

## NATIONAL

### TIB, SHUJAN demands code of conduct Act for MPs



TIB and Shushasoner Jonno Nagorik (SHUJAN) jointly organised a roundtable discussion on 'Need for Code of Conduct for Member of the Parliament (MP)' on 31<sup>st</sup> August at the National Press Club. Speakers urged the government to enact a Code of Conduct Act for MPs in the upcoming parliament session to make them more accountable.

Secretary of SHUJAN Dr Badiul Alam Majumder presented the

keynote paper while TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman moderated the session. Advocate Shahiduzzaman Sarker, MP; former minister Mr. Sardar Amzad Hossain, adviser to the former caretaker government Mr C M Shafi Sami, and former Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque addressed, among others. Former Chief Election Commissioner Dr. ATM Shamsul Huda chaired.

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The keynote speaker said, "Parliament is the cornerstone of democracy. The character and quality of parliament is determined by the characteristics, qualities and behavior of the elected representatives. So, there is no alternative but to enact a law to help them in upholding the image and enhance the effectiveness and also restrain them from activities that undermine the spirit of the parliament."

Mentionable that Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP placed a private member bill during the 9th session of the Parliament which earned support from the Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, MP.

### TIB condemns the arrest of Adilur Rahman Khan, demands release

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) expressed deep concern over the arrest of Adilur Rahman Khan, the Secretary of Odhikar, a right based organisation and urged the government for his immediate release.

In a statement, the Executive Director of TIB Dr Iftekharuzzaman said that everyone has the right to criticise constructively and the government should not take any step that may impede people's right to freedom of expressions. Terming freedom of expression as fundamental right and an essential tool for establishing good governance and democracy, TIB urged the government to be tolerant and refrain from such activities.



## Youth pledge for a prosperous and good governed country



'Invincible Youth Shall Surely Resist Corruption'- with this slogan TIB organised the Dhaka YES conference from August 21-22 at Nobab Nowab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University (DU).

The objective of the conference was to

orient YES members on innovative anti-corruption tools and techniques. The two day conference threw light on five broad areas i.e. 1. Youth, Integrity & Leadership; 2. Social Movement & Innovations; 3. Media, ICT and Anti-corruption Movement; 4. Women, Integrity and Society; 5. Democracy, Governance & Youth.

Professor Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, DU inaugurated the conference as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Mahfuz Anam, Editor, the Daily Star delivered the Key-note. Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB moderated the session. Mr Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, DU; Mr Anisul Hoque, Deputy Editor, the Daily Prothom Alo; Mr M A Mohit, President, Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club; Ms Selina Hossain, noted litterateur and Secretary General, Board of Trustees, TIB and Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Adviser to the Former Caretaker Government spoke as session speakers while Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka and Member, TIB, BoT; Mr A A Munir Hasan, General Secretary, Bangladesh Open Source Network and Professor Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director, TIB moderated different sessions.



14 YES groups presented various programmatic challenges. They renewed their pledges to be with the anti-corruption social movement intensively from their respective positions.

## Constitutional recognition of indigenous people demanded

The National Committee for Celebration of Indigenous Day organised a seminar on "International Indigenous Day and Land Rights of the Indigenous" on 4th August at the CIRDAP Auditorium. TIB was one of the co-organisers along with a number of human rights organisations. Mr Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Chairman, Parliamentarian Caucus on Indigenous was the Chief Guest while Ms Khushi Kabir, Chairperson, Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) chaired. Three papers focusing on different aspects of indigenous land rights were presented at the seminar. The discussants urged the government to ensure land rights of the indigenous and marginalised people and sought their constitutional recognition. They also expressed concerns over different untoward incidences of including attack on indigenous, land grabbing in the CHT region and urged the government for full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace treaty.

## Transparency in climate finance demanded

TI secretariat and TIB jointly organised the Climate Finance Integrity Talk at Bangkok from 26-28 August to ensure transparency and accountability in climate finance governance in the Asia-Pacific region. Representatives from 12 TI chapters (Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, South Korea, South, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) and different international organisations like UNDP, FAO, World Bank attended. This programme was organised as part of TI's event series on climate finance with the aim to chalk out some effective and practical solutions to meet climate finance governance challenges.

The talk urged the national policy-makers to develop a clear and consistent system of budget classification to track climate resources, create centralised independent body to track all CF flow into a country, improve MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) of climate finance, introduce accountability mechanisms for national bodies responsible for fund disbursement and project implementation, ensure that national integrity institutions have formal channels to collect evidence and formalise a space for citizens' participation at all stages of a climate project's cycle. On the other hand civil society should work to integrate NISs with CF stakeholders in the long-term; work to establish a toll-free grievance mechanisms hotline; track of complaints; create a knowledge platform on CFG and engage the media to act as climate finance watchdog etc.

Bangladesh government delegation included Mr Masud Ahmed, Comptroller and Auditor General; Dr Nurul Quadir, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests; Mr Abu Jafar Fariduddin Chowdhury, Director, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Planning Ministry and Dr A K Enamul Haque, Environmental Economist. Three representatives from Climate Finance Governance Network (CFGN) also attended. Dr Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director, and Mr M Zakir Hossain Khan, Coordinator, Climate Finance Governance Project, TIB contributed as panelists.

## CCC News

### School debaters find corruption as an obstacle toward women's empowerment

The sixth and seventh grade students of Shishu Kunja School and College, Jhenidah participated in debate competition titled "Corruption Creates Barrier Toward Women Empowerment" organised by the CCC Jhenidah on 20 August 2013. The objective of the debate was to mobilise the future citizens against corruption and thus contribute in transforming the society into women and gender friendly.

The debaters dwelt on various forms of corruption that affect women's empowerment and recommended ways to build a social movement against corruption which would ultimately establish a corruption free society and create an enabling environment for women. Teachers, students, parents, CCC and YES group members attended the programme.

### Mayor committed to accomplish all essential development activities within short time

CCC Patuakhali organised an opinion sharing meeting with Patuakhali Municipal Authority on August 3. The meeting was chaired by the Mayor of Patuakhali Municipality, Dr Md Safiqul Islam. The objective of the meeting was to improve municipal services and ensure transparency and accountability of the municipal authority. Participants discussed about the implementation progress of different initiatives taken by the municipal authority and recommended ways for effective implementation. The meeting decided to organise 'Face the Public' programmes at ward no 2, 4, and 7. The Mayor emphasised on engaging citizens to accomplish planned activities within the expected time.





### **Orientation on RTI and Financial Management for CCC member**

An orientation program on Right to Information and Financial Management of CCCs was organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on August 17, 2013 at Mymensingh. Advice & Information Desk and Finance Sub-committee members from Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Muktagachha,

Madhupur and Nalitabari CCC participated at the orientation. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB facilitated the orientation. He acknowledged the active role of CCC members for their immense contribution toward country-wide social movement against corruption. The orientation focused on theoretical and practical issues of CCC budget, fund receipt and disbursement procedures, procurement rules, note for record, vat, tax etc. Participants were also oriented on different aspects of RTI Act including its uses, application and appeal procedures.

### **Jessore general hospital authority opens the door of transparency**

On August 3, a roundtable meeting was organised by Jessore 250-Bed General Hospital authority with support from the CCC Jessore. Hospital officials, doctors, CCC members, representatives of patient welfare committee, journalists and citizens from different walks of the society attended the meeting. The meeting started with a brief presentation on Citizens Report Card (CRC) survey followed by open discussion. Participants recommended some policy measures for overall improvement of the hospital services.

### **Lakshmipur upazilla to address governance challenges in primary education**

Lakshmipur CCC organised an opinion sharing meeting with the Upazilla Primary Education Authority of on August 22, 2013. The meeting discussed ways to improve transparency & accountability in the Upazilla primary education sector and also to ensure that quality primary education is offered by different primary schools. CCC members, upazilla primary education officials, School management Committee members, teachers attended the meeting and discussed the state of primary education, its limitations and way forward to address governance challenges.

## **DHAKA YES**

### **Documentary Making Workshop in Ruqayyah Hall**

On 29 August, YES Group of Ruqayyah Hall, Dhaka University organised a workshop Documentary Making at the Hall Common Room. 15 YES members received hands on training on documentary making techniques and New media ICT tools.

### **Study Circle in ULAB**

YES group of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organised a study circle on TIB's Research Methodology on 1st August at the university campus. The objective of the study circle was to orient the participants with TIB's anti-corruption research activities and its methodology. Mr Shahzada M Akram, Senior Programme Manager, Research and Policy, TIB facilitated the event.

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