Reforming the Police Administration

The principal task of the police administration is to maintain law and order in the country; but they also have some direct and indirect responsibility of containing corruption. Despite that, there are many complaints against the police. There is now a general perception among the masses that the police resort to bribery and torture, ignore genuine complaints, collude with the musclemen and criminals and extract shares from the drug traders and smugglers. As a consequence, the distance between the police and the people is gradually widening.

The government has given the responsibility of containing terrorism to the joint forces, which include the army, in the backdrop of police failure to do so. Till now, their success in eradicating terrorism is quite visible. But it is only a temporary arrangement. After the withdrawal of the joint forces, the responsibility of keeping the law and order situation normal would fall on the civil administration. The government has decided to create a rapid action force so that the law and order situation does not deteriorate after the withdrawal of the army. But it would be very difficult to control the law and order situation with a force having a limited number of trained personnel.

The number of police has not grown at the same rate as the country’s population. Presently, the number of police in the country is 1 lakh 9 thousand. In terms of proportion, there is only 1 police for every 13 thousand persons. Besides, a large chunk of the police force remains busy with providing security for the VIPs. It can be easily understood that the size of the police force is indeed small compared to their responsibility of maintaining law and order among such a huge population. The law and order situation in the country deteriorates and avenues for corruption are created due to many reasons. The existing administrative arrangements in the police force are also responsible to a large extent for its corrupt tendencies. Each year, thousands of cases are lodged against the police in the police headquarters. Between 1 October last year and 30 September this year, punitive measures have been taken against 19 thousand members of the police force. 157 have been dismissed. They range from Additional IG to Constable. But there is no change in the status quo.

The administrative thanas or police stations of the country play an important role in efforts to control law and order, reduce criminality and check corruption. But there is a dearth of efficient, trained and meritorious police officers for running the police stations. There are also multifarious problems related to infrastructure. At different times, the governments of the day use the police force for political purposes, as a result of which the legal basis of their work as well as their efficiency and morale suffer serious damage. The recently published UNDP report on ‘Human security in Bangladesh’ quotes the police as saying that there is regular interference in their work from the political parties, leaders and higher authorities. This research mentions that the police are quite dissatisfied with their existing salary-allowance structure and other facilities.

A Police Commission was constituted in 1988 headed by Justice Aminur Rahman Khan. The main responsibility of that Commission was to submit necessary recommendations after identifying the prevailing problems in the police force. The Commission submitted recommendations that totalled 300 pages, but most of these had not been implemented. Presently, the proposal for establishing a counter intelligence unit headed by an Additional IG and comprising of 500 police members, in order to improve the image of the police force and bring back transparency in its workings, is under consideration of the Home Ministry.

Reforming the police force has now become urgent in the backdrop of the existing socio-economic realities. Its rules and regulations need to be modernised. The number of police should be raised to control law and order, reduce criminality and curb corruption. The recruitment process for the police force should be such that only meritorious, honest and people committed to public service are selected for the job. By reducing their involvement in the private security of VIPs, the police can be engaged more for the service of the people. The quality of work at the police stations is expected to improve if its responsibility is given to an Assistant Superintendent of Police who had qualified in a BCS examination. Many people are of the view that corruption would decrease manifold if the police are not allowed to use Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure indiscriminately. Laws may also be framed for keeping the police officers free from invisible influences.

If the salary-allowances and other facilities of the police are made consistent with the prevailing socio-economic milieu, if a modern and well-equipped police force and a counter-intelligence unit are raised, in other words, if an educated police force suited to the needs of a civilized country of the 21st century is groomed through radical reforms of the police force and is empowered to work independently as per law, only then can we hope to improve our present lot.
Fact-finding Research Report on CAG and PAC released at National Integrity Workshop

**Modern Audit Process needed for ensuring Good Governance**

A huge number of audit objections are not being disposed off due to obsolete audit processes of the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), limitations of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) and negligence of the government. Although there are provisions for submission of opinion by the concerned Ministries within 90 days of the completion of audit by the CAG, the relevant Ministries resort to procrastination on the matter. This information was obtained from a fact-finding research conducted by TIB on the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General. TIB also carried out another fact-finding research on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Parliament. These research reports were formally released on the first day of the National Integrity Workshop organized by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at the CIRDAP auditorium of capital Dhaka on 21 and 22 September.

Chaired by the Chairman of TIB Board of Trustees Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, this day-long workshop was attended by top politicians, policy makers, researchers, senior journalists, high level government officials and members of the civil society. According to the 3rd and 4th report presented by the PAC of Seventh Parliament, the delays in taking preliminary measures by the ministries to meet audit objections exceeded 12 to 16 years in some cases. On the other hand, although replies were sent by the concerned ministries and divisions for disposal of the objections, the relevant officers and employees of the Audit department did not dispose those on time. According to available information, when irregularities are detected being disposed off due to obsolete audit processes of the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), limitations of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) and negligence of the government. Although there are provisions for submission of opinion by the concerned Ministries within 90 days of the completion of audit by the CAG, the relevant Ministries resort to procrastination on the matter. This information was obtained from a fact-finding research conducted by TIB on the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General. TIB also carried out another fact-finding research on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Parliament. These research reports were formally released on the first day of the National Integrity Workshop organized by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at the CIRDAP auditorium of capital Dhaka on 21 and 22 September.

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TIB presents a framework for Anti-Corruption Commission in Bangladesh for effective measures to curb corruption

Transparency International Bangladesh has put forward a proposal for constituting an independent and effective Anti-Corruption Commission in the country in order to curb corruption in the country. A working paper on the subject was formally released on 22 September on the second day of the 2-day National Integrity Workshop organized by the TIB in Dhaka. Chaired by the chairman of the TIB Board of Trustees, the workshop was attended by former Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Mr. Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman (also former Chief Justice of Bangladesh), former Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, former Director General of the Bureau of Anti Corruption Badiuzzaman, former Cabinet Secretary Mujibul Haque, Member of Parliament Colonel (retired) Faruque Khan, G M Quader, politician Rashed Khan Menon, journalist Enayetullah Khan, members of the TIB Board of Trustees and its Executive Director, high ranking government officials and members of the civil society.

TIB has prepared this amended organisational structure in the light of the existing organogram of the Bureau of Anti Corruption, taking into consideration the opinions of various quarters. It dwells on the composition of the Commission, it’s legislation, the process of recruiting the Chairman and Members of the Commission, the qualification and tenure of the Chairman and Members of the Commission, their salary-allowance and other facilities, status, removal, resignation, vacancy, absence, etc.

The second chapter of the working paper prepared by TIB describes the organisational structure of the Commission. It also makes prescriptions about the organisational set-up of the existing which have been discussed elaborately.

The third chapter discusses the functions, responsibilities and legal powers of the proposed Anti Corruption Commission of Bangladesh. It describes the tasks and duties of the Commission, adjusting and recruiting manpower for the Commission, preparation of a Manual for the Commission, legal jurisdiction of the Commission, sanctioning authority, external interference in the functioning of the Commission, the power to take action against false, concocted and motivated complaints, mechanism for bearing the cost of cases, the power of examining bank accounts and taking stock of properties, arrest of the accused during submission of charge-sheet, terms of punishment for elected representatives, members of law enforcement agencies, officers of civil service of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above, complaints outside corruption, resolving difference of opinion between the Commission and the Government, required powers for bringing back money smuggled out of the country, etc.

The jail-term of punishment and the fines would be maximum if the elected representatives of the people, the policymakers of the country, members of the law enforcing agencies, officials of the civil service of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above and people holding important positions are found to be involved in corruption.
during the audit process, understanding is reached between the audit team and the officials of audited organisation for excluding the irregularities from the report on condition of payment of bribes before submission of report. The office of CAG plays a crucial part in identifying administrative and financial irregularities. Auditing exercise is undertaken in 22,885 administrative units of various ministries and divisions of Bangladesh Government, in accordance with their importance, through 10 audit departments. This office lacks efficient, experienced and trained manpower, as a result of which it is not possible to prepare effective and qualitatively good audit reports on such a huge number of organisations each year. Due to adherence to a flawed recruitment policy, the appointed officers and employees take a long time to attain efficiency in the subject of accounting and auditing.

In the absence of qualified and experienced instructors and a weak training curriculum on auditing, the Financial Management Academy or FiMA cannot impart training according to the demand of the CAG office. The procedure for selection of officials for training is also not satisfactory. This office is dependent on the Finance Division and the Establishment Division for allocation of budget and sanction of manpower. The area of auditing covered by the office of Comptroller and Auditor General is very limited. The departments demonstrate weak supervision in auditing and there is a dearth of effective measures for quality control of audits. Discrepancies are quite often visible between the accounts maintained by Bangladesh Bank and those by the office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA). This discrepancy is known to stand at Taka 1000 crore.

Presently, the office of Comptroller and Auditor General is implementing various projects for applying modern technology in its work and to modernise its functions. These include STAG (Strengthening the office of the Auditor General), RiGA (Reforms in Government Audit) and FiMA. It is expected that the CAG office would get a taste of modernity after these projects are fully implemented. This auditing institution not only reveals financial corruption and irregularities through auditing, it often plays a deterrent role in reducing corruption in government organisations due to the very existence of auditing. The notion that one has to face auditing acts as a psychological barrier against corruption, as a result of which many people try to refrain from indulging in corruption.

TIB has prepared a working paper in the light of its investigations, which contain recommendations for bringing in more dynamism in the workings of the office of CAG. These include disseminating introductory information on the office of Comptroller and Auditor General, application of modern technology, making proper arrangements for training, ensuring improved and efficient auditing by following the manual; modernising the fourth chapter sheds light on maintaining a check and balance in the workings of the Commission, its budget, taking action against internal corruption within the Commission, evaluation of the Commission’s performance, submission of reports by the Commission, public relations, litigations, etc.

The draft framework for an independent Anti-Corruption Commission, as proposed by TIB, suggests that Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh for curbing corruption may be formed with one Chairman and two Members. The President would appoint the Chairman and Members on the basis of recommendations put forward by Constitutional Council. The Constitutional Council would comprise of one selected representative each from the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition; they would nominate two other members after discussing with the Chief Justice. The Constitutional Council would have a total of five members. The Chief Justice would preside over the meetings of this Constitutional Council. The Council would nominate through consensus those persons whom it considered qualified for the positions of Chairman and Members of the Commission; but they should all be at least 50 years of age. The Chairman would enjoy the rank and status of a Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court while the Members would be equivalent to the Judges of the High Court Division. Subject to stipulations in the Constitution, the Chairman and Members would be appointed for a tenure of five years. The Chairman and Members would not be removed except on the grounds and through procedures that are applicable for removing judges of the Supreme Court.

The Chairman and Members of the Commission would grant permission for undertaking inquiry, filing cases and submission of charge-sheets against all levels of officers and employees and people enjoying VIP status; the decision of the Chairman would be finally enforceable matters. They would not require approval from any other person and there would be no external interference in its work.

If anyone gives information or submits false, concocted and motivated complaint to the Commission with the object of harassing somebody, then he would be identified and awarded maximum jail-term of 5 years and fined Taka 2 lakh. Generally, both the giver and taker of bribes as well as its instigator would be punished, if proved; besides, the expenses of the trial would be elicited from them. The jail-term of punishment and the fines would be maximum if the elected representatives of the people, the policymakers of the country, members of the law enforcing agencies, officials of the civil service of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above and people holding important positions are found to be involved in corruption. The Commission would take decisions and make recommendations on running its day-to-day work. It would review its work every three months and would examine whether the decisions and recommendations adopted in previous meetings had been implemented.

Two round-table meetings were held at Dhaka and Chittagong in December last year and January this year under the aegis of TIB. A fact-finding report on the Bureau of Anti-Corruption was released at those meetings. At the same time, TIB presented a draft outline on the proposed Anti-Corruption Commission at those gatherings. As a follow-up, TIB took the initiative to hold discussions at other divisional towns of the country for eliciting opinions and suggestions on the independent Anti-Corruption Commission. Some aspects of the proposed outline were extensively scrutinised at those meetings. TIB has prepared the present draft framework after taking into account the feedback and suggestions received from those discussions on the structure and powers of the independent Anti-Corruption Commission.

TIB is of the opinion that although corruption cannot be eliminated overnight, it can be checked to a certain extent if an independent and effective Anti-Corruption Commission is constituted for preventing and curbing corruption.
the training system and appointment of efficient trainers, recruitments in the vacant posts and appointment of specialised personnel, proper planning before audits and reconstitution of audit teams. The implementation of the program for separation of the accounts and audit departments, framing policies for recruitment and transfer of officers and employees, creation of a separate cadre for BCS officers, application of performance audit, taking punitive measures if no reply is received against primary audit objections within the stipulated time; extending the tenure of the Comptroller and Auditor General and improving the performance of the Public Accounts Committee of parliament. TIB is of the view that the functioning of the office of CAG would become more dynamic if these recommendations are implemented.

On the other hand, the workings of the Public Accounts Committee, ensuring its transparency and accountability and its role in curbing corruption have been analysed in the fact-finding report published on it by TIB. At the same time, a working paper has been released separately containing some recommendations for making the institution more effective in the light of the findings from the fact-finding exercise.

It has been found from TIB’s investigations that the first PAC was constituted within 1 year 3 months of the Parliament’s inauguration. The second PAC was constituted within 28 days of the formation of the new Parliament. On the other hand, the third PAC formed two sub-committees, reviewed the audit report for 1978-79 and submitted 3 reports to the President. The fourth PAC was formed after 4 months of the constitution of the seventh Parliament. But PAC has not yet been formed even after the lapse of 1 year on 10 October 2002 in the present Parliament.

The first PAC had convened three meetings. This committee did not discuss the audit reports, neither did it place any report before the Parliament. The second PAC sat in nine meetings and submitted a report to the Parliament. An ad-hoc PAC was formed in 1982 after the promulgation of Martial Law in 1981. The third PAC formed two sub-committees, reviewed the audit report for 1978-79 and submitted 3 reports to the President. The seventh committee sat at only 5 review meetings out of a total of 103 meetings. The PAC cannot compel the ministries to implement its recommendations. There is no permanent room for the PAC meetings. Besides, there is no separate secretariat to deal with PAC matters. There is no arrangement for training of those who work in the PAC. PAC’s programs lack an analytical and modern approach. No result is obtained even when important decisions are taken on old reports. Neither is there any mechanism for handing over responsibility to a new committee. The committee can make recommendations after reviewing the audit reports, but cannot monitor whether the recommendations are implemented. As a result, it is not possible to take any effective step against negligence of the ministries even when recommendations are made on irregularities. The execution of recommendations is not compulsory for the government, neither are the recommendations discussed in parliamentary sessions. It is gathered from available information that presently around Taka 200 crore is collected/adjusted each year through follow-up actions on the recommendations of government audits. Through discussions on 988 audit objections in 65 meetings of the PAC of the seventh Parliament, Taka 227 crore could be deposited in government treasury and detailed decisions could be taken on various audit objections.

The office of the Comptroller and Auditor General has submitted 770 audit reports to the President and the Parliament from 1971-72 to 16 July 2002. Of these, only 18.3% or 141 reports were discussed, the percentage of reports not discussed being 81.6%. Besides, the CAG has submitted 123 financial and 35 supplementary reports during the period. Of these, the number of financial and appropriation reports that were discussed numbered 7 and 2 respectively. The total number of objections in these audit reports stood at 16,085. It may be mentioned that 32.6% of the objections were discussed and 67.3% were not discussed. The amount of money involved in objections that were not discussed stood at 3.2 billion US dollar.

TIB has put forward some recommendations in the light of its investigations for streamlining the functioning of PAC. These include, taking a policy decision on holding discussions on old reports that have piled up, formation of the PAC in the very first session after the inauguration of Parliament, setting up a permanent office for the PAC and providing it with necessary research and logistic support, setting up a cell at CAG office for aiding the PAC, giving legal powers to the PAC for the implementation of its decisions, holding review meetings at regular intervals to ascertain whether its recommendations are being implemented, ensuring the presence of concerned officials for explaining relevant matters, preserving audit reports in the ministries, setting up audit cells for replying to objections and executing PAC’s recommendations, preparation of annual reports by the ministries on the subject, making arrangements for discussing the PAC reports in Parliament, giving access to the media to the meetings of the committee, releasing and publicising the PAC reports in the mass media, appointing the chairman of the PAC from the opposition law-makers and setting a mechanism for handing over the responsibility of the PAC to a new committee after the expiry of the old one. TIB holds the view that these recommendations should be implemented for making the workings of the PAC more effective. The mass media, both within and outside the country, gave wide coverage to TIB research reports after they were released. Some national dailies published editorials on the subject.
TIB at Chittagong

TIB started its activities at port city Chittagong on 28 March 2000 by arranging a seminar on the ‘role of the newspapers in curbing corruption’ at the auditorium of Chittagong Chamber. Chaired by the Executive Director of TIB Barrister Manzoor Hasan, the keynote paper at that seminar was presented by Professor Dr. Muhammad Yeahia Akhtar of the Political Science Department of Chittagong University. The main discussant was poet and journalist Abul Momen. Representatives of various classes and professions including teachers, journalists, researchers, government and private sector officials were present at the seminar. After this episode, ‘Friends of TIB’ was formed in Chittagong under the aegis of TIB. ‘Friends of TIB’ is now working to generate awareness in society in favour of the movement against corruption. It organized an open discussion on 13 November last year. A large number of participants representing various classes and professions of Chittagong participated in this exchange of views at the Regional Public Administration Training Centre, Chittagong. TIB arranged a workshop at the conference room of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 14 January on the occasion of presenting a draft outline on an independent Anti-Corruption Commission. Politicians, teachers, researchers, senior journalists and high-level public and private sector officials were present at the programme. On 7 and 8 April this year, 3 exhibitions of an anti-corruption play ‘Bagher Gappo’ were staged with the cooperation of ‘Friends of TIB, Chittagong’. The first show was staged at the GEC crossing of Mehedibagh on 7 April evening. The next day, one show was staged at Hathazari College ground and the other on Chittagong University campus. There was a huge turnout of spectators at both the shows. TIB released for the first time the research report on Corruption Database, 2001 in port city Chittagong on 9 July this year through a press conference (It may be mentioned here that TIB had released this report in Dhaka in 2001). Representatives and local correspondents of most of the national and local dailies were present at this press conference held at Chittagong Press Club. This event was given wide coverage the next day both in national and local dailies. TIB hopes to expand its activities on a massive scale at Chittagong in the days ahead.
**Training on Report Card for journalists and NGO workers**
A training course on report card methodology was recently held at Galachipa of Patuakhali district through the joint initiative of Action Aid Bangladesh and South Asia Partnership. Held between 25 and 28 September, 25 trainees including reporters of various local and national dailies as well as NGO workers participated in the course. Research Officer of TIB Saidur Rahman Mollah was the instructor.

**American Week at Chittagong**
The USAID organized an American Week at Hotel Agrabad of Chittagong between 17 and 21 September. The organisations funded by USAID, including TIB, participated in the programme. TIB stall at the American Week displayed various publications. The TIB Executive Director Manzoor Hasan made a PowerPoint presentation on the programs of TIB on 21 September.

**Focus group discussion of parliamentary reporters**
A focus group discussion was held on 30 September participated by the parliamentary reporters of mass media. This programme was arranged for exchanging real-life experiences of the parliamentary reporters and to elicit their valuable suggestions on the theme. The Chairman of TIB Board of Trustees Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, Member Professor Muzaffer Ahmad and the Executive Director Manzoor Hasan were present.

**CCC PROGRAMMES**

**Quality of healthcare services at Jamalpur General Hospital not satisfactory:**
A TIB report card survey has revealed many irregularities including low quality of services and clinical tests rendered by the physicians, nurses and others working in the hospital, unbearable harassment and persecution by the touts and middlemen, uncalled for bossing by unwanted elements and imitating comings and goings of medical representatives during treatment. The report card survey was conducted under the auspices of TIB and the CCC-Jamalpur for ascertaining the quality of healthcare services at Jamalpur General Hospital. Its findings were formally released through a press conference held at the local CCC office on 19 September.

The report revealed that money was collected from the patients by the waitresses in the name of various tests; the patients also had to make payments for various services including injections and saline pushing. Besides, the report also showed that the wards in the hospital lacked cleanliness. A number of recommendations were made in the report including recruitment of Superintendent and female physicians for the hospital, showing pathological test rates on the public notice board, installing complaint boxes, etc.

**Workshop on report card for healthcare services**
A workshop on report cards for ascertaining the quality of healthcare services in government hospitals was held on 28 September. Representatives of various segments of society attended this workshop, which was held through the initiative of CCC, Mymensingh Sadar. The main objective of the workshop was to put forward various recommendations for improving the quality of healthcare services.

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**FROM THE PAGES OF NEWSPAPERS**

**Corruption in land acquisition**
The survey team of Gopalganj district had resorted to extensive corruption and irregularities while completing survey-work prior to acquisition of lands for various development projects undertaken during the tenure of the previous government. The corrupt officials and employees of the land acquisition office in the district collectorate are now taking advantage of those irregularities. They are now citing various pretexts for delaying compensation payments to the owners of acquired lands.

Source: The Daily Bhorer Kagoj, 23 October 2002

**Embezzlement of stipend money**
Stipend money is being embezzled by preparing lists of non-existent students. The teachers-employees are getting their salaries sitting almost idle. This is happening at Hatiya High School under Ulipur upazila of Kurigram district. The school has 22 teachers-employees for 19 students. Stipend is awarded to 118 students.

Source: The Daily Sangbad, 27 October 2002

**Changing scripts for passing**
98 examinees out of a total of 100 who appeared in the degree examination under the National University from a college at Rajshahi have passed after changing their scripts. The scripts they submitted were written outside. Those two examinees who wrote their own scripts instead of changing them had failed. The matter is now under investigation. The Vice Chancellor has said that a section of teachers-employees were involved in this process.

Source: The Daily Janakantha, 30 October 2002

**Prison-term for bribe-taking judge**
A court in Brooklyn has sentenced a judge of the New York Supreme Court Victor Baron to 9 years imprisonment for taking bribe. Conceding his guilt, the 80-year old Baron said, 'I should expiate for the crime I committed.

Source: The Daily Janakantha, 30 October 2002

**Misappropriation in the name of manpower export**
A police Havildar of Jhenaidah has misappropriated lakhs of taka through fraudulent means in the name of manpower export. Those who became paupers after falling prey to his trap are not getting back...
Review Meeting at Kishoreganj

A review meeting was held on 29 October with the participation of CCC members and the hospital authorities on the quality of healthcare services at Kishoreganj General Hospital. The convenor of CCC, Khursheed Uddin Bhuiyan, its Secretary Rafiqul Islam and the Resident Medical Officer of the hospital Dr. Abu Taher were present on the occasion. A request was made on behalf of the CCC to swiftly implement its recommendations including installation of public notice board and complaint box, showing the list of on-duty physicians and medicines and services available at the hospital on the notice board. The hospital authorities had implemented the recommendations except that of setting up a complaint box and showing the list of services offered on the notice board. The Resident Medical Officer gave assurance that the other recommendations would also be implemented soon. He praised the role of the CCC for its motivational campaign to improve the healthcare services of the hospital.

Annual Meeting of Transparency International held at Casablanca

The Annual General Meeting of Transparency International (TI) was held at the Moroccan city of Casablanca on 12 and 13 October. A number of workshops were held prior to the holding of the meeting for sanctioning the activities of TI’s internal management and regional chapters. The programme of the general meeting commenced on 11 October through dinner, distribution of integrity award, documentary film shows, publications and release of this year’s toolkit. Both the documentary film and toolkit of TIB were displayed.

Member of the TIB Board of Trustees Professor Muzaffer Ahmad and the Executive Director Manzoor Hasan represented TIB at the Annual General Meeting. This year’s meeting was formally concluded on 13 October after Meeting. Dr. Peter Eigen was re-elected as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the fourth time. New members of the Board of Directors are the Chairman of TI-UK Laurence Cockcroft, Chairman of TI-Zimbabwe John Makumbe, Chairman of TI-Argentina Poder Ciudadano, another Argentine Luis Moreno Ocampo and the Chairman of TI-India Admiral RH Tahiilani.

Exchange of skills between CCC members

A 2-day programme was held on 24 and 25 October in Mymensingh with the objective of exchanging advocacy skills between the district level CCC members. The CCC members of Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Kishoreganj Sadar were present. The subjects of discussion included identification of issues and determination of priorities, deciding on strategies for specific advocacy issues, evaluation of socio-economic themes, formulating an outline for advocacy campaign, influencing the mass media and techniques of presentation and facilitation. Member of TIB and program specialist Abu Zayed Mohammad was present on the occasion as the Chief Facilitator.

Advisory Meeting at Jamalpur

An advocacy meeting was arranged by CCC-Jamalpur at Baniabazar High School on 13 October for discouraging corruption in primary education. The ‘report card survey’ report prepared by the CCC on corruption in primary education was released on the occasion. Various irregularities and corruption in primary education was revealed in the report. Over 200 headmasters and teachers of primary schools, CCC members and Assistant Education Officers of the Upazilas were present in the district primary education office. The students, teachers and guardians are very upset, as the educational items have not been distributed.

Corruption of Madrasah Principal

Allegations of corruption have been received against the Principal of Bherbhed Madrasah in Sadar upazila of Thakurgaon district. There are complaints that the Principal has misappropriated lakhs of taka by using the religious educational institution as a business establishment. The Principal has been removed from the position of Vice-Chairman because of his corruption and waywardness. The educational activities of the Madrasah are being seriously hampered due to these incidents.

Corruption of Anti-corruption officer

Complaints of corruption have been received against an Anti-corruption Officer of Narail. That officer of District Anti-corruption Office himself demanded a fat sum as bribe for investigating a land-related case. And he issued a warning that the inquiry would take a different course if his demands were not met. A person called Samedan Sheikh informed the local journalists about the matter by organising a press conference regarding the allegation at the District Press Club on 8 November.

School bags siphoned off

3 thousand 1 hundred school bags have been siphoned off from among various educational tools stored under the TLM program at the godown of Thakurgaon

while engaged in a noble profession’. It may be mentioned that he sought 115 thousand dollars as bribe for resolving a compensation case of 49 lakh dollars following injury to a child in an accident. He had also received 18 thousand dollars in advance before delivering the verdict.

Source: The Daily Bhoror Kagoj, 31 October 2002

Source: The Daily Matribhumi, 12 November 2002

Source: The Daily Sangbad, 11 November 2002

Source: The Daily Sangbad, 17 November 2002
People’s Theatre Show
As a part of the National Integrity Program, a performance of the people’s anti-corruption play ‘Rukhey Dandao’ (Face it) was staged on 22 September at the auditorium of Women’s Voluntary Association, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The play was staged by the People’s Theatre group of CCC, Nalitabari.

Meeting for exchange of views at Kishoreganj
The members of the CCC sat with the secondary school teachers of Kishoreganj municipality at a meeting for exchanging views on ways and means of raising the quality of education. Chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Bikash Chandra Saha, the headmasters of government and non-government high schools, education officers, representatives of TIB and CCC members were present on the occasion. There was unanimity of opinion on the need for curriculum planning, evaluation after regular intervals, constant communication with guardians and orientation and training courses to raise the efficiency of teachers in order to achieve qualitative improvement in education. The meeting reached a consensus that additional fees should not be collected from the students and the schools and teachers should be encouraged to work in unison without cooperation in the activities of the CCC. In his presidential address, Manzoor Hasan called upon everybody to work in unison without feeling frustrated about building a corruption-free Bangladesh. He requested the conscious segments of society to come forward to encourage the new generation and help them inculcate positive traits.

Debate and essay competition on Curbing Corruption
The Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) formed through the initiative of TIB organizes debate and essay competitions at local level. Participated by the male and female students of schools, colleges and madrasahs, these essay-writing and debating contests are aimed at grooming an honest leadership, flourishing extra-curricular activities and the blooming of latent talents of the students; they generate widespread interests and enthusiasm in the respective localities. Area-wise details of the competitions have been presented below.

Nalitabari
22 teams comprising of a total of 66 participants contested in the competition held at Nalitabari. The Taraganj Pilot Girls High School, Taraganj Senior Madrasa and the Najmul Memorial College emerged champions in the school, college and madrasah categories respectively. The prize-giving ceremony of this weeklong competition was held on 27 September at Taraganj Pilot Girls High School. Chaired by the Executive Director of TIB Manzoor Hasan, the programme was attended by Whip Zahed Ali Chowdhury as the chief guest. The Deputy Commissioner of Sherpur ABM Abdus Sattar was the special guest.

In his speech as the chief guest, the Whip requested those people who are engaged in the movement for transparency and accountability to themselves remain transparent. He assured all-out cooperation in the activities of the CCC. In his presidential address, Manzoor Hasan called upon everybody to work in unison without feeling frustrated about building a corruption-free Bangladesh. He requested the conscious segments of society to come forward to encourage the new generation and help them inculcate positive traits.

Seminar at Muktagacha
A seminar on ‘the responsibilities of the state and the duties of the citizens for establishing good governance at the local level’ was held at the auditorium of Muktagacha municipality on 3 October. Chaired by the CCC convener Advocate Shamsul Haque, those invited to the seminar included eminent educationist Professor Zatin Sarker and the Upazila Executive Officer Mohammad Faruque Alam. It was addressed by the Chief of USAID Mission in Bangladesh Gene V George, Executive Director of TIB Manzoor Hasan, CCC members Advocate Mahbubur Rahman Bulbul, Swapan Kumar Das and Ekhsiar Rahman Jewel.

Professor Zatin Sarker said at the seminar that peoples’ rule is the prerequisite for ensuring good governance. It is not possible to institutionalise democracy and good governance without the empowerment of the masses. Mr. George said that the representatives of donor countries cannot stop corruption, it can only be done by the people of this country. The Upazila Executive Officer expressed the resolve that the successful campaign for establishing a corruption-free country through transparent administration would be started from Muktagacha.

Others who spoke at the ceremony included local political leader and president of the local bar Advocate Saiiful Islam Kalam, Dr. Safir Uddin, Professor Nurul Amin, district commander of the freedom fighters Abu Taher, convener of the committee of concerned citizens MA Hakam Heera, members Mahfuzur Rahman, Nurul Amin and Samedul Islam. A large number of citizens of the area including Upazila Executive Officer Nazmul Hasan Khan and students of schools, colleges and madrasahs were present on the occasion.

Modhupur
Male and female students belonging to 27 schools, colleges and madrasahs participated in the essay and debate competition arranged at Modhupur. Here, Modhupur Girls High School and Asia Hasan Ali Women’s College emerged as the champion in the school and college categories respectively.

Winners in the school-level essay competition were Mostafizur Rahman, Saria Shoudh Siddiqui Himu and M. Ziaul Hasan Jewel, while M. Badal Hossain, M. Saiiful Islam and M. Ali Akbar were the victors at the college level. Suma Simansg of Modhupur Girls High School emerged as the best speaker at the school-level debating contest while Sanjida Anny of Asia Hasan Ali women’s College won the laurel in the college category.

The prize-giving ceremony of the competition took place on 21 October at the local Upazila Training and Development Centre. The Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Tangail Mohammad Ilyas distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest. Chaired by the CCC convener Professor Golam Samdani, the ceremony was also attended by the Upazila Executive Officer Enamul Haque Ena and social worker Mahbuba Salma as special guests. The Principal of Asia Hasan Ali College Md. Abdul Aziz, Professor Md. Motiar Rahman of Modhupur Degree College and Gyasuddin Ahmed of the local CCC were among those who spoke on the occasion. The prize-giving ceremony was attended by the teachers, students and guardians of various schools and colleges.
Peoples Theatre now at Muktagacha

After Mymensingh and Nalitabari, TIB has formed its third people’s theatre group at Muktagachha. The first production workshop of this theatre group was held between 25 September and 4 October. It was inaugurated by the TIB Executive Director Manzoor Hasan. Convener of CCC-Muktagacha Advocate Shamsul Haque was present on the occasion. The workshop imparted basic training on physical exercise, voice practice, projection, meditation, rhythmic movement, improvisation, imagination, character building and acting through theatre games. A total 20 local youths participated in it. Jewel Kabir Akash acted as the main instructor, manuscript writer and director in the workshop. The coordinator on the main instructor, manuscript writer and director in the workshop. The coordinator on the main instructor, manuscript writer and director in the workshop.

Mymensingh

The winners of the month-long essay and debate competition at Mymensingh were awarded prizes on 5 November. Held at the Udichi municipal library on 4 October. Around 500 spectators including the local municipal chairman were present.

Muktagacha

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Moshurraf Hossain has said that a united endeavour of the people belonging to all classes and professions is required alongside political goodwill for building a corruption-free country. He was speaking as the chief guest at the prize-giving ceremony of a month-long debate and essay competition at Muktagachha. Held at the local municipal library auditorium on 4 October. The programme was presided over by the CCC convener Advocate Shamsul Haque. It was attended by the Executive Director of TIB Manzoor Hasan, Upazila Executive Officer Mohammad Faruque Alam, Chairman of the municipality Khondakar Abdul Malek, representatives of various classes and professions and a sizable number of students.

Jamalpur

The Jamalpur CCC also organized an essay and debate competition for the students of colleges and schools. In the contest held on 23 October, Iqbalpur Girls High School defeated Government Girls High School. On the same day, Baniabazar High School won the contest against Railway High School. In the competition held on 29 October between Singhajani Boys High School and the Zilla School, the latter won. Other competitions would be held after the annual examinations were over.
Citizens’ Meetings at CCC areas

The Committees of Concerned Citizens formed by TIB to create awareness among the grassroots people regarding the widespread damage caused by corruption are holding citizens’ meetings at local level. People belonging to various professions including local representatives of the people, elites, politicians, members of the CCC and the representatives of TIB participate in these meetings. Mention has been made about some of these meetings below.

**Nalitabari**

A citizens’ meeting was held on 20 September at the Missionary School of Kakarkandi Union. Discussions were held on the duties of the citizens in establishing good governance at the local level. Chaired by Afazuddin Talukdar, the meeting was attended by the Union Parishad Chairman Nazimuddin, some U. P. members, CCC convener M. A. Hakam Hira, members Mahfuzur Rahman, Samedul Islam, Kiran Datta, Zahidul Islam, Kohinoor Ruma, teachers, doctors, lawyers and local elites. The members of the CCC informed the gathering about various anti-corruption programs of the citizens’ committee.

Another citizens’ meeting was held on 4 November at Nunni High School under Nunni Union. Presided over by the Union Parishad Chairman Alhaj Abdul Motaleb, the meeting was attended by around 70 citizens including the Executive Director of TIB Manzoor Hasan, UP members and local elites. The meeting discussed how the development and progress of the country was being hampered due to corruption.

**Kishoreganj**

The Committee of Concerned Citizens of Kishoreganj organized a citizens’ meeting at ward no. 3 of the town on October 1. The discussants dwelt on various problems including inadequate drainage, drug addiction and disruption of power supply. They also stressed on improving the quality of municipal services. The CCC convener Khurshed Uddin Bhuiyan, Member Ameenul Haque Chowdhury and inhabitants of the local ward AKM Siddique, Azizur Rahman Azu and Mohammad Shahidullah took part in the discussion.

Another citizens’ meeting was held on the same problems on 6 November; CCC member Ameenul Haque Chowdhury presided. Around 30 citizens including CCC member Najmun Nahar Molly and former PP Advocate Zahirul Islam took part in the meeting.

**Muktagacha**

The CCC of Muktagacha organized a citizens’ meeting on 4 November at Kumargatha Union. The Chairman of Kumargatha Union Parishad Akkas Ali presided over the meeting, which was attended by around 40 citizens belonging to various classes and professions, including the CCC convener Advocate Shamsul Hoque, members Ramzan Ali Pathan and Paritosh Kar. The CCC members shed light on various harmful effects of corruption. The CCC also put forward a number of recommendations in the meeting on improving the quality of services rendered by the Union Parishad. These included: making public announcement on the budget, informing the citizens about the funding and implementation of ongoing projects, displaying information on the number and allocation of VGD and VFG cards in the notice board and releasing details about the allocations for test relief.

A similar citizens’ meeting was held at Daogaon union of Muktagachha on 27 October. The chairman of the Union Parishad Advocate Sharafuddin presided over it. Local elites, the CCC convener and some members were present on the occasion.

**Mymensingh**

A citizens’ meeting was held on 14 November at the Commissioner’s Office of Mymensingh municipality. Held under the chairmanship of Municipal Commissioner SM Najmul HaqueTara, around 30 citizens including the CCC Convener Professor Shamsul Islam, members Pradip Chandra Kar, Md. Mottaz Uddin and Sharifulzaman Parag participated in the proceedings. They informed the audience about various anti-corruption programs of the CCC at Mymensingh.

**Jamalpur**

A citizens’ meeting was held at Nurundi union of Jamalpur district on 23 October. Chaired by the Union Parishad Chairman Md. Haider Ali, around 150 local citizens hailing from various classes and professions were present on the occasion. The CCC members spoke about the causes and harmful effects of corruption. They emphasized the need for ensuring transparency and accountability at all levels of the Union Parishad.
Corruption in Bangladesh

TIB had carried out a 3-tier household survey in 1997 entitled ‘Corruption in Bangladesh’ to understand the nature and incidence of corruption in Bangladesh. This report on the countrywide research survey was TIB’s first publication.

Anatomy of Parliament

This booklet dwells on the Constitution of Bangladesh, Rules of Procedure for Parliament, Parliamentary Proceedings and the powers of parliamentary committees.

Parliament-Watch

TIB is publishing this report on the basis of observations on various activities of parliament, including the role of the Speaker, performance of the Parliamentary Committees, Bills passed in Parliament, attendance and roles of the Parliament Members. A report has already been published on the first three sessions of the Eighth Parliament.

Corruption Perceptions Index

Bangladesh’s position was at the bottom of the Corruption Perceptions Index published by Transparency International in 2001. There were many newspaper write-ups on the subject, which have been compiled by TIB in this anthology. TIB is of the view that this publication would play an important role in generating awareness against corruption in the country.

Corruption Database Report

TIB has prepared a corruption database report by compiling information on corruption-related news published in the daily newspapers. It is a computerised database where all corruption-related news items published in the newspapers have been stored. This publication depicts the state of corruption in Bangladesh as reflected in the newspapers.

Fact-finding Report: Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General is one of the key supervisory bodies engaged in checking corruption in Bangladesh. TIB has conducted an investigative research on this organisation. This publication will be useful to those who are interested to know about the office of the CAG.

Fact-finding Report: Public Accounts Committee

The importance of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament in ensuring transparency and accountability and above all in establishing good governance is undeniable. PAC plays an important role by reviewing the Audit Reports submitted by the office of the CAG, thereby ensuring accountability. This TIB publication is based on an investigative research conducted on the performance of the PAC.
Irregularities in the Tehsil Office

Corruption and irregularities have reached a peak at the Tehsil offices. Innumerable people of the country visit the Tehsil offices each day for land-related matters. But a section of officers and employees in these offices harass the public in different ways. Mutation cannot be done without paying bribes. The office people have to be paid between 3 to 5 thousand taka for each case of mutation. The amount is charged after considering the complexities of papers. And the papers of those who cannot pay remain tied in files. There is no end to harassment in distribution of khas lands and collection of land taxes as well.

Abdullah Hil Marshroor, Chapapur, Comilla

E-Governance

The salary and allowances of government employees are quite inadequate in Bangladesh. It has become almost impossible for them to lead honest lives. Their incentive package should now be overhauled. At the same time, the administration would be more dynamic and accountable if transparency is increased everywhere through application of information technology and e-governance.

Navila Shabnam  
Carmichael College, Rangpur

Strengthening Democracy

The Human Development Centre of Islamabad undertook a survey on administration and corruption in 1999. The survey showed that a majority of the country’s population did not have faith on the political organizations and processes.

They held the view that it becomes difficult to communicate with the political leadership once they get elected. That leadership does no work so much for public interest as they do for personal or group interests. Four years have elapsed since the report of the Human Development Centre was published, but it does not seem that the situation has improved. Democracy can never be strengthened if faith in the democratic process cannot be established.

Tanmoyee  
Nakhalpara, Dhaka

Brave political leadership

The political leadership should not only be courageous, it should frame plans and strategies with honesty if it is to establish good governance and participate in the battle against corruption. The realities obtaining in the country would have to be considered while taking remedial measures. And courageous, honest and farsighted leadership is required for the purpose.

Shahreen  
Shah Paran Hall  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

Civil Society should come forward

The politics of Bangladesh is increasingly becoming violence ridden and unstable. Just as the ruling party is not allowing sufficient time for the opposition to speak, similarly the opposition is also repeatedly taking recourse to boycott of parliament. The international donor community is repeatedly saying that political instability is slowing the economic progress of Bangladesh, hampering its exports and disrupting livelihoods. The civil society has to be sincere about strengthening the democratic institutions and should demand social and economic development on a massive scale from the politicians.

Amit Poddar  
Sher Shah Colony  
Pahartali, Chittagong

Women representatives in Parliament

Real development is not possible without meaningful participation of the women community in the legislative process. Although half of the country’s population are womenfolk, but the number of women members in parliament is only five. Presently, there are no reserved seats for women. Apportioning 64 seats for women for representing 64 districts of the country is now very urgent. If direct elections are held in these seats, then meaningful participation of the women community in the legislative process can be ensured.

Mouli  
Shamsunnahar Hall  
University of Dhaka

Good Governance in Universities

Party politics by the teachers of public universities has now assumed a dangerous proportion. The teachers are mostly busy with party politics. Besides, they also engage in consultancy. Political identity is now given more weight in teacher-student relationships. Whereas the standard of education in neighbouring countries like India is gradually improving, the annual reports of the University Grants Commission each time points to a deteriorating quality of education in our country. Don’t we have any means to overcome this situation? Thank you TIB for publishing an editorial in the newsletter on good governance in the universities.

Kaniz Fatema  
Department of Soil Science  
University of Dhaka