CORRUPTION DATABASE
REPORT 2004

Loss of over 400 crore taka in 370 Incidents:
Effective Anti-Corruption Commission
Needed for Prevention of Corruption

Bribery worth more than taka 800 crore takes
place at Chittagong Port each year

Gas Field Explosion:
Wanted Compensation and Punishment to the Corrupt
“There is not a single ministry where corruption does not take place” – Finance and Planning Minister M. Safur Rahman, in reply to a supplementary question put forward by a treasury bench member Major (retd.) M. Manzoor Quader in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Source: Daily Banglabazar Patrika, 6 July 2005

“Many people in society dream of getting rich quickly. Some among the police also have this dream. They are bringing disrepute to the whole force by attempting to earn illegally. Some among them have also been apprehended recently” – IGP Abdul Quayyum while speaking at a meeting with the Anti-Corruption Commission at Rajbarag Police Line on 28 July on the matter of ‘Combating Police Corruption’.

Source: Daily Janakantha, 29 July 2005

“Salaries and allowances should not be drawn without joining parliament. Both the treasury and opposition members should play their due role for making the parliament effective” – Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh Jorgen Lissner, while speaking at an international workshop organised by ‘Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy’ project on 31 July.

Source: Daily Prothom Alo, 2 August 2005

“Corruption and confrontational politics are the main obstacles to the development of Bangladesh. The GDP growth rate in Bangladesh could have been 8 percent in the absence of confrontational politics” – World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz while talking to journalists after meeting Finance and Planning Minister M. Safur Rahman on 21 August during a short 1-day visit to Bangladesh.

Source: Daily Prothom Alo, 22 August 2005

“Not only the electoral arena, all sectors have to be freed from corruption for the development of the country” – State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Professor M. Rezaul Karim.

Source: Daily Ittefaq, 2 September 2005

“Bangladesh tops the list of countries where there is a tendency to meet election expenditures by collecting money through corruption” – The World Bank Country Director Christine I. Wallich, at a 2-day long international workshop on financing the infrastructure sector held at a hotel in Dhaka on 29 August.

Source: Daily Ittefaq, 30 August 2005

Anomaly in Distribution of Money from Stipend Project
There are reports of large-scale corruption, irregularity and nepotism in the distribution of money from the stipend project in the secondary schools of Kishoreganj district. Although 75 percent attendance and 45 percent marks obtaining in exams are keeping as the government provisions for receiving stipends, but these are not being complied with. The stipend money is actually distributed by doctoring the attendance and marks of students in official documents. Although there are provisions for the pass percentage to be 50 to 60 percent, in reality between 10 to 20 percent girl students are passing in the examinations. A total of Taka 1 crore 13 lakh 62 thousand 45 have been distributed in 13 upazilas of the district and Taka 10 lakh 64 thousand 980 were given back last June. Complaints have been received about distribution of stipend money by some project staff and teachers through corruption and irregularities.

Source: Daily Inqilab, 5 July 2005

Natore Civil Surgeon’s Office Besieged in Protest Against Corruption
The aggrieved contractors besieged the Civil Surgeon’s office of Natore on 14 July in protest against continuous corruption in enlistments for supply of medical equipment. It was the last day for collection and submission of enlistment forms by the contractors. The contractors arrived at the Civil Surgeon office on the day at 9 in the morning. The contractors became agitated when the officers and employees of the Civil Surgeon’s office started dilly-dallying on the issue. Finding the situation unmanageable, all officers-employees of that office fled after locking it. The contractors kept the office under siege up to 2 at noon.

Source: Daily Amar Desh, 15 July 2005

VGD Rice Siphoned off at Gouripur: UNO Office under siege
Although 280 VGD card-holders of Maoha union under Gouripur upazila were allocated only 16/17 kg of rice in place of sanctioned 30 kg, more than one hundred women laid siege around the Upazilla Nirbhari Officer's office on 17 July evening as they did not get any rice. It was found that the Chairman and Members had siphoned off 4480 kg of rice among themselves out of a total 8400 kg, contrary to the announcement of Gouripur Union Chairman Abdul Mannan Fakir. The Upazilla Nirbhari Officer informed that legal measures would be taken against those responsible for this incident.

Source: Daily Sangbad, 28 July 2005

Would they have taken bribes if they could recognise!
The Officer-in-Charge of Rupsha police station under Khulna range Abdus Salam was closed and the Duty Officer SI Manzoor Hossain was suspended for taking Tk. 30 bribes from two disguised senior police officers of Khulna range while making GD entries. Departmental proceedings have been drawn against them. A special police team of Khulna range conducted this operation on 9 August at the directive of DIG, Khulna range, Mr. Nur Mohammad, in the backdrop of innumerable complaints of bribe-taking for filing cases or making GD entries. There has been uproar inside Khulna police centring on this incident. 10/15 officers of Khulna police and plain-clothed policemen are now roaming around different police stations.

Source: Daily Samakal, 10 August 2005

Indonesian Election Commissioner jailed
A Member of the Election Commission involved with the 2004 election of Indonesia has been jailed for 31 months by an Indonesian court on charges of involvement in corruption. He has also been fined 4 thousand 849 US dollar. The Chief Justice in the panel of 5 judges of the Anti-Corruption Court informed that the charges against Moulana Kusuma have been proved. Kusuma was arrested on 8 April 2004.

Source: AFP, 12 September 2005
Gas Field Explosion: Wanted Compensation and Punishment to the Corrupt

There has been a loss of gas resources worth Taka 600 crore in the country because of two blow outs at Tengratilla gas field of Sylhet on 7 January and 23 June. The future of this gas field having a reservoir of gas worth Taka 4 thousand crore is therefore uncertain. The report of the inquiry committee constituted by the government has held the Canadian company Niko singly responsible for the incident and said that Niko has failed to carry out its contractual obligations. The High Court has issued some interim orders including a show cause notice on the government and directed the Bangladesh Bank to freeze all bank accounts of Niko in the backdrop of writ petitions filed by human rights and legal aid organisations. At the same time, various quarters have raised the demand for taking appropriate measures on the allegations of corruption and irregularities at all stages of the signing of contract with this international business organisation as well as extraction of all compensations. The energy specialists hold the view that Niko took recourse to dishonesty and unfair play at various stages of the joint ownership agreement. The policy-makers of both the present and previous governments helped them in this. Incidents like resignation of a state minister have happened following leakage of news on his acceptance of a vehicle which worth crore taka, given by Niko as gift. Not only that, a report by another inquiry committee on the matter released on 4 September claimed that declaration of Chhatak, Feni and Kamtia gas fields as abandoned by Niko was also not done in a transparent manner. The government has also not disclosed whether there were any clauses in the Niko agreement, which went against the country’s interest. Such agreements were concluded with multinational companies in the past without giving due weight to the country’s interests. There are allegations that an agreement was signed in 1990 with Kafco, a company owned by Japan and Italy, which went counter to the country’s interests. Because of a similar agreement with UNOCAL, compensation could not be elicited from them following the accident at Magurchara gas field. According to the results of the ‘Bribe-payers Index’ survey of Transparency International in 2002, twenty-one major exporting countries of the world bribed high officials of the developing countries for trade-commerce and capital investment. Various international organisations including the United Nations have come forward at different times for resolving this problem. 28 countries of the Asia Pacific region including Bangladesh had adopted a plan in 2001 to implement the ADB-OECD anti-corruption programme for curbing corruption in international business transactions. It mentioned various subjects including establishing integrity and accountability in governmental operations, strengthening anti-bribery measures and enhancing honesty in trade-commerce. Despite all these initiatives, various unethical activities of the multinational companies, bribery and corruption have not yet diminished. It is very urgent that national interest is upheld while entering into agreement with foreign companies. The right of aggrieved citizens to file cases against multinational oil companies is well-recognised in the developed world. Demands have been raised by various quarters, including the Committee for Upholding National Interest on matters related to oil and gas, to scrap the agreement with Niko, obtain appropriate compensation and take legal measures against it. Niko should be tried not only in the courts of Bangladesh but also in Canada, which is a member of the OECD. Not only the resignation of a state minister but also the proper investigation of corruption related to Tengratilla and other natural resources of the country is necessary to uphold national interest. It is our demand to the government of Bangladesh as well as to the government of Canada to ensure compensations for all financial and environmental damages and appropriate actions for meting out punishments to all corrupt persons involved in the process. The UN Anti-Corruption Convention that is going to be effective from 14 December in this year will play an important role in preventing corruption in the important areas such as natural resources and illegal trafficking of resources. It is unfortunate that Bangladesh Yet to sign this convention. We are again placing our strong demand to our government to sign and ratify the UN convention immediately for building a corruption free country.

UN Convention Against Corruption
It is very unfortunate that Bangladesh has not yet signed the UN Convention Against Corruption. That the government has the goodwill to combat corruption can be proved by signing this Convention. Besides, the international image of Bangladesh would also be brightened as a result. I am hoping, the government would not only sign it, but would ratify it as well.

Bikash Bose
Dhaniya, Dhaka.

Chittagong Seaport: A Diagnostic Study
Thanks for the diagnostic study on Chittagong Seaport. As a former Chairman of Chittagong Seaport, I am of the view that the research report on the port has been very objective and timely. I have not an iota of doubt about the presence of corruption at various levels of the port painted in the report. Rather, I would not hesitate to say that there are some other areas where the picture of corruption is more horrendous. I extend my thanks to everybody involved in the preparation of this report. I think the government as well as the countrymen would be benefited if reports are prepared through similar research and data collection on other important institutions of the country, apart from the Chittagong Seaport.

AZM Nasiruddin
Former Advisor, Caretaker Government 1996
Former Secretary.
CORRUPTION DATABASE REPORT 2004

Loss of over 400 crore taka in 370 Incidents: Effective Anti-Corruption Commission Needed for Prevention of Corruption

According to the findings of newspaper-based Corruption Database Report 2004 of TIB, a total of 1754 reports were published on corruption in 36 sectors by the 25 dailies monitored between January and December last year. Of these, 370 incidents resulted in a financial loss of Taka 413 crore 9 lakh 16 thousand. The communication sector topped the list in terms of financial losses, where the amount of financial corruption was Taka 97 crore 82 lakh 30 thousand 568. It accounted for 23.68% of the total financial loss. Financial losses in five sectors, namely communication, taxation, police, environment and forests and NGOs were three-fourths of the total. 17% of the monitored reports were chosen as samples to check their authenticity. The research report was formally launched at Jatiya Press Club on 15 September through a press conference. It was presented by Tanvir Mahmud, TIB Trustee Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman and other TIB officials were present on the occasion. This newspaper-based research report divided corrupt sectors into four categories, viz, highest, high, medium and low. It showed that the police, education, health and family welfare, local government and rural development, and communication sectors were the most corrupt. Environment and forests, relief and disaster management, finance and the private sector were identified as highly corrupt sectors. Those sectors identified as moderately corrupt were home affairs, agriculture, land, power, NGOs, posts and telecommunication, direct and indirect taxation, water resources, political parties and food. Those identified as less corrupt sectors were civil aviation and tourism, fisheries and livestock, industries, social welfare, housing and public works, law and justice, energy and mineral resources, information, women and children affairs, Prime Minister's Office, parliament secretariat, establishment, religious affairs, shipping, youth and sports, foreign affairs and jute. It was seen by analysing corruption in the most corrupt sectors that bribery in the police department and misappropriation of money/assets in the local government and rural development sectors were the highest. Besides, maximum corruption took place in the education, health and communication sectors through misuse of power. It appears from this research that lack of accountability was the main cause of corruption. Besides, monopoly power, discretionary power and absence of measures against corruption resulted in increased corruption.

The general masses were harmed most (48.2%) by corruption. Just as corruption harmed us economically, similarly it violated human rights, hindered development, deteriorated law and order and accelerated environmental disasters. It may be mentioned that corruption database is one among many research programmes of TIB. Only for this research, the newspapers are used as one of the main sources of data. This research programme was started by TIB in 2000. Previously, 6 research reports on the subject were published. The present report is the seventh in the series. The main objectives of this research are to tag standards of quality to corruption-related newspaper reports from the perspective of research; analyse the sectors involved in corruption, the persons involved, the mode and location of corruption, etc.; determine the impact and losses due to corruption; review the trend of corruption at different times; and analyse the steps against corruption. Various mass media at home and abroad gave wide coverage to the research report after its release. TIB holds the view that the Anti-Corruption Commission should be made active and functional, and separate cells should be set up in all ministries with a central cell at the Prime Minister's Office for taking action after verification of the newspaper reports on corruption. Besides, appointment of separate Ombudsmen at various institutions, appropriate measures for undertaking research on the causes, trends and remedies of corruption and inclusion of the matter of ethics and honesty in educational curriculum should be ensured for raising awareness against corruption among our future generations. Above all, anti-corruption campaign should be undertaken in all areas with the aid of various publicity media.

Reactions: Corruption Database Report 2004

There was considerable reaction among various quarters after the release of the Corruption Database Report 2004 on 15 September. The private TV channels covered the event very prominently on the day. The Communication Minister expressed his anger at the report as the communication sector was identified as the most financially corrupt sector. Two reactions are presented below: The report is not acceptable: Nazmul Huda

Communication Minister during an interview with the BBC, Communication Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said: We have attracted the ire of TIB, at least slightly. Because, I had personally commented on this type of report when it was released last year. Not only in our country, corruption and irregularities can be found in ministries anywhere in the world. As the Communication Ministry gets more money in the budget, so there is more scope for publishing succulent stories on the subject in newspapers. This kind of report based on newspaper stories is unacceptable.

The report is correct: Harun Rashid Monno

Harun Rashid Monno MP while speaking at a public meeting following demands of local leaders for improvement of communication network of Satura upazila, the MP of Manikganj-3 constituency Harun Rashid Monno said: You must have read about the TIB report on the Communication Ministry in newspapers. The Prime Minister also gave assurance about the development of roads in Satura; but none of those assurances have been fulfilled as yet.
The research report was prominently covered and publicised by various mass media after its publication. It became the lead news item in various newspapers published from Bangladesh on 16 September. Newspaper editorials were published on the subject in 5 national dailies on 17 September and 1 daily newspaper on 18 September. The headline of the editorial by Bhor Kagoj was: 'A worrying picture of corruption'. The caption of the editorial by Ajker Kagoj was: 'The police top the list in corruption in TIB report'. The headline of the Daily Star editorial was: 'Corruption Database: Govt. has a firm basis to work on'. The headline of the editorial by The Independent was: 'TIB's Report'. The Jugantar's headline was 'TIB Report'. In its editorial, the daily Janakantha said, 'Communication, Police most corrupt'. Besides, a number of periodicals published post-editorials on the subject. After the publication of the report, the readers of daily Amar Desh were asked in a survey on 17 September 2005: 'Do you think that the TIB report claiming the communication and police sectors to be most corrupt is true?' 79.59 percent of the readers gave affirmative answer to the question while 16.32 percent of the readers gave a negative answer; 4.08 percent readers refrained from giving any opinion.

UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Bangladesh should immediately sign and ratify the Convention

The United Nations Convention against corruption would become effective from 14 December this year. Bangladesh has not yet signed this Convention although 129 countries of the world have done so. The Minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed made a pledge last year to do so at a seminar organised by TIB on 9 December on the occasion of the first International Anti-Corruption Day. The Executive Director of TIB Iftekharuzzaman says on the subject, the pledge that Law Minister made last year to sign and ratify the UN Convention would have created the opportunity for Bangladesh Government to implement the UN Convention against corruption. He further said, it was unfortunate that no further steps were taken on this issue. But non-signing of the Convention by Bangladesh cannot be desirable at all, because many countries of the Asia-Pacific region including our neighbours Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malaysia and Thailand have signed it. Sri Lanka has even ratified the Convention. This Convention is being considered as the first effective tool in the movement against corruption. On 15 September, a 30th member-state of the UN ratified the Convention. This Convention is going to become effective following the ratification by one-fourth of signatory member-states. TIB is making an ardent request to the government to sign and ratify the Convention without any delay. TIB is of the view, by signing this Convention, Bangladesh can prove at the national and international levels that the government is attaching topmost priority to the matter of combating corruption. On the other hand, the electoral pledge of the government on curbing corruption effectively would become a failure if this issue is ignored. The Chief Executive of Transparency International David Nussbaum said on the subject, the developed countries of the world have to show that they are also partners in the movement against corruption. If the developed countries do not participate in this anti-corruption movement, then they cannot ask their poor neighbouring countries to take the movement seriously. He further said, the major developed countries would have to ratify it at a later stage. Otherwise, this pledge to participate in the anti-corruption movement would remain written on paper only.

Programs on International Anti-Corruption Day 2005

Transparency International Bangladesh has taken vast programs to observe the International Anti Corruption Day-9 December 2005. On this day different programs will be held centrally at Dhaka and locally at CCC areas. The programs are: National Seminar on Anti Corruption, various cultural events, Debate and Essay Competition at national level, publishing Press Advertisement to uphold the significance of this day, Anti Corruption Rally at 6 divisional cities and many other activities.

New Employees in different divisions of TIB

Selim Zahid and Shakil Ahmed awarded in Investigative Journalism

Staff Reporter of Daily Samakal Selim Zahid and Senior Reporter of ATN Bangla Shakil Ahmed have received the TIB-2005 Investigative Journalism Award. A roundtable discussion was arranged on 'Corruption and the Mass Media' at the VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club on 4 August on the occasion of awarding these prizes. Veteran journalist ABM Musa presented a paper as the chief guest. The winners of the investigative journalism contest were awarded prizes in the second part of the programme. Selim Zahid received the prize for his report captioned 'Bottled water: a business based on mere packaging' published in the daily Inqlab between 27 September and 5 October 2004. Shakil Ahmed received the prize for his follow-up report on the grenade explosions of 21 August 2004 telecast by ATN Bangla. The winners were each given Taka 50,000, certificates of honour and crests. The cover of a book comprising the best 13 reports which received investigative journalism awards during the past seven years, published by TIB, was unveiled after the roundtable discussion. The discussion was conducted by TIB Trustee and editor of the Daily Star eminent journalist Mahfuz Anam. Veteran journalist ABM Musa said while presenting his paper that corruption was known to all, visible but irresistible. This was because, many people now engaged in politics after earning black money through corruption; it was now an established phenomenon in the running of statecraft and even in society. Besides, the definition of corruption has changed.

Although not comprehensible from outside, many incidents contain hidden corruption. The publicity or uncovering by the mass media does not succeed fully in exposing these incidents or in uncovering the hidden truths. The discussion was participated by the Treasurer of TIB Trustee Board Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, member Professor Khan Sarwar Murshed, Executive Director Itekharuzzaman, Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Executive Editor of the daily Sangbad Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, Vice Chancellor of Darul Ihsan University Dr. Syed Anwar Hussain, Professor Shawkat Ara Hossain of Dhaka University et al. Besides, representatives of various classes and professions were also present in the programme. The speakers at the roundtable said, a free and independent press acted as a resistance against the criminals and corrupt elements. The attempts made by the media to inform the people about corruption were in turn making the concerned people blame the media. The rich and the powerful were getting the fruits of corruption, not the general masses. It may be mentioned that TIB introduced the Investigative Journalism Award in 1999. Entries for the 2006 contest would be invited end of this year. It is requested to contact with TIB Advocacy Division for any kind of information in this connection. Interested person can reach us at 9884811, 8826038 or at our e-mail: advocacy@tib-bangladesh.org.

Bribery worth more than Taka 800 crore takes place at Chittagong Port each year

Bribes worth more than Taka 800 crore are transacted each year at Chittagong Port. This dismal picture has emerged out of "Chittagong Port: A diagnostic study" conducted by TIB. Various categories of employees and officers of the customs and port authorities are paid as bribes at least Taka 801 crore each year for import and export of commodities through the Chittagong Port. The custom officials top the list in this bribery. Fifty-seven percent of the total bribes have to be paid to them. The remaining 43 percent are shared by the officers-employees of the port. The customs officials extracted bribes worth Taka 460 crore while the port officials extracted Taka 341 crore. The Chittagong Port is also hostage to 52 operators and 10 pilots. Not only the officers and employees of customs were responsible for corruption in imports and exports through Chittagong Port, some organisations and businessmen using the port were also responsible. This information was presented at a roundtable seminar held at the Chittagong Chamber Auditorium on 3 July on ‘Chittagong Port: Problems and Prospects’. Chaired by TIB Trustee Professor Khan Sarwar Murshed, former minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP was present at the function as chief guest. The welcome address was included by the TIB Executive Director Itekharuzzaman. Those who participated in the discussion included President of Chittagong Chamber Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, former President of the Chamber Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, Adviser of C and F Agents Association Md. Salimullah, Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority AMM Shahadat Hossain, President of port users’ forum Dr. Parvez Sajjad Akhtar, and eminent personalities from various classes and professions. The keynote paper at the roundtable was presented by the Senior Programme Officer (Policy & Research) of TIB Sydur Rahman Molla. He dwelt on the scenario of corruption in the import and export of commodities through the Chittagong port. He mentioned that this report was prepared by TIB on the basis of various information and data collected between July 2003 and June 2004 as well as by taking interviews of various individuals.
MEDIA ACTIVITIES

TV Talk Show

The topic of the talk show broadcast under the title 'Grameen Phone Teleshomoy' on 12 August was 'The role of the mass media in resisting the spread of corruption'. Telecast by Channel-i, the discussants included TIB Executive Director Ittekuruzzaman, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer Ibqal Sobhan Chowdhury and the Chairman of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University Dr. Golam Rahman. As the talk show was a live one, the audience could put forward questions on the subject to the discussants. The discussants replied to all queries of the audience. On the other hand, 'Corruption would diminish if the electoral expenses were reduced' was the main theme of 'Grameen Phone Teleshomoy' telecast by Channel-i on 16 September. Present in the programme, as discussants were eminent educationist and member of TIB Trustee Board Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim and the Editor of daily Samakal Golam Sarwar. Electoral expenditure, corruption and the ways of overcoming corruption from this area were discussed in the show. Some recommendations were put forward during the discussion on reducing the election expenditure, e.g. by disclosing the election manifestos to the people by political parties before the election, so that the mass people can directly place their demands to the politicians. The discussants also put forward on these recommendations e.g. not to give any kind of privileges to the black money owners within the party. On the other hand, to control the election expenditure and to reduce the electoral corruption, the party itself have to control the total expenses in favour of the candidates. Media personality Muhammad Jahangir acted as the presenter in both of the shows.

TV Commercial

Three more TV Commercials (TVCs) have been added to the Visual Media Advocacy component of TIB. The main theme of the latest TVC is 'Our cherished land, it's not merely a dream, it's achievable'. These three TVCs have depicted how we want to see our country. Attempts have been made to inculcate a positive attitude among the audience rather than show corruption in the three sectors, viz. education, health and police administration.

TIB WORKSHOP

Workshop on Strategic Plan

A workshop on 'Strategic Plan' of TIB was held between 7 and 9 August at a local hotel in Dhaka. Thirty officers of the organisation including the Executive Director and the other Directors participated in the workshop. Dr. Sanaul Mostafa conducted the 3-day long workshop and he was assisted by Mr. Mostak Ahmed. The objective of the workshop was to review the logical framework of the 'Making Waves' project. Different activities of the project and some addition, exclusion and improvements for the expected results as well as suggestions for proper coordination between the ongoing activities of four divisions of TIB came up from group work during the workshop. Recommendations were put forward after identifying various limitations of TIB in future undertakings and solutions were arrived at through group discussions. Opinions of everybody present were sought on the project goals for sustaining the processes under 'Making Waves' even after 2007.


A workshop on 'Human Resource Development Manual' was organised by TIB on 9 September 2005 at a local hotel in Dhaka. A total of 30 officials including the Executive Director of TIB and other Directors participated in this workshop. The workshop was conducted by the Director of BRAC's Training Division Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir.
Opinion-sharing meeting between TIB and CCC conveners

An opinion-sharing meeting was held between the conveners of the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) formed throughout the country and TIB on 5 August at a local hotel in Dhaka. The meeting was arranged to determine the role of the Committees of Concerned Citizens in the anti-corruption movement and on ways and means of placing it on a firm footing as an effective organisation.

The Treasurer of the TIB Trustee Board Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, members Mahfuz Anam, Advocate Sultana Kamal, M. Hafizuddin Khan, Executive Director of TIB Ittekharuzzaman, Directors and officials of various divisions were present on the occasion. In his introductory remarks, Ittekharuzzaman pointed out the relevance of the meeting and narrated on the ongoing activities of TIB. He sought advice and cooperation of all on how the anti-corruption movement could be carried forward by playing a more effective role. The conveners present on the occasion were Dr. Monirul Islam of Chittagong City, Golam Arif Tipu of Rajshahi City, Dr. Zakir Talukder of Natore Sadar, Advocate Saiiful Islam Reza of Chapainawabganj, Sadrul Alam Dulu of Rangpur Sadar, Mo'inul Islam of Lalmonirhat Sadar, Advocate A.T.M. Enamul Haque Chowdhury of Kurigram Sadar, Advocate Sudhangshu Kaluar of Nailaabari, Advocate Ashok Sarker of Kishoreganj, Abdul Latif of Modhupur and Advocate Md. Nazrul Islam of Jamalpur. The CCC members present were Professor M. Ashrafuzzaman of Mymensingh Sadar and Mahbubul Alam Ratan of Muktagacha.

In his address, Professor Muzaffer Ahmad called for implementing the goals and objectives of TIB by rising above all kinds of fear through framing participatory plans and programs. TIB Trustee Mahfuz Anam emphasised on massive involvement of various cultural and professional organisations of the locality and the need for carrying forward the work of TIB through them.

Reception for GPA-5 obtainers in Secondary Examination

Natore Sadar: A reception was organised under the aegis of CCC Natore Sadar on 9 September at the local Sakam auditorium in honour of GPA-5 obtainers in the secondary examination. Through this reception, the successful students were encouraged to come forward to participate in the movement for ridding the country of corruption.

Kishoreganj: A reception program was arranged on 13 September by the CCC-Kishoreganj for GPA-5 achievers in the secondary examination. In their reactions, the honoured students said, we want a country that would be free from corruption.

Rajshahi City: A similar reception was organised on 22 September for the students obtaining GPA-5 at the local Teachers' Training College auditorium.

Committee of Concerned Citizens formed at Chittagong

A 17-member Committee of Concerned Citizens has been formed at the port city Chittagong under the aegis of TIB. This committee would work for curbing corruption and establishing good governance through increasing transparency, accountability and participation of the people in the workings of various service-providing government and private organisations at the local level. The committee was formed at a meeting held at the Theatre Institute, Chittagong on 13 July. The Executive Director of TIB Ittekharuzzaman and TIB officials of various levels were present at the meeting. The Dean of the Social Science faculty of Chittagong University Professor Mo'inul Islam was selected the convenor of the committee. Other members of the committee are: Professor Hamida Banu, Dr. Shah Alam, Professor A.Q. M. Sirajul Islam, Dr. Q. M. Wahidul Alam, Advocate Salehuddin Haider Siddiqui, Advocate Aktar Kabir Chowdhury, Shishir Dutta, Jesminne Sultana Paru, Ferdous Ara Alim, Shyamoli Majumdar, Daisy Moudud, Sheela Momen, Engineer Delwar Majumdar, Md. Arief Rahman, Advocate Rehana Kabir Rana, Hamidul Islam Shamim. A 7-member Advisory Committee was also formed to help the CCC through various types of advice. The members of the Advisory Committee are: Professor Anupam Sen, Begum Mushtari Shafi, Dr. Rabiul Hossain and journalist Abul Momen. It may be noted that 12 similar committees have been previously formed and made operational through the initiative of TIB at greater Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur regions.

Citizens' Meeting at Lalmonirhat

A citizens' meeting was held at the district council auditorium on 17 June under the aegis of CCC-Lalmonirhat Sadar. Chaired by the CCC convenor Md. Mo'inul Islam, the meeting was addressed by the Programme Director of TIB Abu Md. Mohsin and CCC member Advocate Md. Moizul Islam. The open discussion on corruption in the district was participated by Dr. Zakirul Islam Farooqi, Advocate Md. Motiar Rahman, Advocate Mohiur Rahman, et al.
OPINION-SHARING MEETINGS

Opinion-sharing meetings on improving the quality of Primary Education

Rangpur Sadar: An opinion-sharing meeting was held with the School Managing Committee (SMC) of Zafarganj Government Primary School under the aegis of CCC-Rangpur Sadar for improving its services. The managing committee welcomed this initiative of CCC and gave assurance of all-out cooperation. The members of CCC and SMC and local Union Parishad members were present on the occasion.

Jamalpur: An opinion-sharing meeting was held with the SMC of Bangladesh Government Primary School on 13 and 16 August under the initiative of CCC Jamalpur. It was presided over by the SMC Chairman Md. Rokonuzzaman.

Natore Sadar: An opinion-sharing meeting was held with the District Education Officer at his office on 4 September under the aegis of CCC-Natore Sadar for improving the quality of primary education and making the educational institutions free from corruption.

Discussion Meeting on improving the quality of secondary education

Rangpur Sadar: A discussion meeting was held on 29 August under the initiative of CCC-Rangpur Sadar on the theme 'Improving the quality of secondary education by establishing transparency and accountability' at local Shishu Academy auditorium. CCC member Dr. Shashwata Bhattacharya presented the keynote paper at the meeting.

Opinion-sharing on improving the quality of Union Parishad services

Kurigram Sadar: An opinion-sharing meeting was held on 15 August at 11 a.m. between the CCC-Kurigram Sadar and the Mogalbasha Union Parishad at the parishad's office, The Chairman of the Union Parishad Md. Nur Zaman Babilu and his parishad and CCC members AKM Samiul Haque, Rabindranath Roy and Yusuf Alamgir were present at the meeting. On the other hand, another opinion-sharing meeting was held between the CCC-Kurigram Sadar and the Bhogdanga Union Parishad on 25 August at the Mogolbasha Union Parishad office. The aims, objectives and programmes of CCC as well as the CCC-plan for improving the quality of services rendered by the union parishad were discussed at the meeting.

Rangpur Sadar: An opinion-sharing meeting was held with the Tampat Union Parishad on 24 August under the aegis of CCC-Rangpur Sadar at the Union Parishad office with the goal of improving the union parishad services. The CCC members sought the cooperation of the parishad in transforming Tampat into a well-governed model union. The parishad gave assurance of all-out cooperation in this regard.

ACTIVITIES OF VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Natore Sadar: A 12-member Volunteer Group of CCC-Natore Sadar was constituted on 23 June. The first formal meeting of the group was held at CCC-Natore Sadar office on 26 June.

Publication of Wall-Paper: CCC- Natore Sadar and the CCC-Volunteer Group jointly published a wall-paper on 31 August. The cover of the wall-paper was unveiled in the CCC office by CCC member Advocate Amjad Hossain.

Rangpur Sadar: A tree-distribution programme among the students of Zafarganj Government Primary School at Uttam Union Parishad of Rangpur Sadar upazila was held under the aegis of CCC Volunteer Group.

Kurigram Sadar: A tree-distribution programme among the students of Atmaram Bisheshwar Government Primary School of Belgachha union was organised by the CCC Volunteer Group on 25 July.

Campaign on Information: A Campaign on Information was held under the aegis of Kurigram Volunteer Group at the Kurigram Sadar Hospital compound on 14 September to improve hospital services by enhancing transparency and accountability.

Modhupur: A general knowledge contest was organised on 5 July at 3 schools and 1 madrasah of Modhupur Municipality by the Volunteer Group of CCC-Modhupur for flourishing the intellect of students, raising the quality of education and for seeking out talents.

Chapainawabganj Sadar: The Volunteer Group of CCC-Chapainawabganj Sadar organised a programme on 'raising traffic awareness' between 13 and 17 August in Nawabganj municipal area. A survey was simultaneously conducted on the subject of 'traffic awareness'.
**CCC WORKSHOPS**

**Rangpur Sadar:** A workshop on 'Role of women in establishing good governance' was held on 27 June under the aegis of CCC-Rangpur Sadar at its office. Discussions were held at the workshop on gender discrimination, impact of corruption on women and the role of CCC in reducing corruption at the local level.

**Lalmonirhat Sadar:** A workshop titled 'Participation of women in the anti-corruption movement' was held on 27 June at the Lalmonirhat LGED auditorium under the aegis of CCC-Lalmonirhat Sadar. Presided over by CCC member Swapna Zaman, NGO workers, lawyers, housewives and female representatives from different professions took part in the workshop.

**Kurigram Sadar:** A workshop on 'Role of women in establishing good governance' was held on 30 June under the aegis of CCC-Kurigram Sadar at its office. Female representatives from different classes and professions including teachers, NGO workers, lawyers, housewives, social workers, women leaders and female journalists were present at the workshop.

**Modhupur:** A workshop on 'Measures for improving service quality in land administration' was held on 13 July at Modhupur Agricultural Training Centre. Around 60 representatives from the civil society including the land officer of Modhupur, lawyers, teachers, women representatives and journalists were present.

**Kurigram Sadar:** A workshop on improving the quality of primary education was held on 27 July under the aegis of CCC-Kurigram Sadar. Eighteen individuals including primary education officer, teachers, guardians, School Managing Committee members and journalists participated in the workshop.

**Chapainawabganj Sadar:** A workshop on gender issue was held on 18 August under the aegis of CCC-Chapainawabganj Sadar at the auditorium of local Kalyani Mohila Sangsad. The workshop was inaugurated by the CCC convener Advocate Saiful Islam from the women community Reza. Thirty-six representatives participated in the workshop.

**Natore Sadar:** CCC-Natore Sadar organized a workshop on gender issue at its office. The workshop was inaugurated by the veteran woman leader of Natore Dilara Begum Parul.

**Jamalpur Sadar:** A workshop titled 'Ways of improving the service quality of municipality' was organised by the CCC-Jamalpur Sadar on 24 August at the conference room of local municipality.

**FACE THE PUBLIC**

**Mymensingh Sadar:** CCC-Mymensingh Sadar organised 'Face the Public' programme on 21 June with the goal of making the municipality transparent, accountable and strong. On the other hand, similar programme was organised by the CCC-Mymensingh sadar on 29 June with the goal of making the municipality transparent, accountable and strong. The no. 8 ward commissioner of Mymensingh Municipality Asit Ranjan Dutta and the female commissioner for wards 7, 8 and 9 Ms. Anita Pal attended the event held at the hall room of City Collegiate School.

**Nalitabari:** An open budget session was held with the participation of the local people of Baghberi Union Parishad at the Sanyasi Bhita High School premises on 22 June with the slogan 'Making the union parishad stronger: Needed transparency, accountability and participation of the people'. Organised by the CCC-Nalitabari.

**Jamalpur Sadar:** A 'Face the Public' programme was organised by the CCC-Jamalpur Sadar on 5 September at the Digpait Union Parishad ground of the district. Chaired by the CCC convener Advocate Mohammad Nazrul Islam Dul and attended by the Union Parishad Chairman, the programme was held with the objective of ensuring transparency, accountability and development of the Union Parishad.

**MOTHERS’ GATHERING**

**Modhupur:** A Mothers’ Gathering was organised by the CCC-Modhupur on 16 August 2005 with the goal of grooming mothers as responsible and conscious citizens for improving the quality of primary education. The mothers of the students of Ambaria Government Primary School participated in it. Presided over by the Chairman of School Managing Committee, the gathering was attended by the Upazila Education Officer Md. Mofizul Islam as the chief guest. The convener of the CCC sub-committee on primary education Professor Golam Samdani highlighted the role of mothers in the field of education.

**Jamalpur Sadar:** A Mothers’ Gathering was held on 28 August under the aegis of CCC-Jamalpur Sadar at the Hajipur Government Primary School of Jamalpur district. Presided over by the CCC convener Advocate Dulu, over 200 mothers attended the meeting on the subject 'Role of mothers in qualitative improvement of education'. All female guardians of the concerned school, teachers, members of the School Managing Committee, CCC members and TIB officials were present at the meeting.
**SEMINAR**

**Natore Sadar:** TIB Trustee and Executive Director of Ain O Shalish Kendra Advocate Sultana Kamal has said, democracy needs to be practised on a continual basis, and corruption impedes the democratic process. She said this at a seminar on ‘Corruption: Society, Social Movement’ held on 5 July at the Zilla Parishad auditorium under the aegis of CCC-Natore Sadar. Conducted by the CCC convener Dr. Zakir Talukder and presided over by the CCC member Professor Jalal Uddin Ahmed, CCC member Advocate Md. Amjad Hussain read out the paper written by Jyotin Sarkar at the seminar. The discussants were TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque, Professor Dr. Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, Shamima Liazu Neela et al.

**Jamalpur Sadar:** CCC-Jamalpur Sadar organised a seminar on ‘Basic Education: Problems and Remedies’ at Jamalpur Shilpakala Academy auditorium on 5 July. Held with the objective of ensuring quality education, the speakers at the seminar said that the government was violating the Constitution by not introducing uniform, pro-people, universal, free and compulsory education system. Two papers were presented at the seminar by the Upazilla Education Officer Md. Obadullah and CCC member Professor Meer Ansar Ali.

**Rajshahi City:** The speakers at a seminar on ‘Corruption in Bangladesh: Role of TIB’ said that corruption was the key national problem for the country at this juncture. Organised by CCC-Rajshahi City on 10 July at Zafar Imam Tennis Complex of Rajshahi, the seminar was chaired by the CCC convener Advocate Golam Arif Tipu. TIB Trustee Professor Khan Sarwar Murshed was the chief guest on the occasion. Litterateur Professor Hasan Azizul Haque and economist Professor Sanat Kumar Saha were the special guests. The keynote paper was presented by TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman. Representatives of various classes and professions participated in it.

**Chapainawabganj Sadar:** A seminar was organised by CCC-Chapainawabganj Sadar on 11 July at the Nawabaganj Club [Town Club] on ‘Corruption: Good Governance and Social Movement’. TIB Trustee Professor Khan Sarwar Murshed was present at the seminar as chief guest while TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman was the special guest. The seminar was presided over by the CCC convener Advocate Saitul Islam Reza and the keynote paper was presented by the Associate Professor of Bangla Department of Rajshahi University Dr. Sujit Sarkar. The chief guest urged the civil society to come forward for curbing corruption and ensuring good governance.

**Lalmonirhat Sadar:** The state, family and society have to endeavour from their own positions to eliminate corruption. The former Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University and TIB Trustee Professor Khan Sarwar Murshed said this while addressing a seminar on ‘Impact of corruption in social life’ organised by CCC-Lalmonirhat sadar on 22 July afternoon at Lalmonirhat Zilla Parishad auditorium. Two papers were presented at the seminar by Md. Moinul Islam and Md. Moktar Hussain. TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman replied to various queries put forward during the open discussion and question-answer session. Programme Director of TIB Abu Md. Mohsin, the CCC members and representatives of various professions were present at the seminar.

**PEOPLE’S THEATRE**

**Production-based Workshop of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Rangpur People’s Theatre Groups: 3 Different Drama Produced**

The People's Theatre Group of Lalmonirhat has produced the play 'Sarbanasha Teesta' based on the story of the helpless people, who were victims of corruption. TIB is forming People's Theatre Groups under the CCC for raising awareness at the grassroots level through people's theatre. TIB organised a 5-day long workshop between 28 August and 1 September for imparting training to the theatre activists on the production of people's theatre. Thirty-five theatre activists from Rangpur, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram participated in this workshop held at the auditorium of Hotel Abakash in Dhaka. Eminent theatre personalities like Sara Zaker, Mamunur Rashid and Tarj Anam Khan were present at the workshop on different days. They taught the theatre activists various theoretical and practical aspects of acting. The officials of TIB's advocacy division acted as the main facilitators during the workshop. During the 5-day long workshop, the Lalmonirhat Theatre Group produced 'Sarbanasha Teesta', the Kurigram Theatre Group produced 'Ekta Kobar Khorar Itikatha' (history of digging a grave) and the Rangpur Theatre Group 'Andharey Dhaaka Amader Shamashya' (our problems covered in darkness).

'Durnitir Chhobal' staged at Muktagacha

The Theatre Group of Muktagacha staged the sixth show of 'Durnitir Chhobal' at Kheruajani School ground of Muktagacha on 6 July. Another two shows were staged on 20 July and 9 August at Rasulpur School premises and Khamarbazary Primary and High School ground. About 400 local people, students, teachers were present to enjoy each of the shows. The theatre activists exchanged views with the people after the shows and jotted down their valuable opinions on the drama.

Naltibari Theatre Group Staged 'Durnitir Shimany'

Four shows of 'Durnitir Shimany' produced by the People's Theatre Group of Naltibari were staged on 23 and 25 August, and 7 and 14 September respectively. More than 400 local people enjoyed each of the show held at various places of the locality. After the show the audience placed a demand for staging more such shows in order to generate mass awareness. It may be mentioned that the opinions of the audience on the drama were written down after each show and later these were taken into consideration for subsequent shows.
TIB Awarded Investigative Reports 1997-2004

A book titled 'TIB Awarded Investigative Reports 1997-2004' has been published recently comprising of 13 prize-winning reports, which were awarded Investigative Journalism Prizes by TIB. The reports were published between 1997 and 2004 in various dailies and are rich in information on institutional and systemic corruption. The book was formally launched on 4 August during a roundtable on 'Corruption and the Mass Media' at the Jatiya Press Club. There are five reports on how the police play a supportive role in favour of terrorists as well as various other types of corruption in police stations. Two reports have shown that the fine-looking bottled water is in many instances mere packaging-based business and it is difficult to find genuine commodities in the crowd of adulterated ones. Another report elaborated on how the meter readers working for the Tilas Gas Company could become millionaires overnight. There are also reports in the book on innumerable mistakes, anomalies and factual errors in textbooks published by the Text Book Board, the unethical linkages between the doctors and the medicine companies and the corruption resorted to during the construction of Jamuna Bridge. A picture of the pervasive corruption in the above fields can be gleaned from this book.


The book 'National Integrity Systems: Country Study Report Bangladesh 2003' authored by TIB was formally launched on 14 September 2004 simultaneously from Dhaka and Berlin. The book basically comprises of four chapters. The first chapter deals with the causes, nature and consequences of corruption. The second chapter dwells on the executive branch of the state, the parliament, election commission, political parties, supreme audit institution, the judiciary, civil service, police and prosecutors, government procurement, Ombudsman, investigative and watchdog bodies, the mass media, civil society, regional and local governments. The third chapter touches on various strategies and initiatives of the government for curbing corruption and the role of the donor agencies in this area. The last chapter provides answers to various questions on these subjects. The 128-page book shows both positive and negative aspects of the gradual progress made in the basic institutions of the state. The positive attributes of the current decade include sustenance of a healthy democratic process, emergence of the civil society, elections under a non-party neutral caretaker government, independence of the news media, efforts for separation of the judiciary from the executive, structural improvements of local governments, reorganisation of administration and reconstitution of a permanent watchdog body for curbing corruption. Alongside these, the negative attributes of the state include lack of transparency, reluctance to implement electoral pledges, misuse of power, disruption in the functioning of parliament due to boycotts by the opposition parties and the process of privatisation of state-owned enterprises. These two books published by TIB would be helpful to all interested in the anti-corruption movement including the policy makers, journalists, researchers and students. The books are available at the Dhaka office of Transparency International Bangladesh (House-1, Road-23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka) on our email: advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org.