eWaves

Overview

In August, TIB reviewed the draft human rights and enforced disappearance laws and spoke out on public land, media freedom, and coastal protection. It marked International Youth Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day, and trained journalists in Barishal in investigative and data reporting. CCC and YES members carried these concerns into communities through workshops, hearings, and meetings. Continue below to follow TIB's journey against corruption this August.

Law Review

TIB Sets Out Recommendations for a Stronger Human Rights Commission

TIB reviewed the Cabinet-approved National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026 (Draft) and presented 25 recommendations to establish an independent, pluralistic, accountable and effective Commission in line with the Paris Principles. While welcoming several positive additions, TIB raised concerns over key sections on composition, appointments and administration that may weaken the Commission's independence and autonomy.



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Enforced Disappearance Bill Needs Stronger Safeguards for Victims

TIB reviewed the draft Prevention and Remedy of Enforced Disappearance Act, 2026 and put forward 17 recommendations to align it with the UN convention. The draft recognizes enforced disappearance as an ongoing crime and holds senior officials accountable, but it gives complaints and investigations to the police, who are often implicated, which risks denying victims recognition and compensation. TIB recommends that the National Human Rights Commission lead investigations, that penalties and the continuing search for victims be restored as in the 2025 ordinance, and that accountability extend to ministers and public representatives.

Concept Note

Youth Leading on Climate and Sustainable Development

Youth are resilient, determined, and unstoppable, and Bangladesh's progress has long been shaped by their leadership and innovation. Under the UN theme "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations," TIB's concept note for International Youth Day 2026 sets out recommendations from young stakeholders, including a youth-led national strategy with time-bound action plans, support for youth climate initiatives, green jobs, mental health care, and a state-level youth protection fund for those affected by climate disasters.



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Press Statement



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Cabinet-Approved Human Rights Drafts Ignore Key Recommendations

The Cabinet-approved draft National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026 and draft Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, 2026 keep the provisions stakeholders warned would weaken accountability. The Commission would still rely on government reports for law enforcement violations, and investigation of enforced disappearance is left entirely with the police. TIB demanded that both drafts be revised with the views of victims and stakeholders before reaching Parliament.

TIB Urges Halt to WASA Land Initiative in Gulshan

Dhaka WASA has moved quickly to consider a private housing company's unsolicited proposal to build on 114 kathas of RAJUK-allocated land in Gulshan, forming a committee within a short time instead of rejecting it outright. TIB said the process violates the relevant laws and policy framework and could facilitate land grabbing. It called for the initiative to be cancelled and investigated, and for any development of public land to go through an open and transparent tender.



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TIB Defends Media Freedom and the Right to Know

TIB condemned the State Minister for Foreign Affairs' response to journalists who asked about his reported dual citizenship. Instead of answering, he questioned the journalists and the media outlets reporting the news. TIB called this a threat to media freedom and the people's right to know, and said the real question is whether he retained foreign citizenship on taking office, since a minister appointed under the technocrat quota must be eligible for election to Parliament. TIB called on the Minister to state his position clearly and on the government to disclose verifiable information on his eligibility.

TIB Calls for Rethink of Cox's Bazar Sand Dune Project

Sand dunes and coastal vegetation at Sugandha-Kolatoli Beach, an Ecologically Critical Area in Cox's Bazar, are being filled to build a road and town protection embankment funded by JICA. TIB warned that this risks damaging the natural barriers that shield the coast from storms, tidal surges, and erosion, and asked whether a long-term climate and environmental risk assessment was done. TIB called on JICA and the Government of Japan to follow their own safeguard policies and climate and biodiversity commitments, disclose the project's impacts, and arrange an independent review. It also urged reconsideration of the project and restoration of the dunes and vegetation if damage has occurred.



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Event



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Land Justice for Indigenous Peoples Needs Legal Protection

Indigenous communities in both the plains and the hills of Bangladesh still face land disputes, displacement, and insecurity, because customary land ownership is not adequately recognized by law or public institutions. On 6 and 9 August, TIB joined the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, ALRD, and other civil society organizations to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. TIB called for legal recognition of customary land ownership, an effective and independent Land Commission under the CHT Peace Accord, and a separate land commission for Indigenous communities in the plains. Speakers also demanded constitutional recognition and official observance of the day.

Local Journalists Equipped to Expose Corruption with Evidence

Local journalists are often the first to see how corruption affects everyday life, but turning what they see into a strong story takes evidence. TIB trained 41 journalists from print, electronic, and online media in Barishal on investigative reporting, data journalism, and using AI for data selection and analysis. Sessions covered investigation techniques, source safety, and using data to strengthen stories. Participants also spoke about the safety and financial challenges regional journalists face, and only one woman was among them. TIB said it can raise these concerns with relevant authorities and media stakeholders and encouraged greater participation of women in future trainings.



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CCC News



Youth Lead the Call for Climate Action and Accountability

On International Youth Day CCC and YES groups across the country put youth at the center of the climate and governance agenda through human chains, rallies, discussions, and quiz and debate competitions. Presenting TIB's concept note, young stakeholders called for a youth-led national strategy with time-bound action plans, green jobs, mental health care, and a protection fund for youth affected by climate disasters. At BCSIR School and College in Dhaka, the University of Dhaka's YES Group taught 131 students how to use the Right to Information Act, 2009, giving the next generation a practical tool against corruption.

Chandpur Citizens Pledge to Strengthen the Movement

CCC Chandpur brought over 150 members of CCC, YES, and ACG together for a Learning-Sharing meeting to make the anti-corruption social movement more effective and strengthen transparency and accountability at the local level. Participants reviewed the progress and challenges of citizen-led work in education, health, and land under TIB's PACTA project, and discussed ways to bring more young people into the movement. They called on local civil society and youth to take a more active role, and closed the meeting with a shared pledge to work toward a corruption-free, transparent, and accountable society.





Call for United Citizen Action in Barishal

CCC Barishal brought together more than 50 representatives of CCC, YES, and ACG for a coordination meeting to make the anti-corruption social movement more effective, participatory, and sustainable. TIB called for united and active citizen engagement to establish good governance. Members shared field experience and recommendations for future initiatives, with a focus on positive change in education, health, land, environment, and construction through citizen monitoring, social accountability, and participatory initiatives. Participants committed to work together to prevent corruption and strengthen accountability.

Young Organizers in Rangamati Learn to Strengthen Good Governance

To prepare young leaders to take on corruption, TIB's Civic Engagement Division conducted workshops in Rangamati, with CCC and the YES group, and at the University of Asia Pacific. Representatives of 23 voluntary organizations in Rangamati and 47 UAP club members learned how the SDGs, institutional good governance, and the Right to Information Act, 2009 help prevent corruption. In Rangamati, participants also worked in groups on ways to prevent corruption in education, health, land, and the environment. Speakers urged them to practice transparency and accountability in their own organizations, and participants closed both workshops with the anti-corruption oath.





Brahmanbaria Land Hearing Brings Services and Grievances Face to Face

To bring land services closer to people, CCC Brahmanbaria supported a public hearing on mutation applications and grievances at Ramrail Union Parishad, organized by the Sadar Upazila Land Office. Service recipients put their questions directly to land officials, who urged anyone facing harassment to contact the Land Office and advised people to handle land matters personally rather than through intermediaries, who can open the door to corruption. Officials said the fully digitalized land service system has helped reduce irregularities. Residents also raised the waterlogging of about 250 acres of farmland caused by highway construction and called for immediate action.

Stamford Youth Take Action Against Money Laundering

To prepare young people to recognize and counter money laundering, the YES Group of Stamford University Bangladesh organized a discussion on its seriousness, socio-economic consequences, and the mechanisms in place to prevent it. Students learned about the laws and institutions that work against it, how it connects to other financial crimes, and how to stay vigilant about suspicious and irregular financial activity. Speakers stressed that money laundering threatens a country's economy, development, and good governance, and that law enforcement alone cannot solve it. They urged students to build awareness in their families, institutions, and communities, and participants closed the event with the anti-corruption oath.



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