

**NATIONAL****TIB releases report on the role of a section of the armed forces during 2007-08**

TIB underscored the need for institutionalization of democracy and strengthening democratic practices at all levels of leadership in all political parties to avert 1/11 like situation in the future. This statement was made at a press conference which was held to release a report titled 'The role of a section of the armed forces during the Caretaker government in 2007-8' on 27 February. TIB also urged political parties and leaders to rely on dialogue rather than confrontation and play more responsible role reflecting political maturity and acumen.




The study, which was based on secondary as well as primary data collected during July 2009 - December 2012, analyzed both positive role as well as nature and process of irregularities and corruption that a section of the armed forces indulged into in 2007-8. Positive role included a high profile anti-corruption drive though infected by distortions and abuse of power, implementation of the project on national ID

card and voter list with photograph, reducing congestion in the Chittagong port, recovering illegally occupied government land, realizing the arrear bills of gas, electricity and telephone, and contributing to the conduct of a credible national election for smooth transfer of power.





However, the study also found incidences of abuse of power, irregularities and corruption by a section of the armed forces. These included: using official authority and immunity to forcibly collect money from people of different professions including business, appointing berth operator in the Chittagong port and increasing charge of container handling without due process, harassment and torture of representatives of local government, political leaders, industrialists and contractors, prevention of the legal support process, speedy trial without following the due process, unduly deferring the election of Dhaka Bar and Supreme Court Bar Association, influencing the decision for allocation of division in the jail, controlling political activities and functioning of the media.

Based on the findings, TIB made a seven-point recommendations which included: ensuring a credible national election participated by all contenders; disclosure of information to the public on punitive measures, if any, taken against a section of armed forces; delineation of the scope and jurisdiction of the defense-related intelligence agencies; restrict the engagement of armed forces in civil administration; abolition of immunity; ensuring greater transparency by promoting free flow of information; and higher levels of responsible and democratic practice by the political leadership.

**INSIDE****National**

-  International Mother Language Day observed
-  International Mother Language Day observed
-  TIB took stance against the verdict of war criminal

**CCC NEWS**

-  Accountability in Jhenaidah Municipality
-  Meeting with local media in Pirojpur
-  Workshop with women members
-  Anti-corruption bicycle rally

**You can  
write to us at:**

**Transparency International Bangladesh**, e-mail: [advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org](mailto:advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org)  
 [www.ti-bangladesh.org](http://www.ti-bangladesh.org)  [www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh)

## International Mother Language Day observed

TIB observed the International Mother language Day by joining the morning 'Ekushey' rally, popularly known as Provat Feri and placed floral wreaths at the Shahid Minar on 21 February. With the slogan 'Durneeti Ekusher Chetonar Poriponthy' (Corruption is antithetical to the spirit of Ekushey) the rally was attended by YES and TIB Members. TIB's Dhaka office staff members and their families also joined. A greeting card and a sticker were published and distributed on this occasion. CCC and YES members all around the country also brought out similar rallies and distributed stickers and greeting cards in their respective CCCs.



## Poetry against corruption

TIB organized a poetry recitation programme on 18 February in Dhaka's Ravindra Sarovar titled 'Poetry against corruption' to remark the International Mother Language Day. The event was organized to create awareness

against corruption using the poetry recitation. With the theme 'Kobitai Dhonita Hok Shushashoner Ongikar' (let anti-corruption conviction reverberate through poetry) the program was attended by a large number of people along with noted poets and reciters of the country. This was TIB's first such initiative where poetry was used as a tool to sensitize people, especially the youths against corruption.



## TIB took stance against the verdict of war criminal

TIB took stance against the verdict of Abdul Kader Molla, Assistant Secretary General of Bangladesh Jamat-e-Islami in the International War Crimes Tribunal, TIB released a statement urging the Government to amend the law and redress the loopholes in it so that the spirit of the liberation war of 71 is upheld and the families of the victims get justice.

In another statement, TIB, the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) groups condemned the killing of Blogger Ahmed Razib Haider and demanded justice. The statement also expressed solidarity with the mass uprising of Shahabag and demanded highest punishment to the collaborators for their alleged involvement in rape, mass killing and crime against humanity in the 1971's Liberation War.



**You can  
write to us at:**

**Transparency International Bangladesh**, e-mail: [advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org](mailto:advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org)  
[www.ti-bangladesh.org](http://www.ti-bangladesh.org) [www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh)



## CCC News

### Meeting with local media in Pirojpur

The CCC of Pirojpur organized an opinion sharing meeting with the journalists on 19 February. The meeting discussed about ways to more cooperation between local media and CCC to further strengthen anti-corruption movement. Chaired by CCC member Advocate Md. Shahidullah Khan, the meeting also put forward a few recommendations to improve the quality of services by ensuring transparency and accountability in local service providing sectors.

### Workshop with women members of Union Parishad held

On 19 February, the women members of SWAJAN group of CCC Chakaria held a daylong workshop with women members of local Union Parishads and local women leaders. The workshop, titled 'Women Members at Union Parishad: Problems and Recommendations' was attended by 46 members from 18 Unions and 15 local women leaders. Chairperson of women SWAJAN group Jariatul Mosta chaired the workshop while Joyanal Abedin, UNO of the Chokoria Upazila attended as Chief Guest.

### Anti-corruption bicycle rally and oath taking in Bagerhat



An anti-corruption bicycle rally was held in Bagerhat on 20 February by the CCC and YES group. The 20 km long colorful rally which circled around the Bagerhat town was followed by an oath taking program. The President of CCC Professor Chowdhury Abdur Rab conducted the oath taking where more than thousands of students participated.

### Accountability in Jhenaidah Municipality

A Face the Public program was held in Jhenaidah Municipality on 12 February. Mayor of the Municipality Md. Saidul Karim Mintu was present and talked about his work and also answered to questions coming from the audience. 'The municipality will be made people-oriented and citizens friendly through ensuring transparency and accountability in all its activities. No corruption and violation of law will be tolerated' – the Mayor said in his speech. People from all walks of life attended the event and inquired about the daily activities of the Municipality. Face the Public program is one of TIB's social accountability initiatives taken at the grassroots to ensure transparency and accountability in various service delivery organizations.



**Editor: S.M. Rezwan-ul-Alam**

**Sub-Editor: Salma Yeasmin**

**Design: Md. Barkat Ullah Babu**

**You can  
write to us at:**

**Transparency International Bangladesh**, e-mail: [advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org](mailto:advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org)  
[www.ti-bangladesh.org](http://www.ti-bangladesh.org) [www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh)