

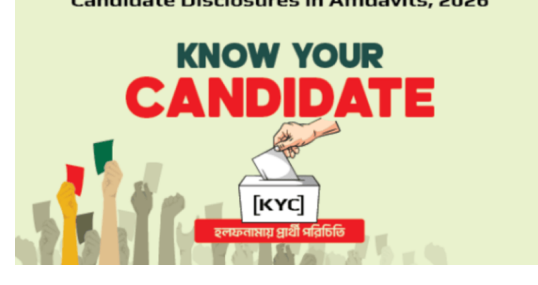
## Overview

TIB began 2026 by connecting evidence with citizen action. Ahead of the 13th Parliamentary Election, the Know Your Candidate (KYC) dashboard enabled voters to examine those seeking public office. Research and policy advocacy across climate finance, social protection, e-waste, and renewable energy revealed how weak governance affects both public resources and people's lives. TIB also examined whether emerging reforms would deliver genuine accountability or preserve old practices in new forms. From the Clean Energy Day mobilization to the CCC and YES initiatives, TIB's work demonstrated how accessible information, public demand, and organized citizen engagement can work together to make institutions more accountable.

## Research

### TIB Dashboard Highlights Asset Transparency in the 13th Parliamentary Election

A credible election requires informed voters. With the Know Your Candidate (KYC) dashboard, TIB worked to make that possible ahead of the 13th Parliamentary Election, analyzing candidate affidavits and making financial disclosures searchable and publicly accessible. The data surfaced what several candidates had chosen not to volunteer: concealed offshore wealth, undisclosed foreign citizenship, and gaps between legal mandates and actual compliance. The KYC dashboard does not tell voters who to choose. It ensures they can make that choice with the facts in front of them.



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## Policy Brief



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### Closing the Gap: Indigenous People and Social Security Programs

While 37.6% of Bangladeshis benefit from national social security programs, only 19.7% of eligible indigenous people do. TIB's policy brief traces this gap to language barriers that block access to application processes, the absence of constitutional recognition for indigenous communities, and a budget allocation of just 0.51% for some of the country's most marginalized groups. The brief calls for ratification of ILO Convention 169 as a binding legal framework for indigenous rights, alongside a meaningful increase in dedicated funding. A program that does not reach the people it was designed for is not a program. It is a gap with a name.

### Climate Finance Under Scrutiny: Where Did the Money Go?

TIB's research revealed that over 54% of approved domestic climate funds between 2010 and 2024 were lost to corruption, with an estimated USD 248.4 million embezzled from the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust fund. For a country as climate-vulnerable as Bangladesh, this is not just a financial failure. TIB's policy brief calls for an independent oversight body and amendments to the Climate Change Trust Act 2010 to ensure climate funds reach the communities they are meant to protect.



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### E-Waste and the Governance Gap

Nearly 15,000 metric tons of banned e-waste entered Bangladesh between 2022 and 2024, a figure TIB documented alongside the governance failures that allowed it. The policy brief TIB published in response calls for regulations updated to cover solar panels and electric vehicles, a national e-waste inventory, Extended Producer Responsibility guidelines, and a National Coordination Committee. A waste stream growing faster than the rules meant to govern it requires exactly this kind of coordinated response.

### Renewable Energy's Missing Framework

Renewable energy accounts for just 4.6% of Bangladesh's national energy mix, despite years of climate commitments. TIB's policy brief finds that fossil fuel interests have shaped investment decisions, blocked competitive bidding, and inflated project costs with little accountability. TIB calls for full operational autonomy for SREDA, mandatory competitive bidding, and an independent oversight body to break a cycle of policy capture that has kept clean energy on the margins for too long.



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## Law Review



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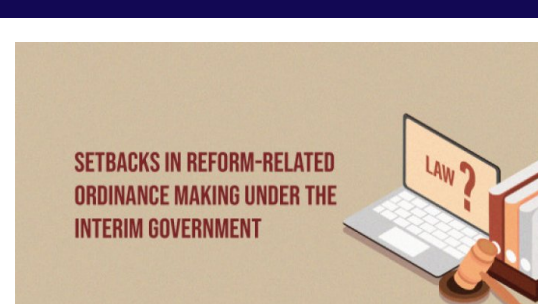
### The SREDA Act Needs to Catch Up with Bangladesh's Climate Commitments

TIB's law review of the SREDA Act 2012 finds that the agency designed to lead Bangladesh's green energy transition remains constrained by ministerial oversight that limits its independence and slows decision-making. With renewables at just 4.6% of the national energy mix, the cost of this constraint is visible. TIB recommends granting SREDA full operational autonomy and establishing transparent legal frameworks for grid integration, so that renewable investment is guided by evidence rather than bureaucratic discretion.

## Position Paper

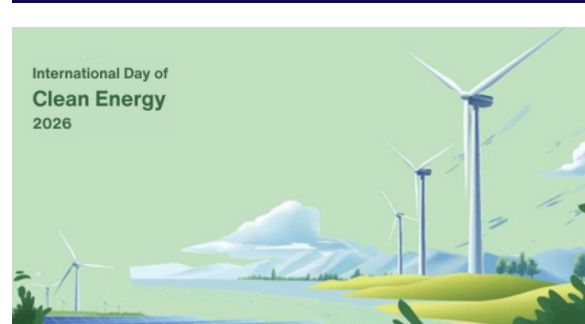
### Reform Ordinances Must Do More Than Rename the Status Quo

The July Uprising created a clear expectation that Bangladesh's institutions would be rebuilt on genuine accountability. When TIB examined the interim government's draft ordinances on Cyber Security and Data Protection, it found that expectation unmet. Judicial oversight was missing. The ACC independence recommendations that TIB and civil society had consistently pushed for were quietly dropped under bureaucratic pressure, without explanation. TIB published a position paper on this matter because silence would have meant acceptance. It calls for a participatory law-making process that treats reform as a commitment, rather than a communication strategy.



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## Concept Note



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### Clean Energy Day 2026: Making the Demand Visible

TIB marked Clean Energy Day 2026 by publishing a concept note that translated years of energy governance research into a concrete civic agenda. The note called for the removal of black laws that exempt fossil fuel projects from competitive bidding, full operational autonomy for SREDA, feed-in tariffs to make clean energy investment viable, and a government-endorsed roadmap toward 100% renewable energy by 2050. Events mobilizing youth and civil society were designed to take these recommendations beyond TIB's research desk and into public demand. For a country where vested fossil fuel interests have shaped energy policy for decades, TIB believes that change requires not just the right recommendations but the right pressure behind them.

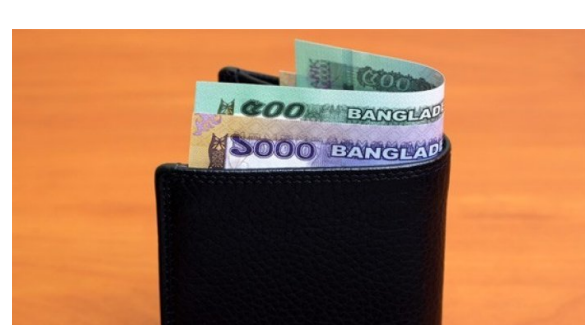
## Press Statement

### Draft Media Ordinances Betray the Promise of Press Freedom

TIB condemned the publication of two draft media ordinances in January, warning that both retain bureaucratic control over the press and fall short of the independent Media Commission that experts have long called for. The organization demanded an immediate halt to the ordinances, pointing out that a drafting process conducted without meaningful input from journalists and civil society cannot produce legislation that genuinely protects press freedom. TIB called for an inclusive dialogue that places editorial independence at the center of any future media reform.



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### A Pay Rise Without Accountability Is Not Reform

A pay rise that ignores accountability is not reform. It is a more expensive version of the same problem. TIB made that case directly in response to proposals for a public sector pay rise, supporting the principle of fair pay while warning that salary increases without mandatory asset disclosure simply reprice corruption instead of ending it. The logic is straightforward: if officials are paid more but never required to show what they own, the incentives that drive corruption remain untouched. TIB called for binding disclosure requirements to be built into any pay reform from the outset, not negotiated separately or postponed for later.

### Hosting Foreign Observers Is Not Neutral: The Election Commission Must Reconsider

TIB called for an immediate reversal of the Election Commission's plan to fund the accommodation and meals of foreign election observers. The organization warned that the arrangement compromises the independence those observers are meant to exercise, since an observer whose expenses are covered by the body they are assessing cannot be considered fully impartial. TIB pointed to similar arrangements in past elections that blurred the line between hosting and managing the observation process.



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## Event



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### A United Front for Clean Energy at the Parliament Complex

On International Day of Clean Energy 2026, TIB and a 20-organization coalition formed a human chain at the National Parliament Complex to demand a time-bound transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman called out the current energy master plan as shaped by fossil fuel interests and urged stronger autonomy for SREDA, transparent approvals, and feed-in tariffs to open the sector to genuine competition.

## CCC News

### Municipal Commitments Secured in Brahmanbaria

Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Active Citizens Group (ACG) in Brahmanbaria held a community meeting with the Municipal Administrator, where residents raised infrastructure and waste management concerns directly. The administration committed to concrete action points. Organized, persistent citizen engagement changes what local institutions are willing to do.



### YES Groups Empower Students to Lead Anti-Corruption Movement

YES Groups at Dhaka College and Jahangirnagar University held anti-corruption orientation programs where hundreds of students engaged with the RTI Act as a practical tool. At Dhaka College, an RTI-focused quiz brought the law to life. At Jahangirnagar, students were challenged to see themselves not as the future of the movement but as its present.

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