

Incentive fails to bring significant changes in Public Administration

Among the eleven strategies prescribed in the National Integrity Strategy (NIS) to bring in changes in the public administration, nearly half of the strategies were applied satisfactorily. However, the advancement leaves a little effect in challenges of the sector especially in curbing corruption and ensuring merit and performance-based professionalism at public offices. Despite the satisfactory application of a couple of incentive-related strategies, corruption and growing politicization of administration show no sign of lessening instead its alarming growth pose a severe risk to professional excellence. Moreover, unfruitful implications of some practices due to politicization and other influences, are affecting the administration negatively. TIB came up with the findings and observations in a Press Conference while unveiling a research report, titled 'Integrity in Public Administration: Policies and Practices' on 23 June 2019 at its Dhaka office.



The study aimed to review the existing legal frameworks and practices under eleven strategies of the NIS in terms of the status of the implementation in the public administration activities. TIB also placed a nine-point charter of recommendations to resolve the prevailing challenges, which includes the amendment to some laws; ensuring transparency and accountability in recruitment and promotion; include asset declaration as mandatory in every five years in the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1979; and formulating the 'Career Development Plan' suitable for respective cadres through revision and research of the policies and practices prescribed in the NIS.

In the press conference, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said “there have been significant improvements in some points of the NIS related to enhancing the facilities for public servants. However, other points in the strategy, which are crucial for ensuring accountability and transparency, are still being overlooked. Despite some progress, we are yet to get desired outcome in the NIS related to public administration.”

Assessing the 'Government Employment Act, 2018', the provision for taking permission to arrest civil servants have to be abolished and other risky clauses such as 6 (1) and 45 have to be amended, the study observed. Criticizing some clauses of the law, Dr. Zaman said the name of the statute is conflicting with the country's constitution. "We demand to amend the name of the law to be public administration law," Dr. Zaman concluded. In the press conference, TIB Programme Manager of Research and Policy division Ms. Mohua Rouf presented the research report conducted in between June 2018 to March 2019.

Acknowledging government's decision to increase the salaries and other facilities of the public officials, the study identified government's failure to put in a mechanism that should prevent them from engaging in corrupt practices. The study pointed out serious discrimination among the officials of admin cadre and other service cadres, which creates tension and frustration among officials. For example, a Deputy Secretary in the Administration cadre, who is treated as a "privileged officer", gets interest-free loan to buy car where the Deputy Chiefs of other cadres do not enjoy this benefit.

According to the study, competitive promotion on the basis of seniority, knowledge and skill is neglected in many cases and the government seemed more intent on filling up higher positions only where most advantages lied. Regarding politically motivated promotions in higher positions in greater number than existing vacancies, the study observed that the number of Deputy Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, and Additional Secretaries was greater than the sanctioned posts in the organogram. The study noted that appointments of public officials were becoming increasingly dependent on intelligence reports whereas the practice should be through competitive examinations. The government was also increasingly going for contractual appointments, relying more on preferences than qualifications, said the research, the study pointed out. It says there is disappointment brewing in public services due to discrepancies of facilities in various cadres.

According to the study, in many cases, senior officials are superseded by their juniors just because of their political affiliation. Such promotions are disrupting the structure of the civil administration, with multiple officials holding the same post creating problems in the division of work.

Among others, Professor Dr. SumaiyaKhair, Advisor, Executive Management; Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan, Director, and Mr. ShahzadaAkram, Senior Programme Manager, of Research and Policy division, of TIB were also present at the event.

TIB urges for increased amount in the budget to combat climate change

TIB urged the government to allocate increased amount of around Tk 1,000 crore in the next budget to combat the adverse effects of climate change and to adopt a set of 'strategical directives' to ensure the right use of the fund. Issuing a press

statement on 01 June 2019, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "Since 2009-10 fiscal, the government has been allocating funds to the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF). During the first three years, the government

allocated Tk 700 crore per year to the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, but the budget has not increased compared to the increasing climate change-related risks.”

Terming the existing trend of fund reduction “concerning”, Dr. Zaman said, “The fund has not increased in accordance with the risks of loss due

to climate change. Bangladesh’s access to the international fund is also not satisfactory. To make up for the deficit in BCCTF govt. must allocate the said amount of money for the fund in the next budget.” TIB called for ensuring ‘transparency and accountability’ in BCCTF management. Otherwise, Bangladesh could face challenges in gaining access to the international fund for climate change.

TIB voices concern over alleged escape of ex-Shonagazi OC

Judicial investigation demanded into the local police’s role in Nusrat murder

TIB aired concern and questioned over police’s alleged role as ex-shonagazi OC remained traceless, which put a question mark on police authority’s desire to ensure a fair trial in the case. Also, TIB demanded a judicial investigation into the local police department’s role in the Nusrat murder.

In a press statement issued on 09 June 2019, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “The arrest warrant issued against Moazzem Hossain on May 27

took more than a week to reach Rangpur Range. Now the Rangpur range is saying it was not done according to rules. Also, it’s being said he has escaped. Keeping Moazzem out from the PBI charge-sheet was also a questionable act.”

“It’s only natural to question whether or not Moazzem has been given scope to flee. If transparency and accountability of the police force was not ensured, the rule of law would collapse,” added Dr. Zaman.

TIB demands exemplary punishment for the accused

ACC cannot deny its Institutional Responsibility

TIB demanded exemplary punishment for Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director Khandaker Enamul Basir and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Mizanur Rahman who had been accused of taking and giving bribe respectively.

In a press statement issued on 11 June 2019, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “This is not an isolated incident, rather an institutional responsibility of ACC. The alleged involvement of a section of ACC officials in corruption is an “age-old problem”, despite multiple initiatives from ACC’s current chairman to curb corruption in the organization, the efforts have gone in vain.”

Dr. Zaman said, “In light of these allegations, it would be impossible to restore people’s trust in ACC unless they conduct rectifying drives and ensure exemplary punishment of those accused. ACC must finish the investigation and trial as soon as possible. Transparency and accountability in ACC’s internal operations, adopting a zero-tolerance policy against corruption, and reshuffling the workforce are demand of time.” The organisation will not be responsible for the individual – such a stance from ACC has not only disappointed us but also made us anxious about the state of future anti-corruption campaigns in Bangladesh, he added.

Dr. Zaman also expressed his surprise over the inaction of police administration even after Mizan's admission of giving bribe. He said, "Both parties are equally liable in bribery. When a person gives bribes to get away from corruption allegations, the magnitude of his crime becomes more severe. But

we learned from the media that police administration has not taken any steps yet." Demanding speedy trial of the accused, Dr. Zaman said, "In order to restore people's faith in ACC and police, both organizations must be held liable for their officers' actions."

TIB urges govt. to pay heed to Unesco's concern

TIB expressed grave concern over the Unesco's recent proposal to put the Sundarbans on the list of 'World Heritage in Danger' in the proposed agenda for its 43rd session to be held in Azerbaijan's Baku. To overcome the situation, all the activities on building coal-based power plants in Rampal, Taltoli and Kolapara have to be suspended immediately before the upcoming Baku meeting and steps should be taken to implement an action plan as per the directive of Unesco World Heritage Committee.

In a statement released on 17 June 2019, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "The World Heritage Committee's proposal demonstrates that our concern about the danger

to the Sundarbans was not baseless. We urged the government to take into consideration the Unesco World Heritage Committee's recommendation to conduct a strategic environment Assessment and draw up a time-bound action plan."

"We think such a situation has been created as the government overlooked the concern and suggestions about implementing such a risky project near the Sundarbans without conducting any Strategic Environment Assessment. We call upon the government to immediately suspend all controversial projects, including the Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest," he added.

TIB voices concern over the proposal of whitening black money

TIB had sharply criticized the proposal of UK-based PricewaterhouseCoopers that the Bangladesh government had no option other than offering the scope for whitening black money through investment in industries to boost private investment. Terming the proposal 'unconstitutional, immoral, and discriminatory', the anti graft watchdog strongly condemned such statements.

Issuing a press statement on 19 June 2019, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "It (PwC) is giving 'illogical and unwanted support' to the government's move to whiten black money. The scope to whiten black money will increase the risk of corruption. There is no rule that says Bangladesh will have to follow India's path on this matter. PwC's logic on this ground is totally biased, groundless, and unacceptable."

Dr. Zaman said, “Bangladesh government should take stern actions against owners of black money instead of giving them opportunities. Previously, FM Global, an American mutual insurance company, has filed a case against PwC, demanding USD 6.3 billion as compensation because the company had become bankrupt after investing according to PwC’s advice. Not only that, two other

companies -- Tailor Bin, and Whittaker -- also became bankrupt following PwC’s advice.”

TIB hoped that Bangladesh government will not give a scope to legitimise black money, and will follow Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s decision to demonstrate “zero-tolerance against corruption”. PwC supported illegal works across the world, and it is quite natural that they will extend their support for the sake of black money owners.

Proposed Voluntary Social Welfare Organization (Registration and Control) Act, 2019 Development and rights organizations aired concerns

TIB along with other development and rights organizations aired grave concerns over the proposed Voluntary Social Welfare Organization (Registration and Control) Act, 2019. On 23 June 2019, in a joint press statement, terming some of its provisions ambiguous and contradictory, they stated, “several of its provisions and sub-provisions will create huge obstacles to the activities of voluntary and social welfare organizations. Besides, there will be possibilities of misusing the law due to ambiguity of some provisions, sub-provision and words.” Local and foreign organizations working in Bangladesh demanded that the government should change, correct or omit such provisions. They also called upon the government authorities concerned to include stakeholders and experts to re-write the draft law before taking steps for its approval.

After analyzing the draft they found that Provision 11 (1 and 2) of the draft law says a registered organization will be abolished if it fails to renew its organization in due time every five years or if its application is rejected. Provision 17 (1, 2, 3) says, registration of an organization can be cancelled based on ‘show cause’ reports and the organization will be abolished on the very day of cancellation.

“Such provisions will put an undesirable end to organizations’ people-oriented activities, create risks of rights violation against the beneficiaries and employees, and scope for arbitrariness of regulatory bodies, which are not expected in any way,” they said.

The signatories of the statement are: Brac, Nijera Kori, ManusherJonno Foundation, Ain o Salish Kendra, Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh, Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh NariProgoti Sangha (BNPS), Center for Social Activism, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Cristian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB), ManabadhikarShangkriti Foundation (MSF), Oxfam Bangladesh, Action Aid Bangladesh, Water Aid Bangladesh, Concern World Wide, Practical Action, Sight Savers, Society for International Ministries (SIM Bangladesh), Catholic Releif Services (CRS Bangladesh) and LAMB.

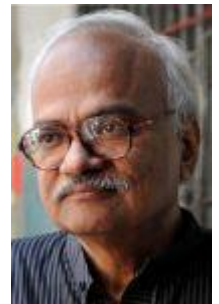
Prof. Dr. Perween Hasan, Writer-journalist Mr. Abdul Momen and Prof. Dr. Fakrul Alam become trustee board members of TIB

Central Women's University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Perween Hasan, renowned writer-journalist Mr. Abdul Momen and former DU Prof. Dr. Fakrul Alam were named as members of the trustee board of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). They replaced eminent novelist and litterateur Selina Hossain, Dr. ATM Shamsul Huda and Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam respectively. Replacing Salina Hossain, Central Women's University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Perween Hasan was elected as Secretary-general. Eminent litterateur and former DU professor Manzoorul Islam took charge as the ombudsperson replacing Dr. Shamsul Huda. They joined the board's 100th meeting held on June 19 2019.



Prof. Perween Hasan

Eminent academic Prof. Dr. Perween Hasan is a former faculty member of the Department of Islamic History and Culture of the University of Dhaka. She has achieved her PhD from Harvard University, USA. She was awarded 'Anannya Shirshodos 2016 Award' by the fortnightly magazine 'Anannya' for her outstanding contribution to the education sector. Prof. Hasan is also a trustee board member of the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation.



Mr. Abul Momen

Ekushey Padak (2017) Awardee, writer and Journalist Abul Momen is currently involved with Dainik Amader Somoy. Mr. Momen had been a resident editor of Prothom Alo since 1998. He also worked in The Daily Star and The Daily Bhorer Kagoj. He is the recipient of Bangla Academy Literary Award in 2016 in the non-fiction category. He is the founder of 'Phulki', an exceptional educational institution for children in its type.

Academic, writer and translator Prof. Dr. Fakrul Alam is a former faculty member of the Department of English of the University of Dhaka. He taught at several University around the globe, including Clemson University, USA as a Fulbright Scholar and Jadavpur University, India as a Visiting Associate Professor. He earned his second master's degree from Simon Fraser University and achieved his PhD from the University of British Columbia. Prof. Alam writes on literary matters on postcolonial issues and translated works of Jibanananda Das and Rabindranath Tagore. He is the recipient of Bangla Academy Literary Award (2012) in translation and SAARC Literary Award (2012).



Prof. Fakrul Alam

Workshop with judicial stakeholders in Sylhet and Mymensingh

Workshops titled 'Lower Judicial Court System in Bangladesh: The Challenges of Good Governance and way forward' were organised by Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Mymensingh Sadar and Sylhet in association with TIB on 15 June 2019 and 22 June 2019 respectively in Sylhet and Mymensingh. Issues regarding challenges of good governance in judicial courts and the necessary steps of overcoming the crisis were discussed in the workshops.

Sylhet: Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Sylhet and TIB organized the workshop at La Rose Hotel, Mirer Maidan, Sylhet. Chaired by President of CCC, Sylhet Mr. Aziz Ahmad Selim, the inaugural address was delivered by K. M. Rasheduzzaman Raja, Senior District and Session Judge in the meeting. He said although the country is progressing; it will not remain meaningful if good governance and the rule of law is not established by means of combating corruption. In his opinion quality education, independent and functional judicial system and the balance of environment are the other yardsticks of development. He said, TIB is playing the role of watchdog in this country. An organization like this is crucial for establishing good governance in a country.



Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, presented the summary of recommendations that came up during the discussion. He said, the opinions and recommendations put forward in the workshop will play a vital role in national and local level advocacy which aims at practice of good governance in lower judicial courts in Bangladesh. He presented the position of TIB in regard of issues raised in the workshop.

In the workshop, Ms. Shammi Laila Islam, Manager of Research and Policy Division of TIB presented the brief report of the research titled 'Lower Judicial Court System in Bangladesh: The Challenges of Good Governance and way forward'. Metropolitan Session Judge(Acting) Ms. Mominunnesa also spoke in the workshop.

In open discussion session, Additional District Judge of Additional District Judge, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Senior Judicial Magistrate, Joint Metropolitan Session Judge, Joint District and Session Judge, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Metropolitan Magistrate, Senior Assistant Judge, District Legal Aid Officer, General Secretary of Sylhet District Lawyers Samity, Government Pleader, Sylhetetc took part. Among others, Divisional Coordinator of BLAST, others lawyers, representatives of NGOs and CCC-YES members attended the workshop.

Mymensingh: The workshop was organised by Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Mymensingh Sadar and TIB at the auditorium of Mymensingh City Corporation in Mymensingh. At the workshop, Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman shared the background, goal and objectives of the workshop. District and Session Judge, Mymensingh Md. Helal Uddin delivered the welcome speech. In the workshop, Ms. Shammi Laila Islam, Manager of Research and Policy Division of TIB presented the brief report of the research titled 'Lower Judicial Court System in Bangladesh: The Challenges of good governance and way forward'.

In open discussion session District Judge, Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Special Judge (District Judge), Additional District and Session Judge, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Additional District and Session Judge, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Joint District and Session Judge, Legal Aid Officer took part.



In addition, opinion and advice were provided by eminent lawyer Advocate Md. Jahirul Haque Khoka, Advocate Md. Anisur Rahman Khan, Advocate BadarUdding Omar, Advocate SreeBandhan Kumar Goswami, Advocate EmdadulHaqueMillat, Advocate Abdul WadudBhuiyan, Araynno-E-Chiran. Among others President of Mymensingh District LawyersSamity, representatives of NGOs, CCC-YES members, Paralegal attended the workshop

District and Session Judge Md. Helal Uddin told that Corruption is one of the major problems which exist everywhere. There are weaknesses and limitations in the judicial system accordingly. There are mismanagement and irregularities in this system. A combined effort is needed to solve these problems. In the meeting, Senior Program Manager of TIB Ms. FojilaKhanom moderated a session where the participants pointed out the challenges and way forward of Lower Judiciary System. From this session, some challenges and way forward for practising good governance in lower judiciary system came out to be solved at the local and national level.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB hoped that the workshop will create an opportunity for intensive work with Justice Division as well. He presented the position of TIB in regard of issues raised in the workshop. CCC President Sharifuzzaman Parag thanked all the participants. He said the recommendations that came out from this workshop will play an important role to improve the judicial system. In concluding session, District Judge, Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Mymensingh S. M. ErshadulAlam stated that to ensure good governance in Lower Judiciary it is needed to assess need-based probability, activation of Village Court, strengthen Legal Aid Activities at District and Upazila Level to reduce number of cases, proper distribution of cases considering the numbers, ensure proper logistics support etc.

A sharing meeting on Universal Human Rights Review Report 2018

A sharing meeting on Universal Human Rights Review Report 2018 was held on 18 June 2019 in Khulna. Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman was present in the meeting as Chief Discussant where Executive Officer of District Parishad Mr. Asaduzzaman and Additional Deputy Commissioner Sarwar Ahmed Salehin were present as honourable guests. President of CCC, Khulna Md. AnwarulKadir presided over the meeting

and CCC Vice-President Shamima Sultana Shilu delivered a welcome speech while Advocate Kudrat-E-Khuda was the moderator of the meeting.



Dr. Iftekharuzzaman pointed out that Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) is a platform consisting of 20 Human Rights and Development organizations which after analysing the prevailing issues of the human rights situation in the country submit reports and recommend in the national and international human rights systems since 2007. In line with this, the Forum submits stakeholder reports every four years from 2009 as a part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and in order to implement the recommendations received thereby, it conducts advocacy

activities at UN and national level. Up till now three phases of UPR has been completed. The latest UPR third phase was held in 2018, in which 105 countries had put forward 251 recommendations to the government of Bangladesh. The government accepted 178 recommendations. The rest they didn't agree.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman also informed that TIB, so far, has participated in three human rights review meetings. He discussed on the significant recommendations to the government of Bangladesh – i.e. cooperation with the Human Rights system of UN, reform of laws and policies, civil and political rights, enhancing the skills and capacity of state forces in protecting human rights, ensuring independent and functional state institution, economic, social and cultural progress, attaining sustainable development goals, climate change, combating human trafficking, ensuring child rights, combating terrorism and extremism, development of information and technology, ensuring labour rights, women rights, rights of migrants, rights of marginal and disable people, rights of indigenous and minority people etc.

TIB urged the govt to implement the accepted recommendations and to adopt the rest. Dr. Zaman called upon all to play responsible roles in mass awareness, civic engagement, participatory demand and advocacy activities. He said, when united, achieving great things could be possible if there were efforts. There is development going on and human rights are exercised, undeniably. However we have to move forward, Dr. Zaman added. Teachers of different Universities and Colleges, representatives of electronic and print media, lawyers, and representatives of NGOs, Voluntary Associations, youths, CCC members and local elite of Khulna among others were present.

YES Friends Group Starts Journey at Patuakhali Science & Technology University

With an aim to strengthen the social movement against corruption, YES Friends Group started the journey at Patuakhali Science & Technology University on 28 June 2019 organized by Committee of Concerned Citizens

(CCC), Patuakhali. President of CCC, Patuakhali Radhesham Debnath presided over the inauguration program while the Dean of Agricultural Department of Patuakhali Science & Technology University inaugurated the program. Among others Professor Dr. PurnenduBishwas, YES Friends Group Advisor Associate Professor and Assistant Proctor Mr. AshrafulAlam of the same university, Director-Civic Engagement of TIB FerhanaFerdous, Senior Program Manager-Civic Engagement of TIB KaziShafiqur Rahman were present in the program.



In welcome speech Mr. AshrafulAlam stated that corruption is a major problem in Bangladesh. We should work together to address this. Most of the cases, it is found that the literate people are involved with corruption. To break this vicious cycle, we should be aware. YES, Friends group will play role to aware people about corruption.

Professor Dr. Md. Golam Rabbani said, corruption is the main obstacle for the development of Bangladesh. We must strengthen social movement against corruption. Our developments are being partially destroyed due to corruption. He expressed his heartfelt thanked CCC-TIB for forming YES Friends group in his university and assured necessary cooperation to CCC-TIB. Professor DrPurnenduBishwas congratulated the members of newly formed YES Friends group and advised them to work together for resisting corruption. In the program Ms. FerhanaFerdous, Director of TIB shared the activities of TIB, CCC, YES and YES Friends groups. She also shared that the main objective of formation of YES Friends group is to aware the youth about the bad impact of corruption and how the youth could contribute to building a transparent and accountable country.

CCC President moderated the anti-corruption oath-taking session in this program. YES Leader K. M. Zahid Hossain and YES Friends Group leader of Patuakhali Science and Technology University spoke in the program. The session was moderated by CCC Member Nasima Shahin.

Word Environment Day Observed at the CCC level

Marking 05 June as World Environment day and as per government decision (due to Eid-ul-fitre vacation), this year world environment day in Bangladesh was observed on 20 June 2019. The theme of World Environment Day 2019 was *Air Pollution*. This day was celebrated to spread awareness about the environment, air pollution and its effects on the daily life of the people. With the slogan 'Let's protect air pollution'. CCCs organized various programs, including colourful rally, discussion meeting, human chain etc. across the country to mark

the day jointly with government institutions and non-government organizations. A concept paper with a set of demands was circulated among relevant stakeholders in different events.



The discussants of different events stated that air pollution is increasing day by day and it seems complex to control. Despite this, we should come together to combat it. The discussants also placed demand of enforcing “polluters pay” principle and make the institutions or persons responsible for air pollution pay compensations; ensuring transparency, accountability and public participation in using all resources to address the impact of climate change and environmental pollution. They emphasized on the proper implementation of existing laws regarding

environment including National Environment Policy 2018 and ensuring exemplary punishment for the violation of relevant laws and policies. They also stressed on coming forward along with government efforts to protect life and environment. In the events, CCCs emphasized on the transparency, accountability and people’s participation to protect life and environment for the sake of sustainable development. Different level stakeholders including civil society members, teachers, students, professionals, developments workers and members of CCC, SWAJAN, YES and YES Friends member participated in these events

Different Activities of Dhaka YES Groups



To mark the World Environment Day 2019, YES Group-Daffodil International University organizes quiz completion on 27 June 2019.

Editor: Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam

Sub-Editor: Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, Shakil Md. Faisal, Masum Billah, Hozzatul Islam

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