bangladesh's migration process: Challenges and the way forward

In spite of the government's sincere efforts, Bangladesh's labour migration sector still suffers from many governance challenges ranging from legal, institutional and procedural limitations, coupled with rampant corrupt malpractices by intermediaries, causing immense sufferings to millions of job-seeks who have been defying all odds in search of a better future abroad.

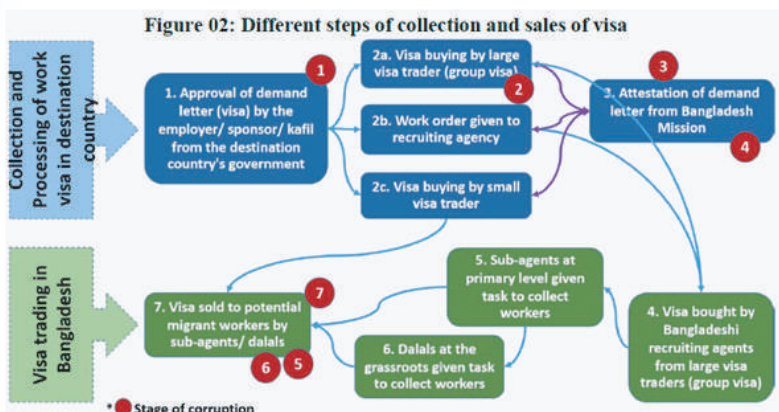
This dismal picture emerged from a study of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) titled: 'Governance in the migration process: Challenges and the way forward', released on 9 March at a press conference in Dhaka.

Identifying a total of 16 types of irregularities and examples of corruption, the researchers' demanded amendment to existing laws, enhancing capacity of relevant institutions and disclosure of migration-related information to wider audience to ensure good governance in the labour migration process.

Jointly produced by Manzur-e Khoda, Programme Manager, and Shahzada M Akram, Senior Programme Manager of TIB, the study contains analyses of data and information collected during May 2016 to January 2017 from primary and secondary sources. It identified a number of positive initiatives taken by the government in the labour migration process. These included, among others: disbursement of loans from Expatriate Welfare Bank for meeting the cost of migration; introduction of fingerprint facilities for prospective migrant workers from Chittagong, Coxes Bazar, Comilla, Sylhet, Rangpur, Jessore and Barisal; the process of issuing no-objection certificate (NOC) to the families and relatives of the expatriates, and issuance of smart cards from Chittagong and Sylhet, in addition to Dhaka.

Researchers made it clear that the study findings cannot be generalized and applicable to all the stakeholders equally since it was not based on a survey. However, the findings portrayed an indication of the existing situation of this sector.

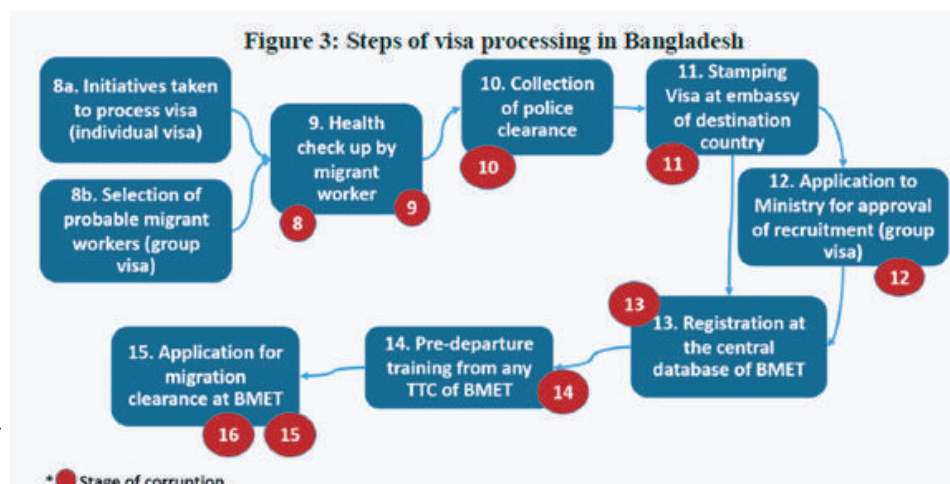
The study identified a number of legal, institutional and procedural governance challenges in the labour migration process. The legal framework of migration has not clearly spelt out some important issues like complaint mechanism, worker selection, compensation



A major cause of existing problems, corruption and irregularities in the labour migration process is the institutional limitation in the relevant agencies. Lack of capacity of the government agencies involved with the labour migration has been obvious. The budgetary allocation for the sector is inadequate on the one hand, and the money allocated cannot be fully utilised, on the other. There is also shortage of manpower in both private and public agencies engaged in labour migration.

The study found that the sector as a whole is dependent on dalals (brokers). Thus, a direct contact between the licensed recruiting agents and the worker willing to migrate is almost absent. The migrant workers are mostly dependent on brokers for information relating to recruitment in abroad and terms of services, migration, processing of migration etc. Similarly, the recruiting agents are also dependent on the brokers to select migrant workers from the grassroots, keep in touch with them, provide assistance in processing visa etc. For these reasons, a significant portion of the migrant workers cannot take receipt for any kind of financial transactions. Such practices make it impossible to preserve documentary evidence of spending for migration. The migration cost has not been fixed for all the countries. Due to lack of documentary evidence the amount that should be provided as compensation in case a migrant worker is cheated, cannot be fixed properly and the migrant worker concerned is deprived of proper compensation.

The process of labour migration in Bangladesh is still long, complicated and uncertain, and mostly Dhaka-based, which is likely to create potential risks of corruption and irregularities. Moreover, the existing process depends mostly on informal and personal dealings. Thus, it creates the room for cheating and depriving the potential migrant workers. There is also less institutional protection to get the compensation in case a worker is cheated. It happens as the transactions are done in an informal manner keeping no documents or evidence. Moreover, the lack of transparency about the work environment, facilities and entitlements of the jobs at the destination countries, VISA/migration cost etc. for less educated migrant workers eventually enhances dependency on the brokers. There exists irregularities and corruption in the labour migration process of Bangladesh.



There are allegations that almost every stage in VISA processing entertains unauthorised transaction of money. This situation is instigated by the uncontrolled VISA trading which creates extra expenditure burden over the migrant workers. As a result, Bangladesh is failing to gain the returns from the labour migration at the expected level. High cost in labour migration instigates illegal overseas migration, which leads to putting the workers into a domain where there is a strong possibility to be declared as illegal migrants in the destination countries.

In the press conference, TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzman urged the government to formulate a long-term national strategy to establish good governance in the migration sector, the second largest foreign currency earner of the country. He also hoped the government would take the recommendations of TIB report into considerations and take action accordingly.

The nine-point recommendations of the study, among others, are: amendment to the "Overseas Employment and Migrants Act 2013" by incorporating mandatory provisions such as selection of workers, determination of amount of conversation, and payment of compensation; migration at personal initiative should be inserted into the law by making specific criteria (for example-attestation by the labour wing at the Bangladesh mission), and 'one-stop' service should be introduced to offset dependency on recruiting agencies. Other recommendations are: legal provision should be made to include dalals (brokers) as sub-agents or registered agents of the recruiting agencies to bring them under transparency mechanism; strengthen capacity and skills of the labour wings in the countries in terms of budget and manpower; and disclosure and dissemination of migration-related information at the grassroots level to raise awareness for curbing corruption and malpractices.

## **Accountability in urban development of Bangladesh: from Decentralization perspective**

Local government organizations in the form of devoluted organization are more accountable compared to the delegated form of decentralization in Bangladesh. This was revealed in a study titled: “Democratic decentralization and promotion of accountability in urban development of Bangladesh: a study on Khulna City Corporation (KCC), Khulna Development Authority (KDA) and Jessore municipality” conducted by Dr. Md. Ashiq Ur Rahman under TIB Fellowship programme for innovative research on corruption and governance. The author, an Associate Professor of Urban and Rural Planning Discipline, Khulna University, Bangladesh, presented the findings during a roundtable held at Meghomala Conference room of TIB on March 2, 2017. Md. Iqbal Hussain, Secretary of KCC; Sultana Sajia, Town Planner of Jessore Municipality; Abu Sayed, Assistant Town Planner of KDA; Prof. AKM Abul Kalam, President, Bangladesh Institute of Planners attended the event among others and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB moderated the session.

The success of decentralization highly depends upon the improvement of local government’s accountability. In respect to decentralization concept, accountability mainly involves with the relationships between the local governments and the central government as well as with their citizens. Though the decentralization process exists in Bangladesh, the accountability issue is a major challenge for urban development in Bangladesh. Therefore, this research was an attempt to identify the upward and downward accountability issues associated with urban development. In addition, it also identified whether there are any impacts of organizational arrangement of decentralization on the promotion of accountability issues in urban development practices of Bangladesh. Adapting a mixed method research strategy, grey materials analysis, household questionnaire surveys, focus group discussions and key informant interview method were used for data collection. A sample of 218 respondents were carefully selected for two cities (Khulna and Jessore).

In terms of transparent and democratic decision-making process, the study identified that KCC which represents the organizational arrangement of devolution has few limitations. Devoluted organizations are created and strengthened financially or legally as sub national units of government and substantially outside the direct control of the central government. KCC did not allow any community participation in road construction and maintenance services as almost 95% respondents never participated in the process of constructing or maintaining local roads.



Most of citizens participate at the local level decision making process through indirect mechanisms (89 percent), such as maintaining good network with ward councillors, local political leaders and City Corporation officials more often than through direct mechanisms, such as participation in public hearings, meetings and petitions. In case of KDA, the scenario is very threatening as this organization is representing central government under the organizational arrangement of delegation and are more reluctant about citizens’ participation and perception. In Delegated organizations, managerial responsibility for specifically defined functions are transferred to organizations that are outside the regular bureaucratic structure and that are only indirectly controlled by the central government. Instead of having clear outline of three-tier participation of the public for decision-making, it is reported that only selected representatives from relevant public departments, professional groups, civil society organizations, business groups, media, political leaders and academics were consulted to determine the preliminary design of plan preparation process in KDA. The study found that 86.3 percent of the respondents are paying speed money to KDA officials, architectural firm or other agents outside of KDA for getting No Objection Certificate.

Jessore Municipality, the devoluted organization allows citizens’ participation in decision making process through Ward Level Coordination Committee (WLCC) and Town Level Coordination Committee (TLCC). Because of the strong presence of WLCC and TLCC, 74% respondents voluntarily participated in the process of constructing or maintaining local roads. Jessore municipality allow its citizens to take part in the local government events such as council meetings, public hearing, town level coordination meetings and municipal assembly.



The study identified that the above mentioned differences in KCC, KDA and Jessore municipality is happening because Local Government (Paurashava) Act, 2009 has specific recommendations for TLCC and WLCC but the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009 lacks this provision. Therefore, the researcher recommended for amendment of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009 to make TLCC and WLCC mandatory for ensuring democratic decision making in KCC. In addition, it suggested to develop communication strategies and iterative processes to: (i) inform citizens about local government policies, programs, services, and initiatives; (ii) more effectively listen to the public; and (iii) respond to citizens' needs and incorporate their opinions into local government actions.

The research identified that, in KCC and KDA, no grievance redress mechanism is in place to accommodate the complaints, whereas the mechanism is functional in Jessore municipality. Institutionalization of a separate nodal section for receiving the grievances/ complains was recommended in the study.

Another problem found is institutional cooperation in case of formulating the physical development projects for local areas. There is no established legal mechanism by which communication among public authorities in Khulna city is possible to maintain. Jessore city has no problem regarding this, though it has dependency on central government. This study suggested to constitute a coordination board with representatives of different governments, civil society, private and community organizations.

The study also advocated for incorporation of civil society organization irrespective of the organizational arrangement of the local level organizations that are performing urban development activities.

The study concluded that upward accountability is not a problem in single form of decentralized organization. In terms of downward accountability, which relates to the ability of the organization to be accountable to citizens; there is still some room for maneuver to ensure active citizen participation. Jessore municipality justifies the aforementioned claim. However, in case of Khulna city, where two different form of decentralized organization exist, problem of upward and downward accountability prevails in a larger extent. Therefore, this study recommended for better coordination mechanism among KCC and KDA.

Appreciating the findings, experts suggested further research in this area as 'smart city' concept is now embedded in the SDG's.

### **Call for improving governance standards in Bangladesh's adaptation fund**

Bangladesh's overall standard of governance in climate change adaptation (CCA) finance is satisfactory, nonetheless, there are ample scopes for improvement in the areas of transparency, accountability, integrity and participation in prioritizing, accessing, delivering and monitoring of the adaptation fund.

This was revealed on 12 March, 2017 during a validation workshop titled: Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Finance in Bangladesh: Governance Standards Assessment, organized by TIB at its head office at Dhanmondi. With the support from Transparency International (TI) Secretariat, Berlin and the global CSO network Adaptation Watch, TIB conducted an online survey among 35 stakeholders comprising public, private, NGO and International agencies from 15th January to 5th March 2017 to assess Bangladesh's prevailing state of governance in CCA Finance.

The survey focused on four core components of climate finance: prioritize; access; deliver and monitor and looked into those four areas using five governance lenses: transparency, accountability, participation, coherence and integrity.

The results showed that Bangladesh's overall standard of governance in CCA Finance was 3.09 out of 5.00 scale. However, when all four CCA finance components were measured against governance indicators; transparency, accountability, integrity and participation were found to be major challenges in terms of prioritizing, accessing, the delivery and monitoring of CCA finance.

In the opening session, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director and Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director of TIB; Ian Tellam of Adaptify, a partner of Adaptation Watch; Thoams Vink of TI-S; and Zakir Hossain Khan, Senior Programme Manager, TIB's Climate Finance Governance also spoke. Officials from the relevant ministries, development partners, private sector, NGOs and academia attended.

During the interactive sessions, the participants agreed to strengthen mutual collaboration and cooperation for enhancing institutional abilities to further improve the governance standard to attract required adaptation funding for Bangladesh.

## **Sustainable development and good governance: Role of women**

Corruption and gender are closely linked. Gender inequality spreads corruption and women are more likely to become victims of corruption than men. A TIB study in 2015 found that women are not only victims of corruption, sometimes they are actors and instruments of corruption.

To generate greater awareness, TIB observed this year's International Women's Day with this theme: "Sustainable development and good governance: Need empowered women, awakened conscience". The day was observed in 45 CCC areas by organizing rally, street theatre, discussion meeting and cultural program. TIB organized a workshop at national level with women government officials and youths.

On 6 March, 2017, TIB arranged a workshop titled 'Sustainable development goals, good governance and women' at Meghomala Conference room of TIB to discuss about the status and role of women in achieving the Sustainable



// Being inspired by the success of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), women have to play effective role in successful implementation of SDG theme 'leaving no one behind' //

**Dr. Sumaiya Khair**

Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring good governance. Eight female Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) of eight upazila from all the administrative divisions of the country participated in the event with the approval and assistance of Bangladesh government's Cabinet Division. Besides, humanitarian activist Advocate U. M. Habibun Nessa and TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman; Deputy Executive Director Dr. Sumaiya Khair; Director of Research and Policy Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan; and Outreach and Communication Director Rezwan-ul-Alam attended.

The main purpose of the workshop was to inform and encourage the female government officials to play effective role in implementing the gender related goal 5 and good governance related goal 16 of SDGs.

In her welcome speech, Dr. Sumaiya Khair said that the contribution of women in establishing sustainable good governance with ensuring transparency and accountability in administration, is undeniable. She added that being inspired by the success of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), women have to play effective role in successful implementation of SDG theme 'leaving no one behind'.

The workshop kicked off with a presentation made by Rezwan-ul-Alam on 'Sustainable Development Goals, good governance and women', highlighting the synergy between SDG 16 and 5 with the 7th Five-year plan of Bangladesh, women rights and empowerment in SDG, intra-relationship between women and good governance and required actions to deal the challenges of women rights and empowerment.

Advocate U. M. Habibun Nessa facilitated an open interactive session on 'Inclusive strategy in ensuring sustainable development: no one will be left behind'. The participants discussed about steps taken by female government officials in encountering antagonistic challenges related to governance, women rights and empowerment to achieve SDGs, current status, future prerequisite, innovative planning etc.

// SDG is more powerful than MDG in developing the quality of human life because of its universalism, transformative individuality and inclusivity //

**- Dr. Iftekharuzzaman //**



The female officials participated in a group activity on ‘Good governance in women right and empowerment process: Recommendation for Upazila level’ and presented two findings. One group emphasized on child marriage prevention and ensuring property rights and recommended for proper implementation of Acts. The other group recommended to activate the ‘violence against women prevention cell’ and ‘legal aid committee’, suggested allocating fund for ‘Women Development Forum’ in Annual and Upazila development fund, to increase women’s participation in project planning and implementation committee etc.

Recognizing the important role of media, NGO, private and individual organization along with government in achieving SDGs, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said that SDG is more powerful than MDG in improving the quality of human life because of its universalism, transformative individuality and inclusivity.

Appreciating the initiative of TIB, the participants expressed that this forum inspired them positively and they expected to share and apply these experiences among their networks.

Meanwhile, another workshop titled “Gender sensitive anti-corruption social movement and invincible youth” was held on 14th March, 2017 at TIB Meghomala conference room with the participation of 52 members from 13 Dhaka Youth Engagement & Support (YES) and YES Friends groups.



Starting with a brief discussion on ‘women rights, good governance and sustainable development’ by Rezwan-ul-Alam, Director, Outreach & Communication of TIB, the workshop continued with sessions on intra-relationship between gender and corruption, Bangladesh’s High court’s guideline on sexual harassment and case study presentation of gender-related experiences of YES group members.

In the concluding session, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman answered several queries from the participants. He emphasized on including positive discrimination in the economic, political and social structure of Bangladesh to keep up the same pace of men and women. He urged the participants to take a vow that they will not keep the issue of equal rights of men and women as only in knowledge, but also practice this in their personal life.

### **TIB organizes training on climate finance governance for local level journalists**

TIB organized a 3-day training programme on climate finance governance (CFG) at the Proshika Human Resource Development Center (HRDC) Trust at Koitta in Sauria of Manikganj during 13-15 March 2017 in which 22 local level journalists participated.

The training began with a welcome speech and introductory session facilitated by Dr. Rezwan-Ul-Alam, Director, Outreach and Communication Division of TIB on 13 March.

After the inaugural session, Mohammad Zakir Hossain Khan, Senior Programme Manager of TIB’s Climate Finance Governance (CFG) facilitated a session on ‘good governance in climate adaptation and finance: national and international perspective’ which was followed by another session on ‘transparency and people’s participation in fighting climate change’ facilitated by

Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Director (Environment) of PKSF. The first day training was ended with a session on the scope of investigative journalism in Bangladesh which was facilitated by Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the University of Dhaka.



Robaet Ferdous also facilitated three more sessions on ‘general news versus investigative news: definition, characteristics and types’, ‘layers and strategy of investigative journalism’ and



‘various aspects of investigative reporting on climate change’ which were followed by a session on ‘environment and climate change’ conducted by Pavel Partha, Researcher of Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation on 14 March. On the second day, Iqbal Ahsan, Senior Correspondent of Channel-24, Md. Abu Bakar Siddique, Deputy Chief Reporter of Dhaka Tribune and Iftekhar Mahmud, Senior Reporter of the Daily Prothom Alo shared their experiences in a jointly conducted session on reporting on climate finance governance. They also jointly guided the participants as mentor in a group work which was the last session of the second day.

Mohammad Zahidul Islam, Senior Programme Manager of Outreach and Communication Division of TIB conducted the first session of 15 March on ‘the strategy of drafting proposal of investigative journalism fellowship’. After this, Iqbal Ahsan, Md. Abu Bakar Siddique and Iftekhar Mahmud jointly conducted another group work on ‘identification of the fields of investigative journalism on environment, climate change and climate finance and reporting’. After the session, participants gave presentation on their group work.

The event concluded with distribution of certificates among the participants by Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB. In the concluding speech, Dr. Zaman called on the journalists to look into the victims’ participation in undertaking and implementation of local level climate projects. “We shall try to organize the training outside Dhaka in division level”, he added.

## YES News

### Anti-Corruption Cartoon Exhibition at DIU

YES-1 and YES friends group of Dhaka YES, formed in inspiration of TIB organized an anti-corruption Cartoon Exhibition at Daffodil International University (DIU) students Lounge on 15th March 2017, an initiative taken under TIB’s anti-corruption social movement with an aim to create greater awareness, engaging the youth against corruption and motivation among the young generation to say NO to CORRUPTION.

Professor Dr. Engr. A. K. M. Fazlul Hoque, Registrar, DIU along with Country’s renowned cartoonist Mr. Ahsan Habib, faculty member of Multimedia and Creative Technology Department of DIU inaugurated the exhibition. Mr. Sayed Mizanur Rahman, Director of Students’ Affairs was present at the inaugural ceremony.

‘It’s only possible to build a corruption-free Bangladesh without the direct involvement of the young people as young generation is the main revolutionary power of the society’, said Professor Dr. Engr. A. K. M. Fazlul Hoque while inaugurating. He thanked TIB for arranging such kind of exhibition for the first time at Daffodil International University.

In the event, Ms. Atia Afreen, Coordinator of the groups said, the groups YES-1 and YES FRIENDS are voluntary organization where TIB assists with necessary technical support. She thanked the DIU administration for providing such wonderful opportunity and congratulated the YES members of DIU for the successful arrangement which allowed the other DIU students to become aware and motivated about the fight against corruption.

### Dhaka YES participated in Youth Mock Parliament

A team comprising 17 Dhaka YES members participated in a Youth Mock Parliament organized by Hunger Free World, and Youth against Hunger with other like-minded youth organisations at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building of Dhaka University on 23 March 2017 with the theme ‘Food is my right, Work too’.

The mock parliament was attended by the opposition whip Mr. Nurul Islam Omar MP, Kazi Rozi MP, Ms. Rasheda K. Chowdhury former Caretaker Government Advisor and Executive Director of CAMPE, Dr. Ahmed Al Kabir, President of RTM International and academician, and Md. Mahfuzul Haque, Chairman, Bangladesh Safe Food Authority where Mr. Hilaluddin, Vice President of Food Right in Bangladesh presided over the event.

In this model for youth motivation, the designated young parliamentarians represented three hundred constituencies, and raised concerns and demands to ensure decent jobs for all following article 15a, b, 20 and 29a of the constitution. A set of 5 recommendations were shared in this Youth Parliament, where more than a hundred young participants joined as observers from the various organization.

### Call for establishing good governance in education, health and climate finance sector through Anti-Corruption drama

Dhaka YES theatre team staged a drama show in the form of street theatre with anti-corruption theme calling to establish good governance in the education, health and climate finance sector. As part of regular shows, the theatre team comprising 11 artistes with an arrangement by YES group Stamford University (SU) Bangladesh staged the show at Siddheswari campus of the university on March, 27, 2017. The drama highlighted issues focusing corruption in education, health sector and climate fund governance and concluded with urge to resist and act against corruption. Around 100 students, teachers and staff of the university enjoyed the drama.

## YES Groups organized Anti-Corruption Competitions marking Independence day and IWD

Bangladesh Kuwait Maitree Hall YES group arranged an anti-corruption essay competition marking Independence day 2017 on March 29, 2017 at its hall room. In participation of the YES members, the participants discussed on the strategies to counter negative influence of the corruption in the society.

Marking Independence day 2017, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Hall YES Group of University of Dhaka organized an anti-corruption poetry recitation competition on March 30, 2017. Winners of both the competitions were awarded with books as gifts.

Furthermore, Rokeya Hall YES Group organized a quiz competition among its members to observe International Womens Day 2017 on March 12, 2017 at its Hall Auditorium. The event was organized with the theme "Sustainable development and good governance: Need empowered women, awakened conscience". The quiz comprised questions focusing on women rights and empowerment of women. At the concluding session, Mohammad Zahidul Islam, Senior Programme Manager, Outreach and Communications, TIB spoke on the importance of World Women Day and the role of women in the fight against corruption. Dr. Nazma Shaheen, Provost, Rokeya Hall, University of Dhaka awarded the winners of the competition. Among others, Dr. Rumana Islam, YES Adviser of Rokey Hall; Syeda Atikun Nahar and Namita Mandal, House Tutors of the Hall, and Dilruba Begum Monalisa, YES Group Coordinator of Rokeya Hall were also present at the event.

## CCC News

### RTI Act provides authority to the citizens to empower themselves

With an aim to create awareness on Right to Information Act-2009 and its application, couple of two-day long information fairs were organized at Gazipur and Lalmonirhat separately by the initiative of respective Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) in association with local District Administration. Government and non-government offices from different sectors participated in the fairs for disseminating service related information to mass people.

**Gazipur:** To build up a good relationship between information seekers and providers, Gazipur District Administration and CCC, Gazipur organized the information fair at historical Rajbari ground on 15 & 16 March 2017. In the fair, a number of 28 government institutions and 4 non-government organizations disseminated their service related information to mass people.

Mr. A. K. M. Mozammel Huq, Honorable Minister of the ministry of Liberation War Affairs was present as chief guest in the inaugural session of the information fair on 15 March 2017 where Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur District Mr. S. M. Alam presided over the session.

Mr. A. K. M. Mozammel Huq said, right to information Act-2009 is a remarkable initiative by the government. The Act creates opportunity to citizens to make the government officials accountable regarding their duties and services. He requested to implement the act frequently for claiming information as well as rights. Mr. A. Shakhawot Hossain, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Gazipur attended the event as the special guest. Prof. M A Bari, Vice-President of CCC, Gazipur and Prof. Mukul Kumar Mallik, member of the CCC spoke as the key discussants in the event.

In the concluding session on 16 March 2017, Mr. Jamil Ahmed Deputy Director, Local Government of Gazipur was the Chief Guest while Dr. Ali Haider Khan, Deputy Director, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital; Md. Shafiul Haque, District Primary Education Officer, and Md. Jasim Uddin Ferdous, Director, Civic Engagement of TIB were the Special Guests at the event. The speakers of the concluding session stressed on proactive disclosure of information for providing services to citizens effectively.

Visitors of the fair received basic orientation on procedure of submission RTI application to institutions according to the RTI Act in the information fair. Youth Engagement and Support (YES) and YES Friends group members of CCC, Gazipur campaigned on RTI Act through organizing Satellite Advice and Information Desk (AI Desk). Photo exhibition on Liberation War and Anti-corruption cartoon exhibition were also taken place in the fair.

**Lalmonirhat:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Lalmonirhat District Mr. Md. Rezaul Alam Sarker inaugurated the two-day long information fair organized at Muktijoddha Smriti Shoudha on 28 March 2017. President of CCC Lalmonirhat Mr. Md. Rafiqul Alam Khan Swapan presided over the programme. Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Lalmonirhat Hossain Shaheed Shohorawardi and Civil Surgeon (In-Charge) Mr. Sirajul Islam were present as Special Guests in the inaugural event.



21 government and non-government institutions participated in the fair and disseminated their service related information to visitors. In the concluding session on 29 March 2017, Deputy Commissioner of Lalmonirhat district Mr. Abul Foyez Md Alauddin Khan was the chief guest. Art competition, Quiz competition and Extempore Speech competition were arranged where students from different education institutions participated. YES and YES Friend group of CCC, Lalmonirhat organized Satellite Advice and Information Desk and Anti-corruption cartoon exhibition at the fair.

### **ALAC launched at Bogra** **Free legal advice for assisting victims and witness of corruption**

To provide free legal advice to the affected and witness people of corruption, CCC Bogra launched Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) in Bogra on 15 January 2017.

An inaugural event was organized at a conference room of a local hotel in Bogra presided over by Masudar Rahman Helal, president of CCC, Bogra where Senior District and Session Judge Md. Shafiqur Rahman was present as Chief Guest. Mr. A.K.M. Bazlul Karim Bahar, Convener of ALAC Sub-Committee of the CCC, delivered welcome speech while Mosammat Fojila Khanom, Senior Programme Manager of TIB shared the concept and areas of ALAC through a multi-media presentation.

At the event, Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman said, corruption is nothing but a disease. We should prohibit such disease for purpose of ensuring our development. To do so, first we need to change our mentality. He welcomed the ALAC intervention and assured to provide necessary assistance for its effective implementation. He also asked to move together against corruption.

Prof. Shams Ul Alam, Principal of the Govt Azizul Haque College; Mr. Md. Azazul Haque, Principal of the Govt Shah Sultan College; Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque, Civil Surgeon, Bogra; Chief Judicial Magistrate Mr. A K M Fazlul Haque; Additional District Magistrate Md. Abdus Samad; Bogra Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ms. Akterunnahar, Mayor of Bogra Municipality Adv. A K M Mahbubur Rahman and Md. Jasim Uddin Ferdous, Director-Civic Engagement of TIB also participated in the event. Speakers praised ALAC intervention plan and remarked that the ALAC will create space for the affected and witness people of corruption by providing legal advices. They urged to drive campaign on ALAC activities among mass people.

By ALAC, any person who is a victim of corruption and witness of corruption will get opportunity to log complaint and get free advice. ALAC will provide legal advice on education, health, local government, environment and land issues. Creating awareness against corruption and encourage people to log complaint against corruption is a priority work of ALAC also.

### **Land intervention started at Chakaria and Bagerhat**

With an aim to ensure good governance in land related service sector, CCC, Chakaria and Bagerhat started land related interventions along with its other issues. Inaugural programme was organized on 15 March 2017 at Chakaria and 28 March 2017 in Bagerhat where respective government officials from local land offices participated in the programme.

Chakaria: 'Irregularities and procrastination create corruption and causes citizen's harassment'- based on this realization, CCC Chakaria started its intervention in land sector, which aims to focus a good relationship between the service providers and recipients. In this program, Chakaria Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Shahedul Islam as the Chief guest urged respective officials to provide services properly.

Md. Didarul Alam, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Chakaria Upazila shared his various initiatives through a multi-media presentation at the event. Principal Farid Uddin Chowdhury, president of CCC, Chakaria presided over the program. Sub-registrar of Chakaria Upazila A.S.M. Shamsuzzaman, Special guest of the event, assured to make every person accountable regarding his/her duties to citizens. Among others, Principal Shahab Uddin Chowdhury, advisor to the CCC Chakaria, CCC Vice-President Santosh Kumar Shushil and Senior Programme Manager of TIB Md. Hasan Ali also spoke at the event.

**Bagerhat:** CCC, Bagerhat organized an inception programme on its land intervention on 28 March 2017 at Bagerhat Press Club Auditorium presided by the president of CCC, Bagerhat Ram Krishna Bashu. Additional District Magistrate of Bagerhat Md. Mominur Rashid was present as chief guest in the event. He said, Bagerhat district administration tries to provide its services digitally however most of the service recipients are not capable to receive digital services. DC office has a plan to provide land related services digitally; in that case, citizens should be informed about the digitalization process. He made importance to raise awareness of mass people regarding their rights.

Mosammat Fojila Khanom, Senior Programme Manager of TIB shared the intervention areas on land issue through a multi-media presentation. Among others, Md. Nazmul Huda, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Bagerhat Sadar Upazila, Sub-Registrar Jahangir Kabir Mohammad Faisal, other officials related to land services from upazila and union level, local journalists, civil society members, CCC, SWAJAN and YES group members were present at the event.

### **Need empowered women and awakened conscience for sustainable development**

With the theme of 'Sustainable Development and Good Governance: Need Empowered Women, Awakened Conscience', CCCs celebrated 8 March International Women's Day with various awareness raising activities.

CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends groups organized rallies, discussions, orientation, human chain, seminar and quiz/essay/debate competitions across 45 locations in this occasion.

Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Mayor of Municipalities, Upazila Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) along with locally elected representatives, other public officials, different professionals, civil society members, media representatives and young people were attended these events.

A concept note with a set of demands was circulated among relevant stakeholders where TIB stated that lack of accountability in the power structure increases corruption that prohibit social justice, rule of law and equal rights which is a pre-requisite for establishing women empowerment. Therefore, ensuring legal and institutional obligation, awakened conscience for equal rights for female-male is crucial. Speakers of different events regarding observing the day stated that women are belonging backward position and underprivileged because of our existing patriarchal attitudes. On the other hand, corruption is also hindering the process of women development. Hence, it is evitable to resist corruption and establish good governance and sustainable development in every sector of our society and state to achieve the desired development of women.



**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)

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