Special Issue 2006

Invincible Youth Shall Resist Corruption

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The quest to achieve the seemingly unachievable is an inherent characteristic of the youth. The youthful creativity and fearlessness is the source of life’s joy and fulfilment. The youth is always vocal against all irregularities in the social and state structures. They take the lead in singing the song of freedom by tearing apart the shackles of injustice, oppression and subjugation.

The history of Bangladesh is replete with evidences of youth glory. The students and young generation have always been fearlessly at the forefront of almost all our historic movements and achievements – the language movement of 1948-1952, the education movement of 1962, the mass upsurge of 1969 leading to the liberation war and national independence in 1971. The realization of independence at the cost of millions of lives in which the youth took the lead set a unique example in the history of the world. The mass upsurge of 1990 against the authoritarian rule was yet another example of the victory of the youth against misrule, abuse of power and denial or democratic rights.

The invincible youths of this land have repeatedly proved that the people, who are the ultimate source of power, never conceded defeat; and that they never will.

This achievement of the people of Bangladesh and the glory of self-sacrifice of the youth are now challenged by the evil force of unabated corruption, which has been identified as the worst enemy of the democratic aspirations, good governance and social emancipation. Corruption stands as the biggest impediment against economic development, reduction of poverty, rule of law and social justice. Democratic institutions and the national integrity system have been rendered ineffective due to corrupt practices of people in positions of power.

Against this backdrop the social movement against corruption launched by Transparency International Bangladesh is aimed at creating the demand for controlling corruption by engaging the citizens at large, with a particular emphasis on the youth force.

The Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) have been established in 36 locations of the country. These CCCs are working on a fully voluntary basis to create and intensify the demand locally as well as nationally. Working with each of these CCCs are groups of young volunteers and theatre activists with an unwavering determination to curb corruption. They are mobilizing themselves to reject corruption on their own, and to motivate others to do the same. Many positive examples of change have already been set at local levels thanks to innovative actions by the young volunteers.

The youth of the country involved with TIB have also expressed their resolve to fight corruption through various programs at the national level. The year 2006 witnessed particularly intense efforts to sensitize and mobilize the youth through events like anti-corruption debates and essay competitions. Highlights of these programs were the first ever cartoon competition and anti-corruption concert organized to mark the International Anti-corruption Day 2006.

All these programs at national and local levels have been dovetailed into YES - the Youth Engagement and Support program. The main objective of this program is to generate awareness among the youth and motivate them to prepare themselves as future leaders of the country who will be imbied with anti-corruption commitment and values. Anti-corruption oath-taking and signature campaign are key features of all activities under YES which is being joined by more and more youth and students day by day.

Inspired by deep sense of patriotism and core values of democracy, the YES participants of TIB have pledged to build a corruption-free Bangladesh where a transparent and accountable system of governance will take deeper roots. All these are anchored on their uncompromising pledge to hate corruption and refrain from all types of manifestations thereof.

The young are selfless and courageous; they are ever ready to challenge any social menace. Corruption is just one such evil. Whatever monstrous its strength may appear to be, corruption is bound to be defeated by the unselfish and valiant power of the youth, particularly when they are united and committed.

The young generation of Bangladesh is gradually becoming organized and saying NO to corruption. Thanks to their resolve, dynamism and innovation, the invincible youth will certainly resist corruption.
The first ever anti-corruption concert in Bangladesh as well as in this type in the world was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 29 December 2006. Organized by TIB, the concert was the talk of the country for the youths during the last 10 days of the month. The artists who took part in the concert were unanimous in claiming that such a big concert had not taken place in this country in the recent years. Most of the spectators at the concert said that the passion shown would certainly motivate the youth to become active against corruption.

TIB organized this concert as part of the YES Program to generate enthusiasm against corruption among the youth. Around 30 thousand young boys and girls were vocal on the day with the slogan ‘Invincible Youth shall Resist Corruption’. Azam Khan, LRB, Miles, Renaissance, Souls, Feedback, Warfaze, Dalchut, Black, Artcell, Pentagon, Shironamhin, Meghdal, Arthoheen, Haider, Shahed, Fahmida Nabi, Mehreen, Rab Fakir, Shahjahan Munshi, Aklima, Anti-corruption Gombhira Group of Chapainawabganj and the Volunteers’ Group of CCC-Chokoria expressed solidarity to resist corruption with the youth through their musical rhythm. Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Professor Muzaffer Ahmad also expressed their solidarity with the youthful stand against corruption.

Although the concert was scheduled to start at 2 p.m, enthusiastic youth were seen queuing up at Gulshan Youth Club from 12 noon. The Executive Director of TIB, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman declared the concert open right on time. Immediately after that, the plucking of guitar could be heard from a 100 thousand watt sound-system. At the same time, the melody of joy reverberated in the minds of the audience. The presenters Sharmin Lucky and Aditya Kabir first announced the appearance of ‘Souls’ on the stage. The group started with their anti-corruption song ‘Jhut Jhamela’ after urging everybody to rise up against corruption.

After that, ‘Feedback’ and ‘Renaissance’ came on the stage. Both each bands delivered two songs and expressed their solidarity. By then, the concert ground was full to the brim. The whole area was agog with the noise of clapping and the joy of youthfulness. Then arrived Azam Khan and ‘LRB’. After Azam Khan’s song ‘Bangladesh’ was over, Ayub Bachchu started to sing after urging everybody to become vocal against corruption. The young spectators also joined their
favourite singer in a youthful chorus. Towards the end of the
day, the stage was illuminated with dazzling lights. The artistes
delivered their popular songs one by one. Those were either
patriotic songs, or spoke against corruption and irregularities.
The concert came to life with a combination of rock, hard rock,
fusion and folk songs. The youths
made conscious utterances about their
duties and responsibilities while
enjoying this exquisite musical
evening of winter. Popular personality
and litterateur Zafar Iqbal appeared on
the stage. The young spectators were
thrilled at finding this popular
personality in front. Addressing the
youths, he said, the freedom fighters
who liberated the country in 1971 had
pledged that there would be no
corruption in this beautiful land. It is
now the responsibility of today’s youth
to transform this country into that land
of freedom fighters. At his beckoning,
the youth made resolute articulations
against corruption. In between the
songs, the chairman of TIB Board of
Trustees Professor Muzaffer Ahmad
came on the stage. He said that
corruption could not be eradicated
from this country if our youth did not
learn to say ‘no’ to corruption, compromised with it or did not remain
pledge-bound to make sacrifices for its
eradication. Arriving on the stage, member of the TIB Trustee
Board Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, “I have entered like a demon
amidst this music”. But when he urged the youth to shun
corruption interspersed with stories, the spectators listened to
him avidly. He said that people should at least protest if they
did not have the courage to take up the sword against
corruption; if they lacked even this
courage, then they should hate it
from the depths of their mind. Nobel
Laureate Professor Muhammad
Yunus expressed his desire to come
to the concert. But he could not do
so as he was in Oslo at that time.
But he sent his speech in a video for
the youths. His speech for the youth
came with his smiling face in the
huge projector screen. He said,
there is a huge demon standing
before Bangladesh today; the name
of that beast is corruption. This
demon must be traced out and
resistance must be built up against
it. The youth must be activated for
the purpose, so that it could be
eliminated and Bangladesh could
move rapidly.
All present in the
concert became conscious about
their responsibilities in the midst of
songs and joy.
When finally the moment of
departure arrived following the
songs of Miles, the time was 10 p.m. There were signs of
satisfaction in the faces and eyes of the audience and an

There have been many changes in Bangladesh. Many things like communication system, economic growth have made substantial advances. More progress could be achieved. But a huge demon stands before us on this path of advancement. Called corruption, this demon wants to devour everything. But it must be stopped. It is young people like you who can stop it. We all have to disapprove of it collectively. If we do not protest, then corruption will continue to rise.
You all have to raise your voice and become active for uprooting corruption. If you do that, then we can get rid of it and make rapid advances. This responsibility now lies in your hands. It is you who can defeat this demon. We shall then be able to forge ahead and remain proud of this country.

-Excerpts from the speech delivered by Dr. Muhammad Yunus through a video clip during the concert.
irrepressible desire to conquer corruption in their minds. Shuvo, a student of Dhaka University said, I shall never tolerate corruption after spending such an evening. Shahana Sultana, a young professional working at a private organization said, the youth must come forward if corruption is to be eradicated from Bangladesh. That is why concerts for young people like this are very timely. Sayeed Ahmad, a student of a private university, said that the concert would certainly enthuse the youth against corruption.

There was much hullabaloo on the day following the concert. All national dailies published news items on the concert. Before that, the concert received wide coverage in the electronic media. Channel-I telecast the event live in the evening. The internet service providers Onirban broadcast the concert live. The concert made an impact internationally as well because of the huge coverage it received in the mass media. Transparency International published a report on the concert on its web-site. TI has already shown interest to use it as a communication tool. The World Bank has also published the news in their web-site. More than 100 thousand people watched the concert in the web-site of Onirban. Some television channels of the country showed interest to broadcast the concert in two or three parts.

Preparations for this gigantic program started a few months earlier. An advisory committee and a preparatory committee were formed for the purpose. The advisory committee included: Iftekharuzzaman, Sara Zaker, Tariq Anam Khan, Zulfiqar Ahmed, Aminur Rashid, Nakib Khan, Fuad Naser Babu, Ayub Bachchu, Hamin Ahmed, Abidur Reza Jewel, A K M Zakaria et al. The preparatory committee comprised of Sharmin Lucky, Nurul Momen Sohel, A K Reza Ghalib, Munir Chowdhury, Shahed, Mithu Rahman, Ershadul Haque Tinku, Aditya Kabir, Muhammad Sajjad Husein et al. Arrangements were made to send 25,000 tickets to the youth in accordance with the decision of the two committees. News of the concert was publicised through a press conference at the National Press Club on 26 December.

A few organizations acted as associates for extending cooperation to the holding of the concert in different ways. These were: Daily Prothom Alo, the Daily Star, television channel Bangla-Vision, Channel-I, Radio Foorti and Radio Today. The radio stations started promotional broadcast on the concert a few days in advance. Channel-I telecast a round-table discussion programme on the event on 27 December. The president of Bangladesh Music Association (BAMBA) and a member of Miles band Hamin Ahmed, artiste and programme moderator Abidur Reza Jewel, model Sharmin Lucky, vocal of Renaissance Nakib Khan and TIB staff Sajjad Husse in participated in it. The Daily Star and Prothom Alo published 8-column inch advertisements on the concert free of charge for a few days.

None of the bands or artistes who participated in the concert took fee. This is the first time that the artistes have demonstrated their united stance against corruption. The vocal of Souls band said, "We have not participated in this concert merely for singing. It is actually an expression of our stand against corruption as well as responsibility for the country". This feeling and sense of responsibility for the country will carry forward the social movement against corruption.
Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition

Statements like ‘Corruption should be curbed right now’ or ‘Kill the demon of corruption’ are not the demands of any particular party engaged in transforming society; neither are the pledges made in the election manifesto of politicians. These are the demands made by the creative minds of some youth, expressed with the aid of colors and brushes. Alongside portraying the irregularities and corruption taking place all around, a strong determination to tackle these situation have also been found place in the tip of their paint-brushes. The magic of brushes have projected each of their creations as a demand, a demand which seeks to build a good-governed society by breaking the vicious cycle of corruption.

The demands of these youths were depicted in various cartoons drawn by them. A firm resolve to overcome the all-pervasive corruption in the country has been expressed in the cartoons drawn by these young cartoonists who participated in the anti-corruption cartoon competition organized by TIB. TIB sponsored this competition for the first time alongside other contests to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day 2006.

There were two groups in the competition; contestants in group A were between 13 and 18 years of age while those in group B were between 19 and 35 years. A total of 316 cartoons were submitted by 150 cartoonists in both the groups. Six competitors from the two groups receiving highest marks were awarded prizes. Thirteen year-old Md. Mahdeenur Rahman of Khagrachori received first prize in group-A while Sumon Wahed of Dhaka received first prize in group-B. The panel of judges who selected the winners included eminent artists of the country like Mustafa Monwar, Rafiun Nabi, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Ahsan Habib and Shahrir Khan. Cartoonists from both within and outside Bangladesh participated in the contest.

An exhibition titled ‘Cartoons against corruption’ was organized at Drik Gallery of Dhanmondi from 7 to 10 December with 60 special mentioned cartoons from the competition including those awarded prizes. This exhibition generated much enthusiasm among the public. It was quite evident from the crowds at the exhibition and their comments in the book and canvas of opinions that the common people want to get rid of corruption; they were in search of a normal, stable and secure life. Some of those comments are given below:

- I am free of corruption, but my uncle is not. I have to move around and eat with him. I never had the courage to tell him that he should not engage in corruption. He has retired. Now he does not indulge in corruption. But the house he lives in now was built with the money he received as bribes. I sleep in that house. I do not have any other place to go. The open sky is my only other option. I am thinking of seeking that path after your exhibition today. .....Anamika

- Alongside others I also demand, corruption should be eliminated on principle. .....Baveerah

- The corrupt should be identified and they should be socially boycotted; their family identity should be disclosed, the electronic media should present features of actual happenings; above all, they should be expelled from society by taking recourse to various innovative ideas. .....Tanvir Nabi

- The place of corruption should be in the museum of rare items. And your place should be in all exhibitions. .....Klanto Pathik

- C stands for corruption, R stands for reduce. .....Saju Faridi

TIB has been organised for the first ever Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day 2006. After that, an exhibition titled Cartoon Against Corruption was held on 7-10 December under the aegis of TIB. Award winning and special mentioned 60 cartoons were in the exhibition. Visitors wrote their remarks on book and canvas. From those, some remarks are placed below.
• Initiatives should now be taken to display the cartoons at the airport, WASA, in front of electricity and gas offices, and inside the secretariat. .....Khaja Zia
• Let the process of cornering corruption start in this manner. ....Aurangazeb
• Each picture seemed to me like a slogan – which reverberated unconsciously within my mind; come, our pledge should be a new year free from corruption. ....Shamim
• Excellent arrangement, but something remains to be said despite that. It is a country, the majority of whose citizenry do not come to know before their death that ‘they were human beings’. The sinking of that country in corruption is only natural. So, people have to be aroused. No, not of this size, the arrangement should be more massive. ....Noman Sarkar
• Just as we had achieved independence collectively, now we all should become vocal against corruption. ....Waliullah Khan (Hadi)
• Very bold and thought-provocating. At the same time, the combinations expressed humour and reality in a masterful way. ....Tulu
• I draw cartoons on corruption so that I do not have to draw such things in the future. Because I am honest not because I lack opportunities. ....Mamun
• Let another liberation war begin today. And this war is for building a corruption-free Bangladesh. ....Md. Anwarul Kaiser
• We want corruption-free humans and a corruption-free society. ....Tanmoy
• Arouse your conscience, say ‘no’ to corruption. ....Moinul
• If everybody understands as much, they will maintain morality till the end of their lives; it would then be possible to curb corruption overall. ....Shoaib
• Our youths would certainly not misspell ‘corruption’. ....Rupa
• Uproot the poisonous teeth of corruption. ....Yousuf
• Corruption will be stopped, through our awareness and activities. .....Mithu
• I strongly believe that the success of this competition will encourage the anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh. ....Iftekharuzzaman
• TIB should spread throughout Bangladesh this extraordinary awakening on curbing corruption. ...Neena
• The exhibition has become confined within four walls, the arrangement is noble, but justification would increase if displayed before the general masses below the open sky. TIB can hold this exhibition in all the districts. Let the expectation spread to all corners of Bangladesh by crossing the four walls with its spirit of struggle. ...Baul Mizan
• Corruption is not good; I do not indulge in corruption. ...Priyoti

Some more comments by those who do not want to be named:
• There should not be any dissenting view on the subject of corruption, everybody should have consensus. Stop corruption, right now.
• The awareness that the corrupt should be buried in mass graves is needed. Whatever medium may have been used, the beginning is great.
• Let us fight against corruption & build a new Bangladesh having no corruption. Thanks for this kind of inspiring exhibition. We need to protect from corrupted society, for our own betterment.
• I have seen cartoons beforehand, but possibly the first time, the simultaneous wailings of so many people. All cartoons seem to be crying – corruption must be stopped – right now.
• People thought, people feel, stop corruption, the real thrill.
• It would have been even better if the anti-corruption cartoon exhibition was held at the headquarters of our politics.
• So be it, listen all people, let corruption go, far away, far away. ...

▲▲ Visitors at cartoon exhibition
▲▲ Visitor wrote remarks on canvas
Parliamentary Style Debate Competition:
Setting an example for establishing an effective and active Parliament

One of the participants in the 'Anti-corruption Parliamentary Style Debate Competition' put forward the following argument for making the Bangladesh Parliament effective in line with the expectations of the people: Article 70(1) of the Constitution, which says, "A person elected as a member of Parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he resigns from that party or votes in Parliament against that party", should be replaced by "It will be possible to establish a representative and effective parliament if an environment is created for free expression of opinion and the parliament can be used for law-making and public welfare".

The debaters of the Mock parliament kept the sessions alive with lively debates on themes like "framing of code of conduct for parliamentarians was essential, which would incorporate the provision of compulsory presence of MPs in parliament sessions" or, "it was possible to ensure an effective parliament and presence of parliamentarians through election of honest candidates" or, "who shoulders the principal responsibility for establishing good governance and combating corruption – the legislature, the executive or the judiciary?" These are seldom heard in today’s parliament. TIB organized this competition for the first time for the students of colleges and universities with the slogan ‘Invincible youths shall resist corruption’ on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2006. After the extempore debating contest held at East West University and North South University on 29 November, the Mock-parliament debate competition was held at Mohakhali’s BRAC Centre Inn on 30 November. Moshfeka Karim, a student of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, was adjudged the champion in this competition. Besides, Manzur-ul-Mat in of Dhaka University became first runner-up while Kazi Tiuni Binte Zinnat of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College became second runner-up.

TIB organised this event mainly to set an example on what should be the role of the parliamentarians and how they can function to make the parliament effective and active. Thirty best debaters selected among five groups of participants in the extempore debate competition held on 29 November participated in the first session of the mock parliament, which sat on 30 November. The bill providing for compulsory attendance of MPs in parliament sessions was placed as a proposal in this session. The second session showcased the best 10 debaters from the first session, where a bill on 'the parliament has the main responsibility for establishing good governance and combating corruption' was placed.

All the topics in the extempore debate competition as well as the bills for the mock-parliament revolved around various perspectives of establishing an effective parliament. The arguments were put forward not merely for the sake of argument, the young debaters of the competition also put forward a number of recommendations for making the Jatiya Sangsad effective. Notable among these recommendations were neutral role of the Speaker, active participation of MPs in the deliberations of parliament, the need for parliamentarians to be educated, honest and patriotic, the parliamentarians’ accountability to their constituents, amendment to Article 70(1) of the Constitution, need for parliamentarians to have a grasp of the Constitution as well as laws and above all, remaining respectful to rule of law.

The Chairman of TIB Board of Trustees Professor Muzaffer Ahmad distributed prizes among the winners at the end of the competition. The Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman and Professor Arifa Rahman of East West University were present among others on the occasion. Professor Muzaffer Ahmad said that it was possible to tackle corruption and establish good governance only through an effective parliament. The people expect an effective parliament in future. It is mainly the responsibility of the political parties to ensure that. If they nominate honest and qualified candidates, then it becomes easier for the people to elect the right candidate. He urged the youth to work for creating public opinion against corruption from now on. In his concluding speech, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman placed emphasis on involving the young debaters in various programs in order to build a corruption-free society in the future.

Dr. Asif Nazrul of Law of Dhaka University played the role of Speaker in this anti-corruption debate competition of mock-parliament. The judges included journalists Ajay Das Gupta and AKM Zakaria, Advocate Elina Khan, Dhaka University teachers Khademul Haque Sumon, Nazmuzzaman Bhuiyan and Meher Nigar, Rajshahi University teacher Hasibur Alam Prodhan, TIB official Tarvir Mahmud, former debaters Nawaz Khaled, Nazmul Huda Sumon and Mahmud Alam Bappi.

![A part of debaters with Speaker & Judges of the competition](image1)

![Debaters of Parliamentary Style Debate Competition](image2)
Anti-Corruption Essay Competition:
To Build a Corruption-Free, Taintless and Well-Governed Country Urged

As in previous years, TIB organized an essay competition this year as well on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2006. Over 200 students from various schools, colleges and universities of the country participated in it. Nasrin Nahar Urmī, a student of Brammandi Secondary Girls School of Narsingdi occupied first position in group-A, the second position was occupied jointly by Marfia Afroz Sonia of Bajitpur Razzakunnesa Pilot Girls High School, Kishorganj and Afsarrah Zahir Suravi of Bhairab MP Pilot Girls High School, and the third position went to Md. Sazzad Mahamud of Chandpur Shahristi Model School. In group-B, Sanjida Erfan of Dhaka’s Holy Cross College stood first, Md. Atiquel Islam Tonmoy of Mirzapur Cadet College, Tangail, stood second while Sharmin Sobhan of Dhaka’s Viqarunnisa Noon School and College stood third. In group-C, MM Aorangajeb Al Hossain of Sir Salimullah Medical College occupied first position, Natasha Israt Kabir of Jahangirnagar University and Tanvir Ahmed Bhuiyan of Chittagong University occupied second position jointly and a student of Rajshahi University Md. Arafat Ali Siddique occupied third position. The winners were awarded prizes at an unostentatious ceremony held on 9 December on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day.

Permission will not be required in India for filing corruption cases
Corruption cases can now be lodged directly against public representatives like ministers, MPs and other legislators. No government permission would be required for the purpose. This historic verdict was delivered by the Indian Supreme Court on 6 December 2006. The railway minister Laluprasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi and former chief minister of Punjdb Prakash Singh Badal had filed petitions against the lodging of corruption cases against them. But the Supreme Court dismissed those petitions. The court said, there was no need for seeking advance permission according to section 197 of the Indian penal code.

Source: JaiJaiDin, 8 December 2006

Some comments of participating debaters in the anti-corruption debate contest of shadow parliament
“The rule on vacation of seats of parliament members after consecutive 90 days’ absence should be reduced and they should also discharge their responsibilities as public representatives properly, whatever their professions might be.”

“It should be publicised that quorum-less bills were not legal. The members of parliament from the treasury and the opposition can make the parliament effective through logical and welfare-oriented discussions by remaining present in parliament”.

“The parliamentarians should refrain from various tasks at local level and attach priority to their legislative works”.

“When an ordinary man cleans the garbage lying on the road, it is because of his consciousness. But when a cleaning-staff does that, it is definitely his duty. Similarly, when an ordinary man elects a member of parliament, he can project the demands of the people and that is certainly his responsibility”.

“The parliament members have the principal responsibility of combating corruption and establishing good governance in the country for overall national development; and it is the accountability of parliament members which can rid the nation of corruption”.

Source: Daily Prothom Alo, 21 November 2006

“Bangladesh’s changed ranking does not imply that corruption has declined in this country. Rather, this ranking was possible due to weaker scores by other countries”.
- Professor Muzafzor Ahmad, while responding to a question put forward by a journalist on the occasion of the release of CPI Report.

Source: JaiJaiDin, 8 November 2006

“Corruption is often highlighted in the reports of Transparency International Bangladesh or TIB. It shows that the amount of corruption from 3,293 scanned reports of the year 2000 was Taka 17 thousand 192 crore. According to TIB, this amount was Taka 526 crore in 2005. However, this is also not acceptable, despite it being much less than during the previous government.”
- Former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, while speaking on corruption in her address to the nation.

Source: The Daily Star, 28 October 2006

“In the past, the schools were kutcha but the teachers were pucca. Now, the schools are pucca, but there are no good teachers”.
- Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, at the annual publication ceremony of the World Bank.

Source: Daily Prothom Alo, 21 November 2006
Diagnostic Study Report Released on
Election Commission, Passport Service and Dhaka Medical College Hospital

TIB has recently released Diagnostic study Report on Election Commission, Passport Service and Dhaka Medical College Hospital. It is reflected in the reports that these institutions could not play their role effectively. To release these reports TIB has arranged three separate round table discussions. Held at different places in Dhaka, peoples from variers walks of lives attended in the programs

Election Commission: Credibility at Stake

Discussants at a roundtable expressed that the Election Commission (EC) of Bangladesh cannot play its role independently, neutrally and effectively as expected, although it is established as a constitutional body. The credibility and acceptability of the EC is questioned due to its dependence on the Ministry of Finance for funding, failure to implement electoral laws properly, institutional limitations, irregularities, and corruption. Further they discussed that it is necessary to do required amendments in the Constitution on the basis of a consensus of all political parties to make the Commission neutral and effective. The above discussion took place at the roundtable titled Election Commission: Expectations, Achievements and Actions to be Taken held at the BRAC Center Inn on 8 November 2006, on the occasion of releasing a report on the EC. TIB conducted this study to identify the capacity and limitations of the Commission and to offer a set of recommendations for an effective EC.

Shahzada M Akram and Shadhan Kumar Das jointly presented the report at the roundtable chaired by Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, a TIB Trustee, Professor Muzaffar Ahmad, Chairman of TIB, Dr. I f t e k h a r u z z a m a n , Executive Director, Justice M A Rouf, former Chief Election Commissioner, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Colonel (rtd.) Faruq Khan, Abdur Razzak, former MPs, Qarar Mahmudul Hasan, former Secretary to the government, Professor Abu Ahmed and Dr. Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University, Dr. Badiul Alam Majumder of Shujan, Dr. Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah of JANIPOP, and Munira Khan of FEMA participated in the discussion.

The discussants stated that a flawed voter list is one of the key factors of corruption in the election. However, the EC failed to come up with a flawless voter list in the last decades. They further informed that people have no faith on the EC, as a result of rampant corruption and irregularities there. Despite the fact that the EC is an independent constitutional body and has its own rules and regulations, it does not have its own secretariat, authority of recruitment and suspension of its officials, financial independence, control over political parties and resolving the electoral disputes. In spite of being a constitutional institution it is still under the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). The EC is dependent on the Ministry of Finance for its budget allocation. Besides, there are allegations of irregularities and corruption while implementing some of its projects. It could not complete its voter ID card project undertaken in 1995, involving Tk 180 crore, because of corruption.

Preparation of voter roll, conduct of election and demarcation of the constituency are the major responsibilities of the EC. Fresh voter registrations were prepared before every national election since independence. However, according to former Election Commissioners, EC officials and the US based National Democratic Institute and European Union, fake voters exist in the present voter roll. The EC does not take any initiative with regard to demarcation of electoral constituencies, although according to law it should be done after every national census. As a result, the number of voters varies drastically from one constituency to another.

The study revealed that the EC is regularly breaching the laws with regard to preparing and updating of voter roll, re-demarcating electoral boundary, providing ID card, collecting and disseminating information of the contesting candidates, taking action against candidates and political parties who violate electoral code of conduct and fail to submit electoral expenditure, implementing promotion and transfer at the EC secretariat and so on. There is no accountability measure for the Election Commissioners and other EC officials in the existing laws. The Commission failed to impose the laws although it has enough power to punish them who violated electoral laws and code of conduct.
The code of conduct is not properly followed although the political parties and the candidates have to comply with its rules, prepared by the Commission in 1996. Although the EC is responsible for the implementation of electoral laws, it has not filed any cases against any candidate for breaking such laws. Usually ministers and MPs of the ruling parties furnish many promises in support of their party candidates and use government offices or establishment, which is a direct violation of code of conduct.

The Commission has failed to make the major political parties register with the EC. It cannot uphold its neutrality due to arbitrary decisions from the government, politicisation of the Caretaker Government, and planned shuffling in the administration. The opposition parties reject the appointments of the Election Commissioners as the President based on advice from the Prime Minister appoints them. The PM represents a political party, and the appointments are often given on political considerations. Moreover, the EC Secretariat is under total control of the PMO since 1991, even after the restoration of democracy in 1990.

It is necessary to ensure accountability to make an independent, active and powerful EC. To make the Commission effective, TIB believes that the concerned parliamentary standing committee should make appointments of the Commissioners. The government should take initiative to strengthen the EC, ensure its financial independence, and separate the secretariat from the government. In addition, the Commission can play a more active and effective role if the registration of political parties is made mandatory.

### Passport Delivery Service:
The Police, Brokers, and a Section of Passport Officials Grab Tk 21 crore in a Year

The passport seekers have to face harassment regularly due to rampant corruption and irregularities in the passport delivery service. Police, brokers, and a section of passport officials illegally collect Tk 21 crore in a year from passport receivers of Dhaka Regional Passport Office. Out of this amount, Tk 13.81 crore is shared by the brokers and passport officials and the remaining Tk 7.02 crore is collected by Special Branch police. TIB feels that increment in budget allocation for institutional capacity building, intensive reform measures, and establishment of accountability and transparency are imperative to prevent harassment and fraudulent practices in the passport delivery service. The discussants expressed that obtaining a passport is a citizen’s right. They questioned how this right can be upheld if numerous problems prevail in the existing service. They further urged the government to simplify the present service by removing all barriers, and to upload all information with regard to the application procedure on the website.

The above were shared in a roundtable discussion on Corruption and Harassment in Passport Delivery Service: Possible Way-outs. The roundtable was held in Dhaka on 14 October 2006 on the occasion of the release of a diagnostic study on the passport delivery service. TIB conducted this study to find out the extent of corruption in the existing passport delivery service and avenues to improve this service.

The research report was presented by Md. Waheed Alam and Md. Shahnur Rahman. The session was presided over by Prof. Mozaffar Ahmad. M. Hafizuddin Khan, Prof. C R Abrar of Dhaka University, Mohaimen Salah, President of ATAB, Ali Haider Chowdhury, General Secretary of BAIRA, Masudul Haq, former AIG, Sumaiya Islam, a woman migrant worker activist, and a section of civil society members also took part in the discussion.

The research shows that the dishonest officials of Dhaka passport office receive Tk 7 crore and 49 lac in a year from the brokers. The SB police get a share from this amount, while the remaining amount is distributed among dishonest officials and employees of passport department. Eventually the brokers manage to retain Tk 6 crore 32 lac in their pocket. The brokers have formed ‘Passport Application (Dolil) Writers’ Association’ to protect their interests. Brokers have to pay a regular subscription to this association ranging from Tk 500 to 1,000. Different interest groups including local police station and Detective Branch (DB) police receive a share from it. It was found that in Dhaka office 33.3% of the passports are processed through the assistance from brokers and travel agencies. The applicants have to pay them on average Tk 930 for receiving passport with their assistance. Two-thirds of approximately Tk 14 crore that the brokers receive from ordinary passport receivers goes to the passport officials and SB police. On the other hand, the SB police receive Tk 7 crore from the passport applicants under RPO Dhaka at the time of verification at household level.

As per rule, no passport is issued without physical police verification. The onus of this verification is assigned to SB police. According to TIB’s survey findings, 82.2% passport receivers had to face police verification - 60% among them had to pay bribe. It was found that among the applicants who obtained passports with the assistance of travel agencies and brokers, 34.6% and 51.7% of them respectively did not face police verification.

The government earned Tk 1,578 crore 74 lac as revenue from issuing 57 lac 23 thousand and five hundred passports between January 2001 and May 2006. However, budget
People who come to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment become victims of harassment and different types of irregularities and corruption. Negligence of duty-doctors, nurses and other staff, misbehaviour by hospital employees towards the patients, inadequate supply of medicine, low quality food supplied by the hospital authority, tips forcibly asked by fourth class staff, and activities of dalals are the major causes of dissatisfaction to the patients coming for treatment. TIB recommended for appointing an ombudsman for combating corruption and irregularities in the DMCH. These were discussed in a roundtable on Corruption and Irregularities in Dhaka Medical College Hospital: Measures of Way-out held in Dhaka on 19 October 2007. TIB conducted the study to reveal the nature of corruption and irregularities at the DMCH and to come up with recommendations to improve the quality of service. Professor Muzaffer Ahmed, chaired the roundtable. Taslima Akter and Shahidul Islam presented the research report.

The research showed that 31% of the patients taking the food provided by the hospital are not satisfied with the quality of food. Meals for 704 patients are misused everyday, which is worth Tk 1,15,63,200 every year. The study also revealed that 32% of the patients are bound to pay on average Tk 188 as bribe to the staff or dalal for getting hospital beds. Accordingly, the staff or dalals collect Tk 40,48,580 in a year from the patients.

The patients also become victims to financial hazard at every stage of service at this hospital. The fixed rate of admission form is Tk 5.50, but the patients are forced to pay on an average Tk 11.50, which amounts to Tk 4,02,926 in a year. It is found that 29% of the patients had to pay Tk 21 as bribe for receiving treatment at the outdoor. 31% of the patients sought assistance from the dalal at the outdoor and for this they gave Tk 96 on average. However, 37% of them did not get any support even though they paid money. 71% of the outdoor patients did not get appointment of doctor on time. 20% of the indoor patients alleged that the doctor did not visit them regularly. 43% of the outdoor patients expressed their dissatisfaction over the service of the hospital due to absence of doctors, carelessness in treatment, and presence of other people in the doctor’s room while getting treatment.

Dishonest staff of the hospital steals medicines as well as other materials supplied by the government for the patients. They sell it to different drug stores and diagnostic centres. The study revealed that 65% of the indoor and 68% of the outdoor patients got free medicines supplied by the hospital. 65% of indoor and 50% of outdoor patients, who were prescribed for diagnostic tests, informed that the concerned doctor referred them to specific diagnostic centres. Besides, each patient had to pay extra Tk 140 for diagnostic tests at the DMCH. The study also found that the dishonest staff of the hospital buys low quality blood from the professional blood donors who suffer from different diseases.

Corruption in terms of recruitment of employee in the hospital was also observed. It was found that 60% of the newly recruited employees paid bribe ranging from Tk 50 thousand to 2.5 lac for recruitment. It was further observed that transactions of bribe were also associated with getting allocation of hospital quarter. The amount of bribe for this purpose was from Tk 10 thousand to one lac.

TIB made a number of recommendations to curb corruption and irregularities and to improve qualities of service of DMCH. TIB suggested for appointing an ombudsman for DMCH. Other recommendations included increasing number of beds, setting up complaint boxes, forming an internal audit team, improving monitoring system with regard to the duties of doctors, nurses and other employees, setting up close circuit cameras in every ward, increasing supply of medical materials, increasing number of nurses and ensuring information flow for all.

M. Hafizuddin Khan and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman of TIB, Dr. Abdul Mannan, former MP, Dr. M. Sarwar, former General Secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association, Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury, Coordinator of Gonoshastha Kendra, Dr. Yasmin H. Ahmed, Managing Director of Marie Stopes Clinic, and Dr. Abdus Salam, Director of ICDDR,B participated in the roundtable.
The Berlin-based international anti-corruption organization, Transparency International (TI) released its annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2006 on November 6. 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. The report was released on 6 November at National Press Club through a press conference organized by TIB.

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 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 TII 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 – scored 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

### Table: Bangladesh’s comparison with 15 countries

#### South Asia

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<th>Country</th>
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<th>2002 (102 Countries)</th>
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* Not included in the index

▲ Comparative status of Bangladesh with 15 South & South-East Asian Countries

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The 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) urged youth and members of civil society to play active role against corruption. It was held in Guatemala City from 15 to 18 November 2006, with more than one thousand participants from over 100 countries. Chairman of the Board of Trustees Professor Muzaffar Ahmad, Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, represented TIB at the conference. The central issue of the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference was respect for the law.

The biennial Conference urged Chile to demonstrate its commitment to integrity and accept Peru’s extradition request of former Peruvian President, Alberto Fujimori. He is now in Chile. Extensive evidence justifies the international community’s insistence that Chile ensure that Fujimori answer the serious allegations of corruption and human rights violations leveled against him. “In speaking out on Nov. 17, the IACC has shown that it is a conference of action,” said the Honourable Justice Barry O’Keefe, Chairman of the IACC Council. “Chile must take advantage of this opportunity to protect its international credibility, which could be severely damaged if the extradition does not proceed quickly.” “Fujimori’s extradition will send an unequivocal signal that politicians will be held accountable for their actions,” O’Keefe said.

Dr. Ana Cecilia Magallanes Cortéz of Peru was awarded the 2006 Transparency International Integrity Award at the IACC’s opening ceremony. Dr. Magallanes, a fearless anti-corruption fighter, overcame enormous personal dangers to lead the force that successfully prosecuted 1,500 members of the criminal organization of General Vladimiro Montesinos, the collaborator of former President Alberto Fujimori.

The conference identified key challenges to the anti-corruption movement. There is a rising awareness of the threats to global security posed by extensive corruption in the arms trade. Abundant evidence shows that corruption undermines international humanitarian assistance efforts in major natural disasters, such as the Indian Ocean tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan. Hundreds of millions of people remain mired in poverty as the promises of many new governments to curb corruption fail to materialize.

The 12th IACC addressed ways to strengthen civil society – what has worked and what has failed - as well as lessons that will reenergise the fight to curb corruption.

A consistent theme of the conference's plenary sessions and workshops concerned practical actions to curb corruption. A constructive path lies in cooperation between the public and private sectors and civil society. The conference highlighted a broad range of issues where strengthening of initiatives is warranted. In many areas there is a pressing need for leadership by governments, business or civil society.
Millions of people around the world come face-to-face with corruption in their daily lives, and urgently want their government to take action to stop it. This is the resounding conclusion of Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer 2006, launched December 7, 2006.

The 2006 Barometer, a public opinion survey conducted for Transparency International by Gallup International, looks at the extent of corruption through the eyes of ordinary citizens around the world. It explores the issue of petty bribery in greater depth than ever before, highlighting people’s personal experience of bribery, and identifying the sectors most affected by corruption, its frequency, and how much people must pay. The fourth in an annual series, this year’s survey is based on a poll of nearly 60,000 people in 62 countries.

“This worldwide poll shows that corruption has a dramatic effect on the lives of individuals. Its power is enormous,” said Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International. “When basic services like electricity are denied to the poor because they cannot afford a small bribe, there is no light in the home, no warmth for the children and no escape for the government from its responsibility to take action.”

Political parties again seen as most corrupt
Ordinary citizens perceive political parties, on average, to be the institution most affected by corruption, followed by parliaments and legislatures and then by police. Police top the chart in respondents’ own experience of bribing, though the police are perceived as the fourth most corrupt institution.

“Bangladesh was not included in the survey, but its findings are very consistent with the challenges facing us too”, said Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB. “Of particular concern in the present context are the erosion of credibility of the key institutions of democracy, especially the political parties, and the parliament which has to a great extent failed to meet public expectation of its oversight function for ensuring accountability of the government”, he said.

Scepticism about government efforts
Most respondents have a poor opinion of their government’s anti-corruption efforts. Sixty nine percent say their government is not effective in fighting corruption, or that it makes no effort to fight it, or that it actually encourages corruption. Only 22 percent labelled their government’s actions “effective” or “very effective”.

Bribes for essential public services
The Barometer asked respondents about bribes they paid in conjunction with public services. The findings: bribes are most commonly paid around the world to police. In Latin America, for instance, about one in three respondents in contact with the police end up paying a bribe. This indicates that the gears of law enforcement have been jammed by corruption, with the judiciary ranked the third most corrupt institution.

Bribery for access to services is most common in many countries ranging from registrations and permits to basic utilities. Access to the latter being subject to unauthorized payments, increasing numbers of the poor are deprived of services like electricity.

Sectors and institutions most affected by corruption ( 1 - not all corrupt... 5 - extremely corrupt)
Advice & Information Desk
With the help of CCCs, TIB has been strengthening the anti-corruption movement at the grassroots level. Besides, TIB has also been helping general people by giving advice and information through AI Desks. Mainly, mass people comes to AI Desk seeking advices or suggestions on different issues i.e. land, health, education, family law, dowry system and enemy property act. But most of the cases it is not possible to give adequate assistance to the people who comes to AI Desk only by providing advice and information. Therefore, it is needed to provide all sorts of support. Relating this, the necessity has been revolving to build alliance with the same minded organizations. In this context, TIB has taken initiatives to work jointly with these organizations i.e. Nijera Kori, Samata, BLAST, Ain-O-Shalish Kendro (ASK), D.Net, ALRD, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, ADD and NFOWD.

Anti-corruption Cultural Alliance
TIB has formed ‘Anti-corruption Cultural Alliance’ with the local cultural groups in Jessore and Jhenaidah to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day. The aim of forming this alliance is to creating anti-corruption awareness and raising demand among mass people to root out the corruption from the society. The main objective of the alliance building is to spread out the movement throughout the country by engaging the cultural activists in the anti-corruption social movement. The activists had organized debate competition, rally, signature campaign and anti-corruption cultural program under the aegis of CCCs in both areas. People from different strata have enjoyed spontaneously the anti-corruption discussion program, song, poem, potgan and people’s theatre. Besides, with the same perspective, another alliance has built with Bidrohi Shishu Theatre in Panchagar. IACD has observed here by organizing anti-corruption cultural program, rally and debate competition. The stream video of anti-corruption rally is available on TIB’s web site www.transparency.org.

Forum of Television Producers’
TIB has organized a daylong workshop with the participation of program producers of electronic media on 23 October. The basic objective of the workshop was - how to address the corruption issue in different TV channels. After the program, a decision has been taken to form a Forum of TV Producers’ with the TV producers.

Anti-corruption Youth Concert
The first ever anti-corruption youth concert was held on 29 December in Dhaka. Organizing this concert Channel-i, Radio Foorti, Radio Today, Onirban Online, Prothom Alo, The Daily Star had worked with TIB as partner organizations. Alongside, few eminent personalities and a group of enthusiastic youth of our country had contributed in the concert for successful completion.

Anti-corruption Parliamentary Style Debate Competition :
Involving the youths in anti-corruption activities and raising anti-corruption attitude inside them, TIB has organized a two daylong Anti-corruption Parliamentary Style Debate Competition on 29-30 November to mark the International Anti-corruption Day. Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS), Ruqqyha Bitarka Angan, East West University and North South University were as partner organizations of this event. Besides, Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and private TV channel Bangla Vision were also as media partners.
TIB organized a seminar on ‘Parliamentary Supervision in Tackling Corruption’ at Dhanmondi WVA Auditorium on 9 December on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day. A number of politicians and MPs alongside people from various professions participated in this seminar.

The participants in the seminar took part in spontaneous discussions on how to make the parliament effective and active. Mentioning the present situation in parliament, the discussants pointed out that none of the committees formed in parliament has proved to be effective. The Speaker can play an important role in activating these committees. He should put pressure on those committees who are not playing any effective role to hold their slotted meetings. Commenting on corruption in the formation of parliament, they opined that corruption now become a deciding factor. But it is possible to curb corruption by not electing the criminals. Not only the politicians, the bureaucracy is also responsible for the incidence of corruption during elections. Consequently, the general populace should be made more conscious about electing transparent and honest candidates instead of blaming the politicians indiscriminately. It is the responsibility of the people to boycott the corrupt persons so that they are not nominated for election. This should find expression through ballots. Besides, the speakers expressed the opinion that changes should be brought about in the electoral system as well.

TIB put forward a number of recommendations for establishing an effective and dynamic parliament. These include:

- The political parties should have strong political commitment for making the parliamentary committees effective;
- If not during the first session, the parliamentary committees should be formed within the first three months of parliament.
- There should be strong political commitment of the political parties against boycott of parliamentary sessions, non-attendance and late-coming;
- An Ombudsman should be appointed immediately;
- A parliamentary code of conduct should be framed;
- No MPs should be made a member of any parliamentary committee if he did not provide a wealth statement;
- Article 70 of the Constitution should be reconsidered;
- Rule 188(2) should be followed strictly so that inclusion of any MP did not place in any parliamentary committee which gave rise to clash of interests;
- Budget preparation and utilization process should be made transparent and participatory so that wastage of government resources and funds could be checked;
- In addition, a separate committee should be formed for monitoring the activities of parliamentary committees.

Chaired by the chairman of TIB Board of Trustees Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, those present at the seminar included Alhaj Dr. Abdul Mannan, Lt. Col (Retd.) Muhammad Faruque Khan, Suranjit Sengupta, G.M. Quader, M Akbar Ali Khan, Mahbubur Rahman, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and the Treasurer of TIB Trustee Board M. Hafizuddin Khan. The keynote paper at the seminar was presented by Dr. Iftekharuzzaman. He was assisted by Fahreen Alamgir and Tanvir Mahmud. Prizes were distributed among the winners of essay and cartoon competitions arranged on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day towards the end of the programme.

**TV Talk-Show**

The Jatiya Sangsad is playing a less important role compared to the expectations of the people. According to the discussants who participated in the TV Talk-show ‘Grameen Phone Teleshomy’, the parliament could not be made effective because it failed to play its three basic roles: framing laws, representing the needs and demands of the people and ensuring the accountability of the government to the people. While discussing the effectiveness of parliament, they further said that the political parties could not practice democracy outside as they did not practice democracy within. There is an absence of democratic orientation among them as the members who come to parliament as representatives of the people lack educational qualification as well as merit. Besides, some parliamentarians resort to continuous boycott of parliament while others who attend do not play any effective role. The discussants also said that the members of the cabinet lacked the parliamentary spirit. On the other hand, the parliament cannot ensure accountability of the government to the people as the parliamentary committees are ineffective. Although there is a provision to constitute these committees during the first session of parliament, in practice that did not happen. Most of the committees did not submit their reports to the Speaker; even when they did, no discussions took place on them. Although there is a provision to select 50 percent of the committee chairmen, including the committee on public accounts, from among the opposition MPs, that was not followed in practice. The discussants put forward a number of recommendations for making the Jatiya Sangsad effective. Notable among these were: framing of parliamentary code of conduct, review of article 70 of the Constitution, practice of democracy inside the political parties, reduction of powers enjoyed by the ruling party and formation of a new structure for checking their misuse of power. Moderated by Muhammad Jahangir, those who participated in this programme telecast live by Channel-I on 29 December included Professor Imtiaz Ahmed of the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University, former Member of Parliament Major (retd.) Akhtaruzzaman and the TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman.
Begum Rokeya was the first Bangali woman who came forward to present before all the inherent rights of women, their feelings, status, traditions and restrictions imposed on them in a degenerated society. She had repeatedly highlighted the plight of women community in her priceless books, essays, poems, etc. Rokeya had written the essay ‘Women’s Rights’ just one day before her death.

Begum Rokeya could feel the pains of women almost 126 years ago. Begum Rokeya could observe the hindrances to women’s education from a close distance. Two of her own siblings used to study at Saint Xavier’s School of Kolkata, while she studied at home late at night with candle-light outside everybody’s view. But her tireless efforts did not go in vain. Today, the brightness of that pale light illuminates the starlit sky as well as the wider world.

Various positive steps are being taken in the world today for giving real shape to the slogan ‘Women’s empowerment is the basis of human rights’. We also do not lag behind. Notable programmes have also been undertaken in our country by attaching priority to women’s education. However, women lag behind their male counterparts in terms of average literacy rate on a nationwide basis. Although universal primary education has been made compulsory for all, the drop-out rate of girls is much higher compared to boys. This is because, although many facilities have been created for education of girls, not many guardians are aware of those. They also lack awareness as well as temperament to make good use of those facilities. On the other hand, a class of corrupt people take advantage of this situation. The desire for women’s empowerment is hindered as a result.

If the current status of the literacy rate of boys and girls above 15 years of age in South-east Asia region is reviewed, then it is found that the females are lagging behind in most instances. Depriving anybody of this right is violation of human rights. But because of corruption in some important sectors like education and health, the weaker, backward and under-privileged sections of society, especially women, are being routinely deprived of their legal rights. In our country, stipend programme for girls up to higher secondary level has been introduced to encourage women’s education. But even this stipend money does not reach them properly due to corruption. A class of greedy, conscienceless and corrupt humans siphons off slices even from this money. Another notable aspect is that, the incidence of corruption is less in those countries which show higher rates of women’s education. This has been supported by the Corruption Perceptions Index 2006 prepared by the Germany-based anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International.

According to available information, the rate of women’s literacy is least in Bangladesh whereas the incidence of corruption is most. This year, the position of Bangladesh is 3rd among the most corrupt countries of the world, out of 163 countries covered by the survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>National Literacy rate (%)</th>
<th>Literate women (%)</th>
<th>Literate men (%)</th>
<th>CPI Score (score of 0-10)</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rate of literacy and level of corruption

Nearly half of the population of this country are women. Knowing quite well that national development is not possible by excluding the women community, a class of power-hungry people are repeatedly making evil attempts to obstruct the flow of women’s advancement. Misuse of powers gives rise to proliferation of the dark hands of corruption; the injustices against women rise as a result, which repeatedly bring the women community to the path of movements. This movement is for realizing their rights, for achieving justice and for ensuring equality.

Transparency International Bangladesh and the Committees of Concerned Citizens are waging a social movement against corruption all over the country with the objective of reducing the impact of corruption at all strata of our national life. The females, males, children and youths of this country are all participating in this movement. The main goal of this movement is to groom honest and conscious citizens and establish good governance in all areas.

"Send your daughters to the working place after educating them properly; you will see that they themselves will meet their own needs for food and clothing". Begum Rokeya

This movement believes that the wheels of time do not remain static. Times will change, and the mentality and outlook of humans will also undergo transformation. The dreams of Begum Rokeya will continue to influence the perception, consciousness and intellect of people. Educated and creative citizens as well as a well-government society will ultimately emerge. We have to overcome all discriminations, superstitions and greed for power; the conscientious and responsible people of this country will have to carry forward this social movement for establishing a corruption-free society as dreamt by great sons and daughters of this soil like Begum Rokeya. Let this be our pledge on the occasion of Rokeya Day.

CCC Satkhira organised rally on Begum Rokeya Day
9th of December was the International Anti-Corruption Day. The day was observed in many countries of the world with widespread enthusiasm. With the spontaneous participation of the citizen TIB observed the day for the third time by taking up various programmes throughout the country. This year, the theme of the day was ‘Durjoy tarunna Durniti Rukhbey (invincible Youth shall resist corruption)’. On the occasion, various programmes including anti-corruption rallies, seminars, discussion meetings and cultural programmes were organized in Dhaka and at CCC areas. Remarkable programs including bellow which organized by CCC.

Chittagong Division: A colorful rally was brought out from in front of Chittagong CCC office and round through the city and terminated in front of CCC office under the aegis of CCC Chittagong on the occasion of Anti-Corruption Day. The rally led by the Convener of CCC-Chittagong Begum Mustari Shafi. Over Three hundred citizens belonging to various classes and professions participated in the Anti corruption rally at Potiya in the occasion of International Anti Corruption Day. The rally went round nearly four kilometers long roads of the town. Besides, a discussion meeting and ‘Kobi Gaan’ (folk song) held at the homestead of Shahid Minar.

Dhaka Division: On International Anti Corruption Day Various Programs held in Savar under the aegis of CCC Savar. The day performed Anti corruption song and Country song at five significant place of the town. It stimulated general people. With a Human chain, CCC Munshiganj started their day. After closing the human chain, a colorful rally went round important places of the town and terminated at homestead of Press club. After that, a discussion meeting held on purport of the Day. A signing campaign conducted by volunteer group to signing on UN Anti corruption convention. The newly formed CCC- Madaripur organized various programs on the day. Rally, Postering, Inter College poster painting competition, Debate competition, Recitation competition, Leaflet distribution and discussion on the day were remarkable. CCC Madaripur rewarded winners after competition. CCC Madhupur organized a rally and distributed sticker and leaflet. A discussion meeting held at Madhupur Government College after rally. Besides, Participation of the students of Government College in debate competition was remarkable. On International Anti Corruption Day a colorful rally participated by over two hundred people with various classes and professions organized by CCC Naitlabari was attracted very much local people.

Khulna Division: A colorful rally was round through the city under the aegis of CCC Bagerhat on Anti-Corruption Day. After rally, a Seminar held titled ‘The Roll of Civil Society to Stop Corruption’. The seminar chaired by Zahangir Ali Babu convener of CCC Bagerhat. Sticker and poster campaign held on eighth and ninth December by the volunteer group of Khulna on Anti Corruption Day. With full enthusiasm, Participant of the rally signed on the banner titled “Say No to Corruption” after went round of important spot of town. Local significant person participated Seminar and Open discussion meeting on the significance of the day organized by CCC. Volunteer group organized a theatre show. End of the day, Leaflet distributed in Discussion meeting on Rokeya Day. The programmes of International Anti Corruption Day of CCC Saktihira started with a rally. All participants signed on a white cloth in time of starting rally. After rally a human chain held jointly with CCC Rokeya day observe committee, Samata and Manabadhikar Bastobayon Songtha. On the evening Seminar, Discussion meeting and Prize giving ceremony of essay competition on Anti corruption day held at Auditorium of old lawyers association. On the occasion of Anti Corruption Day CCC Kustia organized a rally,
Discussion meeting and Cultural programme. Over two hundred local people and Volunteer group of CCC participated in rally and discussion meeting. Volunteer group of CCC Kustia conduct a signing campaign on extent support of signing on UN-Anti Corruption Convention around a week.

**Sylhet Division:** CCC Sylhet organized a discussion meeting and a colorful rally on the day. The rally went round important road of the town. Discussant of the meeting called government to activated Anti Corruption Commission and Signing on UN-Anti Corruption Convention. The meeting highlighted Begum Rokeya’s life full of activities by referring to Begum Rokeya Day. Besides, Information distributed by frees of cost through AI desk and held poster camping at various places of town on Anti Corruption Day. CCC Sreemongal observed Anti Corruption Day by various activities with full of inspiration and enthusiasm. Over three hundred local people participated in a rally at the beginning of the day. CCC members and the representatives of social organizations gave speech on the discussion meeting after rally.

Besides, the volunteer group takes oath to make example on anticorruption activities. Theatre group of CCC Sreemongal performed a theatre show “Jago manush” at station road. The show enjoys around 2500 people. Seventy-one students of school participated in art competition on anti-corruption day. CCC Sunamganj observed anti corruption day through rally and discussion meeting with the slogan “Durjoy tarunn durniti rukhbey”. Besides, held signing campaign to sign on UN-Anti Corruption Convention and published anti-corruption booklet with poem and feature named “Jonosrot”.

**Rajshahi Division:** Six CCCs of Rajshahi division observed International Anti Corruption Day with different activities. The day observed in Rajshahi town by anti corruption rally, signing campaign to sign on UN-Anti Corruption Convention, discussion meeting, art competition etc. Programmes of the day started with the welcome speech of Advocate Golam Arif convener of CCC Rajshahi and Language fighter. CCC Chapai Nawabganj observed Anti Corruption Day through rally, discussion meeting, signing campaign, essay, debate and quiz competition participated by the local people specially youth society with big inspiration and enthusiasm. Local elites participated in

**Barisal Division:** On the occasion of International Anti Corruption Day CCC Barisal organized day long various programmes. Discussion meeting and cultural programme was noteworthy participated by the representative of various classes and profession. In cultural programme besides of dance and song, main attraction was the drama “Ekkhan swapno”. The cultural programme held in presence of over seven hundred audience. Besides, a signing campaign held on signing on UN-Anti Corruption Convention. CCC Jhalokathi organized a colorful
rally on the occasion of International Anti Corruption Day. Distributed anti corruption leaflet and poster in local people from the rally went round the town. Besides, street theatre creates stimulation in general people. The volunteer group of CCC pirojpur performed drama “Prottasha” in presence of over four hundred audience. The theme of the drama was increase public awareness to stop corruption. Besides drama, CCC Pirojpur organized a colorful rally. Over one hundred and fifty people participated in rally. Besides a discussion meeting held at the evening on the day.

**Anti-corruption activities of CCCs**

**Fact sheet preparation and review :**
From the beginning of TIB, it prepares issue based fact sheets to provide information among mass people through Advice and Information Desk (AI Desk) at free of cost. Amongst 27, TIB had reviewed 18 fact sheets of AI Desk very recent. The most mentionable reviewed fact sheets were: Administrative Tribunal, Marriage Law, Land Law, Govt. Scholarship, Bangladesh Diabetic Society, Child Rights, Service of Agriculture Bank and Municipality, Birth Registration, Voter Registration, Basic Rights, Pension Rules, Bangladesh Police Administration, Environmental Act, Bangladesh Postal Division, Mobile Court, National Flag’s Making and Using Rules and Hidden Treasure Act etc. In the research at CCC areas, it has observed that the demand of getting information on health and education issues is more than others. On the basis of this sort of demand TIB has already taken initiative to prepare fact sheets on a primary school and a govt. hospital in every CCC area.

**Anti-corruption campaign in Khulna :**
The volunteer group of CCC Khulna has arranged an anti-corruption campaign titled ‘Say no to corruption’ at Sonadanga Bus Stand. The three hours longer campaign was occurred on 9 November. Members of the volunteer group Shariful Islam Selim, Mariam Parvin, Siddiqui Rahman et al took part in it. An anti-corruption signature campaign was held as a part of the program. Besides, sticker and leaflet have distributed among the general people in the campaign.

**National Victory Day observed in Munshiganj :**
CCC Munshiganj has observed National Victory Day on 16 December by laying wreaths at the local monument of National Martyrs. Under the leadership of the Convener Professor Anil Kumar Chokraborty, CCC members and volunteers walked on rally from CCC office to the local martyrs monument situated at Mathpara in the town. In the afternoon, as per the early schedule, CCC convener presented the main essay in a discussion meeting name “Independence, Liberation War and Our Culture” held with the assistance of district administration. In the program, people from various class, occupation and organization were present.

**Tribute to the National Mausoleum by CCC Savar:**
CCC Savar laid wreaths at the National Mausoleum on the Independence Day. On this occasion a rally was arranged from CCC office on 16 December. Later on, convener Adv. Jainal Abedin Khan, among the members Dr. Mohd. Rafique, Dr. Abdul Latif Biswas, Freedom Fighter Khandakar Mohd. Hamid Ranju, journalist Govinda Acherjee, etc. wreathed with flower at the National Mausoleum for the thousands of martyrs in the war of liberation.

**Discussion meeting with the political leaders in Kushtia:**
CCC Kushtia arranged a discussion meeting with 17 president and general secretary of various political parties for working together in the movement against corruption. The meeting was chaired by the convener of CCC Kushtia Professor Sudin Kumar Lahiri. Welcome speech and the article ‘Role of political leader for curbing corruption’ was presented by convener of sub-committee Momtaz Roomy. CCC member Dr. Sarwar Murshed moderated the discussion meeting.
Discussion meeting ‘Role of the engineers for curbing corruption’ in Jessore:

A discussion meeting at Jessore was arranged on the 23rd November IDEB Auditorium Jessore which was chaired by the joint-convener of CCC Jessore Dr. Mustafijur Rahman and was moderated by CCC member Babu Sukumar Das. In the beginning of the meeting, welcome speech was delivered by CCC member Abu Saleh Tota. Later on CCC member and president of IDEB Mr. Khairul Umam presented the article ‘Role of the engineers for curbing corruption’. In the article, he discussed about corruption in various organization including engineering departments and he emphasized the role of the engineers as member of professional group and concerned citizen of society for curbing corruption. Among others CCC member Adv. Syeda Masuma Begum, Sheikh Golam Faruque, Saifuzzaman Mozu, Fokhre Alam were present in the discussion meeting. Among the invited guests, vice-president of IDEB Kazi Abdul Moudud, general secretary Md. Abul Kashem, sub-divisional engineer of the department of Public Health Engineering Md. Abul Hossen, Md. Kabir Uddin from PDB, sub-divisional engineer of Water Development Board Md. Abu Bakar Moni and Md. Moniruzzaman, a student of Jessore Polytechnic Institute et al took part in the discussion.

Seminar on ‘Social initiative for curbing corruption’ in Pirojpur:

Seminar on ‘social initiative for curbing corruption’ was held on 11 November at the Apex Building in Pirojpur. Under the aegis of CCC Pirojpur, the seminar was moderated by CCC Convener Professor Sheikh Sayedur Rahman. Member of Gono Parishad Dr. Abdul Hai attended there as chief guest. Member of CCC Pirojpur and the staff reporter of The Daily Ittefaq Munirujjaman Nasim Ali has presented the keynote paper in the program. Peoples from different strata of the society attended in the seminar.

IACD observed in other areas:

Different organizations i.e. Bidrohi Shishu Theatre in Panchgar, Sanchari – Ekta Procheta in Gaibandha and the Prothom Alo Bandhu Shabha in Sirajganj have observed International Anti-corruption Day for the first time in this year. These organizations have taken various anti-corruption programs with the assistance of TIB. The day was observed by arranging rally, debate competition, sticker campaign, discussion meeting and cultural programs. Besides, Nagar Natya Dal of Tangail has organized five daylong theater festival to mark the International Anti-corruption Day on 23-27 December. Five anti-corruption plays have staged in the festival.

Anti-corruption rally organised by Bidrahi Shishu Theatre in Panchagar

Opportune timed anti-corruption TV spot

Now a day different sorts of TV spots are aired on the electronic media. But in recent past, TIB’s TV spot on national election in which devotion for native land portrayed very beautifully has drawn my attention. I believe that it has been attracted every citizen of our country. Heartiest congratulations to the spot creator and TIB for making such laudable creation that raising awareness among general people. Placing a request to TIB for making and airing such opportune timed anti-corruption TV spots more in future.

- Sumit Bonik, Volunteer, CCC Kishoreganj

Anti-corruption concert

Expecting for delighted days

On 29 December TIB has organized the first ever anti-corruption concert. Almost 35 thousand youths have expressed their pledge of arrogance against corruption with the slogan ‘Durjoy tarunno durnity rukhbei’ in the concert. Eminent personalities of our country Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Mojammel Hossen Monju were also declared their solidarity with the youth’s movement against corruption on that day. Nobel laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus’s inspiring statement has displayed in this program. I state my gratitude to TIB for arranging such wonderful event. If we can make vocal and mobilize our youths against corruption then we can build our desired homeland where boundless corruption, price hiking of essentials and political criminalization will no more. Thanks once again to TIB to make us hopeful for this.

- Zubaer, Jigatola, Dhaka.
Regular People’s Theatre Shows

Pala Gan: Nalitabari Pala Gan Team has been carrying out awareness program through pala gan among the common people against corruption of the health, education, local government and other service provider organizations of the government through Pala Gan. Four shows of the production were held on 8th and 23rd of November and 6th and 7th of December in 2006 in different areas of Nalitabari.

Gombhira: Gombhira has been widely known as a popular folk media of Chapainawabgonj. Gombhira team of Chapainawabgonj has been awareness program among the common people against corruption through it. On 9 December 2006, they arranged a show of Gombhira in the Shahid Shantu Hall on International Anti-corruption Day.

Mymensingh People’s Theatre: The People’s Theatre team of Mymensingh CCC has been arranging their 5th Production ‘Aar Na’ regularly. They arranged ten shows of their production on 25, 27 and 28 November and 9, 16 and 27 December 2006 at various places of Mymensing town.

Muktagacha People’s Theatre: Muktagacha People’s Theatre team has been arranging their people’s theatre show regularly. They performed their theatre show ‘Akasher Shimana’ on stage respectively on the last 9, 13, 18 and 28 of November and 8, 14 and 15 of December 2006. Participation of Audience was remarkably high in all the shows.

Kishoregonj People’s Theatre: ‘Aarekta Juddha’ (Another war) a play by the Kishoregonj People’s Theatre team were staged in various places of the district on 11, 14 November and 1, 9 December. Young theatre activist plotted the show on the effect of corruption and how to build a corruption free society in front of the audience through live acting.

Rangpur People’s Theatre: ‘Andhar’ (Darkness) the first theatre production of Rangpur People’s Theatre team which is developed based on the life of the famine affected people of Rangpur area. This drama picked up the corruption of Health services, Local government and the struggling life of the deprived people. They arranged three shows of their drama on 25 of November and 10, 27 of December 2006 in different places of Rangpur town.

Kurigram People’s Theatre: Kurigram People’s theatre team produced their drama ‘Ekti Kabor Khorar Iti Kotha’ based on the life of the mass people. As a part of the anti-corruption campaign, they arranged three shows in different places of the district on 10, 17 November and 29 December 2006.

Sreemongol People’s Theatre: Theatre is a tool for changing the society. To make the people proactive against corruption, the CCC Sreemongol formed People’s Theatre team. They staged four shows of their production on 31 October, 1 November and 9, 16 December 2007. This way they announced their firm determination to build corruption free Bangladesh.

Brahmanbaria People’s Theatre: Brahmanbaria People’s theatre team staged two regular shows in Poura Muktamoncho School field on 9, 16 December 2006. Around 300 audiences were present in those shows. The drama was highly appreciated by the audience and they requested to continue such initiatives in Brahmanbaria.

Chandpur People’s Theatre: Two theatre shows of Chandpur People’s theatre team were staged in Bijoy Moncho and Puran Bazar Shahid Minar on 10, 16 December 2006. A large number of audiences were present in both shows.

Jessore People’s theatre: Drama expresses the inner word of the people and it can play a vital role to unite people against injustice. Basically the theatre team of Jessore CCC was formed based on this philosophy. Premier show of their first production ‘Parinam’ was staged on 12th November. Three other regular shows were staged on 18, 27 November and 9 December. The audience expressed their gratitude and thanks to the CCC Jessore for using this tool to fight against corruption and committed with their full support to make the campaign successful.

Jhenaidah People’s Theatre: As a tool for fighting corruption CCC Jhenaidah has used the theatre. It is necessary to sensitize and to develop an anti-corruption mind setup of people. As a part of their regular activity 3 shows were arranged in different areas on 20, 21 November and 17 December.

Pirojpur People’s Theatre: Theatre speaks in favor of the society and when the society gets into trouble, theatre can help to guide on the right way. Bearing this philosophy in mind, Pirojpur People’s theatre team aims to go forward by making a corruption free society and to carry forward a cultural movement. As part of this vision, four regular shows of their first production were staged on 23 November and 9 December 2006.
TIB published different communication materials in 2006. An analytical brochure on Corruption Perception Index was published this year. To mark the International Anti-Corruption Day, TIB printed a brochure, a poster and a sticker. Besides, a souvenir titled ‘Durjoy Tarunno Durnity Rukhbei’ was released on the occasion of Anti-corruption Parliamentary Style Debate Competition and a catalogue titled ‘Durnitir Biruddhey Cartoon’ was released on the occasion of Anti-corruption Cartoon Exhibition. A brochure was printed this year to observe Begum Rokeya Day on 9 December. Another brochure on Al Desk was also printed. Quarterly CCC Newsletter ‘Nagorik Prottoy’ is published regularly.