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## NATIONAL

### TIB releases study on the performances of MPs



A new TIB study on the performance of 149 MPs showed that 97 percent of them were involved in a variety of 'negative activities'. The study titled 'Analysis of positive and negative role of lawmakers of the ninth parliament' was released on 14 October through a press conference in Dhaka. Of the total 149 MPs studied – 136 are from the ruling Awami League and 13 from the opposition. The study shows that the lawmakers hold too much influence public bodies, control educational institutions, misappropriate development funds and even back criminal activities. It also found that MPs influence the administration's procurement decisions, break electoral rules, and in many cases provide false information to secure land ownership. The MPs consider their posts a 'means of profit making', it says. The most shocking revelation is perhaps the 70 percent of MPs involved in criminal activities ranging from killing and land grabbing to extortion and manipulation of public tenders. Half of the MPs carried out such criminal acts in person.

TIB recommends amending laws to stop MPs from engaging in local development activities and controlling the decision of local administrations. It also reiterated its recommendation for banning en masse abstention from the national parliament session through limiting the maximum time for remaining absent from parliament to 30 days and the highest seven days at stretch.

Since its release, the report is creating a media storm nationally and elsewhere. There have been hundreds of news stories, dozens of newspaper editorials and more than 25 hours of talk shows on nearly all TV channels of Bangladesh, not to mention massive internet commentary. The report also irked the government as some ruling party MPs demanded in the National Parliament session that TIB should be banned from operating in the country.

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## Role of Community Radio in Anti-Corruption social movement

TIB in association with Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) organized an opinion sharing meeting on 'Community Radios Role in Anti-Corruption Movement' on October 9. Dr. Rezwan-Ul- Alam, Director-Outreach and Communication of TIB discussed the overall objectives, mission vision and organizational values of TIB focusing on 'Good governance, Transparency and Accountability' and Director-Civic Engagement Uma Chowdhury presented the background and current status of 'Civic Engagement in 'Anti-Corruption Movement'. Later CEO of BNNRC AHM Bazlur Rahman delivered a speech on the present state of community radios in Bangladesh. Thirteen community radio representatives of the country presented their thoughts on the role of community radio in anti- corruption movement. TIB, BNNRC and community radio representatives emphasized on using community radio as an important community media to reach out to the grassroots and create awareness about corruption.



## Silent procession and candlelight vigil on Ramu-Patiya incidents



Nijera Kori, Ayn O Salish Kendra, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Shushasoner Jonno Procharavijan(SUPRO), Urban Study Group, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and some other likeminded organizations jointly organized a silent procession and candlelight vigil on October 29 at the Central Shaheed Minar to show their solidarity with the Buddhist community.

A group of miscreants attacked and looted temples and houses of of the Buddha com-

munities in Ramu of Cox's Bazaar and Patiya and Ukhiya of Chittagong districts on 28 and 29 October consecutively. To protest against this barbaric act and also to express solidarity with the Buddhist community of the country ahead of the Probarona Purnima celebration, students, prominent civil society members and common people joined hands to seek apology for the attacks. Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Khusi Kabir, Prof Sukomol Borua among others expressed their solidarity while Prof Kazi Madina read out the statement. The program was followed by a cultural program. CCCs around the country also held similar processions and vigils to express their solidarity and demanding justice for the victims.

### Policy campaign of TIB

TIB conducted a series of policy campaigns on human rights issues in October. Expressing the grave concern on the heinous attacks on Buddhist community that took place on 29 and 30 September at Ukhiya, Patiya, Teknaf and Ramu TIB and Committees of Concerned Citizen (CCCs) urged the Government to form a judicial probe and exemplary punishment to the miscreants. "These attacks are diametrically opposed to the core values of democracy and human rights and also the spirit of our liberation war," said TIB ED Dr. Iftekharuzzaman in a statement issued along with nine other prominent civil society members. TIB also issued a press statement criticizing Suranjit Sengupta's comments on media terming it as a barrier to free flow of information. In another public statement, TIB protested the Jhalakati Deputy Commissioner's proposal asking Limon Hossain to seek clemency in two cases filed by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and termed the proposal 'sarcastic and ill-motivated.' TIB also sought direct intervention of the Prime Minister in this regard and demanded security of Limon and exemplary punishment of all responsible for maiming and harassing the college student. TIB also asked for unconditional withdrawal of the case filed against Limon's mother.

### CCC News

#### Opinion sharing meeting

CCC Bogra organized an opinion sharing meeting on 'Social movement against corruption in Bangladesh: Initiatives to be taken in local level' at Parzatan Motel, Bogra on October 22. Md. Bazul Karim Bahar, President (in charge) of CCC Bogra presided at the meeting. TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman discussed about the importance of 'Public engagement' in movement against corruption. Deputy Commissioner, Police Super and the local Mayor also spoke. District level government officials, politicians, social activists and other professionals were present.

#### Gathering and Human chain



CCC Chakaria organized a mass gathering and human chain with the slogan 'Remove the darkness of communality by the light of equal rights and harmony' on October 29 to remark the Buddha Bihar tragedy. They demanded punishment of the miscreants responsible for attacking Ramu, Ukhiya and Patiya. People from other Upazillas of Harbang, Pohorchada, Manikpur, Kahariaghon and Binamara joined the Human Chain.

CCC Chandpur also organized a Human Chain against the Ramu attacks. CCC President Mr. Kamruzzan Chowdhury, former CCC President Prof. Monohor Ali, and other members of CCC participated in it. Besides, distinguished cultural personalities, social activists, political leaders, student leaders and people from all walks of life took part in it.

#### Round Table on Municipality services in Jhenaidah

A round table discussion on "Services of Jhenaidah Municipality: Expectation and Achievement" was held on October 20 organized by CCC Jhenaidah. The findings of Citizen Report Card on Jhenaidah municipality was presented in the meeting. Ms. Sharifatunnesa, president of CCC presented the survey findings and Mr. Saidul Karim Mintu, Municipal Mayor was the main speaker. The survey revealed peoples' opinion on shaalish, issuance of license, social safety net program, construction & maintenance works, TAX, water & sanitation system, public health, mosquitoes, security, cleanliness, open budget announcement, face the public by the public representatives, information services and citizens charter. Counselors, members of CCC, members of Shwajon and YES members were present.

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## YES News

### Seminar and Campaign on RTI

With the slogan 'Janbo Janabo, Durniti Rukhbo', TIB organized a discussion program on Right to Information Act and its implication at IBAIS University on October 14. The youth volunteers of YES of the university organized the event. The basic concept of the Law, process of implementation, role and responsibilities of the youth especially YES members, benefits of the Law etc. were discussed. Some 30 YES members participated.

YES group of Department of Development Studies organized similar event on Right to Information Act on October 04.

Members of YES-1 was organized an RTI campaign with the theme of 'Information is your Right' at Tejgaon College in Dhaka on 11 October, 2012 with the objective to introducing an RTI based web page in the face book. They also arranged an anti-corruption game show and cartoon exhibition on the same day. Some 200 students directly participated. Students also received leaflets on RTI produced by TIB.

Members of YES-Jahangirnagar University also organized an advice and information desk distributing RTI related information.

The YES Group of East West University organized a series of programs on October 15. The programs included anti-corruption cartoon exhibition, game show and a workshop on RTI Act-2009. The Vice Chancellor of East West University Prof. Ahmed Shafee inaugurated the cartoon exhibition. Among others YES Adviser Engr. Kamrul Hassan, TIB officials, YES members and general students attended.

### Seminar on Climate Change and Development in Bangladesh

Uttara University YES group organized a seminar on 'Climate Change and Development in Bangladesh' on October 9. Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director of Centre for Global Change, presented the key note. YES members of the university along with general students took part. YES members also distributed climate change related stickers among the participants.

### Information Desk for Admission Seekers

All YES groups of Dhaka University organized a Satellite Information Desk on October 19 to help the admission seekers. They provided information about the sitting arrangement and locations of different institutions. Some 2,000 examinees received information services through this desk. The YES members also organized a Cartoon Show in front of the Arts Faculty of University of Dhaka and distributed different leaflets produced by TIB.

### Anti-Corruption awareness campaign

The YES Group of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University organized a daylong campaign on October 11 focusing on conservation of national resources and prevent the misuse of utility services i.e. gas, electricity and water. The Pro-Vice Chancellor and the YES Adviser Dr. Md. Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan inaugurated the campaign. Among others YES Adviser, TIB officials, YES members and other students of the varsity joined. A workshop on Right to Information Act was also held. YES members along with YES friends participated.

### Anti-Corruption documentary show

On 14 October, YES Group of Ruqayyah Hall organized an anti-corruption documentary show at their Hall premises. Advisor of YES Group Ms. Latifa Jamal attended and encouraged YES members to be more proactive in the social movement.

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