TOGETHER STRONGER AGAINST CORRUPTION

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH
Social movement against corruption

eWaves

JULY 2026

Overview

In July, TIB scrutinized draft legislation, challenged institutional failures, and invested in the people who make accountability visible. A joint policy brief with the Human Rights Forum Bangladesh identified 24 provisions in the draft Human Rights Commission Act that would keep the institution under government control. A law review addressed local government election rules. Press statements responded to attacks on journalists, bureaucratic interference with a Prime Minister directive, violations of parliamentary rules, and a rushed consultation on enforced disappearance legislation. Two investigative journalism training programmes in Rajendrapur and Sylhet gave reporters the tools to go deeper. On the ground, CCC and YES Group members drove community level civic engagement through learning meetings, governance workshops, RTI awareness sessions, and Citizens' Report Card consultations to strengthen transparency and hold local authorities accountable. To follow TIB's journey against corruption this July, read on.

Policy Brief

TIB and HRFB Outline Critical Reforms for National Human Rights Commission Act 2026 (Draft)



Warning that the draft National Human Rights Commission Act 2026 threatens fundamental liberties, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) issued a joint policy brief flagging 24 critical provisions that invite political overreach and strip independent investigative powers over law enforcement. Demanding immediate alignment with the international Paris Principles, this initiative rallies public pressure to ensure Bangladesh secures a truly autonomous defender of citizen rights—because holding power accountable requires a watchdog that answers solely to the public.

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Law Review



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TIB Recommends on the Draft Rules for Local Government Elections

Ensuring free and fair competition as Bangladesh enters a new political order requires enforceable ground rules that guarantee an equal opportunity for all candidates. Welcoming the Election Commission's public call for feedback on draft conduct codes across five local government election categories, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) submitted concrete recommendations aimed at closing regulatory loopholes and eliminating biased provisions. Pushing for rules that are unambiguous, practical, and strictly policed, this intervention aims to build public trust in grassroots democracy before citizens head to the polls.

Press Statement

TIB Demands Impartial Probe into Khulna Journalist Shooting



Targeting journalists engaged in their professional duties strikes at the foundation of media freedom and public accountability. Following a recent shooting targeting a group of journalists in Khulna, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) immediately condemned the attack, noting that the victims' initial reluctance to file a legal complaint underscores a pervasive culture of fear and a troubling lack of trust in law enforcement. Demanding a swift, impartial investigation, TIB called on authorities to expose both the perpetrators and those who ordered the violence, while determining if the assault was directly linked to investigative reporting.

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TIB Questions the Forces Behind Reversal of Car Allowance Directive

Reversing a high level directive to halve car maintenance allowances from BDT 50,000 to BDT 25,000 exposes an alarming surrender to bureaucratic influence during a period of national economic strain. Questioning the behind the scenes pressure that prompted the government to retreat from a decision approved by the Prime Minister, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) urged immediate reinstatement of the expenditure cut. Beyond restoring the original policy, the anti graft organization called for abolishing discriminatory perks across public administration and embedding mandatory asset disclosures into all future pay scale revisions.

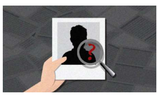
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Passing Laws Without Scrutiny Is Not Majority Governance



Passing major legislation like the Invest Bangladesh Act 2026 without standing committee review, sufficient reading time, or floor debate on opposition amendments severely undermines democratic principles and legislative scrutiny. Raising sharp concern over these procedural violations alongside conflict of interest appointments to oversight committees for key ministries, TIB warned against unilateral lawmaking. To restore integrity to the legislative process, the anti corruption organization called for immediate committee reconstitution, full implementation of proportional opposition representation pledged in the July Charter, and legal reforms to ensure standing committee independence.

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TIB Decries One-Day Consultation on Draft Enforced Disappearance Act

Restricting public consultation on the draft Prevention and Remedy of Enforced Disappearance Act 2026 to a single day reduces civic participation to a hollow formality. Condemning this inadequate timeline, TIB highlighted alarming flaws in the proposed legislation, including granting investigative authority to police forces despite documented allegations of past involvement and retaining provisions that could shield senior officials from accountability. To establish genuine accountability, the anti-corruption organization urged authorities to extend the feedback period by at least two weeks and comprehensively revise the draft with victims and key stakeholders at the table.

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Event

TIB Trains Journalists to Expose Waste Management Failures



Treating waste dumpsites not merely as environmental hazards but as clear indicators of systemic institutional breakdowns, TIB organized a three-day Advanced Investigative Journalism Training at BRAC CDM, Rajendrapur. The intensive program equipped 29 participating reporters with advanced techniques in data analysis, AI-assisted research tools, evidence verification methods, and financial tracking mechanisms necessary to follow public funds. By training journalists to look past surface-level ecological damage and interrogate policy implementation, institutional accountability, and budgetary allocation, the initiative aims to strengthen high-impact investigative reporting that holds duty-bearers accountable to the public interest.

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Data and Investigative Journalism Training Reaches Sylhet's Newsrooms

To confront corruption and institutional impunity, TIB conducted a hands-on workshop in Sylhet on investigative reporting and data journalism for regional journalists. The program equipped reporters with advanced AI tools and modern research techniques to decode complex datasets, trace obscure paper trails, and expose governance failures. By mastering these digital skills, local journalists are empowered to move beyond passive reporting and actively defend the public interest, holding duty bearers accountable and safeguarding democratic transparency across Bangladesh.

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CCC News

TIB Civic Networks Unite to Drive Local Anti-Corruption Action



Building on ongoing citizen-led accountability efforts, Conscious Citizens Committee (CCC), Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Group, and Active Citizens Group (ACG) members in Kurigram and Barishal organized learning and experience-sharing meetings to review anti-corruption initiatives across key public sectors including health, education, land, and environment. The interactive sessions enabled network members to analyze regional challenges, evaluate community monitoring outcomes, and refine local advocacy strategies. Reaffirming their collective resolve, participants concluded the meetings with a solemn anti-corruption oath and a unified call to socially boycott corrupt individuals to enforce public accountability.



YES Groups Mobilize Leaders for Civic Action

To drive youth-led civic action, YES Groups in Natore and Barguna organized governance workshops bringing together young representatives from over forty voluntary organizations. The sessions focused on corruption prevention, institutional accountability, the SDGs, and effective implementation of the RTI Act 2009. Participants examined local governance deficits, discussed practical ways to strengthen integrity within their communities, and concluded by taking an anti-corruption oath to lead collective action for a transparent, inclusive, and corruption-free Bangladesh.

JU Workshop Puts Youth at the Center of Good Governance



Jahangirnagar University YES Group organized a governance workshop titled "Sustainable Development and Institutional Governance: What Youth Organizers Should Do" to mobilize student leaders from thirty voluntary organizations in the anti-corruption social movement. The initiative focused on practical strategies to prevent corruption, rebuild state institutions, fulfill the SDGs, and enhance citizen participation using the RTI Act 2009. By equipping student organizers to enforce transparency and ethical leadership within their respective platforms, the workshop empowered youth to actively resist institutional corruption and act as frontline agents of democratic accountability across Bangladesh.



CCC Drives Municipal Waste Management Accountability

Municipal authorities in Jamalpur and Savar pledged full cooperation for implementing the Citizens' Report Card Programme under TIB's climate justice initiative to improve municipal solid waste management and promote local governance. Designed to strengthen transparency, citizen participation, and institutional accountability across ten CCC areas, the initiative gathers evidence based citizen feedback to identify service delivery gaps and eliminate corruption risks. Through coordinated multi stakeholder engagement involving municipal officials, civil society, CCC, YES, and ACG members, the project establishes a framework for responsible civic behavior and responsive local administration to ensure effective, clean, and sustainable waste services.

CCC Empowers Youth to Drive RTI-Led Grassroots Accountability



To build a culture of integrity and civic oversight, CCC organized intensive Right to Information campaigns and practical learning sessions at educational institutions in Kishoreganj and Dinajpur. The initiatives focused on demystifying the RTI Act 2009 by providing students with hands-on guidance on submitting information requests, filing appeals, and navigating public institutional procedures to expose irregularities and prevent corruption. Supported by YES members, these efforts equipped young citizens with actionable legal tools to demand transparency, reduce bureaucratic harassment, and drive grassroots accountability across public and private sectors.

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