

## National News

### Seat-based Block Allocation Encourages MPs to Gain Illegal Money, finds TIB study

Lack of effective supervision and monitoring, absence of specific rules of conduct and conflict of interest of the lawmakers in implementing rural infrastructure development projects under the parliamentary seat-based allocated block fund encourage institutionalization of corruption and irregularities thus causing waste of public funds. A segment of lawmakers also exploits these projects as a means to exercise political power, ensure vote in the election, and to gain financial advantages.

These findings came up in a recent TIB study titled 'Governance Challenges in the Implementation of the Infrastructure Development Project under Constituency-Based Block Allocation', released through a virtual press conference on 12 August 2020.

Observing randomly selected 628 schemes worth Tk 298 crore under the first and second phase of the Important Rural Infrastructure Development Project (IRIDP), the study noticed that most of the schemes were only related to the rural infrastructures like roads, bridges and culverts and development of growth centres and hat bazaars. No schemes were taken on three other objectives of the project, like increasing production of agricultural and non-agricultural products, marketing facilities for the products and accelerating rural employment.

"Lawmakers' main role is to make law, act as public representatives in the parliament and to ensure accountability of government. But if they get directly involved in public procurement-related activities and other development projects, it bars them to ensure the government's accountability. Conflict of interest arises when lawmakers get involved in the tender business, and directly engaged in the projects run with the public money and hence it becomes difficult to ensure transparency and



and accountability of government's development projects," said Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB in the virtual press conference citing the study findings. He added, "Politics has been integrated with the development projects in the name of rural infrastructure development; corruption has been rampant".

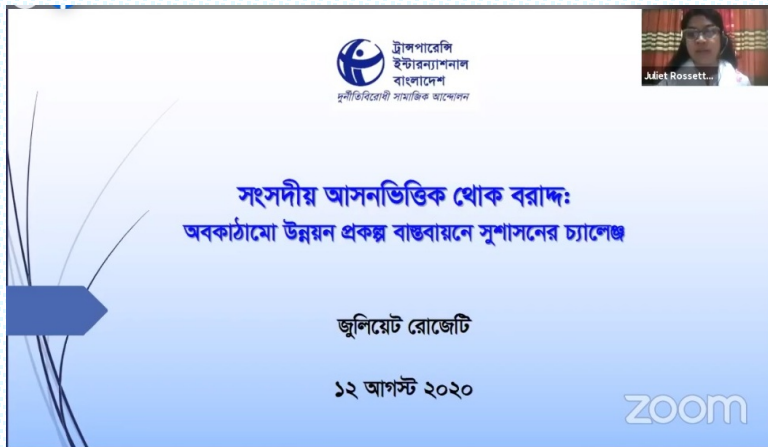
Applying mixed methodological (qualitative and quantitative) research techniques, the study reviewed the governance challenges in planning, implementation and the monitoring process of schemes under the Important Rural Infrastructure Development Project (IRIDP). Randomly selecting 50 out of 300 parliamentary constituencies, the data analysis of the study was conducted until March 2020 under the four indicators of governance, i.e., transparency, accountability, participation and practice of integrity with the data collected from May to December 2019.

Juliet Rosetti, Programme Manager of the Research and Policy division of TIB presented the study findings while Advisor- Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan, Director, and Shahzada M Akram, Senior Programme Manager of Research and Policy division of TIB were also present at the press conference.

The study finds that 68 percent of the schemes were implemented within the stipulated time given in the tender whereas 32 percent needed extra time. Meanwhile, 74 percent of the schemes were completed fully and 21.5 percent partially. 76.2 percent of the schemes were supervised during implementation. The study observes that the work quality of 41.8 percent schemes was "good", 28.6 percent was "not good or not bad"

and 29.6 percent was “not good”, although the project report mentioned work of all schemes as satisfactory. Besides, only 14.5 percent of all schemes involved repair works, and of the unrepaired, 42 percent of the schemes were not in decent condition.

According to the study, in some areas, 20-25 percent of work is being illegally sold to influential people of the constituencies without keeping any proof of subcontracting in official documents, although supervisors of implementing authority were aware of this. Besides, lack of supervision by some MPs was observed due to nepotism, extra-legal commission/ dividend from contractors and to maintain control of the constituency during polls by party leaders-workers. Even if the parliamentarian of a specific constituency takes initiatives for monitoring the progress of work and resolving complaints, a segment of lawmakers favour irregularities in order to exert political influence and for financial gains. This throws transparency and accountability into question.



There is a lack of initiative and interest in disclosing information on irregularities due to legal impediments, fear of false charges and harassment. No complaints were lodged against 77.6 percent of the schemes in spite of having objection about the quality of work, reasoning that officials concerned ignore complaints due to the nexus between contractors and officials, and fear of threats and harassments while protesting or directly filing a complaint. Besides, if the contractor for the project is a relative or acquaintance or party worker of the

concerned MP, general people are less interested in filing any complaints out of fear. Despite complaints, there was no visible change in the quality of work in 76.1 percent of schemes, the study added.

The study observes that kickbacks at fixed rates, sometimes as lump sums, were transacted among various stakeholders at different stages of tenders, and withdrawal of final bills and security deposits. Although e-tendering has been introduced to curb corruption, irregularities exist in a systematic way where supervisory bodies, contractors, lawmakers, local public representatives and influential syndicates are involved. Allegations found that the parliamentarians have received one-time kickbacks directly deposited to the party fund or through their personal assistants (at 1-2 percent rate) from contractors.

Highlighting the findings of the study Dr. Zaman said, “Parliament members are considering these development projects as their right and thereby exploiting this as a way to increase their local influence and power, protect the corruption of local leaders and for their own financial gain.”

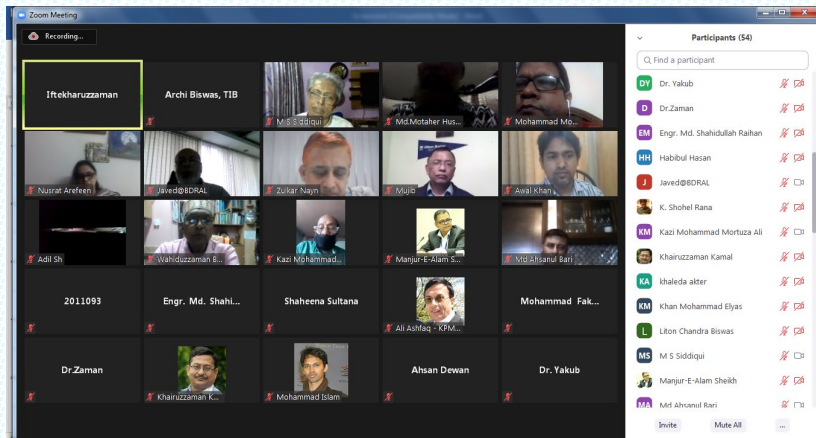
“To avoid these problems, specific laws and policies must be formulated to resolve the conflict of interest issues and rules should be strictly implemented to ensure the integrity and ethical conduct of the people's representatives”, he further added.

The study also made nine-point recommendations addressing the challenges of good governance in the implementation of the schemes powered by block allocations, which included, among others, making an impartial and comprehensive evaluation of the projects under block allocation, formulation of specific legal frameworks or policies, detailing instructions for the scheme selection process, formulation of schemes based on geographical location and appropriateness, representation of local people in relevant coordination committees to ensure people's participation and a reduction of political influence in the decision-making process, disclosure of project information.



## Quarterly Meeting of Members held

A quarterly meeting of TIB members, 'Members Day', was held on 31 August 2020 via Zoom app. Presided over by Kazi Md. Mortuza Ali, Representative of TIB Members at TIB's General Assembly, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB moderated the meeting. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Zaman thanked them for attending the online meeting during this Covid-19 pandemic. He introduced the newly joined members of TIB.



Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam Director, Outreach and Communication, TIB presented the update of the achievements and activities undertaken by since the last Members Day. He also mentioned the initiatives TIB has taken during Corona pandemic. ED, TIB shared the forthcoming research and events of TIB with the attendees.

Members appreciated TIB's work and the new approach of organizing online meeting during this pandemic situation. They even proposed to organize the future meetings of members through online so that members who are living outside of Dhaka and the country can easily join. In the open discussion session, members shared their experiences and opinion about the corruption areas where TIB can contribute. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

## Policy Stances

### Death of Former Army Officer an Example of Undeterred Continuation of 'Crossfire': TIB; Demands Credible Investigation and Halt of Extra-judicial Killing

In a recent incident that caused death of a former Army officer in police firing at Cox's Bazar, there is no alternative to ensure strict accountability through credible investigation. Also, the report of 'primary inquiry' by the army contradicts completely with the multiple cases filed by the police in this regard. In this context, there should be a credible investigation considering both the contradictory interpretation and inform the countrymen whether Police in fact fired in self-defense or not.

The abovementioned comments were made in a statement released by TIB on 5 August, demanding a fair and credible investigation into the case. In addition, the anti-graft watchdog also urged the government to initiate effective steps to move back from unconstitutional extra-judicial killing and ensure legal safeguard of three students who accompanied former Army Officer as colleague in the tragic incident.

There is no chance to see the incident as an isolated one; rather it is an example of transforming the culture of extrajudicial killings into normalcy, commented TIB in the statement.

The statement quotes, "the responsibility for this barbarism cannot be avoided by those directly involved as well as by any relevant organization. The yaba business couldn't be curbed in the country; the 'big players' have been enjoying somewhat freedom under a kind of 'institutional protection'. And the Elite Force RAB, made up of the police force, the armed forces and the BGB has so far killed some very early level drug dealers and some 'innocent' people in the name of 'gunfight'. Since no credible investigation and legal action has been taken in these cases, it can be said with certainty that the law enforcement agencies of the country have got the license or impunity for extrajudicial killings."

“The killing of a former army officer in the police firing should be considered in the light of this overall situation. Because where the constitution of the country does not allow the killing of any citizen without trial, the issue of abuse of ‘impunity’ is also absurd,” reads the statement.

TIB believes that the government will initiate effective steps to move back from unconstitutional move like extra-judicial killing and the relevant institutions will play responsible role in the interest of maintaining their dignity and public confidence, concluded the statement.

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### **Engage youths in decision making to achieve SDGs: TIB**

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Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called for ensuring active participation of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by involving them in making decisions, formulating policies and strategies, setting action plans and implementing them. At the same time, the anti-graft watchdog has urged to ensure transparency in the political process by eliminating political malpractices and demanded an end to the arbitrary application of the controversial sections of the Digital Security Act and other similar laws, so that young people can rise above all fears and express their views.

In a press release on 11 August, the organization made the calls seeking attention of the government and the authorities concerned to the theme of this year's International Youth Day, "Youth Engagement for Global Action".

Stating that Young people are the main driving force in the anti-corruption social movement in Bangladesh by TIB, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB said, “Since 2006, TIB has been conducting various anti-corruption awareness campaigns through the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) platform involving college and university students, with a view to create awareness among them about local and national problems and solutions, and developing them as agents of change through ensuring their participation in the decision-making process. TIB considers this years main theme ‘Youth Engagement for Global Action’ marking international youth day by the United Nations as the international recognition of its effort.”

Stating that out of 169 specific goals of sustainable development goals, 20 of them have been directly addressed to the youth, Dr. Zaman said, ““Especially in targets 4, 5 and 6, special importance has been given to the youth. On the other hand, SDG 16 pledges a peaceful and inclusive society, justice for all, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels for sustainable development. In this case, well-educated, skilled and aware youth and their participation can play the most important role along with other concerned stakeholders. Therefore, as an active partner in achieving the SDGs, a conducive environment needs to be created for the youth to be able to make decisions, formulate policies, formulate action plans and play a role in its implementation.”

Mentioning that young people are at great risk of education, occupation and mental health in the current Covid-19 situation, Dr. Zaman said, while the Covid-19 has created an impact on people from all walks of life, the risk is especially high for young people. According to Dr. Zaman, the workplace has shrunk as the job fields related to youths has been damaged due to the pandemic. Besides, the vast majority of the young people in Bangladesh are lagging behind in terms of access to new and innovative workplaces. “Due to the weakness of our education system and since the youth is not associated with formal education for a long time, it has become an additional challenge for them to attain the new set of skills that the market will need in the new normalcy,” Dr. Zaman added.

Citing that Bangladesh is currently going through a period of ‘Demographic Divient’, Dr. Zaman expressed frustration on aversion of politics among youth and poor participation of youth in policy formulation and implementation within state and social spheres although a large part of the total population of Bangladesh is currently working youth. In particular, the constitutional right to freedom of expression has been widely violated in recent years by political malpractice and the arbitrary application of the Digital Security Act.

Unsolicited cases and detentions of citizens for expressing their views on various state, social or political issues through social media have had a major impact on the youth that has been affecting youth participation and expression of views in different local and global issues,” observed Dr. Zaman.

The Executive Director placed 7 points demands marking this years international youth day, among the notables are: ensure transparency in political process through stopping political malpractice and corruption; ensure level playing field in all public-private employments based on merit and qualification; formulate and implement time-bound specific strategies and action plans to complete implementation of national youth policy 2017. TIB also demanded that opportunities for young people to participate effectively and take action in the face of global humanitarian catastrophes such as COVID-19 epidemics and climate change should be ensured, and create and increase opportunities for creativity, cultural activities and intellectual pursuits in acquiring the necessary technical and managerial skills to adapt to the new normalcy in reality considering COVID-19. In addition to financing, young entrepreneurs need to be provided with advice and encouragement, legal aid and market access, and the necessary budget allocations and bank loan conditions and interest rates need to be eased.

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### **TIB urges the election commissioners to step down voluntarily**

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Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) expressed surprise over developing of a draft Representation of the People Order (RPO) 2020 curtailing its own power to cancel the candidature of a candidate by 91E of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972. Indicating towards reduced public interest and increasing trust deficit regarding elections among countrymen, the anti-graft watchdog questioned for whose interest such suicidal attempt has been made.

In a press release on 27<sup>th</sup> August, TIB urged the election commissioners to resign immediately from their posts if they deem themselves ineligible to discharge the constitutional responsibilities by refraining from making such an unprecedented voluntary suicidal decision.

The EC prepared a draft of section 91E of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972 curtailing its power to cancel the candidature of a candidate and it also approved the draft of the Political Party Registration Bill, 2020 incorporating some articles from the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972. TIB termed the move suicidal plan as it will weaken the EC.

In the statement, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said “The nation will be benefited if all the commissioners including the chief election commissioner voluntarily step down”. If a complaint is raised against a candidate, it will be investigated and if it is proved in the investigation, the candidature of the concerned candidate will be canceled as per the sub-sections 1 and 2 of section 91E of the Representation of the People Order, 1982, Dr. Zaman insisted.

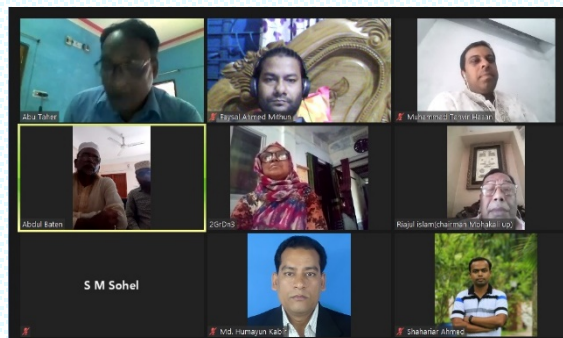
Stating that despite the clear provision of registration in the Representation of the People Order, Dr. Zaman said, the drafting of the 'Registration of Political Parties Act, 2020' is questionable." The rationale behind the proposal to meet a number of indirect conditions, including the obligation to meet two conditions in the draft separate law, is questionable and biased, deviating from the provision of registration of a political party subject to the fulfillment of any one of the three conditions in the existing law. On the whole, the Election Commission is keen to be used as a tool to implement a particular party's political agenda instead of being an institution to ensure democracy the right of the people to vote, which is an unprecedented embarrassment for the Commission as a constitutional institution. "

If a separate 'Political Party Registration Act' has to be enacted, TIB feels it is necessary to make it subject to adequate consideration of the views of all stakeholders, including experts in the field, quoted the statement.



## Union Parishad (UP) Chairman promised to implement UP activities with transparency

The Chairman of Mohakali Union Parishad (UP) of Munshiganj promised to implement the activities of the Union Parishad in a transparent manner for tackling the Corona crisis. As the chief guest of an online exchange meeting held on 17 August 2020 titled 'Challenges and Way Forward for Implementing Union Parishad's activities in tackling Corona Crisis' Chairman of Mohakali Union Parishad Freedom Fighter Md. Reazul Islam Biraj made the commitment. The meeting was jointly organized by Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Munshiganj and Mohakali Union Parishad. President of CCC, Munshiganj Muhammad Tanvir Hasan presided over the meeting while Convener of CCC's local government Sub-Committee Alhaji Md. Shahajan Gazi delivered welcome speech.



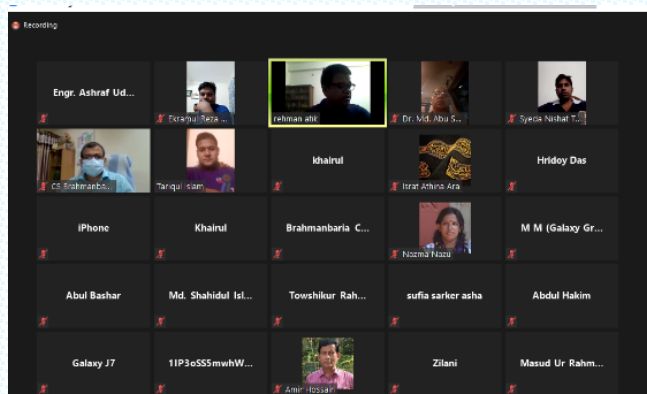
The UP Chairman stated that the present government has been continuing its efforts to build the Union Parishad as a strong local government body. Achieving this goal, CCC, Munshiganj, as a non-governmental organization, is implementing multi-faceted activities to build Mohakali Union Parishad as one of the people-friendly service providers by ensuring transparency and accountability. "As we have a lot of limitations, there are lots of proposals that we can't implement even if we want to," the Chairman added.

The President of CCC said that as a result of implementation of various joint programs by CCC, Munshiganj and Mohakali Union Parishad to improve transparency, accountability and quality of services, Mohakali Union Parishad has become a people friendly Parishad. He further added that a bridge has been built between CCC and Mohakali Union Parishad for the implementation of various programs, which has continued even during Corona crisis.

In the meeting the Secretary of Mohakali Union Parishad Md. Abdul Baten shared the progress of various initiatives implemented by the Union Parishad to address corona crisis. Among others, CCC Member Jahanara Begum, Md. Hossain Sohel and Ali Ahmed Badal, TIB's Program Manager Md. Humayun Kabir, Union Parishad's member spoke in the meeting. The meeting was attended by members of Mohakali Union Parishad, YES Members and representatives of TIB.

## Legal action will be taken against all private hospitals those fail to provide people-friendly and quality services

- Civil Surgeon, Brahmanbaria



"Legal action will be taken against all private hospitals those fail to provide people-friendly and quality services, including cancellation of registration. In addition, all the officials involved in the management of government hospitals need to be more responsible in overcoming the weaknesses of health services." Civil Surgeon Dr. Mohammad Ekram Ullah stated this at a virtual meeting titled "Healthcare in Corona Crisis: Challenges and Way Forward" organized by CCC, Brahmanbaria on 24 August 2020 with the participation of district health authority and citizens. He shared that the

permission to set up PCR lab to test Corona in Brahmanbaria has been granted and Central Oxygen system has already been set up in District Sadar Hospital. Civil Surgeon expressed his determination to initiate patient and health-friendly services in Brahmanbaria with the participation and cooperation of all.

CCC President Engineer Md. Rafiqul Islam presided over the meeting where Superintendent of 250 Bedded Sadar Hospital Dr. Shawkat Hossain said, it was not always possible to ensure the quality of healthcare due to manpower crisis. However, any allegation of irregularity against an employee will be brought under accountability through exemplary punishment.

In addition to sharing ideas on how to provide healthcare to Covid-19 patients at hospital, Mr. Abu Sayed, Chairman of Brahmanbaria Private Medical College Hospital also drew the attention of Civil Surgeon to take actions against all below standard private hospitals and diagnostic centers. Md. Atiqur Rahman, Senior Program Manager-Civic Engagement of TIB opined for disclosure of information on services and a specific plan to improve the quality of healthcare.

Speakers at the discussion pointed out different health service related issues and provided their opinion which included- performing duties properly by the doctors and health workers specially during the Corona period, manpower crisis in hospital, punctuality and accountability of doctors, absence of signature of responsible persons in Corona test report, harassment of non-Covid patients in hospital to avail services, irregularities in collection of examination fees including charging excess fees at diagnostic centers, unethical collection of fees against services by Sadar Hospital's staffs, influence of brokers and harassment of patients during examinations in government hospitals etc.

The meeting was moderated by CCC's Vice-President Abdun Noor. Among others Residential Medical Officer of 250-Bedded Sadar Hospital and Coordinator of COVID-19 Hospital Dr. Md. Ekramul Reza, General Secretary of Press Club Deepak Chowdhury Bappi, President of Chamber of Commerce Mr. Azizul Haque, President of Udichi Mr. Zahirul Islam, Income Tax Adviser Mr. Kamal Uddin, Lecturer Masud Ur Rahman, President of Chetona Swadesh Gronthagar Mr. Amir Hossain and CCC Member Joydul Hossain took part in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by service recipients, professional representatives, members and staff of CCC and TIB.

### Sharing meeting with Education Authority on 'Primary Education in Corona Crisis: Challenges and Way Forward'

To increase transparency and accountability in the primary education system and to ensure quality primary education, an online sharing meeting was held with the district primary education authority on 20 August 2020 organized by CCC, Rajbari. The meeting discussed the current situation of Kamalpur Government Primary School as well as the ongoing steps taken for overall primary education system during Corona Crisis in Rajbari district. District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Hosne Yasmin Karimi was the chief guest at the meeting chaired by CCC President Professor Md. Nuruzzaman. CCC Member Soumitra Sheel Chandan delivered welcome speech in the meeting.

In the open discussion session, the speakers focused on the challenges and actions to be taken regarding involving students of all primary schools in Rajbari district in the implementation of primary education activities during the corona crisis including encouraging parents, preventing students from dropping out of school, raising awareness on social security, providing stipends etc. CCC Member Al Mahmud Ranjan, Ms. Luhfunnesa, Anjuman Ara, Swajan Member Kana Rani Das, YES Team Leader Rifat Mollah, Deputy Leader Khadija Khatun, YES Members Md. Mizanur Rahman and Faria Akhter Roza spoke in the open discussion session. Faridpur Cluster Program Manager-CE, Mohammad Abdur also addressed the meeting.

Following the discussion, DPEO Hosne Yasmin Karimi discussed and answered questions about the inclusion of recommendations that came out from the meeting. She said that steps have been taken to implement the directives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the recommendations of the Ministry on priority basis to take forward the primary education activities. Arrangements have been done for online teaching. In collaboration



with the district administration, an agreement has been made to play videos of the lessons through the district's cable network.

In response to a recommendation of CCC, DPEO added that she would instruct the Upazila Education Officers to increase the monitoring on maintaining the highest quality of sound during video recording for online classes. DPEO shared that the class teachers are regularly teaching 10 students over phone and are communicating with the parents in the form of home visits. All these works are being written by the teachers in notebooks and the Assistant Upazila Education Officer is monitoring the matter. Besides, instructions are being given to the members of SMC to increase the awareness of the parents through the Upazila Education Officers.

In the meeting, DPEO requested everyone to be personally vigilant as well as to provide information to make others aware and alert. Thanking CCC for organizing the meeting, DPEO called for constructive recommendations for the implementation of education activities. She also promised to take necessary action if any inconsistency, corruption or irregularity is observed. CCC President Prof. Md. Nuruzzaman recommended to the education authority for preparing a short syllabus with a view to compensating the losses incurred during the academic year.

### **Discussion on 'Climate Finance Governance during Corona: The Role of Stakeholders' held**

A virtual discussion meeting titled "Climate Finance Governance during Corona: The Role of Stakeholders" was held on 20 August 2020 through online platform Google Meet organized by CCC, Chapainawabganj. The meeting was presided over by CCC President Saiful Islam Reza. Chairman of Chapainawabganj Municipality Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Deputy Director of Department of Agricultural Extension agriculturist Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Executive Engineer of Water Development Board, Chapainawabganj Md. Mehedi Hasan, Executive Engineer of Public Health Engineering Department Amit Kumar Sarkar, Executive Engineer of Borendro Multipurpose Development Authority Md. Shafiqul Islam, Assistant Conservator of Forest of Social Forestry Zone, Chapainawabganj Md. Mehedizamman, Chief Coordinator of Save the Nature Mr. Rabiul Hasan Dollar, General Secretary of Press Club Shahidul Huda Alok were present as discussants in the meeting.

The Convener of CCC's Climate Finance Governance Sub-Committee Dr. Deepali Rani Das delivered welcome speech while Md. Zakir Hossain Khan, Senior Program Manager - Climate Finance Governance of TIB presented the thematic concept paper in the meeting. Mosammat Fojila Khanom, Senior Program Manager-Civic Engagement of TIB also delivered speech.

In the open discussion, Rajshahi Correspondent of *Ekattar Television* Rashid Rusho, Executive Director of



*RSDF* Md. Manjurul Islam Babu, Program Manager of *Proyas* Md. Abdus Salam, CCC Member Md. Raihanul Islam Luna, TIB's Rajshahi Cluster Program Manager Rajesh Kumar Adhikari, students Shilpi Khatun, Most. Masuma Yasmin took part. The participants pointed out that the impact of climate change is much greater in Chapainawabganj and Barendra areas. Amongh these, falling water level, scarcity of water in the river, lightening, unseasonal rain or excess rain, loss of some birds from the area etc. are significant.

In the meeting, numbers of recommendations were forwarded to the authorities which included, stopping the dumping of garbage in the river Mahananda; stop the filling ponds of municipality area and to make arrangements for their conservation by digging; to motivate the citizens to plant trees and to maintain the balance of the natural environment; take initiative to plant a large number of trees in the Barendra area at the initiative of the Forest Department to maintain the balance of the natural environment; to increase transparency and accountability of climate finance projects implementing at the local level; to increase public opinion and involvement in project adoption and implementation at the local level; increase



coordination among the departments which are implementing climate finance projects; taking awareness activities to motivate farmers to use organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers; emphasize the use of surface water instead of ground water for irrigation; to make arrangements for the conservation of the water of the river Mahananda through the construction of a rubber dam on the river; and keeping in mind the adverse effects of climate change while planning any project etc.

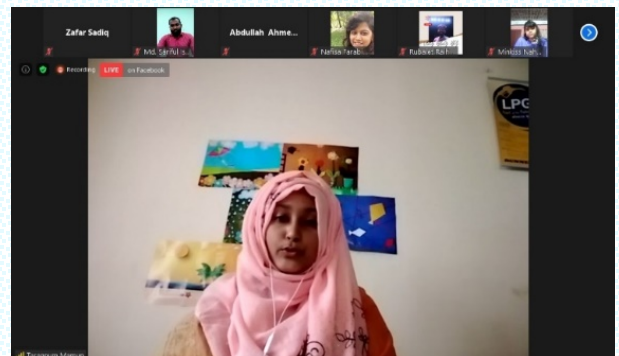
The discussion was attended by journalists, civil society representatives, and representatives of NGOs, teachers, students, CCC, Swajan, YES, YES Friends and TIB officials. TIB's Area Manager Md. Shafiqul Islam moderated the discussion.

### **Stamford YES organized Anti-Corruption Speech Competition**

Marking the International Youth Day (IYD) 2020, a two part online anti-corruption speech competition was organized by Stamford YES. In this competition, 30 participants participated from 17 institutes from all over the country. The preliminary round was held from 15 July to 5 August and the participants sent their pre-recorded three minutes' speeches video through email. Ten participants were selected for the final round. They gave their speech live on 9 August.

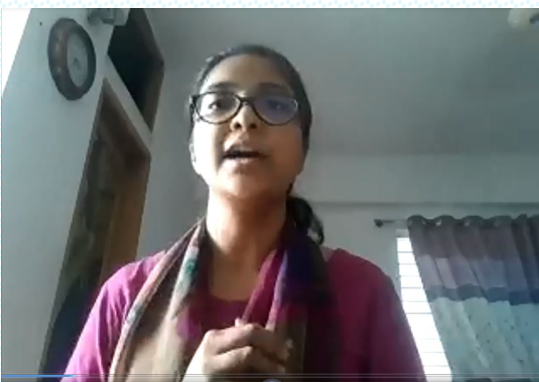
Dr. Iftekharuzzaman has announced the result and five winners were awarded with certificates and books through courier and online bookshop. Seven judges have evaluated the speeches, three of them in the preliminary round and four in the final round.

The topic of the preliminary round was 'Corruption during COVID 19' and the topic for the final round was 'Youths to fight corruption'. The Final round was live telecasted on the TIB FB page and 2.9k viewers watched it live. The Winners in the final round were Mahmuda Sarwar Shraboni from Southeast University, Seikh Sadia Siddiqua from Chittagong University, Mehedi Hasan from Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology, Tarannum Mamun from Khulna University and Minkiss Nahar Tammana from Jahangirnagar University.



### **Extempore Speech Competition held on Bangabandhu and Social Movement against Corruption**

TIB organized an online Extempore Speech Competition on "Bangabandhu and Social Movement against Corruption" to mark the National Mourning Day 2020 and the Mujib Borsho (Centenary). The two-round competition was held on 15 August 2020 via Zoom. YES and YES Friends representative from 45 CCC based and 16 Dhaka based YES groups were the participants of the competition. 51 YES and YES Friends members



competed in the primary round of the competition into two groups. The top five scorer from each group competed in the final round of the competition.

Engr. Md. Delwar Hossain Majumder, CCC representative at TIB's General Assembly (till the next meeting of GA) and Member, CCC-Chattogram; Advocate Maya Bhowmic, CCC representative at TIB's General Assembly and Member, CCC-Kishoreganj and Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam, Director, Outreach and Communication, TIB were the final round judges. All the judges appreciated the depth of knowledge of these young minds. They urged the participants as well as young generation of Bangladesh to practice integrity in their

personal and professional life as well as to raise their voice against corruption.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB also admired the participants for their spontaneous and excellent speech. He congratulated all the participants of the competition. He thanked the CCCs, YES and YES members for the effort they put for this competition and appreciated them for their patriotism, commitment against corruption and their consciousness about the contribution of Bangabandhu for this country.

Fariha Ahmed, member of Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka YES group was the top scorer among the 10 finalists of the competition. Shahriar Pranto, member of YES group- Institute of Education and Research (IER), University of Dhaka and Zannatun Naium Shoma member of Sher-e-bangla Agricultural University YES group secured the second and third position respectively. The top three scorers were awarded books and all participants of the competition got certificate from TIB.

### **YES members participated in an app based training and quiz competition on RTI**

TIB and Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) jointly organized an app-based training and quiz competition on Right to Information (RTI) for the YES and YES Friends members of the CCC and Dhaka YES groups. This joint initiative was taken under the MoU between MRDI and TIB, signed on 15 July 2020 with an aim to capacitate the YES and YES Friends members of TIB on access to information and freedom of speech-related acts and issues.

The training followed by a quiz competition, was held on 23 August 2020 through the “iknow” mobile app developed by the MRDI which contains content on Right to Information Act, 2009 and its implementation process. 404 YES and YES Friends members of TIB from all around the country participated in the training and the competition. The top 101 participants who provided maximum right answers and obtained the highest score within the shortest time period, were announced as the winner of the competition on 28 August 2020. Participant who obtained the first position will be awarded a mobile phone and the rest of the 100 winners will get a T-shirt from MRDI.

### **Uttara University YES organized Orientation on Leadership and Public Speaking**

As part of observation of International Youth Day 2020, YES Group-Uttara University organized an Orientation on Youth Leadership and Public Speaking on 16 August 2020. Mr Nur E Alam Business analyst of BRAC Microfinance conduct a session on Youth Leadership and Mousumi Mou a public speaker, TV Anchor, Organizer and General Secretary of Prothom Alo Bondhushova national committee conducted a session on Public Speaking and Presentation. Later a Q/A session took place. More than fifty YES members, friends and students from different universities participated at the event. Also, the event was live telecasted on the Dhaka YES Facebook page and 83 YES members and friends watched the live session.

### **Workshop on LinkedIn Profile**

YES Group-Institute of Education and Research (IER), University of Dhaka organized a Workshop on 14 August 2020. Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam, Director, Outreach and Communication, TIB and Dr Taposh Kumar Biswash, Associated Professor of IER and Advisor to the IER-YES were attended as the guests. One hundred and seventy (170) participants from CCCs, Dhaka YES and general students of Dhaka University registered their interest to the event. Samanjar Chowdhury and Tareque Mehedi was a facilitator of workshop.

### **Extempore Speech Competition on National Mourning Day 2020**

TIB organized an online Extempore Speech Competition on Bangabandhu and Social Movement against Corruption to mark the National Mourning Day 2020 and the Mujib Borsho (Centenary). The two-round competition was held on 15 August 2020 via Zoom. YES, and YES Friends representative from 45 CCC based and 16 Dhaka based YES groups were the participants of the competition. 51 YES and YES Friends members competed in the primary round of the competition dividing into two groups. The top five scorer from each group competed in the final round. The top three scorers among the 10 finalists were awarded with books.

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