



Thousands of volunteers renew plight to resist corruption with awakened conscience at CCC-SONAK, YES-YES Friends, YPAC National Convention 2018

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Bangladesh's score slightly improves on Corruption Perception Index 2017 TIB calls on Government to be more stringent against corruption

Bangladesh has scored 28 on a scale of 0-100 according to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2017 released by Transparency International (TI) on February 21 2018. Bangladesh's score in 2017 is two point higher than in 2016. In a list of 180 countries, Bangladesh is ranked 17th from below, which is two steps higher than in 2016. Bangladesh remains well below the global average of 43 which indicates moderate success in controlling corruption. Among the eight South Asian countries, Bangladesh continue to be the second worst performer after Afghanistan.



Releasing the CPI 2017 findings in its head office in Dhaka at morning on 22 February 2018, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh urged the government to take stern measures against the corrupt, without fear or favour. "The prospect of doing better in CPI will depend on their application and enforcement. Corruption must be a punishable offence not only on paper but in practice without fear or favour", Dr. Zaman said. Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chair, Board of Trustees of TIB; TIB Trustee Board Members M Hafizuddin Khan; and Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, TIB Adviser- Executive Management were present during the press conference.

Pointing to alarming outcome from further analysis of the index which indicates that countries with the lowest protections for press and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) also tend to have the worst rates of corruption, Dr. Zaman said it also applies to Bangladesh. He 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.

According to the findings of CPI 2017, New Zealand and Denmark rank highest with scores of 89 and 88 respectively. Syria, South Sudan and Somalia rank lowest with scores of 14, 12 and 9 respectively.

This year, the index found that more than two-thirds of countries score below 50, with an average score of 43. The best performing region is Western Europe with an average score of 66. The worst performing regions are Sub-Saharan Africa (average score 32) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (average score 34).



As in previous years, Bhutan is the best performer in South Asia with a score of 67, ranked 26th from the top in the global list, followed by India ranked 81st with a score of 40. Sri Lanka scored 38 with 91st in the rank, followed by the Maldives that scored 33 with 112th position. Pakistan scored 32 securing 117th position while Nepal scored 31 with 122nd position. Afghanistan ranked 177th with score of 15.

Launched in 1995, CPI provides international comparison of countries by perceived prevalence of corruption understood in terms of abuse of entrusted power. It is a survey of surveys (13 in 2017) conducted by reputed international organisations. Information used in CPI relates to corruption in the public sector, particularly political and administrative; conflict of interest; unauthorised payment in the delivery of government functions, and in justice, executive, law enforcement and tax collection. The government's capacity to control corruption is also considered.

CPI is produced by the research department of TI Secretariat in Berlin. CPI methodology has been designed by experts from Departments of Statistics and Political Science of Columbia University and Department of Political Science, Bocconi University, Italy. Scores are validated by Hertie School of Governance, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), and Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, Mexico.

CPI 2017 data for Bangladesh came from eight sources: Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk ratings 2017, World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey 2017, Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index 2017-2018, Global Insight Country Risk Ratings 2016, Political Risk Services International Country Risk Guide 2017, World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment 2017, World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2017-2018 and Varieties of Democracy Project Dataset 2017. Data period was from 2016 to 2017.

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 2017, despite attempts to combat corruption around the world, the majority of countries are moving too slowly in their efforts. This year, the index found that more than two-thirds of countries score below 50.

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, 13th in 2015 and 15th in 2016.

TIB calls for independent commission to check the irregularities of private healthcare system

As the misery of the service recipients from private healthcare system across the country gotten to the marginal level due to collective impact of vast irregularities including widespread commercialization and commission-based marketing mechanism and prevalent lack of much-needed policy assistance, monitoring and control, TIB urged the government to form an independent commission to establish good governance. The call was made by TIB on February 7, 2018 at its Dhanmondi office while releasing a study report titled 'Private healthcare: Challenges of good governance and the way forward'.



With an objective to identify the governance challenges and recommend how to tackle them, the study was conducted on 66 private hospitals and 50 diagnostic centres across the country between January and December of 2017.

The study found that the private healthcare sector, from where 63.3 percent of the households of the country take services, is in fact out of government's control. Private healthcare seekers fall the victim of financial loss and serious health risk for substandard services created due to the lack of a proper monitoring from the concerned government institutions. Physicians, health assistants, family planning employees, rural doctors, pharmacy owners, midwives, receptionists, rickshaw-pullers, and middlemen are involved in the commission-based marketing mechanism. They receive from 15 to 50 percent commission from the diagnostic centres. For each Caesarian section patient, these beneficiaries get Tk 500 to Tk 5,000 as commission, the study says. It also says many service seekers, mainly those from outside Dhaka, are harassed by middlemen, who provided them with false information and forcibly take them to private hospitals and centres. Owners of private hospitals and

diagnostic centres include police officials, physicians, their wives, nurses, public representatives, politicians, journalists, expatriates, businesspersons, corporate groups, and retired public service officials.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chair, Board of Trustees; Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman; and Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Adviser- Executive Management; Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan, Director- Research and Policy (R&P) of TIB were present during the press conference. Findings of the research report were presented by Taslima Aktar and Mohammad Zulkarnain, Programme Manager and Deputy Programme Manager of R&P of TIB.

Citing private health-care system an important national sector, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “The sector has been expanding as a profit-oriented trade despite its important contribution to private health-care system. The service recipients have been deceived by many irregularities caused by lack of proper control and monitoring. The failure of a much-needed policy formulation is a negative example which could not be adopted may be due to lack of political will, disagreements among stakeholders or illegal influence made by stakeholders of special class. The government alone can’t control the entire sector as it poses risks of ensuring transparency, accountability and objectivity. In parallel to experience of other countries, to develop a monitoring and evaluation system in this sector, an independent and free health-care commission shall be established to identify the ways to tackle prevailing challenges and create space enough to resolve them.”

According to the study, the service seekers are often forced to buy additional medicines. Later, the authorities of the facilities sold those medicines to other patients. Moreover, low-quality and date-expired reagents were used for conducting many tests there. Round-the-clock doctor services were not available at 52 of the 66 hospitals. Twenty-four-hour nurse services were not available at 53 hospitals while cleaners were not available at 29 hospitals all the time. Again, most of the surveyed facilities started their operation without even obtaining the mandatory registration. Of the 116 hospitals and diagnostic centres, 97 did not obtain any certificate from the Department of Environment, revealed the study.

The overall research findings suggest that the tendency of commercialization in private health care is evident in Bangladesh. This is characterized by too much profit oriented care activity, commission-based care and quantity over quality. The government is not paying much attention albeit the sector is very important – the fact is proven by less emphasis on the sector in policy and planning, not updating the relevant laws, not developing the regulatory structure, poor monitoring and supervision, and poor stakeholder coordination. For the aforementioned reasons, the sector has become uncontrollable on the one hand and has become a place for grabbing unlawful opportunities by some individuals, on the other. Poor efficiency and the tendency of irregularities are evident at all levels – especially, at the upazila and zila levels. On the whole, the general care receivers have become hostages to the system and are subjected to enormous financial and physical loss, access to quality health care is not ensured as well.

Based on the results of the study, the study concluded with different set of recommendations in three categories. At the law and policy category, the study stressed on review of the existing laws or adoption of new law if needed to smoothen the regulation and supervision of the private health care

system. Besides, it also recommended to set registration and renewal fee according to the types of the institutions; making it mandatory to collect all relevant clearance certificates for registration; setting the costs of care according to the types of institutions; compulsory disclosure of necessary information and publicizing it; the extent of punishment should be increased timely and in a realistic way; and the Private health care institutions should be brought under the purview of the Right to Information Act (in terms of information receipt and disclosure).

For Regulatory bodies, TIB study came up with recommendations including, among others, developing Institutional capacity (both at central and field levels) to strengthen the regulatory and monitoring activities of the private institutions; assignment of relevant officials to inspect a specific number of institutions per month; employment of third party to scrutinize and verify the registration and renewal process at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS); introduction of Online licensing application and renewal processes; maintain records of all updated information related to the health care institutions and their care services (registration number of the institutions, renewal period, full time personnel and their registration numbers, infrastructure facilities) in the Directorate General of Health Services and these information should be open to all. Besides, the study also highlighted the importance of activate the committee established for proper medical-waste management and ensure city corporation/municipality/unions must follow the right processes of medical-waste management; setting a formal system of lodging complaints by the relevant authorities (DGHS, BMDC) for the health care receivers of the private institutions; expansion of the supervisory role of BMDC to identify and prevent the unethical publicity and activities, further in the country. In order to provide women-friendly care, separate and usable toilets for men and women, breastfeeding corner, presence of female care givers should be ensured in all institutions.

Thousands of volunteers renew plight to resist corruption with awakened conscience: Nine Point recommendations placed to build corruption-free Bangladesh

Thousands of anti-corruption volunteers under TIB-inspired activists' groups - the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Swajan, Youth Engagement and Support (YES) and YES Friends, Young professionals against Corruption (YPAC) flocked to Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on 26 February 2018 to attend the 9th National Convention and renewed their pledges to effectively battle corruption both personally and collectively with the theme: 'Together against Corruption'.

A declaration was read out at the end of the Convention where several pledges were made which included being together to build well-governed and democratic Bangladesh with effectively resisting corruption from all the levels. The notable nine point recommendations to build corruption-free Bangladesh made at the declaration, among others were, establish rule of law, practice of accountability and democracy to ensure equal rights for each and every citizens with demands such as build effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; ensure effective, accountable and transparent public service delivery at grassroots; right to information, free flow of information and freedom of media; compassion towards transparency, participation and environment of national

development; initiatives for bringing public trust towards economic sector and annulment of opportunity of legalizing black money; and effective anti-corruption commission for preventing corruption.



The day began with a choreography performance of TIB's theme song by YES members. Inaugurating the convention, TIB Trustee Board Member M. Hafizuddin Khan congratulated the anti-corruption volunteers-organizers from all over the country for their noteworthy contribution to the movement and the country. Mr. Khan said, the terrific role of grassroots activists built the foundation of progression of

the movement against corruption. To achieve the target, it is important for all to be vigilant and continuing dynamic performance from everyone's position.

Welcoming the anti-corruption activists to the convention, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman administered an anti-corruption oath. Dr. Zaman, in his introductory speech, stressed on fulfilling citizen's duties to counter corruption and urged for visible implementation of political will and ensure accountability of public institutions to advance the fight against corruption.



Besides, along with the Anti-Corruption Commission, Dr. Zaman called on the government to ensure enabling environment for the institutions working at this field such as private institutions, citizen's platforms, media and social organizations.

Md. Delawar Hossain Mazumder, Md. Noman Mazumder and Mr. Shah Md. Imran, representatives of TIB-inspired CCC, YES and YPAC respectively at the convention also spoke at the inaugural session.

During the panel discussion on 'Together against corruption', Mr. Iqbal Mahmud, Chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission; Mr. Ayman Sadiq, Founder and CEO of Ten Minute School; and Ms. Tania Wahab, Young entrepreneur and managing partner of 'Karigor', a leather-craft production shared their inspiring views and stories from their journey on the Vigilant Conscience, Invincible Youth, Cultural Spirit and Anti-Corruption Movement



which enthralled the audience with their inspirational experiences. Noting TIB's diversified activities and contribution especially meaningful criticism and recommendations over issues, Mr. Iqbal Mahmud said, it is impossible to attain just rights against corruption without consecutive pressure and such pressure with demands should be made continuously, besides, anti-corruption awareness activities should be continued with public participation in different social levels.

Later, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman distributed prizes among the Best YES members from different YES groups for their inspiring contributions with crests and certificates. A declaration was read out at the end of the Convention 2018. The volunteers participated in the convention vowed to remain active and vigilant together to strengthen the movement against corruption. To fulfill dreams of independence, democracy, good governance and human rights, they further pledged to inspire the young generation on resisting corruption and act against it from all levels.

Earlier, during other sessions, all the participants deliberated on new ideas to fight corruption in Bangladesh, moderated by Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director and Prof. Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Adviser – Executive Management of TIB. The convention was concluded through cultural performances by different YES groups.

YES members meet 'Shadow Ambassador' of the Danish Embassy

Selected YES members from TIB-inspired YES groups of Dhaka shared their experiences from the anti-corruption movement with the 'Shadow Ambassador of the day 2018' of the Danish Embassy to Dhaka. During the meet-up at TIB head office on 6 February 2018, YES members also engaged in discussion with Mr. Mikael Hemniti Winther, Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh. TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman welcomed the 'Shadow Ambassador of the day 2018' Ms. Sayma Afrin accompanied by the Danish Ambassador to TIB.

Followed by the introduction, YES members shared their activities regarding how YES members have been voluntarily contributing to the TIB-led anti-corruption movement. They also shared both the success and challenging sides of stories of their involvement in the movement. Their sharing included



challenges they face in creating i.e. anti-corruption social awareness in campaigns, day observance highlighting anti-corruption issues, assisting service recipients in selected public service delivery institutions in the sectors of land, health and education through Advice and Information desks (AI Desk), disseminating and encouraging mass citizens through organizing dialogues, debates, improvising theatre shows and how they have been making youth vigilant on resisting corruption by being cautious as they believe in the ways which result changes etc. YES members also highlighted their ongoing effort to informing and educating youth with ethics and values including saying no to corruption.

In regard to YES member's questions on how Denmark has less corruption, the Danish Ambassador shared briefly the journey of Denmark in securing the least-corrupt country status in Transparency International (TI)'s Corruption Perception Index (CPI). To resist corruption, Mr. Mikael Hemniti



Winther stressed on two important areas i.e. people's expectation and entitlement as well as integrity and strong will to defeat the rotten illness like corruption. Citing apolitical and performance and merit-based system of bureaucracy in Denmark, he highlighted importance of role of media in exposing errors of the society. In the fight against corruption, he said it is important to believe in system and the government instead of undermining trust as such approaches may harm the society further. He thanked the YES members for their encouraging stories.

Dr. Iftekaruzzaman praised the contribution of Danish Government to Bangladesh as well as continuing support in Bangladesh's fight against corruption. Lauding such initiative of Danish Embassy to reach out the youth of Bangladesh, Dr. Zaman said, each YES member is an anti-

corruption ambassador of the youth of Bangladesh and changes are slowly taking places due to their courageous contribution in the movement.

Ms. Sayma Afrin, a student of BUET bagged the opportunity of becoming the 'Shadow Ambassador of the Day 2018' through participating in a quiz competition, organized by the Danish Embassy to Dhaka.



Among others, Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Adviser, Executive Management, and Directors of different divisions of TIB attended.

TIB airs concern over intervention on DSE's strategic partner selection

TIB expressed concern over the unethical interference of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) in an attempt to influence the foreign strategic partner selection process of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

Citing press reports on the alleged interference of BSEC, TIB in a press statement released on 16 February, urged the regulatory body to refrain from any such attempt of influencing the process, and select the bidder organisation that came out on top in the strategic partner selection process.

TIB also called upon the authorities concerned to blacklist the organization which has been attempting to influence the selection process, and to ensure that BSEC officials involved with the illegal interference be held accountable for their actions.

In a statement, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said: "The aim of the foreign strategic partnership plan is to further develop the stock market through an organization that possesses modern equipment and necessary technical skills. The regulatory pressure and lobbying which favors any particular bidder of the process is unprecedented and against the law."

He observed, "as per the law and custom, the DSE shares would be sold to the highest and experienced bidder. The commission should not act against the interests of the DSE, and must not collaborate or be influenced by another entity."

Dr Zaman further said: “The initiative for stock exchange demutualization was recommended by the probe body, following the share market crash of 2010. Only a qualified and reputed foreign organization, that bid the highest, should be chosen as a strategic partner, and shares should be sold to the firm as per regulations.”

The statement said such 'interference and lobbying' for a bidder that quoted lower bidding price is not only unprecedented but also unlawful. It also read that it would be a clear violation of the law if the highest bidder is not chosen as the strategic partner, which would surely raise questions in both the foreign and the domestic sectors.

According to the TIB, the current debacle over selecting a strategic partner has also raised uncertainty and unrest among DSE investors and shareholders. The anti-graft organization called upon the government of Bangladesh to ensure that the DSE be run in accordance with existing rules and regulations. It also urged the authorities concerned to investigate whether a certain quarter was trying to repeat history by crashing the share market again through the illegal interference and market manipulation.

TIB urges to review the proposed Digital Security Act

Terming some of the provisions of the proposed Digital Security Act, 2017 risky to the people's right to freedom of expression and security and contradictory with international convention, TIB urged the government to refine the mentioned provisions as soon as possible through necessary amendments considering opinion of relevant experts and stakeholders.

Observing that some provisions of the proposed act create a fear of people's insecurity, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, in a statement released on February 1, 2018 said, “keeping vast option of misinterpretation and misuse of the definition of words such as defamation, trickery and spying mentioned in the proposed act creates concern that the act may seriously curb the people's constitutional right to the freedom of expression rather than ensuring the national security.”

With grave concern, TIB perceived that various provisions involving punishment against espionage under the Article 3 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 have been incorporated in the Article 32 of the proposed Digital Security Act, 2017 with different wrap. The proposed act which puts media, freedom of expression and social media at risk, any misapplication of the Article 32 of the proposed act will widely harm the people's lawful right to information regarding corruption and human rights violations entitled by the Right to Information Act 2009, in turn, which will encourage the promotion of corruption and human rights violation, TIB expressed deep fear.

TIB also observed, once the proposed act is passed in the Parliament, the horizons of prospect regarding disclosure of opinion and information created after the expansion of internet especially social communication platforms will be ruined and democracy and basic rights will be harmed which will be suicidal to the democratic advancement of the country.

TIB calls on the cabinet division to backtrack from its discriminatory proposal regarding VIP lane

TIB called on the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh to backtrack from its proposal to the Road Transport and Highways Division for introducing separate lane in the roads of Dhaka for VIPs' vehicle movement. In a statement released on February 6, 2018 TIB expressed deep concern over the proposal terming it unconstitutional and discriminatory.

In the statement, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "TIB is concerned over the proposal of the Cabinet Division for introducing separate lane in Dhaka for VIPs as well as law enforcers and emergency service providers. The proposal is discriminatory, tantamount to the severe misuse of power and a clear violation of the constitution of the country. The proposal is the violation of the great principles of equal rights of opportunity, justice and no demonstration of discrimination by the State towards any citizen irrespective of religion and caste which are enshrined in the Constitution of the country. TIB thinks that the move to give unconstitutional and unethical facility to VIPs, law enforcers or any other quarter by introducing separate lane is suicidal to the democratic practice."

TIB also denounced and termed unacceptable the Cabinet Division's explanation in favor of their proposal that the vehicles of VIPs frequently run on the right side of the lane breaking the traffic rules that is why they should be provided with separate lane to curb the traffic chaos created by the vehicles of the VIPs. TIB observed, the logic of the Cabinet Division to rationalize their proposal proves that many of the VIPs are regularly violating the existing traffic rules. TIB also called on the government to bring the traffic rules violators before the law.

CCC News

Sharing Meeting with Upazila Administration & relevant Institutions on SDGs

'Service delivery process should be easier. We must work in a way so that mass people could receive services properly. All concerned should be cordial in materializing the action plan designed to achieve important indicators of governance which is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' said Shammi Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Jhenaidah Sadar as she was delivering speech as chief guest of a sharing meeting. Jhenaidah Upazila Administration and CCC, Jhenaidah jointly organized this sharing meeting on 14 February 2018 with a view to achieve the SDGs through increasing transparency and accountability of different service providing institutions.

CCC President Md. Abu Taher presided over the meeting where 23 government officials of different service delivery institutions attended. CCC member N. M. Shahjalal delivered welcome speech. A PowerPoint presentation on 'TIB-CCC's Governance Related Activities and Sustainable Development Goals' was delivered in the meeting by Program Manager of TIB Mr. Rajesh Kumar Adhikary.

In the meeting the participants made action plan for their institution as a part of achieving SDGs and shared their ideas and opinions in the open session. The action plan included the development of Citizen Charter and Information Board, publication of leaflet, visibility of the criteria for getting different services, assignment of Designated Officer and displaying the names, introducing different register for providing information and receiving complaints, installment of Advice and Complaint Box, visibility of different projects for women and marginalized people and annual action plan etc.



Initiative to Ensure Quality Health Services at Chakaria

Chakaria Upazila Health Complex in cooperation with CCC, Chakaria organized a joint meeting of service recipients and Chakaria Health Complex authority at Upazila Health Complex auditorium on 20 February 2018 with an aim to improve the quality of services of the health complex. Chakaria Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr. Md. Shahbaz presided over the meeting while CCC member Bulbul Jannat Shahin delivered welcome speech.



In the meeting the service recipients discussed the problems they are facing while getting health complex's services. They also delivered a number of recommendations for the improvement of health services which included stopping the influence of middlemen in hospital premises, establishment of a Breast Feeding Corner, setting up an X-Ray machine, initiatives to make Community Clinic more functional to reduce the pressure at Upazila Health Complex etc. In addition, they also demanded taking initiative for tree plantation at the hospital premises, cleanliness of the hospital etc. The participants also expressed the need to improve the health services of the hospital and requested the continuation of the improvement.

Chief guest Dr. Md. Shahbaz answered different questions posed in the meeting. As there is shortage of manpower in the hospital, he explained, meeting the expectation of service recipients often becomes hard. But they are cordial in providing better services. The number of patients in the hospital are increasing day by day. The people from adjacent upazilas are also coming here for getting health services, he added. Mr. Shahbaz shared the initiatives undertaken for establishing Breast Feeding Corner and an application for X-Ray Machine has already been submitted to respective authority. He also pledged that initiatives will be taken to implement the other recommendations placed by the participants in the meeting. Mr. Shahbaz requested cooperation from all to get rid of the middlemen from the health complex premises.

CCC Member Md. Zia Uddin and Area Manager of CCC, Chakaria A. G. M. Jahangir Alam moderated the meeting. Among others CCC President A. K. M. Shahbuddin, Journalist M. R. Mahmud, Abdul Majid, Md. Jahed, Khairul Alam spoke in the meeting. Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, Dr. Md. Tofajjel Hossain, Journalist Md. Monjur Alam, CCC members, representatives of different organizations and service recipients also attended the meeting.

Mothers Playing Role in Improvement of Schools Education

School Management Committee (SMC) of Mahishmara (Moddho) Govt. Primary School in cooperation with CCC, Madhupur organized a Mothers Gathering at the school premises on 13 February 2018 where 200 mothers gathered. SMC President Md. Alfaz Ali presided over the meeting while Madhupur Upazila Education Officer A H M Rezaul Karim was present as the chief guest.



In the meeting, Mr. A H M Rezaul Karim shared different problems of the school which included shortage of class room, toilets, absence of boundary wall and Martyrs' Monument in Mahishmara (Moddho) Govt. Primary School. He assured to take necessary initiatives for posting a teacher in the school. Focusing on the roles and responsibilities of a mother he requested the mothers to visit school frequently to know the progress of their child's education. Head Teacher Md. Ramjan Ali shared the present scenario of this school in the program.

CCC Vice-President Mohammad Shahidul Islam shared the objectives of mothers gathering program while CCC Member Rokeya Begum discussed the roles and responsibilities of SMC. CCC's Education Sub-Committee Convener Sunil Kumar Majumder stated that as a result of combined efforts attendance rate of students has been increased, dropout rate declined, awareness of mothers increased, transparency and accountability of SMC has been strengthened.

In the open discussion session, the mothers shared their expectations and pointed out some problems of the school. Among others CCC member Alhajj Abdus Samad Talukdar and SMC member Md. Tofazzel Hossain spoke in the program. Along with mothers, Teachers, SMC Members, local elites, CCC and YES Members were present in the mothers gathering.

We Mourn

CCC Member Shilpi Samadder passed away

Member of CCC, Bagerhat Ms. Shilpi Samadder (65) passed away in a tragic road accident near Pona Bus Stand of Kashiani Upazila in Gopalganj on 27 February 2018. TIB is deeply saddened by the news of the accident and unexpected passing of the anti-corruption activist.



Ms. Shilpi Samadder was returning from Dhaka to Bagerhat by Bus along with Youth Engagement and Support (YES) and YES Friends members who after attending CCC-SWAJAN, YES-YES Friends, YPAC Convention 2018 organized by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on 26 February 2018 in Dhaka.

Immediately after the accident, Ms. Shilpi Samadder was admitted in Kashiani Hospital. Later she was referred to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital for better treatment. The Doctor on Duty of Sadar Hospital declared her dead while admitted. In the same mishap, seven other YES and YES Friends members Rowshan Ara Tuly, Rehana Parvin, Arif Howlader, Kazi Mizanur Rahman, Sheikh Mizanur Rahman, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Ayesha Siddiqi were injured.



Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said “Members of TIB’s General Assembly and Board of Trustees, members of 45 CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends around the country, Dhaka YES, members of Young Professionals Against Corruption (YPAC), employees of TIB are deeply saddened by the sudden departure of Ms. Shilpi Samadder. It’s a great loss for TIB family. TIB family lost a true fighter of anti-corruption social movement. May her soul rest in peace. Our deepest sympathies go to her family.”

Ms. Shilpi Samadder was the founding member of CCC, Bagerhat from 17 December 2005. She contributed a lot in the anti-corruption social movement at the CCC and national level. Ms. Shilpi Samadder worked as a Teacher in Bagerhat Adorsho Biddaloy for a long time. She was the President of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Bagerhat District. In addition, Shilpi Samadder was involved with different social and cultural organizations.

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