

TIB wants Nahid to resign

Staff Correspondent

TRANSPARENCY International Bangladesh on Tuesday demanded resignation of education minister Nurul Islam Nahid on moral grounds after the minister's recent comments where he asked officials to 'take bribe, but within a limit'.

TIB in a statement on the day said that Nahid at a programme on Sunday advised officials 'to take bribe at a tolerable level to curb the rate of corruption' and at one point 'he [Nahid] portrayed himself and other cabinet colleagues as corrupt beside government officials'.

'We appreciate his honest courage to call himself

Continued on page 2 Col. 1

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Continued from page 1

corrupted and at the same time he should resign from his position on moral grounds to set an example, TIB executive director Iftekharuzzaman said.

'If he can prove himself free from corruption by following due procedure, he would earn appreciation from countrymen,' he said.

Iftekharuzzaman said Nahid's remarks were worrisome for countrymen,

reflecting his personal frustration and confusion.

Meanwhile, Nahid would brief media about news published by different media at secretariat today, said an education ministry statement on Tuesday, following severe criticism of Nahid's speech at a programme on Sunday.

Soon after on the day, a video of the minister advocating 'bribe at a tolerable level' went viral on social

media triggering uproar in the virtual sphere.

While talking about corruption at Sunday's programme, Nahid said after becoming education minister in 2009, he held meetings with different departments and directorates including Directorate of Inspection and Audit and Education Engineering Department.

At every meeting, he claimed, he had pointed

out that corruption in education should be stopped as the ministry had zero tolerance toward corruption.

At one point, Nahid said, 'When I sat with EED, I told them please do good work.... I tell youtake bribe, but you must keep it within a tolerable limit.'

'I did not have the courage to tell them not to take any bribe at that time,' he said.

