



Graft Liability of illicit earnings: Conscious and empowered Women can safeguard family

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Graft Liability of illicit earnings: Conscious and empowered Women can safeguard family

To awaken women regarding liability of illegal earnings and assets acquired especially by male relatives through corruption and accept deposit in their names either willfully or unknowingly, it is important to grow consciousness among women about the legal obligations and the definite punishment of such criminal acts. Such awareness raising programmes should highlight the potential risks of the crime, ways to avoid and the prevailing laws for safeguarding them and the family in this regard. Besides, more policy research and studies should be conducted to determine either the women are deliberately engaged with the liability or compelled to agree with the settlement. Relevant institutions should take initiatives of providing legal assistance to the female victim of such grafts. Moreover, Anti-Corruption Commission should be more sensitive and female-friendly in searches, investigation and prosecution of relevant corruption cases.



The observations were provided by the participants of an opinion-sharing meeting titled family liability of illicit income and property through graft: the role of women, risks and way forward held on 6 May 2018. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organized the event at its Dhaka Office to analyse the risks posed to family especially women as wives in addressing liability of illicit income and property acquired through graft with its legal, institutional and socio-economic impact, and identify ways forward.

Moderated by TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Mr. Iqbal Mahmood, Chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) attended the event as Guest of Honor.

At the beginning of the event, TIB Programme Manager Shammi Layla Islam presented a working paper in the meeting where ACC was urged to adopt more women friendly measures in examining and investigating corruption charges against women. According to the paper, to safeguard earnings and assets acquired through graft, the prevailing practice of keeping the incomes in women's title is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh to avoid the liability. In most cases, women get victimized for the wrongdoing unknowingly which push them towards a different type of social risk. Patriarchal socio-economic context, economic dependency and sympathetic attitude of women towards family, corruption-prone mentality stretch the hazard further. In preserving the illegal earnings and assets of husband, brother or any other male relative, women often forcibly become victim, means, beneficiary of the corruption and sometimes turn out as collaborator of fraud and thus become liable and criminal in eyes of law. The paper also recommended for providing legal support to women who will fall prey to corruption charges. According to the paper, the court punished 29 women in the 29 cases filed by the ACC from March 2007 to March 2018 for helping their

husbands in carrying on corrupt activities. Moreover, there are 118 cases filed from 2015 to 2017 where corrupt persons acquired illegal wealth in their wives' names. To counter and prevent the prevailing risk and crime, speakers stressed on active role of conscious, aware and vigilante women for meaningful change. Besides, women's increasing inclusion in decision-making process, change of traditional patriarchal concepts, exemplary punishment and effective prevention of corruption, and governments political will for these changes can gradually decrease the risk.

Mr. Iqbal Mahmood said a good number of women to their unawareness own illegal wealth which was basically obtained with illicit income by their male relatives like husband, father or brother. In around 90 per cent of the cases filed by the commission women have no knowledge that the assets they own actually came from illicit income of their male relatives, he said. "The ACC will talk with lawmakers about whether it is possible to punish a woman who did not know anything about her husband's involvement in corruption. It'll also consider whether it's possible to amend the law in this regard," he added. However, ACC has been thinking how to provide safeguard to these women with the existing legal framework and raising awareness among women about that type of situation so that they can stand against corruption, he said. Besides, women empowerment, increasing number of women inclusion in decision-making process, awareness raising programmes, further discussions with stakeholders will be needed to counter this prevailing menace, he added.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said "anti-corruption awareness can play meaningful role in these cases where ACC needs to play a more powerful and engaging role. In safeguarding family, there is no alternative of being aware and conscious. However, to measure the level of women's actual involvement with the liability of illicit incomes and property acquired through graft, further research and study should be conducted. Women empowerment and advancement will be of big help in preventing and reducing corruption in society."

The meeting was also addressed by TIB Adviser-Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair; ActionAid Country Director Ms. Farah Kabir, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) Executive Director Rokeya Kabir; Professor Asif Nazrul, University of Dhaka; Political Scientist Professor Dilara Choudhury; Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) Executive Director Ms. Shaheen Anam and others. Among others, senior



officials of ACC, representatives from relevant government and non-government organizations, journalists from print and electronic media also attended the event.

TIB to government: repeal section 57 and review proposed new draft act

TIB called on the government to review nine provisions in the proposed Digital Security Bill and the scrap controversial Section 57 of the Information and communication Technology Act 2006 to ensure freedom of expression and the press. In a statement released on 2 May marking World Press Freedom Day, the anti-graft organisation urged the parliamentary committee to move ahead with adequate consultation with relevant stakeholders including media activists, so that the media workers can enjoy their constitutional rights and people can express views as entitled in the constitution.

Mentioning the proposed Act as contradictory to the constitutional right of freedom to express and the ideology of the Liberation War, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, it will generate greater risk of insecurity not only for expressing opinion freely but also for practicing basic human rights of both the media workers and mass people if the act comes into effect without proper reviews. Section 57 has already created distress among the social media users and mainstream media activists ensuing in self-censorship, which is an obstacle of people's right to express, Dr. Zaman said.

Dr. Zaman also conveyed his disappointment at placing the draft Act before Parliament without making amendment to it despite widespread concerns among the stakeholders. It would be absolutely impossible to publish anything on misuse of power, including various types of irregularities and corruption, and such crimes would thrive under the protection of law, he said. If the bill becomes law, it will not only affect freedom of expression but also increase the risks of exposing citizens to insecurity by curbing their fundamental human rights, he added.

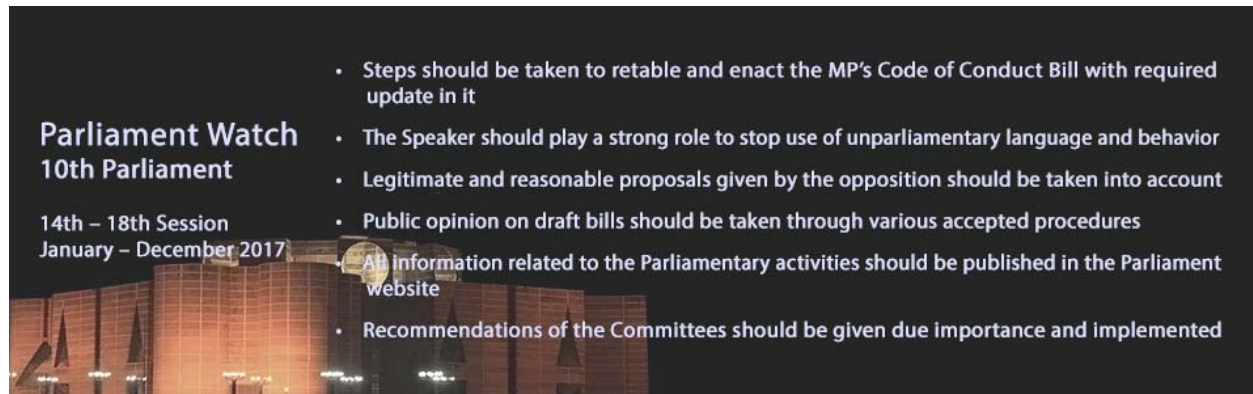
Dr. Zaman said, the proposed act is being formulated in the name of ensuring digital security. But in fact it will make the freedom of expression insecure as well as make the basic exercise of human rights for media personnel and mass people vulnerable, exposing various irregularities and anomalies to public would become impossible (due to these sections), and these would ultimately work in favour of misusing power and spreading corruption, Dr. Zaman noted.

Besides the government, the role of the people, civil society and mass media is immense for achieving the targets of the sustainable goals, Dr. Zaman concluded adding that "a fair environment has to be ensured so that people, including mass media, can express their opinions without fear and can assist the government".

Parliament Watch observed lack of expected role in promoting democratic accountability

Although attendance of MPs in the Parliament and average time spent for each session increased in the 14th to 18th session of the 10th parliament, there remain many challenges to make the Parliament more effective. Quorum crises still remains same as previous year and total amount of time spent in enactment of law remains still very low (9% of total time). Besides, the continuous trend of using unparliamentary language and violations of the Rules of Procedure by the MPs, failure of the main opposition party in playing effective role in making the government accountable, low participation of female members' in legislative

and other discussions with additional other findings presented a miserable picture containing lack of expected effectiveness of the parliament in promoting culture of democratic accountability through



preventing corruption and establishing good governance in the country. These observations were stated in the current issue of TIB's analytical research report Parliament Watch, fourth of its kind on the 10th Parliament and the 14th of the Parliament Watch (PW) series.

The report suggests to take necessary steps to retable and enact the MP's Code of Conduct Bill with required update and stresses on stronger role of the Speaker to stop the trending use of unparliamentary language and behavior. Among other important recommendations, the report includes: call for consideration of legitimate and reasonable proposals raised by the opposition; collect public opinion on draft bills through various accepted procedures; publishing of all information related to the Parliamentary activities in the Parliament website; provide due importance to recommendations of the Committees and implement accordingly.

To reveal the report findings and recommendations, a Press Conference was organized by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at Dhaka office on 17 May 2018. TIB Chairperson Advocate Sultana Kamal, Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Adviser Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair,



Director-Research & Policy Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan were present at the press conference. TIB Deputy Programme Managers Nihar Ranjan Roy and Morsheda Aktar with Assistant Program Manager Amit Sarker of Research & Policy division presented the summary of the report accompanied by Program Manager Juliet Rossete.

According to the report, average quorum crisis of working time of the session on each working day was found comparatively same to previous year (13% quorum crisis of total time, the monetary value is estimated around BDT 37 crores). Total amount of time spent in enactment of law remains as low as previous year (9%), the practice of not considering people's participation and opinion of opposition members exists. Despite increased presence of the female members than male members, participation in legislative and other discussions found relatively low. Activities of committees such as conflict of interest of some standing committee members and irregular meeting of the standing committees result violation of rules, and lack of not paying due importance by ministries/divisions in some cases towards recommendations proposed by the standing committees bar expected level of effectivity of the committees. The report also indicates that the main opposition party continue to fail in establishing accountability of the government.

Expressing concern on continuing trend of quorum crisis and increasing practice of using unparliamentary language at the parliament, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "Both the government and the opposition are responsible for the failure of the parliament in promoting democratic accountability and preventing corruption for improving governance in the country. The party which claims to be the opposition party of the house itself lies in crisis regarding self-identity." Pointing the importance of parliamentary committees in playing on people's side to make the parliament accountable Dr. Zaman said, "deficiencies in some part of the committee's effectiveness were observed mostly due to conflict of interest of the leading committee members with the relevant featured issues which bar the committees in addressing primary duties."



Citing growing trend of not presenting international agreements through the honorable President in the parliament, Advocate Sultana Kamal said "Before finalizing any agreement or treaties with other countries, it is sensible to bring it in the parliament and go ahead after open discussions and debates in the parliament for the betterment of the people and the country."

In view of parliament's paramount importance in promoting culture of democratic accountability for preventing corruption and establishing good governance in the country, TIB has been conducting PW study since 2001 from the beginning of the 8th Parliament. The overall objective of this research was to analyze the roles and proceedings of 14th to 18th sessions of the 10th Parliament in ensuring democracy and good governance and offer recommendations for making the parliament effective. The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods for collecting data on the parliament from both primary and secondary sources. The study also explored parliamentary openness on the basis of some international and practices that includes SDG targets regarding public access to information and IPU and PMO pleas on information dissemination by parliaments and other good practices.

International debate on Climate Finance and Governance: Engaging the Youth for Transparency, Accountability and Integrity

Focusing on effective climate finance and good governance of climate funds, young debaters stressed on democratizing the governance and administration of climate finance. Core governance principals included transparency, accountability and integrity at various levels ranging from policies and practices with regard to disbursement of committed funds, challenges in the process of disbursement and various stages of use of disbursed funds including project implementation. Following the Paris Agreement on climate change as well as national legal regime citizens including vulnerable community have a right and an obligation to be informed about and involved in how public money is utilized, the young debaters argued that for effective, efficient and equitable concrete mitigation and adaptation, gender-equitable citizen's participation in decision-making should also be ensured in mobilization of public climate funding, as the International Debate on Climate Finance and Governance - Engaging the Youth for Transparency, Accountability and Integrity concluded in 13 May 2018 at the Studio of Channel I at Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Organised under the climate finance governance programme of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), young debaters from Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, Cambodia and Bangladesh, the most climate vulnerable countries participated in the two-day debate competition. Eight teams participated from above countries and two teams from Bangladesh which are Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of University of Dhaka and North South University, teams from Sri Lanka and Cambodia qualified for final debate. Finally, North South University Team became the Champion and IBA Team as runner-up. The competition was conducted in the British parliamentary style where Debater Sadman Karim from North South University was awarded as the Best Debater of the competition.

In his speech of the Chief Guest, Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Hon'ble Minister for Ministry of Environment and Forest said, "industrially developed and rich countries who are liable for climate change are trying to provide compensation as loan instead of grants in countering climate change impact." He added, "in climate finance and project implementation, accountability and integrity are also equally essential along with transparency. Considering limited resources, it is also crucial to develop climate adaptation projects in a trust-based manner including transparency, consideration of ground-realities, sufficient knowledge on relevant best practices and lessons, and importance of the subjects."

TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “TIB believes that youth involvement in climate finance and adaptation activities will enhance overall excellence of the process. This competition is organized to understand youth observation and approach on these issues and inspire youth participation in the process. TIB continues its effort to establish democratic principles in the sector. Countries like Bangladesh, adversely hit with climate change implications has considerable right to get the required compensation for adaptation, mitigation, and cover the devastated losses and damages. We strongly demand that sufficient compensation will be provided by the liable countries for climate change to the climate-hit countries.”



In the final round, eminent media personality and former debater Dr. Abdun Nur Tushar attended as the Speaker. Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Honorable Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change was present as the Chief Guest at the event, accompanied by TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman and Adviser-Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair.

The final round was later telecasted on 15 May 2018 at the Channel and the recorded event is available at TIB website and social media channels.

TIB airs concern on reported ‘Gunfight’ in anti-narcotic drive, seeks judicial probe

Expressing concern over the deaths of a large number of alleged ‘drug traders’ in the ongoing anti-narcotic drive, TIB termed the deaths ‘unconstitutional’ and sought judicial inquiry into the killings in the drive questioning the explanation of law enforcement agencies in this regard. The graft watchdog expressed worry on the use of excessive force by law enforcers fearing the trend would deprive the citizens of their constitutional rights to security and further escalate the risk of institutionalizing the culture of breaking laws.

Saying that the constitution has given every citizen the right to get justice in a statement released on 31 May 2018 TIB Executive Director, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman questioned the legal acceptability of the government's interpretation of the drive. “Also, the way listed criminals are being killed in gunfights before being convicted through proper trials is completely unconstitutional and though these incidents are being explained as countermeasures for self-defense, there are no legal processes to ascertain their authenticity.” he said.

Dr. Zaman said, “It seems that mostly low-profile field-level drug peddlers and druggies are becoming victims of gunfights. Many of those could have been valuable informants to address the drug menace. There

is no proven method of controlling drugs or preventing crimes through gunfights in the entire world. Rather, if the enlisted people are sent to trial following prevailing law and the godfathers of the supply chain can be identified and brought under justice, the objectives of the drive can be achieved.”

Pointing to the burgeoning tendency of violation of laws by the law-enforcement agencies under government’s patronage, Dr. Zaman said it will affect the overall human rights situation of the country. The way violations of the law are being informally validated by law enforcement agencies is downright alarming for the country's justice, governance, and democracy, he concluded.

TIB seeks government’s response on ICC move regarding Rohingya atrocities

TIB urged the Government to submit its observations with available information and documents concerning crimes against humanity against the Rohingya people by the government and military of Myanmar in response to the call of International Criminal Court (ICC). Bangladesh's cooperation will increase the prospect of justice for the human rights violations against Rohingya people by Myanmar military as well as will help to create international pressure on Myanmar and the countries active on international platforms for protecting Myanmar interests, TIB observed in a statement carried on 29 May 2018.

A pre-trial chamber of the ICC recently sought documents and opinions from Bangladesh about the court's jurisdiction over the expulsion of Rohingya people from Rakhine in Myanmar. Referring to media reports, TIB mentioned that the government of Bangladesh is still in confusion regarding response to the ICC letter.

Terming the ICC’s initiative to investigate and prosecute the crimes of deporting and killing of Rohingya’s a ray of hope, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman hoped Bangladesh will gear up the process through its clear stand. He said, “It would be a significant action for Bangladesh to take as a people and a nation that had suffered horrific war crimes during its liberation war of 1971, which went unaddressed for too long. Undoubtedly Bangladesh’s response would strengthen ICC’s move.”

Dr. Zaman said the Myanmar regime and a section of the international community ‘are responsible’ for imposing the burden of about one million Rohingyas on Bangladesh. ‘As a member country of ICC, Bangladesh can play important role in bringing the perpetrators of mass atrocities to account. As a result, a historic opportunity will be created for accountability of the international community, including the United Nations, which has been playing a role of silent spectator in the preparation period of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar’s armed forces.”

TIB calls for more transparency in the 2018-19 Budget proposal

TIB sought more transparency in the upcoming budget proposal. In a statement carried on 15 May 2018 the anti-graft watchdog urged for suspension of black money legalization opportunity, keeping prospect of interpretation and discussion on allocation against defense forces in the budget speech, allocation of minimum BDT 300 crore for the Bangladesh climate change fund (BCCTF). It further demanded that no bailout fund and scopes for rescheduling defaulted loans by willful defaulters should be kept in the upcoming budget for the scam-hit state-owned banks. It further urged to keep sufficient allocation for Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

In a statement ahead of the national budget, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzman noted that allocating controversial bailout fund in the budget for 2018-19 would be ‘state incentives’ to

loan defaulters and masterminds of scams. He criticized legalizing black money as unconstitutional and immoral as well as discriminatory and corruption-prone under state patronage.

Dr. Zaman said, “The will, mentioned in the proposed draft national defense policy to take the armed forces closer to the people can be accomplished if the people get access to details of defense budget and expenditure to ensure transparency and accountability thus gain more public support.” Expressing concern on peoples declining trust upon banking system, Dr. Zaman said, “the damage could surround the entire economic system. Any option of bailout fund and rescheduling defaulted loans will be regarded as incentives to the defaulters and corrupts.”

TIB for annulment of Power Plant initiative at Tengragiri

TIB expressed deep concern over the setting up a 307MW coal-fired power plant, less than a kilometer off the Tengragiri reserve forest in Borguna without any clearance from Department of Environment (DoE). It urged the authorities concerned to scrap the initiative considering the threat to environment, ecology and life in the surrounding areas.

Referring to media reports that a local firm ISOTECH and two other foreign organizations are setting up a coal based 307 megawatt power plant within a kilometer of Tengragiri forest without DoE clearance, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman in a statement issued on 7 May 2018 said, “the coal plant initiative was taken in violation of the section 7 (4) of Environment Conservation Act, 1997 and such a move with the participation of government organization is a matter of grave concern for the country.” It is obligatory to obtain the environmental clearance certificate from the DoE before setting up of such industrial units, Dr. Zaman said “It’s not fair to set up such plants without receiving the DoE clearance.” PDB has already signed a 25-year long PPA to buy power from this plant, he added.

TIB noticed that the process of the project implementation lacked transparency, accountability and coordination.

In October 2010, Tengragiri was declared a sanctuary of wild animals by the Environment and Forest Ministry. The forest has around 40 animal species and different kinds of plants. The forest was once a part of the Sundarbans and declared a reserve forest in 1960. The forest has been playing a vital role in protecting coastal people in large area from cyclones and tidal surges. Despite severe criticism at home and abroad, a 50/50 joint venture of the power board and India’s National Thermal Power Corporation is also carrying out implementation of a 1,320MW coal-fired power plant at Rampal in Bagerhat, some 14 kilometers off the Sundarbans.

Tengragiri, known as the second Sundarbans of the country, was declared as a sanctuary of wild animals by the Environment and Forest Ministry in October, 2010. The forest was once a part of the Sundarbans and was declared as a reserved forest area in 1960. The forest has around 40 animal species and different kinds of plants.

Observing the initiative unsafe for nature and lives, Dr. Zaman called on the government to refrain from setting up the plants by violating the Constitution and destroying ecology of the area.

Speakers at Open Budget session

Participatory Budget to Promote Transparency at Union Parishad



To prepare the UP budget in participatory process, by the assistance of CCC, Natore, 02 no Tebaria Union Parishad of Natore Sadar Upazilla organized an open budget session for the fiscal year 2018-19 at the union parishad yard on 15 May 2018. Deputy Secretary and Deputy Director – Local Government of Natore district Mr. Golam Rabbi was present as chief guest in the Open Budget session. The program was presided over by Omar Ali Prodhan,

the chairman of the UP and moderated by Rafiqul Islam Nantu, member of the CCC, Natore. Mr. Ranen Roy, member of CCC, Natore, delivered welcome speech in the meeting.

Chief Guest Mr. Golam Rabbi said that union parishad should display it's project's information in open place so that citizens can get the information and be updated. It's an effective mechanism to ensure good governance at it's (UP) operation through strengthening the capacity and participation of citizens. Citizens should be aware and updated about their rights and entitlements. He suggested concerned citizens to make accountable the union parishad. The Deputy Director-LG thanked CCC & TIB for providing necessary assistance to organize such event.

Mr. Omar Ali Prodhan, chairman of the Tebaria Union Parishad, presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 mentioning an amount of BDT 03 crore 01 lac 70 thousand 882. After his presentation, the guests and participants along with local citizens discussed the proposed budget and raised various demands including special allocation for women, differently able and vulnerable people. Beside these, the participants suggested to make more specific the allocation regarding health and family planning sector.

Union Parishad chairman assured in the meeting to take initiatives for fulfilling demands within its capacity with priority on incomplete work to be finished. Among others, elected members of different wards, members of CCC, Swajan, YES and YES Friends were also present in the programme.

Combined efforts will resist corruption

Speakers at a meeting stressed on political commitment for ensuring transparency and accountability to strengthen democracy in Bangladesh. Held in Jashore in participation with the officials of 37 Government institutions, multi-level stakeholders and members of CCC, SWAJON and YES, District Administration and CCC, Jashore organized the meeting on 27 May, 2018 titled 'Sustainable development and Institutional Integrity: Implementing initiatives, Challenges and Opportunities.' The meeting was organized at Jashore

Circuit House Auditorium with a view to strengthen good governance and amplify anti-corruption social movement engaging local level administration, multi-level stakeholders and cross section people of the society.

As the key speaker, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB said that corruption is main restraint for development in our country. It should be restrained by our own initiatives based on our patriotism, ethics and values. He also said that social movement against corruption contributes a lot to strengthen democracy and to achieve the goal of the Independence Movement. Dr. Zaman argued to fight against corruption jointly with local administration, civil society members, service holders, journalists and young people.



Mr. Abdul Awal, Deputy Commissioner of Jashore district presided over the programme. Mentioning two types of development, he said that human norms and values will be developed along with infrastructural development. Sustainable development will be ensured through this way. Administration will take initiatives to strengthen human norms and values. In open discussion, speakers said that political commitment is needed to ensure good governance. In addition to this, combined efforts of administration and citizens to implement the political decisions are also important. Dr. Zaman answered various questions of the participants regarding different issues including social movement against corruption and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the meeting.

Hospital authority assures to resolve the service related problems

Superintendent of Kurigram General Hospital Dr. ATM Anowarul Haque Pramanik asked service seekers to inform authority about illegally claimed money by the officials and service staffs, if any. The authority will take measures and ensure punishment in such type of case, he added. He claimed that the standard of services of General Hospital has been increased by taking some initiatives. He was delivering speech as chief guest in an opinion sharing meeting with service recipients and hospital authority organized by CCC, Kurigram.

Civil Surgeon of Kurigram district Dr. S M Aminul Islam, Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr. Rezina Begum and Sadar Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer Dr. Nazrul Islam and General Secretary of Kurigram Zilla Shilpakola Academy Mr. Rasheduzzaman Babu were present in the meeting as special guest.

CCC, Kurigram organized the meeting on 15 May 2018 with an aim to improve the quality of services of the hospital. CCC President ATM Enamul Haque Chowdhury presided over the meeting where Convener of CCC's Sub-Committee on Health issues Mr. Sanaul Haque Nantu delivered the welcome speech.



In open discussion session, service recipients expressed their experiences which included irregularities in due time arrival of few doctors, failure in delivering prescribed medicine, prescribing medicine of private pharmaceuticals, advising the patients to get admitted in private clinics, attending the medical sales representatives ignoring the long queue of patients etc. The authority answered and explained their positions against

the raised issues. They also assured to take necessary steps in overcoming the shortcomings of the hospital services. Among others, consultant of different departments, officers, technicians, pharmacists, CCC, Swajan and YES members attended the meeting.

Opinion sharing meeting with Education authorities Commitment for ensuring delivery of responsibilities

To ensure quality education at primary level, Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Jhalakathi organized an opinion sharing meeting with Primary Education Authority of Jhalakathi district on 22 May 2018. The meeting was held at the office of District Primary Education Officer at 11 am.



Prof. Lal Miah, president of CCC Jhalakathi presided over the programme in where Jhalakathi District Primary Education Officer Mohammad Chayeduzzaman was present as chief guest. CCC Vice President Hemayet Uddin Himu delivered welcome speech focusing the CCC's activities on education sector including purpose of the meeting. District education authority assured to take necessary measures to solve the problems discussed

in the meeting, which are possible at local level initiatives. The authorities made commitment for ensuring delivers of responsibilities of different officers.

Among others, Assistant District Primary Education Officer Md. Aminul Islam and Meer Muhammad Zahidul Kabir Tuhin, Upazilla Education Officer Salha Khatun, Assistant Upazilla Education Officer Samirendu Biswas, Md. Maznu Mollah and Kazi Zakir Hossain delivered their speech to way out for ensuring quality education.

YES News

YES Group-East West University runs anti-corruption campaign at Dhaka Imperial College



Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Group of East West University (EWU) conducted an anti-corruption campaign in the theme 'role of youth in anti-corruption social movement in Bangladesh' at Dhaka Imperial College at Aftab Nagar in the capital on May 10, 2018 with a view to making the young students aware against corruption through various events including anti-corruption discussion meeting, game show, impromptu speech competition, TVCs screening and anti-corruption oath taking.

The day-long campaign kicked off with a Discussion meeting titled 'role of youth in anti-corruption social movement in Bangladesh'. Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman graced the programme as the chief discussant. Almost 450 young students and teachers were mesmerized by the speech delivered by Dr. Zaman on the current situation of corruption in Bangladesh and the role of the youth to fight the menace towards a country of good governance and justice. He said it is humiliating for all of us that we are now fighting against corruption even 46 years after the independence of our country. Our martyred freedom fighters sacrifice their lives for a Bangladesh which is free from corruption, injustice and deprivation. He said if our martyred freedom fighters saw the current situation of corruption in Bangladesh they would be saddened. It is a matter of sorrow that the generation which is supposed to be gifted with a corruption free society by us is now being aware against corruption, he added. Terming the youth as the power house of the anti-corruption social movement in Bangladesh and the main agent of any positive changes, Dr. Zaman called on the students to spearhead the anti-corruption social movement in the spirit of the Liberation War.

After discussion, Dr. Zaman administered anti-corruption oath taking session in which 450 students and teachers took the oath to be free from corruption and love the mother land. The discussion meeting began with the welcome speech by Engr. Kamrul Hassan, adviser of YES Group-EWU and assistant professor of the



department of Business Administration of East West University. Mr. Hassan thanked the Dhaka Imperial College authority for their all-out supports to arrange the programme. He also thanked all the YES Members for their efforts. He expressed gratitude to TIB for its support in the programme. The discussion meeting ended with the closing

speech by Mr. Arif Ahmed, principal of Dhaka Imperial College. Mr. Ahmed thanked both TIB and YES Group-EWU for arranging the programme. This kind of programme will help communicate anti-corruption messages to the young generation of the country very effectively, he observed. He advised the students to become honest, patriotic and worthy citizens of the country.

An impromptu speech competition was held after the discussion meeting on the same theme in which 15 students of the college participated. The champion, first runner-up and second runner-up of the competition were awarded with crests handed away by Mr. Arif Ahmed and Engr. Kamrul Hassan.



The half-day long anti-corruption campaign began with the anti-corruption game show at 10:00am which was inaugurated by Mr. Arif Ahmed and ended with his closing speech at 1:30pm after the award giving ceremony.

Orientation on Right to Information Act held at East West University

YES Group of East West University organized an orientation programme on Right to Information (RTI) Act 2009 on May 27, 2018 at East West University, Aftab Nagar, Dhaka. The YES Members and YES Friends of the YES Group participated in the programme. Engr. Kamrul Hassan, adviser of YES Group-EWU inaugurated the programme in the afternoon. Md. Masum Billah, deputy programme manager of TIB's outreach and communication division facilitated the programme with a power point presentation. After a brief discussion on the background of the enactment of the RTI Act, Md. Masum Billah stressed the importance and effectiveness of the act in fighting corruption. He discussed some important and relevant sections of the act relating to the people's right to information and the authorities' legal responsibility to meet the applicants' demand for information. He discussed the whole process of filing application asking for

information from any institutions. Mr. Billah also discussed the way to appeal to the concerned authority



in case of being denied for information by the designated officer. All the participants were provided with RTI forms and they were practically instructed on how to fill up the forms at the programme. Md. Masum Billah answered different questions regarding the act raised from the participants at the end of the orientation. After the orientation, Engr. Kamrul Hassan delivered a

speech on the importance of the RTI Act in fighting corruption. He said the RTI Act is a powerful tool for the people to stand against corruption. If any organization denies us of our demand of information this act will advocate for us and ensure our right to information, he added. He called on the YES Members to utilize the act by filing application for information under the act in necessary cases. The YES Members and Friends took iftar together after the programme.

YES Group of Uttara University organizes anti-corruption cartoon and photo exhibition

YES Group of Uttara University (UU) organized an anti-corruption cartoon and photo exhibition at the department of English of Uttara University at sector-4 of Uttara in Dhaka on May 31, 2018. Professor Haspia Bashirullah, Dean of the department of English of Uttara University inaugurated the exhibition at 12:00pm at the auditorium of English department. Dulali Rani Saha, Adviser of YES Group-UU, YES Members and Friends and some students and teachers of the university were present during the inauguration. Professor Haspia Bashirullah said the young generation is the pillar of any positive changes. Besides becoming themselves aware against corruption YES Members are making other students aware against the menace.



These kinds of awareness programmes will enhance the capacity of the students to fight corruption in their profession life, she added. She highly commended the anti-corruption activities conducted by YES Group-UU and assured of all kinds of supports in future. Ishrat Jahan, Senior Lecturer of the Department of English said corruption can be prevented through social awareness. Cartoons and photos are an effective tool to

make the people aware against corruption. She appreciated the programme and thanked YES Group-UU for arranging the exhibition. YES Adviser Dulali Rani Saha thanked the Uttara University authority, especially the department of English, for providing supports to arrange the programme. The exhibition will create awareness against corruption among the young students, she hoped. The exhibition was open till 4:00pm for the visitors. Almost 250 students and teachers of Uttara University participated in the exhibition.

Orientation on Leadership, Communication and Presentation

To enhance communication and presentation skill of the YES members and friends as well as their including leadership capacity, YES group of the Stamford University Bangladesh and Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka organized two different Orientations on Leadership, Communication and Presentation.



On 7 May, 70 YES members and friends of YES Group- Stamford University Bangladesh were oriented with basic knowledge on the issues at Meghomala conference room of TIB. In the first session of this orientation Mr. Shakil Md Faisal, Programme Manager of TIB conducted an inclusive session on leadership and communication. After this, Ms. Debra Efroymsen, International Adviser of the Institute of Wellbeing has conducted a session on Leadership and Presentation. At the time Professor Dr. Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder, Chairman, Department of Environmental Science, Stamford University Bangladesh and Zafar Sadiq, Coordinator of Stamford YES were attended the sessions.



On the 14th of May, YES Group- Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka has organized the same orientation at the Department of Development Studies, DU where 60 YES members, friends and other guest participants participated. In this two-stage orientation Mr. Shakil Md Faisal, Programme Manager of TIB, conducted the first session on Leadership and Communication. In the second session, prominent

writer, filmmaker and television anchor Mr. Sadat Hossain conducted an interactive session on Leadership and Presentation. Ms. Nazia Kabir, Adviser of YES group and Lecturer of the Department of Development Studies accompanied the YES members and friends at different sessions. At the end, certificates were handed to the participants.

Orientation of New YES friends

To inform and reveal TIB's mission, vision, activities and YES guideline as well as YES movement of TIB, the newly recruited YES friends were welcomed by YES group of the Stamford University Bangladesh and Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka in two different Orientation events. On May 7, 40 newly recruited YES friends of the YES Group- Stamford University Bangladesh gathered at Meghomala conference room of TIB with the passion of anti-corruption movement. Mr. Zahidul Islam, Senior Programme Manager and Ms. Atia Afreen, Programme Manager of TIB detailed new YES volunteers about history, vision, mission and activities of TIB as well as they also discuss about the rules and regulations of YES movement.

YES Group- Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka organized a similar orientation event on 14 of May at the Department of Development Studies, DU where newly recruited 20 YES friends attended Ms. Atia Afreen, Programme Manager of TIB discussed new TIB's history, vision, mission and activities as well as the rules & regulations of YES movement at the programme.

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