

Overview

Bangladesh's democratic transition faced a defining test in 'February', with TIB working to keep accountability at the center of the electoral process. TIB's observations before and after the 13th parliamentary election examined not only the conduct of the vote but also what the results revealed about political integrity, inclusion, and compliance. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and TIB's reform monitoring showed that political change had yet to produce the institutional transformation citizens expected. Through advocacy on electoral transparency, disability inclusion, e-waste governance, and community oversight, TIB reinforced a central message that good governance depends on accountable institutions and citizens to participate, question, and monitor them.

Corruption Perception Index (CPI)

CPI 2025: Post-Uprising Hopes Meet Persistent Structural Realities

Bangladesh's score in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 rose by one point to 24, placing the country 150th out of 182 nations. TIB presented the result in Dhaka on 10 February and gave it an honest reading: the improvement reflects the global optimism sparked by the July 2024 uprising, not the structural reforms that are still waiting to be implemented. Bangladesh remains second lowest in South Asia and trails the global average by 18 points, a reminder of how much ground remains to cover. TIB identified the absence of a formal anti-corruption strategy, the ACC's resistance to reform, and the risk of an 'our turn' syndrome taking hold among those newly in power as the factors most likely to determine whether the country moves forward or simply changes hands. The message was clear: one point is a start, not an achievement.



CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025

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Research



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One and a Half Years On: The Gap Between Mass Uprising and Reform

Eighteen months after the fall of the authoritarian government, TIB published its third monitoring report assessing the interim government's performance. What it found was sobering. The gap between the uprising's expectations and the current reality has grown rather than narrowed, with bureaucratic inertia, threats to media freedom, and selective engagement with reform recommendations slowing a process that was always going to need urgency to succeed. TIB called on the interim government to honor its commitments to judicial accountability and genuine institutional reform, before the window of opportunity the uprising created closes for good.

Pre-Election Observations

Ahead of the 13th National Parliamentary Election on 12 February 2026, TIB published preliminary observations from its election tracking research, and the findings pointed to a fragile environment. Political parties had not reached consensus on key procedural matters. Internal party conflicts remained unresolved. Non-state actors continued to exert influence over the democratic process. TIB called for comprehensive constitutional reforms and full institutional independence as the minimum conditions for a credible vote, warning that without them, the election risked repeating old patterns rather than breaking from them.



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Election Tracking and Affidavit Analysis: Fairness Achieved, Accountability Still Lacking

TIB's post-election research delivered a mixed verdict on the 13th Parliamentary Election. The vote achieved an acceptable level of fairness, TIB found, but the numbers underneath that headline told a more troubling story. Ballot stuffing was recorded in 21.4% of 70 sampled constituencies. Ninety-nine percent of candidates violated the electoral code of conduct. Eighty percent of incoming MPs are millionaires, and women's representation fell to a historic low of 2.36%. TIB called for deeper state reforms and stricter electoral enforcement, arguing that an acceptable election should not be the ceiling Bangladesh settles for.

Press Statement

Banning Mobile Phones at Polling Stations Hurts Transparency, Not Fraud

When the Election Commission announced a ban on mobile phones within 400 yards of polling stations during the 13th Parliamentary Election, TIB pushed back immediately. The blanket restriction, in TIB's assessment, does far more harm than good. It prevents journalists and observers from documenting irregularities, creates safety risks for vulnerable voters, and undermines the public trust that a credible election depends on. TIB called on the Commission to revoke the ban and find targeted measures that address genuine concerns without compromising transparency.



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TIB Welcomes MPs' Rejection of Duty-Free Privileges, Demands Asset Disclosure Next

TIB welcomed the decision of newly elected MPs to forgo duty-free cars and government plots, while making clear that symbolic gestures are not a substitute for structural accountability. TIB called for a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and mandatory asset disclosures for all MPs and public officials, including family members, to be published within three months of taking office. Without these measures, the risk of kleptocratic behavior persists regardless of which privileges are declined.

A Minister Cannot Call Extortion a Transaction and Expect No Response

When the Transport Minister described road extortion as a 'transaction based on mutual understanding,' TIB responded with a direct condemnation. The remarks contradict the government's own anti-corruption pledges and, in TIB's assessment, amount to an attempt to legitimize a criminal offense. TIB urged the Prime Minister to ensure internal party accountability and warned that normalizing extortion in one sector sets a dangerous precedent across all public services.



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Appointing a Loan Defaulter as Bangladesh Bank Governor Is a Conflict of Interest

TIB raised concern over the appointment of a businessman and former loan defaulter as the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, warning that the move risks subjecting the central bank to policy capture by business lobbies. The appointee's membership of the ruling party's election committee made the conflict of interest explicit. TIB called the decision a contradiction of both post-uprising reform expectations and the government's own electoral pledges.

Event

TIB Stakeholder Meeting Urges Integrated Strategy to Tackle E-waste Crisis

Only 3% of Bangladesh's 13.3 million kilograms of annual e-waste enters formal processing. TIB organized a stakeholder meeting to understand why, gathering government agencies, electronics manufacturers, researchers, and environmental experts around the governance failures that have allowed the crisis to grow unchecked. The answer was consistent across the room: awareness is not the problem. The absence of an integrated system, clear technical guidelines, and enforced collection targets is. TIB called for all three. TIB called for clear technical guidelines, coordinated enforcement, and strict collection targets to turn a growing toxic liability into an economic resource worth an estimated BDT 5,000 crore annually.



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DRW and TIB Call for Inclusive Elections and Voting Rights for Persons with Disabilities

Eight days before the 13th Parliamentary Election, TIB and Disability Rights Watch (DRW) held a press conference highlighting that over 20 million citizens with disabilities continued to face structural barriers to voting, including inaccessible polling booths and no provision for sign language interpreters. Despite prior assurances from the Election Commission, no concrete measures had been implemented. TIB and DRW jointly called on the Commission and political parties to move beyond commitments and make inclusion a practical reality before the vote.

TIB and Nationwide Network Honor Language Martyrs; Vow to Fight Corruption

On Amar Ekushey 2026, TIB and its nationwide CCC, ACG, and YES Group network joined the Probat Pheri and placed wreaths at Shaheed Minars across 45 areas of Bangladesh. Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman drew a direct line between the 1952 martyrs' stand against injustice and TIB's anti-corruption work: in the discrimination-free society the language heroes envisioned, there is no place for corruption. A transparent, accountable Bangladesh is the most meaningful tribute the country can offer.



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CCC News



CCC Brahmanbaria Pushes Forward on Waste Management

TIB's Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) Brahmanbaria and the Active Citizens Group (ACG) met with municipal authorities to push forward on environmental service improvements. The Municipal Administrator announced plans for ward-based waste collection, additional manpower, and the cleaning of the Titas River. The CCC's role was to ensure that commitments made in earlier meetings translated into concrete plans, demonstrating that sustained citizen engagement changes what institutions are willing to act on.

Stamford University and ULAB YES Groups: Two Campuses, One Message Against Corruption

YES Groups at Stamford University and ULAB ran anti-corruption programs, reaching students and faculty across both institutions. At Stamford, an integrity-focused orientation led to collective commitments against corruption. At ULAB's Club Fair, an RTI awareness campaign reached over 300 visitors, with 123 students joining the YES Club by the end of the day. At both campuses, the message was the same: students are not the future of the anti-corruption movement. They are its present.



CCC-ACG Advocacy Secures Infrastructure and Safety Upgrades at Satkhira

CCC-Satkhira's Active Citizens Group (ACG) held an advocacy meeting with Pallimangal School and College authorities that opened by acknowledging what previous advocacy had already delivered: a completed entrance road, CCTV cameras, and a filled teacher vacancy. The ACG then identified the next priorities: safe drinking water, a main gate, and parent-teacher meetings to address absenteeism. Each meeting builds on the last. That is how community accountability works.



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