



#### Investigators of ACC can play an exemplary role in preventing corruption

From a preventative perspective, the investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) can play an exemplary role through effective investigation. However, challenged with limited resources to ensure effective implementation, ACC investigators should always be updated with new skills as corruption cases require extensive knowledge base with technological updates.

Considering the significance of effective investigation, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organized the training on 'Effective Investigation of Corruption' from 3-4 July 2019 at its head office to capacitate the investigators of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Bangladesh. The training brought together 30 mid-level and higher mid-level ACC investigators from all around the country.

The training was conducted by a panel of relevant experts from different areas. The panel included Former Justice of High Court division Md. Azizul Haque; the Deputy General Manager of Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) of Bangladesh Bank; and Associate Professor of Department of Law, University of Dhaka Mr. Quazi Mahfujul Hoque Supan. The one and half of days training included both theoretical and practical sessions. The training was aimed to familiarize ACC Investigators with the methods of on the detection of corruption and evidence gathering during inquiry and investigation, tackling Illicit financial flows and miss-invoicing, and forensic evidence for the investigation of corruption/money laundering cases.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ACC and TIB for 2017-2019, the training, second of its kind, was organized to strengthen the anti-corruption prevention activities in the country.

The training programme was designed following the set of recommendations stated in an assessment of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Bangladesh carried out by TIB as part of an initiative by Transparency International (TI) to engage with anti-corruption agencies in a process of conducting evidence-based research to examine their performance and identify the challenges in selected jurisdictions.



In the inauguration of the programme, welcoming the participants to the event TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said. TIB has a long term relationship with ACC from its formation. TIB has not only been involved in the process that led to the creation of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Bangladesh but has been devoting a significant portion of its efforts to advocate and provide support to take it to higher levels of effectiveness. The ACC has also found this partnership useful and created the space in many ways that TIB could work with ACC in

selected areas of common interest towards strengthening the anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh.







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Dr. Zaman added, there is no alternative to effective investigation and prosecution of corruption cases in curbing the menace of corruption practices. This training program is part of the process through which TIB expects that the participating investigators will be enriched with the knowledge and techniques of countering corruption, Dr. Zaman concluded.

In his welcoming speech, Md. Akhtar Hossain, Director, ACC, Dhaka Divisional Office also encouraged the participants to take this training as a learning opportunity and to get the best of it by making the sessions interactive sharing their practical experiences.

Followed by the inauguration, Justice Md. Azizul Haque, an the expert on legal interpretation of anticorruption laws of Bangladesh facilitated an interactive session on the opening day on the interpretation implication of existing anticorruption laws for detection of corruption and evidence





gathering during inquiry and investigation. After an open discussion with the facilitator about their practical experiences, participants were engaged in a group discussion dividing into three groups and came out with their observation on legal weaknesses in inquiry and investigation; analysis of information and documents and interrogation techniques; and external factors affecting inquiry, investigation and charge sheet processes. Followed by the group discussion, each group presented its findings.

In the afternoon session, Mr. Kamal Hossain, an expert on financial intelligence discussed illicit financial flows from Bangladesh with a special focus on trade-based money laundering. He also highlighted the mandated role of ACC and its investigators in implementing the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012. Later, participants engaged in a group discussion on illicit financial flows, trade miss-invoicing, track and prevent transactions of anonymous companies etc. In the final day, Mr. Quazi Mahfujul Hoque Supan, an expert of Forensic investigation detailed on forensic evidence collection of corruption and money laundering cases. His



session covered case-based analysis and discussion on the basic knowledge of forensic science and forensic evidence, its importance in corruption/money laundering cases, data acquisition and preservation of forensic evidence, the legal framework for relevancy and admissibility of digital evidence, role of ACC investigators etc.

In the concluding ceremony, participants expressed gratitude to TIB for taking such an

initiative and hoped that the lessons they gathered through these fruitful sessions will help them to play a







better role in determining effective implementation of investigation and prosecution of corruption cases. Thanking the investigators for their active participation in the training, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, investigators need to be vigilant, innovative, properly trained and professional in their investigation. He expressed his hope that the training was helpful for them in this regard. Appreciating the initiative of TIB, Md. Akhtar Hossain, Director, ACC, Dhaka Divisional Office said that the session on forensic evidence was a new arena for the investigators and will recommend ACC to arrange further training on this issue. After completing the training course, ACC Investigators were awarded certificates.

### BCCTF Climate projects should follow ADP work method for output: TIB

The ongoing projects under Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) should follow the project implementation and monitoring process of the Annual Development Plan (ADP) projects as ADP financed projects are perceived to be better than that of BCCTF financed projects in terms of effectiveness, said TIB. Since many of the ADP projects have also climate components, there is also a need to carefully segregate climate activities of the development projects to access global climate funds.

TIB came up with the observations while releasing findings of the study at a press conference organized on 10 July 2019 at its Dhaka Head office. TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Adviser-Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, and Senior Programme Manager-Climate Finance Governance were present at the press conference. At the launching of the TIB funded research study under TIB's fellowship, Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque, Director, Asian Center for Development (ACD) & Professor, Department of Economics of East-West University (EWU); and Estiaque Bari, Asian Fellow, ACD & Lecturer, EWU presented the study findings who also carried out the study.

Pointing to the findings of the study titled Assessing Synergy between Climate and Development Projects: Which one is more effective, efficient and transparent? TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, said, "the study findings indicate the pressing need of identifying specialized climate components in both types of projects. Based on that, a timely action plan should be developed with the allocation of funds from both local and foreign sources and ensure measurable implementation, monitoring, and evaluation system to establish transparency, accountability, and effectiveness."

The study was designed to understand whether projects funded through development window of finance in Bangladesh like the ADP is different or similar to that of finance like BCCTF and whether the new window of financing climate projects is more efficient, effective and sustainable. The BCCTF is managed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change whereas the ADP is managed by the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Finance. It was, therefore, studied also to understand whether the new window of financing climate projects is more efficient, effective and sustainable. On the contrary, if they are both similar then a pertinent question is whether there is a need to have separate windows.

In the study, differences in the impact of the projects were estimated based on perception on a) economic impacts, b) poverty impacts, c) social impacts, and d) resilience impacts. Perceptions on these impacts are derived using the Likert scale on these categories from the stakeholders of the projects. Stakeholders include a) beneficiaries, b) local community members (non-beneficiaries), and c) project personnel.







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In five different indicators for economic impacts, development activities are perceived significantly better than climate activities in support to improve economic condition and generate improved income for the poor. On the other hand, no such differences were found at the project level for the other three indicators; diversified economic activities, improved access to the market and benefited the Upazila in between ADP and BCCTF projects. In all seven different indicators for poverty reduction, no difference was found between projects implemented under ADP or BCCTF in terms of improving transportation facility, access to water for irrigation, access to electricity, open-access fisheries, culture fisheries, and tourism facilities. Development and Climate projects are similar in terms of their social impacts according to the perception of the stakeholders. Also, in these case five indicators that were observed were project impact in terms of improving access to education, access to health services, sanitation facilities and access to safe drinking water. Resilience Building and Environmental Impacts Development and climate projects are also found similar in terms of resilience building. Four indicators were analyzed in this assessment — project's impact to improve the environment, to increase bio-diversity in that specific area, to create the ability to deal with disasters and to reduce the risk of flooding.

The study also identified that ADP financed projects are perceived to be better than that of BCCTF financed projects in terms of effectiveness (measured in terms of rendering benefits to the communities) and efficiency (measured in terms of being managed well) by their stakeholders. Moreover, both types of projects are perceived to be similar in terms of other DAC criteria such as relevance to the communities, timeliness of completion and sustainability.

M Zakir Hossain Khan said, "To collect international fund to tackle vulnerabilities regarding climate change, we must assess the climate change risks nationally and formulate a strategy for climate finance immediately.

The study concluded that projects financed through the ADP windows are relatively (a) more effective to stakeholders and (b) better aligned to meet DAC criteria. As such, BCCTF projects may benefit from following the project implementation and monitoring process of the ADP projects. Finally, since many of the ADP projects have also climate components, there is also a need to carefully segregate climate activities of the development projects to access global climate funds.

## "DC authorized to oversee work of ACC at local levels" With Concern, TIB calls for revoking any such decision

TIB expressed deep concern and disappointment that the Deputy Commissioners have been authorized by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to oversee its local-level work. This will severely restrict the ACC's capacity to control corruption in general and conduct proper investigations into allegations of corruption of local-level public officials and staff, says TIB. It called for revoking any such decision which will be unwise and self-defeating.

In a statement issued on 19 July 2019, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB said, "the decision by the ACC Chair announced in the wake of the DCs' national conference that DCs have been authorized to oversee ACC's local-level work, as reported by credible media on 18 July 2019, will create complex overlaps in discharge of entrusted duties by the two authorities. If such a decision has indeed been taken, it will create paralyzing impact on ACC's work through immoral influence and of interest-driven conflict and corruption protecting manipulations. Such a shortsighted, undesirable and self-defeating step will invalidate





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the legally endowed authority and independence of ACC, which it must stay away from."

Executive Director of TIB said, "the ACC Chair has reasonably called upon the DCs to report to ACC any irresponsibility or corrupt activity by ACC staff which is part of the regular duty and authority of anyone including pubic officials. In an ideal world degree collaboration some of between administration and an anti-corruption body is also quite desirable. However, if the authority of overseeing the work of ACC is bestowed upon DCs, it will drastically restrict the scope and capacity of ACC to investigate allegations of corruption at local-level. ACC will lose its power and operational flexibility.

Executive Director of TIB raised the question, "if that is going to happen at the local level would it not also be justified soon to ask whether ACC is ready to render itself under the oversight of the national level administration? What then will be the value and justification of a specialized body to control corruption called ACC?"

TIB suggests that instead of such an emotionally-driven and shortsighted approach ACC would do better to its purpose by consulting relevant experts and determine the parameters and contours of mutual relationship of the commission with administration at both national and local level so that it is free from overlap and conflict of interest, and above all ensures the independence, confidence and operational flexibility of ACC as provided by the law.

### TIB condemns death of a youth due to delayed Ferry reportedly in the name of VIP movement

TIB strongly condemned the death of a seriously injured school student in an ambulance the death of a wounded student for treatment after a river ferry was put on hold from transporting vehicles for about three hours in the name of granting "VIPs" to

high-ranking state officials. The anti-graft watchdog also demanded a fair amount of compensation to Titas, the victim's family and accountability of those responsible for the incident. Moreover, it also urged the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Public Administration to articulate and set out a detail framework of governance limiting special privileges for VIP facilities to curb irregularities.

In a statement issued on 29 July, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "It was the responsibility of the state to ensure priority services in the event of emergency treatment. it is in no way expected that Titas had to depart prematurely due to the misuse of power in the name of VIP facility." Extending sympathy to the bereaved family of Titas Ghosh, Dr. Zaman urged the government to ensure that all forms of harassment and insecurity of the people will have to be stopped in the name of VIP entitlements through a government order to prevent widespread abuse of public resources.

Dr. Zaman also said, "VIP mentality that has become part of the Bangladesh's ruling elite cannot be practiced in any democratic country, given the undeserved benefit of VIPs." He demanded immediate intervention of the government authorities to solve the problem. Referring to the responsible government officials, who are committed to serve the people, abuse of their power and negligence has led to this tragic incident. Such protocol for the senior bureaucrats should be re-arranged, Dr. Zaman said.

Dr. Zaman said: "For the government, such incidents are unexpected and embarrassing. We hope that the government will inform the public of this tragedy by bringing everyone under accountability and taking necessary steps to prevent such incidents from happening again."





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## Call for judicial investigation over repeated allegations against a part of police for abuse and failure to safeguard

TIB expressed dismay and concern over repeated allegations of willfully converting the police investigation, especially abuse in custody, creating insecurity than safeguarding main witness and family against a part of local police. The graft watchdog also called for judicial investigations into the allegations of misusing power by the law enforcers in some cases, including Barguna's Rifat murder, Feni's Nusrat murder, and the recent rape of a fifth-grader in Cox's Bazar.

In a statement released on 26 July 2019, TIB observed that the credibility of local police has come under serious question following the allegation of forcing Rifat's wife Aysha Siddiqa Minni, in collusion with an influential quarter, to give confessional statement about her involvement in the murder.

In the statement, TIB also expressed concern over police failure in providing necessary security to victims, their family members and key witnesses. Noting that there is little opportunity to consider such allegations as "stray incidents", TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "There is no scope for denying the allegations, and the time for confining these allegations to 'departmental steps' alone is over." If these allegations are overlooked, justice and rule of law guaranteed by the constitution will be at risk, added Dr. Zaman.

Dr. Zaman also said, "The eroding trust of the victim, their family, lawyers, commoners towards police's investigation in most of the cases are widely reported in the media. The trust of people on the law enforcers has eroded for their power abusing. But the problem is not laid only in the law enforcers' apathy to their duties; rather the illicit

nexus with ruling stalwarts is also a big reason for the downgrading of police morality. We want to believe that the allegations are not correct, however, this is possible only through a thorough, objective, and reliable inquiry to maintain the reputation and dignity of the professional excellence of the police. And that is why, a judicial inquiry into the allegations raised is essential to decorate the institution in the light of transparency, accountability and integrity."

Stating that people of all walks of life are desperate for justice in the wake of recent crimes reported in the media especially in the recent worrying context of violence against children and women of different ages, Dr. Zaman said, " forming a long-term strategy should become a state priority now to gain the public's confidence in the law enforcement agency by ensuring accountability in the wake of allegations of violation of the law, such as alleged involvement of police or custody with such crimes."

## Call for fair compensation to Jahalam and exemplary accountability on ACC's failure

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed deep concern over the responsibility of the ACC officials in the wrongful identification of Jahalam, who was found guilty of 'wrongful accusation' in 26 cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Besides, the anti-graft watchdog called for ensuring fair compensation to Jahlam and demanded to bring every single person, responsible for Jahalam's wrongful accusation, under exemplary accountability.

According to the recent media reports, followed by the order of the High Court, the investigation committee recently submitted the report in connection with the investigation of the ACC in the case of Jahllam pointing to defects in many levels of the procedure, the negligence of the responsible







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officers and the inconsistency between the parties concerned. Stating that the only positive aspect of the ACC Internal Investigation Committee report was the due role of the officer in charge of the investigation, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "The ACC report identifying the responsibility for internal deviations is a reflection of the expectations of the people on the one hand and deeply worrying on the other. This has created an opportunity for justice to deal with the tragic wrongs that have happened to Jahlam by the officials of institutions like the ACC. The report also points to a huge deficit in the ACC's internal control system in ensuring transparency and accountability and effective practice of zero tolerance against corruption."

Referring to the recommendations put in the report by the inquiry committee as necessary and important to prevent such incidents from happening again, Dr. Zaman added, "This report will help restore the confidence of the people of

the country to the special institution responsible for the prevention of corruption. In particular, the reason why the report revealed the negligence of a section of ACC officials and other organizations and the lack of coordination with other agencies is well known to the ACC as a long-standing problem. Also, the TIB hopes that the report will motivate the ACC to take precautionary measures to prevent such negligence and wrongdoing." Besides, the ACC officials will have to investigate the possibility of collusion between ACC officials and the main culprit behind the embarrassing failure.

Dr. Zaman also said that real compensation for Jahalam was not possible, but the ACC report had created a scope for reaching a hopeful solution to how innocent Jahalam could be compensated. Jahalam would not have gone through such ordeals if the parties involved in the case discharged its responsibility properly. There is no alternative to exemplary and accountable steps against the persons responsible," Dr. Zaman concluded.

#### Quarterly Individual Members Day held



TIB organized the regular quarterly Individual Members Day on 04 July 2019 at Meghomala conference room of its head office with the participation of 61 Individual members. Presided over by Professor Dr. A. K. M. Fazlul Hoque, Representative of TIB Members at TIB's General Assembly, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, TIB's Executive Director moderated the meeting and presented the programme activities undertaken by TIB since the last Members Day. Later members shared their opinion and suggestions regarding TIB's activities during the

period. Besides, members further discussed about the amendment of Individual Membership termination policy of TIB.







#### RTI week observed at CCCs

To sensitize youths, as well as citizens, Youth Engagement and Support (YES) and YES Friends groups of different CCCs, celebrated Right to Information (RTI) week on different dates of July 2019. YES and YES Friends groups organized Satellite Information Camps, Campaign, Orientations, Workshops, Opinion sharing meetings, Oath-taking sessions, Signature campaign, Quiz competitions, etc to make sensitized students of different institutions through a three-day-long programme. Hundreds of students became aware of the Right to Information Act-2009 through participating in these events.



Deputy Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners of different districts, Upazila Nirbahi Officers, Upazila Vice Chairman, Principals, Assistant Commissioners (Land) and Chairman of Union Parishads inaugurated the programmes at different areas. Speakers of these events said that the RTI Act 2009 is an effective tool to ensure transparency and accountability in service sectors. People should use this Act for getting their rights and entitlements. If young people become aware of this Act and implement it accordingly, the service sectors will be less corrupt in the future.

Presidents and respective members of CCCs flagged out the objectives of the RTI Act at these events. Different awareness-raising materials like issue-based leaflets and flyers were distributed among participants and visitors to these events. Representatives from different institutions also participated in the programmes.

#### Union Parishad ask to ensure transparency and citizens participation

To make strong, transparent and accountable Union Parishad (UP), a Face the Public programme was organized at Nobogram Union Parishad of Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila on 23 July 2019. In assistance with the Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Jhalakathi, the union Parishad organized this event at its meeting room where Mr. Delwar Hossain Matubbar, Deputy Secretary of the government and Deputy Director (Local Government) of Jhalakathi district was present as chief guest. Professor Md. Lal Mia, president of the CCC, presided over the programme. Mr. Lorenzo Delesgus, Programme Development Consultant of the Development Partners of TIB, attended the Face the Public programme to observe its process and results.

Md. Mozibul Haque Akond, chairman of the union Parishad along with other elected members answered various questions of the participants regarding services and development plan of the Nobogram Union Parishad.

The chief guest said that it's important to operate activities of the union Parishad with transparency and ensuring citizens participation in the decision-making process. The UP authority should make themselves capable to ensure it. The DD (LG) also emphasized on increasing tax collection for ensuring development at







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union Parishads. He asked citizens to pay taxes regularly and be sensitized about the roles & responsibilities of the Union Parishad.

Earlier in the programme, convener of the CCC sub-committee on LG issue Md. Nazrul Islam Talukder delivered welcome speech and shared the objectives of the programme. Mr. Hemayet Uddin Himu, Vice President of Jhalakathi moderated CCC, programme. Along with CCC, SWAJON, YES and YES Friends members, Mr. Kazi Shafigur Rahman and Md. Atikur Rahman, Senior Programme Manager of TIB, were also attended the programme.



## Authority of Palli Bidyut Samity suggests lodging complaints in cases of irregularities

With the slogan 'To resist corruption, seek services by knowing proper information' Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity of Sreemangal Upazila and Citizens for Transparency (SWAJON) of the CCC, Sreemangal organized an opinion sharing meeting on 18 July 2019. CCC President Syed Nesar Ahmed presided over the meeting where the respective authority of the Samity met its members (service recipients) and addressed various complaints. Mr. Syed Sayed Ahmed, member of the SWAJON, delivered the welcome speech and respective Area Manager of TIB moderated the programme.



Mr. Shibu Lal Basu, General Manager of Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity shared the masterplan of 100% electrification in Moulvibazar district, level of public demand for electricity, roles of the samity for preventing corruption at this sector. Mr. Basu said, the members are not willing to get services by him/herself, seek supports from brokers, that's why they face harassment. He requested citizens to lodge complaints if anyone claim any type of undue payment and experienced irregularities. The General Manager suggested female service seekers directly to communicate with him with

proper documents for getting services if they wish. He also emphasized to deliver harassment-free and female & citizens friendly services.







CCC and SWAJON members emphasized on information disclosure of its services including setting-up information display board, set-up the name-plate of the Designated Officers for providing information, set-up Suggestion and Complaint boxes, etc.

Md. Shahidul Alam, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Sreemangal Upazila, was present as chief guest and Md. Abu Sufiyan Chowdhury, chairman of 01 No. Mirzapur Union Parishad, was present as a special guest in the opinion sharing meeting. In an open discussion session, citizens from different communities along with CCC and SWAJON members shared their experiences, expectations and suggestions regarding the services of the Palli Bidyut Samity.

#### Central Cash Counter introduced at hospital for Transparency



250 bed Jashore General Hospital introduced Central Cash Counter for ensuring transparency on financial transactions. Service seekers have to pay all the fees regarding tests & diagnosis through this counter except the fees for outdoor services. It reduces the scope of corruption regarding undue payment at the hospital and increases its revue. The superintendent of the hospital, Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, informed that it's the first central cash counter set-up at any hospital in Bangladesh. This was shared in an

opinion sharing meeting organized by CCC, Jashore which was held at the meeting room of the hospital on 08 July 2019.

The authority also shared that based on the demand of citizens a digital X-ray machine has been set-up at the hospital. Mobile court drives its operation to prohibit the brokers at the hospital premises. Within few days, the hospital will be free from brokers, the authority assured in the meeting.

Dr. Abul Kalam Azad presided over the meeting where President of the CCC, Jashore Professor Sukumar Das, members of the CCC, doctors, Deputy Superintendent of the hospital also delivered their speech. A. H. M. Anichuzzaman presented the plan of practices of integrity management and it's progress. Adv. Moazzem Hossain Chowdhury Tulu, the convener of the CCC sub-committee regarding health issue, shared the findings received from Satellite Advice & Information Desk operated by the YES group of the CCC. CCC recommended few issues to strengthen the hospitality services including increase the schedule of operation, campaign on the digital X-ray machine, requested doctors to give more time to the patients, introduce visiting cards for the visitors etc. The authority of the hospital assured CCC to take necessary initiatives for implementing the suggestions.

#### TIB mourns the demise of Advocate Supriyo Chakravarty

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed deep condolences over the death of prominent cultural organizer, income tax lawyer and sports organizer Advocate Supriya Chakraborty. He died on July 23 while undergoing treatment at Bardem Hospital in Dhaka. At the time of his death, he was 75 years old.







In a condolence message on 30 July 2019, TIB Executive Director. Iftekharuzzaman said, "On behalf of all the staff of TIB, including members of TIB's Board of Trustees, General Council, Management, CCCs in 45 areas of the country, SWAJAN, YES, Yes Friends, Dhaka YES, YPAC, I wish peace for his departed soul and convey my deepest condolences to the bereaved family."

Supriya Chakraborty was the husband of Sultana Kamal, a former advisor to the caretaker government, the chairperson of the TIB's Board of Trustees. At the time of his death, he left behind many relatives and friends, including a daughter, Sudeshna Chakraborty. He donated his body to the Kumudini Charity Hospital in Tangail and his eyes to SHANDHANI for a lifetime of research. Supriyo



Chakraborty was born in Sylhet on 25 December 1944. Along with the legal profession, he was involved in various branches of society. He actively participated in the liberation war. Later, he started his career as a teacher and lived with dignity as a sports organizer and cultural personality. During his career, he served as the Vice-President of Rabindranath Sangeet Samiti, Sylhet, in addition to the responsibilities of the President of the Sylhet Tax Lawyers Association, Sylhet Cricket Development Committee, and Sylhet Combined Theater Council. In addition to his involvement with various social organizations, he was involved in teaching at a private university.

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