

National News

Corona-related National Crisis

TIB recommends a National Strategy with special allocation equivalent to 10pc of GDP

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called for a national strategy containing short, medium and long-term action plan to manage and steer the recovery process from socio-economic setbacks being caused by the extraordinary national crisis related to Corona virus.

In a statement issued to media on 28 March, 2020, the anti-graft watchdog recommends that a special Fund be set up for the purpose equivalent to at least 10 percent of GDP. Reminding that management of any crisis like this is always vulnerable to corruption, TIB also calls for ensuring the highest standards of transparency and accountability in implementation of the strategy with particular emphasis on financial transparency in all stages and aspects.



Recalling the Prime Minister's recent declaration of the situation as a national crisis that needed collective action, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB said, "there is no scope of relaxing in complaisance relying on home quarantine and some visibly insufficient and uncoordinated measures. Now is the time to develop a national strategy involving relevant national and international

experts that will contain short, medium and long term plan of action. At the same time a Special Fund should be set up equivalent to at least 10 percent of GDP for managing the crisis and steering the process of recovery from the socio-economic setback being inflicted. The capacity to detect infection and treatment must be enhanced and decentralized across the country sooner than later. Doctors and health workers must get full protection and their valuable service duly recognized".

Commending the Prime Minister's initiative in aid of workers of the export-oriented sectors and ultra-poor, executive director of TIB says, "the process to implement this important initiative including how its benefits will reach the workers must be clearly defined without delay." Similarly, the remit of such initiatives must be expanded to equally include the ultra-poor with the disadvantaged sections of the society, especially low-income groups who have already or may soon become jobless cannot be forgotten, he said.

During this crisis, despite all restrictions, the supply chain of food and daily essentials must remain active failing which in addition to Covid-19, quarantine itself may cause human sufferings and deaths. The reportedly confused and indecent abuse of power by a section of police personnel in the name of enforcing home quarantine have accentuated public despair, which must be stopped, the statement said.

Recognising the enhanced responsibility and authority of the government and government agencies tend to increase in such crises, TIB reminded that in the end it is the people with whom rests the source of this expanded authority. TIB expects the Government and relevant institutions to be mindful that abuse of power by crossing limits turns to be counterproductive. "All measures must be ensured to prevent any violation of people's basic rights, especially right to life and livelihood, freedom of speech and opinion, and right to information", said executive director of TIB.

Parallel with government efforts, we urge upon the richer sections of the society to proactively contribute. A section of the business community and industrialists have from time to time thrived thanks to various forms of advantages granted by the government at the cost of public exchequer. At this critical stage for the nation we want to believe that the section of the business community and industrialists who from time to time

thrived thanks to various forms of advantages granted by the government at the cost of public exchequer, will take their turn to act with a sense of responsibility in public interest, said Iftekharuzzaman.

In this connection, TIB also draws the attention of multinational companies, foreign investors and businesses as well as regional, international organizations, and bilateral and multilateral development partners of Bangladesh. We call upon them to stand by Bangladesh today in their self-interest, the statement said.

Above all, TIB asserts that in order that such a huge challenge is confronted effectively, there is no alternative to ensuring highest standard of transparency and accountability. Highlighting that a deficit of trust in the information provided by the relevant public institution feeding rumours thus leading to further panic, TIB demands that unrestricted and regularly updated disclosure of information must be ensured, especially in terms of detailed sources and itemized allocation and expenses of funds as well as purposes and processes thereof.

On the other hand, a deficit of trust in the information detailed and specific data on such matters as tests, infection, deaths, treatment and recovery must be unrestrictedly disclosed for public information which will help people to prepare them better. [See the Full Statement here](#)

'At the Call of the Father of the Nation, Together Against Corruption'
TIB emphasizes on financial transparency in the Mujib Year

TIB has called upon the government and all political leaders to ensure transparency and accountability in all financing and monetary transactions in the 'Mujib Year'.



In a statement released on 16 March 2020, in the eve of the birth centenary of the country's Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the anti-graft watchdog also placed 12-point demands highlighting the need to maintain the financial transparency in organising the year-long programme to uphold the ideology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The government has decided to observe the "MujibBorsho" from March 17, 2020 to March 26, 2021 marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by holding various programmes throughout the year. Until his last moments, Bangabandhu fought against ethnic repression, political deprivation, economic exploitation, corruption, irregularities, snatching democratic rights and other discrimination, TIB said in the statement.

The statement reads, 'Even after independence, Bangabandhu expressed his concern and disappointment about those indulging in corruption. Alongside his government's call to boycott the corrupt socially, he called upon common people to unite against them.'

The statement quoted excerpts from Bangabandhu's speech delivered on 26 March 1975, marking the last independence day of his life, " ...I had called upon you (in 1971) to transform every house into a fort ... the number one priority today is to root out corruption from the Bangla soil. I need your help ... I will enforce law, I will not spare anybody ... there has to be a people's movement ... It has to be a movement to socially boycott the bribe-taker and the corrupt ... Who can do it? My student-brothers can do it, the youth can, intellectuals can, the people can ... you have to convert each house into a fort ... this time against corruption, so that we can alleviate the sufferings of the toiling masses of Bangladesh" (translation from the original in Bangla).

Stating that Bangabandhu left behind effective strategies and guidelines against corruption, TIB Executive Director **Dr Iftekharuzzaman** said, "With the theme, 'At the Call of the Father of the Nation, Together Against Corruption', we urge upon the government, the political leaders and other stakeholders to build a corruption-free and well-governed country in line with the ideals of Bangabandhu on his birth centenary to ensure transparency and accountability in financing and financial transaction in the country."

TIB's Specific Calls on Mujib Year

- 'Zero tolerance' against corruption at the mainstream of statecraft, state and government operation must be established, and politics and political position should be neutralized from corruption, mischief and illegal money;
- Government should observe Mujib Year as a state programme upholding the truth that Mujib is the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, in a way so that vested quarters could not abuse the name of the great leader. The opportunity to exploit the name of this great leader as a means of gaining the personal advantage of the opportunistic quarter must be stopped;
- The celebration of the Mujib Year should ensure maximum transparency and accountability, including self-motivated disclosure of all government-funded financing, expenditure of funds and financial transaction information through websites and other easily accessible to the public;
- To ensure transparent, accountable and effective enforcement of legal and institutional capability to prevent corruption, and access to justice of all citizens, all institutions related to administration, law enforcement and judiciary must be free of party political influence and have to confirm transparency of all institutions at all levels.
- Information on all income and expenditure and financial transactions related to the government and private sectors spent on the occasion of Mujib Year in the meantime should be disclosed on its own initiative;
- To ensure prevention of corruption, inclusive and sustainable development, accountable good governance and access to justice for all citizens in the interest of transparent, accountable and effective implementation of legal and institutional capacity, administration, law enforcement and judicial institutions must be free from all forms of party political influence and transparency;
- All government decision-making processes, including the eradication of the culture of impunity for all types of crimes, including corruption, must be free from the influence of powerful vested interests, and the priority of the public interest must be ensured;
- Anti-Corruption Commission should be freed from direct and indirect political influence through ensuring effective application of political will to empower ACC; also the leadership of the ACC should be functioning with fearless courage, determination and impartiality to ensure exemplary effectiveness in carrying out its legal and institutional responsibilities;
- The constitutional commitment to freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of the mass media must be fulfilled; any risky laws contradictory to these rights should be amended by scrapping controversial provisions;
- Above all, at the call of the Father of the Nation to control and prevent corruption, the political commitment of 'zero tolerance' declared by the Prime Minister against corruption must be effectively applied; the implementation of the pledge that "no one will be spared" should ensure accountability, including exemplary punishment, regardless of the identity and position of the accused. Anti-corruption activities have to be transformed into social movement by ensuring a conducive environment for increasing participation of the people, especially the younger generation, at all levels.

Imprisoning a journalist at midnight illegal and against the freedom of the media: TIB Calls to ensure exemplary accountability of those involved

TIB has termed the jailing of Ariful Islam, a local journalist of Kurigram after being picked up from home at midnight as 'illegal', asserting such blatant abuse of law is contrary to the constitutional commitment of rule of law and is tantamount to ignoring the press freedom.

In a press statement released on 14 March 2020, the anti-graft watchdog cautioned that people would lose confidence in the administration and the government if those involved in such a heinous incident is not brought under accountability through speedy investigation and trial.

Referring to media reports on sentencing of the journalist to one-year imprisonment and fine of 50000 by a mobile court under a taskforce of Kurigram district administration on charges of possessing narcotics, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "according to specific rules and directives from the highest court on running mobile courts in the country, it is illegal to run a mobile court after picking up any citizen from home at midnight."

"If the imprisoned journalist was on suspicion list, the law enforcement agency could have carried out an operation considering the seriousness of the crime. But picking up the journalist through burglarizing into his home at the midnight in presence of a Magistrate and later sentencing by a mobile court is certainly 'Questionable'. It is clear from the conduct of the court proceedings after the forceful pick-up of the journalist that the whole incident was not a suppression of crime but some other considerations are behind the incident," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

Citing the allegation of imprisoned journalist's wife that her husband was inhumanely tortured after his arrest, TIB Executive Director said "If it is true, then it is not limited to the misuse of the law only but those who are involved in the incident have directly committed a criminal offense. We therefore demand that the Committee of Inquiry set up under the direction of the Cabinet Division will submit an impartial and credible report promptly, and take necessary accountable steps that shall not be called into question."

Referring media reports that Ariful Islam had been reporting on 'corruption and irregularities' of the Deputy Commissioner and the district administration, Dr Iftekharuzzaman said "if he was brought to accountability illegally for reporting against corruption, then it is an ominous sign for the country. In that case, the whole incident should be considered as a cautionary message for the media, which indicates bar to reporting against corruption. While the country's Prime Minister has pledged zero tolerance against corruption, such behavior by some officials in the administration amounts to serious misconduct and a challenge to the government."

Considering the gravity of the incident, TIB demanded that strict legal action be taken immediately against those involved through addressing the allegation with due importance.

Update

Following the incident, on March 23, HC ordered police to take a case over it against the DC and other people involved. The High Court directed police to immediately record a case. Nine days after High Court order, the case is eventually filed after dilly-dallying by police. The case has been filed against former Kurigram Deputy Commissioner Sultana Pervin, revenue collector Nazim Uddin, former assistant commissioners Rintu Kumar Chakma and SM Rahatul Islam, and 35 to 40 unnamed persons, for torturing and attempting to kill Dhaka Tribune journalist Ariful Islam. HC also stayed, for six months, the proceedings of the case filed by the mobile court against Ariful, and its order that convicted and sentenced him in connection with the case. The HC bench of Justice Md Ashraful Kamal and Justice Sardar Md Rashed Jahangir came up with the order and rule, challenging the legality of the mobile court action, following a writ petition filed by journalist Ariful, who was released on bail.

Rejection of bail petition of former MP and his wife
Judges instant transfer ominous sign for rule of law and judiciary: TIB

TIB has expressed deep concern over the stand release and transfer of Pirojpur district judge Abdul Mannan after he rejected the bail petition of a former MP of the ruling party and his wife in a graft case.

In a press statement on 4 March 2020, the anti-graft watchdog termed the brazenness a rare and devastating example in the judicial history of the country. At the same time, the organization urged the government to effectively decouple the judiciary from the executive department for the sake of upholding rule of law and justice in the country.

The stand release of Pirojpur District and Sessions Judge Abdul Mannan was issued just four hours after he denied bail pleas of former Awami League MP AKM Abdul Awal and his wife Lyla Parvin on 2 June. The ex-MP and his wife were sent to jail in three separate graft cases on charges of grabbing government land, according to filing of three cases by ACC on December 30 last year over leasing khas land using fake documents. Later, acting District and Sessions Judge Nahid Nasrin granted them bail for two months following a review petition filed by the accused.

Referring to the media reports in this regard, in the statement, TIB executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "Such an unprecedented incident is rare in the history of Bangladesh's subordinate court, which will be regarded as devastating example in suppressing the rule of law, justice, and democratic accountability in the country."

The TIB executive director also observed that such incident portrays strong influence of the executive branch of the state and political interference on the judiciary, making the rule of law hostage in the hands of some influential people and flourishing the culture of impunity. He also feared that the incident could empower the vested quarter who advocate the culture of impunity and practicing executive and political power over the judiciary.

"We urge the government and political leaders to avoid such suicidal path and to pursue effective ways to make the judiciary truly independent," Dr. Zaman added.

The TIB also urged the government to avert such self-destructive paths and make the judiciary effective in reality. [See the Full statement here](#)

Update:

The incident triggered widespread criticism and reached the usual crescendo on social media. Later on 5 June, the High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the government decision to stand release of the judge. Fixing 11 March for hearing, the HC issued a rule asking the law and justice division secretary of the law ministry to explain within a week as to why the decision about Judge Mannan should not be declared illegal. Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq on 4 March told reporters the judge has been transferred to control the situation for his misconduct with lawyers not for rejecting bail to Awami League leader AKMA Awal and his wife.

Former Law Minister Shafiq Ahmed said, "The matter of Judge's stand release is very upsetting. As far as I remember, such incident did not happen in the last two decades. The freedom of judiciary has been questionable to some extent because of this incident."

Mainstream integrity and corruption prevention to ensure gender equality and women's rights: TIB on Int'l Women's Day

TI Bangladesh considers corruption as one of the main impediments to establish women's rights, and to control it effectively, the anti-graft watchdog calls upon the government to mainstream corruption prevention and integrity at all levels of state operation. TIB also urges to formulate specific roadmap/action plan to achieve sustainable development goals with particular importance to goal 5 and 16 to reduce corruption as the prerequisite of ending violence and torture against women.



The calls were made in 10-point demands placed by TI Bangladesh for the consideration at the policy-making level of the government marking International Women's Day (IWD) 2020. TI Bangladesh celebrates the IWD each year with utmost importance as it believes that both the women rights movement and the anti-corruption movement are interlinked, and it is not possible to achieve the sustainable development goals and ensure good governance without involving women. This year, TI Bangladesh is celebrating International Women's Day 2020 with the theme: 'Sustainable Development Goals, Good Governance, Equality and Women'.



To mark the day, TI Bangladesh has chalked out a series of programmes to be organized across the country at both national and local level. The diversified events include human chains/rallies, street theatres, seminar, workshops, discussion meetings, cultural programmes.

As part of the celebration, TI Bangladesh organized a day-long workshop with women government officials on 5 March at its Dhaka office to discuss the status and role of women in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring good governance. 24 female Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) from all the 8 administrative divisions of the country took part in the event with the approval and assistance of the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh.

The main purpose of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the government officials through interactive discussion and encourage female government officials to play an effective role in ensuring good governance through implementing the gender-related goal 5 and good governance related goal 16 of SDGs. At the workshop, Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Adviser-Executive Management, TIB said, there is no substitute to apply a gender perspective to achieve sustainable development goals with increased women's participation in the decision-making process and women empowerment. TIB attempts to integrate a gender perspective in all of its activities and hopes, if applied, such an approach would accelerate the government's programmes to achieve SDGs more efficiently, added Dr. Khair.

Noted human rights activist Advocate U. M. Habibun Nessa facilitated an open interactive session on 'Inclusive strategy in ensuring sustainable development: no one will be left behind'. The female officials participated in group activities on 'Good governance in women rights and empowerment process: Recommendation for Upazila level' and later presented their findings.



TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman made a presentation on 'Sustainable Development, good governance, equality and women' which covered a range of issues from women empowerment and equal rights guaranteed in the constitution of Bangladesh, the impact of lack of good governance on women, the way forward based on sustainable development, good governance and women.

At the concluding session, Dr Iftekharuzzaman handed over certificates among the participants. Dr Zaman called upon the female officials to carry out their crucial role in implementing government development programmes and ensuring public services delivery. He hoped that the workshop would help the participants in integrating a gender-sensitive approach at their activities.

CCC News

IWD observed at CCCs

With the theme 'Sustainable Development Goals, Good Governance, Equality and Women', CCCs celebrated the 08 March International Women's Day with various awareness raising activities at their respective areas. Few CCCs observed the day jointly organized with local District/Upazilla administration. CCC-SWAJON-YES-YES Friends organized rallies, discussions, orientations, human chains, seminars and quiz/essay/debate competitions across 45 locations in the country. Deputy Commissioners (DC), Additional Deputy Commissioners, Municipality Mayors, Upazilla Chairman, Upazilla Vice-Chairman and other locally elected representatives, Upazilla Nirbahi Officers (UNO) along with other govt. officials, different professionals, civil society members, media representatives, and young people were attended these events.



A concept note with a set of 10 demands was circulated among relevant stakeholders where TIB stated that corruption interrupts women development and empowerment; to ensure women's rights, state should be governed with proper implementation of integrity & anti-corruption related rules and regulations. TIB also suggested developing a set of defined work plan for achieving the goal 5 & 16 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The concept note also mentioned that political wills along with legal and institutional obligations can resist corruption which will ensure women's development and empowerment too.

Speakers of different events stated that lack of accountability in power structures increase corruption that prohibits social justice, rule of law and equal rights, which is a pre-requisite for establishing women empowerment. They also made importance to effective participation of women in decision making process for achieving SDGs.

Madaripur Hospital authority to serve Covid-19 patients

Civil Surgeon cum Superintendent of Madaripur Sadar Hospital Dr. Safiqul Islam assured that the hospital authority will ensure the health related services to the service seekers with due care during the crisis of Covid-19. He informed that four separate beds have been designated for the Covid-19 patients for ensuring



their treatment; though the number is not sufficient. The Superintendent mentioned that with cordial cooperation of all level staff, the quality of services of the hospital has been improved. Though there are some limitations, the authority tries to meet the requirements of the service recipients. Superintendent sought cooperation from all to ensure better services. Dr. Safiqul Islam delivered this speech as the chief guest in an opinion sharing meeting with the CCC, Madaripur on March 04, 2020.

CCC, Madaripur organized the meeting at the office of the Superintendent of the hospital. Convener of the CCC's sub-committee regarding health sector Mr. Momtaz Haque presided over the meeting. He urged to ensure transparency at all level operations of the hospital, which will set a standard of services. He requested relevant authority to increase human resources in the hospital too.

Residential Medical Officer (In charge) of the hospital Dr. Akhil Sarker said, the authority of the hospital is trying to make it a model institution to serve the citizens. In this regard, he sought CCC's cooperation to make the hospital citizens friendly. He mentioned that few positive changes have been occurred due to the advocacy and cooperation from the CCC. Among others, Doctors, Nurses, officials of the hospital and CCC members were also present in the meeting.

Information fair held

Different initiatives to popularize Right to Information Act 2009

Aiming to popularize and effective implementation of the Right to Information Act-2009, three Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) organized Information Fair in collaboration with respective District and Upazilla Administration in the month of March 2020. A total of 64 government and non-government institutions set-up their stalls and disseminated service related information in these fairs. Rallies, discussion meetings, talk shows, face the public programs, cartoon exhibitions; quiz and debate competitions, anti-corruption signature campaign, cultural programs etc. were organized at the fair premises.

In collaboration with District Administration, information fairs were organized by the CCC, Sylhet on 03 March; CCC, Kishoreganj on 04 March and CCC, Munshiganj on 09-10 March, 2020. Youth Engagement and Support (YES) and YES Friends members of the CCCs carried out Satellite Advice and Information Desk campaigns in these fairs and oriented the visitors about how to apply for information under the Right to Information Act, 2009.

Sylhet: Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet Mr. Mashiur Rahman, NDC inaugurated the day-long information fair on 03 March 2020 accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet M Kazi Emdadul Islam, Additional DIG of Bangladesh Police, Sylhet Range, Mr. Joydeb Kumar Bhadra, Superintendent of Police, Sylhet Mohammad Farid Uddin PPM and Ms. Julia Jesmin Mili, Deputy Director of District Information Office, Sylhet. A total of 23 institutions participated in the Information Fair held at Mohammad Ali Gymnasium, Rikari bazar, Sylhet.



Following the inauguration session, a discussion meeting was organized on creating citizen's awareness about the RTI Act and the role of government & non-government institutions for effective implementation of this act. Adv Sayed Monir Ahmed, member of the CCC, Sylhet moderated the discussion and Md. Aslam Uddin, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Sylhet presided over the meeting.

Chief Guest of the discussion meeting Mr. Mashiur Rahman NDC, Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, said, citizens have the rights to know information on government activities as they are the owner of the state according to the constitution. The RTI Act creates this scope for all level of citizens to know information. He mentioned that the institutions should properly

practice transparency & accountability through implementing the RTI Act; Information Fair is an effective tool to popularize this act as well, he added.



Sylhet Metropolitan Police, Divisional Passport & Visa Office, and Civil Surgeon office proactively disclosed service related information and took part in the Question & Answer session in the fair. A closing ceremony of the information fair was held at 07:00 pm on the same day presided over by the CCC President Mr. Aziz Ahmed Salim in where Md. Azbahar Ali Sheikh PPM, Deputy Police Commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (North) was present as special guest.

Kishoreganj: CCC, Kishoreganj organized the information fair in collaboration with the District Administration on 04 March 2020 based on the slogan 'Pledge of Mujibbarsho to prevent corruption'. Md. Sarwar Morshed Chowdhury, the Deputy Commissioner of Kishoreganj district inaugurated the information fair following participation in an anti-corruption rally on that day at 10:00 am. The day-long information fair held at the Zilla Shilpokola Academy in Kishoreganj. A discussion meeting was held at the fair premises presided by the president of CCC, Kishoreganj Mr. Saiful Haque Mollah Dulu where the Deputy Commissioner delivered his speech as chief guest.

The Deputy Commissioner said, transparency & accountability is the pre-condition to ensure good governance. Transparency and accountability will be ensured through the effective implementation of the Right to Information Act-2009. This is an effective tool to combat corruption, he added. Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr. Abdullah Al Masud, Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Mr. Mizanur Rahman and Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr. Md. Mostafizur Rahman delivered their speech as special guest. Ms. Maya Bhowmic, member of TIB General Assembly and the CCC also delivered the welcome speech in the discussion meeting.

A total of 22 government and non-government institutions were participated in the fair and a number of 410 RTI application was submitted to different authorities by the visitors of the fair. Deputy Director (Local Government) Mohammad Abdullah concluded the fair participating in a conclusion session.

Munshiganj: District Administration and the CCC, Munshiganj jointly organized a two day-long information fair at District Shilpakola Academy, Munshiganj on 09-10 March 2020. Md. Moniruzzaman Talukder, the Deputy Commissioner of Munshiganj, inaugurated the information fair on 09 March 2020 at 03:30 pm. He asked the government and non-government institutions to play an effective role for popularizing the Right to Information Act-2009. The Deputy Commissioner said, effective implementation of the Right to Information Act will resist corruption surely. He made importance to organize campaign on the act among the youth and students.



A total of 19 government and non-government institutions were participated in the fair. A closing ceremony was held on 10 March 2020 presided by the CCC president Muhammad Tanvir Hasan, in where the

Superintendent of Police Mr. Abdul Momen PPM was present as chief guest. Civil Surgeon Dr. Muhammad Abul Kalam Azad and Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Mr. Dipak Kumar Roy was also delivered speech as special guest. The chief guest made importance to use the Right to Information Act as a tool to fight against corruption.

Among others, senior govt. officials i.e. Deputy Directors of different departments, Superintendent of different hospitals, Upazilla Nirbahi Officers, locally elected representatives, members of CCCs, SWAJONs, YES & YES Friends Groups and senior officials from TIB attended at the local celebrations. Different awareness raising materials like issue based leaflets and flyers were distributed among the participants and visitors of these fairs.

JU-YES group marks IWD



Jahangirnagar University YES group organized a day-long program on 10 March 2020 to mark the IWD 2020. To mark the day, the YES group organized a seminar on Sustainable Development Goals, Good Governance, Equality and Women at the seminar room of Zahir Raihan auditorium of the university. A seminar titled- was held on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus. Executive Director of TIB Dr Iftekharuzzaman addressed the seminar as chief guest while Professor DrNaseem Akhter Hossain of Government and Politics Department of the university was as keynote speaker. Presided over by chief adviser of the JU YES group, Prof Bashir Ahmed, Professor Golam Rabbani of History Department, Associate Professor Md Sajedur Rahman and Associate Professor Dr Md Tarikul Islam also spoke at the seminar, among others.



Later, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman administered an anti-corruption oath-taking program with the participants of the seminar, YES members and over 200 students of the university. Meanwhile, Sharmin Akter Supta, student of Jahangirnagar University and player of Bangladesh Womens National Cricket team, was also honored as the symbol of women empowerment by the YES group.

Besides, a quiz competition was arranged, where Nahidul Islam of Computer Science and Engineering Department of Stamford University, Ashraful Islam of Jahangirnagar University and

Nazneen Sahriar Labonno of Anthropology Department of Jahangirnagar University were awarded first, second and third prizes respectively. A blood test programme was also organised in association with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman hall unit of BADHAN (a voluntary blood donation organisation of the JU). Also, three branches of 'Natural Open Library', financed by the TIB, organized by the YES group-JU were set up at three different places of the university campus. TIB executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman inaugurated the library at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the university.

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