

## OVERVIEW



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### Policy Brief

- 'New Bangladesh': TIB's Recommendations on Promoting Democracy, Good Governance & Anti-Corruption

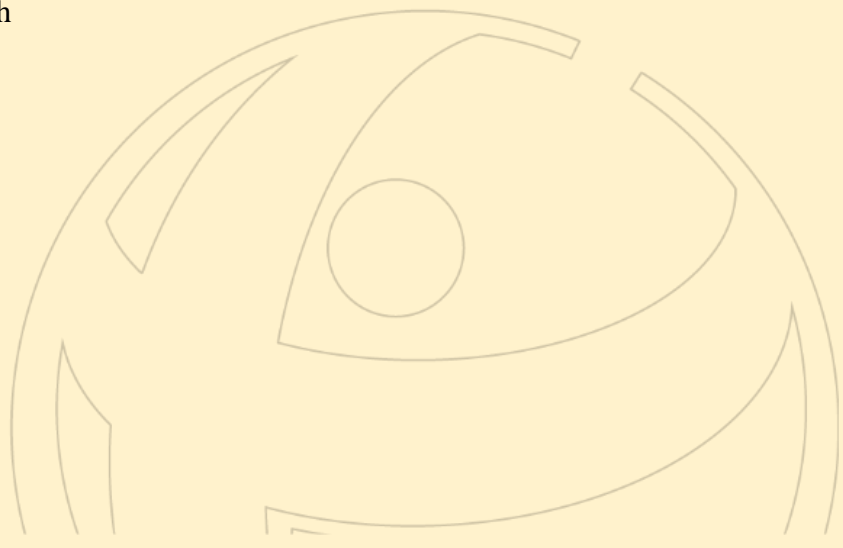


### Event:

- World's Indigenous Peoples Day: TIB Urges Fair Probe into Injustices Against Indigenous Peoples, Demands Constitutional Recognition and New Ministry
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## CCC NEWS

- International Youth Day observed: Demand for an effective reflection of the hopes and aspirations of the youth in building a new Bangladesh
- Anti-Discrimination Students Movement: Human Chain organized demanding initiatives to restructure the state to ensure human rights, justice and good governance
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### Policy Stance

#### **Students' Anti-Discrimination Movement: State Structures Must be Overhauled to Ensure Human Rights, Justice and Good Governance**



**Dhaka, 04 August 2024:** The entirely peaceful, non-violent and apolitical anti-discrimination student movement has been subjected to imposed violence, leading to unprecedentedly tragic loss of hundreds of lives and a reign of terror over the past two weeks. This has been characterized by a series of cruel killings by unlawful use of lethal weapons and disproportionate use of force by law enforcement agencies, arbitrary filing of cases, indiscriminate attacks, mass arrests through block raids, illegal remand, detainment, and torture in detention by the Detective Branch (DB) under the pretense of providing security, unjust warrants, online and offline threats, and systematic violation of constitutionally guaranteed human rights including freedom of speech, right to protest and freedom of association. False narratives and fabrications have been used to legitimize these illegal activities and protect the real perpetrators and victimise innocent people, which continue unabated thereby obstructing any scope of resolution of the crisis, escalating public concerns, sense of insecurity and mistrust.

According to independent assessments, at least 200 students and ordinary individuals, including children, teenagers, journalists, and other professionals, have been killed by law enforcement agencies. The fatalities occurred due to the unlawful, random and indiscriminate abuse of power and the excessive and disproportionate use of lethal weapons by law enforcement agencies, as per credible evidences. At least 213,000 individuals have been implicated in more than 200 cases in the police stations of the capital alone. The government repeatedly committed to refrain from any form of harassment of students, movement coordinators or the general public. However, disregarding all ethical considerations, students and individuals from a diverse range of professions and classes have been apprehended, abducted, and falsely accused, detained even in the middle of the night unleashing terror, despite the fact that there are obvious evidences of their lack of involvement in any violence or illegal activities. During remand, numerous individuals are reportedly being subjected to physical and mental torture.

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The students' movement has been the subject of severe and massive violation of human rights, characterized by indiscriminate and multi-dimensional cruel actions at multiple levels. The indiscriminate misuse of power by law enforcement agencies and relevant state institutions, the overall lack of good governance, and a governance system that is blinded by the arrogance of power, detached from public interest, devoid of transparency and accountability, and plagued by endless corruption are the primary factors behind this mayhem. In this context, the members of the staff and volunteer groups associated with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) are placing the following demands from a series of simultaneous Human Chains in Dhaka and across 45 locations across the country today, 04 August 2024, Sunday. These demands must be accepted without delay and a specific and time-bound roadmap must be developed and executed for implementation.

1. Ensure proper accountability for human rights violations of all types and levels on the basis of a nationally and internationally acceptable investigation to be conducted by an entirely independent commission established and implemented at the initiative of the United Nations.
2. As a means to prevent any such human rights violations in the future the entire state structure must be overhauled including all institutions associated with the rule of law, particularly the law enforcement and intelligence agencies through an initiative grounded on national consensus.
3. Law enforcement agencies must immediately stop harassment and brutality directed toward students and ordinary citizens. All detained students and ordinary citizens must be unconditionally released immediately, and all cases against them should be withdrawn.
4. All those responsible for the tragic deaths, illegal, arbitrary and motivated abuse of power, and the use of force and lethal weapons, must be identified and held accountable. Those responsible for ordering and approving this unprecedented brutality, which betrayed the spirit and aspirations of the Liberation War of Bangladesh, must likewise be subjected to exemplary accountability.
5. In this unprecedentedly tragic juncture of the nation's history, a comprehensive list of all the deceased and injured, categorized by age and occupation, must be released without delay.
6. Full medical treatment and safety of the injured must be ensured, along with guarantees of their return to normal lives.
7. Just and fair compensation and rehabilitation must be ensured for each victim and their families, and disclose the rehabilitation procedure to the public.
8. An environment must be created that is conducive to the free and unfettered flow of information. All direct and indirect threats, prohibitions, restrictions and controls against all media, including print, electronic, and digital, must be withdrawn without delay. All forms of internet and social media restrictions must be stopped immediately.
9. The deceptive strategy of suppressing dissent under the pretext of preventing violence or any other justification must be stopped immediately. The culture of surveillance-based intimidation against dissent, freedom of speech, and freedom of the media, which has created a nationwide sense of insecurity for all people, must be stopped.
10. Immediately stop the practice of using fake and deceptive narratives and falsehood being used to justify illegal actions and ensure human rights, justice and accountable governance.
11. Move away from the rhetorical claims of zero tolerance against corruption and take effective actions to eradicate the impunity of all forms of corruption, particularly at high-level which is the main reason behind sustained governance failure and professional bankruptcy of state institutions that have contributed to the unprecedented human rights violations.

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### TIB Calls for Effective Actions to Protect Minority Communities and State Properties



**Dhaka, 06 August 2024:** Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed profound disappointment and strongly condemned incidents of communal violence across districts, including attacks on homes, places of worship, mandirs, and businesses belonging to religious minorities during the critical period of regime change. TIB has also condemned the arbitrary arson and looting of critical state infrastructure and vehicles. The anti-corruption organization has commented that such self-interest and communal activities can derail and cast doubts on the opportunity to rebuild the nation with equality, justice, and good governance, which was achieved through the unprecedented loss of lives and sacrifice of the students and citizens. TIB has called on all responsible authorities to take immediate steps to ensure the security of religious minorities and state assets.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, TIB Executive Director (ED) Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “It is extremely disheartening and disappointing that we have to demand protection of religious minorities and state assets amidst the unprecedented victorious moment of the movement where hundreds of students and citizens shed blood to demand equality, harmony, and equal rights of everyone. The ongoing movement against discrimination was successful because of the spontaneous participation of general people regardless of their race, religion, class, or profession. The students whom we are calling minorities due to their religious identities, joined the movement! They were martyred and injured! How are we supposed to face their families? Such attacks on minorities are against the fundamental spirit of the anti-discrimination student movement. For whose interest and for what consideration such communal attacks are taking place? We sincerely urge all the responsible factions to fulfill their essential responsibilities in ensuring that the opportunity to rebuild our country brought by the sacrifice of students and citizens do not go to the hands of communal forces and narrow interests.”

Mentioning the recent violence and attacks on the parliament building, court premises, residence of the chief justice, government institutions, police stations, households, and businesses, the TIB ED, “All state assets are built on the hard earned money and taxes of general people. Those who are destroying state assets for revenge must think that any government that comes to power has to rebuild these state institutions. Any arson attacks on state institutions means that the destruction of our own assets. In order to avert such self-destructive activities, it is imperative that all responsible factions, in addition to the general public, take an active role.”



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In light of the unprecedented victory of students and citizens, TIB has urged the army chief and other responsible factions to effectively reflect their commitment to upholding law and order. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman strongly demanded effective steps to protect religious minorities, mandirs and places of worship, and state assets. He added, “A situation of getting out of the frying pan and into the fire must not happen. I urge everyone to act in a responsible manner so that we don’t end up in a chaotic and unruly situation after coming out of an atmosphere of suffocated freedom of speech, intolerance, discriminatory, and undemocratic state structure. At the same time, regardless of everyone's religion, color, class, or profession, I earnestly call on everyone to play their particular responsibilities in re-establishing a nation that is equitable, just, and well-governed by overcoming resentment and selfish, vested interests.”

### **TIB Calls upon Interim Government to Develop and Implement a Strategic Roadmap for State Reform towards ‘New Bangladesh’**



**Dhaka, 09 August 2024:** Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) congratulates the new government following the fall of the autocratic government due to the unprecedented uprising of students and the people and with the interim government, which includes the young, assuming state responsibilities amid sky-high expectations from the people. Simultaneously, the organization strongly urges the newly formed government to take decisive and vigorous measures to completely reform the state structure by developing and implementing strategic road map. This will enable to build a well-governed “New Bangladesh” that is distinguished by transparency, accountability, justice, and the protection of human rights. TIB wishes to give its full cooperation in this endeavour. Furthermore, TIB urges the public and students to serve as protectors of minorities, maintain communal harmony, and preserve the historical monuments and memories of the Liberation War.

TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said in a statement today, "Fearless students and ordinary citizens have defeated the force that was unaccountable, blinded by the arrogance of power, and threatened the dream of a society based on human rights and non-discrimination through unprecedented sacrifice. TIB congratulates all, particularly the students, for this remarkable achievement that has been possible due to the indomitable spirit of the students and the people. A magnificent opportunity has emerged to reconstruct Bangladesh in the spirit of the

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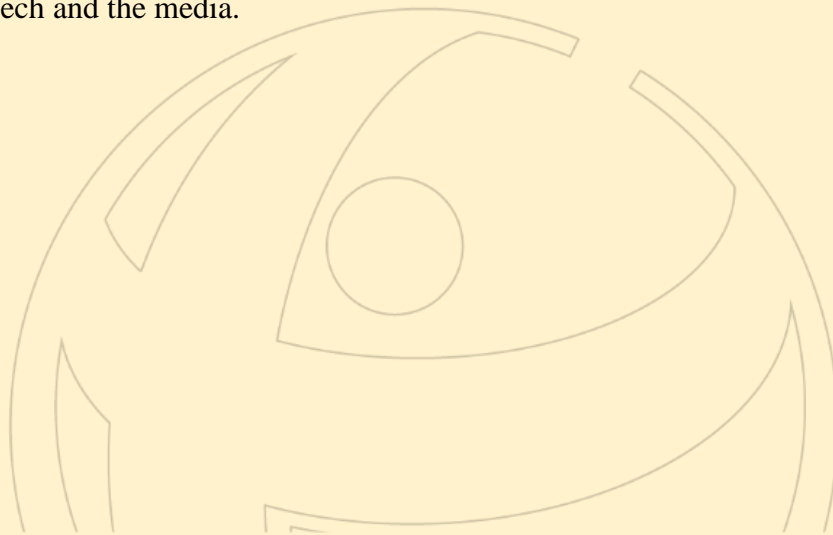
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Liberation War, half a century after independence, and the new government is likely to take this chance. We strongly urge that a strategic roadmap be made and followed with the purpose of reorganizing the state mechanism of the New Bangladesh."

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman further said, "To address the pressing need, it is imperative to quickly improve the law-and order situation in the country. This requires a thorough restructuring of the police force's management and infrastructure in order to establish a more people-friendly police force. It is crucial to establish effective institutional accountability and transparency within the police force to restore public confidence following the fall of the administration. This will help identify the underlying causes of the decline in trust. Along with the police forces, all state institutions were continuously used as tools for the misuse of power by the fallen government. However, this does not justify the abhorrent acts of random killings and violence against law enforcement and government personnel, which have to end right now."

People from all walks of life—regardless of religion, race, caste, or occupation—participated in the student and people's movement and won an extraordinary triumph, motivated by the spirit of the Liberation War. Mentioning that everyone is a part of this victory, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "Despite the night vigils of students and the general public, attacks continue on the homes, businesses, and temples of minorities. Similarly, attacks are taking place on monuments and structures that symbolize the nation's hopes and inspirations from the Great Liberation War. This is really inappropriate behavior. The autocratic government, posing as the 'Liberation War Government,' has failed to uphold the genuine essence of the Liberation War, and it is imperative to resolve this matter by appropriate legal means. 'Mob justice' is completely contrary to the spirit and expectations of the anti-discriminatory movement. In the aftermath of the tyranny's downfall, any attack on the spirit of the Liberation War is entirely unacceptable. We must stand, particularly the government, against such communal and divisive forces that erase a nation's self-identity. In addition, it is important to refrain from seeking revenge or engaging in personal aggression. It is important that we refrain from taking matters into our own hands. Everyone must step up and fulfil their responsibility in ensuring that genuine criminals are prosecuted in accordance with the law."

According to the TIB, the interim administration has assumed responsibility during a time of acute crisis and unprecedented opportunity. People have enormous expectations of them. The TIB is committed to providing comprehensive assistance to the interim government in building a democratic "New Bangladesh" that prioritizes human rights, welfare, participation, and inclusivity. With a heavy focus on education, emerging from the long-standing corruption of past governments, this vision encompasses a society free from discrimination, well-governed, corruption-free, and preserving freedom of speech and the media.



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**The youth-envisioned ‘New Bangladesh’ must ensure democratic and accountable governance, human rights and freedom from discrimination and corruption: TIB**



**Dhaka, 12 August 2024:** The youth-envisioned ‘new Bangladesh’ must ensure democratic and accountable governance that is free from discrimination, corruption and injustice including all forms of violation of human rights, says Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). To mark the International Youth Day 2024, TIB has called for a comprehensive reconstruction of the state structure and creation of a new political and governance construct with public interest at the core. It also asserted the confidence that the youth will continue to be the driving force behind the nation’s efforts to guarantee the people’s right to vote, justice, human rights, and freedom of expression and free media. TIB urges the interim government to ensure that the necessary structure and environment conducive to the realization of this vision are created.

In a press statement, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “We have witnessed that, the youth have led an unprecedented upsurge, which has resulted in the collapse of a dictatorial regime at unprecedented costs in terms of loss of lives and deprivation of fundamental rights. This fall of the authoritarian regime demonstrates that the indomitable spirit of the youth cannot be stifled by neglect or oppression. One of the most critical lessons from this movement is that tyranny, born of a blatant lack of responsibility, accountability, transparency, and good governance, must pay the ultimate price. All stakeholders, including political parties, must learn from this movement that the power of the students cannot be suppressed. Instead, an environment must be created in which the youth can be vocal about their well-deserved rights and legitimate demands. With the start of this promising new era and the significant transformation of the state structure consistent with the genuine spirit of the liberation war, we have faith that the youth will drive the nation to constructing a nation that ensures fundamental freedoms and is devoid of discrimination and communalism. Their aspiration is to establish a democratic, transparent and accountably governed country where the right to vote, justice, human rights, freedom of speech, and free media are ensured.”

The youth stakeholders involved with TIB have made several key recommendations on the occasion of International Youth Day 2024, recognizing the youth as a vital force in driving national progress. Among these recommendations are – a call upon everyone to be dedicated to actively creating a new Bangladesh based on the aspirations of the youth, free from discrimination, and a



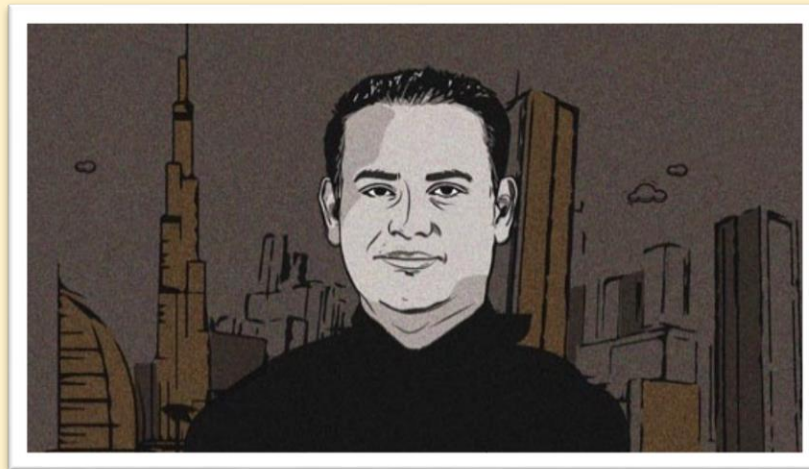
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society based on equality, meritocracy, democracy, accountability, and good governance; creating a state structure that upholds a democracy based on human rights, public welfare, participatory, and inclusive, with guaranteed freedoms of speech and the press; reorganizing the entire institutional framework to stop the politicization of state and constitutional institutions and guaranteeing that they never serve as tools for a partisan power-hungry agenda.

The recommendations of the youth include ensuring strict accountability for unprecedented and brutal human rights violations based on nationally and internationally acceptable investigation with the participation of the United Nations, establishing strong institutional and legal frameworks that protect fundamental rights such as the right to protest, freedom of assembly, freedom of the media, and freedom of speech. Additionally, the recommendations aim to permanently eliminate the acquisition and expansion of illicit wealth through the misuse of public office and corrupt practices. The TIB also advocates for the development of effective strategies to permanently stop the authoritarian shutdown of the internet and social media, which are crucial platforms for information, free speech, and expression. Furthermore, the recommendations propose restructuring all institutions involved in the rule of law and the broader state structure based on national consensus to prevent any further human rights violations in the future. On top of all, sustainable measures should be taken to ensure that the youth can freely express their opinions without fear.

### **Accountability for Corruption and Money Laundering: Overhaul of the BFIU, ACC, and relevant institutions is indispensable: TIB**



**Dhaka, 13 August 2024:** Despite substantial evidence of undeclared assets belonging to former Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed and his wife, Rukhmila Zaman Chowdhury, the authorities have failed to take action for an extended period. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) highlighted this case as a clear example of partisanship and ineffectiveness within key institutions, particularly at the leadership level, including the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and the National Board of Revenue (NBR). TIB emphasized that there is no alternative to strengthening and comprehensively reforming these institutions to effectively combat corruption and money laundering and to ensure accountability by identifying those involved in such crimes.

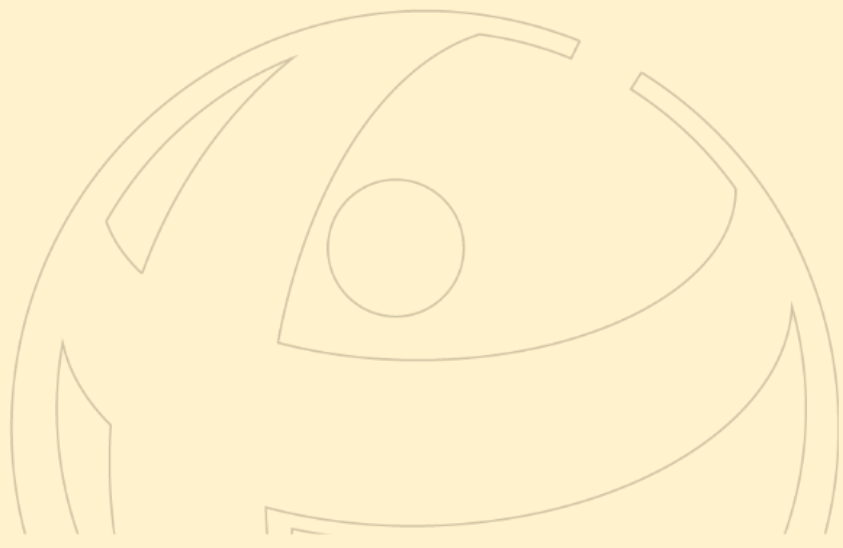


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Since December of last year, no progress has been made despite the disclosure of specific information regarding the former Land Minister's undisclosed assets abroad and widespread public concern. Terming this highly disappointing, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, 'On December 26 last year, following the release of TIB's report titled 'Candidate Profiles in Affidavits,' along with the 'Know Your Candidate' dashboard and subsequent media reports, the public and relevant authorities became aware of the former Land Minister's investments and ongoing business activities in the UK, totalling over BDT 2,300 crore. On March 4 of this year, through a collaborative initiative between TI UK and TIB, all specific information, evidence, and documents uncovered in TI UK's investigation were sent to the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and the Attorney General's office. Although the institutions have ample proof, they failed to take any discernible action against the previous Land Minister. Visible movement on this topic has only occurred after the government's fall and the resignation of the BFIU head, which may be seen as a positive development. Nevertheless, the question remains: why was no action taken earlier, despite the significant evidence?'

The TIB ED further questioned, "Doesn't such lack of action demonstrate that these institutions have become ineffective due to partisan influences, and haven't their leadership played the role of catalysts of this ineffectiveness? In reality, by misusing their entrusted authority they have protected money laundering and the acquisition of undeclared assets. The deeply worrisome fact is that wholesale politicization of the state agencies that are supposed to prevent and control such wrongdoing has in reality opened the floodgates to corruption and provided impunity to the high level perpetrators. Needless to add, the former Land Minister's case of enormous overseas assets and investments accumulation that remained undisclosed is only the "tip of the iceberg". The relevant institutions need to undergo a thorough overhaul in 'new Bangladesh' consistent with aspirations of the student movement. Without such institutional overhaul, the vision of a state that is free from corruption, well-governed, democratic, and accountable will remain a pipe dream."



### Policy Brief

#### 'New Bangladesh': TIB's Recommendations on Promoting Democracy, Good Governance & Anti-Corruption



**Dhaka, 28 August 2024:** The anti-discrimination movement led by students demanding quota reforms in government jobs catalyzed the fall of an authoritarian regime in Bangladesh. This victory, marked by significant loss of life and sacrifice, resulted in the formation of an Interim Government on August 8, 2024. The primary expectation from the interim government is to create a transparent, accountable, corruption-free, and discrimination-free state, referred to as the 'New Bangladesh.'

Under the previous regime, the state operated under autocratic rule, sustained through rampant corruption, abuse of power, and unaccountable misuse of resources. To build the 'New Bangladesh,' the main political and governance focus should be on eliminating corruption and impunity. Achieving this will require comprehensive reforms in institutions responsible for preventing corruption, alongside promoting active engagement from all stakeholders, including the media, youth, and civil society, to foster good governance.

However, controlling corruption requires an overhaul of the governance structure, liberating it from partisan politics and professional inefficiencies. Radical changes in representation, government, and administrative practices are essential to ensure governance is based on the people's will and that power is exercised with accountability.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) offers several strategic recommendations for the necessary reforms to prevent corruption and establish democracy, good governance, and integrity. These proposals span nine strategic themes that address reforms at the overall strategic and policy-making level. The immediate priorities include:

- Ensuring law and order, public safety, and administrative stability;

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- Holding those responsible for human rights violations and loss of life accountable under national and international measures, with involvement from the United Nations;
- Restoring normal economic activities;
- Establishing a task force with relevant national bodies to enforce accountability for high-level corruption and money laundering;
- Publishing strategic guidelines to outline the interim government's vision and framework for state reforms.

The nine strategic themes focus on democratic practice, rule of law, anti-corruption measures, strengthening constitutional institutions, civil society, media, local governance, banking reforms, and environmental issues. TIB emphasizes its readiness to assist in developing detailed action plans for sector-specific reforms.

The complete policy brief can be found [here](#).

### Event

#### **World's Indigenous Peoples Day TIB Urges Fair Probe into Injustices Against Indigenous Peoples, Demands Constitutional Recognition and New Ministry**



**Dhaka, 17 August 2024:** Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has partnered with the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2024, with the theme of "Protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact." Other human and social rights-based organizations have also joined in the celebration.

TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman called for the constitutional recognition of indigenous people at a seminar titled "Responsibilities of the State and the Majority Population: Protecting Lands, Human Rights, and Ensuring the Overall Safety of Indigenous Peoples," which was held at CIRDAP in the capital on August 17, 2024. A total of 14 organizations participated in the seminar, including Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), ALRD, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Bangladesh Adivashi Parishad, IPDS, BLAST, Nijera Kori, BELA,

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Urban, Kapaeeng Foundation, CCDB, Caritas Bangladesh, Ain o Salish Kendra, and Manabadhikar Songskriti Foundation.

Speaking at the event, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman stated that the student-led anti-discrimination movement has offered an opportunity for complete change of the state structure. It also set the path for beneficial changes in the political scene while maintaining the spirit of the constitution. The anti-discrimination movement rejects discrimination against everyone, including indigenous people. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman called on the interim administration to look into the injustices done to the indigenous population over the years, expressing support for the event's 14 demands. In order to better serve indigenous people in the plains and the hills, he also proposed renaming the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs as the Ministry of Indigenous Rights Affairs.

The 14-point demand presented at the celebration included: enacting legislation to protect indigenous people, ensuring representation of the plains indigenous community in the interim government, immediately halting land grabbing and human rights violations against indigenous people, properly implementing the CHT Accord, forming a separate land commission for plains indigenous people, implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), stopping luxurious projects on indigenous lands in the name of tourism, Eco parks, and EPZs, withdrawing all false cases against indigenous people, and recognizing the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples as a state-sponsored celebration while granting constitutional recognition to indigenous people.

Social activist Khushi Kabir chaired the event, while Dhaka University Professor Robaet Ferdous, Barrister Sara Hossain, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Bichitra Tirki, and ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda participated as discussants.

### **TIB recommends the interim government to reform the state in nine strategic areas**



**Dhaka, 28 August 2024:** Showing respect for the core message of the student and people's movement, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) called for a comprehensive overhaul of the state structure to ensure transparency, accountability, justice, and human rights, with the goal



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of creating a corruption-free, democratic, and well-governed “New Bangladesh.” The organization submitted recommendations to the interim government, focusing on nine strategic areas essential for state reform. These recommendations emphasize the need for radical changes in public representation, government, and administrative systems and practices, ensuring that the state is governed with proper accountability and by the will of the people. To prevent the emergence of a new regime influenced by authoritarian and partisan interests after the fall of the autocratic government, TIB’s recommendations address nine strategic issues crucial for preventing corruption and establishing democracy, good governance, and justice.

TIB made specific strategic recommendations on - democratic practice; rule of law and human rights; prevention of corruption, irregularities and money laundering; constitutional, statutory, government and autonomous institutions; civil society and media; right to information and protection of personal data; local government; banking sector; power, energy and environment. At a press conference, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman emphasized that to ensure a free, fair, impartial, and participatory election, a non-partisan interim government should be established for the National Parliamentary Election. In order to ensure citizen representation in the national parliament, he also urged for the setting up of a proportional representation parliamentary system. However, the parliamentary election should be held only after the achieving the goal of state reformation, as mandated by the student and popular uprising. Political parties must include at least one-third youth representatives in their election nominations. Additionally, TIB recommended provisions for the removal and re-election of public representatives through a no-confidence motion where applicable.

TIB also recommends that the same person shouldn't be the Head of Government (Prime Minister), Party Leader, and Leader of Parliament at the same time. This is to make sure that the work of the Parliament and the Executive is fair and free of conflicts of interest. Furthermore, the same individual should not serve as Prime Minister for more than two terms. TIB also advocates for completing the process of separating the Judiciary from the Executive in line with the Masdar Hossain case judgment to uphold the rule of law and human rights. To ensure the independence and dignity of the Judiciary, TIB recommends establishing and operating a fully empowered secretariat under the sole authority of the Supreme Court. This secretariat would have overall control and supervision over the appointment, promotion, and transfer of judges in both the High and Subordinate Courts.

After the fall of the country’s long-time authoritarian government, which came at the cost of unprecedented bloodshed and sacrifice, there is now the opportunity for the interim government to create an environment conducive to build a transparent, accountable, corruption-free, and non-discriminatory state structure, said TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman." The interim government formed based on the "doctrine of necessity" and the people's aspirations. In order to fulfil this expectation, we hope that the interim government would uphold the original spirit and message of the student movement, working with all those concerned in rebuilding a new Bangladesh. If our political culture does not change, no amount of talk about state reform or a new Bangladesh will bring it to fruition. Changing individuals or merely reforming institutions is not enough. It must be remembered that those who have actively involved in politics this time around are partly responsible for the culture of undermining people's right to vote. If they do not move away from this culture and continue to seek power at any cost, clinging to it with the mentality of "it is our turn," then the dream of the student movement will remain elusive," he added.

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In response to a question from journalists about the repatriation of laundered money to the country, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “We propose forming a task force consisting of the ACC, CID, National Board of Revenue, and BFIU to work together on this issue. During authoritarian regimes, these institutions failed to fulfil their responsibilities because those involved in money laundering were in power. However, it is certainly possible to recover laundered money by following due process and to identify and prosecute those involved. The repatriation of laundered money is achievable under both national and international laws. The roadmap for this is in the hands of the relevant institutions. For example, in 2013, money smuggled to Singapore by a powerful individual was successfully brought back to the country through a process that began in 2007. The process has now become smoother and more efficient.”

To investigate and ensure exemplary punishment for those involved in extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and other human rights violations, as well as irregularities, corruption, and abuse of power—particularly within law enforcement agencies and during events such as the student movement—TIB recommended streamlining these agencies (Police, RAB, Intelligence Organizations) and administrations to free them from partisan influence. Additionally, TIB emphasizes that students seek due process of law, not mob justice, and calls for an immediate halt to any activities that undermine the judicial process. TIB also recommends creating an environment that supports the independent functioning of all constitutional and statutory institutions, with a permanent cessation of partisanship in the appointment of their heads and members. Furthermore, TIB advises the dissolution of all professional, specialized, and service-based organizations and associations with party affiliations, including those in education, health, business, media, and the legal profession, and their replacement with non-partisan organizations to protect the rights and interests of the professionals involved.

TIB has highlighted a number of concerns that need to be addressed right away in its proposed recommendations: ensuring law and order, public safety, and administrative normalcy; establishing nationally and internationally recognized accountability—directly involving the United Nations—for those responsible for widespread human rights violations, including significant loss of life; restoring normal economic activity; and creating a task force consisting of ACC, BFIU, NBR, CID, and the Attorney General's office to set an exemplary precedent for effective accountability in cases of high-level corruption and money laundering. These strategic recommendations are meant to assist the interim government in creating the essential framework for state reform in order to comprehend the objectives and vision of a "New Bangladesh." TIB submitted these recommendations on 25 August to the full advisory council, including the Chief Advisor to the Interim Government, highlighting nine strategic areas for necessary reforms in the state structure. At the press conference held today to discuss these recommendations, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman was present alongside Advisor to the Executive Management of TIB, Professor Sumaiya Khair, Director of Research and Policy Division Muhammad Badiuzzaman, Senior Research Fellow Shahzada M. Akram, and Md. Julkarnayeen. The press conference was moderated by Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, Director of the Outreach and Communication Department of the organization.

### CCC News Highlights

**International Youth Day observed: Demand for an effective reflection of the hopes and aspirations of the youth in building a new Bangladesh**



**Dhaka, 12 August 2024:** International Youth Day was observed across the country on August 12, 2024 by 29 Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and Youth Engagement & Support (YES) groups through various programs with the slogan 'We want effective reflection of the hopes and aspirations of the youth in building a new Bangladesh'. The programs included human chains, anti-corruption campaigns, rallies, discussion meetings, anti-corruption oath, candle light vigil etc.

Speakers in various programs of the day said that the youths of this country have always played a pioneering role in all democratic movements, from the anti-British rule movement to the language movement, the mass uprising of 1969, the Great War of Liberation and all the subsequent democratic movements. The student-led anti-discrimination movement is a prime example of this. The young students have set an example of how to sacrifice life selflessly.

In these events, the discussants paid respects to those who sacrificed their lives, those who were injured and abused in various ways in the anti-discrimination movement. They saluted those who spearheaded this victory and are still playing a central role in upholding and implementing the spirit of the movement as well as tirelessly working as vigilantes in the streets. They also said that this example of the youth of Bangladesh will set an example of any justice-based movement at the international level in the days to come. At the same time, regardless of religion and caste, this chariot of youth should not be stuck in a narrow trap. Therefore, it is necessary to take and implement effective measures to reflect their hopes and aspirations for the freedom of speech and freedom of thought. The speakers called on everyone to work together regardless of party affiliation to build a non-discriminatory, equal and merit-based, democratic, accountable, good-governed new Bangladesh based on the aspirations of the youth.



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In various programs of the day, the youth participants placed various demands focusing the potential of the youth as the main driving force of national achievement. In view of the current times, they called upon the youth to work together to build a new Bangladesh, regardless of caste, religion, etc. They said, they want to see Bangladesh free from corruption and a Bangladesh that ensures non-discrimination, equality and merit-based state system, democracy, accountability, human rights, absence of communalism and freedom of speech. The youths committed to participate in the anti-corruption movement to make corruption free Bangladesh.

A total of 2393 citizens attended (male: 1394, female: 999 and marginalized: 385) in the different events. Deputy Director of Youth Development, youth learners, students, civil society representatives, Journalists, CCC, YES, ACG members and other relevant stakeholder attended.



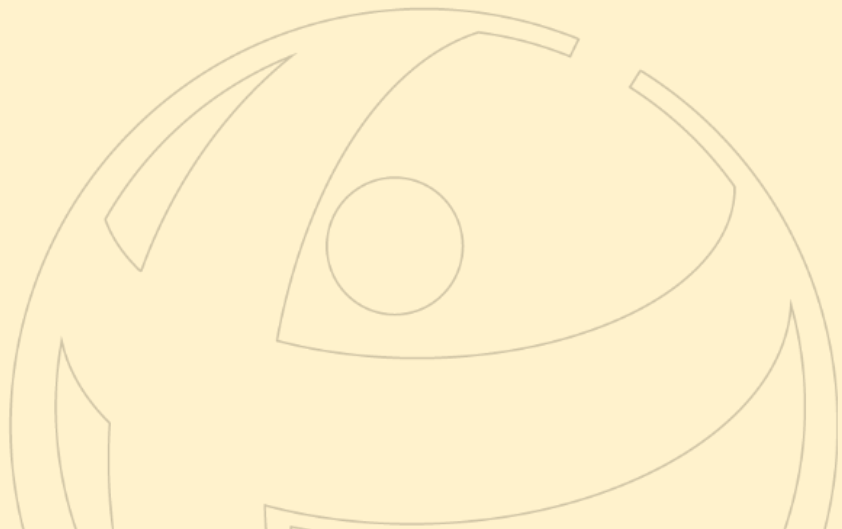
**Anti-Discrimination Students Movement: Human Chain organized demanding initiatives to restructure the state to ensure human rights, justice and good governance**



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**Dhaka, 04 August 2024:** Different Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement & Support (YES) group across the country organized a human chain on 04 August 2024 in solidarity with Anti-Discrimination Students Movement. The speakers at the human chain emphasized on taking initiatives to restructure the state to ensure human rights, justice and good governance, the trial of mass killing and the demand for compensation of the victims, during the then ongoing crisis situation.



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Members of CCC, YES, Active Citizen Groups (ACGs) were present at the event. They expressed deep concern over the ongoing violence surrounding the anti-discrimination quota reform movement led by the students and demanded justice for the unprecedented and brutal human rights violations. They demanded the formation of a fully independent commission under the guidance of the United Nations to ensure a nationally and internationally acceptable investigation and exemplary punishment of the perpetrators. In order to prevent similar human rights violations in the future, the participants demanded initiatives on the basis of national consensus to restructure all the institutions involved in the rule of law, including the law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as well as the basic structure of the state.

Eleven-point demands were presented including immediate end to harassment and brutal persecution of all the students and ordinary citizens by the law enforcement forces and immediate unconditional release of all the detained Coordinators, students and ordinary citizens and withdrawal of all the cases against them. The human chain also called upon to prevail the culture of zero tolerance against corruption and take effective initiatives to stop the impunity to all forms of corruption, especially high-level corruption.

### **Orientation on TI, TIB and Anti-Corruption Social Movement held in Kushtia**



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**Kushtia, 28 August 2024:** Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Kushtia organized an orientation on TI, TIB and Anti-Corruption Social Movement on 28 August 2024. The orientation included the introduction of Transparency International (TI) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Anti-Corruption Social Movement, Active Citizens Group (ACG) Operational Guideline, TIB's Code of Ethics, TIB's Sexual Harassment Complaints and Redress Policy, TIB's Safeguarding Policy etc. ACG Members of G. K. Govt. Primary School and Kaburhat Secondary School, Kushtia attended the orientation.

The President of CCC, Kushtia Ms. Asma Ansari Miru, and members of CCC Mizanur Rahman Lucky, Md. Zahurul Haque Chowdhury, Subhashish Saha Khokon were present at the orientation. The orientation program ended with ACG members pledging to play an active role in the anti-corruption social movement.

In the closing speech Ms. Asma Ansari Miru said that through this orientation, the members of the newly joined Active Citizens Group (ACG) got an idea about the anti-corruption social movement and the activities of TIB and CCC. It will help them carry forward their next activities. The orientation was conducted by TIB Area Coordinator Md. Raihanul Islam.

### **Orientation on Right to Information Act, 2009 held with the representatives of 15 voluntary organizations in Mymensingh**

**Mymensingh, 27 August 2024:** An orientation on Right to Information Act, 2009 was organized by CCC, Mymensingh at Dhanshree Restaurant in the city with the participation of representatives of 15 voluntary organizations of Mymensingh. A total of 42 members attended among them 20 were male and 22 female. The participants enriched their understanding on Right to Information Act, 2009, its effectiveness, how to apply for seeking required information etc. through this orientation.

Addressing the orientation, the President of CCC, Mymensingh Mr. Sharifuzzaman Parag said, "Youth can play a leading role in the implementation of Right to Information Act, 2009. They will build a corruption-free Bangladesh in the future." Among others Convener of CCC's YES Sub-Committee Mir Gulam Mustafa, CCC member Md. Rokonuzzaman Jewel, YES Group Leader Sadat Md. Sayem, Deputy Leader Ahmed Junaid Tonmoy spoke in the orientation. Deep condolence and respect to all the martyrs of the anti-discrimination student movement were expressed in the orientation.





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The orientation was conducted by Area Coordinator of TIB Muhammad Habibur Rahman and YES member Swarnali Akhtar Sweety. A number of various recommendations came up in the group presentations which included organizing campaigns, roles of organizations, challenges and way forward in implementation of the Right to Information Act etc. After the orientation, a quiz competition on Right to Information Act, 2009 was held and prizes were distributed among the winners.



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