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Recent attacks on journalists: TIB expresses its concern and demands justice

TIB has expressed its concern and disappointment over the recent incidents of assaults on journalists by the law enforcing agencies. In a statement it strongly condemned the assault by the police upon on-duty media professional at an event on 26 May in Dhaka Women's Polytechnic Institute. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB said, "We demand exemplary punishment of the perpetrators. Temporary suspensions are not enough." Such unruly conduct is not only detrimental to media freedom, but also absolutely undemocratic and unconstitutional, he added.

In this context, TIB also expressed deep concern over the growing evidences of excessive abuse of power by the police and RAB which may eventually convert the law enforcers into law breakers. Failure of these agencies and the government to control such unconstitutional and undemocratic trends will erode public trust upon them and tarnish the credibility of the government.

"We are also concerned that conduct of law enforcing agencies often bears evidence of partisan political influence. We call upon the authorities to attach highest priority to building the ethical and professional standards of them and create environment where they can function without partisan political influence", the statement said.

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In another statement, TIB expressed its concern as no initiative had been taken against the attackers of Panna Bala, a female journalist and also a member of Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) of Faridpur, on May 4. Panna Bala was

assaulted by ruling party workers as a consequence of her report published in the Daily Prothom Alo. TIB demanded proper inquiry and exemplary punishment of those found responsible.

TIB mourns the death of Professor Muzaffer Ahmad

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) deeply mourns the sad demise of its former Chairman and member of the Trustee Board Professor Muzaffer Ahmad who passed away on 22 May 2012. TIB family - Board, staff, CCC, YES, Shojon, YES Friends are deeply shocked and bereaved and recall with highest sense of gratitude his contribution to the Anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh.



In a message, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman termed Professor Muzaffer Ahmad as an irreplaceable voice for rights of all people, justice, democracy and good governance. "The Anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh will remain grateful to him forever," he said and added that his powerful, fearless and straightforward stance

on matters of interest to TIB and beyond were the source of inspiration for all of us. "I particularly recall his contribution to the conceptual premise of all that TIB has done so far, does today, and will do in the days to come. His research guidance and supervision always made us confident and strong," TIB Executive Director further said.

Born in Kolkata on March 27, 1936, Professor Muzaffer Ahmad leaves behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. In his long career as an economist, teacher, social and environmental activist, he remained

active in establishing good governance, raising a social movement against corruption and preventing degradation of the environment. He penned a number of books and articles at home and abroad.

RAJUK's MoU with the Sahara Group: TIB demands transparency

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) demanded from Rajuk (Capital Development Authority) and the Government full disclosure of the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Rajuk and the Sahara Group of India for investment in a proposed low-cost housing project around the capital Dhaka, and of the relevant decision making process. In a statement it though welcomed Rajuk's initiative to build housing facilities for the low-income households around Dhaka city but said any decision regarding the use and exploitation of land must be transparent and consistent with the relevant laws and regulations. TIB also

demand that the concerned authorities should give importance to the process in which a particular company had been selected and offered the opportunity. It also asked to review whether the decision was consistent with the relevant procurement law and rules and whether capable, credible and interested companies/investors of national origin had been, or would be offered, the similar opportunity on equal footing. It further demanded that the whole decision-making process should be subject to open and fully competitive process without bias or favour to anyone.

TIB-DMCDC Anti-Corruption debate festival 2012



The TIB-DMCDC Anti-Corruption Debate Festival 2012 was held on 25-27 May with the slogan 'Good governance in Health sector – we want effective control of corruption.' The festival was arranged to observe the 'World Health Day' on April 7 through the partnership with Dhaka Medical College. Different debating clubs, both from public and private medical colleges and universities participated in the festival.

The inaugural session of the festival was held on 25 May. The Principal of Dhaka Medical College Dr. Deen Mohammad was present as the chief guest in the inaugural session and conducted the anti-corruption oath taking to the young debaters. The debate festival was arranged in three categories-

inter-club Bangla, inter-club English and inter-medical college debate competition. About 200 debaters of 75 debate teams from different institutions took part. Dhaka Medical College, Group of Debaters from University of Dhaka and Independent University became champions in three different categories.

The prize giving ceremony was held on 27 May at Dhaka Medical College. As chief guest in the closing ceremony, Dr. Deen Mohammad said, "if we stop patronizing corruption then it will be reduced." Among others the Vice Principal of DMC Dr. Ismail Hossen Khan, Director of DMC Hospital Brig. Gen. Mostafizur Rahman and Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman were present.



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CCC News

Opinion sharing meeting held

An opinion sharing meeting with journalists was held at the Brahmanbaria Press Club on May 23. CCC Brahmanbaria organized the meeting with the aim of strengthening the 'Anti-corruption social movement'.

Irregularities in the recruitment of Bangladesh TITAS gas field, clinic and fake doctors, shops inside the government hospital, black marketing in Railway ticketing system, fake billing in electricity bill and irregularities in drainage and road construction of municipality were discussed in the sharing meeting.



Faridpur CCC organized an opinion sharing meeting with the Faridpur municipal authority on May 7. The programme aimed to review the progress of implementation raised in Face the Public programme held on March 16. YES members of the Faridpur CCC collected information regarding the incomplete tasks in different areas of municipality. The findings were submitted for further discussion and planning of municipal authority and also to incorporate in the next budget. Municipal mayor Sheikh Mahtab Ali Methu assured to complete the unfinished tasks in the next budget using limited resources of the municipality.

Citizen Charter launched



A citizen charter was launched at Jessore Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board on May 21. TIB, CCC Jessore and Jessore Education Board jointly adopted the charter to enhance the quality of existing services. It is a part of the project titled 'Engaging People in the Citizens Charter Initiative for Improving Service Delivery at Local Level' funded by UNDP. The project is aimed at ensuring quality service delivery along with citizen's active participation.

Workshop on debate for the Primary School Teachers

'Debate for ethical enrichment' with this slogan a day long workshop on debate for primary school teachers was organized at Chadpur on May 25. About 140 teachers of different educational institutions of the district participated. The workshop was jointly organized by Zilla Primary Education Office, CCC Chadpur, Daily Chadpur Kantha and Chadpur Debate Movement. TIB supported the workshop and Bangladesh Debating Federation provided the technical support.



CCC News

Mothers gathering held

A mothers gathering was organized at Bolai Govt. Primary School by CCC Kishoreganj on May 24. More than 400 hundred parent mothers participated and discussed about the crisis of sitting arrangement and washroom facilities of the school. Vice chairman of the school managing committee Dipak Babu said that the problem of classroom



ceiling, seats and wash-room would be resolved as early as possible. In the closing speech, chairman of the school managing committee Md. Zia Uddin remarked that this joint effort of TIB and CCC was enhancing parents' awareness and continuation of this trend would turn it into a model school.

Dhaka YES News

Dhaka YES theater workshop 2012

TIB arranged a six day-long production based theater workshop from 12 to 17 May for the members of Dhaka YES Theatre group at the NGO Forum auditorium in Dhaka. The workshop aimed to develop a script for the theatre group and also skills of its members so



that they can perform well to make people aware about corruption and good governance. Rezwan-ul-Alam, Director, Outreach & Communication inaugurated the workshop. A total of 14 YES members from different YES groups in

Dhaka participated. Renowned dramatist and the President of Bangladesh Patho Natak Parishad, Mannan Heera, Renowned TV Program Manager and member of Theater Somoy Riaz Mahmood and Reza Mohamamd Arif, Assistant Professor,

Dept. of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University were the key facilitators of the workshop. On the last day of the workshop Dhaka YES Theater staged an improvised drama.

Orientation programme

An orientation programme for the newly formed YES group of Development Studies department of University of Dhaka was held on May 11 at the TIB conference room. The day-long event was

organized to brief the new members about TIB's various programs and also to chalk-out a work plan for the group.

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