

## Special News:

• **Bangladesh Slightly improves CPI scores**

• **TIB Observes IACD 2011**

## National

### Bangladesh slightly improves CPI score

Bangladesh made a slight improvement in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of Berlin based Transparency International (TI) scoring 2.7 points out of 0-10 scale and was placed 13<sup>th</sup> position from the bottom out of 187 countries.

Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Mozambique and Solomon Islands are secured same position with the Bangladesh. Bangladesh remains in the list of most affected countries by corruption as its' score is below 3 points.

This year who topped is the list as least corrupt New Zealand scoring 9.5 followed by Denmark and Finland jointly scored 9.4 points and in the fourth position Sweden scored 9.3 points. Singapore scored 9.2 and became 5<sup>th</sup> in the CPI. Two countries jointly scored 1.0 point as Somalia and North Korea were ranked in the bottom of this list, Afghanistan and Myanmar jointly scored 1.5 points to hold the second position as most affected by corruption. It bettered this year's score by .3 points higher than last year when it was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> from the bottom.

## TIB Observes IACD 2011

TIB organized series of programmes both at local and national levels to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence and to observe the International Anti-corruption Day 2011 (9 December). Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) in 45 areas across Bangladesh and Youth Engagement & Support (YES) members organized rallies, seminars and roundtables, human chain, cartoon exhibitions, street theatres, anti-corruption oath-taking and various other outreach activities participated by tens of thousands of people including public officials and representatives, professionals, civil society, media, business and the common people. The large majority of the participants were the young generation including the students of schools, colleges and universities.

## At the national level following programmes were organized:

A human chain was held in front of Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka on Friday, 9 December. The human chain called upon the government to follow up on its electoral pledge to ensure good governance and equal rights of all by effectively curbing the menace of corruption. A week-long anti-corruption cartoon exhibition began on the same date at the Zainul Gallery of Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University. Awards were also distributed among winners of the anti-corruption cartoon competition of 2011 held earlier this

## Quarterly Members Day held

The quarterly Members Day was held on December 27 at TIB office presided by Dr. Md. Nuruddin and participated 24 members. Members appreciated TIB's anti-corruption movement and showed keen interest to be more involved as anti-corruption activist. Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman was also present.



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Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka inaugurated the exhibition while eminent cartoonist Rafiqunnabi (RONOBI) was present.



A key message of the observance of the IACD this year was: 40 years of glorious independence: we want good governance, control of corruption, International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 Dec, was transmitted to 70 million cell phone users of Bangladesh on December 9.

A cultural programme and youth festival was organized on the eve of International Anti-Corruption Day at Robindro Shorobor, Dhanmondi, Dhaka on Thursday, 8 December 2011. With the slogan: Let's fight corruption with the songs of freedom, the program was a rendition of some of the songs of our glorious war of independence which inspired us to fight against the Pakistani army 40 years ago. A special tribute was paid towards all the musicians and concerned activists of 1971 who used music as a tool. The State Minister for Ministry of Liberation Affairs Captain (Rtd.) AB Tajul Islam joined as Chief Guest.

Leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo brought out a special edition of Rosh+Alo on 5th December to observe the International Anti-Corruption Day. This edition was full of funny cartoons, satirical short write-ups, including a special poem by noted writer Lutfur Rahman Riton.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT **Comilla City Corporation Election: candidates face to face with voters**

### ***Corruption free country is unattainable without Political willingness***

Political and economical offense should be prevented to curb corruption from the country and ruling and opposition party's willingness is necessary for the real development of the country.

A cotozen dialogue was held in Potiya, Chittagong on 22 December where chief guest Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Education Rashed Khan Menon made his valuable comment in a dialogue titled '40 years of glorious independence: we want good governance and control of corruption' organized by CCC Potia. The dialogue was presided over by CCC convener Advocate Kobishekhohr Nath.

"Achievement of Bangladesh is not poor in this long 40 years time span and mass people's active participation is necessary for a beautiful and corruption free Bangladesh," said Menon. He also said that the government has rendered power to the people through Right to Information Act and the 40% poverty may be reduced to 11% if corruption is controlled effectively.

Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Youth and Sports Alhaz Samsul Haque Chowdhury MP as a special guest urged all to work unitedly to drive out corruption from the society.

Candidates of the Comilla City Corporation Mayor Election attended face to face programme with public 'Comilla City Corporation Election: We want Honest and Qualified Leader' on December 19 at Comilla Town Hall auditorium.

CCC Comilla and Shushashoner Jonne Nagorik (Sujon) jointly organized the programme and secretary of Sujon central committee Dr Badiul Alam Majumder moderated.

President of Sujon Comilla Principal Mominul Haque Chowdhury presided over the meeting where local government specialist Tofayel Ahmed and convener of CCC Comilla Alhaz Shah Md Alamgir Khan delivered their spoke. Mayor candidates Monirul Haque Sakku, Yar Ahmed Selim, Advocate Anisur Rahman Mithu, Nur Ur Rahman Mahmud Tanim, Shirin Akhter, Chanchal Kumar Ghosh and Major (Rtd.) Mamunur Rashid attended. The candidates shared their ideas and plan and signed in the 'Candidature Paper'.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman was present in the programme along with civil society member, professionals and journalists. About 700 people were present and an open discussion session was held later.

In a similar programme on December 30 female councilor candidates were present. Those attended included Ferdousi Begum, Najma Akhter, Azmeri Ahmed, Samsun Nahar Putul, Hasiba Nabab Champa, Hosneara Begum, Shahin Akhter, Nishat Ahmed Khan, Anita Sarker, Josna Akhter, Sima Akhter, Nahar Begum, Mosammat Sajeda Akhter Lovly, Khodeja Begum and Samsun Nahar.

All the candidates shared their action plans and signed in the 'Commitment' paper. Comilla CCC convener chaired the programme where different stakeholder and professionals participated.

## CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT

### Opinion sharing meeting

An opinion sharing meeting entitled 'Anti-corruption campaign in Bangladesh and responsibility of local authority' was organized by Laxmipur CCC on December 19 at Laxmipur.

CCC convener Professor Mahbub Mohammad Ali chaired the meeting and DC of Laxmipur AKM Mizanur Rahman observed electronic public services can reduce corruption, adding e-service can bring transparency in the administration.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "Corruption should be considered as a punishable crime and exemplary punishment is necessary for reducing corruption."

### Workshop for Female UP members

A day long workshop for female Union Parishad members was held on December 15 at Muktagacha chaired by CCC convener Professor Md Abdus Sobur. TIB Civic Engagement Director Rabeya Rowshan anchored training session. Upazila Nirbahi Officer was present as the chief guest and Female Vice chair Najmun Nahar Dilu shared her experiences.

### CCCs observe several national and international days

TIB inspired CCCs and YES groups organized a fortnight long day observance around the country with a theme '40 years of glorious independence: we want good governance and control of corruption'. Programmes included rally, human chain, discussion, seminar, anti-corruption cartoon exhibition, leaflet distribution, satellite AI desk and cultural events. Stakeholders from various sectors participated. The following days were observed;

- International women violence day 25 November
- National Handicap day 3 December
- International Youth Day 8 December
- Begum Rokeya Day 9 December
- International Anti-corruption Day 9 December
- International Human Rights Day 10 December
- Shaheed Buddhijibi Dibosh 14 December
- Victory Day 16 December.

## YES NEWS

### IACD: Dhaka YES events

YES group of IBAIS University organized an essay competition with this title 'Transparency in everyone can make the country corruption free' and Ruqayyah Hall observed IACD with a seminar on 12 December 'Role of women in social movement against anticorruption' while on December 28 at IBAIS. Anti-corruption game shows were also organized in these two locations where students from different departments participated.

ULAB University YES Group distributed books, writing paper, pen, pencil etc. to 60 underprivileged children on December 1, 2011.

Uttara University YES group organized a cartoon exhibition and anti-corruption game show on December 12. More than 500 students participated in the game show 'Crushing the Corruption'.

Kuwait Maitree Hall YES group of Dhaka University organized a seminar and signature campaign marking IACD 2011 On December 12. About 60 students participated and they discussed the achievement of Bangladesh after 40 years of independence and came up with some recommendations to make the country corruption free. About 400 students put their signature with comments and commitments.

Social work and research institute YES group and Begum Fajilatunnesa Mujib Hall YES groups jointly organized anti-corruption extempore speech competition on December 11. About 30 students participated in the competition held at Social Work Institute auditorium. Corruption, human rights, poverty, women rights, education, health, local government and RTI Act were the major discussion points of their speech.