

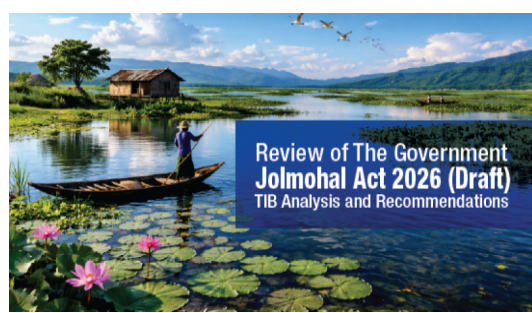
Overview

In April TIB scrutinized proposed laws and parliamentary decisions affecting judicial independence, human rights, banking accountability, wetlands, women's representation, and digital freedom. Alongside these public service setbacks, TIB organized the capacity of investigative journalists, equipping them to investigate energy-sector governance. CCC, ACG, and YES initiatives connected these national concerns with citizens' everyday experiences of land administration, healthcare, transport, and public services.

Law Review

The Wetland Bill Misses the People Who Need It Most

Bangladesh's haors and wetlands sustain millions of people whose livelihoods depend on them. TIB reviewed the Haor and Wetland Conservation Bill 2026 and found that it falls short of protecting those most dependent on these ecosystems. The bill's definition of 'fisherman' excludes traditional fishing communities who have worked these waters for generations without formal registration. TIB calls for broader definitions, stronger protections for customary fishing rights, and an independent national database to track wetland resources and usage.



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Position Paper



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Parliament Must Not Dilute the Reforms It Inherited

When the parliamentary special committee recommended converting 98 of the interim government's 133 ordinances into law, TIB examined the findings closely and published a position paper raising serious concerns. Ordinances that had strengthened judicial independence and the Human Rights Commission are being recommended for repeal or suspension, while laws governing government audits and local government have been quietly weakened. TIB calls on Parliament to restore the original intent of these reforms and resist the pressure to dilute them before they reach the statute book.

Press Statement

TIB Condemns Suspension of Key Reform Ordinances

Among the 133 ordinances reviewed by the parliamentary special committee, three stood out as genuine structural gains from the interim period: the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, and the Human Rights Commission Ordinance. The committee recommended repealing two and suspending the third. TIB responded with a direct call to reverse these recommendations and place the ordinances before Parliament in their original form, urging that the lessons of authoritarian rule not be forgotten so quickly.



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TIB Highlights Risk of Plunder Under Bank Resolution Act

Bangladesh's banking sector has carried the weight of years of politically driven mismanagement. The Bank Resolution Act 2026 was an opportunity to draw a clear line. TIB found that it did not. A provision in the Act allows former shareholders of collapsed banks to regain ownership after repayment, with no further accountability. TIB warned that this rewards those responsible for the sector's failures and called for the provision to be removed and replaced with genuine accountability measures.

TIB Analysis: Who Fills the Reserved Seats for Women?

Reserved women's seats in Parliament are meant to ensure representation for underrepresented communities. TIB analyzed the affidavit data of 49 candidates for these seats in the 13th National Parliamentary Election and found that 65% are multimillionaires and over 63% hold postgraduate or higher degrees. The purpose of the analysis is to give voters and civil society the factual basis to assess whether the profiles of those seeking these seats reflect the communities the seats were designed to represent.



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Event



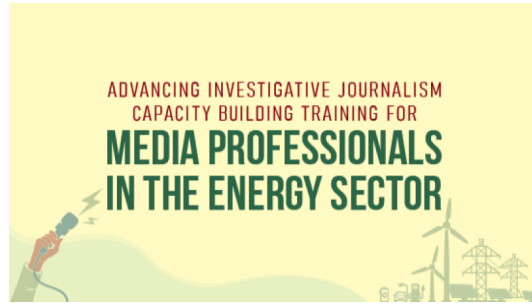
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TIB Recognizes 2025 Investigative Journalism Fellows for Fearless Reporting

Investigative journalism and accountability are inseparable. Since 2012, TIB's Investigative Journalism Fellowship has backed reporters willing to pursue stories that institutions would prefer to stay buried. At the 2025 award ceremony in Dhaka, TIB recognized five journalists from print, online, and broadcast media whose work exposed ghost infrastructure in Pirojpur, billions wasted on abandoned municipal waste plants, and stolen resources from government daycare centers. The Fellowship provides financial support and mentorship so that this kind of journalism remains possible.

TIB Equips Journalists to Uncover Energy Sector Governance Failures

Bangladesh's energy sector is one of the most consequential and least transparently reported areas of public life. In April, TIB and the Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) organized a three-day residential training workshop for 25 energy journalists, focused on investigating policy frameworks, tracking irregularities, and covering renewable energy in the public interest. The aim was not to hand journalists a new topic but to help them approach what they already knew with greater depth and sharper tools. One participant put it plainly: 'We now feel that there are meaningful opportunities to explore and report on.'



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Old Repression, New Laws: TIB Demands Real Digital Reform

If the Digital Security Act has been repealed, why do journalists still feel afraid? That question, raised from the floor at the Digital Rights Asia-Pacific Bangladesh National Convening 2026, captured the event's central finding. TIB participated as a session partner, with Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman documenting how successive digital laws have carried forward the tools of the one before them, simply under new names. Between 2018 and 2024, more than 4,500 people faced repression under the DSA alone. TIB's position is clear: renaming a law is not the same as reforming it.

CCC News

From Campuses to Community Halls: A Month of Citizen Mobilization

Throughout April 2026, TIB's Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Groups mobilized hundreds of students and local leaders across Bangladesh to strengthen anti-corruption values and civic engagement. Activities spanned campus campaigns at Chattogram Government College, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, and the University of Asia Pacific, where participants engaged with Right to Information (RTI) Act workshops, cartoon exhibitions, and street theater. Additionally, regional workshops and learning-sharing sessions in Rangpur and Bogura brought together over 40 youth organizations to advance SDG 16, institutional governance, and community oversight, reinforcing grassroots action as the foundation of public accountability.



Citizens Armed with Knowledge: Land Rights Training in Lakshmipur

Corruption in the land sector thrives on information gaps. To narrow that gap, CCC Lakshmipur and the Lakshmipur Sadar Upazila Land Office jointly organized a training for YES and ACG members covering land laws, mutation and registration processes, land development tax, and the differences between khas land and vested property. The Upazila Nirbahi Officer, who attended as chief guest, made the case plainly: citizens who understand land procedures are far harder to exploit. He called for similar trainings to be held regularly and committed the support of the Upazila Administration.

Khulna Medical College Hospital Commits to Improving Services

The Active Citizens Group (ACG), supported by CCC Khulna, brought documented concerns directly to the Director of Khulna Medical College Hospital at an advocacy meeting on 29 April. ACG members presented findings gathered through the PACTApp, covering service quality gaps and systemic problems at the facility. The Hospital Director acknowledged the challenges of operating at three times capacity and recognized ACG's role in surfacing problems that internal processes had missed. He committed to ongoing improvement efforts and called for collective action to remove the influence of brokers and middlemen from hospital services.



Citizens Form Human Chain to Demand Public Transport Reforms in Jamalpur

CCC Jamalpur and the YES Group organized a human chain at Faujdari More in Jamalpur on 16 April, demanding an end to irregularities in public transport and better services for the district's 2.6 million residents. Participants presented 15 specific demands, including the withdrawal of unfit BRTC buses, the construction of a bus depot, the introduction of AC services on key routes, and an end to extra fare collection during Eid and public holidays. Journalists, lawyers, NGO workers, and citizens from across professions joined CCC, YES, and ACG members at the human chain, with around 200 people receiving leaflets outlining the demands.

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