



Committed to Curbing Corruption

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 & 2021



**Anti-Corruption Commission
Bangladesh**

COMMITTED TO CURBING CORRUPTION

Annual Report 2020 & 2021



Anti-Corruption Commission
Bangladesh

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Secretary, Anti-Corruption Commission

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Selina Akhter Moni, Deputy Director

Sharika Islam, Assistant Director

Mohammed Shafi Ullah, Assistant Director

Tanveer Ahmad, Assistant Director

Contact

Secretary, Anti-Corruption Commission

1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka 1000

Phone: +8802 58316207 Fax: +8802 9362622

Email: secretary@acc.org.bd Web: www.acc.org.bd

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Anti-Corruption Commission

Annual Report 2020 & 2021



The Annual Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission is presented to the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in accordance with Section 29(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004.

Bangabandhu's Anti-Corruption Statement

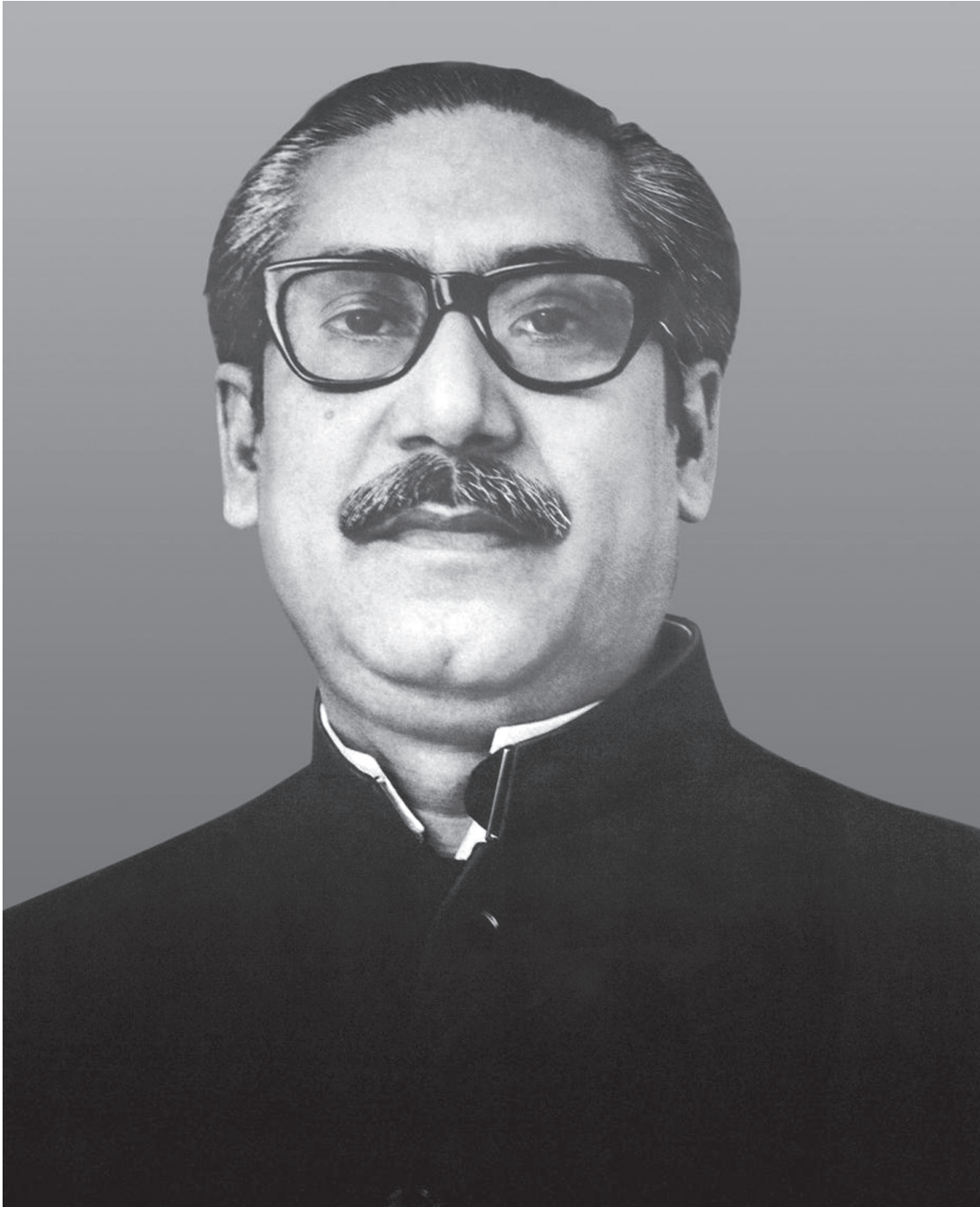
On 17 February 1974, at the reunion of the Bangladesh Chhatra League in Dhaka, Bangabandhu underscored,

“

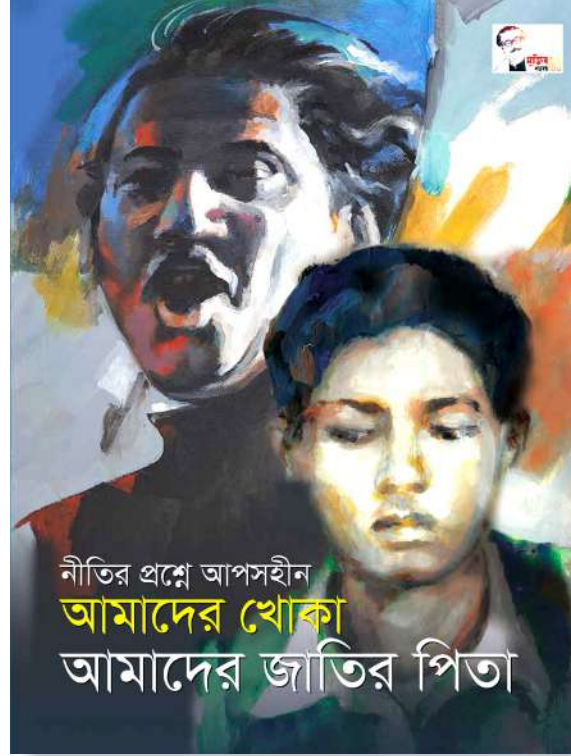
Corruption has seeped into all levels of society. No government can prevent such corruption. The masses and students will put an end to corruption; the young people and peasants must take action to prevent corruption. Otherwise, we have to wage a war against corruption.

”

Source: Transcription Service, Bangladesh Betar



A humble tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of Mujib Year and
Golden Jubilee of our Independence



The Anti-Corruption Commission has carried out various programmes on the occasion of the birth centenary of the greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. To commemorate this historical event and to enlighten the next generation on the anti-corruption spirit of Bangabandhu, the ACC has published a remarkable book titled "**Forever Principled, Forever Uncompromising: Our Dear Khoka, Our Father of the Nation**". The book compiles the anti-corruption messages from Bangabandhu's speeches and discourses. The readers of this book will be able to gain a comprehensive insight into Bangabandhu's anti-corruption policy and vision. The Commission is delighted that the book's foreword was written by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, the eldest daughter of the Father of the Nation. In order to build the Golden Bengal envisioned by Bangabandhu there is no alternative to a society free from exploitation and corruption. Every person in a fair society must be honest, sincere and possess a higher sense of morality to make our achievements sustainable. The Anti-Corruption Commission has published the book intending to inform people from all walks of life, especially the children and adolescents, about Bangabandhu's uncompromising attitudes towards corruption.

Anti-Corruption Commission



Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah
Chairman
Anti-Corruption Commission
Bangladesh



Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan
Commissioner
Anti-Corruption Commission
Bangladesh



Md. Jahurul Haque
Commissioner
Anti-Corruption Commission
Bangladesh

Table of Contents

Letter of Transmittal	-----	11
Message from the Chairman	-----	12
Chapter One	: Regulatory Functions to Curb Corruption	----- 15
Chapter Two	: Preventive Measures to Control Corruption	----- 39
Chapter Three	: Prevention of Corruption and Development of Good Practices	----- 43
Chapter Four	: Public Hearing	----- 51
Chapter Five	: Information Management	----- 55
Chapter Six	: Digitization of Anti-Corruption Commission	----- 61
Chapter Seven	: Training Activities	----- 65
Chapter Eight	: Institutional Capacity Building of the ACC	----- 71
Chapter Nine	: Anti-Corruption Commission in the Context of Technological Advancement	----- 81
Chapter Ten	: ACC's Recent Achievements	----- 85
Chapter Eleven	: Department Wise Recommendations of the ACC Institutional Team	----- 89
Chapter Twelve	: The Work Plan of the Commission for Future Expeditions	----- 101
Chapter Thirteen	: Conclusion	----- 107
	Photo Gallery	----- 113

Acronyms

ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APG	Asia/Pacific Group On Money Laundering
BDT	Bangladeshi Taka
BFIU	Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit
BNCC	Bangladesh National Cadet Corps
CBI	Central Bureau of Investigation
CDMS	Criminal Database Management System
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CPC	Corruption Prevention Committee
CTTC	Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime
CTR	Cash Transaction Report
DPP	Development Project Proposal
EOI	Expression of Interest
FIMA	Financial Management Academy
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Co-operation)
HOPE	Head of Procuring Entity
ICRF	Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILIS	Integrated Lawful Interception System
IPMS	Investigation and Prosecution Management System
INTERPOL	International Police
IU	Integrity Unit
LAN	Local Area Network
LT	Land Transfer
MLAR	Mutual Legal Assistance Request
MLAT	Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBR	National Board of Revenue
NTMC	National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre
NIS	National Integrity Strategy
NRA	National Risk Assessment
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
PAC	Provisional Acceptance Certificate
PDS	Personal Data Sheet
PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
PWD	Public Works Department
ROR	Records of Rights
RAC	Reporters Against Corruption
RTI	Right to Information
SIRIUS	Cross Border Access to Electronic Evidence
UAT	User Acceptance Test
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

Letter of Transmittal

20 March 2022

His Excellency Md. Abdul Hamid

Hon'ble President

The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Your Excellency,

We are delighted to present you the annual report of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for 2020 and 2021 in accordance with Section 29 (1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004. We humbly request you to take necessary measures to place the report before the National Parliament of Bangladesh.

According to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, the ACC is mandated to submit an annual report to the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh by March of the following year. The Commission regrets that the annual report for 2020 could not be published in time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic, the annual reports for 2020 and 2021 have been prepared together.

The combined report includes the performance and accountability of the ACC in addition to the details of the Commission's strategic plan targeting effective anti-corruption initiatives. Statistics of the Commission's overall activities round the year, along with relevant analyses have also been incorporated in the report. If any misleading or incorrect information is inadvertently mentioned in the report, the necessary corrigenda will be published in due course.

We assure you that the Anti-Corruption Commission will continue to take all possible steps to curb and prevent corruption as well as flourish an anti-corruption culture among the people.

Sincerely,

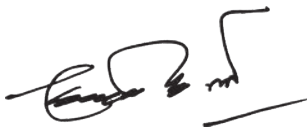


Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah

Chairman

Anti-Corruption Commission

Bangladesh



Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan

Commissioner

Anti-Corruption Commission

Bangladesh



Md. Jahurul Haque

Commissioner

Anti-Corruption Commission

Bangladesh

Message from the Chairman

The Anti-Corruption Commission submits its annual report to the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh every year as stipulated by the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004. However, due to the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to prepare the report for 2020 in time. Therefore, the annual reports for 2020 and 2021 have been prepared together this year. Information on the overall activities performed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in the last two years is incorporated in this report.

Corruption is considered to be a global concern. No country in the world is entirely free of corruption, although its extent may vary. Bangladesh is no exception to this global reality. The Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in 2004 to prevent and curb corruption in Bangladesh and to undertake appropriate initiatives to create a sense of Honesty and integrity in society. Besides working tirelessly to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice, the commission undertakes various projects to prevent corruption.

The great architect of Bangladesh's independence, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called on us to build a country free from exploitation, poverty and corruption in order to transform our motherland into a Golden Bengal. As stipulated in Article 20 (2) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, "The State shall endeavour to create conditions in which, as a general principle, persons shall not be able to enjoy unearned incomes." The Anti-Corruption Commission, thus, is committed to preventing and curbing the multi-dimensional aspects and practices of corruption as stipulated by law.

In accordance with Article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Commission is committed to implement the principle of 'zero tolerance' against corruption. To that end, the Commission strives to ensure public participation and inclusion, support from the civil society and involvement of all stakeholders, including the media. The Commission seeks to increase mutual trust between service receiver and government service providers. To achieve this goal, the ACC conducts public hearings to address irregularities, corruption, and red-tapism in rendering public services. The Commission also formulates and implements multidimensional strategies to prevent and curb corruption in different contexts and socio-economic realities. The ACC's Enforcement Unit, which started its journey on 23 January 2019, vows to prevent corruption by taking preemptive action before it takes place. The Unit takes immediate action by conducting operations on complaints received through the ACC hotline (No. 106). The Unit conducted 732 enforcement operations across the country in the last two years and issued 1,454 letters to various departments for taking necessary actions.

As a part of its responsibilities, the Commission has formed 25 institutional teams to assist government institutions in making their services corruption-free and people-friendly. After reviewing the existing laws, rules, and management procedures, aspects of public service and limitations of respective organizations, the institutional teams have put forward specific recommendations to those organizations. The Commission firmly believes that all the organizations concerned will fully implement these recommendations to pave the way for establishing good governance in respective sectors.

One of the goals of the ACC is to prevent corruption before it occurs. With this goal in mind, the Commission has formed 502 Corruption Prevention Committees in all metropolitan, district, and upazila levels in the country; the committees comprise of enlightened people handpicked from the civil society in their respective areas. The ACC has also formed 27,629 'Integrity Units' (Sotota Shongho) with the involvement of teachers of schools, colleges and madrasas. Moreover, 5,756 'Honesty Stores' (Satota Store) have been established in secondary level educational institutes to create a sense of Honesty and sincerity among the young generation.

It is time to take proactive steps to prevent corruption by taking into consideration its nature and pace. To that end, several new operational units such as Intelligence, Monitoring, Asset management, and Enforcement have been incorporated in the organogram of the Anti-Corruption Commission. The necessary staff has also been deployed in those units who have brought about dynamism in the ACC's activities using modern technology. The ACC's Asset Management Unit manages confiscated criminal assets at home and abroad.

Due to globalization, economic development, implementation of larger projects, and the use of advanced technology, massive socio-economic changes are taking place in Bangladesh. As a result, both positive and negative impacts are observed in the social system. With the rapid advancement of technology, the patterns and tactics of corruption are constantly changing. As part of a work plan, the Commission is committed to bringing in positive organizational changes, including automation of operations, formulation of an asset recovery policy, introduction of web-based software to monitor the ACC's activities, creation of a database for criminal information, and establishing a digital forensic laboratory. The Commission is working to develop the capacity of its officials. To enhance the capacity of its officials, the ACC's Training wing has completed during the pandemic 55 training courses under its management and in collaboration with various local and foreign organizations. The Commission has continued its efforts to build partnerships with different countries and various national and international organizations through the signing of MoUs.

Bangladesh has already become a middle-income country, taking the whole world by surprise with its remarkable performance in achieving progress on poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth. The country is moving forward steadily to become a high-income country by 2041. As an active partner in achieving that goal, the Anti-Corruption Commission is working with firm determination. Although, in some cases, the ACC could not meet people's expectations, it will sincerely strive to fulfill all its responsibilities in coming days.

Every effort has been made to keep this report as accurate as possible. However, if any erroneous or inconsistent information is observed in the report, I request the readers to immediately inform the Director General (Training & ICT) of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Despite various restrictions and limitations, the Anti-Corruption Commission has been working tirelessly since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. In the last two years, 145 employees of the Commission have been infected with COVID-19, while we lost four of our colleagues, including a Director General and a Director. We pray for their departed souls and express our honour, gratitude and condolence to their families.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues who have been working tirelessly to combat corruption in Bangladesh and also to all those involved in publishing the annual report.



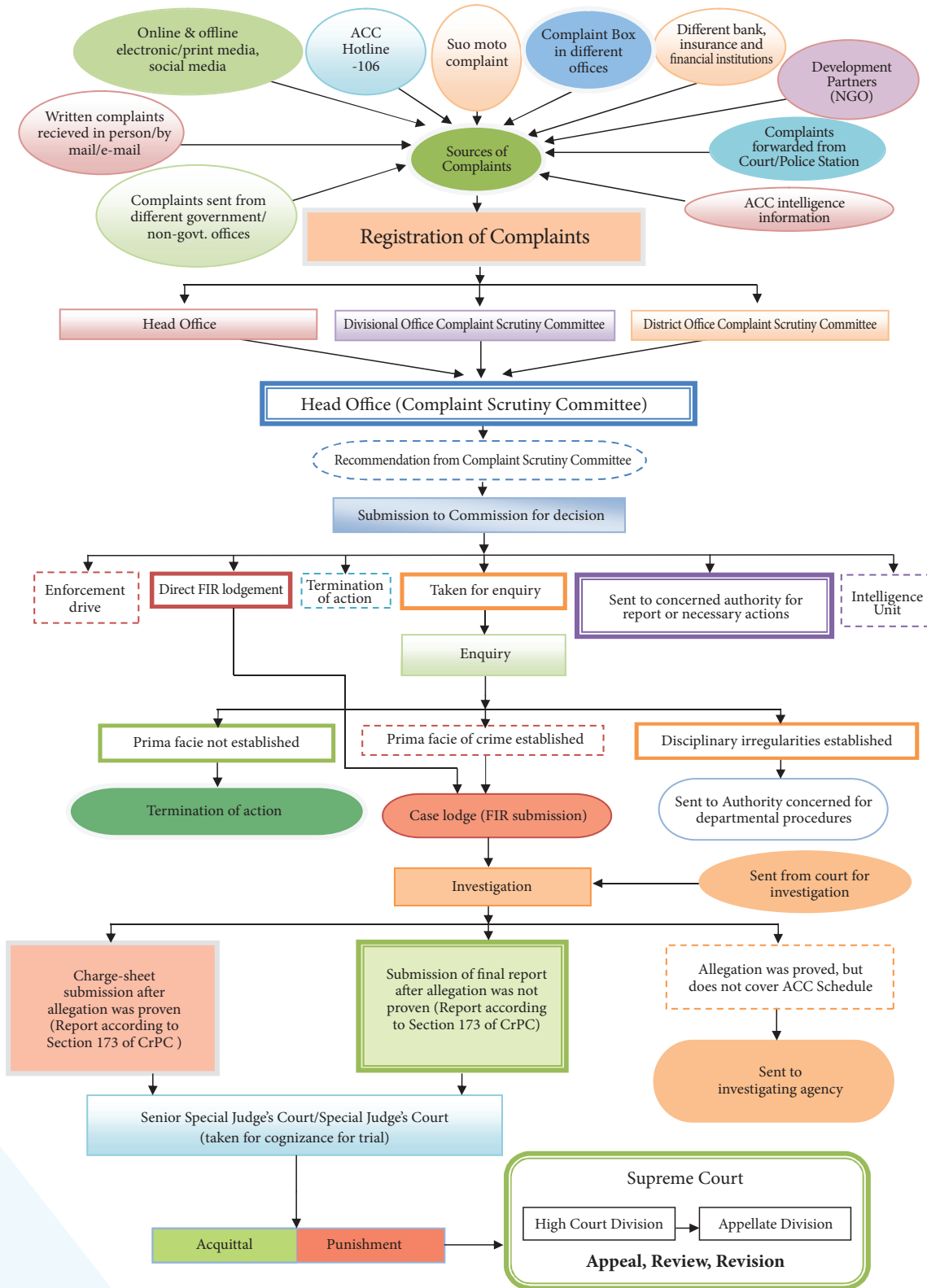
Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah
Chairman
Anti-Corruption Commission



CHAPTER ONE

Regulatory Functions to Curb Corruption

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Enquiry Functions
- 1.3 Investigation Functions
- 1.4 Prosecution
- 1.5 Arrest



ACC Complaint Management Flow-chart

Regulatory Functions to Curb Corruption

1.1. Introduction

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), as an independent, autonomous and impartial body, enquires about the allegations of corruption and prosecutes the offenders. The ACC also implements various activities aimed at creating a sense of Honesty and integrity in society. Despite the prevalence of COVID-19 in Bangladesh like the rest of the world, the Anti-Corruption Commission has been devotedly carrying out its responsibilities in compliance with proper health guidelines.

The Anti-Corruption Commission adopts various lawful actions against offences mentioned in the Schedule of the ACC Act. The Commission takes steps based on allegations of corruption on its own initiative or based on a complaint filed by the victim or a person on his/her behalf. Such enquiry and investigation activities are considered to be the lawful functions of the ACC.

The Commission, as a punitive measure against corruption, hands the offenders over to the courts of law in anticipation of appropriate punishment. In the enquiry of corruption, the Commission takes into account the prima facie value of the allegations, available documentary evidence following the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 and other relevant laws of the land.

1.1.1 Receiving complaints of corruption

Any citizen of the country may lodge complaint of corruption as mentioned in the Schedule of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 directly to the Head Office of the Commission or to the Divisional or Integrated District Offices. Anyone may also send a complaint by email (chairman@acc.org.bd), by letter, or by calling the ACC hotline 106. The Commission takes legal actions against specific allegations of offences listed in the ACC Act, 2004. However, in case the subject matter of the complaints is beyond the scope of the Commission, the petitions are forwarded to the relevant ministry or department, so that they can take necessary actions. If any government employee or banker is accused of demanding bribes for public service, the bribe seeker is arrested and brought under the law with solid evidence.

1.1.2 Statistics of complaints received and post-scrutiny activities

Complaints received from different sources are scrutinized according to the Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007. The Commission has a cell to support the 'Scrutiny Committee' in analyzing the merits of complaints for further enquiry. The 'Scrutiny Committee' objectively classifies the complaints lodged to the Commission from different sources..

In the year 2020, a total of 18,489 complaints were received from various sections of society, governmental and non-governmental organizations, including mainstream media. Among the allegations, 822 obtained the specified marks to be selected for enquiry, while 2,469 complaints were forwarded to the relevant ministries or departments for necessary actions. The remaining 15,198 complaints were filed as unacceptable according to the set standard.

On the other hand, 14,789 complaints were received in 2021. Of them, 533 were accepted for enquiry, and 2,889 complaints were referred to the relevant ministries or departments for due measures. 11,367 complaints were documented as unacceptable. Table 1 contains the statistics regarding the complaints received in 2020 and 2021, while Table 2 gives the comparative statistics of the complaints received in the consecutive years from 2017 to 2021.

Table 1: Statistics of complaints received in 2020 and 2021

2020

Sources of the complaint	Number of complaints	Total Number of complaints	Complaints accepted for enquiry	Unacceptable complaints	Sent to department for due action
Public (written directly to the head office)	11,095	18,489	822	15,198	2,469
Government Offices/Agencies	587				
Private Departments/Agencies	370				
Newspaper/TV report	1,224				
Divisional/District Offices of the Commission	1,479				
Hotline/Enforcement	961				
Others (including Facebook, Email)	2,773				

2021

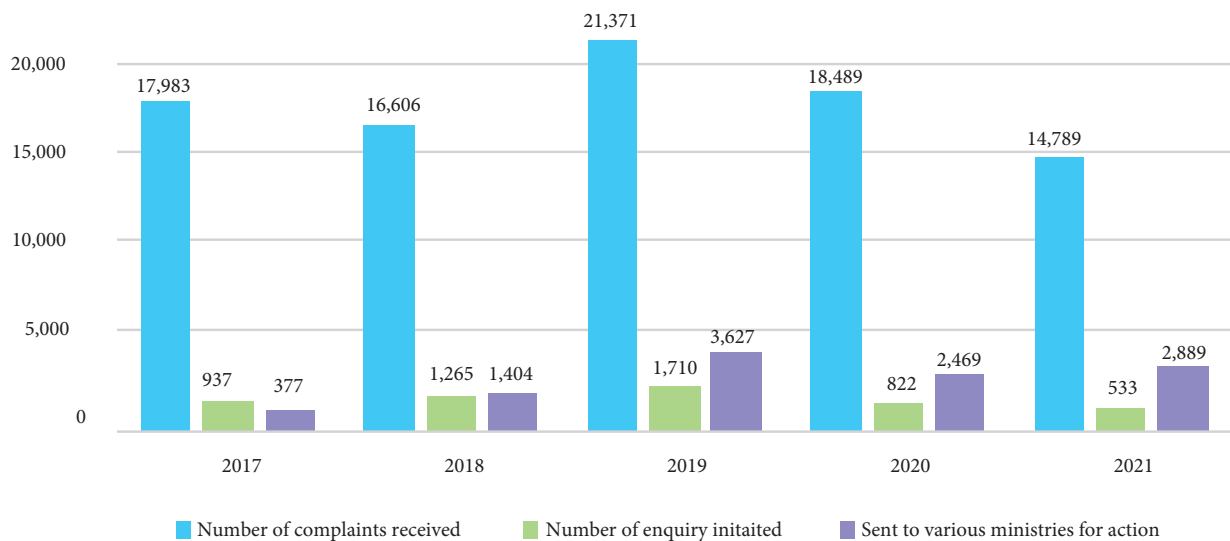
Sources of the complaint	Number of complaints	Total Number of complaints	Complaints accepted for enquiry	Unacceptable complaints	Sent to department for due action
Public (written directly to the head office)	8,909	14,789	533	11,367	2,889
Government Offices/Agencies	542				
Private Departments/Agencies	297				
Newspaper/TV report	943				
Divisional/District Offices of the Commission	1,127				
Hotline/Enforcement	1,041				
Others (including Facebook, Email)	1,930				

Table 2: Comparative picture of complaints received by the Commission in the last five years

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of enquiry initiated	Sent to various ministries for action
2017	17,983	937	377
2018	16,606	1,265	1,404
2019	21,371	1,710	3,627
2020	18,489	822	2,469
2021	14,789	533	2,889

The statistics of complaints received and actions taken in the period over the last five years reveals that in 2019, the highest numbers of complaints were submitted to the Commission. At the same time, the maximum number of complaints were forwarded to relevant ministries or departments for necessary action or for sending reports to the ACC after departmental enquiry. However, the present Commission has taken special initiatives to monitor responses from the relevant ministries or departments in taking administrative actions against the allegations. Regular follow-up meetings with the relevant departments are organized to get feedback about the actions taken on the complaints sent to them.

Graph 1: Statistics of complaints and action Taken to the Commission in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021



1.2 Enquiry

1.2.1 Legal basis of enquiry

The Anti-Corruption Commission has the authority to conduct enquiry and investigations under sections 19 and 20 of the ACC Act. With this mandate, the ACC conducts enquiry and investigation through its four wings (Enquiry & Investigation-1, Enquiry & Investigation-2, Special Enquiry & Investigation and Money Laundering).

The two Enquiry & Investigation wings are responsible for supervising the field level enquiries and investigations conducted by eight divisional offices and 22 Integrated District Offices. The Special Enquiry & Investigation wing has the jurisdiction to enquire and investigate into specialized areas. The areas include institutional corruption, arrests of corrupt individuals through trap operation, large-scale financial corruption and other specialized allegations.

Under the existing Money Laundering Act, it is the job of the Money Laundering wing to enquire and investigate money laundering offences and prosecute money launderers linked with one predicate offence, 'bribery and corruption. It is important to note that the investigations of the remaining 26 offences related to money laundering are conducted by the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and some other responsible agencies.

1.2.2 Statistics of new enquiries undertaken by the Commission

Enquiry for 2020 and 2021, including the accumulated enquiries from the previous years

The Commission has taken special initiatives to complete all enquiries, including the previous years' accumulated ones on time. Such initiatives have increased the speed of enquiry activities. A review of the data presented below shows that the total number of enquiries in the year 2020 stood at 5,017, including the pending enquiries from the previous years. The Commission completed 1,294 enquiries in 2020. Based on these enquiries, the Commission has filed 348 cases. The remaining enquiries have been disposed of by other means prescribed in the ACC Rules. On the other hand, the total number of enquiries in 2021 was 4,614, including the accumulated enquiries from previous years. The Commission successfully disposed of 1,044 enquiries in 2021. The Commission has filed 347 cases after completing necessary enquiries; the remaining enquiries have been disposed of either without any action or following other lawful means. Table 3 and Graph 2 show the overall enquiry activities for 2020 and 2021.

Table 3: Statistics of the enquiry activities of the complaints of 2020 and 2021

Year	Unfinished enquiry of previous years	New enquiry	Total enquiry	Complete enquiry	Filed case	Disposal through termination	Disposal in other means
2020	4,069	948*	5,017	1,294	348*	753	216
2021	3,723 *	891*	4,614	1,044	347*	688	32

* Multiple cases have arisen from the same document

Graph 2: A comparative picture of the overall enquiry activities in 2020 and 2021

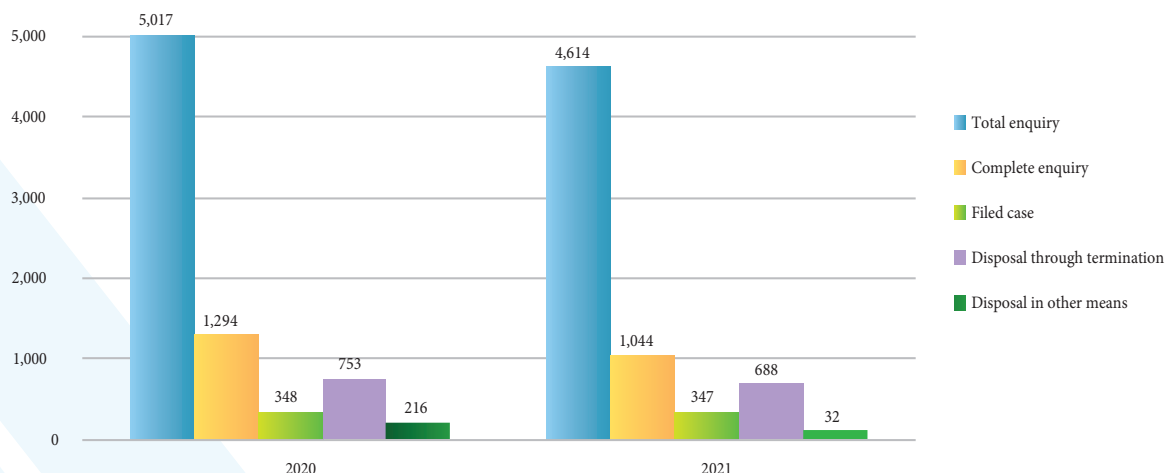
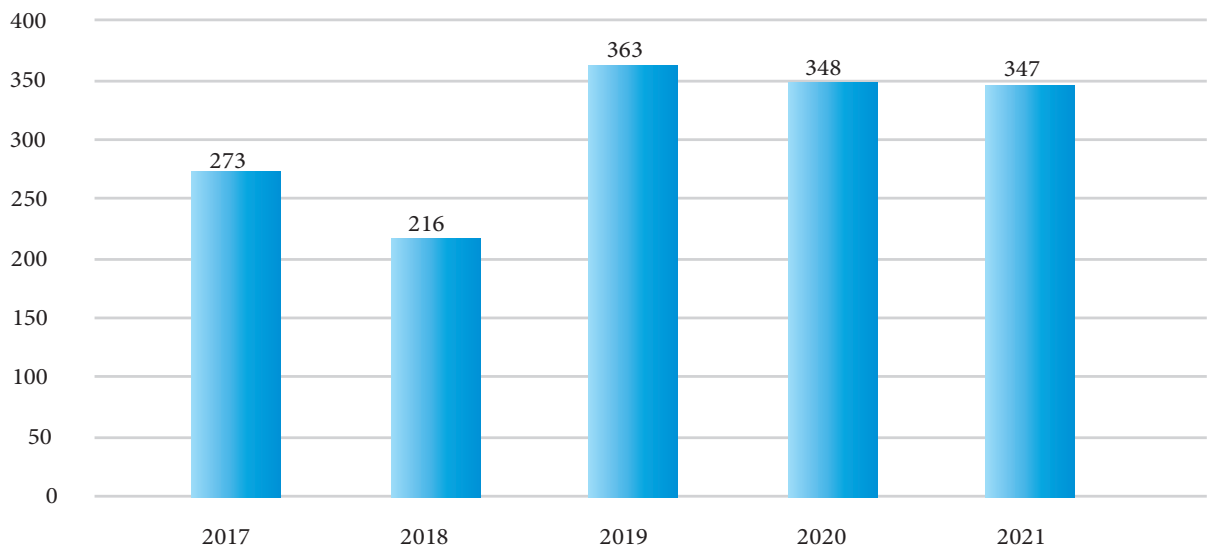


Table 4: Statistics of the Commission's cases filed in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Year	Number of cases filed in the year
2017	273
2018	216
2019	363
2020	348
2021	347

Reviewing the statistics of cases filed by the Commission in the last five years, it is observed that in 2019, the Commission filed the highest number of cases. However, the number of cases in 2020 and 2021 was also remarkable considering the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Graph 3: Comparative picture of cases filed by the Commission in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021



1.2.3 Asset enquiry information

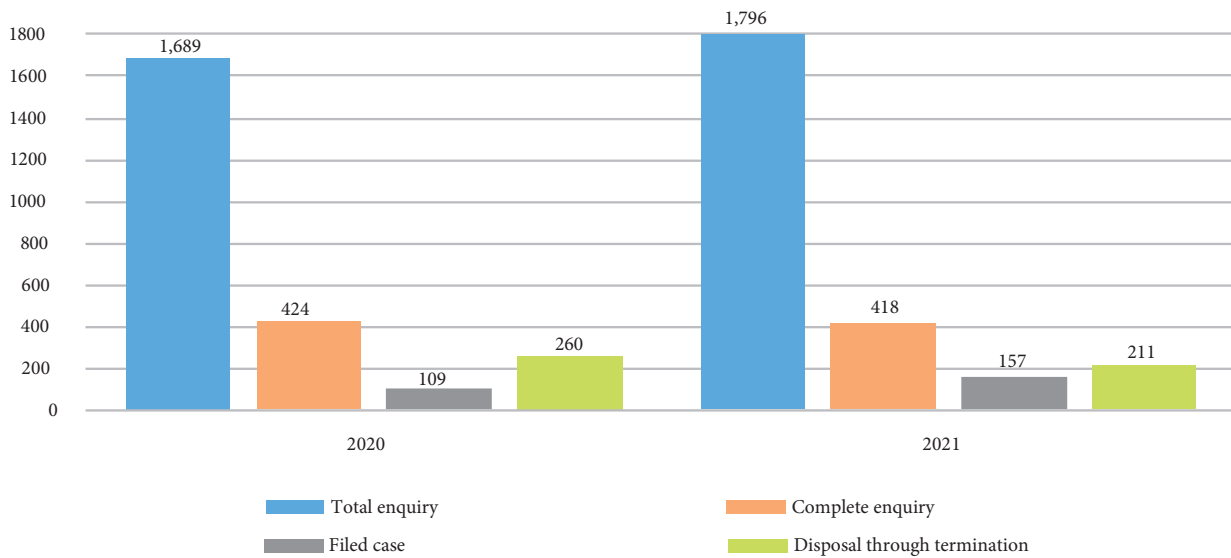
As per the legal mandate, the Anti-Corruption Commission takes measures against those who possess assets from undisclosed sources. Statistics show that out of 1,689 enquiries in 2020, 513 were initiated in 2020, and the remaining 1,176 were from previous years. The Commission completed 424 enquiries and filed 109 cases based on those enquiries.

On the other hand, out of 1,796 enquiries related to assets in 2021, 531 were initiated in 2021. In this year, the Commission completed 418 enquiries and filed 157 cases. Statistics on asset enquiry and results are presented in Table 5 and Graph 4.

Table 5: Statistics of asset enquiry activities

Year	Unfinished enquiry of previous years	New enquiry	Total enquiries	Complete enquiry	Filed case	Disposal through termination	Settlement through other means
2020	1,176	513	1,689	424	109	260	55
2021	1,265	531	1,796	418	157	211	50

Graph 4: Asset enquiry and results



1.2.4 Money laundering related enquiries

In 2020, out of 129 enquiries, including the pending money-laundering enquiries from the previous years, the Commission completed 17 enquiries. Eight complaints turned into litigations from those, and six were disposed of after proper enquiries, and three were disposed of by other lawful means.

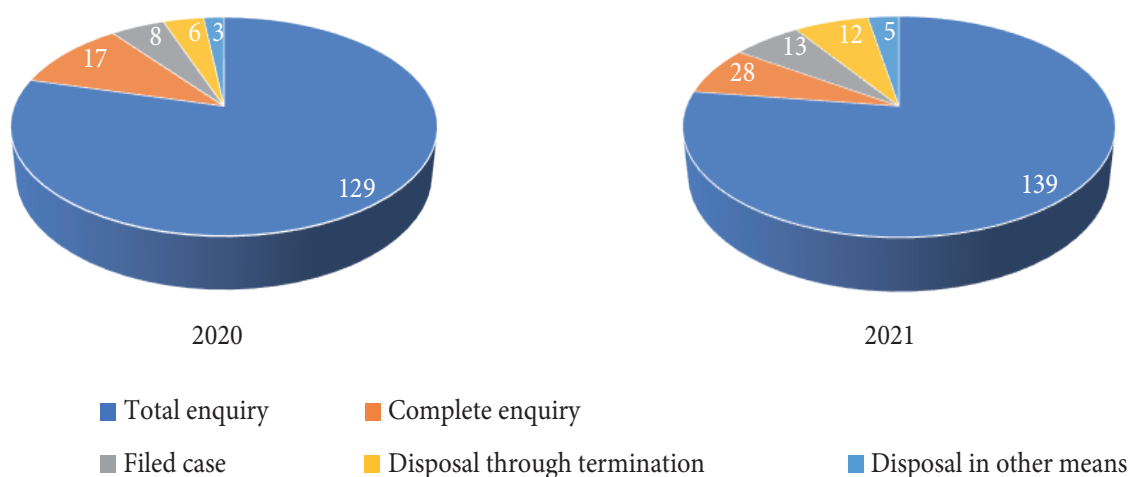
In 2021, out of 139 ongoing enquiries, the Commission could finish 28. Of them 13 complaints turned into litigation, 12 were disposed of as there were no substantive findings and five were disposed of through other lawful processes.

Table 6: Statistics of the ACC's money laundering related enquiries in 2020 and 2021

Year	Unfinished enquiry of previous years	New enquiry	Total enquiry	Complete enquiry	Filed case	Disposal through termination	Disposal in other means
2020	99	30	129	17	08	06	03
2021	114	25	139	28*	13	12	05

* Multiple cases have arisen from the same document.

Graph 5: A comparative picture of the ACC's money laundering related enquiries in 2020 and 2021



1.3 Investigation

1.3.1 Legal basis of investigation

Investigating corruption-related offences is one of the leading legal functions of the Anti-Corruption Commission [Section 17 (a) of ACC Act 2004]. The outcome of the investigation is the basis for prosecuting the people against whom complaints were lodged. Sections 19 and 20 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act have conferred special powers on the ACC in this regard. With this mandate, the ACC conducts investigations through its four wings (Enquiry & Investigation-1, Enquiry & Investigation-2, Special enquiry & Investigation, and Money Laundering Wing).

The Enquiry & Investigation wings investigate complaints recommended by the Complaints Scrutiny Committee. Several sections of Enquiry & Investigation wings supervise the field-level enquiries and investigation activities conducted by eight Divisional Offices and 22 Integrated District Offices. The Commission's Special Investigation wing and Money Laundering wing deal with specialised cases that require a comprehensive investigative mechanism.

1.3.2 Investigation activities of 2020 and 2021, including pending investigations from the previous Years

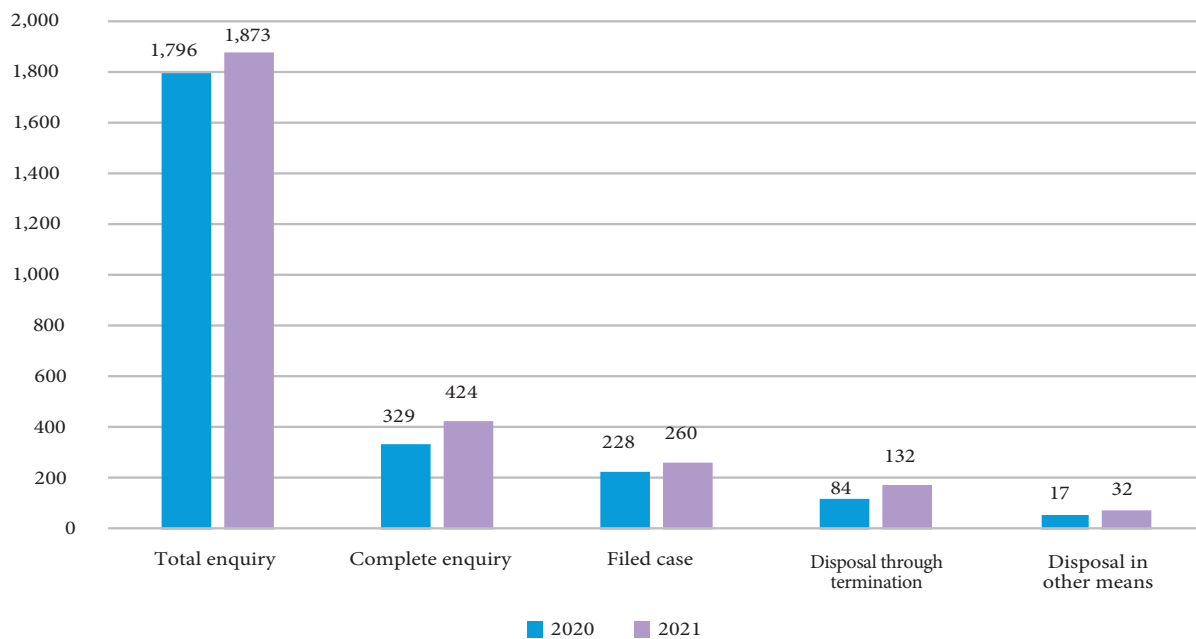
The Anti-Corruption Commission has taken the necessary steps to complete each investigation within the stipulated time. The progress of investigations into the cases is closely monitored to achieve the Commission's target of the annual work plan. These steps have given impetus to the overall investigation activities. Statistics reveal that the total number of investigations in 2020 was 1,796, including the pending investigations from the previous years. Among these, the Commission completed 329 investigations in 2020. Based on these investigations, the Commission approved the filing of charge-sheets in 228 cases. Of the remaining investigations, 84 Final Reports (FR) were approved by the Commission. Seventeen investigations have been sent to other agencies with the request to take necessary action.

On the other hand, the total number of investigations in 2021 stood at 1,873, including the pending investigations from the previous years. Among those, 424 investigations were completed, and the filing of charge-sheets got the approval of the Commission in 260 cases. Of the remaining completed investigations, 132 Final Reports (FR) got approval. Besides, 32 investigations were sent to other agencies for necessary action.

Table 7: Statistics of the investigation activities of the cases of 2020 and 2021

Year	Unfinished enquiry of previous years	New enquiry	Total enquiry	Complete enquiry	Filed case	Disposal through termination	Disposal in other means
2020	1,366	430	1,796	329	228	84	17
2021	1,467	406	1,873	424	260	132	32

Graph 6: Statistics of the overall investigation activities in 2020 and 2021



A comparative picture of charge-sheet approval has been provided below based on the investigation activities presented in Graph 6 of the last year and data of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

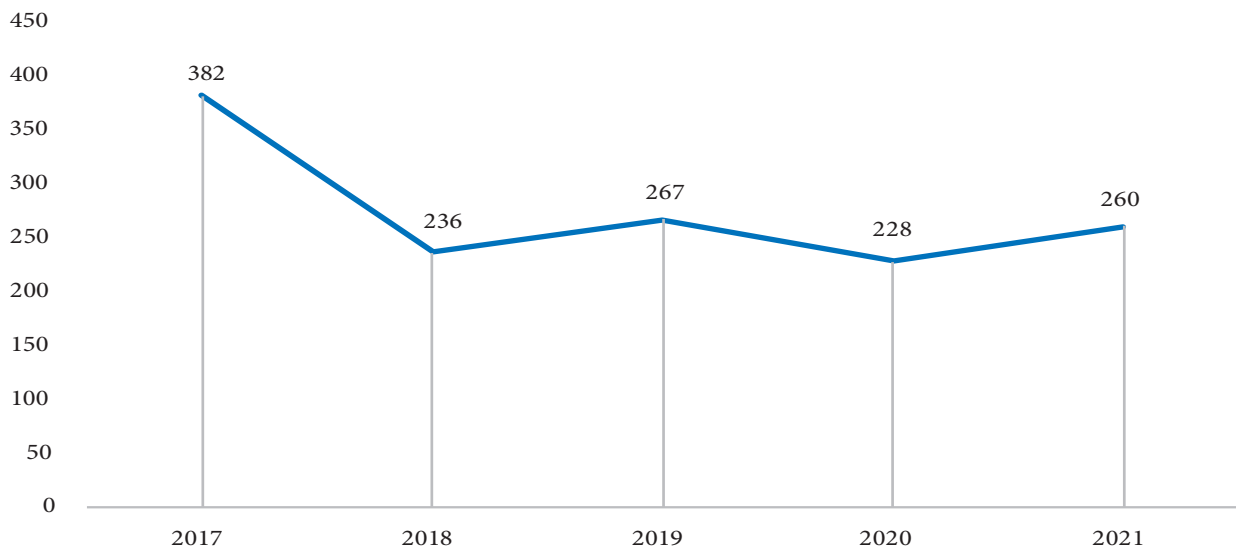
Table 8: Comparative statistics of charge-sheet approval of cases in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Year	Charge-sheet Approval
2017	382
2018	236
2019	267
2020	228
2021	260

Reviewing the statistics of the charge-sheets approved by the Commission in the last five years, it is observed that due to lock-down enforced in different phases during the outbreak of COVID-19, the number of charge-sheets approvals in 2020 was relatively low. Nevertheless, as a result of the improvement in the COVID-19 situation, the number of charge-sheets started increasing again in 2021.

The Commission believes that if the perpetrators are brought to justice through proper investigation, it will be easier to prosecute them with appropriate sentences. The Commission, thus, conducts multidimensional activities, including training sessions for the officers to increase the quality of investigation.

Graph 7: Comparative picture of charge-sheet approval in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021



1.3.3 Investigation of illegal assets

It is the legal responsibility of the Anti-Corruption Commission to take action against those who acquire assets disproportionate to their known income. Action is taken against those who acquire wealth through bribery, corruption or any other illegal means in accordance with Sections 26 and 27 of the ACC Act. Of the total 428 asset-related investigations, 126 were started in 2020, and the remaining 302 were accumulated from the previous years. Out of the total 428 investigations, 71 were completed. The Commission approved 56 charge-sheets based on the completed investigations. In 2020, 11 Final Reports were submitted. The remaining four were sent to other agencies for necessary action.

On the other hand, 489 investigations related to assets were accumulated in the Commission. Of them, 132 investigations were started in 2021. In this year, 99 investigations could be completed. From the completed asset investigations, 70 charge-sheets were approved. After completing investigations, 22 Final Reports were submitted. Besides, seven investigations were sent to responsible agencies. Table 9 provides a comprehensive overview of the ACC's activities in conducting asset investigations and their outcomes.

Table 9: Statistics of asset investigations for 2020 and 2021

Year	Unfinished investigation previous years	New investigation	Total investigation	Completed investigation	Submission of charge-sheet	Final report submitted	Disposal in other means
2020	302	126	428	71	56	11	04
2021	357	132	489	99	70	22	07

1.3.4 Investigation of money laundering

Under the existing money laundering law, the Anti-Corruption Commission can only investigate money laundering cases related to bribery and corruption. The investigation of money laundering cases related to the other 26 predicate offences is being conducted by different agencies, including NBR and CID. The Anti-Corruption Commission investigates money laundering cases meticulously. The Commission has completed investigations in six cases out of 26, which included the accumulated investigations from the period preceding the year 2020. The Commission approved charge-sheets in four cases, and Final Reports (FR) were submitted in two cases. On the other hand, in the year 2021, one investigation was completed out of a total of 50 which, included the pending ones from the previous years. The ACC investigates money laundering cases with great importance.

Table 10: Statistics of investigations on money laundering cases in 2020 and 2021

Year	Unfinished investigation previous years	New investigation	Total investigation	Completed investigation	Submission of charge-sheet	Final report submitted	Disposal in other means
2020	18	08	26	06	04	02	-
2021	20	30	50	01	01	-	-

1.3.5 Trap cases

The Commission conducts Trap Cases to end the culture of bribery and eradicate corruption. The Commission gives the approval to conduct trap operation to catch those service providing officials red-handed who seek bribes or gifts while delivering public services. If the information of demanding bribes by any government employee comes to ACC, the Commission takes necessary steps to catch them red-handed. Table 11 shows the activities of the ACC in investigating the trap cases in 2020 and 2021.

Table 11: Investigation activities of trap cases in 2020 and 2021

Year	Unresolved investigations of previous years	New investigation	Total investigation	Completed investigation	Submission of charge-sheet	Final report submitted
2020	10	8	18	14	14	-
2021	04	02	06	04	04	-

Reviewing the investigation of the trap case, it is observed that the Commission has approved the filing of Charge Sheets in 100% of the cases. Table 12 shows A comparative picture of the investigation activities of trap cases in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Table 12: Number of trap cases in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Year	Number of trap cases per year
2017	24
2018	15
2019	16
2020	18
2021	06

Reviewing Table 12, it is observed that a total of 18 investigations were under way in 2020, whereas six were under way in 2021. Moreover, successful Anti-Corruption drives were being conducted based on the complaints received through the Commission's hotline number. Through these trap operations, several suspected corruption incidents could be prevented.

1.4 Prosecution

1.4.1 The legal basis for prosecution

One of the essential legal mandates of the ACC is to bring the perpetrators of scheduled offences under the ACC Act by producing objective investigation reports to the court. The Commission handles every case with equal importance. The Commission adheres to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004; Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012; Penal Code, 1860. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947; The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1958; The Evidence Act, 1872, and other relevant laws and regulations. According to section 17 (b) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, the Commission files cases and begins legal proceedings based on enquiry and investigation into scheduled offences.

1.4.2 The Offences that the Commission is empowered to prosecute

The Commission is mandated to prosecute the offences described in the Schedule to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004; The Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947; Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012; Offences under Penal Code (section 161-169, 217, 218, 409) and any offence under sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 477(1) if they are related to public property. Moreover, offences committed by a government employee or a bank official or an employee of a financial institution in the course of official duties under sections 109, 120b, 511 of the Penal Code are also within the legal scope of the ACC.

Under Section 32(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, the Commission has full authority to file cases against these offences. Pursuant to Section 28(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, offences under this Act and its Schedule shall be tried only by a Special Judge. However, in the event of any conflict between the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1958 and the ACC Act, the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act will be applicable [Section 27 (3) of the ACC Act]; the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1958 will be applicable to appeals.

The Legal wing of the Commission oversees legal matters and maintains up-to-date information on the Commission's cases. The lawyers appointed by the Commission under the direct supervision of this wing deal with the cases of the Commission in the relevant courts. At present, the Commission appoints contract lawyers on a separate panel to handle corruption cases on behalf of the Commission in both the Special Judge's Court and the Supreme Court. The 122-member panel of lawyers is called 'public prosecutor' and serves in 13 Special Judge's Courts both within and outside Dhaka. Twenty-nine lawyers are working in Dhaka Division, 20 in Chittagong Division, 16 in Rajshahi Division, 13 in Rangpur Division, 19 in Khulna Division, 9 in Barishal Division, 7 in Sylhet Division and 9 in Mymensingh Division. Among them, there are 04 female public prosecutors as well. Besides, 27 learned lawyers handle cases on behalf of the ACC in the High Court.

1.4.3 Conducting cases in the trial court

The ACC acts as a prosecuting agency to bring corrupt people to justice and ensure punishment through trial. Following the directions of the Commission, the officers of the Legal wing regularly communicate with the lawyers working on each case and ensure the presence of lawyers and witnesses in the court on the due date.

In 2020, 176 cases were disposed of in the Special Judge's Court, of which 155 (about 88%) were filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the remaining 21 (12%) were received from the defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau. The 155 cases filed by the ACC were settled in court, of which the accused have been convicted in 111 cases. The conviction rate in the cases of the Commission is 72% (approximately), and in the cases of the defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau, the rate is 48%.

In 2021, 203 cases were disposed of in the Special Judge's Court, of them the Anti-Corruption Commission filed 193 (about 95%) cases, and the remaining 10 (5%) were received from the Anti-Corruption Bureau. 193 cases filed by the ACC were settled in court, and the accused were convicted in 116 cases. The conviction rate in the cases of the Commission is 60% (approximately), and in those of the defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau, the conviction rate is 30%.

Table 13: Data of corruption cases in Special Judge's Courts in 2020 and 2021

Description	2020			2021		
	ACC case	Defunct Bureau's case	Total	ACC case	Defunct Bureau's case	Total
Total number of cases	2,931	451	3,382	2,998	436	3,434
The number of under trial cases	2,697	249	2,946	2,771	243	3,014
Number of pending cases	234	202	436	227	193	420
Number of disposed cases	155	21	176	193	10	203
Number of convicted cases	111	10	121	116	03	119
Number of acquitted cases	44	11	55	77	07	84

Table 14: Comparative statistics of convictions in cases file in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Year	The rate of punishment in the case of the ACC	The rate of punishment in the case of the defunct bureau
2017	68%	39%
2018	63%	50%
2019	63%	40%
2020	72%	48%
2021	60%	30%

Reviewing the judgments of the Courts (Table 14) in the last five years, it is observed that, the conviction rate in 2017 was 68%. It was 63% in both 2018 and 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic the conviction rate was 72% and 60% in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Conviction rate increased significantly in 2020 despite the COVID pandemic. This was encouraging for the ACC. Although the Commission is committed to ensuring 100% conviction in its cases, the conviction rate slightly decreased due to the deteriorating COVID crisis in 2021.

Table 15: Corruption cases in Special Judge's Courts within and outside Dhaka in 2020 and 2021

In 2020, the Special Judge's Court in Dhaka disposed of 83 corruption cases in Dhaka and 93 cases outside Dhaka. On the other hand, 21 cases filed by the defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau were disposed of in and outside

Dhaka. In 2021, 72 corruption cases were settled. At the same time, the Special Judge's Courts outside Dhaka disposed of 131 cases. On the other hand, the number of defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau cases disposed of in and outside Dhaka was 10.

Description		2020			2021		
		ACC case	Defunct bureau case	Total	ACC case	Defunct bureau case	Total
Dhaka	Disposed cases	69	14	83	68	04	72
	Number of convicted cases	54	08	62	49	01	50
Outside Dhaka	Disposed cases	86	07	93	125	06	131
	Number of convicted cases	57	02	59	67	02	69

1.4.4 Statistics of cases involving illegal assets

Table 16: Statistics of asset cases in Special Judge's Court in 2020 and 2021

Details	2020	2021
Number of disposed cases	27	30
Number of convicted cases	19	21
Number of acquitted cases	8	9

In 2020, 27 cases related to assets were disposed of in different Special Judge's Courts of the country, of them the accused were convicted in 19 cases and acquitted in eight cases. A review of these statistics shows that the conviction rate in cases related to illegal assets is about 70%.

On the other hand, in 2021, 30 cases related to assets were disposed of in different Special Judge's Courts, of them the accused were convicted in 21 cases and acquitted in nine cases. These statistics reveal that the conviction rate in cases of illegal assets is about 70%.

Table 17: Statistics of money laundering cases in Special Judge's Court in 2020 and 2021

Details	2020	2021
Number of disposed cases	3	6
Number of convicted cases	2	6
Number of acquitted cases	1	-

In 2020, three cases of money laundering were settled in the Special Judge's Court and the accused were convicted in two cases. On the other hand, in 2021, six money laundering cases were settled in the Special Judge's Court, and the accused were convicted in all of them.

Reviewing the statistics of Table 17, it is evident that in 2021, 100% of the money laundering cases ended in conviction. In 2020, the conviction rate in money laundering cases was about 67%. However, in 2018 and 2019, the conviction rate was almost 100%. It is a matter of pride for the ACC to ensure 100% conviction in money laundering cases. The ACC firmly believes that this success has been achieved after completing a thorough investigation into the money laundering cases and presenting it properly to the courts.

Table 18: Statistics of trap cases in Special Judge's Court 2020 and 2021

Details	2020	2021
Number of disposed cases	9	7
Number of convicted cases	3	3
Number of acquitted cases	6	4

In 2020, a total of nine cases related to traps were settled in the Special Judge's Court. From the above Table, it is found that the accused were convicted in 33% of the cases. On the other hand, in 2021, a total of seven cases related to traps were settled in the Special Judge's Court, and 45% of them ended in conviction.

Table 19: Information on convictions, fines and confiscations in 2020 and 2021

Region	2020				2021			
	Number of convicted cases	Number of convicts	Fine (Tk)	Confiscation (Tk)	Number of convicted cases	Number of convicts	Fine (Tk)	Confiscation (Tk)
Dhaka	62	108	62,19,74,181	2,88,39,320	50	89	65,37,67,876	10,20,86,928
Outside Dhaka	59	65	10,29,08,949	15,29,680	69	72	9,80,67,441	-
Total	121	173	72,48,83,130	3,03,69,000	119	161	75,18,35,317	10,20,86,928

Reviewing Table 19, it is evident that in 2020, the court imposed a fine of 72 crore 48 lakh 83 thousand and 130 Taka, and confiscated 3 crore 3 lakh 69 thousand in favour of the state. In 2021, the court has imposed a fine of 75 crore 18 lakh 35 thousand 317 Taka and confiscated 10 crore 20 lakh 86 thousand 928 Taka in favor of the State.

Table 20: Comparative data of fines and confiscations in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Year	Fine (Tk)	Confiscation (Tk)
2018	139,94,76,991	13,34,47,252
2019	3497,06,84,759	436,88,95,374
2020	72,48,83,130	3,03,69,000
2021	75,18,35,317	10,20,86,928

The Asset Management Unit of the Commission has started its activities in 2019 to manage these assets as per specific policies. The Asset Management Unit does not manage the confiscated assets or frozen assets; it rather preserves information on those assets. However, if the Commission is appointed as the Receiver of the forfeited asset by the Court, the Asset Management Unit supervises and manages the asset on behalf of the Commission as per the Court order. In this case, 'Criminal Asset Management Guidelines, 2020' of ACC are followed.

Table 21: ACC's achievement in asset management

Year	Number of Order	Information on Attached Assets	Value of Frozen Assets	
2019	30	In the Country 14.44 acres of land, price - 22,78,41,099/- 17 houses, price - 38,19,40,372/- 17 flats, price - 7,22,95,690/- 09 plots, price - 2,55,89,650/- 04 Commercial Spaces, Price-36,30,31,200 /- Price of 09 cars - 39,50,000/- 04 properties, price - 7,70,42,200/-	As per 288 bank A/c, the balance is 102,04,70,981/- 06 BO account, balance amount - 2,46,29,912/- 36 Savings Certificates / Bonds - 7,10,00,000/- Security - 2,13,82,444/- As policy/insurance - 10,24,800/-	
		Abroad Shares of 02 companies abroad in Dubai, Price - 49,40,000/-	05 bank accounts in Malaysia amounting to 22,81,190 Ringgit (amount in BDT - 4,74,57,739/-)	
		Total	115,66,30,211	118,59,65,876
2020	52	In the Country Price of 256.345 acres of land - 108,59,15,340/- 34 houses/buildings, price-28,34,54,262/- 35 flats, price - 14,25,76,259/- 11 plots, price - 1,97,10,741.5/- 07 Commercial Spaces, Price - 3,40,00,000/- 17 cars, price-23,55,35,144/-	1118 bank accounts and FDR balance 610,416,096/- (61 crore 4 lakh 16 thousand 96 Tk). Savings certificate - 88 lakh 50 thousand. Share price - 90 crore 95 lakh 20 thousand 400 Tk. Pistol - 5 lakh Tk.	
		Abroad	N/A	N/A
		Total	180,11,91,746/-	152,92,86,496/-

Year	Number of Order	Information on Attached Assets		Value of Frozen Assets
2021		In the Country	127.736 acres of land, value - 255,14,08,843/- 31 Houses/Buildings, Price - 26,20,96,211/- 23 flats, price - 37,72,57,701/- 03 plots, price - 33,20,000 - 31 cars, price - 7,30,63,873/-	Balance in 934 Bank A/c balance - 1156,06,06,732/- and 586.75 pound 35 Savings Certificates and Bonds - 1,68,69,959 /- Share price - 1,03,30,000/- 3 pistols and shotguns, price - 600,000 /- Price on 7 ships - 2,74,07,789/-
		Abroad	N/A	In Canada 20 Bank A/c balance - 66,59,401.45/- (CAD), 40,28,270.22 (USD), 1,01,729.36 (EUR) and 24,000 (Pound) In Australia 24 Bank A/c balance - 61,49,718.22/- (AUD) and 5,49,655.6 (CAD) In Canada 1 Bank A/c balance - 3,46,650 (USD) and 32,000 (CAD) In Singapore 5 Bank A/c balance - 0 (Zero)
		Total	326,71,46,628/-	1161,58,14,480 (BDT), 586.75 (Pound), 72,41,057,05 (CAD), 61,49,718.22 (AUD), 23,74,920.22 (USD), 1,01,729.36 (EUR) and 24,000 (British Pound)

Reviewing Table 21, it can be said that the Commission is chasing the money launderers not only within the country but also abroad. The ACC is fulfilling its legal obligation to ensure that no one can consume unearned income.

1.4.5 Conducting cases in the High Court

The Commission has appointed 27 lawyers to conduct cases on behalf of the ACC in the Appellate Division and the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court. One lawyer works in the Supreme Court cell to coordinate activities of the Commission and the Supreme Court. Tables 22 and 23 provide data on various activities of the ACC cases with the Supreme Court.

Table 22: Statistics of Criminal/Writ/Appeal cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court

Details	2020			Settled in 2020	Stay from previous period	Stay in 2020	Total stay	Withdrawal of stay	Currently stayed cases
	Case from previous period	Number of cases filed in 2020	Total						
Number of Criminal Miscellaneous Cases	643	646	1289	598	96	26	122	24	98
Number of writ petitions	445	94	539	28	176	20	196	3	193
Number of Criminal Appeal Cases	477	144	621	4	9	0	9	0	9
Number of Criminal Review Cases	153	141	294	60	23	2	25	0	25

Details	2021			Settled in 2021	Stay from previous period	Stay in 2021	Total stay	Withdrawal of stay	Currently stayed cases
	Case from previous period	Number of cases filed in 2021	Total						
Number of Criminal Miscellaneous Cases	691	626	1317	541	98	30	128	25	103
Number of writ petitions	511	83	594	21	193	10	203	1	202
Number of Criminal Appeal Cases	617	171	788	11	9	1	10	0	10
Number of Criminal Review Cases	234	166	400	34	25	10	35	0	35

Table 23: Statistics of cases arising out of Criminal Appeals/Miscellaneous/Revision/Writ in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court

Details	2020			Currently stayed	Stay from previous period	Stay in 2020	Total stay	Withdrawal of stay	Currently stayed cases
	After the previous period	Number of cases filed in 2020	Total suspension order						
Number of Criminal Miscellaneous Cases	209	81	290	213	23	2	25	3	22
Number of writ petitions	100	23	123	105	24	0	24	1	23
Number of Criminal Appeal Cases	55	1	56	56	13	0	13	0	13
Number of Criminal Review Cases	46	2	48	48	1	0	1	0	1

Details	2021			Currently stayed	Stay from previous period	Stay in 2021	Total stay	Withdrawal of stay	Currently stayed cases
	After the previous period	Number of cases filed in 2021	Total suspension order						
Number of Criminal Miscellaneous Cases	213	68	281	203	22	8	30	10	20
Number of writ petitions	105	27	132	121	23	04	27	1	26
Number of Criminal Appeal Cases	56	6	62	60	13	0	13	0	13
Number of Criminal Review Cases	48	12	60	60	1	0	71	1	1

1.5 Arrest

1.5.1 Legal basis for arrest

Under section 20 (3) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, an ACC officer is empowered like an Officer-in-Charge of a Police Station to investigate the offences scheduled for the Act. In 2020, for investigation purposes, the investigating officers of the Commission have arrested 29 people accused in various corruption cases.

The Commission makes arrests to comply with legal obligations, to reduce disregard of law by accused and to create Anti-Corruption awareness. One of the ways to uproot the sources of corruption is to arrest the bribe-takers red-handed. All kinds of legal protections are provided to the arrested persons. Trap operation are continued to prevent the notoriety of bribery.

Table 24: Statistics of bank officials, government officials and others among those arrested

Occupation/contact number of the arrested	Number	
	2020	2021
Bank/Employees	8	-
Government/Employees	12	11
Public Representatives	4	4
Employees of Non-Banking Financial Institutions	-	11
Business persons and others	5	5
Total	29	31

1.5.2 Summary of the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission for 2020 and 2021

Since the formation of the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2004, the Commission has been conducting enquiries and investigations into offences mentioned in the Schedule of the ACC Act. The Anti-Corruption Commission takes legal action when it receives specific allegations of corruption. The Commission does not consider the social or political identity of the offender. Since the formation of the present Commission, an action plan has been adopted to ensure the quality of investigation and prosecution of the ACC cases. To that end, the strategy of the Commission is determined in consultation with the stakeholders. This strategy seems effective to bring about some positive changes.

This is evident from a review of the judgments delivered by the trial courts in the cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission. According to the data obtained, the conviction rate of the Anti-Corruption Commission was 63% in both 2018 and 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the conviction rate was about 72% in 2020, and about 60% in 2021. Analyzing these statistics, it can be inferred that even during the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years (2020 and 2021), the conviction rates remained at a higher position than those of the previous years. This is a positive achievement of the Commission. The Commission is working to increase the conviction rate in its prosecutions.

In 2021, the ACC started enquiries into 4,614 complaints, completed 1,044 enquiries and filed 347 cases based on the findings. Enquiries of 3,570 complaints are going on. At the same time, 1,449 Investigations are being conducted while 3,434 cases are under trial. Money laundering cases filed by the Commission have resulted in almost 100 per cent convictions.

A committee headed by the Secretary of the Commission has been formed to make the rules and regulations of the Commission more effective and up-to-date. The Anti-Corruption Commission is prepared to set up offices in 14 more districts to increase its capacity. These 14 Integrated District Offices are being added to the existing 22 Integrated District Offices. The ACC will carry out its activities, through the Integrated District Offices in 36 districts. A new integrated district office has just been opened in Cox's Bazar (for Cox's Bazar and Bandarban) on 1 January 2022. More district offices will be opened in 13 other districts from 1 July 2022. Besides, 34 Assistant Directors have been promoted to the post of Deputy Director and 40 Deputy Assistant Directors have been promoted to Assistant Director. Moreover, the recruitment process of 133 new Assistant Directors and 147 Deputy Assistant Directors is in its final stage. With the establishment of new ACC offices and an increase in the workforce, Anti-Corruption activities in the districts will be intensified.

Besides, Maximum use of technology is being ensured in all its activities at the ACC. The ACC's capacity is going to be significantly enhanced by the establishment of its servers, the new forensic labs and IPMS software. The Commission hopes that the use of information technology will play a vital role in preventing corruption.

Table 25: A comparative picture of the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission in the last five years

Activities		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
The number of complaints accepted for enquiry		937	1,265	1,710	822	533
The number of cases filed by the Commission		273	216	363	348	347
Number of charge-sheet approvals		282	136	267	228	260
Number of trap cases		24	15	16	18	06
Conviction rate	ACC case	68%	63%	63%	72%	60%
	Bureau case	39%	50%	40%	48%	30%
Fine (Taka)		-	139,94,76,991	3497,06,84,759	72,48,83,130	75,18,35,317
Confiscation (Taka)		-	13,34,47,252	436,88,95,374	3,03,69,000	10,20,86,928
Seized assets		-	-	115,66,30,211 Taka	180,11,91,746 Taka	326,71,46,628 Taka
Frozen assets		-	-	118,59,65,876 Taka	152,92,86,496 Taka	1161,58,14,480 (BDT), 586.75 (Pound), 72,41,057,05 (CAD), 61,49,718.22 (AUD), 23,74,920.22 (USD), 1,01,729.36 (EUR) and 24,000 (British Pound)
Number of public hearings		40	27	38	05	01
Providing information in the context of the application		16	20	49	15	29



CHAPTER TWO

Preventive Measures to Control Corruption

2.1 Immediate Action against Corruption

Preventive Measures to Control Corruption

2.1 Immediate Action Against Corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission launched a toll-free Hotline number (106) on 27 July 2017 to receive public complaints and prevent corruption immediately. In the very first week of the launch, about 75,000 phone calls were received. The AFP, The France24, the BBC, The Mail Online, The Deutsche Welle, The Qatar Post, The Herald and many other media outlets worldwide published news pieces on this in different languages.

This trend of reporting complaints to the Hotline continues as a routine activity. About 42 lakh (4.2 million) phone calls have been received since the inception of the Complaint Centre. Hotline services are conducted every working day from 9 am to 5 pm divided into four shifts. Five trained technicians of the Commission are providing this service. Activities of the Complaints Centre are digitally monitored. The ACC Complaints Centre (106) is being run under the close supervision of the Commission's senior officials.

In addition to allegations of corruption, the Hotline also receives calls about complaints that fall beyond the purview of the ACC, such as complaints about personal disputes, dowry, and negligence in school, social disputes, land disputes, and various social problems. Following the Commission's explicit instructions, the call centre agents record allegations of scheduled offences under the ACC Act and counsel the complainants about what to do about non-scheduled offences. Overall, the ACC Complaints Centre (106) acts as a reliable platform for the general public to lodge complaints. In order to institutionalize the activities of the Complaint Centre, the government approved the organogram of the Enforcement Unit with a 26 member staff. Accordingly, the Unit started its official journey on 23 January 2019 with the posting of trained officials. The Enforcement Unit conducts operations as per the directives of the Commission and takes immediate action in five different means. In addition, letters are sent from the Unit requesting the relevant department to take necessary action regarding a complaint.

In 2020 and 2021, the Anti-Corruption Commission conducted 632 enforcement operations on complaints received through the ACC hotline and other sources. These immediate operations made it possible to prevent corruption immediately. The authorities concerned have taken appropriate measures to stop controversial recruitment, prevent substandard construction work, to disconnect illegal gas connections, to evict illegal structures along rivers, canals and roads, and to protect the environment. When necessary, during the drive expert assistance was sought from relevant agencies. As a result, the quality and transparency of the campaign were increased. Due to the prima facie evidence of the allegations, formal enquiries was started into 203 allegations in the last two years. Moreover, eight cases were filed directly under the powers given by the latest amended Rule 10(f)(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission. According to Rule 16 of the ACC Rules, 2007, with the approval of the Commission, criminals were arrested in four cases of bribery through Trap operation.

Table 26: Enforcement operation of the ACC at a glance (2020 and 2021)

Years	Total phone calls Received at ACC Complaint Centre-106	Total complaints registered at ACC Complaints Centre-106	Complaints received from Daily and Recent Complaints Cell	Complaints from emails and social media and sources	Complaints received from print and electronic media	Total complaints received from various media	Enforcement campaign conducted by the ACC	Number of letters sent to various departments for action	Information Search	Sending letters for information, administrative and other measures	Trap case	The number of investigations launched based on the report of the enforcement team	The number of investigations launched based on the report of the enforcement team	Termination or attachment
2020	74,506	1,437	31	9	-	1,477	487	774	88	60	2	6	152	-
2021	39,267	1,012	182	27	232	1,453	245	680	58	73	2	2	51	312
Total	1,13,773	2,449	213	36	232	2,930	732	1,454	146	133	4	8	203	312

The armed police unit of the Commission is deployed during such operations, and cooperation of the local administration at the district and Upazila levels is also sought. The overall cooperation of the local administration, including the police is commendable.

These operations are conducted in almost every sector, including the local government offices, land, health, education, and transport sectors, forest and environment; utility services, and engineering, agriculture and finance offices. The unwavering support of mass people is also being noticed in these operations.

Table 27: Enforcement operation at a glance (2020 and 2021)

Serial Number	Subject	2020	2021	Total	Unit
1.	Punitive transfer / divisional system	933	6	939	Person
2.	Dismissed	4	2	6	Person
3.	Notice to show reasons	10	3	13	Person
4.	Fine	14,700	-	14,700	Taka
5.	Imprisonment by mobile court	11	2	13	Brokers have been jailed in various raids by the local administration through mobile courts.
6.	Disclosure of Information on embezzlement of government funds	66,25,000	-	66,25,000	Taka
7.	Recover bribe information	1,85,00,000	80,000	1,85,80,000	Taka
8.	Return bribe information	8,09,000	-	8,09,000	Taka
9.	Provide immediate service	38	26	64	Via telephone instruction
10.	Road construction stopped with substandard construction materials	64	25	89	KM
11.	Eviction of illegal installations	1	-	1	House
12.	Recover of Government Land	574	-	574	Acre
13.	Invalid gas disconnected	66	2	68	Number
14.	Revealing fake vouchers	70,00,000	-	70,00,000	Taka
15.	Government rice rescued	3.3	-	3.3	Metric Ton
16.	Stop using government vehicles illegally	1	-	1	Number
17.	Disclosure of spooky electricity bill information	15,000	-	15,000	Taka
18.	Stop using government rest houses illegally	2	-	2	Number
19.	Illegal mineral water factory sealed	1	-	1	Number
20.	Document author's licensed revoked	2	1	3	Person
21.	Prevention of irregularities in promotion	6	-	6	Person

Serial Number	Subject	2020	2021	Total	Unit
22.	Seizure of illegally acquired money	60,00,000	-	60,00,000	Taka
23.	Disclosure of information on corruption in construction of government houses	2,25,00,000	-	2,25,00,000	Taka
24.	Stop illegal toll collection	2	-	2	Bridge
25.	Prevention of tender irregularities	1,50,00,000	8,00,00,000	9,50,00,000	Taka
26.	Recruitment corruption stopped	-	529	529	Number of Post
27.	Disclosure of corruption information in Kabita project	-	1,29,76,009	1,29,76,009	Taka
28.	Balam Book fraud information reveal	-	1	1	Number
29.	Embezzlement of orphans' money	-	1	1	Number
30.	Payment of insurance claims	-	1	1	Number
31.	Jobs with fake credentials	-	2	2	Person
32.	Disclosure of information on creation of fake documents	-	1	1	Number
33.	Disclosure of corruption information in providing profit of savings certificates	-	9,07,082	9,07,082	Taka

As a result of publishing information about the day-to-day activities of the ACC Enforcement Unit (raids, letters, traps, etc.) on the Commission's verified Facebook page (www.facebook.com/acc.org.bd), people send requests to the ACC to conduct such operations in their jurisdictions. Following such constructive criticisms, the Unit is constantly trying to make its activities more organized.

From rural to urban level, ordinary people have many complaints regarding public services. In many cases, citizens face harassment while receiving public services; mainly due to laxity, irregularities, and corruption in public offices, and also due to ignorance of the service seekers. In most cases, there is no specific time-frame for providing government services. That is why red-tapism and harassment are rampant. The Commission is working to ensure transparency and accountability in delivering government services through these operations.

There are many reasons to believe that citizens trust the ACC's enforcement operations. That is why the number of calls coming to the complaint centre increases day by day. Due to these campaigns, grassroots people have become aware of corruption. On the other hand, citizens are vocal about their rights, and government officials have become more aware of their responsibilities.

CHAPTER THREE

Prevention of Corruption and Development of Good Practices

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Inclusive Anti-Corruption Program
- 3.3 Promotional Activities
- 3.4 National and International Partnerships

Prevention of Corruption and Development of Good Practices

3.1 Introduction

The Anti-Corruption Commission is carrying out three-dimensional activities to prevent corruption. The Commission is gradually carrying out short-term, mid-term and long-term activities targeting specific groups in the light of its strategy. Short-term activities include building awareness among the stakeholders through Anti-Corruption campaigns. The mid-term activities include events organized by the corruption prevention committee, including public hearings. Long-term activities include various Anti-Corruption programmes organized by members of the Integrity Unit. Awareness among all walks of life is growing day by day about corruption.

The underline significance of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 is that the highest priority is given to prevent corruption. Out of the 11 functions of the Commission mentioned in the ACC Act, 2004, six activities are related to the prevention of corruption. One of these functions is to strengthen the fight against corruption and to create public awareness about corruption. The Commission seeks to involve people from all walks of life in its Anti-Corruption activities.

3.1.1 Legal basis for research, experimentation, prevention and public awareness activities

The Anti-Corruption Commission is a statutory body created by law. The Anti-Corruption Commission has a legal mandate to prosecute and conduct cases based on enquiries and investigations into scheduled offences under the law. It also has a legal mandate to conduct corruption prevention activities. Section 17 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 contains details of the functions of the Commission. The Anti-Corruption activities of the Commission are carried out following these provisions. Section 17 (f) of the ACC Act, 2004 states, 'the Commission will conduct research on the prevention of corruption, and make recommendations to the President on what to do based on the research results'. Section 17 (g) of the same Act states, '...to create Honesty and sincerity and to create public awareness to prevent corruption'. Section 17 (k) states, 'any other action deemed necessary to prevent corruption is to be performed'.

Therefore, Anti-Corruption awareness is being raised, research on effective Anti-Corruption strategies is being undertaken, and people from all walks of life are being involved through inclusive activities. Activities are being carried out in partnership with government agencies and NGOs. All preventive activities are being conducted through the Prevention Wing of the Commission.

Under the direction of a Director General, this wing conducts all the outreach activities of the Commission. It acts as the focal point in implementing all the activities related to the International Anti-Corruption Day, the founding anniversary of the Commission, Honesty Store, Integrity Unit, and Corruption Prevention Committee.

3.2 Inclusive Anti-Corruption Programme

3.2.1 Participatory anti-corruption movement of social power

It is difficult to control corruption only by enforcing law. Social movements against corruption can play an essential role in preventing corruption. The social structure should be such that no one can even think of corruption. In his various speeches, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the great architect of our independence and the Father of the Nation, called for a social movement to control corruption.

Institutionalised initiatives are needed to create social movements to prevent corruption. The Anti-Corruption Commission is implementing an inclusive Anti-Corruption strategy through a participatory approach.

The Commission intends to act as an ‘influencer’ in this process. That is why the Commission has continued its efforts to bring all civil society, organization, media, NGOs, government officials, political leaders, teachers, students, professionals and others on the same platform in its Anti-Corruption activities. Society has to play a leading role in the practice and development of righteousness in society. The Commission is grateful that the government, the media, civil society, NGOs, government employees, political leaders, teachers, students, professionals and almost everyone are giving their full support to the Commission’s work to prevent corruption. The Commission firmly believes that people have become more aware of corruption. Mass people hate corruption and corrupt people from their hearts.

In 2016, according to the revised charter and working guidelines of the corruption prevention committee and its affiliated organization, district and metropolitan Anti-Corruption committee consisting of not more than 13 members, Upazila Anti-Corruption committee consisted of not more than nine members, among them one-third members are female. A chairmen, two vice-chairmen, and a general secretary will be nominated from among the committee members. Only adult Bangladeshi’s living in the area will be eligible to be nominated as committee members. The corruption prevention committees consist of volunteer teachers, valiant freedom fighters, religious leaders and retired government employees, and honest and active people with moral values in their respective fields. Expenditure on all activities of the Corruption Prevention Committees is regulated in accordance with the directives issued by the Finance and Accounts section of the Commission. Budget and expenditure accounts are maintained in the manner and proforma prescribed by this section. An audit subcommittee is formed consisting of any three members of the committee. The subcommittee submits audited reports to the committee on budget and expenditure accounts in due course. Deputy Directors and above-ranked officers of the Commission can monitor the accounts of any committee. All the activities of the Corruption Prevention Committee are conducted in line with this policy approved by the Commission.

The statistics of the Upazila, district and metropolitan level Anti-Corruption committees for 2020 and 2021 are highlighted in Table 28.

Table 28: Number of upazila, district and metropolitan level corruption prevention committees in 2020 and 2021

Name of the Division	2020				2021			
	Upazila CPCs	District CPCs	Metropolitan CPCs	Total	Upazila CPC	District CPCs	Metropolitan CPCs	Total
Dhaka	74	13	08	95	74	13	08	95
Chattogram	93	10	01	104	93	10	01	104
Rajshahi	59	08	-	67	59	08	-	67
Khulna	50	10	-	60	50	10	-	60
Barishal	36	06	-	42	36	06	-	42
Sylhet	36	04	-	40	36	04	-	40
Rangpur	50	08	-	58	50	08	-	58
Mymensingh	33	03	-	36	33	03	-	36
Total	431	62	09	502	431	62	09	502

3.2.2 Integrity Unit: an anti-corruption platform for youth

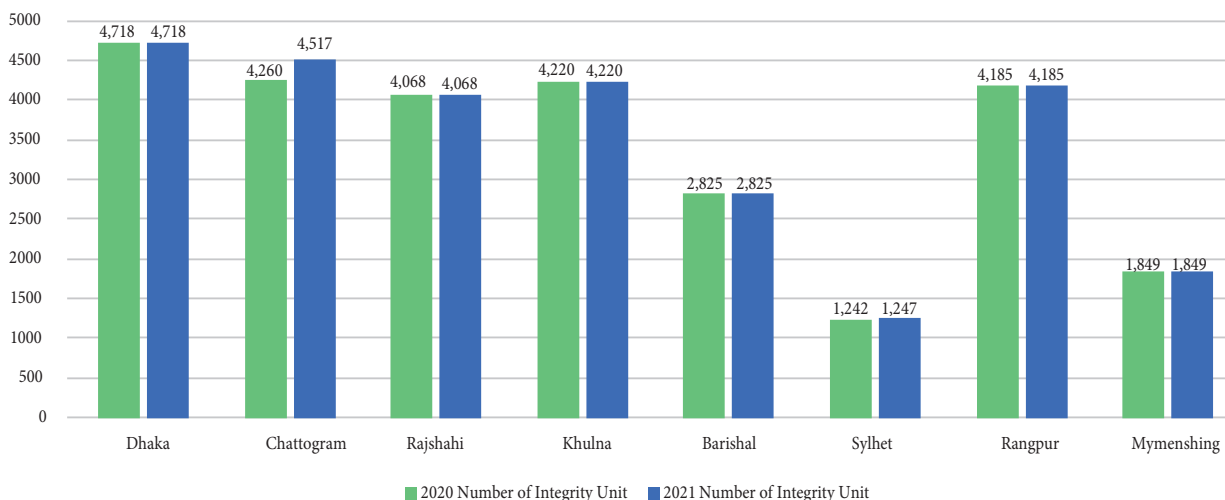
Everything about sustainable development revolves around the future. The new generation will be the focal point for a good reason. The Corruption Prevention Committees have formed Integrity Unit in schools and madrasas of the country to instil Honesty, loyalty and character traits among the younger generation, to enhance insights into the environment and climate change, to inject intense hatred against corruption into them, and above all to involve students in Anti-Corruption awareness activities. According to the charter and guidelines of the Integrity Unit, members of the Integrity Unit will be entirely voluntary, free from the influence of all kinds of political ideologies, and they will not be involved in any activities that are inconsistent with the provisions of law or against law and order. In each Integrity Unit, an executive committee consisting of 11 students from the same educational institution is formed. Besides, an advisory council (head of the educational institution, member of the corruption prevention committee, senior teacher of the educational institution, guardian member of the managing committee of the school/college/madrassa) is formed consisting of five members. All the students of that institution are general members of the Integrity Unit. In consultation with the Advisory Council, the Metropolitan/District/Upazila Corruption Prevention Committee nominates the members, president and general secretary of the executive committee of each Integrity Unit from among the interested students.

As part of its anti-corruption activities, each Integrity Unit participates in all kinds of public welfare activities, including building students' moral character, improving education and health, and conserving climate and environment. In this case, the Commission implements multi-faceted programmes including Anti-Corruption debate competition, essay competition, human chain, road-show, cultural programme, and discussion meeting with the members of integrity units within limited capacity under the overall supervision of the Corruption Prevention Committees, local administration and ACC district offices. The Commission also jointly implements various Anti-Corruption programmes at district and Upazila levels across the country in line with the MoU signed with Bangladesh Scouts and Bangladesh Girl Guides Association. The National Debate Competition was held in collaboration with Oxfam in 26,213 secondary level educational institutions across the country in 2020.

Table 29: Statistics of division-wise integrity unit 2020 and 2021

Name of the Division	2020	2021
	Number of Integrity Unit	Number of Integrity Unit
Dhaka	4,718	4,718
Chattogram	4,260	4,517
Rajshahi	4,068	4,068
Khulna	4,220	4,220
Barishal	2,825	2,825
Sylhet	1,242	1,247
Rangpur	4,185	4,185
Mymensingh	1,849	1,849
Total	27,367	27,629

Graph 8: Statistics of the division-wise integrity unit



3.2.3 ACC's new addition to the development of good practice 'Honesty Store.'

The Commission has taken the initiative since 2016 to set up Honesty Stores in various schools and madrasas for the development of good practice among the young generation, especially the secondary level students. The Commission believes that Honesty is a matter of intensive practice in daily life. There is no substitute for practising Honesty in building an immaculate society. Young people are fond of imitation. Once they have determined what is right or wrong in their minds, they will not make a mistake in taking the correct position.

To this end, the Anti-Corruption Commission carries out multidimensional activities to inculcate Honesty and morality in the younger generations. An 'Honesty Store' is a store without any salesperson. These stores have biscuits, chips, chocolates, etc., and various educational materials. Every Honesty Store has a price list, cash box for payment etc. but no seller. The students buy the products they need and pay the price in the cash box by themselves. The Commission has not yet received any complaint of immorality in the management of these stores. In this case, transparency and Honesty of the students are giving hope to the Commission. Apart from these initiatives by the Commission, some school authorities and local administration are also setting up Honesty Stores in their local educational institutions by their initiative.

Table 30: Statistics of department-based Honesty stores 2020 and 2021

Name of the Division	2020	2021
	Number of Honesty Store	Number of Honesty Store
Dhaka	798	1,064
Chattogram	631	912
Rajshahi	549	549
Khulna	1,326	1,365
Barishal	435	437
Sylhet	474	474
Rangpur	674	730
Mymensingh	225	225
Total	5,112	5,756

3.2.4 Statistics of prevention activities implemented by the Commission

The Prevention Wing of the Anti-Corruption Commission carries out various activities annually to prevent corruption and develop Anti-Corruption awareness. The Corruption Prevention Committee, Integrity Unit and local administration are involved in these activities. Social awareness is being developed by various Anti-Corruption programmes such as Anti-Corruption rallies, human chains, road-march, seminars, workshops, documentaries, cartoon exhibitions, debates and essay competitions. Corruption Prevention Committees, along with local civil society, Integrity Unit, professional organizations, NGOs and various socio-cultural organizations, organise Anti-Corruption human chains, processions, and seminars. People of different professions express solidarity with the ongoing Anti-Corruption social movement. The Commission has always welcomed an inclusive approach that involves the mass people in the fight against corruption. The Corruption Prevention Committee and Integrity Unit activities are carried out voluntarily.

The Chairman, Commissioners and other staff of all levels of the Commission participate in such preventive programmes. In order to develop good practice, 1,29,640 posters and 5,500 leaflets containing various proverbs were distributed in 2020. About 4,552 khata, 4,550 scales, 4,895 geometry boxes, 8,091 umbrellas, 772 school bags, 3,223 pens, 2,542 tiffin boxes, 1,600 water pots, 1,050 hand purses, 467 wall-mats and 71,750 greeting cards have been distributed among students with subtexts such as “I will not do bad deeds, I will not tolerate bad deeds”, “I will do good deeds, I will build the country with all”, “I will think for the country, I will follow the path of morality”, “I will speak the truth, I will stop injustice”, “I will abide by rules, I will keep safe”, “nobody believes a liar”, “Dont's laugh at seniors”, Take oath of patriotism, drive away corruption” etc. In addition, 7,07,500 Anti-Corruption posters with different slogans were distributed in 2021.

Table 31: Statistics of distribution of educational materials and other materials among students for development of good practice in 2020 and 2021

Serial No.	Material Name	2020	2021
		Number	Number
1	Khata	4,552	-
2	Scale	4,550	-
3	Geometry Box	4,895	-
4	Umbrella	8,091	-
5	Poster	1,29,640	7,07,500
6	Leaflets	5,500	-
7	School Bags & Others	772	-
8	Pen	3,223	-
9	Tiffin Box	2,542	-
10	Water Pot	1,600	-
11	Hand Purse	1,050	-
12	Wallmat	467	-
13	Greetings Card	71,750	-

3.3 Promotional Activities

Message Dissemination: Anti-Corruption messages have been disseminated through SMS on cell phones in collaboration with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) by the initiative of the Prevention Wing.

Documentary Broadcasting: In order to create Anti-Corruption awareness in the country, short documentaries titled “Punishment”, “Victory of Truth”, “I will be better, I will make better”, “Wrong”, and “Victory of Honesty” have been aired on various private television channels and Bangladesh Television. Similarly, these documentaries are regularly disseminated through the District Information Office in every district and Upazila, including Dhaka.

DUDOK Barta (ACC News): ‘DUDOK Barta is a monthly publication of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Through this publication, all kinds of activities of the Commission, such as filing of cases, filing of charge-sheets, judgments of cases in trial courts, enforcement operations against corruption, ACC related laws and regulations and public hearings of the previous month of the Commission are highlighted. ‘DUDOK Barta’ is distributed to the citizens free of cost.

Celebrating International Anti-Corruption Day: In 2021 The Commission observed the International Anti-Corruption Day declared by the United Nations. On this occasion, various programmes, including discussion meetings, were held. On this day, ACC Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah led a human chain in front of the Institute of Engineers which was attended by officers and staff of the Commission’s Head Office and Dhaka Divisional Office, ACC panel lawyers, members of Dhaka Metropolitan Corruption Prevention Committee.

It was also attended by Girl Guides, Ansar, BNCC, various NGOs, Dhaka Divisional Commissioner, Department of Narcotics Control, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), NGO Affairs Bureau, Dhaka District Administration and thousands of ordinary people from all walks of life. Anti-Corruption placards, banners and festoons were also displayed at eight more points of the capital Dhaka in the presence of innumerable people. These Anti-Corruption programmes were also celebrated at the same time in every district and Upazila of the country.

3.4 National and International Partnerships

Bangladesh is a signatory to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). As Bangladesh is a signatory to the UNCAC, the Commission believes in a participatory and inclusive approach to curb and prevent corruption at national and international levels. The Commission has continued its efforts to build partnerships with national and international organizations as part of its inclusive approach to combating corruption. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Bhutan Anti-Corruption Commission and Bangladesh Anti-Corruption Commission on 14 June 2017 at the Head Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission. In 2018, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the ACC and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation (ICRF). Similarly, in 2019, the ACC signed an MoU with India’s Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The MoUs have been identified as markers of cooperation in various areas, including initial investigation, detection, authentication, exchange of experience, best practices, and Anti-Corruption education programmes. The Commission maintains close liaison with relevant organizations in about 22 countries, including Indonesia, China, the United States and Malaysia, to share and develop good practices.

National organizations such as Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Oxfam, Bangladesh Scouts, and Bangladesh Girl Guides Association have signed MoUs with the Anti-Corruption Commission. The ACC jointly implements various Anti-Corruption programmes at the district and upazila levels across the country. Anti-Corruption Commission and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) are implementing various programmes, including the celebration of International Anti-Corruption Day, information fair, public hearing, seminar, symposium and Anti-Corruption human chain based on cooperation in prevention of corruption.

The Anti-Corruption Commission undertakes various awareness-building programmes, such as debate competitions, cartoon competitions, essay competitions, seminars, symposiums, workshops, views exchange meetings, road-show, human chain, and cultural programmes. Rover Scouts and Girl Guides Association members also actively participate in the ACC's events. Their active participation in various programmes every year on the International Anti-Corruption Day, the founding anniversary of the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Anti-Corruption week is also encouraging.

The Anti-Corruption Commission and the Bangladesh Girl Guides Association jointly implement training programmes for their members on ethics, Anti-Corruption communication strategies, information technology, right to information law, gender development, human rights, climate change, and good governance. Besides, 'Kite Bangladesh' is conducting various creative activities for the members of the Integrity Unit.

The Commission's involvement with international development agencies

1. The ACC has been implementing a project titled 'Justice Reform and Corruption Prevention' with financial support from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and in collaboration with the Law and Justice Department of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
2. Development of web-based software for intensive monitoring of Anti-Corruption enquiries, investigations, and litigations is currently underway as part of a joint project funded by the Asian Development Bank, the Republic of Korea and the Government of Bangladesh.
3. Automation work was started in 2016 through the 'Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission' project to make the Commission's work easier and more dynamic at the Head office and 22 integrated district offices. This project will create human resource management software, inventory software, library database software, secure file management software, database software containing information of integrity unit, corruption-related crime, and criminal information. In addition, the Commission has set up its digital forensic lab under this project.

CHAPTER FOUR

Public Hearing

- 4.1 Public Hearing for Preventing Corruption and Developing Inclusive Administrative Management
- 4.2 Legal Framework of Public Hearing

Public Hearing

4.1 Public Hearing for Preventing Corruption and Developing Inclusive Administrative Management

4.1.1 Introduction

The public hearing is an effective strategy for promoting transparency, accountability, inclusive administrative management in the public service, and above all, a fruitful way to build the state machinerus as people-friendly institutions. The Anti-Corruption Commission primarily carries out such activities at the grassroots level. As a result, the grassroots mass people gain easy access to lodge their complaints. The public hearing is by nature a platform for holding tripartite meetings where complainants or aggrieved citizens, service providing government officials and local public representatives, and high officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission usually participate in person. Most complaints are generally resolved during or immediately after the hearing session. In some cases, if the issues are not resolved immediately, they are resolved through follow-up meetings. A survey conducted by a private organization has found that the Public Hearing programmes organised by the ACC have proved quite effective as it has arranged follow-up public hearings as and when needed, and the public hearing programme is working as a popular strategy in developing good governance practice.

The massive participation and enormous public support for the Public Hearing program started by the ACC in Muktagacha of Mymensingh district way back in 2014 encouraged the Commission to continue with such event. The Anti-Corruption Commission has conducted five public hearings in different districts of the country in 2020 and one in 2021. Most of the Public Hearings were conducted with the Commission's fund. Most of the complaints were service-related and were disposed of instantly. The organizations resolved the unresolved complaints within a specific timeframe, keeping the Commission informed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there were less public hearings in 2020 and 2021 than the previous years. The Commission has planned to hold public hearings in each district and Upazila.

The prime obligation of the State, as the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh stipulates, is to provide the citizens with the basic necessities of life Moreover, Article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) underpins the importance of participation of the Society (Civil Society, NGOs, Media, etc.) procuring information and reporting in preventing corruption. However, the pledge to deliver corruption-free public services to the citizens has been spelt out in the National Integrity Strategy, 2012, as approved by the government. It may also be mentioned that, in the neighbouring countries-India and Nepal, the Public Hearing on public service delivery has been recognised as an effective working tool.

4.1.2 Objectives of Public Hearing

- Paying heed directly to the complaints/grievances raised by the service seeking citizens, and getting these settled off by the service providing offices/agencies instantly;
- Improving the quality of services meant for the citizens in all public offices in compliance with the Citizen Charter;
- Creating awareness among mass people about the rights of the citizens;
- Increasing empathy between service seeking citizens and service providing officials;
- Identifying the sources of irregularities, red-tapism and corruption, and taking steps to remove them;
- Adopting administrative and legal measures if necessary;
- Making the service providers responsive and sincere about their responsibilities and duties.

4.1.3 Theoretical framework of Public Hearing

The structure of social responsibility as enunciated in the World Development Report-2004 of the World Bank has been used as the theoretical framework of Public Hearing. To conform to this structure, and ensure smooth service delivery, we need (1) strong voice of the citizens with the policymakers in the decision-making process, (2) citizens' monitoring of the service delivery activities of the service providers, and setting up suitable incentive structures for the service providers, by the policymakers. The importance of accountability to the citizens has always been highlighted through public hearings.

4.2 Legal Framework of Public Hearing

4.2.1 Legal provisions

Article 20 (2) of the Constitution states that, “The State shall endeavour to create conditions in which, as a general principle, persons shall not be able to enjoy unearned incomes...”.

Article 21 (2) of the Constitution promulgates, “Every person in the service of the Republic must strive at all times to serve the people”.

The relevant sections of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004.

The Right to Information Act, 2009.

The National Integrity Strategy, 2012

The Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2011

Two Office Memorandum of Cabinet Division issued on June 1, 2014 and June 5, 2014.

4.2.2 Conducting the proceedings of Public Hearing

The Commission utilises the Public Hearing as the vital instrument to prevent harassment, irregularities and corruption in public offices. It is also an effective method to deepen the trust between the service seekers and the government employees engaged in delivering public services. Article 7 (1) of the Constitution articulates that all powers of the Republic belong to the people. Hence what is urgently needed is to eradicate all forms of harassment, irregularities, corruption and red-tapism that often occur while receiving any public services. In each Public Hearing programme, the Chairman of ACC himself or a Commissioner observes the proceedings and announces instant decisions to resolve the issues raised there. Meanwhile, the Commission has formulated policies about Public Hearings. On reviewing the public hearings, it has been made clear that the ordinary people are not well aware of different service receiving processes meant for them. At the same time, the public servants concerned are also found reluctant to render services within the stipulated time and thereby depriving the citizens of their right to proper services. In some cases, government employees harass service seekers through unethical means and abuse of power.

Through Public Hearings, on the one hand, many long standing problems get instantly resolved. On the other hand, the sources of irregularities and corruption are identified, and multiple strategic approaches for preventing corruption are also applied, considering their nature and extent. In this regard, the higher authorities of the government offices are extending continued cooperation to the Commission.

4.2.3. Expected results from Public Hearing

- ▶ Creating a bridge between the local administration and the people;
- ▶ Building Public awareness about the rules and procedures related to the disposal of public services;
- ▶ Ensuring transparency and accountability in the performances of government offices;

- ▶ Apprising the citizens of what is to be done in resolving their problems;
- ▶ Making prompt disposal of problems on listening to the grievances of the service seeking citizens face to face;
- ▶ Improving service delivery system;
- ▶ Developing critical masses through creating awareness against Corruption;
- ▶ Understanding the source and nature of corruption to make necessary recommendations to the appropriate authorities;
- ▶ Making the public servants aware of their responsibilities;
- ▶ Reporting to the higher authority about the performances of the government officials and making requests for proper administrative actions if deemed necessary;
- ▶ Taking legal actions on receiving specific complaints about corruption.

In accordance with the Constitution, every person in the service of the Republic must strive all the time to serve the people. Providing services to the people is the constitutional obligation of those in public service. Aiming at transforming every local government office into an accountable organization, the Commission has kept on conducting Public Hearings. Regular Public Hearings, including follow-ups, have resolved many problems. The Commission is executing and monitoring the decisions adopted in the Public Hearings. If any incident of specific corruption is unearthed during Public Hearing, arrangement for further investigation is made forthwith. Public hearings play an influential role in eliminating irregularities, harassment, service delays, or ensuring corruption-free government services.

4.2.4 Statistics of the Public Hearings implemented

In 2020, the Commission organised public hearings in five districts covering all major government departments, including Upazila Parishad, Upazila Land Office, Settlement Office, Sub-Registry Office, Palli Bidyut Samity Office, Upazila Health & Family Welfare Office, Upazila Accounts Office, Upazila Project Implementation Officer's Office, Upazila Cooperative Office, Upazila Social Service Office, Upazila Primary Education Office, Upazila Secondary Education Office, Upazila Public Health Engineering Office, Upazila Youth Development Office, Upazila Engineer's Office, Upazila Agriculture Extension Office, Upazila Livestock Office, Upazila Fisheries Office and Bangladesh Rural Development Office.

Through such public hearings, the Commission received 177 complaints in the year 2020 from grassroots level citizens. Of these, 162 complaints could be settled. That means 91% of the complaints received through public hearings were settled. However, in 2021, 23 complaints were received through a single public hearing programme, and all of them were settled. It may be noted that the Commission has conducted 145 Public Hearings since 2014 and 111 public hearings in the last five years.

The comparative statistics of Public Hearings held during the last five years are presented in Table 32.

Table 32: Statistics of Public Hearings in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Year	Number of Public Hearings/Follow-up Public Hearings
2017	40
2018	27
2019	38
2020	5
2021	1

CHAPTER FIVE

Information Management

- 5.1 Anti-Corruption Commission and Right to Information Act
- 5.2 Disclosure of Information by Anti-Corruption Commission
- 5.3 The Procedure of Providing Information of the ACC
- 5.4 Application Process
- 5.5 Appeal Process
- 5.6 Plan to Modernise Information Management System
- 5.7 Creating an Online-Based Information Supply Channel

Information Management

5.1 Anti-Corruption Commission and Right to Information Act

Citizens have a legal right to receive public information. The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees this right. As per Article 39 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, every citizen's freedom of thought, speech and expression is guaranteed. To ensure the constitutional right to information, the government has enacted the Right to Information Act, 2009. The flow of free and reliable information enriches the quality of transparency and accountability of an institution. The culture of institutional secrecy creates distrust and a lack of confidence in people. The Anti-Corruption Commission, an independent statutory body with a legal mandate, believes in the free flow of information. There are designated officers in all Divisional Offices, Integrated District Offices, including Anti-Corruption Commission Head Office, to provide information to the public. The information is provided to the citizens through the designated officers assigned by the commission.

5.1.1 Relationship of Right to Information with Anti-Corruption Commission

The Anti-Corruption Commission Act and the RTI Act are linked in two ways. As mentioned in the schedule of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, it is engaged in conducting enquiries and investigations to prevent corruption. In such cases, access to information is necessary for an investigation into allegations of corruption. Similarly, if the general public gets information about corruption, it can help reduce corruption. To ensure transparency and accountability in government, autonomous and statutory bodies and government and foreign-funded non-governmental organizations, the government enacted the Right to Information Act, 2009. Therefore, common people have the right to information regarding the activities of the Commission as well as some information related to the enquiries and investigations being conducted, provided the disclosure of that information does not disrupt or hinder the activities of the Commission.

The general principle of the Commission is aimed at taking legal action against the corrupt people in society and developing a culture of hatred against corruption. The free flow of information can play a vital role in ensuring transparency and accountability, the two critical elements of good governance. To that end, the ACC has adopted the policy of ensuring peoples' right to information. In this regard, the information disclosure policy of the ACC has been formulated in line with the Right to Information Act, 2009.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has been implementing the Right to Information Act, 2009, to ensure the people's right to information. The Anti-Corruption Commission, as a specialised agency, is involved with enquiries and investigations which are sensitive in nature. That is why, the ACC, in the line with the Right to Information Act, 2009, has formulated the Disclosure of Information Policy, 2011. The Commission has been providing information as per the citizens' demand following its information disclosure policy. Apart from this, the Commission also proactively publishes information on essential activities regularly. According to the Information Disclosure Policy, 2011 of the ACC, any memorandum published on the composition, structure and activities of the Commission, book, data, logbook, order, notification, legal document, sample, letters, reports, financial statements, project proposals, audios, videos, etc. are defined as 'information'. However, official note-sheets and copies of the note-sheet are not included in the list of information.

As per the policy, the Commission's information is classified into four categories:

A) Pro-active Information:

This type of information will be proactively published on the Commission's website. If any information is not available on the website as per demand, the information seeker can apply to the designated information officer of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

B) Information as per demand:

The designated officer can provide this type of information to the applicant with the prior approval of the Commission.

C) Partial information as per demand:

This category of information will be provided in part, which the Commission will determine. This list will be reviewed and updated every six months by the approval of the Commission. This list will not be published separately on the website; rather it will remain as a part of the information disclosure policy.

D) Other information which is not mandatory to disclose:

The Commission does not have obligation to provide certain information to any citizen. The Commission will also determine this list. The Commission may include or exclude items on this list, if necessary, after reviewing in six months intervals.

5.1.2 List of information that the Commission is not bound to provide

- ▶ Disclosure of any information that may interfere with the fair trial of any case pending and may infringe upon a person's privacy;
- ▶ A person's life or physical safety may be endangered;
- ▶ Any matter pending before the court and the disclosure of which is prohibited by the court or tribunal or the disclosure of which constitutes contempt of court;
- ▶ Any matter under enquiry or investigation, the disclosure of which may interfere with the enquiry or investigation;
- ▶ The process of investigating a crime, which may affect the arrest and punishment of the offender;
- ▶ Any information relating to public procurement before the completion of the procurement or before deciding on the matter;
- ▶ Any information that may threaten Bangladesh's security, integrity and sovereignty or information on any matter related to foreign policy that may deem harmful for existing relations with a foreign state, or an international organization or a regional alliance or organization;
- ▶ Any information confidentially provided by any person to assist law enforcement agencies;
- ▶ Information that is legally binding for disclosure only for a certain period;
- ▶ Personal documents of the employee, benefits including salary-allowance, the information of any departmental disciplinary action related procedures before the process ends;
- ▶ Such information that may cause loss of special rights and privileges of the National Parliament;
- ▶ Disclosure of information that may benefit or harm a particular person or organization.

5.2 Disclosure of information by Anti-Corruption Commission

The ACC's strategic action plan, and all policies formulated to develop Honesty and good practice, including various programmes implemented to prevent corruption, are being published and disseminated to inform mass people. The activities of the Commission are being circulated for the people through the Public Relations Unit of the ACC. Arrests, cases filed, investigations, enforcement drives, asset-related notices etc, are circulated regularly through press releases, instant press briefings, the ACC's verified Facebook page and official web-portal. The Secretary of the ACC regularly briefs the media professionals as the spokesperson of the Commission.

5.3 The Procedure of Providing Information of the ACC

According to the Right to Information Act, 2009, the Public Relation Officer of the ACC Head Office, the designated officers of the eight Divisional Offices and 22 Integrated District Offices of ACC are responsible for providing information as per request received from information seekers. Any citizen can apply to the Commission for information in specified format or on plain paper, as mentioned in the Act. It is mandatory to respond to the request within the stipulated time after receiving the application. Failure to provide information without a valid reason will be considered as misconduct, and action will be taken as per the Anti-Corruption Commission (Employees) Employment Rules, 2008. The officials assigned are aware of this. The officers concerned are specially trained on the Right to Information Act, 2009. According to the law, the Commission settles every request for information with due importance. Sometimes there may be delay in providing information as the Commission does not have a comprehensive database of all cases or complaints. In some cases, the complainant applies for information under the Right to Information Act immediately after filing the complaint. In such matters, information cannot be provided until the Commission takes any decision about the complaint. Then, the information providers are in a quandary. Nevertheless, in almost every case, the requested information is provided to the applicant.

5.4 Application Process

Applicants can submit applications for information on paper or in the form prescribed in the RTI Act directly or via email. This form is available on the official web portal of the ACC.

The request for information need to include the name, address, fax number (where applicable) and email address of the applicant, a precise and clear description of the information is needed and other relevant details to locate the information quickly. The applicant also requires mentioning how the information is to be delivered. The designated officer is obliged to provide the requested information within a maximum of 20 (twenty) working days from the date of the application received. If the officer is unable to provide the information for any valid reason, he/she shall inform the applicant within 10 (ten) working days of receipt of the application stating the reason for that. On the other hand, it is not mandatory to disclose or provide certain information as per the provision of the RTI Act. Nevertheless, the information seeker should also be informed about the reason. The designated officer has no option to refuse to provide the information seeker with the information without a valid reason.

5.5 Appeal Process

If a person does not receive the information within the stipulated time limit or is aggrieved by any decision of the designated information officer, s/he may appeal to the Appellate Authority within 30 (thirty) days after the expiry of that time or after the decision has been provided. The relevant appellate authority of the Anti-Corruption Commission will dispose of the appeal within the next 15 (fifteen) working days. Appeals for information will be considered in accordance with Sections 24 and 28 of the Right to Information Act, 2009. The decision of the Appellate Authority shall be deemed to be the final judgment of the Commission. If the applicant still is dissatisfied with the decision, s/he can move to the Information Commission and lodge a complaint. In 2021, 38 citizens applied for information to the designated officer of the Anti-Corruption Commission under the RTI Act, 2009. Twenty-nine applicants have already received information, and the remaining nine are in the process of receiving information.

Table 33: Statistics of applications received and information provided during 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Year	Number of applications for information	Number of information provided
2017	17	16
2018	21	20
2019	53	49
2020	16	15
2021	38	29

Reviewing the statistics, it is evident that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 and 2021, a total of 54 people have applied for information. Among them, 44 applicants were provided with the required information in two years, and the remaining 10 applications are pending approval.

5.6 Plan to Modernise Information Management System

It is necessary to make the flow of information, publication, preservation and dissemination of information by the Public Relation (PR) section of the ACC smoother and more dynamic as part of a modernisation scheme of the ACC information management system. Through an advanced information management system, it is possible to project all the activities of the ACC to the mass people and raise awareness against corruption in every sphere of society. To modernise the information management system of the Public Relation (PR) unit of the ACC, some steps may be taken in the following areas:

1. Disclosure of self-motivated information-

Updating ACC web portal by inserting a provision of the information table/chart as per the data disclosure guidelines of the ACC;

Inserting the required table in IPMS software and creating necessary links in IPMS software.

2. Implementation of the Right to Information Act-

Ensuring the use of e-nothi for speedy collection of information and smooth flow of information dissemination process;

Creating necessary links in the IPMS software.

3. Updating Data-

Ensuring regular supply of information and/or access to information of all wings of the ACC on a weekly/ fortnightly/ monthly basis;

Creating necessary links in IPMS software for updated information.

4. Ensuring prompt/instant supply of information of important cases/investigations.

5.7 Creating an Online-based Information Supply Channel

People are not much aware of their right to information. It is unclear whom to ask or where to ask for their required information. In this regard, the Anti-Corruption Commission has formulated a distinct Information Disclosure Policy, 2011, in line with the Right to Information Act, 2009. The ACC disseminates information according to this policy.

In the current system, providing the information is very time-consuming. Presently, the designated Information Officer sends a letter to the relevant section for the information that is sought by an information seeker. After getting the approval of the authorities concerned, that particular wing provides the required information. Then the Information Officer sends the information to the applicant after getting the Commission's approval. Due to such time-consuming procedures, in many cases, the designated officer cannot provide the required information to people within the specified time. As a result, s/he has to face the Information Commission. To change the existing process by introducing online application and disposal mechanisms for information management, a dedicated and integrated system is required to be introduced in the ACC.

The dissemination of information is an important and sensitive issue for the Anti-Corruption Commission. Therefore, the prudence of the information providing officer is especially required, and it is really important to provide the designated officers with specialised training.

CHAPTER SIX

Digitization of Anti-Corruption Commission

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Activities Adopted
- 6.3 Improvement in the Quality of Service as a Result of Digitization
- 6.4 Future Plan
- 6.5 Limitations of ICT Development in ACC
- 6.6 Ways to Overcome the Challenges for ICT Development in ACC

Digitization of Anti-Corruption Commission

6.1 Introduction

One of the most important and vital wings of the Anti-Corruption Commission is the Training and ICT wing. The wing provides all necessary assistance in collecting vital information for various enquiries and investigations. The function of this wing is to automate all the activities of the ACC to improve the quality of Anti-Corruption and preventive activities including conducting enquiries and investigations, through the development and use of information technology.

6.2 Activities Adopted

1. Installation of digital attendance and integrated CCTV camera monitoring system

ACC has introduced a digital attendance system for all employees by installing a digital biometric system. Moreover, a CCTV camera monitoring system has been installed to ensure the security of the ACC Head Office.

2. ACC Complaint Centre (106) Modernisation

The ACC Complaint Centre, along with its toll free number '106' has been modernised, including the scope of receiving incoming international calls to enhance the capacity of ACC. In addition, through regular maintenance, the hotline is kept smooth, the number of channels has been increased, allegations of public corruption are received directly, and enforcement activities are being conducted accordingly.

3. Modernisation of Grievance Redressal System (GRS)

Complaints are being received regularly from the Commission's own verified Facebook page, social media and emails, and the Commission's activities are regularly published to keep the interested public informed.

4. Establishment of ACC's own digital forensic lab

Under the 'Strengthening of Anti-Corruption Commission' project, the ACC has set up its digital Forensic Lab for easy access to information from digital gazettes during the enquiries and investigations. Through this lab, it will be possible to conduct forensic tests of computer, mobile, DVR, recorded audio-video seized during enquiries and investigations of cases. Currently, the selected officers' training is being conducted within the country and abroad.

5. Document Forensic System

Document forensic system procurement process has also been undertaken under the ACC Strengthening Project. The contract agreement has been made with the entrusted organization selected through a competitive tendering process for the procurement of this system which will be handed over to the Commission soon. This system will aid the investigators to verify the authenticity of the documents obtained as evidence, including forged signatures and forged documents.

6. e-Recruitment system for recruitment of human resources

In order to recruit human resources for the ACC, receiving the job applications, and issuing of admit cards after verification, etc. are being done through Teletalk e-Recruitment service.

7. Using Open Source Intelligence

Open Source Intelligence (OS INT) is being utilised to obtain information on various complaints received by the Commission.

8. E-nothi and e-GP system

ACC has introduced the E-nothi system. Many documents are being disposed of through e-Nothi. The Commission is processing tender activities through the e-GP system.

9. Modernisation of Interrogation Rooms

The interrogation rooms have been brought under CCTV cameras. The authority monitors the activities of the interrogation room round the clock.

10. Establishment of Local Area Network (LAN) in the offices of the Commission

The establishment of IP networks in all the offices of the ACC is currently underway, through which it will be possible to bring all the offices under one network. This will strengthen cyber security.

11. Project under implementation to automate the activities of all wings of the Commission

As a part of the Digital Bangladesh campaign in the field of information technology, a set of plans has already been conceived to automate the ACC activities fully. With a view to initiating full-automation, currently, two projects are being implemented by the ACC, which are as follows-

(a) Technical Assistance Project aimed at enhancing institutional capacity

An ADB-funded Technical Assistance Project (TAP) is underway to enhance the institutional capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Through this project, a web-based Investigation and Prosecution Management System (IPMS) has been developed, and a server room with ancillary hardware has been installed for proper monitoring and observation of enquiries and investigation of all corruption along with the complaints received by the ACC. Operational User Training and System Administration Training of IPMS software has been completed. Many participants gave feedback and a handful of recommendations during the training sessions of IPMS software which are currently being accommodated.

IPMS software will be used for the management of complaints, enquiries, investigations and prosecution related activities very soon.

(b) 'Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission' project

The Anti-Corruption Commission has undertaken several automation programmes under the 'Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission' project. As part of this programme, desktop computers, laptops, scanners, printers, photocopiers have been procured and distributed among the employees of the ACC. A digital forensic lab has also been set up under the project.

6.3 Improvement in the Quality of Service as a Result of Digitization

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission is holding regular meetings with the Deputy Commissioners and UNOs and the Divisional and Integrated District Offices of the ACC through video conferencing.

2. Under the Technical Assistance Project aimed at enhancing the institutional capacity of the ACC, a web-based software is being developed for proper monitoring and observation of all activities of ACC, ranging from receiving complaints of corruption to investigation and litigation process. When the intended software is developed, it will be possible to ensure more transparency and accountability in the activities of the ACC.
3. The ACC's toll-free hotline no-106 has been launched with an international incoming call system, where expatriates can easily lodge complaints by calling directly on +8809612106106.
4. All administrative and financial files are disposed of using the e-Nothi system. The Commission is inviting tenders in the revenue sector and conducting different projects through e-GP. The use of these systems is helping to achieve the annual targets set by the index.

6.4 Future Plan

The following tasks will be implemented through ongoing projects in order to bring all the activities of the wings of the Commission under automation:

1. Development of automation software for administrative functions of the ACC (Management of Database related to Human Resource, Accounting/Budget, Inventory, Library and Dispatch section, Anti-Corruption functions/programmes, Corruption Prevention Committee and Integrity Unit Database, Crime Database, Criminal Database Management System (CDMS), Computer Hardware Inventory, IT (Software/Hardware) Support Services System.
2. Digital archiving (audio, video, public hearings, research papers, publications, etc.).
3. Necessary measures has already been taken to bring all the officers of the ACC under monitoring through CC cameras.

6.5 Limitations of ICT Development in the ACC

1. There is a shortage of staffing in the ICT wing of the ACC. Because of vacant positions in the wing, ICT related activities are being hampered. In the meantime, many ICT related development projects have been completed, while some are underway.
2. In the absence of IT related hardware and Intelligence hardware, it has become difficult to ensure IT support for conducting enquiries and investigations.
3. In the existing organizational structure, the ICT wing is confined within the Headquarters of the ACC. The ICT wings, presently based on the Headquarter is facing difficulty to support the field level officers of ACC.

6.6 Ways to Overcome the Challenges for ICT Development in the ACC

1. A dedicated ICT wing may be established in the ACC's human resources structure to perform IT-related activities smoothly. However, sufficient IT posts should be created and filled in urgently.
2. Modern ICT and Intelligence hardware is needed to purchase to extend hands-on IT support for conducting enquiries and investigation for the ACC.
3. The Divisional and Integrated District Offices should be empowered with IT personnel.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Training Activities

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Information of Training Conducted in 2020
- 7.3 Information of Training Conducted in 2021

7.1 Introduction

The Anti-Corruption Commission is working incessantly to achieve the goal of preventing and controlling corruption as well as develop good governance practices. To this end, skilled human resources are necessary. Training is a prerequisite for developing skilled human resources. It is one of the best ways to increase the knowledge and skills of any person, which will result in attitudinal change. At the outset of 2019, the Anti-Corruption Commission started the Training Wing's activities to develop skilled human resources for all its officials. The Training Wing organises focused and time-befitting training programmes for human resource development throughout the year. Employees of different grades and ranks get specialised training at home and abroad. After reviewing its existing procedures and practices, the Commission arranges workshops and training sessions to develop good practices. The Commission believes that it will be possible to achieve more success in curbing and preventing corruption through these initiatives.

The Training Wing conducts training sessions for the officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission at various reputed training institutes at home and abroad. Following the reputed training institutes of the country, the ACC has already drawn up a plan to build its own training institute, which will be a modern, self-sufficient institute. As a result, there will be no need to send its trainees to other training institutes in the country. Moreover, there will be no need to send the trainees to foreign countries in some cases. This will save both time and money. However, trainees from different countries will come here as learners and researchers. The nature of corruption assumes different dimensions due to technological advancement. Income earned through corruption is being laundered. Digital currencies like Bitcoins have been introduced in different countries. Corruption has now extended far beyond geographical boundaries. The main target of the ACC officials is to conduct enquiry and investigation of such corruption efficiently and bring them under the legal framework by presenting it in front of the court for legal action. Keeping that in mind, the Anti-Corruption Commission is working to incorporate the organizations within that category and nature. To that end, apart from the basic enquiry and investigation related training, 25 other types of training, such as training in banking, finance, auditing, stock market, intelligence, enquiry and investigation, procurement etc. have been arranged for the officers of the ACC. It can be expected that these training programmes will enhance the professional knowledge and skills of the officers.

7.2 Training Programmes Conducted in 2020

Foreign Training

S.L	Name of training	Duration	Number of trainees	Organised by	Remarks
1	Training on Investigation of Anti-Corruption Cases including Procurement and Contract Frauds at CBI, India.	13-24 January 2020	10	CBI Academy, India	Funded by the ACC Strengthening Project
2	Training on Investigation of Anti-Corruption Cases including Procurement and Contract Frauds at CBI, India.	24 February – 6 March 2020	10	CBI Academy, India.	Funded by the ACC Strengthening Project

Local Training

S.L	Name of training	Duration	Number of trainees	Organised by	Remarks
01	Training course on investigative journalism against corruption	1 January 2020	40	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
02	Officers/employees training on data entry in IBAS++ budgeting module	7 January 2020	05	Ministry Of Finance	Funding of the budget section
03	Training on the scientific investigation at Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC)	11-16 January 2020	25	CTTC, DMP	Funded by Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime
04	Orientation course for newly recruited employees of the ACC	2 & 5-8 January 2020	32	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
05	Training for ACC Officers by Financial Management Academy (FIMA), Dhaka	9-13 February 2020	30	FIMA	Funded by FIMA
06	Preparatory training on Investigation of Anti-Corruption Cases including Procurement and Contract Frauds at CBI, India.	19 February 2020	10	ACC	Funded by the ACC
07	Orientation course for Office Assistants and Security Guards of ACC	17-18 February 2020	47	ACC	Funded by the ACC
08	Orientation course for newly joined employees of the ACC	24-25 February 2020	28	ACC	Funded by the ACC
09	Workshop on the formulation of guidelines for the enquiry and investigation of illegal assets from an undisclosed income source	12 March 2020	31	ACC	Funded by the ACC
10	Training on e-nothi	15 March 2020	19	ACC	Funded by the ACC
11	Online training titled Combating Criminal Dark Web Marketplaces During the COVID-19 Pandemic	7 July 2020	09	ACC	Funded by the ACC
12	Virtual workshop on Dismantling Criminal Networks: Investigating Business Email Compromise (BEC) Schemes	27 August 2020	25	U.S. Embassy, Dhaka.	Funded by U. S. Embassy, Dhaka

S.L	Name of training	Duration	Number of trainees	Organised by	Remarks
13	Workshop on Combating Corruption in Bangladesh: Investigating and Prosecuting Public Corruption Cases	24 September 2020	60	U.S. Embassy, Dhaka	Funded by U. S. Embassy, Dhaka
14	Training course on Job responsibility at Complaint Centre 106	30 September 2020	30	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
15	Training course on e-nothi	14-15 October 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
16	Training course on e-nothi	18-19 October 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
17	Training course on e-nothi	20-21 October 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
18	Training course on e-nothi	2-3 November 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
20	Training course on e-nothi	4-5 November 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
21	Training course on e-nothi	8-9 November 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
22	Training course on e-nothi	11-12 November 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
23	Training course on e-nothi	15-16 November 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
24	Training course on e-nothi	2-3 December 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
25	Training course on e-nothi	6-7 December 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
26	Training course on e-nothi	13-14 December 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission
27	Training course on e-nothi	21-22 December 2020	18	ACC	Funded by the Anti-Corruption Commission

7.3 Training Programmes Conducted in 2021

Local training

S.L	Name of training	Duration	Number of trainees	Organised by	Remarks
01	Office Management training	3-7 January 2021	40	ACC	Funding from the Anti-Corruption Commission Strengthening Project
02	Office Management training	10-14 January 2021	40	ACC	Funding from the Anti-Corruption Commission Strengthening Project
03	Office Management training	17-21 January 2021	40	ACC	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
04	Basic training on law and regulations	7-18 February 2021	15	ACC	Funded by the ACC
05	Virtual training on good governance	31 March 2021	60	ACC	Funded by the ACC
06	Training on document classification / deletion	28 June 2021	17	ACC	Funded by the ACC
07	Virtual training on national integrity and good governance	30 June 2021	40	ACC	Funded by the ACC
08	Virtual training on public procurement management	24 July – 9 August 2021	79	ACC	Funded by the ACC
09	Orientation course of court inspector	29 August – 5 September 2021	07	ACC	Funded by the ACC
10	Training on Good Governance and office management	28-30 September 2021	30	ACC	Funded by the ACC
11	Training on the use of IPMS software	3-6 October 2021	40	BIAM Foundation	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
12	Training on the use of IPMS software	10-13 October 2021	30	NAPD	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
13	Training on the use of IPMS software	10-13 October 2021	40	BIAM Foundation	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
14	Training on the use of IPMS software	17-21 October 2021	30	NAPD	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
15	Training on the use of IPMS software	17-21 October 2021	40	BIAM Foundation	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project

S.L	Name of training	Duration	Number of trainees	Organised by	Remarks
16	Development budget implementation training at IBAS++	13 October 2021	04	Institute of Finance	Funded by the Ministry of Finance
17	Training on the use of IPMS software	24-28 October 2021	30	NAPD	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
18	Training on the use of IPMS software	24-28 October 2021	40	BIAM Foundation	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
19	Training on the use of IPMS software	31 October-3 November 2021	40	BIAM Foundation	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
20	Training on the use of IPMS software	7-10 November 2021	40	BIAM Foundation	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
21	Training on the use of IPMS software	14-17 November 2021	40	BIAM Foundation	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
22	Training on duty at ACC Complaints Centre 106	28 October 2021	35	ACC	Funded by the ACC
23	IPMS System Administrator Training	4-11 November 2021	09	ACC	Funding from the ACC Strengthening Project
24	Development budget implementation training at IBAS++	8 November 2021	02	Institute of Public Finance	Funded by the Ministry of Finance
25	Workshop on Trade Finance Process and Trade-Based Money Laundering	24 November 2021	12	Bangladesh Bank	Funded by the BFIU
26	Training on good governance and office management	28-30 December 2021	27	ACC	Funded by the ACC

CHAPTER EIGHT

Institutional Capacity Building of the ACC

- 8.1 Human Resource Management and Development
- 8.2 Budget Management of the Commission
- 8.3 Action Taken by the ACC to Prevent Internal Corruption
- 8.4 Oversight and Evaluation of Commission's Overall Performances

Institutional Capacity Building of the ACC

8.1 Human Resource Management and Development

The Anti-Corruption Commission manages its human resource management, executes expenditure according to existing regulations, maintains accounts, and manages all types of physical assets, including infrastructure through Administration Wing. The Commission firmly believes that the country needs efficient, accountable, industrious and thoughtful human resources to develop Anti-Corruption, and integrity practices. That is why the Commission has undertaken multidimensional activities in human resource development to enhance institutional capacity as outlined in the five-year (2017-2021) strategy plan.

The Administration Wing has issued several Office Orders, Circulars, and Office Memorandum to ensure transparency, accountability, effective enquiry, investigation, and overall development of training, communication techniques, the institutional capacity at all levels of the Commission. Through these, several activities of the Commission have been re-engineered. In addition to the use of technology in modern administrative management, it is considered one of the administrative responsibilities to ensure transparency and accountability in the service delivery process of autonomous organizations by applying various innovative and creative strategies.

Notable among these activities are the promotion of officers and employees through examination in the light of specific syllabus, formulation of effective and accountable policies for immediate action against corruption, the introduction of grading system in complaint management, application of various legal strategies in all types of enquiry and investigation, including property-related complaints.

The ACC Secretary directly supervises all the activities of this wing headed by a Director General. All kinds of internal regulatory activities, including internal transparency, accountability, discipline and incentives of the Commission are carried out through this wing.

8.1.1 Some notable activities of the Administration wing

A) Information related to infrastructure development of the Commission

Apart from the head office of the Anti-Corruption Commission, there are eight divisional offices and 22 district offices. In line with organizational structure of the Commission, 14 more district offices are being set up. In recent years, the Commission has set up its own office buildings in Rangamati, Noakhali, Jashore, Mymensingh, Kushtia and Habiganj. Besides, the Commission is in the process of setting up its own buildings at divisional and district levels in Sylhet, Khulna, Barishal, Rajshahi and Rangpur. Moreover, construction work of the new building for the head office is underway.

B) Information technology development of Anti-Corruption Commission

The Anti-Corruption Commission is establishing regular direct contact with the officials of the district and upazila level administration, including district and divisional offices of the Commission, through video conferencing. The ACC's toll-free hotline (106) has introduced incoming international calls. Expatriates can easily lodge a complaint directly by calling '+8809612106106'. Social media is also being used to receive complaints and inform the general public about the next steps. Complaints are received through the Commission's own verified Facebook page and other social media platforms. A new digital forensic lab has been set up at the Commission's head office to retrieve information from digital devices for the sake of the Commission's enquiry and investigation.

Recruitment of human resources of the ACC, along with receiving applications and, issuing admit-cards after

verification, is being done through Teletalk e-Recruitment service. Many documents are being disposed of through e-documents. The Commission is inviting tender through e-GP. The interrogation rooms have been brought under CCTV cameras to monitor the activities of the interrogation room round the clock.

C) Overview of ongoing projects under the Anti-Corruption Commission

1) Institutional Capacity Building of Anti-Corruption Commission (2nd Amendment) Project Technical Assistance Project titled Institutional Capacity Building of Anti-Corruption Commission (2nd Amendment) has been undertaken with the implementation period from April 2017 to June 2022. The estimated cost of the project is 907 lakhs (GoB 57 lakhs and project assistance 850 lakhs). The overall progress of the project is about 95%. The main objective of the project is to reduce case resolution time by enhancing the efficiency of officers as well as developing web-based Investigation Prosecution Management System (IPMS) software and monitoring the progress of enquiry, investigations and trials.

The current status of the project is as follows.

- After the required hardware is put in place in the server room of the software has been installed. UAT (User Acceptance Test) of IPMS software and hardware has been completed. Oracle Database has been purchased to use IPMS software.
- Under the project, IPMS software has been developed for filing complaints, investigation and prosecution modules.
- Software-based training has been imparted to 682 ACC staff on IPMS software.

In addition, two studies have been completed on “Assessing the Effectiveness of Current Anti-Corruption Activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission” under project assistance and on “Effectively Determining the Obstacles to Enquiry and Investigation of Corruption Cases” under the project’s GoB allocation. Necessary action will be taken after reviewing the reports of the two studies.

2) Strengthening Anti-Corruption Commission (1st Amendment) Project

A project titled Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission has been undertaken and its implementation period is from July 2018 to June 2022. The estimated cost of the project is 445 million Taka. The overall progress of the project is about 35%. The main objectives of the project are- (a) to enhance the capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission through the professional development of the ACC employees, (b) to reduce corruption in the public-private sector through the development of skills of Corruption Prevention Committee and Integrity Unit and (c) to facilitate and speed up ACC’s office automation activities.

The current status of the project is as follows:

- The ACC has set up its digital forensic lab. The Provisional Acceptance Certificate (PAC) of the forensic lab has been completed. To provide training to 10 officers at home and six officers abroad for running the lab is under process;
- Under the project, two minibuses, 150 desktop computers, 66 laptops, 200 scanners and 50 printers have been procured;
- Under the project, 40 officers have been trained abroad while, 360 officers, 120 employees and 250 members of the Corruption Prevention Committees have received training at home;
- Educational materials (school bags made of jute, measuring scale, school notebook, geometry box, water

pot, tiffin box, pen holder, umbrella, dustbin and purse) have been procured for distribution among students as part of preventive activities;

- e) For the moral upliftment of meritorious students in the Integrity Unit, one male and one female student from 491 upazilas of the country have been awarded special recognition;
- f) Work is underway to set up a Local Area Network (LAN) in all the offices of the Commission. The LAN will be completed by January 2022.
- g) Procurement of Document Forensic System has been completed under the project.
- h) In order to expedite the Anti-Corruption and prevention activities, research will be conducted on the “Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Public Hearing” as prescribed by the Commission. The Evaluation Committee is evaluating research proposals (EOI) to conduct the study;
- i) Specifications of computer software for automation and digital archives of the Commission have been prepared by the individual consultants hired under the project. A committee headed by the Director General (ICT and Training) has been constituted to scrutinise and finalise the prepared specifications;
- j) In the interest for the security of computer network equipment and considering the situation, IP cameras will be installed in all ACC offices.

D) Overview of possible projects under Anti-Corruption Commission

1) Modern Office Building Construction Project for Khulna, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barishal and Sylhet Divisional Offices

A decision has been reached to take up the project titled “Construction of Modern Buildings for Khulna, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barishal and Sylhet Divisional Offices” proposed by the Anti-Corruption Commission. Currently, a feasibility study of the project is in progress. The estimated cost of the project is 1114 million Taka and the implementation period is from July 2022 to June 2025. The primary purpose of the project is to ensure a better working environment for the ACC staff by constructing modern office buildings and strengthening the confidentiality and security of the ACC’s activities.

2) Construction project of a modern office building for the Anti-Corruption Commission Head Office

Necessary steps have been taken to construct a multi-storied building to resolve the crisis of office space of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Preparation of DPP by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works is in progress. The PWD is working to conduct a digital survey of the land, soil test and finalisation of the official requirement of the building.

3) Anti-Corruption Commission’s Modern Training Institute Construction Project

As the Anti-Corruption Commission does not have its training institute, it plans to build its modern training institute. In addition to the basic training of the Commission’s officers and staff, the enquiry and investigation programme will be assisted by computer forensics, cyber analysis, follow the money technique, call detail report (CDR), essential information and communication, intelligence gathering and processing, and digital equipment management. The Commission will set up its specialised training institute to impart quality vocational training. Official requirements are being fulfilled for the construction of the training institute. The official requirements of the building will be finalised, and the design will be prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

E) Activities of the Intelligence Unit of the Commission

One of the functions of this Unit is to gather confidential information about suspected persons besides regular enquiries and investigations. While discharging its responsibilities, the Unit follows the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, to prevent and control corruption effectively. The officers of this Unit collect intelligence by themselves or by appointing sources with the approval of the Commission. In addition, intelligence drives are conducted to verify the information received from the complainants through ACC's Complaints Centre Hotline (106), news reports of various print and electronic media, social media or any other organization. The Commission's intelligence unit maintains liaison with other intelligence agencies in the country and updates its database through the exchange of information.

8.1.2 Distribution of ACC's workforce at Head Office and Field Offices

An organogram is approved by the government, composed of 2,146 officers and employees in the Head Office, 8 Divisional offices, and 22 Integrated District offices as per the Commission's existing staffing structure. The list of human resource distribution across the Head Office, Divisional offices, and Integrated District offices of the ACC is shown in Table 34 below.

Table 34: Workforce distribution of ACC across Head Office and Field Offices

Sl. No.	Designation	Head office			Divisional Office			Integrated District Office			Total		
		Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant	Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant	Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant	Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Chairman	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
2	Commissioner	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
3	Secretary	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
4	Director General	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	1
5	Director	29	24	5	8	8	0	0	0	0	37	32	5
6	System Analyst	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
7	Private Secretary (to Chairman & Commissioners)	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
8	Private Secretary (to Secretary of the Commission)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
9	Deputy Director	147	100	47	8	4	4	36	23	13	191	127	64
10	Prosecutor	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10
11	Maintenance Engineer	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
12	Assistant Maintenance Engineer	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
13	Programmer/Assistant System Analyst	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
14	Assistant programmer	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
15	Assistant Director	215	51	164	8	1	7	108	40	68	331	92	239
16	Medical officer	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Sl. No.	Designation	Head office			Divisional Office			Integrated District Office			Total		
		Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant	Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant	Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant	Sanctioned	Existing	Vacant
17	Assistant Director (Information and Communication)/Public Relations Officer	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
18	Protocol Officer	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
19	Assistant Director (Electrical)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
20	Deputy Assistant Director	205	11	194	8	2	6	144	15	129	357	28	329
21	Court Inspector	10	0	10	0	0	0	36	8	28	46	8	38
22	Administrative Officer	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
23	Transport Officer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
24	Accounts Officer	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
25	Computer operator	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8
26	Nurse	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
27	Pharmacist	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
28	Chief Assistant	25	25	0	8	6	2	0	0	0	33	31	2
29	Assistant Inspector	5	5	0	0	0	0	72	51	21	77	56	21
30	Accountant	2	2	0	8	5	3	0	0	0	10	7	3
31	Stenographer- cum-Computer Operator	12	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	7	5
32	Librarian / Cataloguer	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
33	Steno-Typist - cum-Computer Operator	28	23	5	8	7	1	0	0	0	36	30	6
34	Upper Division Assistant/Assistant	49	21	28	8	5	3	36	16	20	93	42	51
35	Court Assistant (ASI)	20	19	1	0	0	0	72	37	35	92	56	36
36	Cashier	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
37	Data Entry/Control Operator	133	93	40	8	8	0	36	42	-6	177	143	34
38	Receptionist- cum-Telephone operator	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
39	Driver	77	34	43	8	8	0	72	24	48	157	66	91
40	Health Assistant	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
41	Dispatch Rider	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
42	Constable	83	66	17	16	9	7	180	70	110	279	145	134
43	Driver/Constable *	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
44	Security Guard	16	14	2	8	5	3	0	0	0	24	19	5
45	Peon	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
46	Office Assistant	52	47	5	8	8	0	0	0	0	60	55	5
47	Transport Cleaner	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
48	Cleaner	11	0	11	8	0	8	36	0	36	55	0	55
49	Guard	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Total		1198	573	625	120	76	44	828	326	502	2146	975	1171

* The recruitment process is underway for 288 posts

In 2020, 215 employees were appointed to various posts, while in 2021, seven court inspectors were directly appointed. In 2020, a total of six officers were promoted. In 2021, 84 employees were promoted to Deputy Director, Assistant Director, and Deputy Assistant Director posts. Before these promotions were announced, written and oral test were taken according to a specific syllabus. These officers and employees were promoted in the light of recommendations made by the departmental promotion committee based on the test results, seniority and merit.

Number of employees promoted in 2020

Name of the post	Number of promoted employees
Assistant Director	06

Number of employees promoted in 2021

Name of the post	Number of promoted employees
Deputy Director	34
Assistant Director	45
Deputy Assistant Director	05
Total	84

Employees directly recruited in 2020

Name of the Post	Number of employees directly recruited
Stenographer-cum-Computer Operator	19
Data Entry/Control Operator	109
Cashier	01
Driver	12
Constable	25
Dispatch Rider	02
Office Assistant	35
Security guard	12
Total	215

8.1.3 Measures Taken to Enhance the Capacity of the Employees of the Anti-Corruption Commission

Although the country has enviable success in socio-economic development, there is a high prevalence of corruption that largely mars the success of the nation. Corruption hinders the wheel of socio-economic progress of the country. Many corrupt people smuggled illicit money abroad. Many of the accused in the Commission's case fled the country. Interpol's cooperation is being sought to bring those criminals back to the country and bring them to justice, while efforts are being made to use other international legal cooperation strategies. In other words, just as corruption has become a global problem, its investigation process is also being considered as part of the global investigation. Therefore, the Commission has emphasised domestic and foreign training in human resource management. In an age of globalisation and information technology, a single institution can hardly control a global problem like corruption.

Thus, the ACC signs MoUs with Anti-Corruption organizations in different countries for cooperation on various issues. Memorandum of Understanding have already been signed with the Anti-Corruption organizations of three countries. MoUs are in the process of being signed with several other countries. In this context, the Commission participates in various regional and international meetings, seminars, conferences, etc., to strengthen the fight against corruption and boost the development of good practices. In these meetings and seminars, the Commission, in collaboration with various international organizations, has expressed its firm commitment to bring money launderers and fugitives back to the country and bring them to justice.

Table 35: ACC's participation in some regional and international programmes in 2020 and 2021

Serial No.	Name of Training / Meeting/ Seminar/ Workshop	Duration	No. of Participants	Name of Associate Organization	Name of Country
1	Regional Workshop on Corruption and Financial Investigations to Promote the Regional Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities of Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka	18-20 October 2021	4	UNODC	Maldives
2	Regional Workshop on Corruption and Financial Investigations to Promote the Regional Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities of Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka	16-18 November 2021	4	UNODC	Sri Lanka
3	9th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP)	13-17 December 2021	3	UNODC	Egypt

8.2 Budget Management of the Commission

The Commission possesses sufficient institutional capacity to ensure transparency and accountability in its financial management. The Commission determines the annual demand for funds and seeks financial allocation from the government. The government extends financial support through budget allocations as per the demand of the Commission. Once the budget is approved, the ACC does not require any prior approval from the government to disburse the allocation, except for pre-audit of the ACC accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). The Finance and Accounts section of the Administration Wing oversees the financing and internal audit activities. Audits are done regularly. The allocation of funds (management and development) for the fiscal year 2020-21 is shown in the table below.

Table 36: Budget allocated for ACC in FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 (in thousand Taka)

Fiscal Year	Non-development	Development	Total	Revenue	Capital
2019-20	113,13,75	9,72,00	122,85,75	109,31,25	13,54,50
2020-21	109,54,00	11,21,00	120,75,00	109,27,93	11,47,07

Table 37: Economic classification of revenue and capital (including development) expenditure in the fiscal year 2019-20 and 2020-21 (in thousand Taka)

Management	Description	2019-20		2020-21	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
Recurring	Economic Code and Head				
	311101 Basic Salary (Officer)	16,17,00	15,38,42	1,80,000	1,71,886
	3111201 Basic Salary (Employee)	14,65,00	13,27,34	1,60,000	1,52,751
	3111301-3111340 Allowances	26,32,31	24,29,03	2,95,135	2,67,922
	3211 Use of goods & service	43,90,74	39,97,46	2,47,770	1,87,180
	3258 Repairs	1,89,20	1,68,18	19,480	16,522
Capital	4112 Capital expenditure	9,29,50	8,96,13	32,707	24,233
(A) Subtotal		112,23,75	103,56,56	9,35,092	8,20,494
Special Activities					
Recurring	32 Use of goods & service	80,00	26,94	1,60,308	50
Capital	4112 Capital expenditure	10,00	2,84	0	0
(B) Subtotal		90,00	29,78	16,03,08	50
Total management activities (A+B)		113,13,75	103,86,34	109,54,00	82,05,44
Development activities					
Recurring	3211 Administrative expenses	5,57,00	3,03,22	30,100	12,691
Capital	4112 Capital expenditure	4,15,00	1,59,12	82,000	68,988
(C) Subtotal		9,72,00	4,62,34	1,12,100	8,1679
Total (A+B+C)		122,85,75	108,48,68	120,75,00	90,22,23

8.3 Action Taken by the ACC to Prevent Internal Corruption

The employees of the Commission are being monitored round the clock through intelligence information and modern information technology. According to the Anti-Corruption Commission (Employees) Employment Rules, 2008, the ACC employees will “serve the Commission with integrity, Honesty and perseverance and will not abuse their power in any way”. The rules also state that “any employee’s failure or reluctance to comply with the lawful order and conduct of moral degradation (taking bribes, immoral or anti-social activities, etc.) will not be accepted and rigorous and quickest punishment will be ensured in all these cases.”

The Commission firmly believes that the staff of the Commission should be honest and loyal with a high moral sense of integrity. Therefore, the Commission adopts various administrative and technical strategies and, above all, carries out intelligence activities to ensure transparency and accountability in the work process of the officers. In this connection, both punishment and incentive are introduced to regulate the activities of the officers.

According to the Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission has specific procedures for enquiry and investigation of internal corruption. Rule 19 (1) states, “there will be a committee called the Internal Corruption Prevention Committee to monitor, lodge complaints, enquiry, investigate, file cases and take departmental action or make recommendations, whichever is applicable in case the officers and employees of the Commission are resorting to any corruption or irregularity in exercising their powers under the law and these rules or are harassing any person unnecessarily or have committed any offence under the law and these rules.”

Table 38: Departmental actions taken against the ACC employees in 2020

Description	Number
Brought forward from previous year	27
Number of complaints received in 2020	03
The total number of departmental cases in 2020	30
The number of cases disposed of/settled in 2020	09
Major penalties	-
Minor penalties	02
Disposed of otherwise	07

1. Major penalties include removal/dismissal from the service, compulsory retirement, relegation to a lower post or pay-scale, etc.
2. Minor penalties include censure, withholding of promotion or increment for a specified period etc.

8.4 Oversight and Evaluation of Commission’s Overall Performances

The other tools for intensive supervision of all the activities of the ACC involve conducting short inspections, full inspections or to hold internal audits. Currently, the Commission carries out these activities through the Human Resources section. Through this section, inspections of every Wing of the Head Office, the offices of the Divisional Directors and the offices of the Integrated District Offices are carried out. In these inspections, various guidelines and instructions are provided to cover wide-ranging activities, including financial expenditures, administrative affairs and enquiries into complaints and investigations.

The Director Generals and the Directors of the Head Office conduct these inspections. In special cases, the two Commissioners hold inspections of the Wings of the ACC’s Head Office and other regional offices. The Inspection Section regularly evaluates the Inspection Reports and takes necessary action.

CHAPTER NINE

Anti-Corruption Commission in the Context of Technological Advancement

- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Key components of Digital Bangladesh
- 9.3 Initiatives Taken by the Anti-Corruption Commission to Meet the Challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution

Anti-Corruption Commission in the Context of Technological Advancement

9.1 Introduction

The term “Fourth Industrial Revolution” was first coined by a group of scientists who were developing a high-tech strategy for the German government. Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, in an article published in 2015 in Foreign Affairs, presented the word on a large scale. “Conquering the Fourth Industrial Revolution” was the agenda of the 2016 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum held in Davos-Kloster, Switzerland. On 10 October 2016, the World Economic Forum announced the opening of their Fourth Industrial Revolution Centre in San Francisco.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (or Industry 4.0) is an ongoing process of automating conventional production and industrial systems using modern and smart technologies. Large-scale machine-to-machine (MTM) communication and the Internet of Things (IoT) have been brought together to create smart machines capable of automated, improved communication and self-monitoring systems and analyse and diagnose problems without human intervention. So far in the history of human civilisation, three industrial revolutions have changed the course of the world. The first industrial revolution took place in 1784 with the invention of the steam engine. Then the discovery of electricity in 1870 and the Internet in 1969 increased the pace of the Industrial Revolution multiple times. However, the digital revolution can surpass the previous three revolutions. It is now called the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Originally announced in the election manifesto of Awami League, on 12 December 2008, Bangladesh entered the era of the Fourth industrial revolution through Vision 2021, i.e. digital revolution. Following the announcement, due to the incredible progress of Digital Bangladesh, since 2017, ‘12 December’ has been declared as the National Information and Communication Technology Day.

The Digital Bangladesh plan of the present government is taking the country’s ICT sector forward. The revenue income of Bangladesh is increasing day by day in the ICT sector, especially from digital services.

9.2 Key Components of Digital Bangladesh

1. Making the people of the country, especially the younger generation, proficient in information technology in the implementation of Digital Bangladesh;
2. Ensuring connectivity for every citizen of the country;
3. Taking public services to the doorsteps of the people to ensure transparency and accountability of government services;
4. Achieving the goal of ‘Digital Bangladesh’ by working together to provide necessary facilities to all involved in the IT industry.

Since 2009, the massive task of establishing self-reliant digital Bangladesh has started keeping in mind the four main elements or pillars mentioned above. The Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been working through various initiatives, projects, and programmes to fulfil this dream. These programmes and initiatives have specific goals. The Anti-Corruption Commission has already adopted specific means to implement a ‘zero-tolerance’ policy on corruption in all sectors to ensure sustainable development. In this regard, the aims and objectives of the Anti-Corruption Commission are to “continuously, control and prevent corruption and promote good practices”. The Commission also strives to “ensure the spread of a strong Anti-Corruption culture in all walks of life”.

It cannot be denied that with the progress of Bangladesh in the era of the fourth industrial revolution or the digital industrial revolution, corruption in the relevant sector will be reduced significantly. The nature of corruption is changing day by day and will change more in the days to come, which may not be possible to prevent through conventional enquiry and investigation mechanisms. For this reason, the Anti-Corruption Commission has already taken steps to address the challenges of the Digital Industrial Revolution and will continue to do so in the future.

9.3 Initiatives Taken by the Anti-Corruption Commission to Meet the Challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4 I R)

1. Digital Forensic Lab

At present, the nature of corruption is changing due to the overall development of information technology. Under the 'Strengthening of Anti-Corruption Commission' project, the ACC has set up its digital forensic lab for easy access to information from digital devices for its enquiry and investigation into corruption allegations. Through this lab facility, it will be possible to examine any digital evidence like seized computer, phone, DVR, recorded audio-video documents during the enquiry and investigation of corruption. Currently, the officers concerned are being trained in the required skills home and abroad. As a result, it will be possible to get vital information from the seized evidence during enquiry and investigation phase.

2. Document Forensic System

The procurement of a document forensic system has been undertaken under the ACC Strengthening Project. An agreement has been reached with a prospective supplier to purchase the system, which has been handed over to the ACC. The system will be commissioned after the training session on the newly procured document forensic system. Through that system, it will be possible to verify the authenticity of the documents obtained as evidence, including forged signatures.

3. Development of software for monitoring enquiry and investigation activities

An ADB-funded technical assistance project is being implemented to enhance the institutional capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Under the project, a web-based Investigation and Prosecution Management System (IPMS) software has been developed, and a server room with ancillary hardware has been set up for proper monitoring and investigation of all corruption cases. Operational User Training and System Administration Training of the said IPMS software have been completed. Complaints management, enquiries, investigations and prosecution activities will soon begin with the IPMS software.

4. Use of e-Nothi and e-GP systems for greater mobility and transparency of official activities.

All administrative/financial files are being disposed of using the e-Nothi system. The ACC invites the tenders in the revenue sector and projects through e-GP. The ACC has achieved annual targets regarding the use of the system.

5. Preparation of Automation Software for administrative activities of the Commission

An automation plan of administrative activities of the ACC has also been taken. With the proposed automation software, the overall administrative activities of the Commission will be brought under automation. This is expected to ensure greater mobility and transparency in the official activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission.





CHAPTER TEN

ACC's Recent Achievements

10.1 Introduction

10.2 Success

ACC's Recent Achievements

10.1 Introduction

The Commission's work was hindered by the lockdown and other restrictions on movement owing to the global COVID-19 pandemic, but the Commission was able to perform its job using e-Nothi. Even during lockdown, officers have discharged their duties from home. Several wings, such as Daily and Recent Complaint Cell (JABAK), attended office during the lockdown following the strict COVID health regulations. After the lockdown was withdrawn, regular office work began amid the challenge of finishing the accumulated workload.

Amid the second wave of COVID-19, the newly formed Commission has been carrying forward the work since 10 March 2021. The new Commission has opted to conduct its meeting every week, whereas there were only 10/12 meetings in the preceding years. About 25 commission meetings were held in less than eight months in 2021.

10.2 Success

1. The Commission has successfully continued to resolve the cases under trial. In 2020, 176 cases were disposed out of 3,382 cases pending in the lower courts for trial. Courts gave verdicts in favour of the ACC in 121 cases making the conviction rate 68.75%. In 2021, out of 3,434 cases, 203 were disposed, in which 119 of them were decided in favour of the Commission, making the conviction rate 58.62%.
2. The Enforcement Unit of the ACC has been performing within the overall organizational structure of the ACC since 2019. Due to COVID-19, although the number of operations conducted is less than the previous years, 487 enforcement operations were conducted in 2020 and 245 were conducted in 2021 by the Enforcement Unit.
3. The Intelligence Unit has been incorporated in the organizational structure of the ACC since 2018. By the end of 2021, a total of 665 complaints were received, of their 250 had been settled, and 415 complaints were under investigation. Based on the recommendations of the intelligence report, 154 allegations were identified for regular enquiry with the approval of the Commission. The Intelligence Unit detected several frauds who impersonated themselves as ACC officials. The Intelligence Unit arrested 11 such frauds with the help of various law enforcement agencies, and legal action has been taken accordingly.
4. The ACC's Daily and Recent Complaints Cell (JABAK) scrutinised 18,489 complaints in 2020 of them 822 complaints were accepted for further enquiry and 2,469 were sent to various departments for legal action. In 2021, 533 complaints were submitted for enquiry, and 2,889 complaints were referred to other departments for further action out of a total of 14,789 complaints.
5. The Resource Management Unit of ACC began its journey as a separate unit of the Commission in 2019. As per court directives, the Unit confiscated BDT 180,11,91,746 and froze BDT 152,92,86,496 in 2020. In 2021, BDT 326,71,46,628 was confiscated, and a huge amount of foreign currency (Pounds, Canadian Dollars, Australian Dollars) was frozen along with BDT 1161,58,14,480.

6. Training activities are being carried out to develop the skills of the officers. Even during a strict lockdown situation, the ACC conducted a 15-day online training session on PPA and PPR. Special training in Bitcoins, Cryptocurrency, offense committed through different social media, including WhatsApp, was conducted by the US Department of Justice. Besides, more than 800 staff members have been trained in office management, good governance, integrity and other relevant subjects.
7. Under the leadership of the Anti-Corruption Commission, International Anti-Corruption Day was observed in Bangladesh on 9 December 2021, along with other countries of the world. His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Hamid was present on the occasion as Chief Guest. Besides, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh Syed Mahmud Hossain was present as a Special Guest. On the International Anti-Corruption Day human chain, discussion meetings and cultural programmes were organised in all districts and upazilas of the country, including the Dhaka Metropolitan area.
8. The Commission has established a digital forensic lab to make maximum use of information technology in enquiry and investigation activities. Initiatives for relevant at home and abroad training have been taken.
9. A committee led by the Director General (Money Laundering) has been formed to rationalise the existing staffing structure of the Commission.
10. The Commission has decided to build a modern building for its head office.
11. The Commission has also decided to establish a separate training institute.
12. Under the existing organizational structure, Cox's Bazar district office started functioning on 1 January 2022. Initiatives have been taken to start construction work of 13 district offices by July 2022.
13. Recruitment of 132 Assistant Directors and 147 Deputy Assistant Directors as part of the existing organogram is at the final stage. In addition, the recruitment process for other posts is underway.
14. In 2020, six Deputy Assistant Directors were promoted to the role of Assistant Directors. After the new Commission took charge in 2021, 34 Assistant Directors were promoted to the role of Deputy Director and 45 Deputy Assistant Directors were promoted to Assistant Director and five other staff was promoted to the role of Deputy Assistant Director.
15. A committee headed by the Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission has been constituted to amend and develop the rules and regulations of the Commission.





CHAPTER ELEVEN

Department Wise Recommendations of the ACC Institutional Team

- 11.1 Introduction
- 11.2 Institutional Team

Department Wise Recommendations of the ACC Institutional Team

11.1 Introduction

According to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, the Anti-Corruption Commission has the legal mandate to curb and prevent corruption and develop good practices among the citizens. In the light of this mandate, the Commission carries out multifaceted activities to curb and prevent corruption. There is no alternative to integrated initiatives to curb corruption in the country. Each department or agency of the Government has its responsibilities in strengthening integrated initiatives as the government agencies provide public services to the people. The Commission seeks to pave the way for positive reform of procedures to end harassment, irregularities, corruption and red-tapism in government services. The Commission also considers the reasons for the emergence of corruption in society. In the light of such realities, every year the Anti-Corruption Commission makes significant short-term, mid-term and long-term recommendations to the Government through the Honorable President to prevent irregularities, corruption and red-tapism in various government departments and develop good practices. These recommendations have been formulated in line with Section 17 (e) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act.

11.2 Institutional Team

The Commission can investigate allegations of corruption based on public complaints or voluntarily without any formal complaints. In this context, the Commission also has the authority to identify the sources of various types of corruption and recommend necessary actions accordingly. In the legal context, the ACC has been investigating institutional corruption in the country since 2008.

In 2017, the Commission formed 25 institutional teams comprising ACC officials to control and prevent corruption in 25 departments. The departments are Titas Gas, Bangladesh Railway, Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh Biman, Customs VAT & Excise, Income Tax Department, WASA, Narcotics Control Department, Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, Sub-Registry Office and Registration Complex, Bangladesh. Inland Shipping Authority, Bangladesh Inland Shipping Corporation, Department of Public Works, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sea and Land Ports Authorities, Department of Drug Administration, Land Acquisition (LA) and Revenue (SA) Section of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI), RAJUK, Department of Land Records and Survey, Department of Health, National Housing Authority, and Department of Secondary and Higher Education. The activities of these teams defined by the specific scope of work in controlling and preventing corruption are regularly reviewed. Generally, officers in the rank of Director General monitor the activities of Institutional Teams.

Institutional Teams observe and analyze the existing laws, rules, procedures, and misappropriation of government funds. The teams also identify the limitations, legal complexities, public harassment and institutional corruption in providing public services. Accordingly, each team submits a report to the Commission with specific recommendations to reduce such limitations and to take legal action against those found guilty of corruption.

Under specific guidelines, the teams identified the sources of corruption. The Committees prepared a series of recommendations to prevent corruption in several departments. These include the Department of Health, Civil Aviation Authority, Dhaka WASA, Titas Gas, Department of Public Works, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and Bangladesh Biman. The Commission forwarded some practical recommendations to the ministries concerned after reviewing the report formulated by the institutional teams. In the meantime, reports had been received from the Department of Health, Civil Aviation Authority, Dhaka WASA, and Titas Gas Authority regarding implementation of those recommendations.

In 2021 the institutional teams for the Department of Drug Administration, BRTA, and Sub-Registrar's Office and Registration Complex of Dhaka and the Departments under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestocks submitted reports to the Commission identifying the source of corruption. The Commission believes that all these recommendations are implementable, which can reduce bribery, corruption, public harassment and embezzlement of government funds in public offices.

11.2.1 The Department of Drug Administration

A. Source of corruption

- 1) There are several areas of corruption in the drug administration sector, such as (a) setting up of new pharmaceuticals units, (b) import and manufacture of medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, and (c) manufacture and use of packaging. In each case, the approval of the Department of Drug Administration is required. In some cases, the service seekers are keen to get the service quickly without submitting the proper documents. To capitalize on this opportunity, some dishonest officials of the Department ask for undue financial benefits, which are not compatible with the prescribed fees.
- 2) Pharmacy owners tend to run pharmacies without any license and registered pharmacists. Many pharmacy owners do not renew their licenses in time or sell expired or substandard drugs.
- 3) There are allegations that some pharmaceutical companies influence unscrupulous doctors in prescribing substandard and unnecessary medicines in exchange for various gifts and opportunities to travel abroad.
- 4) In Bangladesh, buying/selling medicines is not regulated. So, anyone can buy/sell any kind of medicine. Although there is a mandatory provision to have a pharmacist in all pharmacy outlets, it is not maintained properly in most cases. Sometimes, the pharmacist sees the patient disguising as a doctor or sells substandard drugs to the buyer, which is harmful to public health.
- 5) Due to unethical practices of the trade syndicates, patients are forced to spend additional money to buy life-saving and essential medical devices such as heart rings or stents, eye lenses/contact lenses and pacemakers etc.
- 6) Some officials in charge of the Department of Drug Administration are believed to be involved in various irregularities and corruption. They obtain financial and other illegal benefits from pharmaceutical companies to issue licenses for their substandard drugs. They do not take appropriate action against expired drug dealers.
- 7) In the case of import of raw materials for medicines, some raw materials come through importers and some through the black market. The importers also sell some portions of their stock to the black market.
- 8) The quality of the manufactured medicines is not verified adequately from time to time after giving license to pharmaceutical companies.
- 9) Although there are rules for using raw materials from a single source for one medicine, it is not followed.
- 10) The quality of various locally marketed drugs is not tested periodically.

The Department of Drug Administration lacks the capacity to identify which companies produce which drugs, what are the standards and whether they comply with the World Health Organization standards.

Many reputable companies whose products do not pass the testing standards are certified as quality drugs. As a result, there is an opportunity to sell low-quality drugs in the market. These substandard drugs have become a severe threat to public health. At the root of counterfeit and adulterated drugs is selling raw material in the open market. Only companies approved by the Drug Administration can import raw materials from abroad. Many pharmaceutical companies import raw materials in excess of demand and sell them on the open market. Pharmacies are selling illicit, substandard and expired drugs. Those in charge of inspecting the pharmacy do not conduct the inspection activities properly. It is known that an evil syndicate is involved in these scams with the connivance of some corrupt officials of the Department of Drug Administration.

B. Recommendations to prevent corruption

- 1) In case of issuance and renewal of license, application, fee acceptance and approval system can be introduced on digital platform. Mobile app usage can also be introduced. The whole process needs to be brought under automation. The licensing process should be streamlined. The process can be simplified as much as possible by reducing the steps. The specific information of the whole process, including what documents need to be submitted in application seeking license, how many copies of documents need to be submitted, the total amount of fee to be submitted, etc. should be made available to everyone on the website;
- 2) Drug administration often takes legal action against the accused person. Nevertheless, they do not have a lawyer of their own who has the basic knowledge of medicine and the law. Institutional capacity building needs to be undertaken through enhancement of technical skills, human resources and recruitment of specialists;
- 3) Make it compulsory to keep licenses and pharmacists in the shops in phases. It is strictly forbidden to buy or sell drugs without a doctor's prescription and a pharmacist. It is also forbidden to treat a patient other than a registered physician. Constantly monitoring is required whether expired or substandard drugs are being sold;
- 4) Properly inspect the quality of medicines at regular intervals after licensing of pharmaceutical companies to prevent the manufacture of substandard medicines. Preventive measures should be taken to control providing various gifts to doctors such as opportunities to travel abroad, home furnishings, valuable gifts, etc by pharmaceutical companies;
- 5) The issue of compliance with various medical devices and companies should be strictly monitored by fixing the prices of medicines at reasonable rates. There should be a pricing policy based on which companies can be monitored from time to time.

11.2.2 Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA)

A. The source of corruption

- 1) Although there is a provision to register the vehicle after proper inspection in many cases, the registration is done in exchange for undue money without any inspection. Those involved with the registration take unfair advantages. This creates opportunities for revenue evasion;
- 2) The fitness certificate of the vehicle is given in exchange for undue money without any examination or investigation. Those involved in registration receive illegal benefits from the clients;
- 3) The test dates of driving license applicants are deliberately delayed so that the applicants fall into the clutches of the brokers or are forced to catch the brokers. Those involved in registration take illegal benefits from the recipient through brokers. Applicants for licenses pass the exam only in exchange for undue payment.

- 4) Assigning the same employee to multiple desks creates an artificial crisis in service delivery activities that results in opportunities for unlawful harassment by brokers;
- 5) It takes a long time to get a driving license even after all the information has been collected. Applicants fall into the clutches of the broker in case of emergency or are forced to catch the broker;
- 6) Issuance of registration certificate without knowing the identity of the actual owner of the vehicle. This allows black money owners to buy cars anonymously. They live a luxurious life by keeping their identities secret with the help of those involved in registration.

B. Recommendations to prevent corruption

- 1) A digitized information Centre is required to be set up so that customers can receive services without any hassle. Arrangements can be made to display important information and instructions through the electronic scroll. Giving each customer a token number from the information Centre so that he/she can be connected to the respective booth;
- 2) Online applications can be started like the university admission process. An employee must be present at the application acceptance desk at all times after the inspection of the motor vehicle to receive the application. CCTV surveillance needs to be strengthened;
- 3) The activities after the fitness inspection should be completed expeditiously, and the flawless vehicles should be provided fitness subject to proper vehicle inspection;
- 4) If at least three staffs are posted in the license renewal branch, it will take less time to process the application. Driving license could be provided within a maximum of one month after receipt of fingerprint and biometric of the applicant;
- 5) The BRTA currently has no legal authority to act against an illegal vehicle owner if the vehicle is registered anonymously. There needs to be scope for law enforcement in this regard;
- 6) Due to delays in supply by the contractor of retro-reflective number plates, digital driving licenses delivery is often delayed. Moreover, contractors often do not ensure proper security and do not use quality paper/materials. Therefore, there is a need for increasing the monitoring of the contractor's work;
- 7) In case of transfer of officers and employees of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, it is necessary to have a specific transfer policy. The BRTA may be advised to make arrangements for transfer through lottery except for the areas of particular importance.

11.2.3 Sub-Registry Office

A. The source of corruption

- 1) The sub-registry office has a large number of copist (*Nakal Nobish*). Even then, the deeds documents until 2014 are yet to be copied in Balam's book. However, due to untimely copying of volume, delivery of original documents is delayed, and delivery of certified copy becomes cumbersome. As a result, the service recipients are falling into the clutches of the broker and are being forced to pay bribes to get the service quickly.
- 2) Pay-orders, bank drafts, cheques etc. deposited as government revenue, at the time of registration of documents, are not deposited in banks within the prescribed time. Therefore, these bank drafts, pay orders, and cheques are often being lost from the relevant department, and thus, this money is likely to be embezzled. Fake pay-orders, bank drafts, cheques, etc. deposited at the time of land registration are not identified due to bank non-submission within the stipulated time.

- 3) Not all the register columns reserved for entry of pay-orders, bank drafts, cheques etc., are filled. Especially the number and date of all the bank drafts and pay-orders submitted at the time of registration of deeds are not included in the relevant column of the register. According to the Registration Manual, Cash Transaction Report (CTR) should be maintained regularly with the bank. However, in reality, it is not being preserved.
- 4) LT (Land Transfer) notice should be sent to the responsible AC Land Office after registration of deeds. Nevertheless, during the on-the-spot enquiry, for example, it was found that the Gulshan Sub-Registry Office sent a letter to the respective AC Land office without mentioning the details of the registered deeds. The same Office Memo is sent to the AC Land Office with multiple LT (Land Transfer) notices of one month, without any special details.
- 5) If pay-orders, bank drafts, cheques etc., are not deposited to the public exchequer on time, they remain unclaimed in the issuing bank. At one point, it becomes an opportunity to embezzle it by dishonest bank official.
- 6) Although the actual exchange value of the land between the seller and the buyer is high, the government is being deprived of the registration fee as low registration value is shown with the help of the deed writer and sub-registrar. The difference between the actual transaction value and the deed value becomes black money for the seller. On the other hand, the black money of the buyer becomes white, which creates opportunities for three-way corruption. As a result, there are allegations that the officials and employees involved in registering deeds are receiving illegal financial benefits.
- 7) By registering the disputed land, the responsible officers and employees take illegal benefits. If there were the latest Records of Rights (ROR) at the sub-registry office, and if it was examined before registering a deed, the registration of the disputed land would be stalled, and corruption would be reduced.
- 8) If the registration of a deed is completed by forgery, then the actual owner of the land cannot annul the deed without going to a civil court, which is a long term process. If the power of appeal and review is given to the District Registrar and his superiors or any other authority by amending the law, the litigation in the civil court will be reduced, and the actual owner of the land will be relieved from long term hassle.
- 9) There are many anomalies in terms of recruitment and transfer. According to the law and manual, the power to appoint third and fourth class employees, deed writers, and copywriters belong to the district registrar. However, in reality, this appointment and transfer are made from the office of IGR.
- 10) During the investigation, it was found that many people, who are not at all employees of the registration complex, are also engaged in official work as regular employees. They are popularly called Umedar (Assistant/candidate/applicant). Most of the illegal transactions are done by them.

Land Registration System: As the registration system is not updated from time to time, people are being deprived of transparent, harassment-free and quality services. In order to bring dynamism and transparency in the land management of the country, there is no alternative to streamlining the land registration department.

B. Recommendations to prevent corruption

- 1) The Inspector General, Directorate of Registration, may be advised to ensure proper compliance so that the Sub-Registry Offices located in the Registration Complex follow the Registration Manual-2014 and Registration Act-1908.
- 2) Arrangements can be made to ensure copying deeds to the Balam Book in the prescribed manner as described in the Registration Manual. The original deed can be registered by performing three deed copies for immediate delivery to the recipient. Once the registration is completed, one copy is given to the seller and the one copy to buyer, and one copy can be saved for entering into the main volume. Each deed should be stored in a database.
- 3) It is necessary to ensure timely submission of registration fees to the bank, along with an entry in the bank draft register and collection of CTR report. CTR reports of all sub-registry offices in Bangladesh should be updated with the bank within one month. Also, in all the places where online banking facilities are available, arrangements can be made to deposit money online.
- 4) It is necessary to ensure that the copy of the Khaitan is kept in the office of the responsible sub-registrar so that the ownership of the land can be confirmed before registering the deed. In case of transfer of ownership, if the seller and the buyer are informed through auto-generated mobile SMS, the possibility of forgery will be reduced.
- 5) By amending the law, the power of appeal and review of revocation and amendment of forged deeds may be vested in the District Registrar and his superior authority, IGR, by law. The Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs may be advised to amend the necessary laws for this purpose. Arrangements may be made for the District Registrar/Appellate Authority to automatically revoke/amend the forged deeds within three months of the receipt of the hearing.
- 6) Database of buyer/seller of completed deed, deed value and land details could be created. As a result, the average price of the mouza can be easily obtained, and the land bought and sold can be easily identified. For those, who have already registered the land at a lower price than the actual price, money can be whitened by declaring the undisclosed amount and paying the prescribed government fee. In this case, a nominal fee can be charged to encourage the people to whiten legally earned black money. Its primary purpose is to legitimize money earned legally.
- 7) The Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Sub-Registry Office can be brought under the same authority and set up in the same complex so that the work of transfer of ownership (namjari) can be done as soon as the deed is registered.
- 8) To ensure corruption-free public service and collection of government revenue, a copy of land records mentioning the type of land (viti, nal, doba etc.) should be submitted to the sub-registry office at the end of the survey and settlement operation.
- 9) The department concerned may be advised to take necessary steps to introduce digitization/automation systems at all levels of the Registration Complex, Dhaka.
- 10) There has to be a specific transfer policy in the department. The Inspector General, Directorate of Registration, may be advised to arrange for transfer by lottery, except for the cases of particular importance.

11.2.4 Recommendations for the Ministry Fisheries and Livestock to minimize corruption

The sources of corruption in the departments under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock have been identified and relevant recommendations to eliminate them have been put forward. The recommendations are inserted here in the form of a table.

Identified limitations, source of harassment and corruption	Necessary steps to remedy	Use of recommended information technology
A. Corruption of different projects		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Irregularities and corruption in the tendering process of projects. 2. Irregularities and corruption in approving DPP. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introducing of e-GP for project procurement 2. Reducing quotations in tenders 3. Bringing transparency in the appointment of project directors 4. Creating project cells at headquarters 5. Following specific policy in appointing a project manager 6. Creating fit-list for appointment of project director and hiring skilled and motivated officers 7. Amending policy to bar the appointment of cadre association representatives or related professional groups as Project Director 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launch PMIS (Project Management Information System) everywhere 2. e-GP should be widely used in project procurement 3. Quotations in tenders should be kept as low as possible 4. Bring transparency in the appointment of PD of the project 5. The project cell will be at the headquarters, and they will pass the DPP
B. Corruption in the quality control sector		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Irregularities and corruption in the appointment of experts. 2. Irregularities and corruption in issuing certificates during fish export. 3. Applying redundant water to fish glazing. 4. Taming the office staff. 5. Issuance of fake licenses through financial benefits from the Quality Control section. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruitment of Specialists 2. Monitoring the office properly 3. Not using the manual procedure for issuing certificates/licenses 4. Fish glazing in the right way 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less involvement of the Ministry in the recruitment of specialist officers. 2. Development and use of Certificate/License/ Registration/ NOC Management Software 3. Sampling and monitoring activities by honest officials while sending fish abroad
C. Corruption in training activities		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not providing training to all batches as per schedule. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring that training is being imparted and that everyone in the batch is receiving training 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring training through digital/live video 2. Disbursing training allowance directly to the trainees 3. Use of software in training management 4. Preserving NID information of all trainees in a digital database.

Identified limitations, source of harassment and corruption	Necessary steps to remedy	Use of recommended information technology
D. Corruption in installation activities		
1. Irregularities in tenders and issuance of work orders to preferred contractors 2. Not hiring qualified engineers	1. Simplify the terms attached to the tender 2. Mandatory verification through an advisory committee constituted for the Department of Livestock whether any conditions have been added in the tender document to give unfair benefits to a particular group/institution/individual. 3. Introducing a system of preserving official estimates to the HOPE and uploading the official estimate to the system by HOPE on the day of the opening of tenders.	1. Necessary up-gradation of the e-GP software and necessary amendments to the e-GP policy 2. Recruitment of skilled engineers
E. Irregularities and corruption in the issuance of licenses		
1. Irregularities and corruption in issuing licenses for fish hatcheries, fish processing factories, fish farmers and sea fishing trawlers.	1. Avoid unnecessary steps in the service delivery process 2. Increase the efficiency of the inspection officer in verifying the application 3. Display the list of required documents in the Citizen's Charter 4. Establish necessary lab, support chain	1. Development and use of license/registration/NOC management software
F. Wastage of government money		
1. Lack of official property management skills 2. Misappropriation of government revenue by importing banned meat fish seed under the guise of importing processed protein; wastage of public money through inefficient renovation work	1. Making proper property management conditional in allocating budget 2. Monitoring of property management in routine office inspection 3. Provide budget allocation as per government project targets 4. Avoid allocations of budget in the middle of the financial year 5. Complete audits regularly and expeditiously	1. Develop property management software and connect affiliated departments through website 2. Digitization of audit settlement process

11.2.5 Recommendations to the Department of Livestock relevant to the sources and causes of corruption

Identified limitations, source of harassment and corruption	Necessary steps to remedy	Use of recommended information technology
Formulation and implementation of laws, rules and policies		
1. Harassment to the service receivers; procrastination in issuing licenses, registrations and NOC	1. Avoid unnecessary steps in the service delivery process 2. Increase the efficiency of the inspection officer in verifying the application 3. Display the list of required documents in the Citizen's Charter 4. Build necessary lab and support chain	Development and use of license/registration/ NOC management software

Identified limitations, source of harassment and corruption	Necessary steps to remedy	Use of recommended information technology
2. Formulation of laws/ rules/policies to strengthen the regulatory role of the Department of Livestock in protecting the interests of consumers and producers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To send a proposal of formulating necessary laws/ rules/policies to the administrative Ministry on an urgent basis 2. To expedite the formulation of laws/rules/policies 3. To take measures to enhance the skills of the officers in the implementation of laws/rules/policies 	-
Institutional/official management procedures		
1. Implementation of Livestock Extension Guidelines and digitization of reporting systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formation of the editorial board 2. Provide necessary budget allocation 3. Digitization of reporting systems 	Develop and use reporting system apps
2. Management of internal services such as transfer, leave, passport NOC, GPF (advance and final withdrawal), pension and gratuity grant and retirement leave and lump grant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of 01 (one) separate welfare branch in the Department of Livestock and ensuring the mentioned services. 2. Ensure provision of internal services under e-Nothi and increase server capacity 3. Further decentralization of power to make internal services easier and faster 	Use of e-Nothi
3. Problems arising due to lack of regular transfer of employees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulation of transfer policy of employees 2. Regular transfer arrangements 	Promotion, Selection Grade, Transfer and Posting Management through PDS
4. Obstacles to establishing an effective official inspection system	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission of the mandatory report at the end of the inspection 2. Ensure mandatory attachment of report with travel allowance bill 3. Review the implementation of recommendations in coordination meetings 4. Preparation of inspection chart for each step in evaluating the activities of the Department of Livestock 	-
5. Obstacles to setting effective targets in the bottom-up method	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starting the target setting process at least four (04) months ahead of schedule 2. To finalize the proposal of the Department of Livestock at least one (01) month in advance 3. Approval of the proposal within one (01) month by the Ministry and the Cabinet Division 	-

Identified limitations, source of harassment and corruption	Necessary steps to remedy	Use of recommended information technology
6. Avoiding ongoing irregularities in the collection of fees, including artificial insemination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fixing artificial insemination fees at public and private levels 2. Setting a maximum limit of service charge levied for direct service to the farm 3. Specify service delivery areas for service providers 4. Arrangement to display the list of prescribed service charges in each Union Parishad 5. Settlement of specific allegations 	
Wastage of public money		
1. Lack of official property management skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of a separate property management section in the Department of Livestock 2. Making proper property management conditional in allocating budget 3. Regular monitoring of property management during office inspections 	Use central movable and immovable property management software and connect affiliated offices through the website.
2. Irregularities in the appointment of Project Directors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following specific policy in appointing project director 2. Creating a fit list for appointment of project director and hiring skilled and motivated officers 3. Amending policy to bar the appointment of cadre association representatives or related professional groups as Project Director 	-
3. Removal of obstacles to make the tender process participatory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simplify the terms attached to the tender 2. Mandatory verification by the advisory committee formed for the Department of Livestock in the e-GP system on whether any conditions have been added in the tender document for giving unfair benefits to any particular group/institution/individual. 3. Introducing a system of preserving official estimates to the HOPE and uploading the official estimate to the system by HOPE on the day of the opening of tenders. 	Necessary up-gradation of e-GP software and necessary amendments to the e-GP policy

Identified limitations, source of harassment and corruption	Necessary steps to remedy	Use of recommended information technology
4. The complexity of depositing the used car in the central transport pool at the end of the project period	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of the obligation to return the vehicles used in the project in the central transport pool in case of shortage of vehicles required by the department. 2. Taking steps to stop the undue practice of supplying vehicles and drivers to the administrative Ministry from the department/ directorate. 	-
5. Obstacles to getting farm budget	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government farms are mainly used for breeding and conservation of genetic resources 2. The annual target of the farms should be finalized at least three months before the end of the financial year 3. Provide budget allocation as per targets 4. Avoid allocations in the middle of the financial year 	-
6. Absence of effective pre and post-audit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate opportunities for ongoing corruption in pre and post audits 2. Complete audits regularly and expeditiously 	Digitization of audit settlement process
7. Deficit in formulating practical project proposals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare project proposals consistent with the five-year plan 2. Avoid unnecessary and irrelevant project proposals 	-



CHAPTER TWELVE

The Work Plan of the Commission for Future Expeditions

12.1 The work plan of the Commission

12.1 The Work Plan of the Commission

The progress of Bangladesh in almost every indicator of socio-economic development is commendable. Bangladesh has earned enviable success in achieving economic growth despite various socio-economic adversities. However, corruption of some greedy people is putting the country's growth potentials at risk. It is causing frustration among the mass people. The citizens expect transparency and accountability in the activities of the State. In this age of globalization, corruption is not just a problem of a particular country; it is a global problem. Like many other countries, Bangladesh faces new challenges in curbing, controlling and preventing corruption. The Anti-Corruption Commission conducts and implements multidimensional activities to prevent and control corruption. It has achieved success in many areas by tackling various challenges in the socio-economic context. However, the Commission does not want to be complacent and is keen to move forward by identifying its limitations. To that end, pragmatic plans have been formulated to make the activities of different departments of the ACC more dynamic and visible. If these plans are implemented, the Anti-Corruption and prevention capacity would be multiplied and the fellow citizens' confidence in the ACC would increase.

12.1.1 Activities conducted by the Money Laundering Wing, existing limitations and way forward

The Money Laundering Wing conducts enquiries and investigations into corruption induced money laundering cases along with bank and insurance-related corruption offences. It participates in the National Coordination Committee and Working Committee on Prevention of Money Laundering and implements decisions taken by the committees. The wing has taken various initiatives with the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) to prevent money laundering offences. It also holds quarterly meetings with the BFIU to share bilateral intelligence. The Money Laundering Wing freezes bank accounts of the accused through BFIU if requested by the enquiry/investigation officers. It also implements the National Strategy adopted to prevent money laundering. The wing also handles the preparation, transmission, communication and coordination of Mutual Legal Assistance Requests (MLAR) to collect information and evidence from foreign journalist abroad and to freeze/confiscate illegal money or assets laundered abroad. The Money Laundering Wing participates in the meeting of the Task Force on Recovery of Laundered Assets chaired by the Attorney General of Bangladesh. The decisions (relevant to ACC) taken by the Task Force are implemented through this Wing. Preparation of the National Risk Assessment (NRA) report to assess risk to prevent money laundering in Bangladesh fulfill its requirement of recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), is another essential task of this wing. Through this Wing, the ACC participates in the Mutual Evaluation Process of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and attends the APG Annual Meeting. The wing is also responsible for liaising, exchanging and coordinating with other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) within the country, including the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Bangladesh Police. The Money Laundering Wing is responsible for implementing the action items adopted by the National Coordination Committee as per the Mutual Evaluation Recommendations.

Existing limitations

- 1) Enquiry and investigations into money laundering cases are of specialized nature and, hence, strategically methodologically different from other cases. The enquiry into the allegation of money laundering requires extensive surveillance, undercover operations, and intelligence gathering. In the existing system of the ACC, there is no provision for conducting surveillance and undercover operations.
- 2) Although forensic accounting techniques are fundamental in detecting money laundering and financial crimes, the ACC has almost no facilities to use such techniques.

- 3) Nevertheless, proactive enquiry, such as surveillance, communication interception and undercover data collection and analysis, are highly effective in detecting money laundering and financial crimes. The ACC primarily conducts reactive enquiry and investigations. That means records are collected and reviewed traditionally based on the allegations received due to which documentary evidence is not available in few cases.
- 4) In the case of cross-border crime, the ACC has to rely only on BFIU to collect information/intelligence from abroad. There is no MoU on cooperation with Anti-Corruption and money laundering agencies in other countries. In addition, there is a problem in obtaining information/intelligence as Bangladesh is not connected to the GLOBE NETWORK established by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) or any regional platform.
- 5) Necessary policies and guidelines have to be formulated to implement recommendations of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), APG Mutual Evaluation, National Strategy, and National Coordination Committee. The ACC does not have a dedicated unit in the existing organogram for policy formulation.
- 6) There is no dedicated staff in the existing organogram for preparation and dispatch of MLAR, coordination with foreign authorities, liaison with APG, preparation of documents for Mutual Evaluation, etc. In addition, there are no specialized human resources in the ACC organogram to conduct a Risk Assessment on money laundering as per FATF's recommendation.
- 7) As Bangladesh does not have any bilateral agreement with most of the destination countries of the laundered money, it is not possible to get the desired results only under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
- 8) The number of officers working against the existing number of enquiries and investigations is insufficient.
- 9) Lack of updated information on post-MLAR activities.
- 10) Communication with foreign counterparts is problematic as there is no official email ID by the investigating officer's name.

Plan to overcome limitations

- 1) Initiation of proactive enquiry.
- 2) Formulation of policies for conducting surveillance, communication interception and undercover operations, and employing specialized human resources.
- 3) Establishment of a separate desk in the Money Laundering Wing for liaison and coordination with foreign agencies, implementation of FATF recommendation and APG related activities and for preparing and sending MLAR and preparation of National Risk Assessment Report.
- 4) Establishment of a separate desk in the Money Laundering Wing for implementation of decisions of National Coordination Committee and Working Committee on Prevention of Money Laundering, action items of National Strategy, task force decisions on Money Laundering, and coordination with BFIU.

- 5) Signing mutual legal assistance treaty with the destination countries of laundered money to exchange evidence, recover assets, and enforce freeze and confiscation orders.
- 6) Conducting training sessions on the investigation of money laundering and banking-related crimes, forensic accounting, digital forensics, surveillance and undercover operation.
- 7) Signing of MoUs to exchange information/intelligence with the agencies responsible for the prevention and control of corruption in the countries where money laundering is prevalent.
- 8) Organizing quarterly coordination meetings among the ACC, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review the latest status of MLAs sent to different countries and decide on the measures to be taken.
- 9) Creating official email accounts with the ACC domain name for all investigating officers.
- 10) Participating in the international Anti-Corruption network.

12.1.2 Activities to recover assets

According to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2012, out of 27 predicate offences, the ACC is empowered to investigate only one predicate offence: bribery and corruption. Various studies or data analysis have shown that about 80% of the money laundered from Bangladesh happens through trade. The National Board of Revenue and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Bangladesh Police have been entrusted with investigating trade based money laundering. The ACC only investigates the laundering of money/assets induced by bribery and corruption.

Limitations

- 1) The existing legal authority of the ACC to bringing back the money/assets laundered abroad is limited.
- 2) The overall process of repatriation of money/assets from abroad is complex and time-consuming.
- 3) Legal assistance of the destination country is essential for the repatriation of laundered money/assets. Dedicated staffing has not been developed in the ACC and the ministry concerned to negotiate with the relevant countries at different stages, such as collecting primary information/intelligence and obtaining evidence through MLAR.
- 4) Investigating officers lack sufficient knowledge of modern technology and international law to conduct money/asset laundering investigations.

Proposal to overcome limitations

- 1) The ACC should be given adequate legal powers to play a leading role in preventing money/asset laundering and repatriating laundered money/assets from abroad.
- 2) In order to facilitate the acquisition of information/intelligence from abroad, signing of MoUs with Anti-Corruption agencies of different countries and signing of mutual legal assistance treaties with different countries for obtaining evidence may actively be considered.

- 3) In order to expedite the recovery of resources from abroad, relevant staff of the ACC and the ministries concerned need to be trained at home and abroad.
- 4) Staffs also need to be provided with the necessary training on modern technology and international law.

12.1.3 Intelligence activities

The Intelligence Unit of the Anti-Corruption Commission works under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Commission. It was incorporated into the organizational structure of the Commission on 8 October 2018. Despite various limitations, the unit relentlessly conducts intelligence activities to implement the Commission's mission and vision.

Apart from the Commission's regular enquiry and investigation as per the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, one of the unit's tasks is to gather confidential information to prevent and curb corruption effectively. The officers of this unit collect intelligence information by themselves or through the appointment of sources with the approval of the Chairman of the Commission. In addition, the unit conducts intelligence activities by analyzing information received through the complaints centre, news reports published in various print and electronic media, information obtained from social media or any other platform. The intelligence unit also maintains contact with other intelligence agencies of the country and enriches its information base by exchanging intelligence information.

Since March 2020, the intelligence network has been spread across the country through the appointment of intelligence officers in 22 district offices of the Commission. The fact that the intelligence officers of the district offices have checked and sorted the information collected and verified its accuracy has reduced the rate of termination of complaints during the enquiry stage. Since the official launch of the Intelligence Unit in 2018, more than 300 intelligence reports have been presented to the Chairman of the Commission. On the basis of such information, most of the cases are being enquired by the relevant wings. The intelligence unit has received allegations of fraud in the name of fake ACC officials. A total of 11 fraudsters, who impersonated themselves as ACC officials, have been arrested, and legal action have been taken against them with the help of various law enforcement agencies. Besides, some identified corrupt persons have been kept under surveillance, and they will be brought under the law in due course.





CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Conclusion

Conclusion

As a statutory body under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, the Anti-Corruption Commission prepares an annual report to ensure accountability in its legal actions. To continue the tradition, the Commission has prepared a report including the information of 2020 and 2021. This report provides significant statistics, interpretive analysis, work plan, and illustrated information on the successes and challenges of the Commission's multidimensional activities in the last two years (2020 and 2021).

At present, the Commission, through its eight wings, is working tirelessly to develop social values such as fairness and good practices in the fight against corruption. The Commission did not stop even during the ongoing COVID pandemic. During this period, i.e. 2020 and 2021, 1,355 complaints were received for enquiry, and 695 cases were filed. Besides, fines of 147 crore Taka were imposed, and assets worth Taka 506 crore had been seized.

Following the Commission's success, the people's expectations towards the Commission have increased manifold. Let us consider the years 2020 and 2021. In these two years, 33,278 complaints were received through various channels. Nevertheless, it is a sad reality that the Commission has only 250 investigating officers. With this insufficient workforce, it is highly challenging to carry out the responsibility of this enormous task.

Moreover, this small number of staff lacks specialized and advanced training. However, no adversity could dent the enthusiasm and confidence of the staff. Commission officials have demonstrated their proficiency in various tasks ranging from enquiry to investigation, to court appearance, to enforcement operations, to research and preventive campaigns.

Since people's expectations on the ACC are much higher, sometimes such expectations become a burden for the Commission. For instance, the ACC can investigate money laundering cases related to only one out of the 27 predicate offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2012. The power to investigate money laundering induced by the remaining 26 predicate crimes rests with the National Board of Revenue, the Criminal Investigation Department of the Bangladesh Police and other agencies. While about 80% of money laundered from Bangladesh is trade-based money laundering, the public often blames the Commission for failing to curb it without considering the limitations of the ACC's legal powers.

When the claws of corruption reach every corner of the country, the ACC alone cannot control it. The National Integrity Strategy Paper has set a benchmark number 15 for almost every Ministry on the activities related to integrity and to help prevent corruption. Nevertheless, without any visible action to prevent corruption, many organizations claim to achieve 100% points in this criterion. As a specialized agency to curb corruption, the ACC does not have any role in determining the performance of the public offices to ensure integrity by preventing corruption under the NIS progress. As part of its responsibilities, the Commission has identified the sources of corruption in various public offices and developed a set of recommendations to check widespread corruption.

The prosecution Unit of the ACC has not yet been set up despite the ACC Act stipulating the provision of a permanent prosecution unit. On the other hand, during the enquiry and the investigation officers face many difficulties to collect the necessary evidence and relevant records from various organizations. For that reason, despite their sincerity, it is not possible in some cases to complete the enquiry or investigation in time stipulated in the ACC Act and ACC Rules.

It is a well-known fact that the world is now moving towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution beyond digitization. The European Union and sixteen other countries are now exchanging electronic evidence and data beyond the national boundary through the SIRIUS project. However, due to the lack of modern information technology, the Anti-Corruption Commission has not been capable of using email, text messages, social media evidence, etc., as digital evidence in its enquiry and investigations. However, initiatives have been taken to increase the capacity of the ACC in the shortest possible time.

The Commission has not lagged in its Anti-Corruption drive to achieve its goals. Complaints are being received from aggrieved persons through the toll-free hotline. In this regard, the Enforcement Unit conducts instant operation. Both bilateral and multilateral MoUs and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) are being signed with various countries to bring back the laundered money/assets from abroad. Plans have been made to facilitate intelligence gathering (access to databases of other agencies). New staffs are being recruited to solve the shortage of human resources. The Commission has arranged sophisticated training in about 25 specialized areas or effective operation of the lab at home and abroad. A new forensic lab has been set up to present digital data in court in the form of evidence. The Commission is working to build a skilled workforce by arranging training for its officials in the operation of the lab at home and abroad. An anti-Corruption culture is being promoted and spread at all levels; it aims at combining wisdom, prudence and strength of the new generations of youth as part of social inclusion campaign. A social movement is being waged by forming corruption prevention committee with teachers, freedom fighters, religious leaders, and civil society representatives at metropolitan cities, district, and upazila levels. There are plans to expand these activities to the union level as well. The Commission strives to inculcate a sense of personal integrity, loyalty and character as well as a strong aversion to corruption in the young generations. The Commission also endeavours to raise general awareness towards the environment and climate change and develop young people as capable citizens in fulfilling social responsibilities. To that end, Integrity Unit and vendor-less Honesty Stores have been established in secondary schools and madrasas.

In order to ensure transparency and accountability in the delivery of government services, public hearings have been organized in remote areas of the country. The Commission not only formed committees for internal control but also ensured right of free access to information to enrich the standards of institutional transparency and accountability. The Commission discloses information through various means, where applicable.

In conclusion, it can be said unequivocally that the Commission has gone beyond all its limitations and continued to progress in curbing and preventing corruption as per its legal mandates, representing a paradigm shift in the way we think about corruption and its place in society. The Commission firmly believes that the day is not far off when Anti-Corruption ethics and culture will overpower the minds of people from all walks of life. On that day, Bangladesh will be truly developed and capable of realizing the full potential of millions of people of Bangladesh.



Those we lost during the COVID pandemic



Name : Md. Mafijur Rahman Bhuiyan
Designation : Director General (Legal)
(Sr. District & Session Judge)
Death : 09-03-2021



Name : Jalal Saifur Rahman
Designation : Director (Admin.)
(Deputy Secretary)
Death : 06-04-2020



Name : Md. Khalilur Rahman
Designation : Head Assistant
Death : 09-05-2020



Name : Md. Abu Yousuf Sarker
Designation : Upper Division Asst.
Death : 15-08-2020





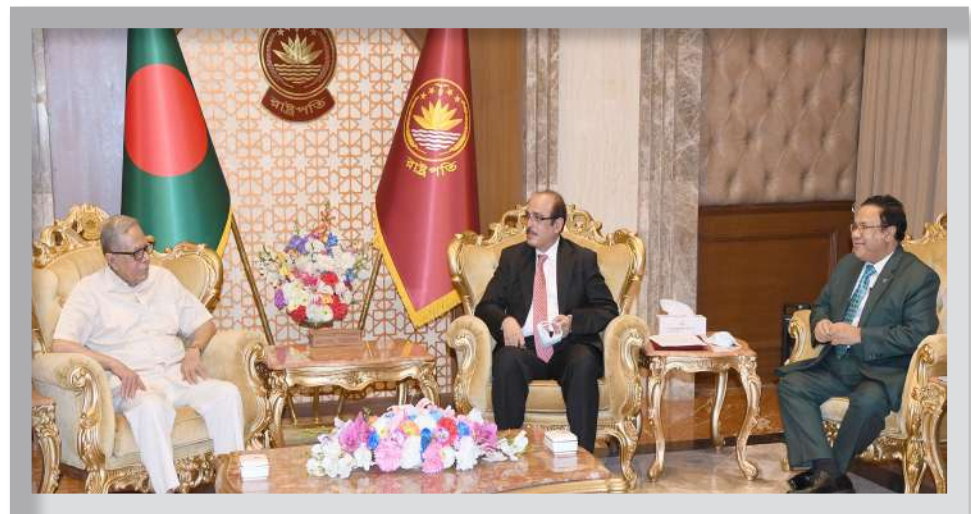
Photo Gallery





On the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021, His Excellency the President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, the Chief Guest of the program, is giving a virtual speech in the discussion meeting

Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission and Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Commissioner (Investigation) called on His Excellency the President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban on 19 September 2021



Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh, is speaking as special guest at the discussion meeting organized on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021

Distinguished guests present at the discussion meeting on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021



Inaugural of series of programmes on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021

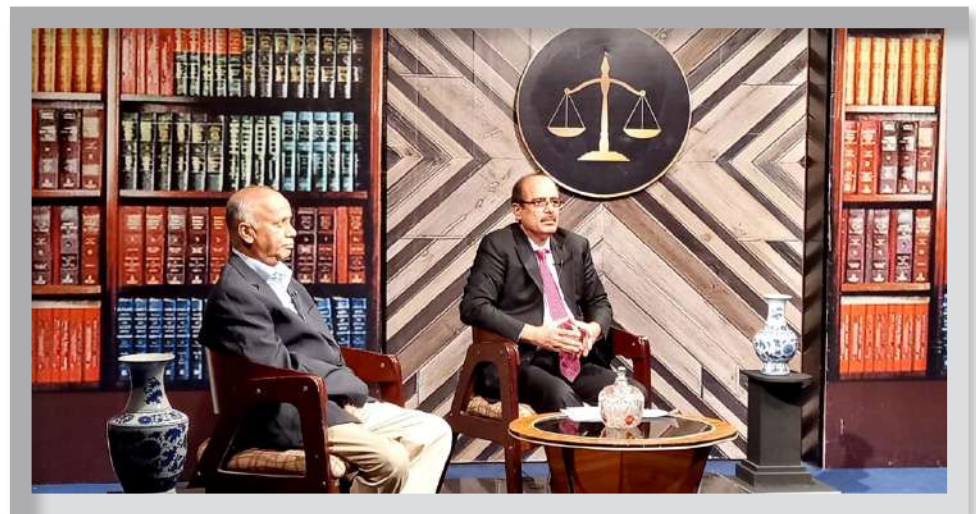
Exchange of views of the newly formed Commission with the senior officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission





A still image of the regular Commission meetings of the Anti-Corruption Commission

ACC Chairman Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah and Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan were present at a program of the BTV titled *aine-adalot*



Former ACC Secretary Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Hawladar with a delegation from the Department of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in a review meeting

The ACC Chairman Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah addressed at a human chain program in front of the Institution of Engineers in Dhaka on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021



On the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021, the ACC Commissioner (Investigation) Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan along with the Commission Secretary Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Hawladar participated in a discussion program aired on the BTV

The ACC Chairman Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah is briefing the media professionals





Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, Chairman of the ACC, spoke at the presentation of RAC's Best Reporting Award 2021. The two Commissioners were also present

Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, Chairman of the Commission receives a memento from the President of RAC at the awarding ceremony of Best Reporting Award 2021



Commission's Exchange of Views meeting with journalists of RAC

Commission's exchange of views with the media on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the Anti-Corruption Commission



Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Commissioner (Investigation) is speaking at a public hearing organized by the ACC in Sylhet

Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Hawladar, Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission at a regular press briefing





Delegation of the ACC at the UN's Conference of States Parties held in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt in 2021

Delegation of the ACC at the UN's Conference of States Parties held in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt in 2021



Officials of the ACC participating in a training organized by the CBI in India

The ACC officials at a workshop on enhancing effective regional cooperation against money laundering organized by the UNODC in Maldives in 2021



Former Chairman Mr. Iqbal Mahmood, former Commissioner (Investigation) Mr. AFM Aminul Islam, former Secretary Muhammad Dilwar Bakht and representatives of Oxfam and Channel i at the press conference on the occasion of National Anti-Corruption Debate Competition-2020

The ACC officials at a workshop on enhancing effective regional cooperation against money laundering organized by the UNODC in Sri Lanka in 2021





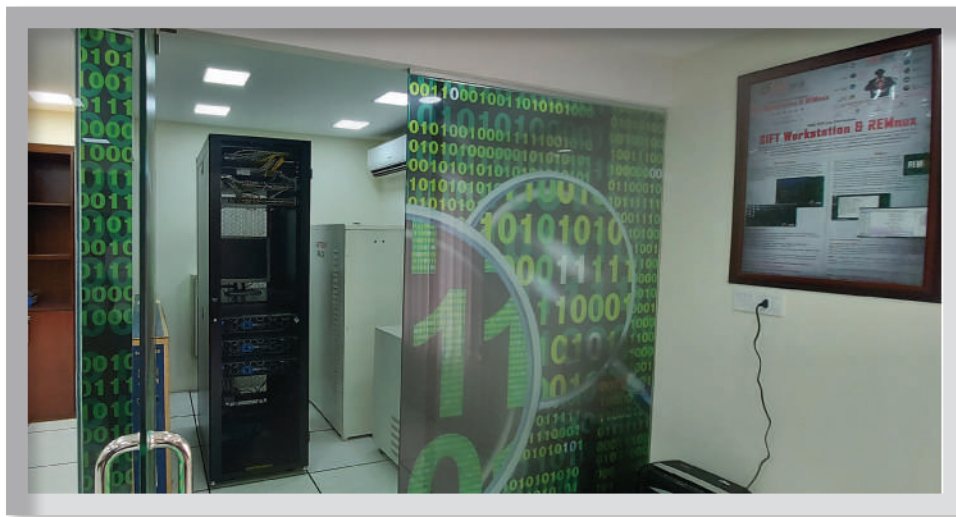
At the launching ceremony of a short film against corruption to mark Mujib Year, former Chairman Mr. Iqbal Mahmood, Commissioner (investigation) Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, former Commissioner (Investigation) AFM Aminul Islam and ACC former Secretary Muhammad Dilwar Bakht

Former Chairman Mr. Iqbal Mahmood and trainee officers of the ACC at the BCS (Tax) Academy during a special training on 'Income Tax Laws and Regulations' held on 18-20 February 2020



Mr. Md. Monirul Islam, Additional IGP and Head of Special Branch of Bangladesh Police (former Head of CTTC), and Director General (ICT & Training) of the ACC along with trainee officers of the training titled 'Scientific Investigation' held at Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit

Orientation training on the use of newly developed IPMS software for ACC



The ACC has set up a new forensic lab

Commission exchanges views with the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)





Human chain in front of Institution of Engineers in Dhaka on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021

Human chain on Manik Mia Avenue on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021



PKSF's human chain on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021

Human chain organized on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 in Sylhet



Human chain organized on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 in Chandpur

The ACC Day Care Centre was inaugurated by the former Chairman Mr. Iqbal Mahmood. Former Commissioner (Investigation) Mr. AFM Aminul Islam was also present





Human chain organized on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 in Barishal

Operation carried out by the Enforcement Unit of the ACC



Operation carried out by the Enforcement Unit of the ACC

National Anti-
Corruption Debate
Competition - 2020
(School Level)

Venue: City Residential
Model School &
College, Chirirbandar,
Dinajpur



National Anti-
Corruption Debate
Competition - 2020
(School Level)



A day care centre
established at the ACC
Head Office in 2020

Committed to Curbing Corruption



Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh
Head Office

1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

www.acc.org.bd