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TIB observes International Anti-Corruption Day

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) observed the International Anti Corruption Day (IACD) with a series of programmes both at the national and local levels. These included sms campaign reaching out to 10 million mobile subscribers of Bangladesh, awards giving ceremony for investigative journalism, rally, seminar and discussion meetings, cartoon exhibition, human chain etc. On December 9, all six mobile operators in Bangladesh carried a public sms of TIB that said: "Corruption increases poverty and injustice, let's fight it together...now-International Anti Corruption Day". It may be mentioned that TIB's sms was sent as govt. Info which is a significant achievement of TIB's advocacy efforts.



In Dhaka, the annual investigative journalism award giving ceremony was held where four journalists received awards in different categories for their reports published/broadcasted in 2012. Veteran journalist A B M Musa, who gave a talk on the challenges of investigative journalism in the current context, urged the journalists to thwart all odds for upholding the spirit of objective journalism in the country. TIB also accorded recognition to three Bangladeshi young photographers who recently brought laurel for the country by winning the 1st, 3rd and a special mention in TI's global photography competition.

In the afternoon, a human chain was held in front of the Institute of fine arts, University of Dhaka which was followed by the inauguration of a cartoon exhibition. Winners of 2013 cartoon competition were awarded during the programme.

Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) across the country also observed the IACD on December 9, 2013. With an open call for social movement against corruption, a series of programmes including rallies, seminars, conferences, human chains, cartoon exhibitions and other anti



different walks of the society attended these programmes.

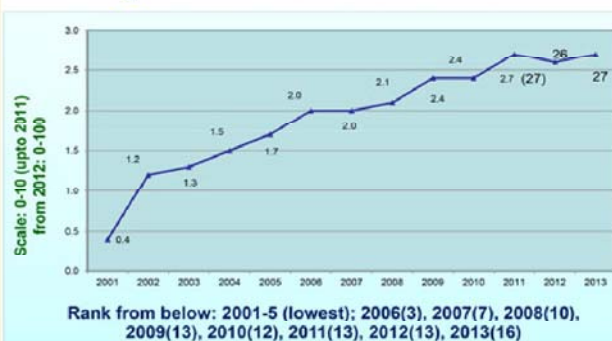
CCCs on 9th December also observed the birth and death anniversary of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, the pioneer of Bengali women empowerment movement. Speakers remembered her contribution toward empowering women and called upon all to spread her spirit.

Insignificant Improvement in CPI – Bangladesh 2nd lowest in South Asia

Corruption remains a serious global problems according to this year's CPI. 123 countries out of 177 (more than two-thirds) scored below 50 in the index where 108 countries scored equal or less than average of 43. No country has scored 100 which draws the conclusion that no country is corruption free.

Bangladesh has scored 27 points in a scale of 0-100, and has been ranked 136th from the top and 16th from bottom among 177 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI 2013). This is one point higher than last year's 26, but same as that of 2011. If counted from bottom the raking is three steps higher than that of 2011 and 2012 when Bangladesh was ranked 136th among 177 countries. From the top, this year's ranking is 8 steps higher compared to 144th among 176 countries in 2012. However, both in rank and score among seven South Asian countries Bangladesh's position remains 2nd lowest - lower than all except Afghanistan (score 8, globally at the bottom) while Bhutan tops the list (score 63 rank 31). Except Bhutan all South Asian countries scored much lower than the global average score of 43. Bangladesh ranked at the very bottom for five successive years from 2001-2005. The country then secured 3rd in 2006, 7th in 2007, 10th in 2008, 13th in 2009, 12th in 2010 and 13th position in 2012.

Bangladesh: CPI Scores 2001-2013



CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2013

#stopthecorrupt



The reasons behind the country's poor performance are grand corruptions and financial scams in stock market, Padma bridge project, Hall Mark, Destiny, Railway, Rana plaza collapse etc. Besides, government interventions for making the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) powerless, ineffective parliament boycotted by the main opposition, domination of interest groups in parliamentary standing committees, whitening of black money, wide scale grabbing of public lands and water bodies etc. also contributed to poor performance in CPI.

TIB demands probe into unusual rise of wealth of public representatives

TIB expressed deep concerns over unusual rise of wealth of ministers and lawmakers during the tenure of 9th parliament and demanded immediate investigation and subsequent actions by Anti Corruption Commission (ACC). ACC showed reluctances to launch investigation against such unlawful and anti-constitutional act on the ground that, investigation at this point might jeopardize the planned parliament election. A number of media reported this unusual rise of wealth from submitted affidavits to the Election Commission. TIB also criticized the ACC for its unwillingness to take actions.

In a statement issued on 20th December, TIB said that acquisition of wealth inconsistent with known income is illegal and unconstitutional. It hailed media's proactive role in disclosing these information and said that these were naked examples of misuse of power and shocking trend of using public offices for profit. If we let it go, the state would never become accountable and democratic and governance will perish forever, the statement added.

TIB also joined with eminent citizens and condemned Election Commission's evil plot to hide disclosure of wealth related information by parliament election candidates, many of whom were high ranking ministers of the then cabinet and parliamentarians of the 9th parliament. The affidavit revealed that a good number of candidates acquired huge wealth inconsistent with their known source of income.

The statement was issued on 24th December signed by nine eminent citizens that expressed their resentment over EC's move to entrain candidates' demand for not disclosing their affidavit. They added that this was anti-constitutional according to Article 20(2). Such move would undermine peoples' expectation of establishing democratic governance. They observed that it was shocking to see the candidates expressing their dismay over the disclosure to the EC and EC's subsequent actions. People would have zero confident if EC continues this ill motivated move of vindicating legal loopholes in favour of the candidates. They also urged the EC to refrain from such activities as it is also conflicting with the Right to Information Act, 2009.

The eminent citizens are; Advocate Sultana Kamal, Executive Director, Ain O Shalish Kendro; Ms Shahin Anam, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF); Ms Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori; Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Syeda Rezwana Hassan, Chief Executive, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA); Barrister Sara Hosen, Honorary Executive Director, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST); Dr. Meghna Guhathakurata, Executive Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB); Aroma Dutto, Executive Director, Prip Trust and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB.

Quarterly Members Meeting held



Members meeting for the last quarter of 2013 was held on 27th December at the TIB conference room. Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB presided over the meeting. The ED briefed members about TIB activities during the quarter and shared positive outcomes of TIB's policy level advocacy with special emphasis on LGED. Taking part in the discussion, members explicitly discussed about ongoing political situation. They also discussed on how to enhance TIB's advocacy in future.

Dr. Akbar Ali Khan joins TIB Board of Trustees



Adviser to the former caretaker government and former cabinet secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan joined the 79th meeting of TIB Board of Trustees (BoT) as its newest member held on 21st December 2013. Earlier, he was elected as a member of the BoT at its 78th meeting held on 2nd November 2013.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan was born in Nabinagar of Brahmanbaria district. He attained his MA in history from University of Dhaka; MSS and PhD in Economics from Queens University of Canada. He began his career with the Pakistan civil service in 1967. During the liberation war he served the Mujibnagar government as a deputy secretary. He served as a teacher after independence and later served as a top level bureaucrat for ten years before retiring as the cabinet secretary in 2001.

CCC NEWS

Citizens participate to improve hospital services

CCC Patuakhali organised an opinion sharing meeting on 18th December with Patuakhali District Hospital authority to enhance the transparency and accountability in hospital services. CCC members, doctors and hospital staffs attended the meeting presided over by Dr Tarun Kanti Hawladar – the superintendent of the hospital.



Participants discussed on existing situation of medical services and recommended some measures to improve the quality of services. The meeting also evaluated the progress of decisions taken in the last meeting. They decided to convene the next meeting in January 2014.

Joint initiative to ensure quality primary education



CCC Rajbari and School Management Committee (SMC) of Banibaha government primary school jointly organised a mothers' gathering at the school premises on 18th December. Mother's gathering is a regular activity of CCC with an aim to create a space for mothers in the decision making process of schools, make the school authority accountable and above all; improve the quality of education. Mothers, local public representatives; CCC and SMC members; upazilla education officials spoke on the occasion. Mothers' gatherings in CCC areas have witnessed significant

success in terms of improving the quality of primary education by promoting participation of mothers in educating their children. Different schools in CCC areas improved their grade in terms of quality of education. YES members also organised a 'Satellite Advice and Information Desk' and distributed leaflets on education related services to the participants.

Union Parishad practices accountability

CCC Muktagachha organised a 'Face the Public (FTP)' programme at Muktagachha Goraikuti government primary school playground on 23rd December. Citizens, UP officials and CCC members attended the FTP.



Kumargata Union Parishad (UP) Member of ward no. 3 Mr Md Ahsan Imtiaz Hobi briefed the participants about different services provided by UP, its budget allocation and progress of the ongoing developmental activities. CCC President Professor Md Ekhlashur Rahaman Jewel presided over the programme. Citizens raised different developmental issues like UP services, budget, ongoing and completed projects, safety-net programmes, drainage and sanitation LGSP funds etc. and opined on overcoming existing limitations. Mr Ahsan reaffirmed UP's commitment to continue such FTP to ensure transparency and accountability of the UP and promote participation of people. Besides, YES members organised a satellite AI desk and distributed UP service related leaflets among participants.

Patiya YES organised an anti-corruption campaign in front of Patiya post office on 16 November. The campaign included satellite Advice and Information (AI) Desk, distribution of stickers and leaflets among students and the employees of different institutions, affixing stickers on transports etc. The campaign is expected to empower and sensitize service recipients on their civil rights of access to public service related information. CCC members including its president Mr S M A K Jahangir and YES members attended the programme.

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