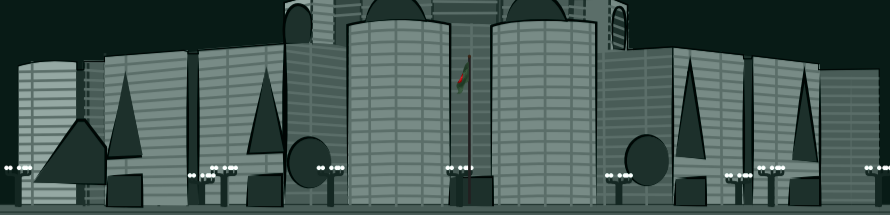


## 'LAW-MAKING TAKES A BACKSEAT'

### TIB's Wake-Up Call and Recommendations



On 1 October 2023, TIB shared the findings of its report 'Parliament Watch: 11th Parliament - 1st to 22nd Sessions (January 2019 - April 2023)'. The five-year analysis of Bangladesh's parliament highlighted several drawbacks, raising concerns:

**Time Mismanagement:** About 25% time of the parliamentary sessions was used just to praise the government, leaving only 16.7% time for legislative matters.

**Ineffective Opposition:** The opposition struggled to hold the government accountable, spending more time applauding the treasury bench members than scrutinising their actions.

**Distracted Debates:** Discussions in the parliament lacked substance, focusing on irrelevant praise and criticism, sidelining critical issues.

**Lacklustre Legislative Efforts:** Only 16.7% of the session time was devoted to passing bills.

**Negligence in Budget Discussion:** Budget discussions received minimal attention compared to unrelated topics. Inactive Standing Committees: The standing committees failed to meet the required meeting frequency, even during national crises.

**Citizens' Disillusionment:** The 'unproductive' parliament left citizens disillusioned.

TIB's Executive Director, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, attributes these issues to the identity crisis of the main opposition along with the ruling party's absolute majority. To address these challenges, TIB submits 13 recommendations, including significant constitutional amendments.

Find more details and full list of recommendations <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/story/6779>

## INSIGHTS FROM TIB'S UNCAC REVIEW



CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT on the implementation of Chapter II (Prevention) & Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN BANGLADESH

TIB's review of Bangladesh's commitment to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) uncovered significant challenges:

**Gap in Legal Framework:** While seemingly robust against the public sector corruption, the country's legal framework falls short in addressing the private sector corruption and foreign bribery.

**ACC's Predicament:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) faces frequent changes in rules, political pressure, and administrative obstacles, which affect its independent and firm stand against grafts.

**Various Challenges:** Public sector employment, political financing, controlling money laundering, and whistle-blower protection face challenges.

In these circumstances, TIB recommends ensuring the ACC's autonomy, removing civic space restrictions, and enhancing transparency in public financial management, among others.

For more details, visit - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/story/6810>



The TIB study on dengue crisis in Bangladesh highlighted some critical issues:

**Legal Compliance Lapses:** Non-adherence to the laws concerned hindered dengue control efforts.

**Politicians' Disregard:** The government high-ups downplayed the outbreak, neglecting its seriousness.

**Capacity Shortage:** Insufficient resources, lack of community-level coordination, and inadequate citizen complaint mechanism hindered dengue control.

**Wasteful Expenditure:** Repeating strategies without

proper effectiveness evaluation resulted in significant financial waste.

**Lack of Accountability in Procurement:** Irregularities in pesticide procurement persisted due to lack of accountability and transparency.

TIB offers 21 recommendations, including a National Integrated Vector Management Plan and year-round cohesive mosquito control drive.

Find more details here - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/story/6817>

## ANTI-CORRUPTION CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES



### Empowering Journalists: A Day of Learning in UNESCO-TIB Workshop

Chattogram witnessed a pivotal workshop on investigative journalism and journalists' safety, jointly organised by UNESCO Dhaka Office and TIB. Through the event, a total of 30 Chattogram-based media professionals were equipped with essential investigative skills, focusing on the importance of journalists' safety. The TIB Executive Director stressed the crucial role of journalists in the fight against corruption.

Click here for details - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/story/6812>

### Advancing Corruption Research TIB Arranges Training for ACC Officials

TIB strengthened the fight against corruption by arranging the 'Training on Basic Research Methodology' for ten senior officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The training empowered the participants to conduct data-driven investigations and identify corruption trends.

To know more, click here - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/story/6782>

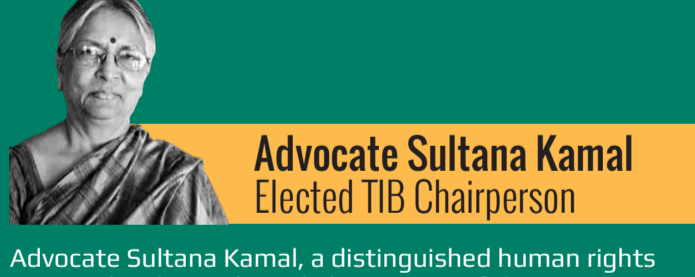


### Combating Corruption TIB's First Data Journalism Workshop for ERF

TIB hosted its inaugural data journalism workshop for 35 members of the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF), promoting data-driven reporting in combating corruption and enforcing accountability. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, in his speech on the occasion, emphasised data journalism's transformative impact. Notably, TIB has been conducting workshops on data journalism for students in partnership with different universities, and the ERF was the first group of journalists to get the training this year.

Click here for details - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/story/6813>

## Internal Governance



### Advocate Sultana Kamal Elected TIB Chairperson

Advocate Sultana Kamal, a distinguished human rights activist, has been elected Chairperson of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Board of Trustees on 4 October 2023, succeeding Professor Dr. Perween Hasan.

For details, click here - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/press-release/6780>

### USAID and UK Government Partnership with TIB Launched

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UK Government, represented by the British High Commission Dhaka, jointly launched their partnership with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on 17 October 2023 to support TIB's core project, PACTA (Participatory Action against Corruption: Towards Transparency and Accountability). TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman expressed deep gratitude for the partners' support.

Click here to know more - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/press-release/6799>

## Citizen Engagement

### Citizens' Conference in Sylhet Inspires Anti-Graft Unity



The Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), with TIB's support, hosted the CCC Regional Conference in Sylhet, themed 'Corruption, Poverty, Injustice: Citizens' Thoughts.' In the event, over a hundred participants explored avenues for the anti-corruption movement's success. While speaking at the event, the TIB Executive Director emphasised collective efforts against corruption. The conference sparked optimism among the participants and renewed their commitment to building a transparent and corruption-free society.

For details, click here - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/press-release/6799>

### Sylhet YES Camp: Empowering Youth



The Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Camp in Sylhet brought together nearly 300 members from 19 YES groups to focus on the fight against corruption, poverty, injustice, and discrimination. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman urged the attendees to take an oath, highlighting the youth's role in the anti-corruption movement.

For more details, click here - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/press-release/6799>

Grassroots Activities Driving Change Public Hearing Spotlights Healthcare Quality in Ctg Hospital

Click here for details - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/citizens-engagement/6854>

Information Fair in Lalmonirhat Madhupur

Click here for details - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/citizens-engagement/6853>

Consultation Meeting in Bagerhat to Improve Land Services

Click here for details - <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/citizens-engagement/6852>

Chief Editor: Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam

Editors: Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, S. M. Minhazul Anwar, Kazi Mahdi Amin, Mathews Chiran, Visual Layout: Samsuddoha Safayat

