

Ethnic communities demand separate ministry to protect rights



Representatives of the ethnic community demanded forming a separate ministry, or a special cell under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs to ensure the rights and development of minority communities. In an advocacy meeting organized by TIB on 9 May 2019, they placed a 13-point demand at the meeting, which includes a separate loan law, incorporating communities who were previously excluded from the ethnic communities list, and ensuring reserved seats in the parliament for ethnic community members.

The demands were placed at the meeting titled “Ethnic and Dalit communities’ rights and inclusion in government services”, arranged by TIB at its conference room in Dhaka.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjeeb Drong said, “the government is violating the constitution by depriving Dalit and ethnic communities of their rights.” He claimed that the government is behaving like colonial rulers. Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, said that Dalit and ethnic communities are in danger and almost 75% of their properties has been grabbed. TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “the government must ensure all rights for the Dalit community and other ethnic minorities to build a country in accordance with the constitution and the spirit of the Liberation War.

Nusrat murder: TIB demands judicial probe into ex-Sonagazi OC's role

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has demanded a judicial probe into the alleged negligence of duty by police, particularly by ex-Officer-in-Charge (OC) of

Sonagazi police station, Moazzem Hossain, over Nusrat Jahan Rafi's murder. Raising questions on the objectivity of PIB's report in the Nusrat murder case, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said in a statement on 31 May 2019 "There have been specific accusations against Moazzem for trying to pass off Nusrat's

murder as suicide and there were several media reports on it. On one hand, Moazzem tried to shame Nusrat by harassing her and passing off her complaints as baseless, when she came to the police seeking help, and on the other hand, by trying to pass off her murder as a suicide he aided the murderers."

Dr. Zaman expressed doubts on the veracity and objectivity of PIB's probe report in Nusrat's murder. He said, "PIB submitted the report with commendable speed, however whenever they dropped Moazzem's name, the report became questionable as Moazzem had a questionable role from the time Nusrat lodged the sexual harassment case until her murder- which the people of the country came to know through social media" He said, "it is not unnatural to ask the question - was Moazzem's name dropped from the charge sheet because of his position in the law enforcement agency?"

Demanding a neutral judicial inquiry to ensure the strictest punishment, through an objective investigation to identify the role of Moazzem in the crime he adds, "There is no alternative to a judicial probe into her murder. If a neutral judicial inquiry were not launched, then it would be similar to provide impunity to those responsible for the crime.

TIB concerned over the voluntary social welfare organization act

On 26 May, TIB expressed deep concern over the proposed draft of the Voluntary Social Welfare Organizations (Registration and Control) Act 2019. In a press statement, TIB demanded that the government should change, modify and cancel the sections, which are unclear, repressive and conflicting. It also called for

the draft to be amended before approval, through discussions with stakeholders and involving experts concerned.

TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "We informed through the media that social welfare ministry has prepared the draft of a new law, for registration and control of different local and foreign volunteer, private and social welfare organizations. Several sections and sub-sections of the proposed law will create serious obstacles in the activities of the organizations, and there is a chance of its misuse.

TIB expresses concern on irregularities on purchase at Rooppur Power Plant

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed concern about the abnormally high prices of materials being used to furnish apartments in multi-storied buildings at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project (RNPP) in Pabna. In a statement issued on 22 May 2019, the organization urged the government to take the highest action to ensure the transparency and accountability of the project, as well as strict legal action against those responsible.

TIB Executive Director, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "Despite the controversy over the most expensive project in the country's history, it is being implemented as a priority project by the government. But since we have seen irregularities right at the beginning, it is a red flag for the transparency of the project rollout in the future."

Dr. Zaman said, "According to published information, this is not the first time in Bangladesh that government officials and contractors have been accused of corruption in such government projects.

Therefore, exemplary punishment should be given as a warning, so that these ‘pillow-kettle’ stories do not become the ‘tip of the iceberg’ in even bigger irregularities throughout the project.

the expenditure of only Tk 25 crore that has been spent so far.”

Dr. Zaman also added, “the approximate construction cost of this power plant is set at Tk1,13,000 crores. Lack of transparency is a concern if there are irregularities in

Citizen’s participation will ensure proper management in the water sector

To ensure transparency, accountability and citizen participation in the water sector, a public hearing was organized by Patuakhali Water Development Board (WDB) in association with CCC, Patuakhali at Champapur Union Parishad of Kolapara Upazilla in Patukhali. Beneficiaries of CCTF/C/W-02 project of the WDB, Patuakhali participated in the public hearing held on 19



May 2019 while Mr. Rintu Talukder, chairman of the union Parishad, presided over the programme. Khan Mohammad Owaliuzzaman, Executive Engineer of WDB, Kolapara upazilla, was the chief guest in the public hearing. Abdur Rab, member of the CCC’s sub-committee regarding Climate Finance Governance (CFG) delivered the welcome speech on behalf of CCC

and Mr. Pijus Kanti Hari, convener of the same sub-committee, shared the experiences of the affected people of climate change. Respective Area Manager of TIB, shared the goal and objectives of the event.

Participants thanked the WDB for the implemented project, but they mentioned that implemented activities of the project were insufficient against demand in the community. There needs to build more culverts, repair sluice gates etc. Otherwise, that will affect the agricultural firms. Participants asked WDB to take initiatives for the canals of Chaltabunia, Golbunia and Masuakhali immediately.

Executive Engineer of the WDB, Kolapara Upazilla, Mr. Owaliuzzaman said, ‘It’s not possible to ensure proper management in the water sector without the direct participation of local citizens. The WDB tries to proper management in the water sector following the existing rules and guidelines.’ He answered various questions of the participants in public hearing and assured to take initiatives regarding their concern.

Mr. Ritu Talukder, Chairman of Champapur Union Parishad, said, ‘local citizens and elected representatives should be engaged to design and implement any project. By this engagement, the goal of the project will be well defined and priority works will be identified.’

He thanked CCC for organizing such an event to ensure transparency and accountability. Engineers and Officers from WDB, Kolapara Upazilla and members of CCC, SWAJON, YES and YES Friends were also present in the event.

Hospital authority to improve services by getting feedback from Service recipients

Mymensingh Medical College Hospital authority will create space for patients and service recipients to provide their feedback and comments on the quality of its services. The authority tries to meet the full requirements of patients with medicine and other logistics received from the government. Deputy Director of the hospital Mr. Lakshi Narayon Majumder shared these in an opinion-sharing meeting with CCC, Mymensingh Sadar on 14 May 2019 at the Video Conference Room of the hospital.



CCC, Mymensingh Sadar recommended and placed a few suggestions to improve the services of the hospital. CCC requested authority to operate One Stop Crisis Centre, create sufficient space for ventilation at new building of the hospital, make effective the Hospital Management Committee, display price of CT scan, MRI &

X-ray services, introduce register for providing information, display the duty roster of doctors and to update service related information in website etc.

The hospital authority informed that few initiatives have already been taken for delivery of better services and assured CCC to take measures on the rest of their recommendations. The authority also raised a few health related issues for national- level advocacy. Deputy Director thanked CCC and TIB for working with Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Vice President of the CCC Mir Gulam Mustafa delivered the welcome speech and Mr. Lakshi Narayon Majumder presided over the meeting. Doctors, Nurses, officers of the hospital and members of CCC & SWAJON were present in the meeting.

Participatory budget to promote transparency at UP



To make union parishad budget in the participatory process, Kundapukur Union Parishad of Nilphamari Sadar Upazilla organized an open budget session on 28 May 2019 with the assistance of CCC, Nilphamari. Ms. Nazia Shirin, Deputy Commissioner of

Nilphamari district attended in the programme as chief guest while Mr. Abuzar Rahman, Chairman of the Sadar Upazilla Parishad, Mr. Imam Hashim, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department and Mr. Suzauddoula, Upazilla Nirbahi Officer of Sadar Upazilla were present as a special guest. Alhaz Md. Shahjahan Ali Chowdhury, chairman of Kundapukur Union Parishad declared an amount of two cores 97 lac 49 thousand 556 Taka budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

After sharing the proposed budget, an open discussion session was held where citizens of the union raised various issues including allocation of budget for women development, drainage system, road development, water supply, etc. The UP authority assured citizens to address the raised issues day. Mr. Shahjahan Ali, chairman of the UP, said, 'there are lots of limitations for meeting citizen's demands. The union parishad will prioritize the issues and allocate funds for these accordingly'.

The chairman also shared the progress of various development projects of the union parishad. Other speakers made importance to ensure citizens participation in the decision making process of the union parishad, especially through the ward meeting. Locally elected representatives from different wards, almost three hundred citizens of the union and members of the CCC, SWAJON, YES and YES Friends participated in the programme.

Journalists will work for combatting corruption



To engage journalists in the social movement against corruption, CCC Rajbari organized an opinion-sharing meeting with local Journalists on 15 May 2019 at the CCC office. Local journalists from different news media expressed their wills to work for combatting corruption in association with CCC, Rajbari.

Professor Sangkar Chandra Sinha, President of the CCC, Rajbari, presided over the programme where Vice President Ms. Nazma Sultana shared the goal and objectives of the meeting. The participants discussed various issues including capacity building of journalists, role of journalists to ensure women related services, journalist's expectations to CCC and joint initiatives to combat corruption with CCC. The participants asked CCC to arrange different anti-corruption competitions for them.

A Seminar on the Role of Youth in Anti-Corruption Movement has organized by the YES



Group-Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University on 16 May 2019.

YES, Group-Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University organized an Orientation on TIB, YES, and anti-corruption movement at the Megohomala conference room, TIB on 6 May 2019. Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam Director of TIB conducts the anti-corruption oath session and the orientation session was conducted by Atia Afreen, Programme Manager of TIB.



A Poster Presentation Competition on Governance organized by the YES group-Department of Development Studies, Dhaka



University on 5 May 2019. Twenty teams from the different departments and institutes have participated in the first round of this competition and 5 teams qualify for the final round. Finally, a team from the Institute of Social Welfare marked the first position in this competition. Dr. Atiur Rahman, former governor of Bangladesh Bank presided the chair in the final session and handed over the prizes among the winners

An Orientation on TIB, YES, and anti-corruption movement has organized by the YES Group-Institute of Education and Research (IER), University of Dhaka at the IER premise on 12 May 2019. Atia Afreen, Programme Manager of TIB conducted the orientation.



On 15 May, YES Group-Stamford University Bangladesh distributed education material among the 100+ street children at Switch Biddyaniketan. The pupils take anti-corruption pledge and perform some cultural activities. Later the group members take Iftar with these deprived pupils.

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