

# Int'l Anti-Corruption Day Investigative Journalism Awards, Cartoon Exhibition Take Centre Stage







Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised a series of engaging events to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2023, weaving together national and local initiatives under the theme 'Together, Stronger Against Corruption'. Members of various citizen groups actively participated in awareness-raising activities across 45 CCC (Committee of Concerned Citizens) working areas on the day.

A discussion at TIB's Dhanmondi office delved into 'Media, Freedom of Speech, and Investigative Journalism: Bangladesh Context', shedding light on concerns regarding restricted expression due to stringent laws.

The events of the day also marked announcement of the Anti-Corruption Investigative Journalism Awards 2023 and the 18th Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition Awards. This year, three journalists and a documentary programme received awards in different categories.

On the other hand, a total of 229 cartoons were submitted by talented artists, and the six winners in two age groups were recognised for their contributions to the social movement against corruption. In a ground-breaking move, TIB also launched its first-ever virtual gallery featuring anti-corruption cartoons.

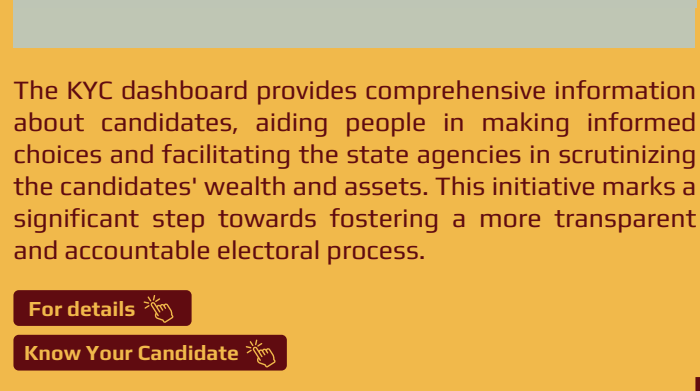
[For details](#)
[Virtual Cartoon Gallery](#)

# TIB Launches KYC Dashboard Analysis Exposes Alarming Surge in Politicians' Wealth

A recent TIB analysis has delved into affidavits of the national election candidates, unearthing a startling trend of escalating wealth among politicians and their dependents. This concerning pattern has pervaded the political landscape over the past decade, as highlighted in the report titled 'Interpreting Election Affidavit Data: What Message Does It Convey to the Public?' The report underscores inadequacy of the regulatory bodies concerned in overseeing and addressing this disproportionate accumulation of wealth.

Subsequently, TIB has urged proactive actions from the Election Commission (EC), the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to investigate and authenticate the affidavit data.

In another proactive move, TIB has introduced the Interactive Know Your Candidate (KYC) dashboard. This user-friendly platform empowers citizens and stakeholders to evaluate candidates' data, contributing to enhanced election transparency.



**Know Your Candidate**

18 candidates have current assets worth more than BDT 100 crore

Wealth Category	Percentage
10 Crore - 50 Crore BDT	4.62%
50 Crore to 100 Crore	1.87%
More than 100 Crore BDT	1.07%
Lower than 1 Crore BDT	72.09%

The KYC dashboard provides comprehensive information about candidates, aiding people in making informed choices and facilitating the state agencies in scrutinizing the candidates' wealth and assets. This initiative marks a significant step towards fostering a more transparent and accountable electoral process.

[For details](#)
[Know Your Candidate](#)

# Politics in Focus



## TIB Upholds Non-Partisan Commitment to Free, Fair, Inclusive Election

In response to recent accusations by Awami League Secretary General and Bridges Minister, Obaidul Quader, alleging Transparency International Bangladesh's (TIB) alignment with BNP, TIB firmly asserted its non-partisan stance.

TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman characterized these accusations as self-embarrassing and reflective of a mindset that perceives critics as political adversaries. He clarified TIB's unwavering commitment to neutrality, expressing disappointment in the unfounded claims.

Dr. Zaman also highlighted TIB's historical resilience against hostilities from both ends of the political spectrum. Emphasising the organisation's dedication to fostering a corruption-free and democratic Bangladesh, he concluded that ongoing hostilities from major political parties only serves to underscore TIB's neutrality and unwavering dedication to democratic values.

[For details](#)

# TIB Strongly Denounces Arson Attacks, Stresses Importance of Democracy



In the aftermath of a distressing incident at Tejgaon rail station in the capital, where an arson attack on the Mohanganj Express claimed the lives of four individuals, including a mother and child, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has unequivocally condemned the use of such violence by political entities to advance their agendas.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, TIB Executive Director, emphasised that no political goal justifies the tragic loss of lives, firmly denouncing the disturbing trend of arson attacks. Expressing concern over the increasing normalization of force in politics, he urged all parties to refrain from actions that endanger lives, especially during the electoral period.

Dr. Zaman highlighted the shared responsibility of the agitating political entities and the government in preventing atrocities. He called for transparent investigations into such incidents and stressed ensuring a genuinely free, fair, and peaceful election. TIB remains committed to upholding democratic values and denouncing violence as a means to achieve political objectives, he added.

[For details](#)

# TIB Responds to Information Minister's 'Confusing' Statements

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has issued a response to Information Minister Hasan Mahmud's recent statements concerning its report on election affidavits and launch of the Know Your Candidate (KYC) dashboard.

In a press statement, TIB addressed the alleged misconceptions in the minister's remarks, specifically highlighting the focus on movable assets in its analysis, in contrast to the inclusion of immovable properties mentioned by the minister.

TIB reiterated its primary objective to combat corruption and promote good governance through dedicated research and advocacy efforts. The organisation defended its pivotal role in enhancing transparency and accountability, underscoring the importance of digitizing the candidates' affidavit details for public access.

[For details](#)

# TIB Voices Concern Over Loan Request for Rohingya Crisis

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has raised concern over Bangladesh's decision to seek US\$ 1.0 billion from the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to address the Rohingya refugee crisis, with \$535 million designated as loans.

TIB strongly urges the government to reconsider its approach and negotiate for obtaining grants instead of loans, emphasising the disproportionate burden already shouldered by Bangladesh in hosting over a million Rohingya refugees.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, TIB Executive Director (ED), emphasised the need for dialogue with the international community to ensure an equitable sharing of costs. He called upon the WB and the ADB to extend their support as grants. He emphasised the diminishing international



grants for the Rohingya refugees, urging greater humanitarian assistance.

The TIB ED also stressed the crucial role of the UN in coordinating the international response and addressing the root causes of the crisis, as TIB remained dedicated to advocating for fairness and fulfilment of international commitments in addressing the crisis.

[For details](#)


# Annual Meeting of Members TIB for Accountable, Democratic, Graft-Free Society

The members of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) gathered for the annual meeting of members (AMM), passionately voicing concern over the declining levels of transparency and democracy as well as the prevailing issue of corruption in the country.

Chaired by Prof. Dr. Engineer A. K. M Fazlul Haque and led by TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, the assembly delved into critical issues, including institutionalized corruption, limited authority of the Anti-Corruption Commission, media repression, and constraints on freedom of speech.

While acknowledging TIB's persistent efforts, the members expressed apprehension regarding fairness of the upcoming parliamentary election. They also stressed the need for legal and institutional reforms to ensure equitable participation and maintain integrity of the democratic process. The declaration emanating from the meeting underscored the formidable challenges posed by institutional corruption, money laundering, escalating default loans, and an overarching culture of impunity.

[For details](#)



# COP 28 in Dubai 'Transitioning Away' Over Phasing Out of Fossil Fuels Irks TIB

TIB has welcomed the commitments to move away from fossil fuels and the initiation of the Loss and Damage fund at COP 28 in Dubai, but expressed reservations about their implementation and benefits for the countries like Bangladesh.

TIB also voiced concern over the absence of clear decisions on augmenting and disbursing adaptation funds, citing the final agreement's ambiguity on the phasing out of fossil fuels by 2050 and lack of a specific roadmap.

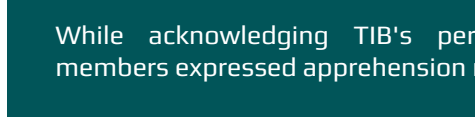
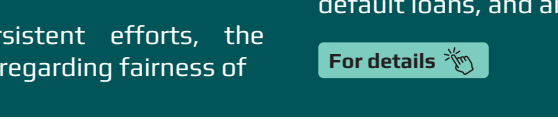
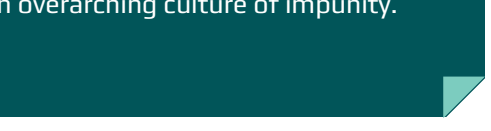
TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman criticised the agreement's ambiguous language and highlighted failure of the developed nations to meet financial obligations.

[For details](#)



# CCC-YES NEWS

## CCC-YES Observe Int'l Anti-Corruption Day Across Country

The Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) observed International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) on 9 December with the theme 'Together Stronger Against Corruption'. On the day, CCC-YES and Dhaka YES Groups organised nationwide programmes in collaboration with district/upazila administrations, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and other stakeholders. The programmes featured diverse activities such as discussions, rallies, human chains, and awareness campaigns.

A total of 44,169 citizens, with 20,063 males, 24,106 females, and 5,719 from marginalized communities, participated in the programmes. In the events, the speakers underscored global corruption challenges and stressed the need for social movements, moral education, and efforts for sustainable development.

[For details](#)

# CCC Presidents, Vice-Presidents Hold Meeting

**Cumilla, 11 December 2023:** A meeting of the Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) presidents and vice-presidents, held on 11 December through Zoom platform, connected 136 representatives from 45 CCCs. Mr. Badrul Huda Jenu, a Member of CCC Cumilla and the CCC Representative to TIB General Assembly, presided over the meeting.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, TIB Executive Director, delivered the key speech. In her welcome address, Ms. Ferhana Ferdous, TIB Director - Civic Engagement, shared progress of the civic engagement activities for 2023.

[For details](#)

# Field-Level Advocacy

## Public Hearing on Health Service in Jamalpur

**Jamalpur, 13 December 2023:** A public hearing took place between in Jamalpur to enhance the quality of health service and ensure good governance in the local hospitals. The district's Committee for Concerned Citizens (CCC) and the 250-bed Jamalpur General Hospital authority jointly organised the event that saw active participation of all the stakeholders concerned.

[For details](#)



# Advocacy Meeting with Pirojpur Education Authority

**Pirojpur, 19 November 2023:** CCC Pirojpur organised an advocacy meeting with Pirojpur District Secondary Education at the District Secondary Education Officer's office on 19 November - to enhance and ensure participatory, accountable and citizen-friendly nature of the secondary education system.

TIB Area Coordinator M. Zahurul Kaiyum moderated the meeting, and Convener of CCC's Education Sub-Committee Rama Rani Saha delivered the welcome speech. Mr. Idris Ali Azizi, District Education Officer and chief guest of the programme, emphasised parental awareness for improvement of service delivery. CCC Vice-President Professor Abdul Jalil Akon and Upazila Secondary Education Officer Md. Oli Ahad also participated in the discussion.

[For details](#)

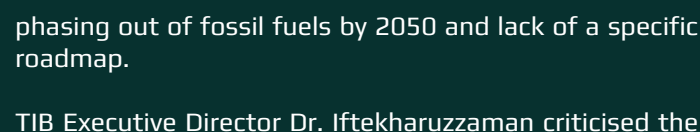


# Advocacy Meeting in Sherpur Land Office

**Sherpur, 12 December 2023:** CCC of Nalitabari, Sherpur organised an advocacy meeting on 12 December to ensure quality services at the upazila land office. The meeting resulted in effective outcomes, as the Nalitabari Upazila Land Authority committed to make more efforts in upgrading services through pro-active disclosure of information to people.

As the chief guest, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Afroza Asfana informed that Nalitabari Upazila Land Office would set up an information board, displaying the list of available services, in a visible place for pro-active information disclosure.

[For details](#)

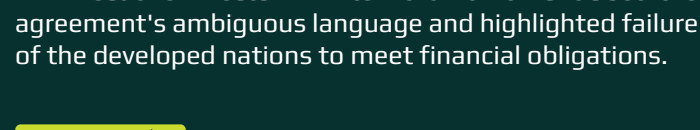


# Debate Competition in Cumilla: Youth Voices Against Corruption

**Cumilla, 13 December 2023:** Cumilla University Debating Society engaged in a lively debate competition in the Multipurpose Auditorium of Victoria Government College on 13 December, aiming to raise anti-corruption awareness among the young generation.

Cumilla CCC President Rokeya Begum Shefali presided over the programme, while CCC Member Prof. Bijay Krishna Roy moderated the debate. Principal of Cumilla Victoria Government College Professor Dr. Abu Zafar Khan was the chief guest, whereas Vice-Principal Mrinal Kanti Goswami and General Secretary of Teachers Council Associate Professor Mohammad Moin Uddin were the special guests.

[For details](#)




# Anti-Corruption Experience Sharing Meeting in Dinajpur

Dinajpur, 5 December 2023: An anti-corruption social movement experience sharing meeting was convened in Dinajpur on 5 December, uniting the CCC, YES and ACG members. Presided over by CCC Dinajpur President Md. Habibul Islam, discussions centred on CCC's community monitoring through eight ACGs, aiming to improve institutional services and foster transparency.

The participants shared their experiences in combatting corruption at the grassroots level, emphasising the positive impact of ACG's work on institutional changes. Recommendations were made to enhance service quality, with the CCC committing to address those through advocacy. The session concluded with a focus on expediting the CCC, YES and ACG activities at the local level.

[For details](#)



# CCC Munshiganj, Dept of Women Affairs Join Hands on RTI Awareness

**Munshiganj, 20 December 2023:** CCC Munshiganj, jointly with Department of Women Affairs, organised a campaign on the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2009 at CCC Munshiganj Office on 20 December.

The event aimed to educate the participants on filling out forms to seek information under the RTI Act. A total of 31 marginalised women, trainees of the Department of Women Affairs, Munshiganj, were oriented on the RTI Act.

[For details](#)

