



LETTERS

Administrative reform is a mere dream

The editorial published in TIB Newsletter (volume 4, issue 4) on “where lies the obstacle to administrative reforms” was good reading. Especially, tracing back the steps taken for administrative reforms since 1947 was praiseworthy. In reality, administrative reform in Bangladesh is a mere dream. The Public Administration Reforms Commission put forward some recommendations to the government nearly one year ago. These included ensuring accountability and raising quality of services delivered by government organizations, voluntary retirement, appointment of Ombudsman, simplification of

travel tax collection, maintaining status quo of manpower under the revenue budget, simplification of pension payment and reduction of harassment of civil employees of the government, monetization of transport facilities for officials enjoying this facility, modernization of land administration in Bangladesh, one-stop payment of all utility services, abolition of some departments, etc. But there is no sign of implementing these recommendations.

Soma, Department of Public Administration, Dhaka University

Abuse of Power

There are only a handful of government officials and employees in Bangladesh who do not indulge in corruption or do not tolerate it. The definition of corruption that was given in the Pakistan Penal Code in 1947 says that breaking commitments, taking illegal pecuniary benefits for self or others through abuse of official power or position, acquiring property inconsistent with one's income,— all these are corruption. In Bangladesh,

government employees do not resort to unfair practices solely for financial benefit. Often, they misuse their power for leading a luxurious life and for gaining popularity.

*Ziaul Haque
Uttara, Dhaka*

What exactly is the Bureau of Anti Corruption

The Bureau of Anti Corruption has been termed ‘a hand-cuffed swimmer’ in the report of the Public Administration Reforms Commission. The report says, the Bureau of Anti Corruption is a government institution that functions under the administrative control of the Prime Minister's Office. Overall, the Bureau has failed to meet the expectations of the people. So, our question is: what really is the Bureau of Anti Corruption?

*Tripti
Khalishpur Housing Estate, Khulna*

Fascinated

I am deeply touched by the programs being run by Transparency International Bangladesh for tackling corruption. I think Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is surely aware of these.

*Khairul Alam Chowdhury
London*

Voters' list

Corruption is now a normal phenomenon in our country. Very recently, massive



corruption was resorted to in printing a voters' list for the countrymen at an expenditure of around 23 crore taka. Although as per conditions set by the Election Commission printing was supposed to be done in offset press with PS plate, the assigned organizations have violated this condition. Some dishonest officials of the Election Commission have collaborated in this.

*Mohsin Chowdhury
Chawk Bazar, Chittagong*

Independence of the judiciary

We have been hearing of separation of the judiciary from the executive since the Pakistani days. But that has remained a mere dream. Nothing concrete has actually happened. People go to courts for redress of their grievances. Everybody expects that justice would take place independently. And to meet this expectation, full freedom of the judiciary and its separation from the executive is a necessity.

*Sohel
Yousuf School Road, Commilla*

Research on Customs officials and employees

The officials and employees of Customs consider government revenue to be their own, otherwise how do these dishonest officials maintain luxurious houses and cars and engage in trade and commerce? The customs offices are now immersed in corruption. They become millionaires after serving for a few years. In customs, self-collection is going on instead of revenue collection. These officials are taking recourse to one crime after another as no action is taken against them. The mystery behind the luxurious lifestyle of the customs officials-employees would be exposed if Transparency International Bangladesh carries out a research on these people.

*Emily Shahin
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