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TIB protests decision to set-up coal-based power plant near the Sundarbans – world's largest mangrove forest

TIB and 4 other rights based groups protested government's recent decision to set-up a coal based power plant near the Sundarbans – world's largest mangrove forest and placed a five-point demand that included immediate cancellation of the decision, save biodiversity of the forest, stop land acquisition and ensure people's participation in decision making of the project. TIB along with BELA, ActionAid, BAPA and Save the Sundarbans made these demands at a press conference held at the National Press Club on April 15.

Speakers of the press conference said that land acquisition for this controversial project had started through a non-transparent process and the project authorities had reportedly forced and threatened local people to hand over their lands. If the power plant is set ignoring public concern, it would pose a threat to the biodiversity of the Sunderbans as well as the livelihood of the local people.

They also demanded to shift the power plant as per the 'Environment Conservation Act 1997' and also to publish the agreement between BPDB and NTPC on January 29, 2012.

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TIB concerned over the Railway incident demands neutral investigation and exemplary punishment

TIB has expressed its concern and disappointment over the unprecedented incident involving the Minister of Railways and demanded proper investigation and exemplary punishment of those responsible.

“The midnight episode in which a large amount of money was recovered from one of the aides of the Railway Minister and the subsequent incidents that followed, indicate patronage of corruption by high political and public officials”, said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB. “More disturbing is the sheer lack of appropriate action amounting to connivance, whether under influence or not by the Border Guard Bangladesh as well as the Police authority” he said. Terming the event as only a tip of the iceberg,

the Executive Director of TIB said that the Government that came to power with a pledge to control corruption including specific commitment against illegal income, extortion and bribery has a challenge now to demonstrate that it has the political will and capacity to restore the trust of the people by preventing corrupt elements within the institutions of politics, administration and law enforcement. The statement also called upon the Minister to resign immediately taking the responsibility at least on moral ground and create the space for independent investigation free from any influence. TIB Executive Director also demanded exemplary punishment against those who would be found guilty.

Dhaka YES camp 2012 held

The annual review and capacity building camp of members of all Dhaka YES groups was held on 6-8 April in Manikganj, Koitta. A total of 203 YES members from Yes groups of Ruquayya Hall,

outreach and campaign programs. YES members also reviewed and evaluated their programs held in the previous year during the camp. This year's camp specially focused on using ICT in



anti-corruption campaigns. As social networking is gaining more popularity among youngsters they were taught how to use this technology in promoting the campaign.

The 3 day event also included sessions on UNCAC; governance, transparency & anti-corruption movement & documentary making.

YES members also took

Kuwait Maitree Hall, IER, Social Welfare and Research Institute, Development Studies Department of the University of Dhaka; Jahangirnagar University; IBAIS University; Stamford University; Uttara University; ULAB and Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University took part in the camp. The camp which is held annually, aims at building the capacity of TIB's youth volunteers who are engaged in a variety of anti-corruption

part in a day long group work where they worked on some thematic issues i.e. ICT, climate change, leadership, right to information, anti-corruption campaign and gender & development. The camp ended with the renewed pledge by the YES members to further strengthen the social movement against corruption with newer innovation and commitment.

TIB participates in Shangraing festival

For the third consecutive year, TIB participated in the traditional Shangraing festival in the hill district of Bandarban from 11-15 April. The Shangraing festival is organized to mark the new year of the Marma and other indigenous communities of Bandarbaan.

It is also one of the major religious festivals of these indigenous peoples featuring various colorful events that include a colorful rally, religious

rituals, water festival and cultural programs.

For centuries, Bangladesh has been the dwelling place of different indigenous groups and their colorful lifestyles have significantly enriched the entire culture of Bangladesh. In fact, 35 smaller groups of indigenous peoples covering about two percent of the total population have been living in different pockets of the hilly zones and some areas of the plain-lands of the country. Their historical background, economic activities, social structure, religious beliefs and festivals make them distinctive.

TIB has been participating and supporting the Shangraing festival for the last three years follow-

ing a partnership request from the festival organizing committee. With the slogan 'Let Shangraing be a pledge to prevent corruption', TIB distributed branded t-shirts during the water festival and also participated in the cultural program and the Shan-

graing rally. Besides, anti-corruption oath taking programs were held in two local primary and secondary schools where 1500 students took an



oath against corruption.

An open movie show on liberation war was also arranged by TIB. The cultural program which was performed by various indigenous artistes was the high point of the festival.

The CHT Development Board Chairman Mr. Bir Bahadur Ushwesing, MP, Deputy Commissioner of Bandarbaan and other govt. officials along with TIB representative were present and addressed the audience. Mr. Ushwesing, in his speech, underscored the necessity of participation of the youths in anti-corruption movement. This year more than 15000 people which included lots of tourists, attended the festival.

CCC NEWS

World Health Day 2012 observed

'Aging health care: come forward for protecting health' with the slogan different CCCs observed World Health Day on April 7 in a befitting manner. CCCs organized several activities marking the day included rally, seminar, human chain, opinion sharing and discussion meeting,

free treatment camp, satellite AI-Desk and so on. Speakers in different programmes of the day stressed for ensuring necessary health services and create age-friendly environment for the aged people to value their experiences as an important citizen of the society.

CCC NEWS

Pahela Baishakh celebrated

Different CCCs celebrated the first day of Bangla new year Pahela Baishakh 1419. The day started with a procession with the participation of members of CCC, YES and YES friends. Rally, fair

popularly known as Baishakhi Mela, anti-corruption signature collection, satellite AI-Desk were major events of the day.

Parents gathering

A parents gathering was organized at Jhograbail Govt. Primary School by CCC Rangamati on April 25. The programme was organized with the objective of improving the overall quality of services of the school which included addressing the dropout rate and improve attendance, increase awareness of the parents and overall development of the school. Head Mistress Indira Chakma reviewed the problems of the school and

thanked CCC for taking the initiative for developing the school. SMC president Ratan Kumar Tanchangya urged upon parents to be more aware and requested teachers to be regular in the school. The programme was followed by a street theatre show performed by YES members. A satellite AI-Desk was also organized.

Opinion Sharing Meeting with health authority

An opinion sharing meeting between CCC Jamalpur and health authority was held at the Jamalpur Civil Surgeon's Office on April 30. CCC Jamalpur organized the meeting with the aim of enhancing the quality of services of Jamalpur General Hospital. CCC member Advocate Sha-

meem Ara presided over the meeting where participants discussed issues related to health services provided by the hospital. Civil Surgeon Dr Narayan Chandra Dey thanked CCC and asked for more suggestions to improve further.

Opinion sharing meeting with municipal authority

CCC members organized an opinion sharing meeting with the municipal authority of Kurigram on April 9 at the municipality office. CCC Kurigram organized the programme to ensure transparency, accountability, democracy and better services of the municipality. The present status of the municipality, budget expenditure of current fiscal year, meeting of standing committee and publishing the development report of



municipal wards were discussed in the meeting.

Anti-corruption cartoon exhibition

CCC Barishal organized an anti-corruption cartoon exhibition and AI-Desk from 14-16 April as a part of the Bangla New Year celebration and traditional Boishakhi fair organized by renowned cultural group Udichi. CCC member Manobendro Botbell inaugurated the exhibition held at the local Brojomohon School premises.. Among others, Mayor of Barishal City Corporation Shawkat Hossain Hiron, CCC President Professor M Moajjem

Hossain, Vice President Saifur Rahman Miron, CCC member Nur Jahan Begum, Shuvonkor Chakrabarty, Kazi Selina Begum, Sawjan member Principal Abul Kalam Azad and Mukul Das were present. The cartoon exhibition is one of TIB's regular activities which is appreciated for its uniqueness as an anti-corruption outreach program.

DHAKA YES NEWS

Bangla new year celebration

YES group of IBAIS University organized a rally to celebrate the Bangla new year 1419 on their campus premises with the slogan 'my culture, my existence, we want transparency and good governance.' The rally started from the university campus and ended at road 27 in Dhanmondi.

Among others, member of university Trustee Board Kaosar H Commet, Md. Fariduddin Ahmed, teachers and students of different departments participated. Participants vowed to build a good governed, transparent and developed country through a healthy cultural practice.

Day long campaign at Nilkhet High School

YES groups of Social Work and Research Institute and Development Studies of University of Dhaka jointly organized a daylong anti-corruption awareness campaign at Nilkhet High School on 15 April. An essay competition, anti-corruption oath taking, satellite cartoon exhibition and a game show were organized. A prize giving

ceremony was followed by anti-corruption oath taking where more than 150 students participated. While speaking on the occasion, the Headmaster of the school Md. Mizanur Rahman said that mere oath taking is not sufficient, rather realistic actions are needed to reduce corruption.

