

Hundreds of School Children Pledge against Corruption

Hundreds of students pledged that they will refrain from all kinds of corruption and act against corruption at all levels. Committing to have the highest regard for the independence, sovereignty, culture and values for Bangladesh, the kids pledged that they shall refrain from adopting any dishonest means in all aspects of academic and professional life.

The kids took the oath on 19 February organized by YES Group- Department of Development Studies of the University of

Dhaka. They also participated in anti-corruption cartoon and game show at the Engineering School and College, Dhaka. Hundreds of students of level nine and ten take pledges took part in the anti-corruption game show. At the end, Mr. Imran Hossain Bhuiyan, Adviser of the YES group and assistant professor of the Department of Development Studies of the University of Dhaka handed over the prizes among the winners of the game show.

On the other hand, thirty-plus anti-corruption cartoons were displayed in a corner of the school. Students, teachers and guardians visited the cartoons and committed their solidarity against corruption. YES members and friends take over the overall management of these events.



The group organized another anti-corruption oath-taking event on 27 March 2019 where five hundred-plus students from the school have participated. Dr. Iftekhruzzaman, Executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh administered the oath-taking event in presence of the high-ups of the school and urged the

participants to be vigilant against corruption.

Investigative Journalism Fellowship 2018 **Journalists' Role for Enhancing Governance**

Investigative reports on health, land and climate change have been published and broadcast in electronic and online media, under the Investigative Journalism Fellowship 2018 facilitated by TIB. The reports were published and broadcast in the private TV Channel 24, online news portal srabangla.com and community-based Radio Mohananda 98.8FM during 18-28 February 2019.

Mr. Saddam Hossain Staff Correspondent, sarabangla.net, Mr. EmdadulHaq, Staff Reporter Channel 24 and Ms. Sonia Shil, respectively selected for the print and electronic media under the TIB's Investigative Journalism Fellowship 2018 programme. Mr. Saddam Hossain, staff correspondent in the online-based sarabangla.net produced print media investigative fellowship reports in five parts titled 'Irregularities in land settlement in the char's of Noakhali' during 14-19 February 2019. Mr. Md. EmdadulHaq, Staff Reporter, Channel 24 produced electronic media investigative journalism fellowship reports in two parts titled 'Harassments including taking extortion and extreme irregularities in the health check-up of the expatriates' were broadcast on Channel 24 during 18-19 February 2019. Ms. Sonia Shil, Assistant Producer on aired electronic media investigative journalism fellowship reports (CFG) in two parts titled 'Action taken to combat health hazard due to the impact of climate change in Barind Tract' in community-based Radio Mohananda 98.8FM, on 18 & 28 February 2019.

Journalists of Chakaria **Pledged to Fight against Corruption**

Journalists of Chakaria called upon the service providing organizations, service recipients, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), public representatives, journalists and people from all walks of life to work together for ensuring corruption-free services.

They made the call in a meeting organized by CCC, Chakaria titled 'Role of Local Journalists in Anti-Corruption Social Movement' on 20 February 2019 at CCC Office. The meeting was presided over by CCC President Professor A. K. M. Shahab Uddin where Area Manager of TIB A. G. M. Jahangir in a presentation shared CCC's ongoing activities, achievements, challenges and the way forward. Mr. Jahangir also shared the initiatives of CCC, Chakaria on education, health, LG, land and climate finance governance to spread out the achievements at the grassroots level.

The journalists pledged to join hands with CCC to strengthen the social movement against corruption to ensure corruption-free Bangladesh. They also assured to helping implementation of Right to Information Act, 2009, the publication of investigative reports against corruption, active participation in anti-corruption activities and organizing joint initiatives etc.

In the open discussion, irregularities and corruption at different service sectors were highlighted. The Journalists pointed out that publication of corruption reports in the newspaper were not followed by corrective measures from relevant authorities. CCC, Chakaria called upon the journalists to take initiatives to encourage people for submitting written complaints accompanying proper evidence to ACC or call ACC hotline on 106 when they notice corruption.

CCC President Principal Alhaji Farid Uddin Chowdhury, CCC Member Bulbul Jannat Shahin and Correspondent of Daily Samakal M. R. Mahmud spoke in the meeting. Among others Editor of ChakariaNewsJahirul Islam, Correspondent of Bangla TV and Cox's Bazar BaniManir Ahmed, Correspondent of Daily Khabarpatra Ali Ullah Roni, Correspondent of Daily Sakaler Khabar S M Hannan Shah, Correspondent of Daily Jai Jai Din Manjur Alam, Correspondent of Daily Manabkantha and Himchari Abdul Majid, Correspondent of Daily Naya Diganta Rafiq Ahmed, Correspondent of Daily KalerKantha and Azad I Soton Kanti Nath, Lama Correspondent of Daily Jugantar Abul Kalam Azad, Correspondent of Daily Amar Barta Ziaul Haque, Correspondent of Amader Chattogram Abdul Karim Bitu, Correspondent of Bangladesher Khabar Saikat Md. Saiful Islam, Correspondent of Daily Alokito Kantha Shahriar Mahmud, Correspondent of Daily Amader Khabar Jahirul Alam Sagor, Journalist Jamal Hossain, CCC member Zia Uddin, YES Members were present in the meeting.

Meeting with Hospital Authority for improving the quality of hospital services

A sharing meeting was organized by Patuakhali 250 Bedded Hospital Authority and CCC, Patuakhali on 17 February 2019 at the meeting room of the hospital with an aim to improve the quality of hospital services. Superintendent of the hospital Dr. Md. Saiduzzaman presided over the meeting while CCC's Health-related Sub-Committee Convener Professor Mofij Uddin Chowdhury delivered welcome speech.



The meeting discussed Patuakhali 250 Bedded Hospital service-related problems which included regular update of an information board and website so that transparency, accountability and improvement of hospital services are ensured. The meeting also discussed the condition of a medicine display board at the outdoor section, complain response mechanisms, employment in vacant positions, setting up women service related information board and women-friendly service infrastructure etc. A number of decisions were taken accordingly in the meeting.

CCC Vice-President Advocate Sahidur Rahman, CCC's Health-related Sub-Committee Convener Professor Md. IsahaqMolla, Senior Consultant (Anesthesia) and Assistant Director (Acting) Dr. Hossain Ahmed, Residential Medical Officer (Acting)Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Service Superintendent Most. Jahanara Begum, Deputy Service Superintendent Kajol Rani Karmaker took part in the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Area Manager of TIB DhimanGayen.

Road Safety: TIB Criticized and called upon the Government to reform the committee

TIB strongly condemned the government decision to appoint Shajahan Khan, the former Shipping Minister and the President of the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation (BRTWF), as the chief of a 15-member committee that formed to recommend ways on curbing road accidents and bringing discipline to the road transport sector. In a statement issued on 19 February 2019, TIB questioned the Shajahan Khan-led committee, who is “controversial and biased” for his role in curbing road accident. TIB also called upon the government to reform the committee with the prominent and expert person in this sector.

While the government formed the above-mentioned committee yesterday, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, the Executive Director of TIB expressed his distress in the statement and said, “It is impossible to hope that the committee led by influential leaders of transport owners and workers’ federations can perform their duty neutrally and independently.”

In an earlier TIB study on the Road Transport Sector, it reveals this public sector is fully confined by the transport worker and the owners’ self-interest, misuse of power and political influence. The irregularities, arbitrariness, and irresponsibility of the concerns created a dire situation of remaining unfit vehicles, inefficient drivers and their reckless driving posing a serious challenge to ensure peoples’ life-security in transport and on-road. However, the existing culture of impunity also hinders the progress to ensure the governance practice.

Refereeing the safe road movement, Dr. Zaman said, “The people especially the youth set an

example of how a safe road should carry on and we all are expecting the government and the concerned authorities would never compromise to any influential to ensure the justice and strict implementation of the rule of law.” He requested the government refrain from futile initiative of the controversial committee and not to make those youth hopeless. If any initiative is taken to relax any section of the road transport law, it will be suicidal and against the public interest, he said.

Thermal Power Plant in Barguna: TIB urged for immediate Stop of the Deal

TIB urged the government to immediately stop installation of the coal-based thermal power plant at Nishanbariya Union of Barguna, which has no clearance from Department of Environment, will pose risk to the ecology and livelihood of locals. In a media release issued on 7 February 2019, TIB called upon the government to cancel the project to be operated jointly by Iso tech Electrification Company Ltd and Power China., terming the project “suicidal”.

In a statement, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “Though the court has put injunction over land acquisition following a case filed by victims, activities of the project have resumed with the help of administration and police. Locals who filed cases for compensation are being implicated in false extortion cases, threatened and even being assaulted.” He called the authority to refrain from harassing and torturing the local citizens in connection with the project.

Stressing on the issue, Dr. Zaman said, “according to clause 7(4) of the Environmental Conservation Act 1997, there is a legal binding of carrying out environmental impact assessment by a neutral, independent and renowned organization in case of setting up such a facility but it has not been done.

Moreover, without taking clearance certificate from the Department of Environment, the power plant is being set up near Tengragiri reserve forest, which is known as the second Sundarbans.”

Expressing deep concern Dr. Zaman said, “Though the land is classified as “Khas” (government) land, some brokers introduced them as owners of the land and are selling those to the companies at a much cheaper rate than the government price. A case was also filed with the court seeking the permanent suspension of both companies, and proper compensation for the affected parties.” In this context, Dr. Zaman asked for the immediate withdrawal of project approvals for the proposed 307 MW power-station and initiate effective measure to protect the local land owner’s right.

Added, the statement was also shared to the concern Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. And the request was made to the government on 7 May last year also.

Law Enforcement: TIB Urges the Police to Discharge Duties without Bias

On the occasion of the Police Week 2019, TIB has called upon the police force to discharge their responsibilities upholding law and ignoring fear and any pressure. The Law enforcement agencies should not be biased or involved in any controversial activities at any circumstance said TIB in a media statement issued on 5 February 2019. TIB also lauded the PM’s instruction to the

BD police for not to harass- tortured any innocent people at her inaugural remarks in Dhaka.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “On the occasion of the Police Week 2019, a bundle of demands has been placed before the Honorable Prime Minister, the most are logical, positive and considerable. Therefore, specific initiatives should be assembled with to ensure Integrity in BD Police Forces. We are hopeful over the Prime Minister’s firm stance for the anti-drug drive, at the same time we want to be assured that no extra-Judicial killing would happen in the name of ‘crossfire’.”

Giving importance to peoples’ trust on law enforcement agency, Dr. Zaman said, “The people expect that the police would never take any partisan role, and not any special recognition though the controversial role found in the month-long safe road movement, quota reform movement in the city.” And he has called the police department to discharge their duties and responsibilities with professionalism and without any political favour.

Dr. Zaman added, “Transparency, accountability and integrity is an imperative to ensure peoples’ security and equal rights for the rule of law, the police officials, convicted for nepotism and misuse of power should be under the law and set an exemplary punishment. This should be a priority to retrieve the people's trust on the law enforcing agency” He suggested the government to increase necessary man-power, capacity and professionalism in the police forces to make this law enforcing agency more effective and public friendly to establish the rule of law.

Jahalam: TIB Demanded Exemplary Accountability of ACC officials and Compensation

TIB has expressed relief over Jahalam's release from jail as per the High Court's intervention, while he was accused of loan fraud, based on information divulged by Bangladesh Bank and Sonali Bank. Jahalam languished in jail for three years due to wrongful conviction by the ACC officials. In a media statement issued on 4 February 2019, TIB also sought appropriate compensation for his sufferings and urged for exemplary punishment of the involved in wrongful identification of Jahalam.

Expressing his frustration over the mistake by the ACC official, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "The High Court has drawn an end line to an injustice brought to Innocent Jahalam by an order to set him free and investigate of those concerned who made the wrong identification and imprisonment." Financial

compensation may be possible but the actual compensation against all the suffering he went through during the last three years is merely not possible, he said.

"The incidents have raised many questions that need to be answered," said Iftekharuzzaman, TIB's Executive Director, pointing the impact of the mistake. He said, "The people became trustless on their investigation either it was a mistake or anything fixed to hide the link of the real culprit involved in the Sonali Bank's loan fraudulence. Moreover, we expect the ACC formed investigation committee would carefully investigate and inform the people on the progress and no repeated mistakes."

Dr. Zaman urged that ACC must ensure the accused in this investigation through bringing accountability if found guilty. No one like Jahalam should be thrown behind bar again and stern action should be taken to get back the people's trust on the ACC.

Int'l Mother Language Day observed with solemn remembrance



On the occasion of International Mother Language Day (IMLD) 2019, TIB officials with YES, Members and family held a barefoot march on 21 February wearing black badges and holding bouquets tight to their bosoms and placed a flower wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar in the University of Dhaka. The participants marched the Ekushey rally from Eden college premises to pay tribute to the Language Movement martyrs while the environment reverberated with the Ekushey anthem, 'Amar bhaiyer rokte rangano Ekushey February'. Thousands of people from all walks of life

gathered at the same time.

To memorize the significance of Mother Language Day, TIB published a special Ekushey card with a message that 'Corruption is anti ethical to the spirit of Ekushey', and circulated among all relevant stakeholders.



TIB Stall in the Ekushey Book Fair 2019

On the occasion of Amar Ekushey Granthomela-2019, TIB participated at the Ekushey Book Fair with a stall organized annually by the Bangla Academy during the month of February in Dhaka. With a vow to signify the sacrifice of Shaheeds for the mother language, TIB participated in the 'Boi Mela' with more than forty research publications and IEC's at a stall at the Academy premises. This year 'Governance Challenges of Bangladesh: The Way Forward' Part-9 was published for the distribution. YES members volunteered the stall and disseminated the necessary information that people sought at the stall.



Visitors were seen carrying packages of TIB books bought at the national book fair. TIB records indicate that nearly fifteen thousands of visitors viewed the materials and publications displayed over the month.

From this stall, TIB research publications were sold and various IEC materials containing anti-corruption message i.e. sticker, brochure, wrist bands and badges were also shared. The alphabetic rhyming ethic book namely 'Barnamalay Nitikotha' became the best seller from this stall.

YES Members Organized Study Circle on Corruption Perception Index (CPI)



YES members from three YES groups Daffodil University, YES-2 and Bangladesh Kuwait Maitree Hall separately organized capacity programme on CPI. YES members of the Daffodil International University (DIU) organized a study circle on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) on 12 February 2019. In this study circle, YES members attained the knowledge on how the international organisations rank the countries. Senior Programme Manager Md. Zahidul Islam took part as the key discussant. YES Advisors Afroza Akhter Tina, Rafi Al Mahmud and Md. Fouad Hossain Sarker, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Development Studies also attended the programme. YES members and students of DIU joined the study circle.

Similarly, on 11 February 2019, Dhaka YES-2 group organized a study circle on Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2018. Members discussed about the methodology and key findings of CPI 2018. Later, on 12 February 2019, Bangladesh Kuwait Maitree Hall YES group organized a study circle on Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2018. Members discussed about the methodology and key findings of CPI 2018.



Orientation on TI, TIB Social Movement and Dhaka YES for New YES members

YES members of East-West University organized an orientation program for the new and old yes members in their campus on 17 February. Advisers yes coordinator TIB all yes supervisor and yes members and friends were present on the program. Mainly shared the TIB TI and YES activities. YES adviser sir welcomes the new members.

Dhaka YES organized Ekushey Rally to Mark the IMLD

To mark the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) 2019, three YES groups East-West University, Sher-e Bangla Agricultural University and Institute of Social Welfare and Research of DU separately organized Ekushey Rally. YES group Ser-e-Bangla agricultural university arranged a rally to on 21 Feb 2018 in their campus to university Shohid Minar. YES members, YES adviser participated at the rally and paid homage to the Language martyrs. In the same, YES group Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) of Dhaka University arranged a rally on 21 Feb 2018 at their campus Shoid Minar. YES members, YES adviser were attended the rally. The youth pledged to uphold the spirit of the language martyrs who fought for a an independent and corrupt-free Bangladesh.

Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Instructed To Practice Integrity

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kushtia Md. Aslam Hossain gave instructions to the Union Parishad(UP) Chairmen to practice integrity by ensuring transparency, accountability and free flow of information in the activities of Union Parishad while addressing an advocacy meeting as chief guest. District Administration in collaboration with Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Kushtia organized this meeting held at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner on 6 February 2019. Chairmen of Union Parishads and concerned authorities participated in the meeting. DC also advised public display of relevant information regarding ongoing projects on the notice boards. He stressed on taking advises from local elites and conducting need assessments while selecting the beneficiaries of different social safety net programs. DC also emphasized on being more careful while selecting the beneficiaries of Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Program. He cautioned about punitive actions if any irregularities and corruption detected.



Mr. Mrinal Kanti Dey, Deputy Director of Local Government told the meeting that making Village Courts effective, strengthening the activities of Union Digital Centers, streamlining the Standing Committee and Development Coordination Committees and following a proper procedure for selection of beneficiaries of social safety net programs are essential if transparency, accountability and integrity are to be ensured. The government circular must be properly followed while selecting the VGD beneficiaries in the coming phase, he added.



Discussants told the meeting that equal working opportunities must be ensured across gender to make the Union Parishad people-friendly. Participation of local citizens especially the female and marginalized people in the activities of UP is also crucial. The discussant emphasized on the role of UP members in preparing the UP budget, implementing projects, ensuring social safety, local arbitration, relief distribution and VGD program implementation etc.

CCC President Mr. Nazrul Islam presided over the meeting while Deputy Director-Local Government Mrinal Kanti Dey and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kushtia Sadar Jubayer Hossain Chowdhury were present as special guests. Area Manager of TIB Md. Areful Islam was moderator of the meeting where Program Manager of TIB Mohammad Abdur Rahman shared a concept paper. Among other CCC Member Md. Rafiqul Alam Tuku, Advocate Sanwar Hossain, Dr. Md. Abu Daud, Goswami Durgapur Union Parishad's Chairman Md. Dabir Uddin and Secretary of Jiarkhee Union Parishad spoke in the meeting. In the meeting the Chairmen and Secretary of 12 Union Parishads, Journalists, CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends Members were present.



Natore DPEO Urged the Teachers for Punctuality at Schools

Natore District Primary Education Office in collaboration with CCC, Natore organized a sharing meeting on 20 February 2019, aiming at improvement of primary education. The meeting held at the Conference Room of DPEO Office was presided over by CCC's Education Sub-Committee Convener Begum Hamida Banu, where District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Mr. Ershad Uddin was present as chief guest.

Addressing the meeting DPEO said, “At present Primary School Certificate Examination and stipend projects are being implemented effectively. We have many successes in primary education which needs to be carried forward. We must discharge our duties cordially. He urged all the teachers to be responsible in this regard, as their role could help improve quality education. He emphasized on enhancing communication with parents. He regretted some cases where teachers found absent at the schools, at the cost of children’s rights to education. He urged the teachers to be present at the school on time. He also urged to complete the co-education activities according to government circular.

Assistant District Education Officer Bishajit Kumar Saha emphasized on the joyful learning for the student. Upazila Education Officer Md. Ali Ashraf assured of necessary measures regarding the demand for boundary walls, the building of infrastructure and solving other problems. Upon discussion with Upazila Chairman and Upazila Nirbahi Officer, development initiatives will be taken, he said. CCC President Mr. Ronen Roy emphasized on ensuring quality education. He suggested increasing engagement of parents and local people in running the school affairs.

SWAJAN Member Advocate Khagendra Roy moderated the meeting where CCC Member Principal Md. Abdur Razzak delivered welcome speech. Among others Assistant Upazila Education Officer Md. Akramuzzaman and Md. Abu Bakar Siddique Shaha, Head Teacher of Bakshore Govt. Primary School Ms. Fatema Merina, Head Teacher of Fullbagan Model Govt. Primary School Rubel Chandra Chaki, Head Teacher of Galdanga Govt. Primary School Md. Rafiqul Islam and Area Manager, TIB Md. Aminul Islam spoke in the meeting. Monitoring Officer Nur Uddin Md. Jahangir Alam, Assistant Upazila Education Officer Md. Shakwat Alam Ratan, Md. MahbubulHaque and Shabnam Akhter and TIB Staff attended the meeting.

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