



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH

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Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2006

Press Release

Dhaka & Berlin, November 2006. The Berlin-based international anti-corruption organization, Transparency International (TI) has today released its annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2006. The results show that in a scale of 0-10 Bangladesh has scored 2.0 compared to 1.7 last year. After staying at the bottom of the list for 5 successive years from 2001-2005, in 2006 Bangladesh has been ranked 3rd from below together with Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Guinea who have scored same points. Bangladesh appears ahead of 4 others of this group, because countries having same scores are listed in alphabetical order. In the same manner, while Haiti has been ranked at the bottom of the list scoring 1.8, Myanmar, Iraq and Guinea have jointly occupied the second position from below having scored 1.9. Finland, Iceland and New Zealand share the top position with the score of 9.6. The highest ranking Asian country is Singapore with a score of 9.4.

According to TI, the fact that Bangladesh no longer occupies last place in the table is attributable more to the poorer performance of several other countries than to a drop in corruption levels in Bangladesh as such. In fact, among Asian countries Bangladesh has been mentioned together with Myanmar and Cambodia where the lack of political will to strengthen anti-corruption institutions has perpetuated rampant corruption, undermining improvements in quality of life for the poorest citizens.

The CPI ranks countries annually in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. It is a composite index prepared through a poll of polls - using corruption-related data from a number of expert surveys involving business leaders and analysts. It also includes assessments of country experts living within and outside the country concerned.

The 2006 index is the result of 12 such surveys conducted by nine internationally reputed independent institutions. The CPI 2006 is drawn on about 12 different polls and surveys conducted by several reputed independent institutions. In case of Bangladesh, sources of data for the CPI 2006 are six surveys conducted by five organizations: Country Policy and Institutional Assessment 2005 by the World Bank, which is a new source of CPI data; Country Risk Service and Country Forecast 2006 by Economist Intelligence Unit; Grey Area Dynamics 2006 by Merchant International Group; Global Competitiveness Report of 2005 and 2006 by World Economic Forum; and Risk Ratings 2006 by the World Markets Research Centre.

While ranking of countries enables TI to build an index, a country's score is a much more important indication of the perceived level of corruption in a country. A country's rank can change simply because new countries enter the index or others drop out. This year 5 countries have been dropped while 9 new countries have entered the list. Accordingly, comparisons to the results from previous years should be based on a country's score, not its rank, which in case of Bangladesh continues to be among the lowest, inspite of a marginal increase at about the same rate as last several years.

Seventy-one countries out of the 163 - nearly half – have score below 3, indicating that worldwide corruption is perceived as rampant. A strong correlation between corruption and poverty is evident in the results of the CPI 2006. Almost three-quarters of the countries in the CPI score below 5 points (including all low-income countries and all but two African states) indicating that the higher the prevalence of corruption, the higher is the extent of poverty and underdevelopment.

Among South Asian neighbours Pakistan has been ranked 142nd with a score of 2.2, Nepal 121st with 2.5, Sri Lanka 84th with 3.1, and India 70th with 3.3. Included in the list for the first time, Bhutan has secured 32nd position with a high score of 6.

While the industrialized countries continue to score relatively high on the CPI 2006, major corruption scandals remain in many of them. Although corruption in developed countries may have less of an impact on poverty and development than in developing countries, these scandals demonstrate that there is no room for complacency in the developed world also.

It should be emphasized that TIB has no role in CPI. TI secretariat in Berlin prepares this ranking. TIB, like any other National Chapter of TI, is not involved nor does it provide any information that goes into the index. While TIB has its own anti-corruption research, advocacy and citizens' participation programmes in Bangladesh, as the national chapter of TI in Bangladesh TIB's responsibility as far as CPI goes, is no more than facilitating its release when the report is available.

For more information on the CPI, its methodology and related matters, please visit

www.transparency.org