

National News

International Anti-Corruption Day 2019

TIB Calls to Ensure Conducive Environment for Implementation of the Promised 'Zero Tolerance' Against Corruption

Marking the International Anti-corruption Day (IACD 2019), TI Bangladesh called upon the government to ensure a conducive environment for prevention of corruption in achieving inclusive sustainable goal and implementation of the promised 'zero tolerance' against corruption. At the same time, the prime minister's declaration of "no one will be exempted" should be implemented in order to secure the real benefits of the ongoing anti-corruption campaign, added the anti-graft watchdog.

The demands were made in weeklong diverse set of events to mark the IACD 2019 at both the national and local level with the theme 'Inclusive Sustainable Development: Together Against Corruption'. TIB-inspired YES and YES friend's members under Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) in 45 locations of the country at the local level observed the day through various programmes which included rallies, discussion meetings, human chains with the local administration, information fairs, awareness campaigns and discussion meetings demanding enabling environment for the anti-corruption fighters to strengthen the movement.



Media Dialogue and Investigative Journalism Award

At the national level, the day started with a media dialogue on Challenges to Investigative Journalism in the perspective of media capture in Bangladesh, in participation with representatives and journalists from Print, Electronic and Online Media, academicians, NGO officials and experts. Organised by TIB at its central office in the capital, TIB Director (Outreach & Communication) Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam presented the keynote paper which highlighted the current challenges to investigative journalism in the context of ongoing encroachment of media in Bangladesh. Eminent journalists Professor Afsan Chowdhury and Julfikar Ali Manik discussed as the Panelists at the programme. Ombudsperson of TIB and eminent writer Professor Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam presided over the programme while TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman moderated the dialogue.

Recognizing the growing challenges of investigative journalism, the discussants stressed on tackling the impediments through ensuring complete professionalism and embracing digital platforms alongside others. At the same time, they also called upon the government to amend draconian provisions of 'Digital Security Act 2018' and other unfavorable policies that hinder investigative journalism and take necessary steps to create conducive environment for the journalists.



Acknowledging the role of journalists in identifying corruption, Professor Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam said, "All journalists are investigative journalists. But due to adverse circumstances, investigative journalism had to be specialized." Dr. Manzoorul Islam urged journalists to not to take their jobs as a mere profession but approach it with passion. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "investigative journalism has become riskier these days in Bangladesh. However, the journalists need to survive the risks without compromising the quality and ethics of journalism even under pressure." To tackle the challenges, Dr. Zaman emphasized on ensuring professional excellence through transparency, accountability and integrity.

At the end of the dialogue, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman announced the winners of Investigative Journalism Award 2019 where the entries were evaluated in the light of journalist's effort and success in exposing administrative irregularities and mismanagement and institutional and systematic corruption. The winners of the awards can be found [here](#). Awards were given under four categories – Print Media (Local), Print Media (National), Electronic Media (Report), and Electronic Media (Documentary). Each award winning journalist and team was awarded with a cheque worth BDT 1 lac, a crest and a certificate of honor in each category.

Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition and Exhibition

Included among the several awaiting announcements that made the IACD 2019 observance particularly extraordinary were the announcements of the winners of 14th Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition 2019. In the afternoon, prizes were distributed amongst the winner cartoonists. The winners of the awards can be found [here](#).



Best 6 cartoonists were awarded with prize money, crests and certificates while 38 Cartoonists were selected as 'Special Mentions' who will be awarded with certificates. The competition attracted a total of 478 entries from 254 youth cartoonists in two groups: Group-A (Age 13-18 years) and Group B (19-25 years) from around the country.

At the award giving ceremony, Ms. Refika Hayta, Deputy Head of Mission, Danish Embassy; Ms. Suzanne Mueller, Deputy

Head of Mission, Switzerland Embassy; Mohamed Yusuf, Governance Adviser, DFID were present as Special Guests. Dr. Fakrul Alam, Member, Board of Trustees, TIB presided over the programme while Dr. Iftekharuzzaman moderated the ceremony. Among others, prominent cartoonist and Editor of UNMAD magazine, and one of the judges of the competition also spoke at the program. With the 58 winning cartoons of the Competition, the distinguished guests at the award-giving ceremony inaugurated an Anti-Corruption Cartoon Exhibition 2019 at the Zainul Gallery-1, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. The exhibition continued up to 15 December from 12.00 PM-7.00 PM (Friday 10 AM-7 PM).



Human Chain to mark IACD

Earlier, on 8 December, TIB inspired youth volunteers (YES, YES friends) along with TIB staff, representatives of other anti-corruption groups, voluntary organizations formed human chains marking IACD across all the 45 CCC areas including the capital simultaneously. At the human chain, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman labelled this IACD as different pointing towards the honorable prime Minister's declaration of 'zero tolerance' against corruption, no exemption of any corrupt, conducting anti-corruption drive from the ruling party itself. Terming the declaration as the manifestation of political will against corruption, Dr. Zaman called upon the relevant government institutions including Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to utilize the declaration in curbing corruption.



IACD 2019 Observance at Local Level

TIB-inspired Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) with the support of Swajan, YES & YES Friends members observed IACD 2019 in 45 locations of the country with the same theme. To mark the day CCCs organized various programs including rallies, discussion meetings, human chains, information fairs, awareness raising campaigns, cultural programs, anti-corruption signature campaign etc. with the presence of government officials, public representatives, NGO and civil society representatives, Journalists, students & teachers. Most of the CCCs observed IACD jointly with the District/Upazila Administration, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), DUPROK and other like-minded organizations.

In the events, CCCs called upon the government to ensure a favourable environment to achieve the sustainable development goals. Discussants of the events opined that combined efforts of government, political representatives, civil society, media and mass people is essential for achieving sustainable development goals.

Praising the honorable prime Minister's declaration of 'zero tolerance' against corruption, discussants of the events demanded for specific commitment and roadmap from the political parties to overcome the shortcomings in governance, proper implementation of national integrity strategy, amendment of the Digital Security Act and Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, ensuring exemplary punishment of the corrupt and defaulters related to scams in both public and private banks, strengthening implementation of Right to Information Act etc.



TI Bangladesh and Information Commission Ink MoU for Effective Implementation of RTI Act

TI Bangladesh and the Information Commission (IC) renewed the ongoing partnership to enhance awareness and boost stakeholders' capacity to ensure effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009. The two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11 December 2019 for a period of three years at the Information Commission office, Agargaon, Dhaka. Mr. Martuza Ahmed, Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TI Bangladesh signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organizations.



It is noteworthy to mention that under the previous MoU, both the organizations accomplished remarkable success in engaging young people across the country to create mass awareness on the Right to Information. The areas of mutual cooperation under the MoU include youth engagement programmes for promotion of the effective use of the RTI Act, orientation of RTI Act for marginalized communities, media communication and campaign through mass media, capacity building training for

information officers and observance of the International Right to Know Day.

At the signing ceremony, Mr. Martuza Ahmed said, "The government is working tirelessly to curb corruption where TI Bangladesh has been an important stakeholder. TIB has also made significant contribution in the formulation and the introduction of the Right to information Act 2009. The joint activities of the IC and TIB will play a vital role in ensuring free flow of information, and people's right to information. To ensure effective implementation of RTI act, IC shall be working with TIB persistently. Even if the implementation demands more, IC won't be hesitating to go beyond the boundaries of MoU." Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already identified the enactment of the Right to Information Act as a milestone. We have always been in touch with IC since the beginning. Now along with IC, we embark to ensure effective implementation and application of the Act through developing a time-bound action plan and joint programmes."

Under the MoU, TIB and Information Commission will jointly organize capacity building training programmes for the designated officers of both the public and private institutions. Trainings for the students of different educational institutions to promote peoples' capacity to submit application for information will be jointly organized. Besides, TIB and Information Commission will organize RTI related events engaging Rover Scouts, Girls Guide, National Cadet Corps and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Groups of TIB including other youth platforms. RTI related animated videos and TVCs will also be produced. The two organizations will jointly celebrate the International Right to Know (RTK) Day by organizing awareness rally, seminar, discussion and information fair.



TIB Eyes Risk of Institutionalisation of Corruption in Rohingya Assistance

The current management framework of Rohingya humanitarian assistance program is severely plagued with various challenges, including lack of coordination among implementing agencies, inter-communication, financial inconsistencies, monitoring, and prolonged stay of Rohingyas. Also, the lacks of adequate human resources and information disclosure with absence of a central database, caused lack of transparency and have been disrupting the management and supervision activities of the refugee camps widely. In addition, emergence of beneficiary groups at different levels of the humanitarian program poses grave risks of institutionalization of corruption and irregularities.

A Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) study titled “Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (Rohingya) in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way out” revealed the worrisome observations. The



study, conducted between July and October 2019, to identify the governance challenges in the management of Rohingya nationals, was unveiled at a press conference organized by TIB at its central office on 5 December.

At the press conference, TIB expressed grave concern on decreasing sectoral humanitarian assistance and absence of specific initiatives to proceed with the repatriation effort by the international community that would eventually increase the financial risk and pressure on the economy of Bangladesh. Such delay in repatriation

has been causing heavy toll on the local population posing various risks with regards to security, unemployment, high price of commodities etc. "It's evident from the study that economic, social and environmental risks (for the local population) have increased," said TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman at the press conference.

The study identified implementation of series of initiatives by the concerned authorities as per recommendations of TIB rapid assessment on the management of the Rohingya exodus in 2017. However, the study found that coordination gap and replication of activities between government and non-government stakeholders engaged in Rohingya management had existed which resulted in allegations of delay in the process of getting project approval, work permission, project completion certificate, and assessment of relief.

In addition, the government has no controlling and accountability structure for the UN agencies and their implementing partners. Dr. Zaman recommended a stronger coordination among the government bodies, UN agencies, and NGOs to check the financial anomalies and duplication of work.

The study found several allegations against some officials in the offices of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban deputy commissioners of delay in project approval for at least 7 to 15 days and in some cases for more than a month. Also, in some case, NGOs have to make unauthorised payments of BDT 20,000 to 50,000 and BDT 50,000 to 70,000 respectively to some officials in the upazila and district administration offices to collect the completion certificate for each project, found the study. Members of some committees formed by the local DCs also extort BDT 2,500 to 3,000 from each relief-carrying truck in the name of checking the quality and quantity of the relief materials, officials said. Any organisation not agreeing to pay the money experiences a delay of 5 to 15 days to get the clearance, while the organisations that pay the bribe usually get the relief checked fast. The study also found that a section of camp in-charges are



allegedly extorting BDT 2,000 to 5,000 for supervising each program implemented by the NGOs.

According to the study, the security situation in camp deteriorates during night. The lack of security, protection and stability in Myanmar and the uncertainty of relocation in Bangladesh created psychological trauma, violent attitudes and criminal tendency among Rohingyas. This resulted in the rise of crimes including murder, kidnapping, rape and drug trafficking. Seven terrorist groups are allegedly active in various camps.

Including spearheading strong diplomatic initiatives with various states, UN, international organizations and donor agencies to expedite the repatriation process of Rohingyas, the study suggested a total of thirteen ways to ensure transparency and accountability in coordination and management of the humanitarian programmes. The notable among the recommendations included, among others, enhancing coordination and capacity among the stakeholders; engaging the concerned stakeholders in the verification of relief materials; increased security workforce; a working strategy for adopting specific programs involving the local people and implementation; a structured vigorous 'Complaint Redress System' to address grievances related to humanitarian assistance activities and project implementation; elected Rohingya representatives in camps.

Decision to slash VAT on imported coal is imprudent; TIB called to ensure that benefits will eventually reach the consumers

TIB called the National Board of Revenue's (NBR) decision to slash 10% value-added tax (VAT) from the existing 15% on coal imported for power generation is imprudent. TIB also expressed its concern that although it is said that the cut will reduce the cost of power generation, it is doubtful that whether the benefits will reach the common people. TIB urged government to ensure this in a statement released on 7 December 2019.



TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman expressed concern over the way the government is continuously risking the environment by setting up coal-fired power plants and said, "This latest decision of VAT exemption is a continuation of suicidal dependency on the argument that electricity is being made available from coal plants at the most affordable price. Such decision is contradictory to the government's national pledge, sustainable development goals as well as Paris agreement. We know that the government is committed to produce renewable electricity by 10% of the total production by 2021, while at present it is less than 4%. At the same time, the

government pledged that a renewable approach would be followed to produce 50% of the electricity by 2050. But it does not seem to have any strategic and effective initiatives."

Expressing doubts over the logic that the decision of VAT exemption for reducing the additional cost on consumers, Dr. Zaman said, "The question is how many customers will get the benefits as the government earlier gave similar tax deductions to the furnace oil-based plants, but the entrepreneurs of these plants pocketed the benefits. Moreover, when the government is struggling to raise revenue, it is not understandable how such a large discount would be acceptable."

The TIB executive director furthered, "Tax waiver on coal imports is a backward and suicidal step, in such a situation the world is setting carbon taxes to recover from environmentally-destructive fuel. This will benefit the domestic and international corporations, who are interested in turning

Bangladesh into a coal-dumping centre." On the other hand, the use of renewable fuel will be discouraged, he said, urging the government to withdraw such a suicidal decision.

TIB urges the President to reshuffle Election Commission

The news of moral fallout in the recruitment process, involving the chief election commissioner and the Commission Secretariat, is unprecedented and has tarnished the status and image of the institution to the entire nation, said TIB. Terming activities of the Election Commission (EC) as 'embarrassing', TIB sought President Abdul Hamid's intervention in bringing about an all-out reform of the Commission.

In a statement released on 12 December 2019, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "the news revealed that at least one commissioner had recommended to the EC secretariat for a candidate of guard post. As his recommendation was not kept, the commissioners created a brawl, he added. The election commissioners are not in a position to understand that interference in appointment process sitting on a constitutional position is a moral turpitude."



Dr. Zaman said that, "unfortunate conflict between the commissioner and the EC secretariat have trampled the image of the Election Commission." It seems the overall management of the commission is now corrupted and has become ineligible to run the institution, he added. When a person sitting on a constitutional position raise allegation of irregularities in his secretariat it has significance, he said, adding, "General people of

the country are stunned."

The commission remained silent after allegations of public money embezzlement in the name of election training surfaced. The allegations involved names of the EC high-ups along with the CEC and other election commissioners. Some of the EC officials were also found involved in the process of making illegal Bangladeshi National Identity (NID) cards for the forcibly displaced Myanmar citizens.

"The commissioners have forgotten that the institution is a constitutional body. They have abused their oaths, defied the Constitution and disrespected the president, for which we are urging the president to take steps for their removal, restructuring of the commission and request Anti-Corruption Commission and authorities concerned to investigate the irregularities", said Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

TIB lauded government's declaration of using eco-friendly blocks in public projects; demands effective implementation and similar one for private sector

Hailing the government's decision to make mandatory the use of eco-friendly blocks in public construction, TIB has demanded its effective implementation and urged steps to make the use of such blocks in private sector mandatory as well, in a bid to tackle pollution. TIB has also considered it very encouraging that the government decided to ensure cent per cent use of environment-friendly concrete blocks in place of bricks in public projects by fiscal year 2024-2025.

In a statement released on 19 December 2019, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, the benefits depend on the effective implementation of the decision. Moreover, there is no alternative to expediting the use of environmentally-friendly bricks and renewable fuels in improving air quality by banning the use of soil-burnt bricks in all types of public and private construction. Apart from tackling the damage, caused by conventional brick kilns, air pollution and environmental catastrophe, it is also very essential to take concerted and immediate



efforts to save brick-kiln workers who work in awful conditions, he added.

Dr. Zaman believes that the new decision will help reduce the use of soil-burnt bricks in government projects by 30 percent only and it will not help to reach our desired goal. Apart from this, if the use of block is not made compulsory for private construction by law, and if the subsidy is not provided for production, supply and the use of block, the decision will not be effective, he added.

TIB expressed concern about uncertainty of climate financing at COP 25

TIB expressed concern that there was no certain development in the long-run climate financing, addressing loss and damage caused by climate change effects, and initiatives to cut global warming at the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP 25) held in Madrid, Spain. It also added that there was no sign of meeting the commitments of 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions – INDC' to reduce global temperature and the rulebook was not finalised to meet the draft Paris agreement that had been made in COP24. Besides, it also expressed concerns over the plan of expanding insurance and other profit oriented private enterprises to support the vulnerable countries affected by climate change effects.



warming was not discussed in COP25 which is making the long-term climate financing uncertain.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said in a statement released on 24 December 2019, "The issue of meeting the commitments made by developed countries of releasing US\$ 100 billion as 'new' and 'additional' supports to address global

Dr. Zaman demanded to ensure the promised climate funding for Paris Agreement implementation as well as claimed to strengthen the integrated climate diplomacy with the participation of all countries that are vulnerable due to climate change.

CCC NEWS

Pledge to Implement CCC's Recommendations to Improve Services in Hospitals

The authority of Brahmanbaria 250 Bedded Sadar Hospital took pledge to take initiatives for implementing recommendations of CCC regarding hospital services. Aimed at improving the quality of health services, CCC, Brahmanbaria organized this meeting with Brahmanbaria 250 Bedded Sadar Hospital authority on 29 December 2019 at the meeting room of the hospital. Superintendent of the hospital, Dr. Md. Shawkat Hossain Masum stated that improvement of hospital services is possible through creating enabling environment for the service recipients. Treatments hamper due to huge number of visitors accompanying the patients in the ward. Mass awareness is required in this regard, he added.

Presided over by CCC President Engineer Md. Rafiqul Islam, CCC placed a number of recommendations for hospital authority including appointment of a Designated Officer for receiving complaint and maintaining a Redress Register; ensuring the presence of doctors, nurses and other employees in the hospital on time; displaying the information in front of the specific room if anyone absent; introducing uniform or ID Cards for fourth class employees; update of available medicine list daily; distributing responsibilities among the employees to run round the clock Information Center or Help Desk; taking initiatives to control tipping in return of bed allocation in Wards; re-establishment of Info Chart on gender friendly health services or women and children health services; controlling male visitors and hawker at gynaecology ward; displaying ambulance service fees and contact numbers for complaints at PVC stickers



on the ambulance, displaying updated doctors' list, duty roaster of doctors and employees at outdoor ward; keeping update of application register according to Right to Information Act, 2009; stopping private ambulance business using the hospital Employees Associations room etc.

CCC President said that CCC is playing a catalyst role to create environment for good governance in Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital like other institutions. He also urged the hospital authority to take proper initiatives for implementing the recommendations of CCC's to improve the services in the hospital.

Information Fair Held to Popularize Right to Information Act

09 CCCs along with its YES, SWAJAN and YES Friends joined hands with the local administration to organize Information Fair in December 2019 to popularize Right to Information Act, 2009. Different government and non-government institutions set up stalls in the fair in order to create awareness on different services of the government along with citizens' rights and entitlements. YES and YES Friends members of the CCCs carried out Satellite Advice and Information Desk campaigns in the fair and oriented the visitors about how to apply for information under the Right to Information Act, 2009. Several events like rally, discussion meeting, hard talk show, face the public program, cartoon exhibition, quiz and debate competitions, anti-corruption signature campaign, cultural program etc. were organized at the fair premises.

In collaboration with district administrations, the information fairs were organized by CCC, Gaibandha on 08-09 December 2019, CCC, Jhalakati on 09 December 2019, CCC, Jashore, Dinajpur, Natore and Nilphamari on 09-10 December 2019, CCC, Jhenaidah on 10-11 December 2019, CCC and Kurigram 28-29 December 2019.



Parliament Member (MP) of Jhalakati-02 and Chairman of Parliamentarian Standing Committee on Ministry of Industry Amir Hossain Amu inaugurated day long information fair on 09 December 2019 in Jhalakati and Parliament Member (MP) of Nilphamari-01 Rabeya Alim along with Deputy Commissioner inaugurated information fair in Nilphamari. Deputy Commissioner of respective districts inaugurated information fairs. In addition, CCC, Madhupur in collaboration with Upazila Administration organized day long information fair on 09 December 2019 and Upazila Nirbahi Officer inaugurated the fair.

Government officials, locally elected representatives and senior officers from TIB attended the fairs. Different awareness raising materials like concept papers, issue based leaflets and flyers were distributed among the participants and visitors of the fair.

Meeting with Upazila Education Authority for Improvement of Primary Education

CCC, Madhupur organized a meeting with Upazila Education Authority on 29 December 2019 with a view to increase transparency, accountability and improvement of primary education. Upazila Education Officer Muhammad Shafiqul Islam Khan presided over the meeting while CCC President Md. Bazlur Rashid Khan delivered welcome speech.

In the meeting, CCC's Education Sub-Committee Convener Md. Abdul Latif placed 13 recommendations based on the findings of the observation conducted by Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Members at 13 Government Primary School focusing on system of teaching and school management under Madhupur Municipality. CCC's Vice-President Md. Abdul Malek, CCC Member Mohammad Shahidul Islam, Education Officer Mohammad Shafiqul Islam Khan and Assistant Upazila Education Officers took part in



the open discussion.

CCC President said, according to the observations, increased vigilance of Education Administration and necessary measures in all primary schools of the Upazila are required. He also shared that the observation was conducted only in the urban areas schools where there are opportunities for improvement. It is clear that the scenario of urban and rural level primary school is not same which contradicts the target of SDGs. Upazila Education Officer Muhammad Shafiqul Islam assured to take necessary and effective measures in line with the observations and recommendations shared by the CCC.

Action Plan Made to Strengthen Governance at BWDB

Bangladesh Water Development Board, Satkhira and CCC, Satkhira jointly organized a meeting at the office of Executive Engineer on 18 December 2019. Executive Engineer Md. Abul Khair presided over the meeting where an action plan was formulated in order to establish institutional governance at Water Development Board and ensure transparency and accountability in project implementation.



Few important issues like organizing Citizens' Dialogue or Sharing Meeting on people's participation for formulating new projects and implementation of ongoing projects, proactive disclosures of all project information or setting up Information Board, updating Tatha Batayan, making the list of ongoing and approved projects visible, setting up complaint and redress system for the citizens to establish institutional governance and increase integrity, organizing public hearing programs, receiving applications and providing information according to RTI law etc. were discussed in the meeting.

Executive Engineer Md. Abul Khair informed that every Wednesday from 11am-12 pm a Public Hearing program takes place, although mass people are not attending the programs. He requested all to attend the programs and place their complaint directly. He also assured that upon receiving complaint against any employee of Operations and Maintenance Division, immediate actions will be taken according to policy.

Among others CCC President Md. Abul Bashar (Paltu Bashar), CCC's Climate Change related Sub-Committee Member Professor Pabitra Mohan Das and Md. Waliur Rahman, CCC Member Professor Md. Abdul Hamid, Operations and Maintenance Division-1's Deputy Divisional Engineer Md. Rashidur Rahman and YES Members attended the meeting.

Students became aware about online harassment and cyber security issues

To spread the awareness messages among the students about the online harassment and cyber security issues, YES group Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) organized a session titled 'Take Back the Tech (TBTT)' in their campus with the support of Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN). It was organized as a part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.



BdOSN is working as part of the 'Take Back The Tech (TBTT)' programme, which is a global collaborative campaign project that highlights the problem of tech-related violence against women. To commemorate the 16 days of activism, BdOSN facilitated the above-mentioned TBTT session on 5 December 2019 at SAU campus in partnership with TIB.



Among others, Md. Harun-Ur-Rashid, Ph.D, Associate Professor and Adviser of YES group-SAU, Mahbuba Sultana, Senior Lecturer in Management, Faculty of Business, Northern University and Chief Coordinator of BdOSN, Muntasher Morshed, Programme Officer, BdOSN and Sheikh Muhammad Manjur-E-Alam, Director-Outreach and Communication of TIB were present in the event.

In the first part of the session, Mahbuba Sultana discussed about the types of online harassment and in the second part Muntasher Morshed shared the cyber security issues. Md. Harun discussed about the university based violence against women. In the concluding speech, thanking BdOSN and SAU authority for providing their support to organize this event, Mr. Manjur said that he expects the participant students of this event will disseminate the awareness messages they gained through this session among other youths.

Anti-Corruption Campaign in University Admission Fair

YES Group - Uttara University organized an Anti-Corruption Campaign in their university admission fair from 5 to 14 December 2019. The fair held at law campus of Uttara University, Dhaka to provide relevant information to the enthusiastic students willing to admit in the university. Members and friends of the Uttara University YES group distributed different types of anti-corruption IEC materials like leaflets, cartoons, badge, stickers, wristbands, books and brochures among the visitors and students. At least 5215 visitors including 2920 male and 2295 female visited the stall. Visitors gained a clear notion about TIB, YES group and their activities. They also took pledges against corruption supporting the social movement of TIB and its YES groups to curb corruption from society.



UAP-YES distributed winter clothes

Winter brings a lot of sufferings to the people of our country, particularly to the poor homeless and working class people. Quite sadly, many poor people in Dhaka city cannot afford to buy warm clothes for winter. In



this scenario, in December 2019, YES Group-University of Asia Pacific (UAP) had taken an initiative to reduce sufferings of few of these people. They ran a campaign in the UAP campus from 08th to 20th of December 2019 for this purpose. The YES members also persuaded the students, staff and faculty of the UAP to donate their unused winter clothes. Many of them made a generous contribution for the impoverished people. After the collection period, YES members selected the donated clothes for distribution in the unprivileged areas of Dhaka city, such as Farmgate, Tezgaon Rail Station and Kawran Bazar. On 21st of December 2019, YES members distributed the

warm clothes among the needy people of these areas. It was really a blissful moment for the students to bring a smile on their faces. This attempt might not alleviate all their problems, but may decreased their sufferings to a little extent.

Youths gained a deeper insight into RTI

An Orientation on Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009 was held at the Auditorium of the department of English, Uttara University Dhaka on 30 December 2019. Along with the orientation, participants took pledges against corruption, viewed several anti-corruption TVCs of TIB and participated in a quiz competition on RTI and anti-corruption. YES group- Uttara University organized the event in association with TIB and Uttara University.



Prior to the orientation on RTI, a short inauguration ceremony took place where Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB was present as the chief guest. Among others, adviser of the Uttara University Professor Faez M. Serajul Hoque, Registrar Mr. Kazi Mahiuddin, Director (Acting) of the Student Affairs Mr. Md. Shafiul Alam Chowdhury, Dean of the School of Arts and Social Science Professor Haspia Bashirullah, Dean of the School of Education & Physical Education and the adviser of the Uttara University YES group Professor Md. Khairul Islam Khan were present in the event along with other faculties and officials from Uttara University. This session was driven with the presentation of Ms. Dulali Rani Saha, another adviser of the Uttara University YES group and Assistant professor and Coordinator of the Department of Education.

In the inauguration speech Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "I am feeling honoured to be here for the first time. I am very grateful to see the motivated young people and the fantastic faculties of Uttara University and their enthusiastic presence to learn something special, which is RTI act. Using this act, we can change the current horrible scenario of corruption and irregularities of the country. I believe that all of you will use this act in the upcoming days and we will fight corruption with the spirit of our liberation war."



The guests from Uttara University thanked TIB for taking this initiative for the young generation. They also promised to continue their support with TIB and the YES group. Thereafter, participants took pledge against corruption by taking the anti-corruption oath. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman conducted this session.

In the orientation program, more than 160 participants acquired knowledge on the Right to Information Act, 2009 and gained a deep insight into fight against corruption using the act. Ms. Nadira Sultana, Manager, Training Unit of TIB conducted the orientation and a Q/A session on RTI. After the orientation, participants took part in a quiz competition on RTI and different anti-corruption issues. The winners were rewarded with books.

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