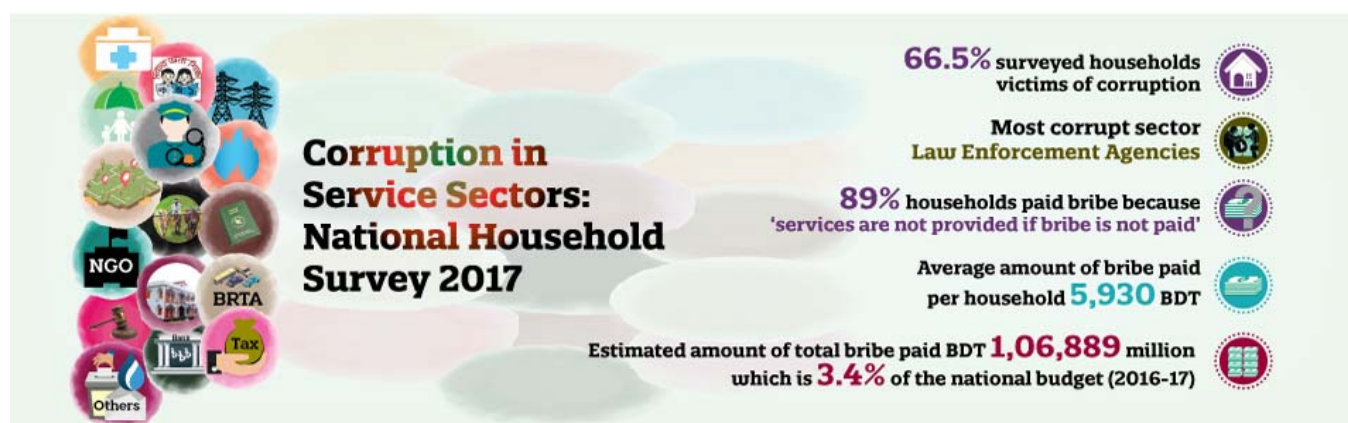


Household Survey 2017 on corruption in service sectors unveiled  
**66.5% Households face Corruption, estimated amount of bribe paid BDT 1,06,889 million**

National Household Survey 2017 on corruption in service sectors by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) reveals that 66.5% households became victims of corruption while receiving services from different public and private sectors or institutions. However, the extent of bribery paid by households (on an average of Tk. 5,930 for services) has decreased in 2017 compared to 2015 (49.8% in 2017 compared to 58.1% in 2015). Among the victims of bribery in the 2017 survey, 89.0% households mentioned that they paid bribe or unauthorized money because services were not provided if bribe was not paid. The survey further observed that the bribe burden is comparatively higher on households with low income as they were forced to spend much higher portion of annual income in bribery than households with high income (0.12% vs 2.41% of their expenditures).



In the survey, the largest assessment of public opinion of Bangladesh on corruption in service sectors, TIB found law enforcing agencies services (72.5%) as the most corrupt sector followed by passport (67.3%), BRTA (65.4%), judicial services (60.5%), land administration (44.9%), education - Govt and MPO enlisted (42.9), health (42.5%), agriculture (41.6%).



Unveiling the survey in a Press Conference at its Dhaka office on 30 August, TIB said that nationally estimated amount of bribe paid to different service sectors was found Tk. 106,889 million which is 18,671 million BDT (21.2%) more than that of 2015, 3.4% of extended national budget of 2016-17 and 0.5% of GDP for the same year though estimated amount cover only the sectors

taken under this survey; not necessarily all the service sectors operating in Bangladesh.

Conducted between January to December 2017, the survey findings and observations were presented jointly by Md. Wahid Alam, Senior Programme Manager; Farhana Rahman, Programme Manager and Mohammad Nure Alam, Deputy Programme Manager of TIB's Research and Policy Division. Presided over by Chairperson of TIB's Board of Trustees Advocate Sultana Kamal, the press conference was attended by Executive Director Dr. Iftekharrassaman, Adviser – Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair and Director of Research and Policy division Mohammad. Rafiqul Hasan. The other members of the survey team Md. Julkarnayeen, Deputy Programme Manager; Kumar Bishwajit Das, Manager-

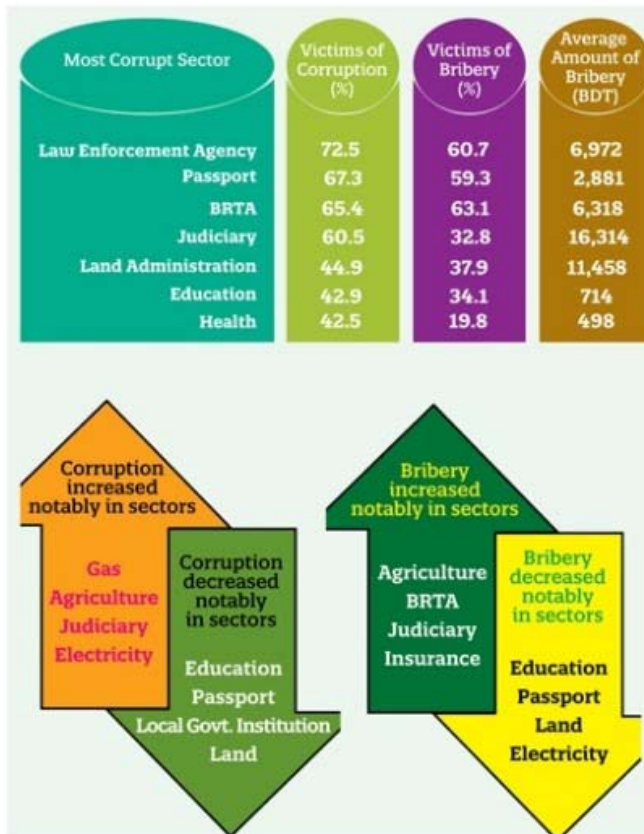
Research & Information; Nazmul Huda Mina, Assistant Programme Manager, of Research and Policy, TIB were also present at the event.

TIB's Research and Policy team conducted the survey through a three-stage Stratified Cluster Sampling method using the Integrated Multipurpose Sampling Frame (IMPS), developed by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). To ensure scientific quality, accuracy and validity of the survey, the team was guided and assisted in different stages of the survey by a panel of experts consisting of eight nationally and internationally reputed experts. The survey, one of the main research activity of TIB collected general peoples experience of corruption in receiving services from different sectors which included bribery (transaction of unauthorized money, embezzlement of money), embezzlement of assets, deception, negligence of duty, nepotism, and different types of harassment.

In comparison to 2015 survey, the overall analysis of this survey shows percentage of households facing corruption in service sectors remained almost unchanged. In 2017, the percentage of households facing corruption is 66.5% while it was 67.8% in 2015. However, overall the rate of households paying bribes in service sector has decreased in 2017 (49.8%) than in 2015 (58.1%). Six out of sixteen service sectors where corruption has decreased significantly are education, passport, local government, land administration, tax and customs and law enforcement agencies. On the other hand, nine service sectors where corruption has increased significantly are gas, agriculture, judicial services, electricity, BRTA, health, insurance, NGO and other service sectors. However, corruption remained almost unchanged in banking services. The rate of corruption in service sectors is found higher in rural areas (68.4%) than in urban areas (65.0%). Similarly, the rate of bribery is found also higher in rural areas (54.0%) than in urban areas (46.6%).



Speaking at the press conference, Advocate Sultana Kamal said that corruption increased in service delivery system due to lack of accountability and has been compelling underprivileged the most of their rights to surrender to the corrupt service providers, compromising dignity. She decried that the culture of the bribe has now become as a part of our life which is a matter of disgrace. She stressed on political will and strong enforcement of law to curb corruption and ensure peoples' right-based services.



**Comparative extent of Percentage of household experiencing bribery (2015 & 2017)**

Sector	Increased		Decreased		
	Household experiencing bribery (%)	2015	2017	Household experiencing bribery (%)	2015
Agriculture	18.2	30.5	Overall	58.1	49.8
BRTA	52.3	63.1	Education	56.9	34.1
Judiciary	28.9	32.8	Passport	76.1	59.3
Insurance	1.8	4.9	Land	49.8	37.9
Health	16.7	19.8	Electricity	28.4	18.6
Gas	10.6	11.9	Tax & Customs	14.7	9.4
NGO	1.0	1.5	Law Enforcement Agencies	65.9	60.7

Pointing slight positive changes gained by number of indicators and sectors included in the survey, Dr. Ifetkharuzzaman expressed grave concern on overall corruption scenario of the country. "Although the level of bribery declined in 2017 compared to 2015, the amount had increased." The people on low incomes became the victims of corruption compared to the well-off, he added. Dr. Zaman said salary hike and incentives of public officials have not contributed in decreasing corruption.

With regards to preventing corruption, Dr. Zaman stressed on political will in every aspects and suggested to bring more service area under scrutiny and accountability. He urged to make more space for law enforcement agencies, judicial system, administration, anti-corruption commission to perform their own respective duties which will strengthen overall accountability of the system.

Aimed to assess the nature and degree of corruption in selected service sectors on the basis of experiences of members of the households of Bangladesh, the survey report also put forward a number of recommendations to prevent and control corruption for implementation at policy and institutional levels, which included, among others: taking legal steps against Public officials engaged in corrupt practices and ensure punishments; taking legal action by ACC; adopting Code of Conduct: to ensure accountability and transparency; providing positive and negative Incentives; increasing people's participation in

service delivery processes; increasing of people's awareness and effective roles of media; Proper implementation of Rights to Information and Whistleblower Protection Act; increase use of information technology; introduce grievance redress mechanism and implementation of Citizen's Charters; making service processes easy; Increase manpower, infrastructure and logistics; political will and its proper implementation.

### **Notable progress in governance by Foreign-funded NGOs: TIB stressed on effective implementation**

Foreign-funded Non-Government Organizations of Bangladesh have gained noteworthy success in improving the overall governance situation compared to that reflected in 2007, however there remains a considerable scope for the advancement in strengthening good governance. The remarkable development was identified in a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) research study which assessed existing governance situation of the NGOs of Bangladesh funded by foreign donations. The study further recommended for effective application of accountability mechanisms existent to ensure transparency and integrity within NGOs and their accountability to the funding agencies and regulatory authorities.

With significant progress in the realms of openness of information, internal control, and accountability towards regulatory authorities of the government and funding agencies, adoption of necessary policies and guidelines, and development of systems for internal control and accountability, the study titled 'NGOs of Bangladesh Funded by Foreign Donations: Governance Challenges and Way Forward' also observed that the foreign donation receiving NGO sector, however, still suffers from various governance challenges, pointed out as key impediments in the study towards good governance i.e. limitations of relevant policies and laws, deficiencies in quality monitoring, evaluation, audit and coordination of NGO activities, unauthorized dealings by some NGOAB officials, undue influence from local powerful people and administration, formation of weak governing body etc. The study also observed that if the impediments are not addressed, there will be risk for the entire sector—the reputation of this sector may get tarnished and undue control from the concerned authorities may come up with possible impact on the flow of foreign donations.

To keep up the pace of advancement in establishing good governance in the sector, the study recommended strengthening of accountability mechanism between management and governing board, ensuring internal control and accountability, maintaining transparency and integrity in recruitment, procurement, and the process of providing salaries and benefits to the staff, etc.

To unveil the research study, TIB organized a Press Conference at its Dhaka office on 2 August 2018 where TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharruzaman, Adviser-Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Director-Research & Policy Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan were present. Senior Programme Manager Abu Said Md. Juel Miah and Deputy Programme Manager Nihar Ranjan Roy of Research & Policy division, TIB presented the research findings and recommendations of the report. TIB Deputy Programme Manager Md. Mostafa Kamal and Assistant Programme Manager Nazmul Huda Mina, the other members of the research team were also present at the event.

The study identified some remarkable initiatives by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to strengthen good governance in NGO sector particularly for those that receive foreign donations. The initiatives include, among many, the Formulation of the Foreign Donation Regulation Act, 2016; drafting the Foreign Donation Regulation Rules; inclusion of NGOs and civil society as institutions under the National Integrity Strategy, 2012. However, the study found number of gaps and ambiguity in Foreign Donation Regulation Act, 2016 like Article 6 of the act states about the timeframe for approving emergency support projects; however, there is no timeframe set in the law that defines how long should it take to provide an approval to any development project. Such clause is likely to create delay in project approval process. Besides, discriminatory clauses

were identified in the Act for the NGOs operating in the CHTs which is prone to create more delay in project approval process. Moreover, there is no institutional and legal arrangement in place to track and evaluate NGOs' expected role and progress of their promises to act as an institution mentioned in the National Integrity Strategy 2012.

Pointing the noteworthy improvement of governance situation in NGOs, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman in the press conference said, "With regards to people and relevant organization's expectation, the study clearly endorses the remarkable advancement since 2007. In Bangladesh, different range of corruption prevails in every sector and working in the society NGOs also get corrupted which we have found in the study. Though NGOs have been contributing remarkably in governance related areas of Bangladesh since the independence which is widely recognized nationally and globally, and reflected in the media, NGOs often face unfriendly vibe and regarded as opponents. In cases of NGOs especially those funded by foreign donations, a tendency of acting as a regulatory authority instead of monitoring or inclination of taking bribes by the officials, is often observed among the relevant government organisations including NGOAB, which should be stopped." Dr. Zaman further stressed to ensure proper law implementation and strong accountability in this sector through effective implementation.



The study concluded with series of recommendations in strengthening good governance in the sector which has been a vibrant contributor towards the overall development of Bangladesh especially in the areas of poverty eradication and establishing rights of the poor and marginalized. The important recommendations include, among others, engaging local communities and beneficiaries in the planning and monitoring of NGO activities; strengthening internal control mechanism—strong M&E and internal audit systems and application of accountability principles against corruption and irregularities; establishment of a balanced accountability relation between the executive management and governing board; ensuring the formation of functional governing board with the members free from conflict of interest and having strong reputation and acceptance in society.

### **Road Safety Movement: TIB calls for political discretion and specific time-bound action plan**

Expressing grave concern on imposing recurrent assault towards a disciplined and peaceful movement for road safety led by students, TIB called upon the government to held the culprits accountable through judicial investigation. The anti-graft watchdog also urged the government to respond with political discretion and adoption of specific time-bound action plan ensuring road safety.

In a statement released on 5 August, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "we condemn the cowardly assault on the students gathered in the peaceful movement for road safety and justice. It is government's constitutional obligation to ensure the enabling environment for the movement as well as the safety of the students. The student's movement is conducive to the commitment of the government in confronting the challenges of the generation's failure. In this case, it's part of the government's responsibility to ensure exemplary punishment of the assaulters." Dr. Zaman demanded the

safety of the students instead of intimidating and forcing them through different means.

In the peaceful movement, the young students demanded an end of the prevailing anarchy in the transport sector due to miserable failure of relevant stakeholders for long time, lack of law enforcement and good governance, and hostage to nexus of high-level concerned officials. In response, the government should respond with an announcement of time-bound short-, medium- and long-term specific action plan focused to ensure road safety. Also, reiterating the previous call to mitigate conflict of interest with regards to being ministers and the leaders of transport sector at the same time, Dr. Zaman said it is high time to end such conflict of interests to attain prudent development in the sector. Condemning assaults to journalists during the movement, Dr. Zaman also called upon the government to avoid such suicidal moves and ensure enabling environment for freedom of expression and information.

### **TIB for complete disclosure of the Draft Road Safety Act**

Amid vibrant movement in demand of road safety by the young apprentices, TIB called upon the government to publicize the draft road transport act 2018 approved in the cabinet through website and other media. Stating satisfaction over the approval with other positive provisions at the draft, the anti-graft watchdog also urged to go ahead ensuring affiliation of stakeholders and reflection of High Court's instructions in this regard.

In a statement released on 7 August 2018, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the High Court's instructions clearly carried with maximum punishment of seven years' imprisonment for causing death to a person by reckless driving, "however several media outlets published reports mentioning that the draft act proposed the punishment for five years instead of seven, which is contradictory to the court's instructions". If the government does not make the act public -- like on the government website and other forms -- confusion may rise among people, Dr. Zaman added.

Referring target of reducing road accidents by half within 2020 according to 'National Road Safety Strategic Plan'

Dr. Zaman said, "the approved draft should be disclosed to public before getting approval in the parliament as we consider the move as the commitment of the Prime Minister to the young students. It is high time to adopt a timely road transport safety act considering High Court's verdict and recommendations of the stakeholders."

### **TIB worried on keeping section of prior approval before arresting Govt. official**

TIB expressed deep concern over the draft Public Service Act 2018 which makes it obligatory to seek approval from the government before arresting government officials in connection with criminal offences. Welcoming enclosure of other positive provisions along with ensuring appointment through merit-based open competition in the draft, the anti-graft organization also urged the government to cancel the 'discriminatory provision' of the draft for ensuring skilled, people-friendly and transparent public administration.

In a statement released on 20 August, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, said "If the report published in different media related to the draft Public Service Act 2018 is true then it would be a barrier for the prevalence of integrity, neutrality and professionalism among government officials." Terming such provision as discriminatory and contradictory to the spirit of constitution, Dr. Zaman feared that the said provision of seeking prior approval before arresting would broadly curtail the power of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). He urged the government to cancel the 'discriminatory provision' of the draft for ensuring skilled, people-friendly and transparent public administration.

TIB also urged the government to take opinions from jurists, legal experts and all other stakeholders by publicizing it in website before raising the drafted law in the National Parliament.

The National Taiwan University of Arts and Rui-Bin Elementary School jointly organized a service-learning camp titled 'Rui-Bin Art and Character Education Camp' from 15-29 August 2018 for student volunteers from Taiwan and around the world who served the children of Rui-Bin Elementary School, located in the low-income area of New Taipei City, Taiwan. TIB selected two participants from Dhaka and CCC YES members through a competitive process. One of the participants, Aflatun Kaeser shared his experiences of participating in 'Rui-Bin Art and Character Education Camp'.

### **9 days with the underprivileged children at Rui-Bin Camp**

**Aflatun Kaeser Zilany**

*"I love to paint picture as I want to become a painter. I also want to earn a lot of money but I will not be able to earn a lot by painting. This is why I am very worried about my dream", observed a children of Rui-Bin Camp in his notebook as all the children of the Rui-Bin Elementary School regularly note down their feelings about daily activities in notebooks. While my co-mentor Mr. How How was translating the feelings of the child of Rui-Bin Primary School from Chinese to English, I wondered how a child's observation could be so deep and thought-provoking.*

*For nine extraordinary days, I learned number of such fascinating stories in "Rui-Bin Camp" which provided me a rare opportunity to harvest the most extra-ordinary experience of life. From August 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. as representatives of Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group of TIB, I along with Urmi Ghosh got the rare opportunity to visit "Rui-Bin Camp" this year, 14<sup>th</sup> of its kind. A total of 46 young students from South Korea and different universities and colleges in Taiwan including us from Bangladesh got the rare opportunity to become mentors of the 210 Rui-Bin students, among which sixty percent belong to disadvantaged families, including low-income, aborigines, foreign spouses, and single parents.*



*As the main theme of this year's camp was 'empathy', we participated in activities and lectures focused on the empathy for the children. During cultural introduction and throughout the camp, we highlighted Bangladeshi culture in front of the children and got amazed to learn Chinese version of Rabindranath Tagore's 'Fule Fule Dhole Dhole' with great interest. During the camp, we also were visited by Jose Ugaz, former Chairperson of Transparency International and Faculty of Peru's Lima University, Geo-Sung Kim, Former Chairperson of TI Korea and Faculty of Yonsei*

*University of South Korea and Ernie Ko, Co-founder of Rui-Bin Camp and Faculty of National Taiwan University of Arts with whom we shared our observations and experiences about the camp.*

*Along with the children, in only nine days, my bag of knowledge became filled with lot of diversified experience. From discovering clean and planned Taipei city as a big surprise, we also visited numerous places including small hills and water bodies i.e. Jiufen, Night Market which remains open only in the night; explored Taiwan National University and National Taiwan University of Arts; Taipei 101, tallest building of the world for short period; Hover Base Camp, Taiwan National Defense Services; and other many places.*

*Though language barred us from clear understanding, it couldn't resist us from exchanging love, education and learnings. Filled with eye-opening and mind blowing experiences, those nine days have become so memorable nine days of my life.*

### **TIB termed Malaysia Government's decision as concerning and potential, called for ending monopoly and busting syndicate**

In the wake of media reports that the Malaysian government has decided to suspend the hiring of workers from Bangladesh due to illegal activities of the 'syndicate' in the sector, TIB expressed grave concern and called for knocking down the existing 'syndicate' to check illegal manpower business as it might bring striking negative impact on country's migrant labour market and economy too.

In a statement released on 20 August, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftexharuzzaman said, "in view of this decision, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) should immediately discuss the matter with the Malaysian government and agree upon a solution to the problem. However, I urge the GoB to consider the Malaysian government's decision as a positive one as it brought forth the opportunity to get rid of syndication in manpower sending process. Though It would create an adverse impact on the country's manpower export, hopefully at the same time, it would help eliminate the

illegal syndicate active in the manpower export sector." Dr. Zaman also said, GoB can still have a chance to send workers through discussion with Malaysian government but before that it has to put in place a 'syndicate-free' recruitment system.

Dr. Zaman also said, GoB should take visible steps to make the workers sending process free and competitive one for all agencies and to take initiatives to fix a logical expense to send workers in a transparent way. He stressed the need for ensuring accountability and transparency in this sector, which is a major source of foreign remittance and demanded that the government take action against corrupt officials and others involved in the 'syndicate'.

Referring TIB's research released in March 2017 on Governance challenges in migration sector, Dr. Zaman said, "the decision of Malaysian Government was feared previously in TIB report citing lack of governance and challenges. If steps recommended in the research would have implemented by the government, this crisis could have been avoided today." Dr. Zaman further added, "TIB feels the government now has the opportunity to prove its political and administrative goodwill, and get rid of the migration crisis and the corruption of the syndicate.

### **Camps organized to sensitize Youths on SDGs and Social Movement Against Corruption Youths' pledge to resist corruption and uphold human & women rights**

The Youths pledged to resist corruption and uphold human & women rights in an Anti-Corruption Youth Camp held at CSS Ava Center in Khulna on 7-8 August 2018. Organized by TIB with CCCs of respective areas, the two-day long Youth Camp was organized to streamline the role of youths in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and synchronizing new knowledge in the fight against corruption with the theme '*Transparency and accountability towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals SDGs: Invincible Youth will resist corruption*'. Devised in four broad thematic areas - learning and sharing experiences, motivational speeches, skill development & developing action plan and games and entertainment, diversified set of programmes and sessions were designed to educate the young force and involve them in designing innovative action plans. Different games and competitions (Quiz competition and Open Book exam) were also organized to strengthen issue-based knowledge.

On 07 August 2018 followed by the inaugural, Dr. Iftexharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB discussed the issues of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its importance in anti-corruption social movement. Later Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Chairperson of Dnet, discussed on the uses of Information and Communication Technologies and social media for fighting against corruption highlighting ethics and role of Youths as well.



To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh and United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in collaboration with TIB organized a screening of Swiss movie *Sonita* and a brief discussion on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Meanwhile on 08 August 2018, Human Rights Activist Advocate U. M. Habibunnesa of Naripakhkha moderated a discussion on human and women rights as was reflected in the film *Sonita*. Advocate Md. Mominul Islam, District Coordinator of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Sangstha and Ms. Shamima Sultana Shilu, Lecturer of City Law College in Khulna and Vice-President of CCC, Khulna remained panel discussants.



In the open discussion sessions, the youths got opportunity to contribute and exchange their learning and experiences in the social movement against corruption. In different sessions, President of CCC, Khulna Professor Md. Anwarul Quadir, Director-Civic Engagement of TIB Ms. Ferhana Ferdous, Director-Finance & Admin Abdul Ahad also spoke.

258 Youths from TIB inspired anti-corruption volunteers Youth Engagement and Support (YES) members and YES Friends of Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Khulna, Jashore, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jhenaidah, Barishal, Barguna, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Faridpur and Rajbari along with students from different educational institutions participated in this camp. Earlier, two Camps were also organized in Cumilla and Rangpur and another Anti-Corruption Youth Camp will be organized at Sreemangal in October 2018.

## Meeting on strengthening governance in Climate Finance Project implementation

CCC, Dinajpur organized a sharing meeting on 'Establishing Governance in Climate Finance Project Implementation' on 12 August 2018 at the LGED Bhaban to ensure transparency, accountability, integrity and participation of climate affected people in implementing projects funded by Govt's Climate Change Trust Fund and Development partners. CCC President Md. Shafiqul Haque Chhutu presided over the meeting where Convener of CCC's Climate Finance Governance Sub-Committee Md. Mozaffor Ali Milon delivered welcome speech. Deputy Program Manager of TIB Md. Newazul Mowla presented a paper titled 'Transparency, Accountability and People's Participation in Climate Finance Project Implementation : Prospects and Challenges'.



Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Md. Faizur Rahman, Deputy Assistant Engineer LGED Md. Nurul Islam, Deputy Assistant Engineer ATM Saiful Islam, Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Md. Altaf Hossain, Additional Deputy Director (Agriculture) Biplob Kumar Mohonta, Deputy Assistant Engineer-Public Health Engineering Directorate Wahida Farjana, District Coordinator of BRAC Md. Mohsin Ali spoke in the meeting.

The discussant pointed out that considering the probable impact of climate change, cultivation of adoptable crops and preservation of water through river dredging is crucial. Political connections are playing an unwanted role in getting the responsibilities of project implementation in the climate vulnerable areas. Paying speed money at different level of officials in disbursement of funds is becoming prevalent. As a result, the climate vulnerable communities are being deprived from the real benefits of such projects.

In the meeting issues ranging from climate financing at national and international level, remarkable initiatives of Bangladesh Government on climate risk reduction, lack of adaptation fund, uncertainty of Climate Financing, Transparency, Accountability and Participation in climate adaptation envisioned in Paris Agreement, insufficient fund distribution at different climate vulnerable areas, causes and consequences of governance in climate finance and way forward to face these issues etc. were discussed in the meeting.

Among others, Assistant Engineer LGED Abul Khair Md. Abdul Halim, Engineers of Water Development Board, representative of RDRS, CCC Advisor Professor A. K. M. Badruzzaman Chowdhury, CCC Vice-President Azadi Hai, CCC Member Chitta Ghosh and Laila Chowdhury and people from different walks were present in the meeting.

### **Service Receptients and Authority to ensure transparency and accountability in Land Services**

CCC, Madhupur organized a meeting titled 'Joint initiatives of service receptients and service providers is the precondition for an improved land service' on 29 August 2018. With service receptients and officials of land authority as participants, the meeting was presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Romendra Nath Bishwas where Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md. Mahbulul Haque, Upazila Sub-Registrar Md. Rahenul Islam Sarker, Peshkar (Reader) Md. Badrul Haque discussed different services on land issue.



In the open discussion session, the service receptients raised issues concerning different services and fees. The respective persons of land authority answered the questions. The participants also discussed on different problems which included influence of middlemen in land services, initiatives for stopping harassment, inception of citizen friendly services, practice of right to information act in land services and ensuring free flow of information, reducing delay and complexity in land mutation and taxation process, stopping the demand of extra money for land registration, record correction and settlement record collection. In response, the authority assured to take measures to stop the afore mentioned irregularities.

Chief Guest Mr. Ramendra Nath Bishwas said, regular meeting of service receptients and authority will help to ensure transparency and accountability in government service sector which will contribute to the improvement of services. He requested TIB to organize such meetings with other departments also. CCC President Dr. Mir Forhadul Alam Moni delivered welcome speech while Program Manager of TIB Chitta Ranjan Roy shared CCC-TIB's expectations for the development of land services in the meeting. Among others, people's representatives, NGO representatives, journalists, employee of Upazila Land Office, Sub-Registrar and Settlement Office and TIB Staff were present in the meeting.

***'Role of Active Mothers' Forum and Future Plan for the betterment of Primary Education***

'All should come forward in fighting corruption,' stated Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Chandpur Md. Majedur Rahman Khan, while he was delivering speech as the chief guest in a meeting held on 01 August 2018. CCC, Chandpur organized the meeting titled 'Role of Active Mothers' Forum and Future Plan for the betterment of Primary Education' at the Press Club in Chandpur where DC Md. Sajedur Rahman Khan was present as the Chief Guest and Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Chandpur Md. Mizanur Rahman, District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Md. Sahab Uddin and Senior Program Manager of TIB Ahmad Fajlullahil Baqi were present as special guest.

DC pointed out that the concept of Active Mother's Forum (AMF) is very crucial and it is essential to use it properly and make it functional. He thanked TIB for organizing such a meeting. ASP Md. Mizanur Rahman said, 'AMF is a timely initiative which will play a vital role in improving the primary education. Primary Education Division, School Authority and Active Mothers Forum jointly could contribute in betterment of primary education.'

DPEO (In Charge) Md. Sahab Uddin assured to take action against anybody involved in corruption and requested to send him names of corrupt officials and relevant documents. He said, quality of education is improving after the formation of AMF. He advised Upazila Education Officer and Assistant Upazila Education Officers for taking proper measures to make effective AMF.



In open discussion session, Faridganj Upazila Education Officer Md. Maniruzzaman and Assistant Education Officers of Sadar, Shahrasti and Kachua Upazila took part. Among others CCC President Kazi Shahadat, SPM-CE of TIB Ahmad Fajlullahil Baqi, President of SMC of Uttar Sreeramdi Govt. Primary School's Shah Alam Mallik and AMF's Co-Coordinator Sumi Begum spoke in the meeting. Earlier, CCC's Vice-President Professor Md. Mosharef Hossain delivered welcome speech while SWAJAN Coordinator Mirza Zakir, Chandpur Sadar Upazila Education Officer Nazma Begum and Program Manager of TIB Md. Humayun Kabir delivered welcome speech. Area Manager of TIB Md. Masud Rana shared the concept of AMF.

**Pledge to resist corruption through ensuring transparency and accountability at Union Parishad**

CCC, Jamalpur in collaboration with Upazila Administration organized a sharing meeting with Local Government Authority on 30 August 2018 at Upazila Parishad Auditorium. Member of Parliament (Jamalpur-5) Alhaji Md. Rezaul Karim Hira was present as Chief Guest while Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Jamalpur Sadar Dr. Muhammad Mofizur Rahman was the key discussant. All the UP Chairmen under Jamalpur Sadar Upazila attended the meeting.

The meeting proposed to organize a Tax Fair with a view to implement the action plan prepared in the meeting and to make Union Parishad stronger. Besides, CCC placed a set of recommendations which included: organizing monthly meeting of Union Parishad regularly, ensuring the effectiveness of the Standing Committees, increasing transparency and accountability to implement the development projects, ensuring women empowerment, increasing the involvement of female members in the development programs, enhancing the engagement of mass people in the Ward Meetings, organizing Face the Public and Open Budget programs etc.

In open discussion session, the Chairmen of different Union Parishads under Jamalpur Sadar Upazila shown interest to collaborate with CCC and vowed to work together in implementing the action plan made in the meeting. In this connection, they sought cooperation from CCC to implement UP activities including organizing Tax Fair.

Alhajj Rezaul Karim Hira, MP said that TIB-CCC should work in all the Union Parishads and Municipalities. Dr. Mohammad Mofizur Rahman pledged to resist corruption through establishing transparency, accountability and good governance in local bodies. He also expressed to work jointly with CCC-TIB. CCC President Professor Mir Ahsar Ali thanked all for their active participation in the meeting.



Convenr of CCC's Local Government Sub-Committee Ms. Masuda Akter delivered welcome speech while Program Manager of TIB Chitta Ranjan Roy shared TIB's expectations and few recommendations and Area Manager Muhammad Habibur Rahman shared the minutes of the previous meeting. Among others Upazila Vice-Chairman Md. Moshir Rahman and Most. Selina Begum, Chairman of Kendua, Ranagacha, Titpolla, Sreepur, Shahabazpur, Rashid, Sharifpur, Banshchhara and Lakshmichar Union Parishad, CCC Member Mehedi Mahmud Khan, employee of Upazila Parishad's and TIB Staff were present in the meeting.

END

Editor: Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam

Sub-Editor: Shakil Md. Faisal, Hozzatul Islam, Yasmin Ara, Saddam Hossen  
Write us: Transparency International Bangladesh | email: [advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org](mailto:advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org)  
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