

World Environment Day observed  
**Call for strict enforcement of law to prevent illegal production, marketing  
and usage of plastic to save environment**

World Environment Day was observed all across Bangladesh on 05 June 2018 with demand of stronger implementation of law to resist illegal production, marketing and usage of plastic to prevent environment pollution. Marking the day, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) demanded stronger implementation of prevailing law to resist illegal production, marketing and usage of plastic to prevent environment pollution.

Besides, TIB inspired Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) as elsewhere across the globe observed the day with a call to refuse those that cannot be reused. Under the theme 'Beating plastic pollution' with the slogan: 'If you can't reuse it, refuse it', CCCs organized these events in joint initiative with government institutions and non-government organizations.



In a press statement released on June 4, 2018 ahead of the World Environment Day 2018, TIB placed an eight-point demand, which include - ensuring exemplary punishment for violating law, planning and implementing community based waste management system, taking initiatives in government and non-government sector to ensure recycling of plastic goods, inventing environment friendly alternatives of plastics, and practicing transparency in all climate fund-run activities.

Marking the World Environment Day 2018, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, Bangladesh is one of the most affected countries in the world due to climate change. Though Bangladesh is the first country in the world to impose ban on using polythene in 2002, the country is not getting any benefit due to its poor implementation, he said. Polythene are being used indiscriminately under the nose of the law

enforcers and each year around three lakh tonnes of plastic waste are being dumped into water bodies and open places, he said.

Dr. Zaman added that stronger implementation of law is needed and exemplary punishment has to be ensured to prevent such pollution. Dr. Zaman also urged Bangladesh government to strengthen its diplomatic efforts to ensure the promised fund for the affected countries including Bangladesh due to climate change according to Paris Deal as well as expedite the process through transparency.



CCCs organized various programmes including colorful rallies, discussion meetings, human chains, tree plantation programmes across the country in observance of the day. A concept note with the above-mentioned set of demands was circulated among relevant stakeholders to mark the day.

The discussants of different events emphasized on proper implementation of existing laws regarding the illegal production and sale of plastic, and ensuring exemplary punishment for the violation of the codes. They also stressed on coming forward along with government efforts to protect life and environment.

In the events, CCC emphasized on the transparency, accountability and people's participation to protect life and environment for the sake of sustainable development. Different level stakeholders including civil society members, teachers, students, professionals, developments workers and members of CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends participated in these events.

## Dialogue between Hospital Authority and Service Recipients Initiative to Ensure Quality Health Services

To ensure transparency, accountability and improvement of health services, CCC, Gaibandha organized a dialogue between 200 Bedded Gaibandha Sadar Hospital Authority and it's service recipients on 27 June 2018 at the hospital premises. In the dialogue, the service recipients discussed the problems they face while getting health services from the hospital.

In addition, they demanded taking initiatives to make the Information Desk functional, make service related information available, ensure timely presence of the doctors, improve hospitals services, ensure round-the-clock presence of doctors in the emergency unit, make services gender friendly, increase the quality of food

delivered for the patients, stop undue payments, give priority to women and children while providing health services, arrangement of separate toilets for the female in the hospital etc.

Presided over by the Superintendent of the hospital Dr. Amal Chandra Saha and moderated by Convener of CCC's health related Sub-Committee Mohammad Ali, Dr. Amal Chandra Saha answered different questions posed in the meeting. As there was shortage of manpower in the hospital, he explained, meeting the expectation of service recipients often became hard. But they are cordial in providing quality services. He pledged that the manpower problem would be solved soon. At present a female doctor is available for services in the hospital. Always there have been efforts to make the hospital gender friendly, he added.



At the starting of the event, Dr. Amal Chandra Saha shared in brief the present situation of the hospital. CCC members requested the hospital authority to take measures to update the medicine list regularly, increase the cleanliness of the hospital and ensure the visibility of different important indications in the hospital etc.

Among others, Residential Medical Officer Dr. Shahinul Islam Mandal, Consultants of the hospital, representatives of NGOs and Civil Society, Staff nurses, CCC, SWAJAN and YES members attended the dialogue.

### **TIB demands for specific strategic directions to ensure transparency and accountability in implementation of proposed budget**

TIB expressed deep concern over absence of promised initiatives in the proposed national budget with regards to bring reform in the crisis-stricken banking sector plagued with irregularities and corruption. TIB, however, expressed satisfaction on the proposed measures to increase the coverage of social safety net and the monthly allowance and the number of beneficiary of the programme as well as the highest ever allocation for development of women.

In a statement released on June 10, 2018, TIB said that the proposed budget lacked expected transparency and demanded specific strategic directions to ensure transparency and accountability in implementation of the proposed budget.



TIB also condemned the continuation of the provision for legalising undisclosed money and allocation to subsidise the loss-making state-owned enterprises with the taxpayers' money.

In the statement, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said that absence of initiative to reform the banking sector suffering from irregularities and corruption is a deviation of the government from its promise made with the depositors. He said that the proposal of reducing corporate income tax instead of bringing the loan defaulters, corrupt and unholy alliance under accountability was discriminatory and unconstitutional. Offering the scope for legalising untaxed money is also unethical, discriminatory and a state-sponsored corrupt practice, he said.

## Coordination Meeting with Journalists to Strengthen Social Movement against Corruption

To strengthen anti-corruption social movement, CCC, Sreemangal organized a Coordination Meeting with local Journalists on June 11, 2018 at CCC Office where the speakers sought cooperation of the news media to prevent corruption. CCC, Sreemangal organized the coordination meeting at CCC Office presided over by CCC President Journalist Sayed Nesar Ahmed. Area Manager of TIB Mr. Parvej Koiri was the moderator.

In the meeting CCC Vice-President Dwipendra Bhattacharjee and Member Joly Paul shared achievements and limitations of activities of CCC, Sreemangal at Baruna Faijur Rahman Govt. Primary School and Upazila Health Complex, 5 No Kalapur Union Parishad and Upazila Land Office.

In the open discussion, Journalist Ismail Mahmud stated that at present there are 138 Govt. Primary Schools at Sreemangal. Timely presence of teachers at schools is yet to be ensured. In addition, there is still presence of middlemen at the health complex. Mass people are being harassed when they seek services at the land office. He requested TIB to take active role in fighting corruption prevalent in these institutions. He assured that the Journalists of Sreemangal will always extend cooperation to TIB.



Journalist Rubel Ahmed told that people are forced to pay additional fees for land mutation. He urged TIB to work intensively on land sector. He requested Upazila Administration and other concerned authority to free Upazila Health Complex and Upazila Land Office from the clutch of the middlemen. Journalist Jasim Uddin requested TIB to work on railway sector as well. He said Sreemangal Railway Station is the hub of corruption. In this connection he urged Upazila Administration, CCC and other Civil Society Organizations to work on this issue.

CCC President emphasized on working together with journalists, CCC, mass people, and administration to solve the problems effectively. He said that TIB-CCC has some limitations in working at the local level as it basically works on awareness raising activities and makes a bridge between authority and service recipients. The journalist could focus on harassment of citizen, challenges and prospects of different service sectors. He urged the journalists to act as associate groups to establish good governance on health, education, local government and land sectors.

Among others Journalist Abu Jaher Babla, Dipenker Bhattacharjee Rana, S K Das Sumon, Lutfor Rahman, A S M Ariful Islam also spoke in the meeting. CCC member Aion Chowdhury, SWAJAN Coordinator Sayed Ahmed, Co-Coordinator Nitesh Sutradhar, YES and YES Friends members attended the meeting.

## Active Mothers Forum pledged to act for the improvement of quality education

Active Mothers Forum pledged to take action for the improvement of quality education in a meeting held on 28 June 2018. The Forum organized this meeting in collaboration with CCC, Rajbari with an objective to improve the quality of education in Kalampur Govt. Primary School. The meeting was presided over by Co-Coordinator of Active Mothers Forum Rashida Begum while Area Manager of TIB Md. Abu Taher was the moderator of the meeting.



The meeting took a number of decisions, which included AMF will visit school in every 15 days divided by 4 groups, the problems identified will be shared with the Head Teacher of the School and SMC to solve the problems immediately. The mothers planned to organize Court Yard and Consultation Meeting at school catchment area to raise awareness of the mothers. They also vowed to work on their own area to motivate mothers so that they could send their children to the school regularly and take care of them.

Among others CCC Vice-President Advocate Nazma Sultana, CCC Members Soumitra Sheel Chandan and Sokina Begum, Shilpi, Sheuli Begum, Marjina, Rokeya Begum and Shahina Begum spoke in the meeting. 18 members of Active Mothers Forum of Kalampur Govt. Primary School took part in the meeting.



**Editor: Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam**

**Sub-Editor:** Mohammad Zahidul Islam, Shakil Md. Faisal, Yasmin Ara  
Saddam Hossen

**Write us:** Transparency International Bangladesh | email: [advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org](mailto:advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org)

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