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Research Release

New Bangladesh: Observations on the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime



Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) stated that while there are indications of the advancement towards building a “New Bangladesh,” certain challenges remain in various sectors. During a press conference today, the organization shared its insights regarding the 100 Days that have passed since the fall of the authoritarian regime. TIB recognized the interim government's timely and significant actions that align with the vision of a “New Bangladesh,” while also highlighting persistent challenges in specific sectors.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB, expressed optimism about the ongoing reformation, stating, “In its 100 days, the interim government has implemented numerous timely and significant measures. Despite challenges in certain areas, progress is evident in the pursuit of a 'New Bangladesh.'” Notable actions include the initiation of the trial process for the arbitrary killings and human rights violations committed by the authoritarian government, efforts to provide compensation and medical care to those injured in the movement, the repeal of oppressive law - the Cyber Security Act, signing the International Convention against Disappearances, and forming an investigation commission on disappearances. Additionally, reform commissions have been established to address key sectors of state reform, visible changes have begun in the financial sector, and steps have been taken to convert Ganabhaban into a museum to honor the martyrs of the anti-discrimination movement. The accountability process for corruption involving ministers, MPs, and allies of the fallen government, along with strategic steps to recover laundered money, are also significant achievements. Nevertheless, the anticipated advancements in managing inflation have not materialized, and deficiencies persist in the realm of law and order. The deeply rooted syndicates persist, and although professional is susceptible to change, the transformation of practices requires considerable time.”

Dr. Zaman observed that it was evident that the essential strategies and roadmaps had not been put together right away to meet the important responsibilities of state reform and infrastructure development, which are vital for realizing the objectives of the new political settlement entrusted to the interim government. Furthermore, the ad hoc approach to administrative decision-making and exclusion of the private and educational sectors from the reform initiatives are crucial. Another key issue is the lack of initiatives to reform political parties and their internal politics in the context of the anti-discrimination movement. Moreover, the absence of the role of the army in ensuring peace and order in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, despite its exclusive authority, along with the deliberate attacks and threats against some media outlets to silence them, raises serious concerns, TIB believes.

In reference to the duration of the reformation process, Dr. Zaman stated, "The student-public movement was not solely concerned with the establishment of a new government; it sought to establish a "New Bangladesh" through state reform and new political arrangements." If state reform is not carried out based on the reports of the commissions formed for this purpose and other positive steps, and if a sudden election is held without creating a legal and institutional framework to support them, the core spirit and objectives of the student-public movement will remain at risk. It is interim government's responsibility to create a strategic roadmap for fulfilling the assigned responsibilities in consultation with stakeholders."

The TIB research report, titled "New Bangladesh" Observations on the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime" highlights both prospects and challenges in building a "New Bangladesh." It emphasizes the potential for transformative state reforms and new political and social arrangements, with the interim government playing a key role. Over the past 100 days, the government has initiated efforts in state reforms, law and order, financial sector improvements, and crime prosecution. However, timely strategies and roadmaps to implement these responsibilities remain absent. While steps have been taken to prosecute violence from the movement, the lack of specific, evidence-based cases and the widespread indictment of hundreds raise concerns about holding key culprits accountable. Challenges persist in restructuring state institutions like the Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Information Commission, which are crucial for lasting reform.

The study highlights controversies in decision-making, including ad-hoc approaches, inefficient governance, and poor coordination among officials. Partisanship remains deeply rooted, with vested interests merely shifting from one group to another, posing risks to good governance. While the Army played a vital role in the movement's final phase, its efforts to maintain peace, particularly in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, have been below expectations.

The study revealed impatience among stakeholders, including political parties, in giving the government time for reforms. No internal political party reforms have been observed, highlighting a failure to embrace the core spirit of the anti-discrimination movement. The influence of religion-based politics is also growing. The role of students in overthrowing the authoritarian government was crucial, yet some lack a firm stance and political tolerance, despite prioritizing state reform.

The study revealed that attacks on the media and efforts to shut down media institutions threaten press freedom. Misuse of power by certain groups obstructs the goal of a non-communal, equal rights-based Bangladesh, while violence undermines gender, religious, cultural, and ethnic diversity. It also highlighted that India's failure to accept the fall of authoritarianism has strained diplomatic relations, adding risks. While international support for the interim government is positive, concerns about the impact of loan conditions from the World Bank, ADB, and IMF, and rising debt repayments, pose additional financial challenges.

The research paper was presented by Senior Research Fellow Shahzada Akram, with Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Adviser, Executive Management; Muhammad Badiuzzaman, Director of the Research and Policy Division; and Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, Director of Outreach and Communication, also present at the press conference.

Policy Brief

Challenges to Good Governance in Implementing Road and Highway Development Projects



To safeguard public institutions, sectors, and citizens' lives from the impacts of corruption, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has been advocating for change and acting as a catalyst through evidence-based, knowledge-driven, and participatory social movements, aiming to establish transparency, accountability, good governance, and integrity at all levels.

Previously, TIB conducted research to identify corruption and governance challenges in constituency-based block allocations, LGED's road infrastructure development, and public procurement through e-GP. Building on these efforts, TIB carried out a study titled "Governance Challenges in Road and Highway Development Projects" on October 9, 2024, to assess governance gaps and recommend reforms in road and highway infrastructure projects under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD). The full report and supporting documents are available on the TIB website.

The study reveals that over the past 15 years, large-scale road infrastructure projects—both mega projects financed through foreign loans and numerous domestically funded initiatives—have been justified on the grounds of economic acceleration, higher growth, and poverty reduction. However, while these projects hold potential for socioeconomic development, their implementation has been marred by widespread corruption, undermining their intended impact. A collusive nexus of politicians, bureaucrats, and contractors has taken control of policy decisions, procurement processes, and project implementation, leading to conflict of interest, political interference, and violations of governance standards.

This trilateral collusion has institutionalized corruption and irregularities in road and highway projects, allowing certain corrupt politicians, officials, and contractors to amass illicit wealth. Projects have been designed and executed with corruption in mind, resulting in inflated costs, poor-quality roads and bridges, and a lack of sustainability—ultimately obstructing the projects' intended goals. As a result, national resources are being systematically misused and wasted.

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Events

TIB and SRF Join Forces to Strengthen Investigative Reporting in Legal Sector



In an era where transparency and accountability are more crucial than ever, journalists stand as society's watchdogs, uncovering anomalies and exposing systemic corruption. Their role becomes even more vital in the legal reporting, where complex cases and judicial processes demand skilled interpretation and thorough investigation.

Recognizing this critical need, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) took a significant step forward by organizing an intensive training program for members of the Supreme Court Reporters Forum (SRF). The day-long workshop, titled "Investigative Law Reporting: Skills and Techniques," brought together 25 dedicated court reporters at TIB's Dhaka office, aiming to enhance their investigative capabilities and strengthen their role in ensuring judicial transparency.

This timely initiative addresses the growing demand for specialized journalism skills in legal reporting, particularly as cases become increasingly complex and public interest in judicial proceedings continues to rise.



Fostering Media Independence

"Politics has been making it hard for our media to work freely and independently," says Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, TIB's Executive Director. He explained that for ensuring justice, court must be able to make decisions without political pressure. He added that, "How free journalists are to do their work depends a lot on how politicians and the government treat the media." His words set the tone for the workshop designed to equip journalists with tools to navigate the complex landscape of legal reporting while maintaining investigative integrity.

The initiative comes at a crucial time when the role of independent journalism in ensuring judicial transparency has never been more critical. SRF President Mas Udur Rahman Raana highlighted this urgency, proposing a strategic partnership with TIB to address corruption within the judiciary. "We need to identify the challenges our reporters face at the Supreme Court and develop concrete strategies for reform," Raana emphasized.

Expert-Led Training Sessions

The workshop featured a carefully curated program led by industry veterans. Additional Attorney General Mr. Aneek Rushd Haque provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the judicial system, emphasizing the nuances crucial for accurate law reporting. Mohd. Badruddoza, Head of the Investigative Journalism Help Desk at MRDI, conducted sessions on both foundational investigative techniques and advanced storytelling methods specific to legal reporting.

Participants engaged in dynamic discussions, sharing real-world challenges and best practices from their experiences covering the Supreme Court. "We've gained not just knowledge, but confidence to tackle complex legal stories," said one participating reporter. "The techniques we learned will help us write more accurate and impactful stories about our courts." The General Secretary of SRF, Golam Rabbani positively mentioned that, "The vibrant exchange of knowledge and experiences marked a significant leap in empowering supreme court reporters to drive positive change through impactful reporting."



Next Steps for Better Legal Reporting

This TIB-SRF has discussed about several future plans which will help to identify key challenges Supreme Court Reporters face in their daily work and its practical solutions to support the court reporters. It is hoped that out of this initial workshop TIB and SRF will be able to organize regular skill-building sessions and support journalists in publishing in-depth investigations.

"When journalists are better equipped, our judiciary system will be more transparent," commented SRF President Mas Udur Rahman Raana. "This partnership with TIB will help us achieve that goal. The success of this first workshop has opened doors for more future collaboration between journalists and anti-corruption activists, all working to build a more transparent legal system in Bangladesh."

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman in his closing remarks highlighted the workshop's broader goals: "This is your stepping stone to better investigative reporting. We're excited to see how you'll use these skills to shine a light on issues that matter to our citizens."

Beyond Traditional Investigation TIB Empowers ACC Investigators with Digital Forensic Training to Combat Corruption



These days, investigators need more than just traditional investigative skills to find lawbreakers in a world where corruption can hide in complex digital settings. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) put on a cutting-edge three-day training that shows how technology could be the best way to fight corruption.



From November 19th to November 21st, 2024, thirty ACC officials attended an intense training that marked a big step forward in how corruption is investigated. The training is specifically tailored for ACC Investigators, with a focus on the development of advanced digital investigation techniques, understanding emerging financial technologies; legal frameworks for digital evidence and practical tools for asset detection.

Digital space: Basic Concepts & Ideas

The training brought together some of Bangladesh's most respected academic experts, each bringing specialized knowledge to the table. Dr. Mohammad Ershadul Karim from the University of Malaya introduced participants to 'Digital space: Basic Concepts & Ideas' - emphasizing how the digital space has become a critical battleground in anti-corruption efforts.

Digital Forensics

Quazi Mahfujul Hoque Supan, an Associate Professor at the University of Dhaka, presented a comprehensive analysis of digital forensic evidence in investigating corruption and money laundering cases. He explored the complexities of collecting, preserving, and authenticating digital evidence, emphasizing the need for rigorous methodologies, specialized training, and interdisciplinary approaches to effectively track and uncover sophisticated financial crimes in the digital era. He also highlighted the crucial intersection of legal standards, technological expertise, and investigative strategies in modern forensic practices.

Exploring Advanced Digital Tools

The second day participants learned deeper into the complexities of digital financial crime. Dr. Mohammad Ershadul Karim resumed to lead three engaging sessions with the ACC investigators on critical topics and elaborately discussed on the complex digital asset landscape, revealing how block chain technology and cryptocurrencies challenge traditional financial systems. He also emphasized the critical need for adaptive legal frameworks that can address the pseudo-anonymous nature of digital transactions while mitigating financial crime risks, particularly money laundering.

Dr. Karim therefore, intensively took his last session on the comprehensive regulatory approaches that balance technological innovation with vigorous monitoring mechanisms, stressing international cooperation and interdisciplinary strategies to manage emerging financial crime and money laundering risks in virtual assets management.

Mastering Forensic Accounting: Sorting out Financial Crimes

On the last day of the training, Al-Amin, Associate Professor at the University of Dhaka, delivered two critical sessions that dove deep into the world of forensic accounting. His presentations went beyond theoretical concepts, offering participants a comprehensive toolkit for identifying and analyzing complex financial crimes. Through real-world case studies focusing on fraud and money laundering, Al-Amin provided participants with a detailed understanding of financial investigation



techniques and said, "Understanding the subtle patterns of financial fraud is crucial and it's not just about numbers, but about understanding the story behind those numbers."

Practical Skills and Open Data Techniques

Additionally, Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, TIB's Outreach and Communication Director led an interactive session at the final day of the training. He demonstrated cutting-edge techniques for asset detection using open data, giving participants practical insights they could immediately apply in their investigative work.



Looking Ahead

The training concluded with a powerful participant feedback session that highlighted the workshop's impact. ACC officer Syed Nazrul Islam highlighted that these programs are crucial in building a corruption-free society. "We're not just learning skills," he said, "we're building a more transparent future for Bangladesh." Another ACC investigator Sazzad Hussain expressed confidence in how the new knowledge would enhance their investigative and legal process skills. Last but not the least, ACC officer Sylvia Ferdous emphasized the need for continued such specialized training because, this training equipped them with strategic approach to combating corruption in an increasingly digital world."

Youth Illuminate the Path to a Corruption-Free New Bangladesh



In a country that has emerged from the shadows of authoritarianism, what direction will the youth of 'New Bangladesh' take? In order to guarantee democracy and good governance, what should be the subsequent course of action following the "second wave of independence"? The questions and their thought-provoking responses were a beacon of hope while celebrating Bondhushava's 26th anniversary in Dhaka. This event, a collaboration between Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Bondhushava, underscored the pivotal role that the younger generation plays in shaping the nation's future, rooted in transparency, integrity, and corruption-free.

As participants from across the nation poured into the 'Liberation War Museum' in the capital, excitement was palpable. The diverse crowd, united by a common goal, resonated with TIB's anti-corruption message, eager to learn how they could contribute to a brighter future for their country. Bondhushava, an initiative of Bangladesh's leading daily newspaper, Prothom Alo, is celebrated for promoting equity, democratic values, and self-development through volunteerism, making it the perfect platform for TIB to galvanize the youth's commitment to the cause.



The event sparked off with the National Anthem, setting a tone of unity and purpose. TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman took to the stage, leading the attendees in a hallmark Anti-Corruption Oath. “We must strive for a future free from corruption,” he implored, igniting a shared determination among the youth to embrace the ideals of transparency and integrity. Moreover, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman praised the youth for their significant contributions to the recent political changes, emphasizing that while the authoritarian regime has fallen, the fight against discrimination and corruption must continue. “We are at a crossroads; replacing one form of oppression with another is a real risk. The movement for anti-discrimination and anti-corruption consciousness must remain central to our lives and policies,” he urged the young leaders to remain vigilant.

The theme of the event—“In the new light of youth, Bangladesh has risen”—echoed throughout the hall as participants immersed with the call to action. Renowned film-maker Ashfaq Nipun, one of the event’s prominent speakers, shared personal experiences that illuminated the sneaky nature of corruption in society. “Corruption is embedded in our society in ways that we often fail to identify. In New Bangladesh, we must ensure that our own thinking is free from corruption,” he emphasized, highlighting the individual responsibility each person bears in combating the issue.

Eminent author Anisul Hoque echoed Nipun’s sentiments, noting that the battle against corruption has only just begun. “If we can eliminate corruption at the highest levels of organizations, we can make significant progress toward a society that is free of discrimination,” he stated, expressing hope for a future built on good governance.

An interactive session on State Reform and Corruption further engaged the audience, with Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, TIB’s Director of Outreach and Communication, addressing the crucial role of the youth in dismantling corruption within state structures. “If the youth say no to corruption, it will be much easier to establish a Bangladesh free of corruption,” he asserted. Yet, he acknowledged the complexities of uprooting deeply imbedded attitudes, particularly when corruption has been legitimized by powerful figures.





The event, a vibrant confluence of voices and ideas, also saw participation from scholars, public figures, and coordinators of the anti-discrimination movement, including Ariful Islam Adeeb and Taposhi Dey Prapti. Together, they fostered a spirit of unity and purpose, embodying the potential of a generation ready to reclaim their country's narrative.

As the echoes of their commitment filled the air, it became clear that these young leaders are not merely dreamers; they are the architects of a corruption-free 'New Bangladesh'. With their passion and determination, they are self-assured to lead the way toward a future grounded in integrity, transparency, and parity. In their hands lies the promise of a nation reborn, a testament to the power of youth in shaping a brighter tomorrow."

Policy Stances

Deliberate Attacks and Threats Against Media Undermine Anti-Discrimination Spirit: TIB



Dhaka, 06 November 2024: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has voiced serious concern regarding the persistent deliberate attacks on journalists and the media, lawsuits motivated by personal grievances, and malicious actions by ulterior motives that are intended to harass. TIB cautions that these actions are not conducive to the establishment of an anti-discriminatory ‘New Bangladesh’. TIB issued a press release today, urging the interim government to implement stringent measures against this alarming trend that threatens free journalism in order to cultivate a secure and fearless environment for journalists and the media. Raising the inquiry, "Does the media's freedom amount to a hollow assurance?" TIB also urged all stakeholders to prevent the misuse of journalistic power and media influence in order to ensure responsible journalism.

Expressing profound concern regarding the assaults and restrictions imposed on numerous media outlets by self-serving entities, along with the rampant lawsuits and intimidation faced by journalists, TIB Executive Director, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman stated, “Throughout the period of the fallen authoritarian regime, Bangladesh’s position in the World Press Freedom Index fell by 42 steps over 14 years, with all standards of media freedom consistently declining.” The tragic loss of life and the sacrifices made by students present a unique opportunity for the advancement of a new Bangladesh. The interim government has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that media freedom is upheld and that journalism is safeguarded from external influences. However, TIB notes with deep concern that various self-interested groups are intensifying attacks on certain media organizations, engaging in slander, threats, and intimidation. It appears that attempts are being made to suppress the media, harass journalists, or manipulate coverage whenever it challenges the interests of powerful factions. Such incidents serve as a troubling signal for the future of a free press in Bangladesh.”

Dr. Zaman expressed concern that attacks on journalists reflect negatively on the 'New Bangladesh'. He elaborated, "Arbitrary threats, attacks, sieges, and, in certain instances, trivial lawsuits designed to resolve personal disputes or the complete revocation of accreditation cards are unmistakable indicators of an anti-people authoritarian regime. TIB contends that efforts to regulate the media, echoing the practices of the fallen authoritarian regime, contradict the ethos of free thought and the anti-discrimination principles that characterize the 'New Bangladesh,' a nation forged through the remarkable sacrifices of its students. TIB draws attention to that the suppression of dissent and the insecurity experienced by media will inevitably lead to the resurgence of authoritarianism. We urge the interim government to act swiftly and forcefully to establish a fearless atmosphere for independent journalists. If not, there is a serious chance that media freedom may turn into an empty promise."

TIB ED said, "TIB thinks that journalists accused of specific criminal acts or those actively involved in authoritarianism should be thoroughly probed. However, incidents such as arbitrary cases against journalists labelling them as the associates of the fallen authoritarian government; the cancellation of permanent and temporary press accreditation cards given by the Press Information Department; threats; and dismissals; do not convey any positive message regarding media freedom in the country. Rather, they serve the interests of those who follow the perilous theory that "dissent is the friend of tyranny." To be very clear, TIB does not believe that any journalist should be penalized for engaging in journalism. Simultaneously, TIB urges journalists and the media to maintain ethical journalistic standards and prevent the abuse of their authority."

CCC News Highlights

Information Fairs Held at CCC Areas

Right to Information Act, 2009: Empowering Citizens in the Fight Against Corruption



In an effort to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment, a series of Information Fairs were organized across the country to raise awareness about the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009. These fairs, organized by Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) in collaboration with local administrations, provided a crucial platform for citizens to engage with government and non-government institutions, access service-related information, and learn about the process of requesting information under the RTI Act.

The Information Fairs attracted thousands of visitors who received hands-on orientation on filing RTI applications. Government and non-government organizations from diverse sectors participated, responding to queries and facilitating access to critical information. The fairs also hosted public hearings, where officials addressed citizens' concerns, reinforcing the importance of accountability in public service delivery.

In Sylhet, the Divisional Commissioner Abu Ahmed Siddique inaugurated the fair (November 18-19, 2024), with the participation of key institutions such as the Civil Surgeon's Office and the Divisional Passport Office. More than 2,000 citizens accessed government services at the event.

In Faridpur, the two-day fair (November 20-21, 2024) saw an overwhelming response, with over 700 citizens submitting RTI applications and 661 receiving information with the assistance of TIB's Youth Engagement and Support (YES) members. 26 government and one non-government institution participated, actively disseminating service-related information.

A significant turnout was observed in Savar, where the CCC organized an Information Fair on the same dates. A total of 38 government and 5 non-government institutions participated. YES members conducted awareness sessions, guiding visitors on how to file RTI applications and lodge complaints in case of non-disclosure.

The Kushtia fair (November 19-20, 2024) saw the Deputy Commissioner Md. Toufiquir Rahman urging citizens to leverage free flow of information to combat corruption. More than 1,000 visitors accessed government services, while 30 participating organizations were recognized for their contributions at the event's closing ceremony.



In Sreemangal, Moulvibazar (November 20-21, 2024), 481 citizens received requested information, while 826 applications were submitted with support from YES members. 31 government institutions actively participated in disseminating service-related details.

Similarly, in Madaripur (November 20-21, 2024), the fair brought together 24 government and non-government institutions, offering over 1,000 visitors direct access to information and services.

The Barishal fair (November 25-26, 2024), inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Delwar Hussain, emphasized the role of free access to information in curbing corruption. 21 government institutions participated, engaging with a diverse range of visitors.

A colorful rally and discussion session in Khagrachari (November 27, 2024) saw 30 institutions, both government and non-government, participating. Inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Md. Shahiduzzaman, the event reinforced the RTI Act's potential in improving governance and preventing corruption.

In Pirojpur (November 26-27, 2024), Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ashraful Alam Khan underscored the RTI Act's importance in establishing good governance. The fair saw participation from 30 institutions, actively disseminating information among citizens.

The Kishoreganj fair (November 27-28, 2024), organized by CCC in collaboration with the District Administration, featured 36 institutions and facilitated access to service-related information for over 1,000 visitors.

The Mymensingh fair (November 28-29, 2024) attracted over 700 RTI applicants, with 48 government institutions offering crucial information to the public.



The Right to Information Act, 2009 stands as a powerful tool for citizens to demand accountability and transparency. These Information Fairs, organized nationwide, not only empowered thousands of citizens but also reinforced the commitment of TIB, CCCs, and YES groups in fostering a culture of open governance and active citizen participation. By ensuring the free flow of information, citizens can play a proactive role in combating corruption and strengthening democracy.

Workshop on NIS and SDGs Strengthening Institutional Integrity for Sustainable Development



To reinforce good governance and institutional integrity, a series of workshops titled “Implementation of National Integrity Strategy (NIS) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Way Forward” were organized in November 2024 in collaboration with district and upazila administrations and the respective Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs). These workshops, held in Muktagacha, Jashore, Jamalpur, Chakaria, Kushtia, and Patiya, brought together government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations to strengthen their commitment to integrity, accountability, and transparency in service delivery.

Participants reaffirmed their dedication to upholding the National Integrity Strategy (NIS) as a guiding principle for ensuring citizen-centric, corruption-free service delivery. Recognizing integrity as a cornerstone of sustainable development, government officials pledged to institutionalize NIS in their respective departments while fostering greater transparency and public trust.

A total of 230 institutions, including 210 government and 20 non-government organizations, actively participated in the workshops. Each institution developed an Action Plan outlining concrete steps to integrate NIS principles into their operations. The participating institutions also committed to a phased implementation of these plans, ensuring long-term impact.

Key administrative leaders, including Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur Hasina Begum, Deputy Commissioner of Jashore Md. Azaharul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Md. Toufikur Rahman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Muktagacha Atikul Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Chakaria Md. Fakhrul Islam, and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Patiya Md. Alauddin Bhuiyan Johnny, were present at the workshops, underscoring the administration's commitment to integrity-driven governance.



The workshops were facilitated by TIB's Civic Engagement experts, including Coordinator Kazi Shafiqur Rahman (Jashore, Kushtia), Coordinator Md. Atikur Rahman (Muktagacha, Jamalpur), and Cluster Coordinator Muhammad Jashim Uddin (Chakaria, Patiya). They provided in-depth discussions on NIS implementation, its key elements, institutional framework, and challenges at the local level. Additionally, they highlighted the role of SDG-16—focused on peace, justice, and strong institutions—in preventing corruption and strengthening governance.

To ensure effective implementation of NIS at the grassroots level, facilitators recommended enhanced technical support for government institutions, the formation of Ethical Committees, regular monitoring of action plans, and recruitment of skilled personnel to build an accountable, citizen-centric administration.

Speakers at the workshops underscored that sustainable development cannot be achieved without eliminating corruption. They emphasized that integrity must be practiced at all levels—starting

from the family to public institutions. Public office holders, they noted, must play a proactive role in fostering a culture of transparency and accountability.

Government representatives reiterated their accountability to the people, acknowledging that “This is a new Bangladesh, where moral values must drive our actions. We must uphold integrity in our service delivery and work collectively to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

During open discussions, participants from various government and non-government organizations reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating the implementation of NIS. They stressed the importance of collaboration between government agencies and civil society in achieving the SDGs. Thanking CCC-TIB for organizing the workshops, they acknowledged that such initiatives significantly contribute to preventing corruption and strengthening governance at the local level.

At the conclusion of the workshops, CCCs extended their appreciation to the district and upazila administrations for their cooperation and urged all participating institutions to actively support the successful implementation of NIS for sustainable development.

The workshops were attended by 280 participants, including 44 women. Among them were Additional Deputy Commissioners, Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs), the Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), officials from various government departments, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists, CCC leaders, Youth Engagement and Support (YES) members, and TIB coordinators.

These workshops served as a crucial step toward fostering a culture of integrity and accountability, ensuring that governance remains transparent, service delivery is people-centered, and corruption is systematically reduced. By institutionalizing the principles of NIS and aligning them with the SDGs, Bangladesh moves closer to achieving its vision of sustainable and inclusive development.

Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Movement: Learning and Experience Sharing Across CCCs



To reinforce the grassroots movement against corruption, Learning and Experience Sharing Meetings were held across various CCC regions throughout November 2024. These gatherings brought together members of the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs), Youth Engagement and Support (YES), and Active Citizen Groups (ACGs), fostering dialogue on experiences, challenges, and strategies for strengthening the anti-corruption movement at the local level.

The meetings served as dynamic platforms for participants to exchange insights on mobilizing citizens, engaging with service delivery institutions, and ensuring greater transparency and accountability. A key focus was on enhancing citizen participation in institutional decision-making processes to improve public service quality. Respective Area Coordinators presented CCCs' achievements, lessons learned, and key challenges, setting the stage for interactive discussions that generated concrete recommendations to advance the movement.

During open discussions and Q&A sessions, participants identified strengths and areas for improvement, outlining actionable strategies to amplify impact. The events concluded with a resounding commitment against corruption as attendees took the Anti-Corruption Oath, reaffirming their dedication to integrity and accountability.



On November 14, CCC Mymensingh hosted an Experience Sharing Meeting on the Anti-Corruption Movement at the Local Level, presided over by CCC President Sharifuzzaman Parag. In Natore, over a hundred citizens—including students, teachers, and journalists—took an oath to combat corruption under the leadership of CCC President Rezaul Karim Reza. CCC Rajshahi organized a similar event on November 22, led by CCC President Professor Dr. Siddharth Shankar Talukder. On November 11, CCC Cumilla held its learning-sharing meeting with the active participation of over 100 members from CCC, YES, and ACGs, presided over by CCC President Nikhil Chandra Roy.

A daylong meeting was conducted in Chakaria on November 14, inaugurated by former CCC President Alhajj Farid Uddin Chowdhury, while CCC Khulna hosted a gathering of CCC, YES, and ACG members on November 15, under the leadership of CCC President Kudrat-E-Khuda. Momentum continued in Lakshmipur, where 116 participants united on November 16 under the leadership of CCC President Professor Z. M. Faruqi. Similarly, CCC Pirojpur reinforced coordination among CCC, YES, and ACG members through a Learning Sharing Meeting on November 20, presided over by CCC President M. A. Rabbani Firoz.

Jhenaidah saw an engaging, daylong Learning Sharing Meeting on November 30, led by CCC President M. Saiful Mabud, where CCC, YES, and ACG members actively contributed. That same

day, CCC Bagerhat reaffirmed its commitment to the anti-corruption movement, with over 100 members gathering under the leadership of CCC President Advocate Ram Krishna Basu. Meanwhile, CCC Patuakhali conducted a learning-sharing event inaugurated by CCC Vice President Advocate Shahidur Rahman.

In Jamalpur, on November 13, over 100 citizens took an oath to fight corruption during an event titled “Exchanging Experiences on the Social Movement Against Corruption at the Local Level.” CCC Vice President A.K.M. Ashrafuzzaman Swadhin delivered the welcome speech, while CCC President Shamima Khan presided.

The series of learning-sharing meetings concluded in Madhupur, Tangail, on November 9, where participants reflected on the impact of TIB’s anti-corruption social movement, identified key challenges, and proposed strategic recommendations for future action. The meeting was presided over by CCC President Md. Abdul Malek, with a welcome speech by CCC Vice President Sajeda Khatun.

The learning-sharing meetings underscored the critical role of collective action in combating corruption. Participants highlighted the need for greater coordination, continuous citizen engagement, and strategic advocacy to ensure public institutions uphold integrity and transparency. By fostering dialogue, exchanging best practices, and strengthening networks, CCCs, YES, and ACGs remain at the forefront of Bangladesh’s anti-corruption movement, empowering citizens to demand accountability and work towards a more just and corruption-free society.

Women Leading the Fight Against Corruption: YES Group’s Campaign Inspires Action at Central Women’s University



An anti-corruption campaign infused with creativity, engagement, and advocacy took place on November 27, 2024, at Central Women’s University, spearheaded by the university’s Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Group. Organized ahead of International Anti-Corruption Day, the campaign sought to ignite dialogue and awareness on “The Role of Women in Combating Corruption.” The initiative featured an Anti-Corruption Signature Collection, interactive games,

and a thought-provoking Wall Magazine, each designed to reinforce the message that women's leadership and participation are vital in the fight against corruption.

The event was inaugurated by Central Women's University Treasurer Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Jamal and Registrar Mr. Elias Ahmed, who set the tone for institutional commitment by being the first to sign the pledge wall. Faculty members and students soon followed, inscribing their names as a symbolic vow to uphold integrity and resist corruption in every sphere of life. The act of signing was more than a gesture—it was a call to action, affirming that change begins with personal accountability and collective determination.

A striking display of artistic and literary expression emerged through a vibrant Wall Magazine, capturing the voices and perspectives of students and faculty alike. This unique initiative transformed a simple space into a powerful platform for advocacy, featuring compelling write-ups, insightful reflections, and artwork that challenged corruption's pervasiveness and emphasized the urgent need for ethical leadership.

The campaign took an engaging turn with an innovative anti-corruption-themed game designed to break hierarchical barriers and encourage dialogue. More than 120 students participated in the interactive activity, alongside department chairpersons and faculty members, fostering a shared understanding of corruption's impact on institutions and everyday life. The initiative reinforced the indispensable role of women in fostering transparency, accountability, and ethical governance. As the campaign concluded, participants united in a collective commitment to reject corruption in all its forms, recognizing that their voices and actions are instrumental in shaping a just and corruption-free society.



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