



Annual Report 2023

Uniting the World Against Corruption for
Development, Peace and Security



**Anti-Corruption Commission
Bangladesh**



Annual Report 2023

Uniting the World Against Corruption for
Development, Peace and Security

Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh

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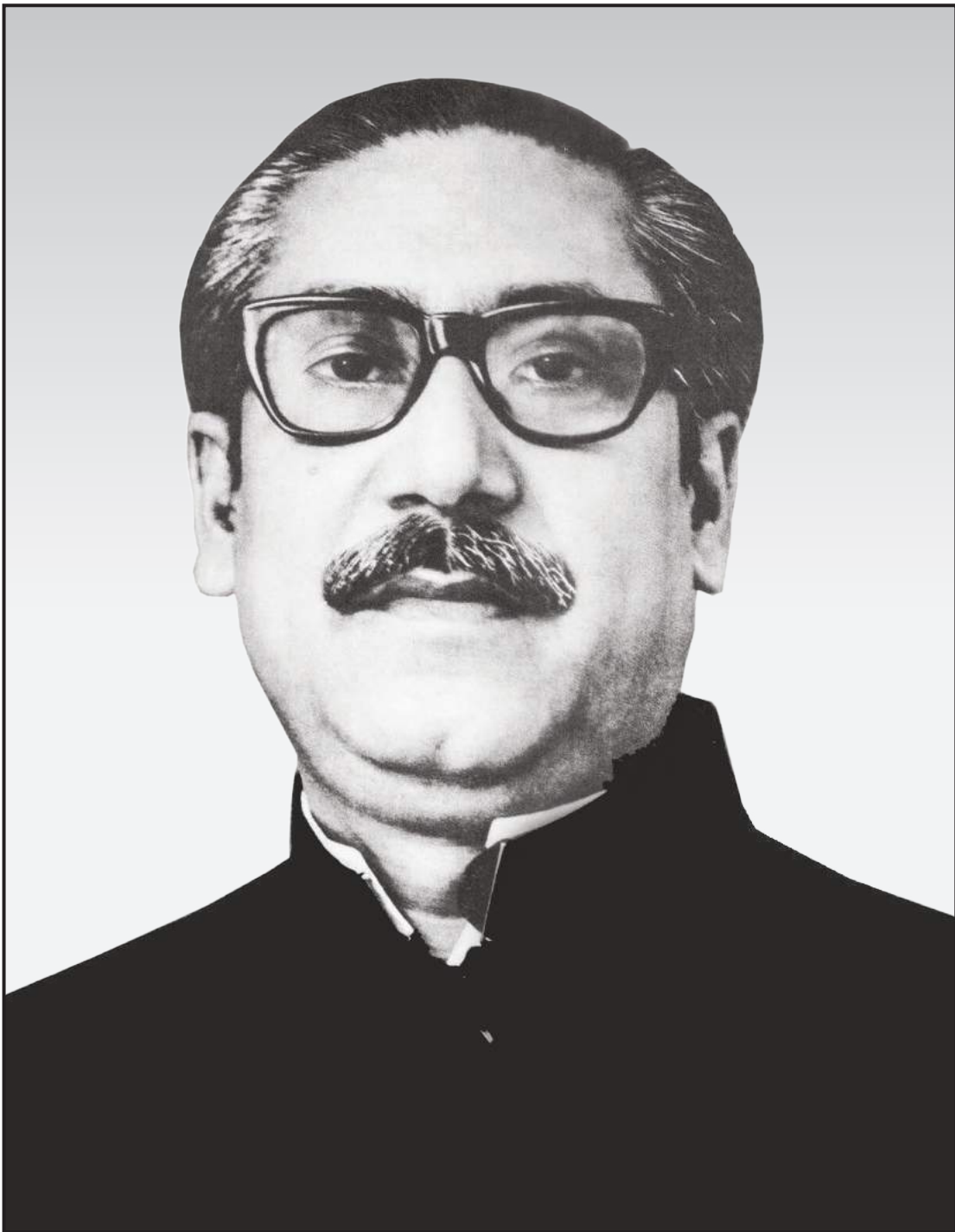
The Anti-Corruption Commission's **ANNUAL REPORT 2023** is submitted to the H.E. Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in accordance with the section 29(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004.



BANGABANDHU'S ANTI-CORRUPTION STATEMENT

After returning to Bangladesh from Pakistan on 10 January 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started the struggle to rebuild the war ravaged country. He was annoyed at the activities of dishonest and corrupt people. On the 2nd meeting of the 7th session of National Assembly, he reiterated his stand against corruption and made the following remarks-

“দুর্নীতি, ঘুষ, চোরাকারবারী, মুনাফাখোরীর বিরুদ্ধে আমাদের রুখে দাঁড়াতে হবে। আমাদের সংগ্রাম করতে হবে, কাজ করতে হবে। আমাদের জাতিকে united করতে হবে। বাঙালি জাতি যে প্রাণ, যে অনুপ্রেরণা নিয়ে স্বাধীনতা-সংগ্রাম করেছিল, সেই প্রাণ, সেই অনুপ্রেরণা, সেই মতবাদকে নিয়ে অগ্রসর হতে হবে...”



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



Anti-Corruption Commission



Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah
Chairman



Md. Jahurul Haque
Commissioner



Mst. Asia Khatoon
Commissioner



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Acronyms and Elaborations

ACC	-	Anti-Corruption Commission
ACRC	-	Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
APG	-	Asia/Pacific Group On Money Laundering
BAC	-	Bureau of Anti- Corruption
BDT	-	Bangladeshi Taka
BFIU	-	Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit
BNCC	-	Bangladesh National Cadet Corps
BTRC	-	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
C&AG	-	Comptroller and Auditor General
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
DoE	-	Department of Environment
DPP	-	Development Project Proposal
ECNEC	-	Executive Committee of the National Economic Council
EOI	-	Expression of Interest
FR	-	Final Reports
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
IACA	-	International Anti-Corruption Academy
IAACA	-	International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities
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
NGO	-	Non Government Organization
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
PPR	-	Public Procurement Rules
PWD	-	Public Works Department
ROR	-	Record of Rights
RAC	-	Reporters Against Corruption
RTI	-	Right to Information
TIB	-	Transparency International Bangladesh
UAT	-	User Acceptance Test
UNCAC	-	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNODC	-	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme



20 March 2024

His Excellency
Mohammed Shahabuddin
Honourable President
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Your Excellency,

We are delighted to present you the Annual Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission for 2023 in accordance with the 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.

The report prepared for the year 2023 includes the background and introduction of the Commission, performance, internal and external accountability, recent achievement and future plan with detailed information on asset management. Some general information, statistics and analysis have been incorporated in the report for the sake of clarity and simplicity. 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

Md. Jahurul Haque
Commissioner
Anti-Corruption Commission

Mst. Asia Khatoon
Commissioner
Anti-Corruption Commission



Preface

Corruption is an unethical activity which is acceptable to no quarters. From legal point of view, bribery, criminal breach of trust, fraud, forgery, abuse of power, embezzlement of public property and money, money laundering or criminal misconduct by public servants are termed as corruption. It also includes acquisition and possession of assets beyond known source of income, embezzlement of public property and money by fraudulence, paying bribe to a public servant and money laundering by a citizen. Corruption creates instability and inequality in the society, cripples the economy and hinders the development of the country. Corruption is considered as a global problem. No country in the world is completely free from corruption. However, its magnitude is not equal. Bangladesh is no exception to this global reality. After the Anti-Corruption Commission Act had been passed in 2004, the Commission was established with the specific aim of preventing, suppressing and controlling corrupt practices in Bangladesh as well as carrying out appropriate actions to foster a sense of honesty, justice and loyalty in the society.

The great architect of our independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for a country free from exploitation, poverty and corruption. According to Article 20(2) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, "The State shall endeavour to create a condition where as a general principle no person shall be able to enjoy unearned incomes..." Combating corruption is the only way to fulfil statutory obligations, be accountable to the nation and its citizens and create a developed, prosperous and smart Bangladesh by 2041. Therefore, the Anti-Corruption Commission is committed to preventing and suppressing the multidimensional invasion of corruption.

Since its inception, the Anti-Corruption Commission has pursued legal action against the Commission's scheduled offences. In accordance with Article 13 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the Commission is always active in engaging all stakeholders including the general people of different strata and the media and thus wants to implement the policy of zero tolerance against corruption. By holding public hearings to address harassment, irregularities, corruption and delays in receiving public services, the Commission seeks to promote a greater sense of mutual trust between service recipients and the service providers. In order to accomplish this, the Commission is developing and implementing comprehensive strategies to prevent, repress, and control corruption in different contexts and socio-economic realities.

The ACC Complaint Centre hotline 106 was launched by the Commission on 27 July 2017, with a view to promptly addressing corruption complaints. Since then, it has emerged into a national model platform for lodging complaints by a cross section of people. Prevention is preferable to repressing any occurrence. The Enforcement Unit of the ACC was established on 23 January 2019 aiming at preventing corruption before it takes place and taking immediate remedial measures. Moreover, in order to capture dishonest and bribe-taking officials, the Enforcement Unit frequently carries out trap operations. The Commission has increased surveillance over corruption-prone sectors. Additionally, the Enforcement Unit takes prompt action regarding complaints received by its toll free ACC hotline (No. 106). Throughout the year, this unit has carried out 524 enforcement activities across the country and has sent 632 letters to various departments for taking effective action.



Over the past few years, money laundering and related activities have appeared to the forefront. In this regard, the achievement of ACC is noteworthy. The conviction rate of ACC in money laundering cases is 80% in 2023. At the same time, in judicial tribunals, the conviction rate is higher than 67%. At present, 3,353 trial cases are pending before subordinate courts across the country. It should be noted that in 2023, the Commission approved the enquiry of 845 complaints based on the petitions received from various sources. This year, the Commission has approved the proposal to file 404 cases and submit 363 charge-sheets.

Corrupt practices can be brought down to a reasonable level if people can develop an aversion towards them. Acknowledging this fact, the Commission has been prioritizing the issue of prevention in addition to combating corruption. Public hearings are arranged in various districts. This involves raising public awareness for preventing corruption on a large scale. The initiatives taken by the Commission has a great positive impact on the society across the country. Corruption Prevention Committees (CPC) at the district and upazila levels have engaged people from different tiers in a variety of anti-corruption initiatives. Attempts have been taken to inculcate honesty in order to shield young children from the harmful concept of corruption. For this purpose, the Anti-Corruption Commission has opened 'Integrity Stores' and formed 'Integrity Units', which involve young people of different educational levels and representatives of the civil society.

The Commission has prepared an annual report, as it does every year, in compliance with Section 29(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004. Through this report, which is presented to the Honourable President, people will be informed about the Commission's activities of the previous year, the action plan that was adopted this year and the recommendations that the Commission has made for addressing various irregularities, such as harassment, corruption and delays in receiving government services.

Monitoring measures have been put in place by the Anti-Corruption Commission to make sure that the enquiry and investigation of corruption charges are not unduly prolonged. In accordance with the Constitution's mandate, the Commission firmly believes that appropriate action should be taken to stop anyone from earning ill-gotten money. Hence, establishing a strong anti-corruption culture is crucial. Only then the nation can have a developed, prosperous and smart Bangladesh free from corruption, fulfilling the goal of ACC's formation. The Anti-Corruption Commission's campaign can bring about a significant change if citizens of different tiers of the state cooperate with the Commission; that is what we hope for.

Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah
Chairman
Anti-Corruption Commission



CHAPTER ONE

Anti-Corruption Commission: Background and Introduction

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Introducing the Anti-Corruption Commission
- 1.3 Functions of the Commission
- 1.4 Scheduled Offences of the Anti-Corruption Commission



1.1. Introduction

Corruption is a social malady which prevails across the world. However, its magnitude varies from country to country. In general, abuse of official power for personal gain is termed as corruption. Penal Code, 1860 provides punishment for corrupt practices such as bribery and embezzlement by public servants. But, as corruption assumed vastness over time, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 was enacted making some other illegal activities punishable such as acquisition of assets beyond known sources of income. Although Police Department had been initially given the responsibility for implementation of this Act, the Anti-Corruption Act, 1957 was enacted afterwards in order to form a specialized agency to fight corruption called the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC). For over a period of four decades including more than three decades in independent Bangladesh, the BAC conducted legal proceedings against corruption.

However, as desired outcomes were beyond its reach, a fresh enactment titled "Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004" was passed in the National Parliament on 23 February 2004 being Act No. V of 2004. As mentioned in its preamble, this Act considers the establishment of "an independent Anti-Corruption Commission" as "expedient and necessary" for the purpose of preventing "corruption and other corrupt practices in the country and for conducting enquiry and investigation of corruption and other specified offences". This Act, instead of having immediate effect, came into force on being published in the official Gazette on 9 May 2004; following this, initial steps were taken to appoint the Commissioners to constitute the Commission. Later, Commissioners – appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Selection Committee as provided in this Act – joined the Anti-Corruption Commission on 21 November 2004, and the Chairman was appointed from one of them. So 21 November 2004 is considered the date on which the official functions of the Commission commenced. But due to various legal complexities and delays in making Rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Commission's full-speed activities were hampered till 2007. Later, the Anti-Corruption Commission Rules 2007 were promulgated on 29 March 2007 with prior approval of the President and the Commission started its activities in full swing. Afterwards, the "Anti-Corruption Commission (Employees) Service Rules, 2008" were approved on 15 June 2008; the Commission manages its manpower following these Rules.

1.2 Introducing the Anti-Corruption Commission

1.2.1 Our Responsibilities and Mandates

To conduct enquiry and investigation of corruption and other specified offences functioning as a prosecuting agency under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 (Act V of 2004) for the purpose of prevention of corruption and corrupt practices in the country.



1.2.2 Vision of the Commission

To create a strong anti-corruption culture that permeates throughout the whole society.

1.2.3 Mission of the Commission

Relentlessly combat, control, suppress & prevent corruption.

1.2.4 Commission's Three Strategic Objectives

- ❖ To prevent corruption in revising the existing work procedures;
- ❖ To curb corruption through ways of punitive actions; and
- ❖ To suppress malfeasance through spreading education, promoting good practices and enhancing awareness.

The aforesaid strategic goals are backed up by four objectives:

- ❖ Formulating institutional frameworks;
- ❖ Formulating operational procedures;
- ❖ Assistance to human resources and developing robust internal administrative system ; and
- ❖ Providing sound financial and technical (logistic) support.

1.2.5 Commission's Key Performance Indicators

- ❖ Percentage of cases disposed against the number of cases instituted per year;
- ❖ Amount of time used up in holding enquires and investigations to dispose the complaints;
- ❖ Rate of cases under trial (prosecutions) against number of cases disposed ; and
- ❖ Rate of convictions against the cases ended in trials annually.

1.2.6 Commission's Executive Structures

The Anti-Corruption Commission is a statutory body made up of three Commissioners. Pursuant to provisions of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, a five-member search committee is formed which is headed by a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. On this committee's recommendations, three full-time Commissioners are appointed by the Hon'ble President for a five-year tenure. On expiration of their respective tenures, the Commissioners cease to be eligible for re-appointment.

The Hon'ble President, from among the three Commissioners, appoints a Chairman who discharges his responsibilities as the Chief Executive of the Commission. All the meetings of the Commission are held at the place and time as determined by the Chairman. Meetings of the Commission are presided over by the Chairman or, in his absence, by a Commissioner nominated by him. Presence of two Commissioners including the Chairman forms the quorum of its meetings.

On ceasing to hold office, Commissioners are barred from holding any post of profit in the service of the Republic. No Commissioner shall be removed from office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.



1.3 Functions of the Commission

1.3.1 Functions

The Commission performs the functions as conferred upon it by the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 (and the Amendments thereof). The Anti-Corruption Commission is an independent and impartial institution for control and prevention of corruption. Some of the key functions of the Commission are-

1. To carry out enquiries and investigations into the scheduled offences as shown under the ACC Act and as found stated in the applications submitted by a person on own initiative, or by an aggrieved person or on behalf of such person;
2. To accord sanctions for instituting cases on the basis of enquires held and sanctions for submission of Charge-Sheets/Final Reports based on investigations, and to prosecute the cases;
3. To conduct enquiries and investigations into the alleged cases of money laundering and deal with the prosecutions, in accordance with the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (including the Amendments);
4. To put forth recommendations before the Hon'ble President regarding the following issues:
 - To review and effectively implement the measures conceded to under any laws for prevention of corruption;
 - To formulate research proposals pertaining to prevention of corruption, and decide on measures actionable based on the outcome of researches;
 - To identify the sources of multiple forms of existing corruptions keeping in view the perspectives of the socio-economic situations in Bangladesh;
5. To generate the values of integrity and dedication with objective to prevention of corruption and build up public awareness against corruption, and also to organize seminars, symposiums, workshops, etc. on issues that come under the purview of the Commission's functions and responsibilities;
6. To perform any other responsibilities which have been lawfully vested with the Commission;
7. To undertake any measures for prevention of corruption, as deemed necessary by the Commission.

1.3.2 Laws and Powers

The Commission goes with its functions, powers and organizational structures in line with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004. The other relevant laws are-

1. The Penal Code, 1860
2. The Evidence Act, 1872
3. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898
4. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947
5. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1958
6. The Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 and the Amendments.



1.3.3 The Commission's Special Powers for Enquiry/Investigation

1. Summoning the witnesses, ensuring their attendance and interrogation
2. Search out and putting up any records
3. Recording depositions
4. Asking for government records or certified copies from any court or office;
5. Issuance of notice for interrogation of the witnesses and review or re-examination of records
6. Taking any other prescribed actions in fulfillment of the purpose of the law in conformance to Section 19 (3) of the ACC Act, 2004, " Any person obstructing an official legally empowered by the commission or a commissioner in the exercise of his powers under this sub-section (1) or any person deliberately violating any order given under that sub-section commits a punishable offence is liable to a term of imprisonment of not more than three (3) years or a fine or both".

1.3.4 Commission's Fundamental Work

The fundamental goal of the ACC is to operate relentless drives to curb, control and resist corruption. To achieve this goal, the ACC is going ahead in getting with the following responsibilities and working systems:

- To conduct enquiries, investigations and deal with other legal proceedings assiduously so that the corrupt people can in no way take any indulgence, whatsoever;
- Identifying the areas more prone to corruption, to enquire effectively into the corruptions in those areas and cause legal remedies in addition carrying out educative and awareness raising programmes as curative and preventive approaches;
- Raising social movement against corruption by integrating the social power to prevent corruption;
- Ensuring an environment free from corruption through these effective and coordinated approach to curative and preventive measures;
- Adopting necessary interventions to engender ethical values and promote good practices by way of executing bilateral MoUs;

The Commission is heading fast with series of parallel actions to curb, control and prevent corruption. The Commission is committed so that the attempts for corruption can be nipped in the bud. Yet in case any corruption takes place, the Commission plunges up to rush to instant legal actions accordingly. Besides, the Commission has started implementing various programs in collaboration with all classes of representatives from the society to impact up a social movement against corruption.

1.4 Scheduled Offences of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004

Anti-Corruption Commission works with the following scheduled offences-

1.4.1 Offences under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004;

- Section 19 (3): Non-compliance of commission's order or impede the enquiry/investigation is punishable;
- Section 26 (2): Submitting false declaration or non-submission of asset declaration form;
- Section 27 (1): Possession of property disproportionate to known sources of income;
- Section 28 (C): Knowingly giving false complaints of corruption against Public Servant.



1.4.2 Offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947;

1.4.3 Offences under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012;

1.4.4 The following offences of Penal Code 1860 (Act XLV of 1860);

- Section 161: Public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration;
- Section 162: Taking gratification, in order, by corrupt or illegal means, to influence public servant;
- Section 163: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant;
- Section 164: Punishment for abetment by public servant of offences defined in section 162 or 163;
- Section 165: Public servant obtaining valuable thing, without consideration from person concerned in proceeding or business transacted by such public servant;
- Section 165(A): Punishment for abetment of offences defined in sections 161 and 165;
- Section 165(B): Certain abettors excepted;
- Section 166: Public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person;
- Section 167: Public servant framing an incorrect document with intent to cause injury;
- Section 168: Public servant unlawfully engaging in trade;
- Section 169: Public servant unlawfully buying or bidding for property;
- Section 217: Public servant disobeying direction of law with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture;
- Section 218: Public servant framing incorrect record or writing with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture;
- Section 409: Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent.

1.4.5 The following offences if they are related to public property, of if Government employees, bank employees or employees of financial institutions commit the following offences-

- Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing deliver of property;
- Section 467: Forgery of valuable security, will, etc.;
- Section 468: Forgery for purpose of cheating;
- Section 471: Using as genuine a forged document;
- Section 477(A): Falsification of accounts.

1.4.6 Offences under section 109 (abetment), section 120B (conspiracy) and section 511A (attempt) of the Penal Code, 1860 committed in connection with any offence under sub-sections (a), (b) or (c) of this section.

- Section 109: Punishment of abetment if the act abetted is committed in consequence and where no express provision is made for its punishment;
- Section 120 (B): Punishment of criminal conspiracy;
- Section 511: Punishment for attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment.



CHAPTER TWO

Institutional Capacity Building of ACC

- 2.1 Human Resource Management and Development
- 2.2 Some Notable Activities of the Administration wing
- 2.3 Development Projects of Anti-Corruption Commission
- 2.4 Activities of the Intelligence Unit of the Commission
- 2.5 Distribution of ACC's Workforce at Head Office and Field Offices
- 2.6 Budget Management of the Commission
- 2.7 Steps taken by the ACC to prevent Internal Corruption
- 2.8 Enactment/Amendment of Laws Rules and Policies
- 2.9 Oversight and Evaluation of Commission's Overall Performances
- 2.10 Digital Forensic Lab and Document Forensic System
- 2.11 Providing information under the Right to Information Act, 2009
- 2.12 Archives of the Commission



Institutional Capacity Building of ACC

2.1 Human Resource Management and Development

Through its Administration wing, the Anti-Corruption Commission manages its human resource, spends budgetary allocations according to existing regulations, maintains accounts, and manages all types of physical assets, including infrastructure. 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 its five-year (2017-2021) strategy.

The Administration wing has issued several office orders, circulars and office memorandums to ensure transparency, accountability, effective enquiry, investigation and overall development of training, communication techniques and institutional capacity at all levels of the Commission. Through these, several activities of the Commission have been restructured. An important aspect of modern administrative management is to ensure transparency and accountability in the service delivery process of respective organisations by applying various innovative and creative strategies in addition to using technology. The Administration wing of the ACC is implementing multidimensional activities for this purpose.

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, 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 which is headed by a Director General. All kinds of internal regulatory activities including internal transparency, accountability, discipline and incentives of the employees of the Commission are carried out through this wing.

2.2 Some Notable Activities of the Administration Wing

2.2.1 Information related to infrastructure development of the Commission

Apart from the head office of the Anti-Corruption Commission, there are eight divisional offices and 36 district offices. In the past, the Commission set up its own office buildings in Rangamati, Noakhali, Jashore, Mymensingh, Kushtia and Habiganj. Besides, the Commission has taken a project for setting up its own buildings at divisional and district levels in Khulna, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barishal and Sylhet and for vertical extension of Mymensingh Divisional office. Moreover, the Commission has a plan to construct a state-of-the-art building for its head office.

2.2.2 Information regarding logistic support

Logistic support is a very important factor for successful implementation of any work within a short time. In order to successfully implement its anti-corruption, prevention and immediate action activities, ACC provides logistic support continuously to its head office, divisional office and



integrated district/district offices. As a result, it becomes possible to curb and prevent corruption and take prompt actions smoothly.

2.2.3 Information technology development of the Anti-Corruption Commission

The use of information technology has been increased in the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission to meet the challenges of fourth industrial revolution. Regular direct connection has been established through video conferencing with administrative officials at the district and upazila levels of the country, including the district and divisional offices of the Commission. The system established by the National Telecommunication Monitoring Cell is used by the Commission to receive information about various complaints. With the inauguration of ACC's toll-free hotline (106), the public can now easily report daily complaints of corruption directly to the ACC. Now international incoming calls can be received on this hotline; in addition, expatriates can easily register complaints by calling directly on +8809612106106. Besides, social media is used for receiving complaints and informing the general public about the activities of the Commission. Complaints are also received through the Commission's verified Facebook page (www.facebook.com/acc.org.bd), e-mail (chairman@acc.org.bd) and other social media platforms. ACC has its own interactive website, which is updated regularly. As a result, people are able to report the instances of corruption immediately.

The Commission has introduced software called 'Investigation and Prosecution Management System (IPMS)' which has automated the activities of enquiry, investigation and prosecution of corruption from the point of receiving complaints by the ACC. A well-equipped digital forensic lab has been set up at the Commission's head office to retrieve information from digital devices for the sake of Commission's enquiry and investigation. In order to recruit manpower for the Commission, acceptance, verifications and issuance of admit cards are completed through Teletalk's e-Recruitment service. Many documents are disposed of through electronic platform (e-nothi) at ACC. Tender-related activities are conducted in the Commission through e-GP system. Interrogation rooms have been brought under CCTV cameras for full time monitoring of interrogation activities. Face Recognition Machine has been installed in Digital Attendance System. For the security of computer network equipment of all offices of ACC, IP network has been installed and the process of installation of IP cameras is in progress.

2.3 Development Projects of Anti-Corruption Commission

2.3.1 Overview of the projects completed under the Anti-Corruption Commission

From January, 2013 to June, 2019, three projects were implemented by the Anti-Corruption Commission; these are: (1) Construction of new building for Jashore integrated district office (2) Construction of office buildings at Noakhali and Habiganj (1st Revised) and (3) Construction of office buildings at Rangamati, Kushtia and Mymensingh (1st Revised).

- ✓ Through these projects, two-storey buildings have been constructed at Jashore, Habiganj, Rangamati, Kushtia and Mymensingh on 1.16 acres, 0.35 acres, 0.44 acres, 0.50 acres and 0.50 acres of land respectively and a three-storey building at Noakhali on 0.24 acres of land.



- ✓ After implementing these three projects, ACC has its own office buildings at six districts. These infrastructural developments have created a congenial working environment for the employees ensuring a secure arrangement for keeping records.

Institutional Capacity Building of Anti-Corruption Commission (2nd Revised) Project

A Technical Assistance Project titled "Institutional Capacity Building of Anti-Corruption Commission (2nd Revised)" was implemented from April 2017 to June 2022. Web-based Investigation Prosecution Management System (IPMS) software has been developed for monitoring the progress of enquiries, investigations and trials. Two studies have been completed on "Assessing the Effectiveness of the Current Anti-Corruption Activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission" and "Effectively Determining the Obstacles to Enquiry and Investigation of Corruption Cases" under the assistance of the project.

2.3.2 Overview of ongoing projects under the Anti-Corruption Commission

A project titled "Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission" was implemented between July, 2018 and December, 2023. The estimated cost of the project is Tk 4454.16 lac. The overall progress of the project is satisfactory. The main objectives of the project are (a) to enhance the capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission through professional development of the ACC employees, (b) to reduce corruption in the public-private sector through development of skills of Corruption Prevention Committees and Integrity Units and (c) to facilitate and speed up ACC's office automation activities. The current status of the project is as follows:

- ❖ ACC has established its Digital Forensic Lab. In order to operate the lab smoothly, it has already trained up 16 officers at home and abroad;
- ❖ Document Forensic System has been purchased under this project;
- ❖ Under the project two microbuses, 250 desktop computers, 66 laptops, 200 scanners and 50 printers have been procured;
- ❖ Under the project 40 officers have been trained abroad while 960 officers and employees and 1100 members of the Corruption Prevention Committees have received training at home;
- ❖ Educational materials (schoolbags made of jute, measuring scales, school notebooks, geometry boxes, water pots, tiffin-boxes, penholders, umbrellas, dustbins and purses) have been procured and distributed among students as part of corruption preventive activities;
- ❖ For the moral uplift of meritorious students of Integrity Units, one male and one female students from all upazilas of the country were awarded 1000 taka per head from January 2020 to June 2020 for six months and from January 2022 to December 2023 for 2 years as special recognition;
- ❖ Setting up of Local Area Network (LAN) in all the offices of the Commission;
- ❖ A wing based automation software has been developed under the project.



2.3.3 Overview of the proposed project under Anti-Corruption Commission

A project titled "Construction of New Office Buildings in Khulna, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barishal and Sylhet Divisional Offices and vertical extension of Mymensingh Divisional Office" of ACC has been forwarded to Planning Commission for approval. The tentative implementation period of the project is from April, 2024 to March, 2028. It will create congenial working environment for ACC employees and facilitate maintenance of confidentiality and security of ACC evidences and documents.

On the proposed project, a meeting of the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) was held under the chairmanship of the Member of Physical Infrastructure Division of Planning Commission on 30 April, 2023. In the light of the decisions of the said meeting, the reconstituted DPP was forwarded to the Physical Infrastructure Division of Planning Commission on 18 September 2023 for approval in the ECNEC.

2.4 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 for preventing and controlling corruption effectively, the Unit follows the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004. 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 complainants through ACC's Complaints Centre Hotline (106), news reports of various print and electronic media, social media or from any other organisation. The Commission's intelligence unit maintains liaison with other intelligence agencies in the country and updates its database through exchange of information.

2.4.1 Information of Anti-corruption Commission's custody arrangement

The Commission has a custody room at its head office. Arrested accused are temporarily kept in ACC's own custody room prior to being sent to courts. This room is maintained in accordance with well-defined policies. Besides its cleanliness, congenial environment has been ensured with other facilities.

2.4.2 Information regarding Armed Police Units of the Commission

A 20-member armed police unit has been deployed since 07 September 2017 for the operational work of Anti-Corruption Commission. Members of the armed units assigned to the Commission actively participate under the command of ACC officers in arresting accused and conducting anti-corruption operations. Armed Unit Management Procedures have been formulated and issued in the form of notification. Following this notification, members of this unit are included in ACC functions.



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

An organogram approved by the Government provides for 2,098 officers and employees at the Head Office, 8 Divisional Offices, and 36 Integrated District Offices as per existing staffing structure of the Commission. Distribution of human resources across the Head Office, Divisional Offices and Integrated District Offices of the ACC is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Human Resource Distribution

Sl no.	Designation	Head Office		Divisional Office		District Office		Total	
		Existing	Vacant	Existing	Vacant	Existing	Vacant	Existing	Vacant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Chairman	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2.	Commissioner	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
3.	Secretary	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
4.	Director-General	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
5.	Director	27	2	8	-	-	-	35	2
6.	Systems Analyst	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
7.	Private Secretary (to Chairman and to Commissioners)	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
8.	Private Secretary (to Secretary of the Commission)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
9.	Deputy Director	79	68	3	5	35	1	117	74
10.	Prosecutor	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
11.	Maintenance Engineer	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
12.	Assistant Maintenance Engineer	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
13.	Programmer/Assistant Systems Analyst	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
14.	Assistant Programmer	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
15.	Assistant Director	75	140	7	1	98	10	182	151
16.	Medical Officer	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
17.	Assistant Director (Information and Communication/ Public Relations Officer)	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
18.	Protocol Officer	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
19.	Assistant Director (Electrical)	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Grade-9 to above	200	234	18	6	133	11	351	251
20.	Deputy Assistant Director	36	169	7	1	111	33	154	203
21.	Court Inspector	2	8	-	-	16	20	18	28
22.	Administrative Officer	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
23.	Transport Officer	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
24.	Accounts Officer	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Grade-10	41	178	7	1	127	53	175	232



Sl no.	Designation	Head Office		Divisional Office		District Office		Total	
		Existing	Vacant	Existing	Vacant	Existing	Vacant	Existing	Vacant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25.	Computer Operator	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
26.	Nurse	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
27.	Pharmacist	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
28.	Head Assistant	24	1	5	3	-	-	29	4
29.	Assistant Inspector	4	1	-	-	47	25	51	26
30.	Accountant	1	1	6	2	-	-	7	3
31.	Stenographer-cum-Computer Operator	12	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
32.	Librarian/Cataloguer	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
33.	Steno-Typist-cum-Computer Operator	16	12	5	3	-	-	21	15
34.	Upper Division Assistant/Assistant	37	12	8	0	29	7	74	19
35.	Court Assistant (ASI)	28	0	-	-	60	4	88	4
36.	Cashier	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
37.	Data Entry/Control Operator	52	81	5	3	34	2	91	86
38.	Receptionist-cum-Telephone Operator	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
39.	Driver	39	38	8	-	35	37	82	75
40.	Health Assistant	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grade-11 to Grade-16		218	158	37	11	213	83	460	244
41.	Dispatch Rider	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
42.	Constable	66	8	9	7	98	46	173	61
43.	Security Guard	12	4	4	4	-	-	16	8
44.	Office Support Staff	36	16	8	-	-	-	44	16
45.	Transport Cleaner	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
46.	Cleaner	-	11	-	8	-	36	-	55
47.	Guard	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Grade-17 to Grade-20		118	47	21	19	98	82	237	148
Grand Total		577	617	83	37	563	221	1223	875

To effectively enquire, investigate and counter corruption, 128 employees were directly recruited in 2023 as per new organizational structure of the Anti-Corruption Commission. A total of 37 employees were promoted in the same year. These employees have been promoted on the recommendations of the departmental promotion committee based on their Annual Confidential Report (ACR), satisfactory performance in service, disciplinary record and written examination.



Promotion and Recruitment Information:

Table 2: Employees promoted in 2023

Name of the Post to which promoted	Number of promoted employees
Director	7
Deputy Director	8
Court Assistant (ASI)	20
Others employees	2
Total	37

Table 3: Employees directly recruited in 2023

Name of the recruiting post	Number of directly recruited employees
Court Inspector	14
Driver	5
Constable	109
Total	128

2.5.1 Measures taken to enhance the capacity of the employees of Anti-Corruption Commission

Corruption is the main obstacle to all kinds of development including socio-economic progress. Therefore, anti-corruption acts can be considered as part of development rather than just a legal process. The Commission's activities are made more dynamic, effective and visible with a view to freeing the country from the clutches of corruption. To this end, the Commission strives to ensure its transparency and accountability and increase the capacity of its own manpower. In addition to modernizing the working environment of the Commission in 2023, the Commission has taken several steps in organizing necessary trainings, seminars and symposiums to enhance the skills of its officers and employees.

In 2023, a total of 827 officers and employees of the Commission took part in various training courses held under the Commission's own management and with the financial and technical support of various local and foreign organizations; these include: orientation courses for newly appointed officers/employees of the Commission and trainings on Money Laundering Investigation Procedures, Performing duties at Complaint Centre-106, Ethics and Good Governance, Office Procedures and Order, use of OSINT System, Countering Trade-Based Money Laundering, Banking activities and Audio Video Forensic.



2.6 Budget management of the commission

The Commission has attained institutional capacity to ensure transparency and accountability in its financial management. Assessing its own annual demand, the Commission seeks financial allocation from the Government. Budgetary allocations are provided by the Government based on demand. Once the budget is approved, no prior approval is required from the Government except for the pre-audit of the ACC Accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor General for the expenditure of the allocated funds. The Finance and Accounts Branch of the Administration Division supervises the activities related to finance and internal audit and conducts regular audits. Allocation (Operation and Development) for the financial year 2022-23 is shown in the table below.

Table 4: Budget Management

Budget allocated for ACC in FY 2022-23 (in thousand Taka)					
Fiscal Year	Non-development	Development	Revenue	Capital	Total
2022-2023	13,02,602	1,10,300	13,09,213	1,03,389	14,12,902
Economic classification of revenue and capital (including development) expenditure in the fiscal year 2022-23 (in thousandTaka)					
Management	Description		2022-23		
Recurring	Economic Code and Head		Allocation	Expenditure	
	3111101 Basic Salary (Officer)		2,49,900	2,21,132	
	3111201 Basic Salary (Employee)		1,69,000	1,45,235	
	3311301-3111344 Allowances		4,12,735	3,50,496	
	3211 Use of goods and service		3,50,508	3,14,054	
	3258 Repairs		32,970	26,447	
Capital	4112 Capital Expenditure		23,189	17,826	
	(A) Subtotal		12,38,302	10,75,190	
	Special Activities				
	32 Use of goods and service		64,300	60,342	
	4112 Capital Expenditure		-	-	
	(B) Subtotal		64,300	60,342	
	(C) Total management Activities (A)+(B)		13,02,602	11,35,532	
	Development activities		1,10,300	77,487	
	Administrative Expenses		29,800	19,694	
	Capital Expenditure		80,500	57,793	
	(D) Subtotal		1,10,300	77,487	
	Total (C+D)		14,12,902	12,13,019	



2.7 Steps taken by ACC to prevent internal corruption

The employees of the Commission are kept under monitoring round the clock through intelligence and modern information technology. According to the Anti-Corruption Commission (Employees) Service Rules, 2008, its employees will "serve the Commission with integrity, honesty and perseverance and will not abuse their power in any way whatsoever". The rules also stipulate, "an employee's failure or reluctance to comply with the lawful orders and conduct of moral turpitude (taking bribes, getting involved in immoral or anti-social activities, and so on) shall be unacceptable; in such cases, imposition of the strictest punishment shall be ensured in the quickest possible time."

The Commission firmly believes that its staff shall be honest and loyal with a high sense of moral 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 employees. In this connection, both punishment and incentive are introduced to monitor the activities of the employees.

According to the Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007, the Commission has specific procedures for enquiry and investigation of internal corruption. Rule 19(1) of these Rules provides for an Internal Corruption Prevention Committee to watch and monitor at all times whether any officer or employee of the Commission resorts to unfair means or abuses authority or harasses any person unlawfully or commits any offence while exercising powers under the ACC Act or Rules; in such cases, the Committee shall record complaints, hold enquiry and investigation, file cases, take departmental action or make recommendations, whichever is applicable. Having a number of complaints pending for disposal, this Committee, which is headed by the Chairman of the Commission, held a number of meetings in 2023.

Table 5: Departmental actions taken against the ACC employees in 2023

Description	Number
Brought forward from previous year	13
Number of complaints received in 2023	17
Total number of departmental cases in 2023	30
Number of cases disposed of/settled in 2023	09
Major Penalties	-
Minor Penalties	06
Disposed of otherwise	03



2.8 Enactment/Amendment of Laws Rules and Policies

In order to update the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007 and Anti-Corruption Commission (Employees) Service Rules, 2008, a revision process is undergoing. The Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 and the Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007 have already been amended several times. Since the main Acts and Rules and the subsequent amendments are separate and distinct, problems arise at different times. In the smooth running of the proceedings, the process of publishing the first edition of the Acts and Rules and the subsequent amendments in the form of a compilation is in progress to solve the problems that have arisen and to take into account the performance of the employees. Moreover, ACC Manual (Part-4) has also been published for compilation and preservation of office orders, notifications, circulars and so on issued by the Anti-Corruption Commission from time to time.

2.9 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 holding internal audits. Currently, the Commission carries out these activities through its 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 the inspections, various guidelines and instructions are provided to cover wide-ranging activities, including financial expenditures, administrative affairs and enquiries into complaints and investigations.

The Directors General and the Directors of the Head Office conduct these inspections. In special cases, the two Commissioners hold inspections of the wings at ACC's Head Office and other regional offices. The Inspection Section regularly evaluates the inspection reports and submits the findings to the Chairman of the ACC.

2.10 Digital Forensic Lab and Document Forensic System

To assist the activities of enquiry and investigating officers and in order to present the evidence in the court by analyzing and providing opinions on digital evidence, such as mobile and computer data, audio-video records, disputed documents etc., seized/collected during enquiry of complaints and investigation of cases conducted by the Commission, its own digital forensic lab has been set up at the head office of the commission. With the approval of the commission, Digital Forensic Lab's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was issued on January 09th, 2023 and the Forensic Lab started functioning accordingly. As a result of setting up its own forensic lab, forensic reports are being provided on the documents and digital evidence seized during the enquiry and investigation activities of the commission. At present, apart from the head office, officers from divisional offices and district offices are regularly seeking expert opinion. A total of 23 forensic reports have been provided in 2023 by verifying 478 documents, 899 signatures and 03 audio records from the Digital Forensic Lab as per the requisition of the enquiry/investigating officers.



2.11 Providing information under the Right to Information Act, 2009:

Statistics of information provided from ACC in 2023 under the Right to Information Act, 2009:

Table 6: Providing information from ACC

Serial no.	Year	Number of Applications	Instances of providing info.	Processing
1	2023	104	75	29

2.12 Archives of the Commission

An archive has been established at the head office of the Commission. Important documents of the Commission, laws, annual reports, *Dudok Barta*, crests, posters, festoons, ACC monograms and so on are preserved and regularly exhibited in the ACC archive.



CHAPTER THREE

Regulatory Measures to Curb Corruption

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Enquiry Functions
- 3.3 Investigation Functions
- 3.4 Prosecution



Regulatory Measures to Curb Corruption

3.1 Introduction

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) as an independent, self-regulatory and impartial body was established on 21 November 2004. Since inception ACC has been engaged in regulatory functions of investigation, enquiry and prosecution with the goal of persistently curbing, controlling and preventing corruption and promoting best practices at all levels of the society.

Anti-Corruption Commission, as a part of its assigned duties, receives complaints, conducts enquiries and holds investigations relating to offences scheduled to the ACC Act and submits reports before competent courts. Additionally, the Commission appoints prosecutors to conduct ACC related cases in different courts. There are some other prosecutors who move on behalf of ACC in writ petitions, appeals, reviews or miscellaneous cases in the apex court. While performing these functions, the Commission's officers and staff invariably adhere to the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007 (amended up to 2019) complying with all other pertinent legal conditions.

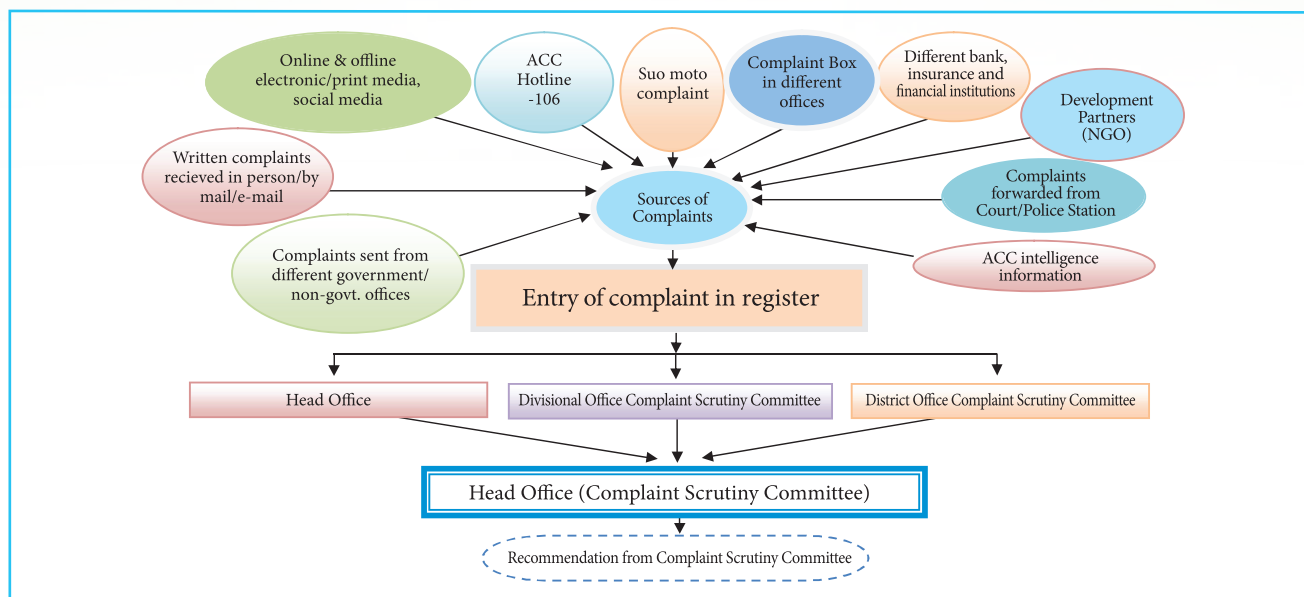
Any person either being affected or on own motivation may lodge a complaint of corruption at the Commission's Head Office at Segunbagicha in Dhaka or at any of its Divisional or Integrated District Offices. ACC holds enquiries or investigations of the complaints received if they are specific, objective and relate to an offence scheduled to the ACC Act like bribery, acquisition of illegal wealth, money laundering, abuse of power or embezzlement of public resources and money. In doing so, enquiry or investigation officers are guided by the provisions of ACC Handbook or ACC Manual framed under the light of ACC Act of 2004 and ACC Rules of 2007. Subsequently, investigation reports are submitted to appropriate courts for dealing with the accused in accordance with law; this is carried out with the overall assistance of the Commission's prosecution unit.

3.1.1 Procedure of lodging Complaints with ACC

Anti-Corruption Commission receives complaints through a number of channels. Either the victim or anybody else may apply directly to the Commission's Head Office, any Divisional Office or any of its 36 Integrated District Offices located across the country. If a prima facie case is indicated, the concerned office provides documentation in the form of a receipt numbering the complaint consecutively with date. In addition, anyone can submit a letter, send an email (chairman@acc.org.bd) or call the ACC hotline 106 to convey a complaint. Apart from these, government or non-government offices, banks, insurance or financial institutions or development partners can send complaints to the Commission directly of offences specified in the Schedule to ACC Act. Accordingly, the Commission has introduced an IPMS (Investigation and Prosecution Management System) software. Anyone can submit complaints logging into the IPMS software which is shown on ACC's website.



Flowchart of Complaint Management System



3.1.2 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 received from different sources.

In the year 2023 a total of 15,437 complaints were received from various sections of society, governmental and non-governmental organizations, including mainstream media. Among the allegations, 845 obtained the specified marks to be selected for enquiry, while 913 complaints were forwarded to the relevant ministries or departments for necessary actions. The remaining 13,679 complaints were filed as unacceptable according to the set standard.

Table 7 contains the statistics regarding the complaints received in 2023, while Table 8 gives the comparative statistics of the complaints received in the consecutive years from 2019 to 2023.

Table 7: Statistics of complaints received in 2023

Sources of the complaint	Number of complaints	Total Number of complaints	Complaints accepted for enquiry	Unacceptable complaints	Sent to Ministries for necessary action
Public (written directly to the head office)	9,262	15,437	845	13,679	913
Government Offices/Agencies	771				
Private Departments/Agencies	308				
Newspaper/TV report	1,080				
Divisional/District Offices of the Commission	1,439				
Hotline/Enforcement	462				
Others (including Court, Facebook, Email)	2,115				

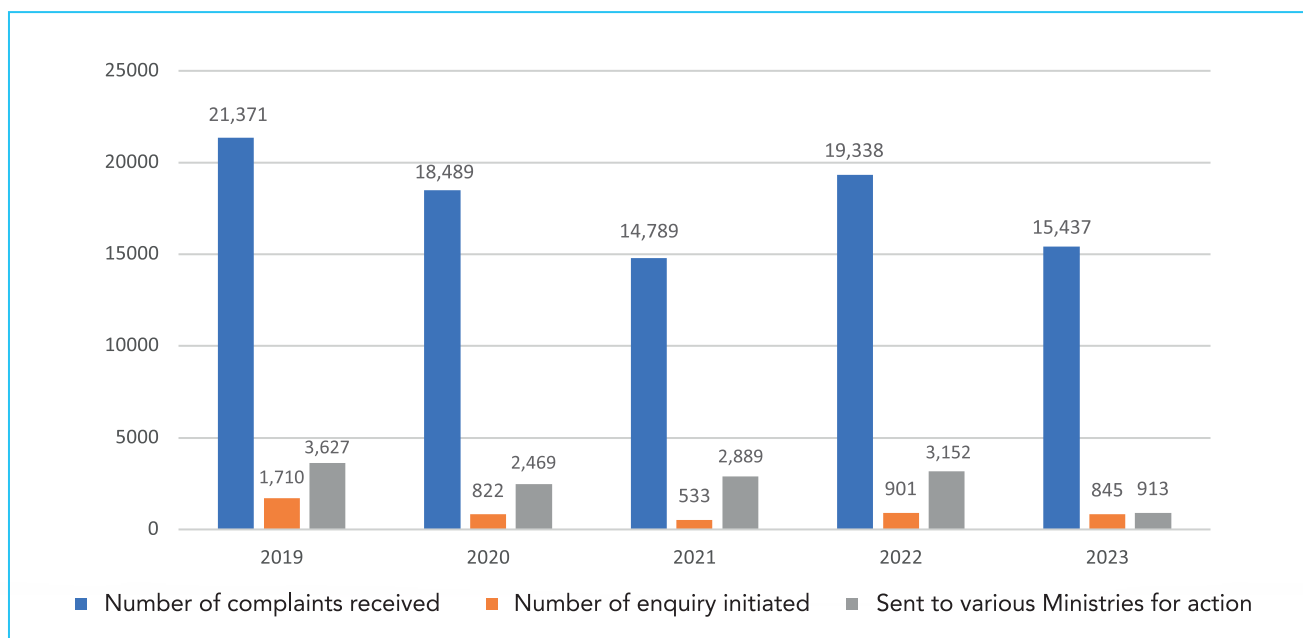


Table 8: Comparative picture of complaints received by the Commission in the last five years

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of enquiry initiated	Sent to various Ministries for action
2019	21,371	1,710	3,627
2020	18,489	822	2,469
2021	14,789	533	2,889
2022	19,338	901	3,152
2023	15,437	845	913

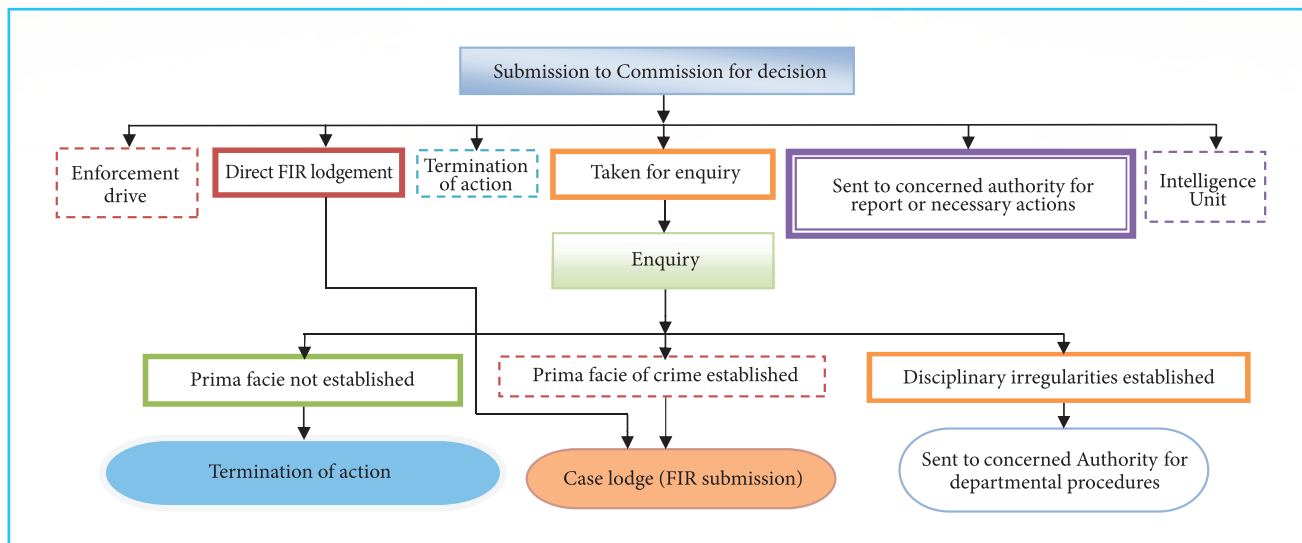
The statistics of complaints received and actions taken in the period over the last five years reveal that in 2023, a notable number of complaints were submitted to the Commission. At the same time, a good number of complaints were forwarded to relevant ministries or departments for necessary action or for sending reports to the ACC after departmental enquiry. Moreover, 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 in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023





Flowchart regarding investigation of scrutinized complaints



3.2 Enquiry Functions

Enquiry is the initial step in the prosecution of corruption offences. The Anti-Corruption Commission conducts enquiry activities about any offence included in the schedule of laws to ascertain the prima facie of the allegations. Under Section No. 20 of the ACC Act, 2004, the Commission appoints an Enquiry Officer (EO) for this purpose. Following the enquiry, the officer, in accordance with regulations, submits a report to the Commission within the specified time period as mentioned in the rules. In this instance, if the prima facie of the crime is established, a recommendation for filing a case is made by the Enquiry Officer. Otherwise, a recommendation to terminate the action is made to the Commission. Subsequently, the investigating officer files the case with the relevant Integrated District Office, depending Commission approval. It is to be noted that if any disciplinary offence is established, it is sent to the concerned department for departmental action.

In addition, if relevant, the Commission is required by law to perform a confidential enquiry as soon as it receives a complaint. However, a public inquiry is mainly used to initiate official action in response to any allegation.

The ACC act's Sections 19 and 20 grant the Commission special authority to conduct enquiry and investigations. Its four wings- Money Laundering, Special Investigation, Investigation-1 and Investigation-2 are responsible for carrying out the aforementioned duties. The branches and sub-branches of the Investigation departments are also in charge of overseeing the field-level investigative tasks carried out by the 8 divisional offices and the 36 district offices. The Special Investigation wing of the Commission has jurisdiction to investigate some specialized areas such as institutional corruption, large scale financial corruption and other specialized activities.

The Money Laundering wing of the Commission carries out enquiries and investigations of money laundering offences concerning bribery and corruption according to the existing Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2012. It is to be noted that the Money Laundering Act covers 27 predicate offences, of which only one is addressed by the ACC relating to laundering money acquired through bribery and corruption. The National Board of Revenue, CID and other agencies are authorized to investigate the remaining 26 predicate offences for potential money laundering activities.



3.2.1 Legal basis of enquiry

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

The two Investigation wings are responsible for supervising the field level enquiries and investigations conducted by eight Divisional Offices and 36 District offices. The Special Enquiry and Investigation wing has the jurisdiction to enquire and investigate in specialized areas. The areas include institutional corruption, arrests of corrupt individuals through trap operation, large-scale financial corruption and other allegations.

Under the existing Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012, 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 predicate offences related to money laundering are conducted by the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and some other responsible agencies.

3.2.2 Statistics of new enquiries undertaken by the Commission

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. The data presented below shows that the total number of enquiries in the year 2023 stood at 4,428 including the pending enquiries from the previous years. The Commission completed 1,206 enquiries in 2023. Based on the completed enquiries, the Commission has filed 404 cases. The remaining enquiries have been disposed of by other means prescribed in the ACC Rules.

Table 9: Statistics of the enquiry activities of the complaints in 2023

Unfinished enquiry of previous years	New enquiry	Total enquiries	Completed enquiry	Filed Case	Disposal through termination	Disposal in other means
3,505*	923	4,428	1,206*	404	562	261

*Multiple cases have been arisen from the same document



Graph 2: A picture of the overall enquiry activities in 2023

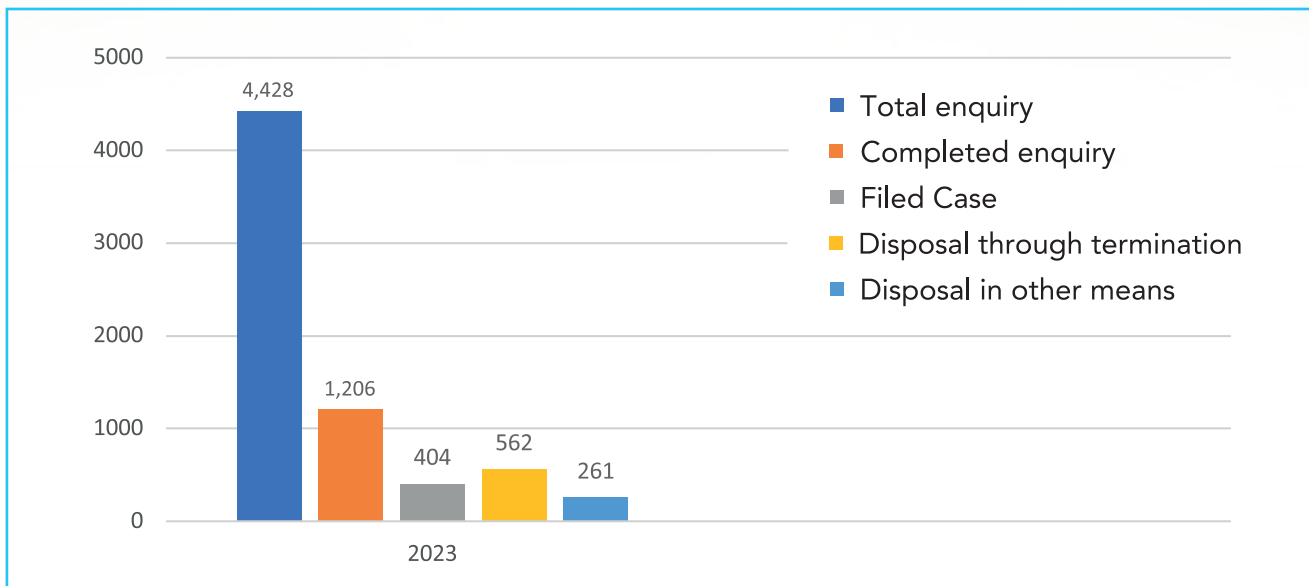
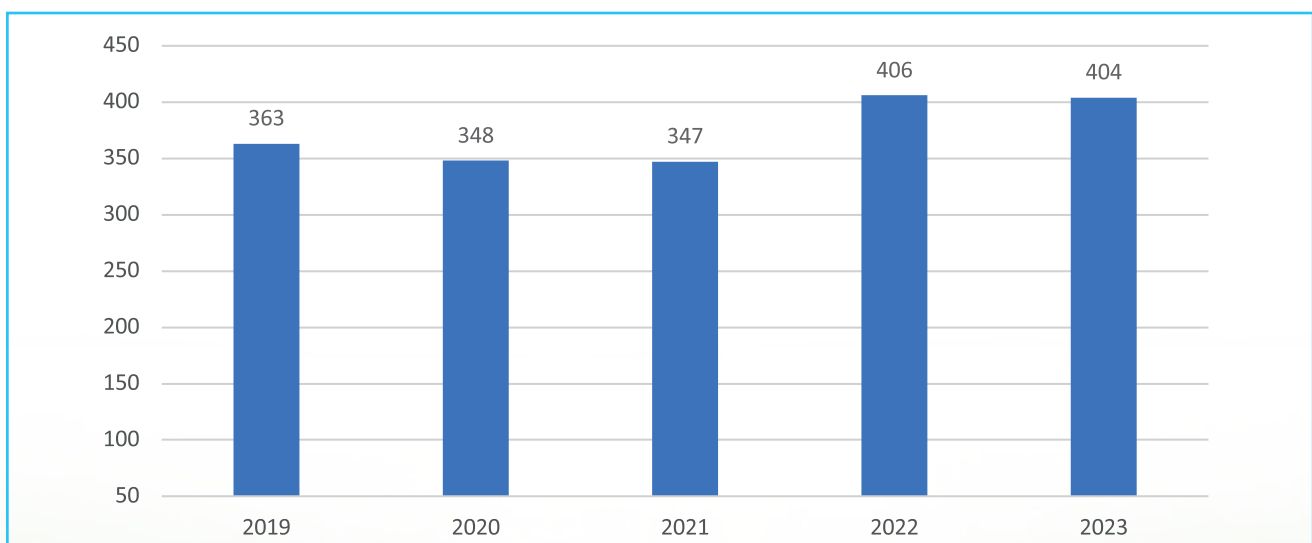


Table 10: Statistics of cases filed by the Commission in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Year	Number of cases filed
2019	363
2020	348
2021	347
2022	406
2023	404

Reviewing the statistics of cases filed by the Commission in the last five years, it is observed that both in 2022 and 2023, the Commission filed more than 400 cases.

Graph 3: Comparative picture of cases filed by the Commission in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023





3.2.3 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 total 1,905 running enquiries in 2023, 462 enquiries were initiated in 2023 and the remaining 1,443 were from previous years. The Commission could complete 608 enquiries and could file 172 cases based on those enquiries.

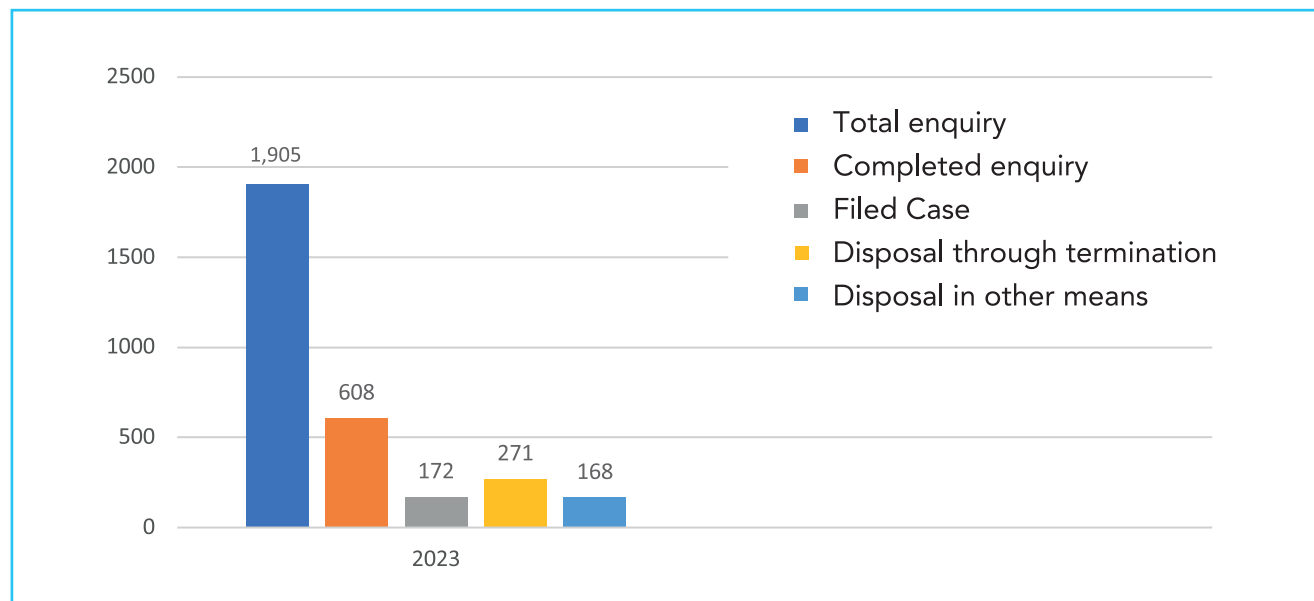
Statistics on asset enquiry and results are presented in Table 11 and Graph 4.

Table 11: Statistics of Asset enquiry activities in 2023

Unfinished enquiry of previous years	New enquiry	Total enquiries	Completed enquiry	Filed Case	Disposal through termination	Disposal in other means
1,443	462	1,905	608*	172	271	168

*Multiple cases have been arisen from the same document

Graph 4: Asset enquiry and results



3.2.4 Money Laundering related enquiries

In 2023, out of 148 ongoing enquiries, the Commission could finish 10 enquiries. Of them nine complaints turned into litigation, 5 were disposed of as there were no substantive findings and no disposal of through other lawful processes.

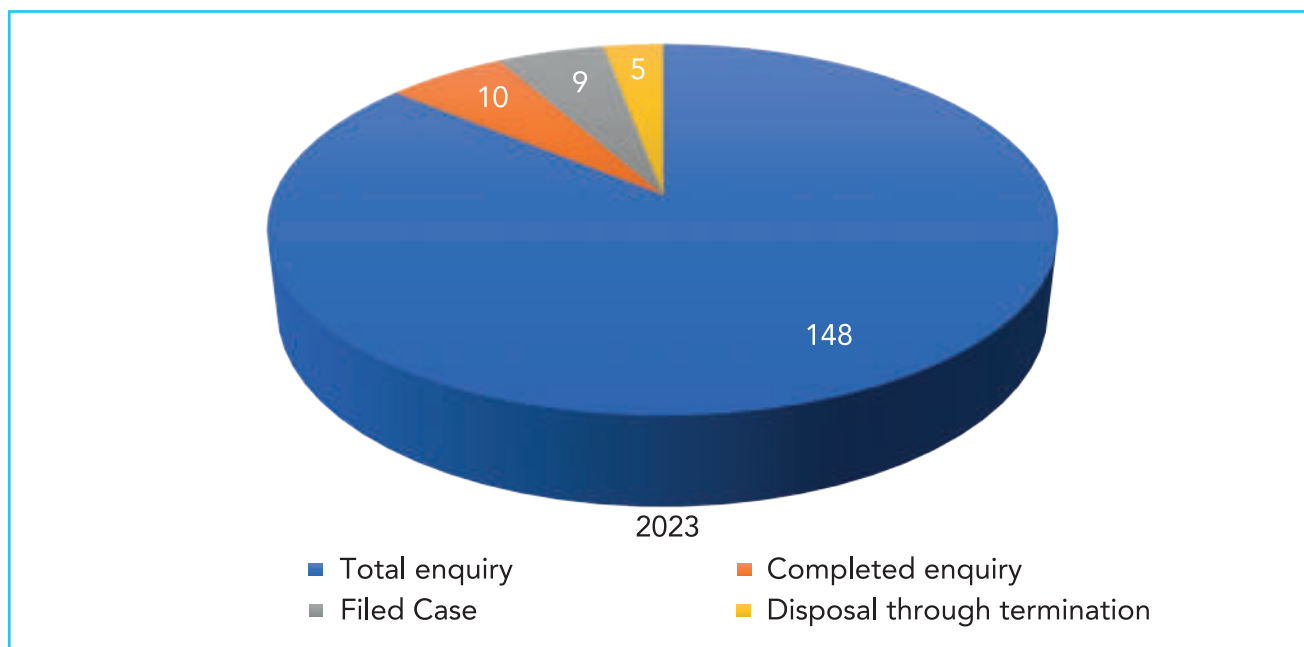


Table 12: Statistics of ACC's Money Laundering related enquiries in 2023

Unfinished enquiry of previous years	New enquiry	Total enquiries	Completed enquiry	Filed Case	Disposal through termination	Disposal in other means
115	33	148	10*	9	5	-

*Multiple cases have been arisen from the same document

Graph 5: A picture of the ACC's Money Laundering related enquiries in 2023



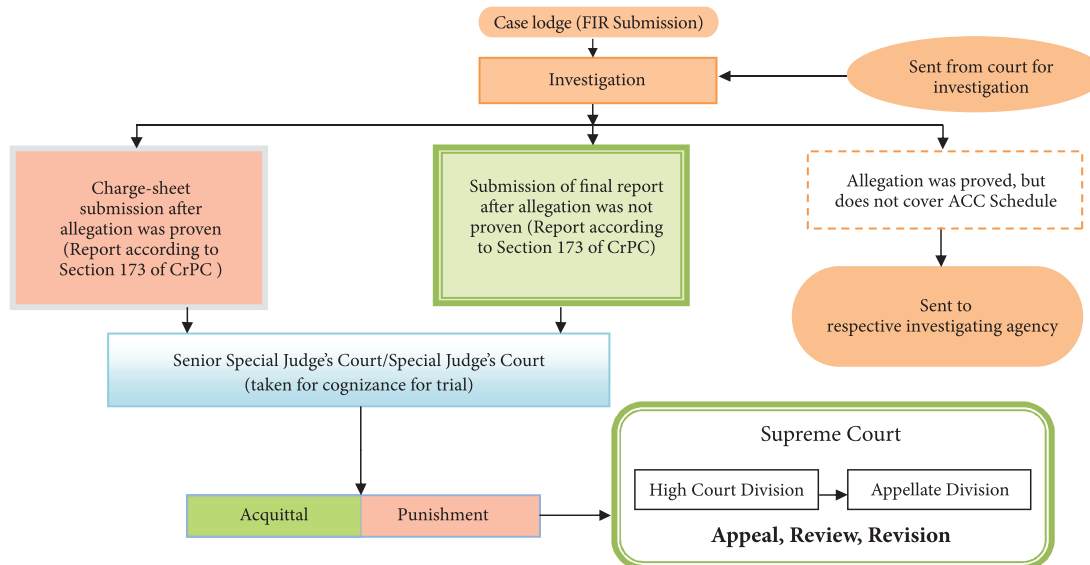
3.3 Investigation Functions

The second and final part of the prosecution process for corruption offences is the Investigation phase. The Anti-Corruption Commission's core duties involve- enquiry and investigation, which are quite different from one another. An investigation of a case can only be commenced and carried out after conclusion of enquiry and lodgement of an FIR against a person. According to Section 17(a) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, investigations are carried out in order to collect documentary evidence for filing a lawsuit in the relevant court. The Commission designates an Investigation Officer (I.O.), if the primary allegations are validated during the enquiry phase. Afterwards, in order to support the case of corruption at the learned court, the Investigating Officer starts collecting documentary evidence. Section 19 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 confers on him the authority to exercise special powers. These include the ability to notify the witness, verify the witness's attendance, examine the witness, detect and produce any document, take evidence, call for public records or a copy from any court or office, issue notice for the examination of witnesses and documentation etc.

In accordance with Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the investigating officer delivers the investigation report to the Commission within the allotted time after finishing the task of the investigation. The Commission will only approve the filing of the charge sheet or the final report after reviewing the entire report and is convinced. It is important to note that in addition to carrying out the investigative procedure as outlined above, the Commission also has the authority to look into any complaint as directed by the court.



Flowchart of investigation and judicial proceedings



3.3.1 Legal basis of investigation

Investigating corruption-related offences is one of the leading legal functions of the Anti-Corruption Commission [Section 17 (a) of the ACC Act 2004]. The outcome of the investigation is the basis for prosecuting the people against whom FIRs 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 (Investigation-1, Investigation-2, Special Investigation and Money Laundering wing).

The Enquiry and Investigation wings investigate cases filed by the field-level officers. Several sections of Enquiry and Investigation wings supervise the field-level investigation activities conducted by eight Divisional Offices and 36 District Offices. The Commission's Special Investigation wing and Money Laundering wing deal with specialised cases requiring a comprehensive investigative mechanism.

3.3.2 Investigation activities of 2023 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.

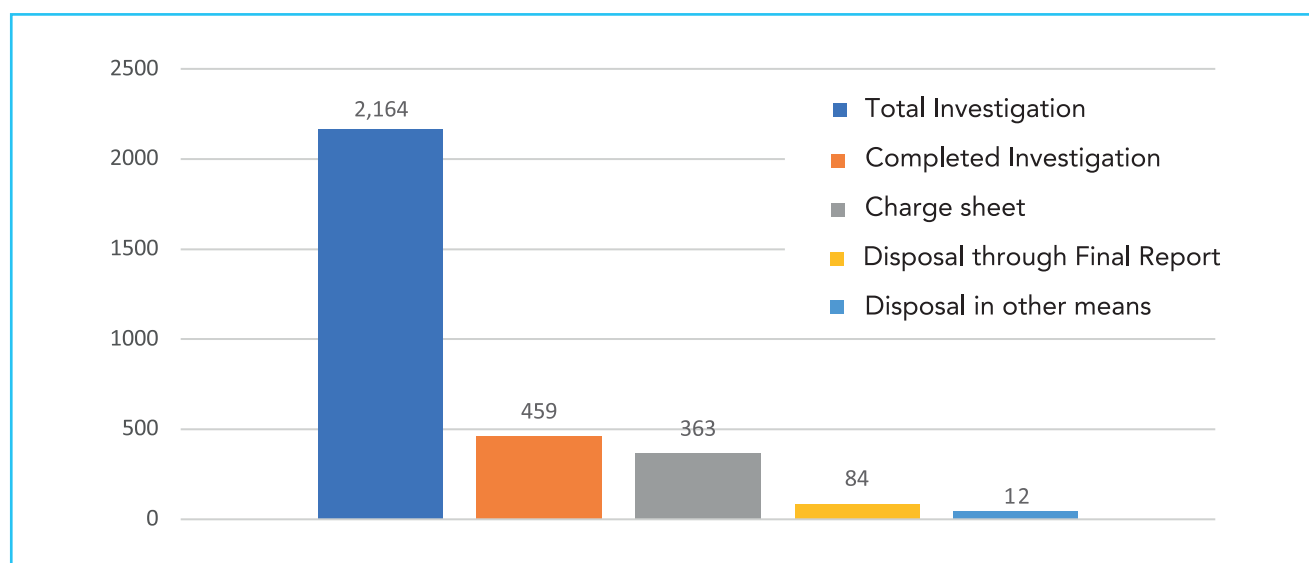
Statistics reveal that the total number of investigations in 2023 was 2,164, including the pending investigations from the previous years. Among these, the Commission completed 459 investigations in 2023. Based on these investigations, the Commission approved filing of charge-sheets in 363 cases. Of the remaining investigations, 84 Final Reports (FR) were approved by the Commission. 12 investigations have been disposed in other means.



Table 13: Statistics of the investigation activities of the cases in 2023

Pending Investigation of previous years	New Investigation	Total Investigation	Completed Investigation	Charge sheet	Disposal through Final Report	Disposal in other means
1,721	443	2,164	459	363	84	12

Graph 6: Statistics of the overall investigation activities in 2023



A comparative picture of charge sheet approval has been provided below based on the investigation activities presented in Table 14 and data of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

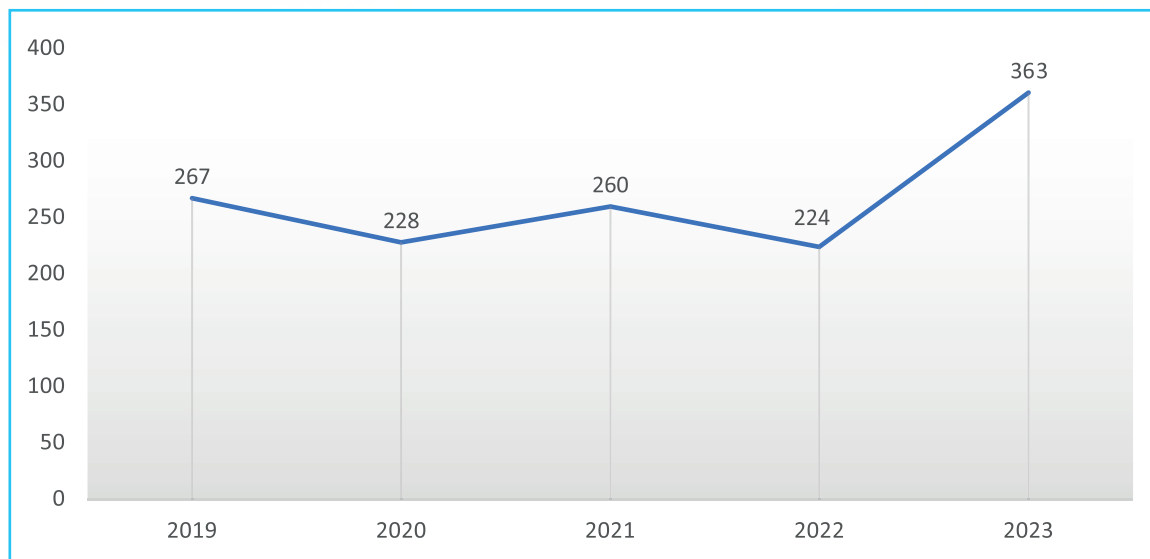
Table 14: Comparative statistics of Charge Sheet approval of cases in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Year	Charge sheet Approval
2019	267
2020	228
2021	260
2022	224
2023	363

The table clearly indicates that approval of charge sheet has increased considerably in 2023 compared to previous four years. This happened because the Commission conducted multidimensional activities, including training sessions for officers to enhance the quality of investigations.



Graph 7: Comparative picture of charge sheet approval in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023



3.3.3 Investigation of illegal assets

Anti-Corruption Commission takes action against those who acquire assets disproportionate to their known sources of 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.

Out of the total 633 asset-related investigations, 159 were initiated in 2023 and the remaining 474 were carried over from the previous years. In 2023 140 investigations were completed and 117 charge-sheets were approved by the commission. This year 23 final reports were also submitted.

Table 15 provides a comprehensive overview of the ACC's activities in conducting asset investigations and their outcomes.

Table 15: Statistics of asset investigations in 2023

Pending Investigation of previous years	New Investigation	Total Investigation	Completed Investigation	Submission of Charge Sheet	Submission of Final Report	Disposal in other means
474	159	633	140	117	23	-



3.3.4 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.

Table 16: Statistics of investigations on money laundering cases in 2023

Pending Investigation of previous years	New Investigation	Total Investigation	Completed Investigation	Submission of Charge Sheet	Submission of Final Report	Disposal in other means
82	10	92	5	5	-	-

3.3.5 Trap cases

The Commission conducts Trap Cases to eliminate of bribery and corruption culture. 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 government employees comes to ACC, the Commission takes necessary steps to catch them red-handed.

Table 17 shows the activities of the ACC in investigating the trap cases in 2023.

Table 17: Investigation activities of trap cases in 2023

Pending Investigation of previous years	New Investigation	Total Investigation	Completed Investigation	Submission of Charge Sheet	Submission of Final Report
01	02	03	03	03	-

Table 18 shows a comparative picture of the investigation activities of trap cases in 2019, 2020 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Table 18: Number of trap cases in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Year	Number of trap cases
2019	16
2020	18
2021	06
2022	04
2023	03



3.4 Prosecution

Under Section 33 of the ACC Act, the Commission has its own Prosecution Unit to handle cases that it has investigated and is prosecutable by a Special Judge. This unit is successfully functioning through contractual recruitment of adequate number of experienced lawyers. Currently, the prosecutors of the Commission are handling the proceedings in the trial court under the Legal and Prosecution Division. Similarly, writs, revisions, criminal appeals are being conducted simultaneously in the High Court.

Following the enquiry and investigation of corruption accusations, the Anti-Corruption Commission is mandated to bring the investigative report before the learned court for prosecution. According to section 17(b) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004, the Anti-Corruption Commission complies with the following laws and regulations for the purpose of filing and conducting the cases in the trial court.

- 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.

3.4.1 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 are 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 28 (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 120 member panel of lawyers is called 'public prosecutor and serves in 13 Special Judge's Courts both within and outside Dhaka. 29 lawyers are working in Dhaka Division, 20 in Chittagong Division, 16 in Rajshahi Division, 13 in Rangpur Division, 19 in Khulna Division, 8 in Barisal Division, 7 in Sylhet Division and 7 in Mymensingh Division. Among them, there are three female public prosecutors as well. Besides, 26 learned lawyers, including four female lawyers, handle cases on behalf of the ACC in the Higher Court.



3.4.2 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 2023, total 313 cases were disposed of in the Special Judge's Court, of which 283 (about 90.42%) were filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the remaining 30 were received from the defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau. In the cases disposed of the accused were convicted in 195 of them. The conviction rate in the cases of the Commission is 67.13% and that of the defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau is 16.67%.

Table 19: Data of corruption cases in Special Judge's Courts in 2022 and 2023

Description	2022			2023		
	ACC case	Defunct Bureau's case	Total	ACC case	Defunct Bureau's case	Total
Total number of cases	2,914	412	3,326	2,994	359	3,353
Number of under trial cases	2,682	228	2,910	2,745	182	2,927
Number of pending cases	232	187	419	249	177	426
Number of disposed cases	307	39	346	283	30	313
Number of convicted cases	197	14	211	190	5	195
Number of acquitted cases	110	15	125	93	25	118

Table 20: Comparative statistics of convictions in cases filed in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Year	The rate of punishment in the case of the ACC	The rate of punishment in the case of the Defunct Bureau
2019	63%	40%
2020	72%	48%
2021	60%	30%
2022	64.17%	35.90%
2023	67.13%	16.67%

Reviewing the judgments of the Courts (Table 20), it is observed that the conviction rate of ACC cases in 2023 is more than 67.13% which is higher than the previous year. The Commission is trying to ensure 100% conviction in its cases.



Table 21: Corruption cases in Special Judge's Courts within and outside Dhaka in 2022 and 2023

Description		2022			2023		
		ACC case	Defunct Bureau's case	Total	ACC case	Defunct Bureau's case	Total
Dhaka	Disposed cases	125	05	130	111	04	115
	Number of convicted cases	99	02	101	80	01	81
Outside Dhaka	Disposed cases	182	34	216	192	34	226
	Number of convicted cases	98	12	110	110	04	114

In 2023, 115 corruption cases were settled in Dhaka. At the same time, the Special Judge's Courts outside Dhaka disposed of 226 cases. On the other hand, the number of defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau's cases disposed of in and outside Dhaka was 38.

3.4.3 Statistics of cases involving illegal assets

Table 22: Statistics of asset cases in Special Judge's Court in 2022 and 2023

Description	2022	2023
Number of disposed cases	47	30
Number of convicted cases	32	19
Number of acquitted cases	15	11

A review of these statistics shows that the conviction rate in cases related to illegal assets is about 63.33%.

Table 23: Statistics of money laundering cases in Special Judge's Court in 2023

Description	2023
Number of disposed cases	10
Number of convicted cases	08
Number of acquitted cases	02

Reviewing the statistics of Table 23, it is evident that in 2023, 80% of the money laundering cases ended in conviction. The ACC firmly believes that this success has been achieved after completing a thorough investigation into the money laundering cases and presenting the evidence properly to the courts.



Table 24: Statistics of trap cases in Special Judge's Court in 2022 and 2023

Description	2022	2023
Number of disposed cases	21	25
Number of convicted cases	15	13
Number of acquitted cases	06	12

From the above Table, it is found that in 2023 the accused were convicted in 52% of the cases.

Table 25: Information on convictions, fines and confiscations in 2023

*	Conviction	(ACC 190+Defunct Bureau 05)=195	Total 341
*	Acquittal	(ACC 93+Defunct Bureau 25)=118	
*	Disposal in other means	(ACC 20+Defunct Bureau 08)=28	
*	ACC	67.13% (rate of conviction)	Total: 62.30% (rate of conviction)
*	Defunct Bureau	16.67% (rate of conviction)	
*	Fines	1683,67,37,546 Tk.	
*	Confiscations	17,97,63,075 Tk.	
*	Total case	(ACC 2994+Defunct Bureau 359)= 3553	

Table-26: Comparative data of fines and confiscations in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Year	Fine (Tk.)	Confiscation
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
2022	2632,41,43,783	13,96,19,167
2023	1683,67,37,546	17,97,63,075



Asset Management

The Asset Management Unit of the Commission has started its activities in 2019 to manage these assets in the light of specific polities. The 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 attached/forfeited asset by the Court, the Asset Management Unit supervises and manages the asset on behalf of the Commission as per the Court order. 'Criminal Asset Management Guidelines, 2020' of ACC is followed regarding such cases.

Table 27: ACC's achievement in asset management in 2023

Number of Order	Information on Attached Assets		Value of Frozen Assets
72	Home	146.25 acres of land, price-149,32,41,089/- Tk. 29 Houses, price-41,09,36,317/- Tk. 41 Flats, price-45,18,15,468/- Tk. 18 Plot, price-22,42,21,603/- Tk. 16 Shop, price 1,15,85,600/- Tk. 02 Commercial Space, price-2,85,00,000/- Tk. 08 Vehicles, price-1,87,68,792/- Tk. 02 Shotgun, price- 5,00,000/- Tk. 01 Resort, price-17,48,81,308/- Tk. 02CNG & Filling Station (part) -1,97,86,668/- Tk.	418 bank accounts and 66 FDR, Total balance 104,72,69,631/- Tk. 52 Savings Certificates and Bonds- 1,75,21,289/- Tk. Value of 8,25,38,832 shares- 12,26,05,154/- Tk. 03 Securities Client Codes- 4,07,07,838/- Tk. 09 of different financial institutions BO Account Status - 9,16,52,938/- Tk. 03 Insurance Policy balance - 4,36,250/- Tk.
	Abroad	1 House	3 Bank Account
	Total	283,42,36,845/- (Two hundred eighty three crore forty two lac thirty six thousand eight hundred forty five taka.)	132,01,93,100/- (One hundred thirty two crore one lac ninety three thousand one hundred taka.)

Reviewing Table 27, it can be said that the Commission is chasing the money launderers home and abroad. The ACC is trying to fulfill its legal obligation to ensure that no one can enjoy unearned income.

3.4.4 Conducting cases in the High Court

The Commission has appointed 26 lawyers to conduct cases on behalf of the ACC in the Appellate Division and the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court. A lawyer works in the Supreme Court cell to coordinate activities between the Commission and the Supreme Court.

Table 28 and 29 provide data on different activities of the ACC cases with the Supreme Court.



Table 28: Statistics of Criminal/Writ/Appeal cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court

Description	2023			Cases settled	Stay from previous period	Case Stay in 2023	Total stay	With-drawal of stay	Currently stayed cases
	Cases from Previous Period	Number of cases filed	Total						
Number of Criminal Miscellaneous Cases	793	599	1,392	492	134	32	166	56	110
Number of writ petitions	624	131	755	44	209	18	227	01	226
Number of Criminal Appeal Cases	1,008	191	1,199	28	12	03	15	02	13
Number of Criminal Review Cases	513	159	672	32	59	18	77	00	77
Total =	2,938	1,080	4,018	596	414	71	485	59	426

Table 29: Statistics of cases arising out of Criminal Appeals/Miscellaneous/Revision/Writ in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court

Description	2023			Currently stayed	Stay from previous period	Stay in 2023	Total stay	With-drawal of stay	Currently stayed cases
	Cases from Previous Period	Number of cases filed	Total						
Number of Criminal Miscellaneous Cases	207	81	288	179	16	28	44	22	22
Number of writ petitions	126	19	145	144	28	18	46	01	45
Number of Criminal Appeal Cases	67	23	90	81	13	04	17	00	17
Number of Criminal Review Cases	85	15	100	99	01	14	15	00	15
Total	485	138	623	503	58	64	122	23	99



Table 30: Comparative statistics of cases stayed in courts in 2023

Name of the Court	Number of cases stayed
Judge Court (Lower Court)	426
High Court Division	426
Appellate Division	99

Table 31: A comparative picture of the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission in the last five years

Activities		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of complaints accepted for enquiry		1,710	822	533	901	845
Number of cases filed by the Commission		363	348	347	406	404
Number of charge sheet approvals		267	228	260	224	363
Number of trap cases		16	18	06	04	02
Conviction rate(%)	ACC case	63%	72%	60%	64.17%	67.13%
	Bureau	40%	48%	30%	35.90%	16.67%
Fine (Taka)		3497,06,84,759	72,48,83,130	75,18,35,317	2632,41,43,783	1683,67,37,546
Confiscation (Taka)		426,88,95,374	3,03,69,000	10,20,86,928	13,96,19,167	17,97,63,075
Seized assets (Taka)		115,66,30,211	180,11,91,746	326,71,46,628	585,92,58,156	283,42,36,845
Frozen assets		118,59,65,876 Tk.	152,92,86,496 Tk.	1161,58,14,480 Tk., 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 (Pound)	224,79,75,166 Tk. 27,954.21 (USD)	132,01,93,100 Tk.



CHAPTER FOUR

Enforcement Measures to Prevent Corruption

- 4.1 Enforcement Unit
- 4.2 Enforcement Operation of ACC



Enforcement Measures to Control Corruption

4.1 Enforcement Unit

The vision of the Anti-Corruption Commission is to establish a corruption-free and just society through prevention and control of corruption. The Commission is committed to eradicating corruption where it originates by taking preventive measures. And for this purpose, the enforcement unit of the Anti-Corruption Commission was established to identify the special corruption-prone areas at the national and local levels and take effective and coordinated preventive measures.

4.1.1 Legal Basis of Enforcement Unit

According to 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..."**. Zero tolerance of the state against corruption has been expressed through this article.

Anti-Corruption Commission is responsible for prevention of corruption and development of good practices in the country. The functions of the Commission for achieving this goal have been specified in section 17 of the Commission Act. For the purpose of taking immediate action against corruption occurring elsewhere, Anti-Corruption Commission conducts enforcement operations under section 17(k) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, along with enquiry, investigation and other functions as mentioned in the Act.

4.1.2 Enforcement Unit at a Glance

Enforcement Unit commenced its official functions on 23 January 2019 with an approved manpower of 26 persons including 01 deputy director, 02 assistant directors, 04 deputy assistant directors and others. This unit currently has a total manpower of 13 members including 01 deputy director, 04 assistant directors and 03 deputy assistant directors.

Accurate and complete data related to corruption is important for effective enforcement operations. ACC hotline106 is one of the platforms for receiving complaints for conducting operations by the Enforcement Unit. ACC Complaint Centre's hotline 106 functions as a reliable platform to common people; through this, they can lodge complaints having public interest. Corruption related information received on hotline 106, information collected or received by the intelligence unit of ACC, news items published in national or local newspapers, complaints or information received via e-mail (chairman@acc.org.bd), verified Facebook page (www.facebook.com/acc.org.bd) or complaints received directly at ACC are taken into consideration for conducting enforcement operations.



4.2 Enforcement Operation of ACC

The complaints received from different sources are sent to ACC's scrutiny committee consisting of Director General (Administration), Director or Deputy Director (Intelligence Unit) and Deputy Director (Enforcement Unit). The committee categorises the complaints to following heads: (1) Enforcement raids (2) Trap cases (3) Letter to be sent for taking necessary actions (4) Telephonic suggestion to related departments (5) To be forwarded to ACC Complaint Cell and (6) Filing if no enforcement required. For conducting operations, the Director General (Administration) obtains immediate approval of the Chairman on behalf of the Commission. The team submits a report to the Deputy Director (Enforcement) within 48 hours of conducting operations. Considering the recommendations of the report submitted by the team, the enforcement unit, pursuant to rule 10(f) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007, either takes necessary measures to lodge a case at once or obtains approval for investigation or issues letters to concerned offices with appropriate recommendations or files the complaint.

Table 32: Enforcement Activities in 2023

	Complaints Received						Enforcement Operations						Post Enforcement Operation					
	Total phone Call Received	Complaints registered	Complaints Received from Daily and Recent Complaints Cell	Complaints from E-mail and Social Media	Complaints from print and Electronic Media	Total Complaints	Enforcement Operations Conducted by ACC	Letters Sent to Various Department	Feedback	Telephonic Instruction	Info. Enquiry	Trap Case	Total Number of Activities	FIRs lodged directly	Investigation emanating from Enforcement	Letters sent for taking Administrative Measures	Filed	Decision of Commission on Reports
	1	2	3	4	5	6 (2+3+4+5)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 (7+8+9+10+11+12)	14	15	16	17	18 (14+15+16+17)
Total	26,574	1113	91	128	657	1989	524	632	108	40	-	02	1306	-	68	183	295	546



Table 33: Actions taken after Enforcement Operation

Sl No	Subject	Total	Remarks
1	Punitive Transfer/Departmental Proceedings	02 person	In number
2	Dismissal	05 person	In number
3	Issuing Show-cause notices	03 person	In number
4	Fine	TK 5,90,000	Illegal sand miners have been fined through mobile courts.
5	Imprisonment by mobile-courts	20 Persons	20 persons including middlemen operating illegally at Passport Office and illegal sand miners have been sentenced to imprisonment by mobile courts.
6	Recovery of bribe money	TK 10,50,000	An amount of Tk10,50,000/- has been recovered from the Office of the Commissioner of Taxes, Tax Zone, Rajshahi and BSCIC District Office, Madaripur through trap operations.
7	Delivery of service at once	40 units	40 immediate services have been provided through telephonic instructions.
8	Eviction of illegal structures	305 structures	305 illegal shops have been evicted from the premises of Roads and Highways Department
9	Disconnecting illegally taken gas connections	1347 connections	1347 illegally used gas connections have been disconnected in houses and various hotels.
10	Unearthing corruption in government houses construction	2 houses	In number
11	Unearthing corruption in payment of profit on savings certificates	3 certificates	In number
12	Recovery of government rice	13 bags/590 kg	In number
13	Eviction of Illegally occupied government house	20 units	In number

The objective of Anti-Corruption Commission is to conduct regular operations to prevent corruption and corrupt practices in the country. Effective measures are taken to prevent corruption in 5 ways including conducting operations against complaints of offences scheduled to ACC Act. In addition



to the scheduled complaints, non-scheduled complaints such as personal disputes, dowry, collection of extra fees in educational institutions without Board's approval, social disputes, land-related family disputes, repression of women and so on are also recorded and later communicated to appropriate authorities for taking action.

Enforcement operation is one of the strategies for ensuring transparency and accountability of public welfare-works of the Government at the national level. It has been possible to prevent corruption to a large extent through these immediate operations. Appropriate measures have been taken to stop controversial appointments, uncover embezzlement of government funds, stop substandard construction, disconnect illegal gas connections, recover government land, evict illegal construction over rivers, canals and roads and protect environment through concerned authorities. Assistance from experts is taken where applicable while conducting operations. As a result the quality and transparency of these operations have increased.

These operations are being conducted in almost every sector including local government, land, health, education, transport, forest and environment, construction, agriculture and so on. Through these operations, it is possible to bring transparency to concerned offices on one hand; on the other hand, they are playing an effective role in preventing corruption. Armed police units of the Commission are being used centrally to deal with the situations arising during the operations. At district and upazila levels, assistance of local administrations is also sought when required.

The regular activities of the ACC Enforcement Unit are published on the Commission's verified Facebook page (www.facebook.com/acc.org.bd). A large number of people appreciate the activities of enforcement unit while many others are also requesting to conduct operations in their own locality and department. The Enforcement Unit is constantly trying to improve its performance by taking constructive criticism into consideration.

As a reflection of the goodwill of the Commission, every operation is being completed successfully and corruption is being prevented in most cases. Due to these operations, it appears that people at the grassroots level are becoming aware of corruption. On the other hand, citizens are becoming more vocal about their rights and government officials are also becoming aware of their responsibilities.



CHAPTER FIVE

Prevention of Corruption and Inculcation of Good Practices

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Inclusive Anti-Corruption Programme
- 5.3 Promotional Activities
- 5.4 National and International Partnerships



PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION AND INCULCATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

5.1 Introduction

The Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 attaches the highest priority to taking measures to prevent corruption. Out of the 11 functions of the Commission mentioned in section 17 of the ACC Act, 2004, six are related to prevention of corruption. Eradicating corruption where it evolves is the foremost among the policies taken up by the Commission. Aiming at that end, the Commission makes realistic and multi-dimensional interventions. Accordingly, civil society has been integrated with efforts to prevent corruption. If citizens are sensitized about their rights, prevention of corruption is likely to be easier. Looking forward to that, the Commission has formed Corruption Prevention Committees (CPC) being comprised of accomplished personalities of the society in metropolitan cities and at district, upazila and even at union levels. Members of these committees launch diverse programmes within their respective peripheries intending to awaken the society. Endeavouring to organise a corruption-preventing social movement at assigned levels, they remain vigilant against irregularities, harassments and purposive delays prevalent in various service-delivering sectors like education, health, land or power. The Anti-Corruption Commission in association with the CPCs and under supervision of local administration has formed Integrity Units (IU) drawing students from schools, colleges, madrasas and residential halls of various academic institutions and universities with the objective of instilling the values of integrity and dedication in the young generation. Respectable teachers concerned have been engaged in these IUs as advisors. The Commission is running programmes of this type targeting to launch concrete efforts against corruption and all forms of corrupt practices with a view to shaping an integrity-upholding future for the succeeding generations.

Article 7(1) of the Constitution of Bangladesh, achieved through a historic struggle for national liberation, states, "All powers in the Republic belong to the people..." The Commission's firm conviction is that if people at all strata of the society, becoming conscious about their rights deriving from the State, can collectively raise resistance against corruption, those making unlawful gains by illicit means will be doomed to despair. Appreciating a common platform of men of integrity coming from all walks of life, the Commission welcomes the participation of common masses in its efforts made towards prevention of corruption. Without the direct assistance of the common people, it is hardly possible to combat, control and prevent corruption.

5.1.1 Legal basis for Research, Experimentation, Prevention and Public Awareness Activities

Article 20(2) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh provides, "The State shall endeavour to create conditions in which, as a general principle, persons shall not be able to enjoy unearned incomes." Receiving cooperation from all concerned, the Commission aims to seal off the ways of enjoying such unearned incomes by preventing corruption. The Commission may, as stipulated in section 17(f) of the ACC Act, 2004, "make research scheme for prevention of corruption and submit recommendations to the President for taking action on the basis of such research findings". A further function of the Commission as stated in section 17(g) of the same Act is "to create feeling of honesty and integrity in order to prevent corruption" while section 17(k) allows the Commission "to perform such other functions as may be necessary for prevention of corruption."



The overall task of obviating corruption is performed through the Prevention wing of the Commission. International anti-corruption day and ACC's founding anniversary are observed by this wing which also carries out functions relating to Honesty Stores, Integrity Units and CPCs that look forward to preventing corruption involving common people. In addition, this wing has formulated a constitution of and guidelines for CPCs and associate organisations based at metropolitan, district, upazila and union levels. These instruments are followed strictly while forming committees at various levels. While opening Honesty Stores at different academic institutions for inculcation of good practiced, guidelines fromed by the Commission for this purpose has been followed properly.

5.2 Inclusive Anti-Corruption Programme

5.2.1 Social Movement against Corruption

Prevention of corruption without social mobilization is next to impossible. Our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the most distinguished Bengali of all time who founded Bangladesh being the greatest architect of our independence - called for a social movement to control corruption. The Commission intends to act as an 'influencer' in this process. That is why the Commission has continued its efforts to bring all stakeholders like civil society organisations, media, NGOs, government officials, political leaders, teachers, students, professionals and others on the same platform in its anti-corruption activities. The Commission is hopeful of achieving success in its mission to prevent corruption as it obtains unreserved cooperation from mass people. The Commission firmly believes that citizens have become more aware of corruption. It is observed that general people hate corruption and corrupt people from the core of their hearts.

5.2.2 Corruption Prevention Committee in Preventing Corruption

In order to conduct its preventive functions fully and effectively, the Commission has formed Corruption Prevention Committees (CPC) in all upazilas, districts and metropolitan cities. Being comprised of enlightened persons of the society, these committees implement various programmes for raising mass-awareness intending to support behavioural improvement and promote good practices. Pursuant to the revised charter and working guidelines of CPCs and their affiliated organizations of 2016, district and metropolitan CPCs have been formed consisting of not more than 13 members. At upazila and union levels, CPCs have been formed consisting of not more than nine and seven members respectively; in all cases, one-third of the members are women. A chairman, two vice-chairmen, and a general secretary are nominated from among the committee members. Only adult citizens of Bangladesh living in the locality concerned are eligible to be committee members - who are all selected by ACC to which they remain accountable through its divisional or combined district offices. Foreign nationals, elected public officials, public servants, active members of political parties, people declared to be of unsound mind by any competent court, loan defaulters or people convicted of criminal offences are considered ineligible for membership. CPCs consist of volunteers, teachers, valiant freedom fighters, religious leaders, retired government employees and people active in their respective fields enjoying a reputation for integrity. Incomes and expenditures of all activities of the CPCs are regulated in accordance with the directives issued by the Finance and Accounts section of the Commission. Accounts are maintained in the manner and pro-forma



prescribed by this section. An Audit sub-committee is formed consisting of any three members of the committee. The sub-committee submits audited reports to the committee on income and expenditure accounts in due course. Deputy Directors and officers above can inspect the accounts of the CPCs. All activities of the CPCs are conducted in line with the guidelines approved by the Commission.

Table-34: Number of Corruption Prevention Committees (CPCs) at upazila, district and metropolitan levels in 2023

Sl. No	Name of Division	Metropolitan CPCs	District CPCs	UpazilaCPCs	Total CPCs
1	Dhaka	08	12	77	97
2	Chattogram	01	10	93	104
3	Rajshahi		08	60	68
4	Khulna		10	50	60
5	Barishal		06	36	42
6	Sylhet		04	36	40
7	Rangpur		08	50	58
8	Mymensingh		04	31	35
Total		09	62	433	504

Table-35: Division-wise performance of Corruption Prevention Committees (CPCs) in 2023

Sl No.	Name of Division	Discussion meetings	Debate Competitions	Essay Competitions	Human chains	Rallies	Seminars	Speech by respected persons	Others
1.	Dhaka	221	147	14	38	51	02	410	31
2.	Chattogram	92	169	01	-	01	16	68	-
3.	Rajshahi	05	165	-	-	-	-	72	-
4.	Khulna	113	41	33	23	16	12	24	4
5.	Barishal	75	40	16	17	30	01	22	-
6.	Sylhet	12	01	03	-	-	-	01	-
7.	Rangpur	23	04	01	-	-	-	15	-
8.	Mymensingh	92	31	10	46	46	-	94	21
Total		633	598	78	124	144	30	706	56



5.2.3 Integrity Units: Platform for Youths against Corruption

The new generation will lead the country in the days to come. It will be easier to curb corruption and corrupt practices if a generation is developed which is endowed with integrity and ethical values. With that end in view, the Commission forms Integrity Units (IU) being comprised of secondary-level students. These organizations consist of students from various educational institutions and are meant to infuse into them a sense of honesty, morality and value-judgment. Future leadership of the country will emerge from today's young generation, as such, they are expected to unreservedly uphold integrity and honesty at all times being strictly adherent to values and tenets of the society. Understanding that corruption lays a negative impact on our perception and conduct undermining our past heritage of integrity and ethical values, the Commission intends to inspire the young generation with the precept that honesty is the best policy. With the purpose of generating the values of integrity, dedication and firmness of character among the young generation, arousing abhorrence against corrupt practices among them and, above all, integrating the students with mass-awareness raising activities, the Commission, with the initiatives of the CPCs, has formed Integrity Units in educational institutions like schools, colleges, madrasas, university halls and training institutions under overall supervision of local administrations within their respective work areas. According to the guidelines of 2015, members of the Integrity Units shall be volunteers, free from the influence of political creeds and not get involved with any activities in breach of law or against discipline. The executive committee of each Integrity Unit comprises 11 (eleven) students from the same educational institution and an advisory council consisting of 3 (three) to 5 (five) teachers. All the students of the same institution are the general members. The CPCs of metropolitan cities/districts/upazilas/unions, in consultation with the advisory council, nominate a president, a secretary and members of the Executive Committee from among the interested students. The Commission also implements many other varied programmes together with the members of the Integrity Units under supervision of the CPCs including human-chains, road marches, seminars, cultural functions, discussions, dramas, debates, cartoons, essay writing competitions and so on. Learning materials such as exercise books, rulers, geometry boxes and so on inscribed with quotable quotes promoting ethical values have been handed out to the members of the Integrity Units by the Commission.

**Table 36: Statistics of Division-wise Integrity Units**

Sl. No	Name of Division	Number of Integrity Units
1	Dhaka	3,269
2	Chattogram	4,588
3	Rajshahi	3,285
4	Khulna	4,179
5	Barishal	2,359
6	Sylhet	1,263
7	Rangpur	4,173
8	Mymensingh	2,426
Total		25,542

5.2.4 'Honesty Store' in Promoting Good Practices in Daily Life

With a view to promoting the practice of integrity among students of young generation, particularly among those at secondary level, the Commission took an initiative in 2016 to open integrity stores meaning shops not guarded by shopkeepers, where along with educational materials, biscuits, chips, chocolate and other items of the like are on display for sale. An item-wise pricelist is shown in these shops where a box is placed into which the right amount of money may be inserted. Although sales-people are not present in these outlets, 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 unfair means in the management of these stores. In this case, transparency and honesty emanated by the students appear to be highly significant for the Commission. Apart from these ones, some school authorities and local administration have also set up Honesty stores in respective institutions on own initiative. 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 make no mistake in upholding values as they walk the path of life.

Table 37: Statistics of Division-based Honesty Stores

Sl. No	Name of Division	Number of Honesty Store
1	Dhaka	1,076
2	Chattogram	1,576
3	Rajshahi	8,55
4	Khulna	1,462
5	Barishal	4,80
6	Sylhet	3,47
7	Rangpur	6,81
8	Mymensingh	1,96
Total		6,700



5.2.5 Prevention activities implemented by the Commission

The Prevention wing of the Anti-Corruption Commission carries out various activities every year to combat corruption and develop anti-corruption awareness. Corruption Prevention Committees, Integrity Units and local administration are involved in these activities. Social awareness is raised by various anti-corruption programmes such as anti-corruption rallies, human-chains, road-marches, seminars, workshops, documentaries, cartoon exhibitions, debates or essay competitions arranged by CPCs at metropolitan, district and upazila levels along with local civil society, integrity units, professional organizations, NGOs and various socio-cultural organizations. As indicated through these programmes, people of different professions express solidarity with the on-going social movement against corruption. This is why the Commission always welcomes an inclusive approach that involves the general people in the fight against corruption. The activities of Corruption Prevention Committees and Integrity Units are carried out on a voluntary basis.

Members of Corruption Prevention Committees and Integrity Units play vital roles in observing foundation anniversary of the Anti-Corruption Commission (21 November) and International Anti-Corruption Day (9 December) and in celebrating Independence Day and Victory Day. The Chairman, Commissioners and other staff of all levels of the Commission participate in these programmes. In order to encourage the inculcation of good practices among secondary-levels students across the country, materials such as 15,944 exercise books, 14,920 scales, 1,70,300 posters, 15,418 geometry boxes, 9,593 pen-holders, 1,70,300 posters, 8,915 tiffin-boxes, 8,936 water-pots, 5,146 umbrellas, 16,433 school bags, 3,330 hand purses and 690 dustbins have been distributed among them with texts such as, "I will do no bad deeds, I will tolerate no bad deeds", "I will do good deeds, I will build the country with all," "I will think about the country, I will follow the path of principle," "I will speak the truth, I will stop injustice", "I will abide by rules, I will be safe", "Uphold patriotism, drive off corruption," "None trusts a liar," and "Don't laugh at elders".

Table 38: Statistics of distribution of educational materials and other items among students for inculcation of good practice in 2023.

Sl. No	Material Names	Number of Materials
1	Khata/Exercise books	15944
2	Scaler/Rulers	14920
3	Geometry Boxes	15418
4	Umbrellas	5146
5	Posters	1,70,300
6	School bags and others	16433
7	Pen holders	9593
8	Tiffin Boxes	8915
9	Leaflets	1700
10	Water Pots	8936
11	Hand Purses	3330
12	Dustbins	690



5.3 Promotional Activities

The Commission persistently discloses and disseminates information against corruption so as to harness the social power to cause moral uplifting and promote good practices.

- **Message dissemination:** Anti-corruption messages have been disseminated through SMS on mobile phones in collaboration with Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) at the initiative of Prevention Wing.
- **Distribution of posters and leaflets:** To prevent corruption and promote good practices, various posters have been distributed.
- **Slogans to promote good practices:** To promote good practices, exercise books, scales, geometry boxes, table clocks and umbrellas have been given out to students of secondary level nationwide with following slogans: "I will do no bad deeds, I will tolerate no bad deeds", "I will do good deeds, I will build the country with all," "I will think about the country, I will follow the path of principle," "I will speak the truth, I will stop injustice", "I will abide by rules, I will be safe", "Uphold patriotism, drive off corruption," "None trusts a liar," and "Don't laugh at elders."
- **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 keep better", "Wrong", and "Victory of honesty" have been aired on YouTube, various private television channels and Bangladesh Television. These documentaries are regularly broadcast through the District Information Office in every district and upazila including Dhaka.
- **DUDOK Barta (ACC Magazine):** "DUDOK Barta" is a quarterly publication of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Through this publication, all kinds of activities of the Commission, such as recording 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 quarter of the Commission are highlighted. 'DUDOK Barta' is circulated free of cost.

5.3.1 Celebrating International Anti-Corruption Day

With a view to strengthening anti-corruption programmes, the United Nations declared 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day in 2003. Since Bangladesh's signing of UNCAC in 2007, Anti-Corruption Commission has been observing this day officially. Accordingly, the Government has taken proper initiatives to observe the day on a regular basis designating it as a yearly event of 'B' category.

Like every year, in 2023, the Commission observed the International Anti-Corruption Day upholding the theme "Uniting the World against Corruption for Development, Peace and Security". On this occasion, discussion meetings, human chains were held along with various events. The day's programme started in the morning with rendition of national anthem and hoisting of national flag. Afterwards, a discussion meeting was held at the National Theatre Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy which was attended by His Excellency Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin as the Chief Guest. The Chief Justice of Bangladesh Mr. Obaidul Hassan was also present there as special guest. Besides, anti-corruption placards, banners and festoons were exhibited in different points of the capital city. The day was also observed in festive mood all over the country.



5.3.2 ACC Media Award

With a view to encouraging investigative media reporting on corruption and creative reporting on prevention, the Anti-Corruption Commission has introduced "Dudak Media Award". Every year six journalists are awarded in two categories. The Commission gives these awards on the recommendations of a Jury Board composed of reputed journalists of the country.

5.4 National and International Partnerships

The commission believes in a participating and inclusive approach to curb and prevent corruption at national and international levels. Bangladesh is a signatory to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The Commission has continued its efforts to build partnerships with national and international organizations as part of its inclusive approach in combating corruption following article 48 of the UNCAC. As a part of this inclusive approach, Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed with the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation (ICRF) of Russia in 2017 and with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of India in 2019. Recently the MoU signed with the CBI has been renewed for the next 5 years in continuation of the previous one.

The MoUs have been identified as markers of co-operation in several areas, including initial investigation, detection, authentication and exchange of experience, best practices and anti-corruption education programmes. The Commission is maintaining close liaison with relevant organizations of 22 countries including Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, China, United States and Malaysia to sign MoUs for sharing and learning good practices.

Organizations such as Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Oxfam, Bangladesh Scout, Bangladesh Girl Guides Association, BNCC and Kites Bangladesh have signed MoUs with the Anti-Corruption Commission. Jointly with them, the ACC implements various anti-corruption programmes at the district and upazila levels across the country. Anti-Corruption Commission and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) are implementing different 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. To continue the mutual cooperation in this field, the MoU signed between Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and ACC was renewed on 28 September 2022. Apart from these ones, signing of MoUs is in progress with entities like Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Human Rights Commission, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Bangladesh Television (BTV), Department of Narcotics Control, Election Commission, Information Commission, Department of Immigration and Passports and so on. Meanwhile, the Commission has started to exchange good practices with other stakeholders.

The Anti-Corruption Commission undertakes several awareness-building programmes, such as debate competitions, cartoon competitions, essay competitions, seminars, symposiums, workshops; exchange meetings, road-shows, human chains, and cultural programmes. Rover Scouts and Girl Guides Association members also take part in ACC's events. The Commission is encouraged as they actively participate in various programmes organised every year on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December and founding anniversary of Anti-Corruption Commission on 21 November.



The UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) emphasizes on arranging preventive measures to stop the occurrences of corruption, taking action under criminal laws and exploring fields of cooperation in the international arena. Formulation of a National Corruption Prevention Policy for each Member State has been recommended in this Convention. Accordingly, the Government of Bangladesh adopted a National Integrity Strategy (NIS) in 2012 that aims at establishing good practices and preventing corruption in all areas of the State and society.

Among the 10 State institutions mentioned in the NIS, Anti-Corruption Commission is "the most important organisation for a relentless fight against corruption and promotion of integrity." The Commission's NIS action plan implementation, reporting and co-ordination are accomplished by NIS and UNCAC Focal Point Desk of the Prevention wing. ACC also arranges discussion meetings with different stakeholders according to NIS action plan. The Director General of Prevention wing functions as the NIS Focal Point by default.



CHAPTER SIX

Public Hearing

- 6.1 Public Hearing for Flourishing a Corruption-free and Accountable Administrative Mechanism



Public Hearing

6.1 Public Hearing for Flourishing a Corruption-free and Accountable Administrative Mechanism

6.1.1 Introduction

Public Hearing is a unique way to enhance transparency and accountability in delivering services and running welfare programmes of the Government. It is an effective tool that establishes a direct communication between people seeking services from the Government and public servants responsible for delivering them. Public hearing is by nature a platform for holding tripartite meetings where service providing government officials and local public representatives face the aggrieved citizens or service seekers in the presence of officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Most grievances, bottlenecks or outstanding issues are generally resolved during or immediately after the hearing session. In some cases, if the issues are not resolved at once, they are brought forward to follow-up sessions. Anti-Corruption Commission holds public hearings primarily at the grassroots level; as a result, even common people gain an easy access to a forum where they can voice out their concerns relating to services sought from the Government.

A thorough review of the grievances expressed by the service takers and the explanations provided by the officials concerned indicates that the dissatisfaction in receiving government services is basically attributable to lack of awareness of the citizens, inefficiency of the officials, irregularities, mismanagement and in some cases, corruption and defiance to follow the given time-limits. Against this backdrop, public hearing programmes organized by ACC have been proved quite effective to identify the sources of corruption, hold open discussion on what to do to prevent exploitative manner prevailing at the concerned office, take immediate action leading to the disposal or bring forward the issue to a follow-up hearing. This is how this process, while empowering the mass people to claim their rights due from the Government, expedites ACC's initiative against unscrupulous practices.

The Commission started off public hearings from Muktagachha in Mymensingh district way back in 2014, till writing this report, a total of 161 public hearing programmes have been arranged successfully. Nationwide, in various districts a total of thirteen public hearings were conducted by the Commission in 2023. At present, the costs of public hearings are borne from ACC's own fund; however, there is scope for receiving assistance from various development partners in this field.

6.1.2 Objectives of Public Hearing

- ➔ Hearing directly from service-seeking people about their grievances and getting them addressed through the offices concerned;
- ➔ Improving the quality of services meant for the citizens in public offices as mentioned in Citizens' Charter;
- ➔ Developing a bridge between the local administration and the people whom it serves;



- Ensuring transparency and accountability in the functions of Government offices responsible for delivering services;
- Enhancing awareness among mass people about their rights as citizens and reminding service-providing employees of their responsibilities and duties;
- Increasing empathy between service seeking citizens and service providing officials;
- Identifying the causes of corruption, irregularities and delays at source and taking steps to remove them; and
- Adopting administrative and legal measures in appropriate cases.

6.1.3 Theoretical framework of Public Hearing

One of the fundamental responsibilities of the State, as the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh stipulates, is to secure to the citizens "the provision of the basic necessities of life". Second, Article 13 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) underpins the importance of "participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption". Third, a pledge to deliver corruption-free public services to the citizens has been spelt out in the National Integrity Strategy as adopted by the Government in 2012. Fourth, one of the strategies of the 8th Five-Year Plan is ensuring improvement in governance of institutions which can be addressed through public hearings and other mechanisms of making an organisation accountable to society. Fifth, of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015, the 16th one is to "build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". Public hearings play a significant role in achieving this goal.

The theoretical underpinning of public hearing as an accountability method has been derived from 'The framework for service provision' as explained in the World Development Report-2004 of the World Bank. For establishing accountability in the system of delivering public services, this framework suggests (1) enabling the people "to monitor and discipline service providers", (2) "amplifying their voice in policymaking" and (3) "strengthening the incentives for providers". The importance of accountability to the citizens has always been highlighted through public hearings.



6.1.4 Legal Framework of Public Hearing

- ➔ Article 20 (2) of the Constitution which affirms, "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 that stipulates, "Every person in the service of the Republic has a duty to strive at all times to serve the people";
- ➔ National Integrity Strategy, 2012;
- ➔ Relevant sections of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004;
- ➔ Two Office Memorandums of Cabinet Division issued on 01 June 2014 and 05 June 2014 giving instructions on conducting public hearing sessions at all Government offices for preventing corruption and creating mass awareness;
- ➔ The Right to Information Act, 2009; and
- ➔ The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011.

6.1.5 Conducting Public Hearing Functions

Article 7(1) of the Constitution articulates that "All powers in the Republic belong to the people..." As power derives from people's mandate, they have an inalienable right to receive public services without any harassment, irregularities, corruption and delays; the eradication of these vices is expedited through public hearings. In each public hearing session, the Chairman of the ACC himself or a Commissioner observes the proceedings and announces instant decisions to resolve the issues raised there. The Commission formulated a policy for public hearing in 2016. Currently public hearings are held on the basis of this policy.

Public hearing sessions are open to people of all classes including local elites, citizens seeking public services, officers and support staff of the offices concerned, media representatives, members of civil society organisations, legal practitioners, NGOs and other stakeholders. The officers of ACC's integrated district office concerned may, if necessary, invite the appropriate persons by letter or telephone to attend these sessions. In this regard, steps are taken in consultation with the honourable Members of Parliament, Mayor and Councillors of City Corporation or Pourashava, Chairman of Upazila Parishad, and other public representatives. Sometimes consultations are held with the local corruption prevention committee in making decisions or fixing the course of action to be followed to resolve outstanding issues, if any.

6.1.6 Statistics of Public Hearings conducted from 2020 to 2023

Concerning delivery of public services, in 2023, the Commission conducted 13 (thirteen) public hearing programmes. Through these hearings, the Commission received a total of 677 complaints from the citizens at grassroots level; among them, 427 were resolved, making a disposal rate of 63%. Year-wise statement of public hearings held during the last four years is given below.



Table-39: Number of Public Hearings conducted in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Year	Number of Public Hearing/Follow -Up Public Hearing
2020	05
2021	01
2022	03
2023	13

6.1.7 Outcomes of Public Hearing

As stipulated in the Constitution, "Every person in the service of the Republic has a duty to strive at all times to serve the people". Accordingly, the Anti-Corruption Commission conducts public hearings with a two-fold aim; first, to remind public servants of their constitutional obligation to serve the people and second, to transform every service-providing office into an accountable organization. Outstanding issues hampering delivery of services are getting resolved owing to public hearings and follow-up sessions that are held regularly. The Commission also takes legal actions on receiving credible complaints of corruption. If any incident of specific corruption is unearthed during public hearing, arrangement for investigation is done forthwith. In addition, reports are sent to higher authorities about the performances of Government officials with requests, if necessary, for taking administrative action. The sources and nature of irregularities and corruption are identified through public hearings; accordingly, recommendations are made to the authority for remedial actions. Public hearings are expected to play an effective role in removing irregularities, harassments or purposive delay prevalent in the mechanism of delivering public service.



CHAPTER SEVEN

Training Programmes

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Local Training
- 7.3 Foreign Training



Training Programmes

7.1 Introduction

The Anti-Corruption Commission works continuously to achieve the goal of preventing and controlling corruption as well as developing good governance practices. To this end, skilled human resources are necessary. Training is a prerequisite for developing human resources of expected standard; it is an indispensable method to increase the knowledge and skills of staff members, which will result in their attitudinal change too. At the outset of 2019, the ACC started its Training wing with the aim of developing its officials as skilled human resources. This wing organises focused and time-befitting specialised training programmes for employees of different grades and ranks at home and abroad throughout the year. In addition, the Commission makes arrangements for learning, training, promoting good practices and enhancing awareness pertaining to its existing procedures and practices that are under constant review.

Training enables the participating employees to share experiences, exchange knowledge and gain insights through hands-on activities. Augmenting their professionalism and productivity, training transforms them to skilled human resources. The ACC has drawn up a plan to build its own training institute, which will be a modern, self-sufficient establishment being in conformity with well-functioning, reputed similar ones in the country. This institute, when it comes into operation, will reduce the requirement of sending ACC employees to training facilities of other organisations in the country or even overseas, saving both time and money. However, trainees from different countries are expected to come here as learners and researchers.

The nature of corruption constantly assumes different dimensions due to technological advancement. Income earned through corruption can be laundered in different ways anywhere in the world. Digital currencies like Bitcoin have been introduced in different countries. Corruption has now extended far beyond geographical boundaries. Against a backdrop of versatility and wideness of unscrupulous practices, the main target of ACC officials is to conduct enquiry and investigation of corruption of the modern era efficiently following due process so that the offenders, if detected, are compelled to face trial by a competent court. Keeping that in mind, the Anti-Corruption Commission works to categories the type, means and features of corruption prevalent in specific sectors. For this purpose, specialised trainings, apart from basic ones on enquiry and investigation, are arranged on banking, finance, auditing, stock market, intelligence operation, cybercrime, digital frauds and procurement. These training programmes are expected to enhance the professional knowledge and skills of the officers.

7.2 Local Training

In 2023, employees of Anti-Corruption Commission received a good number of trainings within the country. The officers attended trainings funded by Anti-Corruption Commission as well as other organisations.



Table 40: Local Trainings, Seminars, Workshops and Conferences arranged by ACC

SI	Name of the Training	Duration	Number of Trainees	Funded by
1	Orientation Course for Newly Appointed Constables	2 nd to 5 th January 2023	109	Anti-Corruption Commission
2	Training on Money Laundering Investigation Procedures	31 st January to 2 nd February 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
3	Training on Money Laundering Investigation Procedures	7 th to 9 th February 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
4	Training on Money Laundering Investigation Procedures	14 th to 15 th February 2023	29	ACC Strengthening Project
5	Training on Performing duties at Complaint Centre-106.	13 th March 2023	32	Anti-Corruption Commission
6	Training on Performing duties at Complaint Centre-106.	14 th March 2023	35	Anti-Corruption Commission
7	Training on NIS and Good Governance	15 th March 2023	30	Anti-Corruption Commission
8	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	21 st to 23 rd March 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
9	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	28 th to 30 th March 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
10	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	4 th to 6 th April 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
11	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	11 th to 13 th April 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
12	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	7 th to 9 th May 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
13	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	10 th to 14 th May 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
14	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	16 th to 18 th May 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
15	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	21 st to 23 rd May 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
16	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	24 th , 25 th , 28 th May 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
17	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	30 th May to 2 nd June 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
18	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	6 th to 8 th June 2023	30	Anti-Corruption Commission
19	Training on Office Procedure and Discipline	11 th to 13 th June 2023	30	Anti-Corruption Commission
20	Training on NIS and Good Governance	14 th June 2023	30	Anti-Corruption Commission
21	Training on NIS and Good Governance	27 th September 2023	29	Anti-Corruption Commission



Sl	Name of the Training	Duration	Number of Trainees	Funded by
22	Training on Enquiry and Investigation	12 th to 16 th November 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
23	Training on Enquiry and Investigation	19 th to 23 rd November 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
24	Functional, Operational, Maintenance related User Level Training	20 th to 22 nd November 2023	26	ACC Strengthening Project
25	Functional, Operational, Maintenance related User Level Training	23 rd November 2023	14	ACC Strengthening Project
26	Functional, Operational, Maintenance related User Level Training	26 th November 2023	15	ACC Strengthening Project
27	Training on Enquiry and Investigation	26 th to 30 th November 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
28	Functional, Operational, Maintenance related User Level Training	27 th November 2023	17	ACC Strengthening Project
29	Orientaion Course for Newly appointed Court Inspectors	3 rd to 7 th December 2023	09	Anti-Corruption Commission
30	Training on Enquiry and Investigation	10 th to 14 th December 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
31	Training on Enquiry and Investigation	17 th to 21 st December 2023	30	ACC Strengthening Project
32	Training on NIS and Good Governance	26 th December 2023	30	Anti-Corruption Commission

Table 41: Local Trainings, Seminars, Workshops and Conferences arranged by other Institutions

Sl	Name of the Training	Duration	Number of Trainees	Organised by	Funded by
1	Training on OSINT System of uses	7 th to 9 th May 2023	02	National Telecommunication Monitoring Center-NTMC	NTMC
2	Countering Trade-Based Money Laundering Masterclass	8 th to 9 th May 2023	06	Bangladesh Bank	Bangladesh Bank
3	Training on Banking Functions	18 th to 22 nd June 2023	25	Sonali Bank Staff College	Sonali Bank
4	Workshops on filing Cases at Courts, Submission of Memorandum of Evidence, Prosecution and so on	3 rd to 7 th June 2023	35	Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI)	JATI
5	3rd Foundation Course for Newly Appointed Asst. Directors	16 th July to 13 th September 2023	18	BIAM Foundation	Anti-Corruption Commission
6	2nd Foundation Course for Newly Appointed Deputy Asst. Directors	30 th July to 27 th September 2023	68	RPATC Dhaka	Anti-Corruption Commission
7	Workshop on NIS related issues	5 th to 9 th November 2023	06	US Embassy Dhaka	Anti-Corruption Commission
8	Income Tax Act and Regulations	5 th to 9 th November 2023	40	BCS (Taxation) Academy	Anti-Corruption Commission



7.3 Foreign Training

The country has laudable success in various sectors like education, health, infrastructure, communication and so on. But there is a prevalence of illegal activities like corruption. Some corrupt persons have smuggled money obtained through corruption to foreign countries. Some of the accused in the Commission's cases have fled the country. Interpol's cooperation is sought to bring them back to the country and make them face trial. Since corruption has become a global problem, its investigation process is also considered as a part of global investigation. Therefore, the Commission has laid more emphasis on domestic and foreign training in human resource management. In this context, the Commission is participating in various regional and international level meetings, seminars, conferences and so on to fight against corruption and emulate best practices.

Table 42: Regional and International Trainings, Seminars, Workshops and Conferences in 2023

Sl	Name of the Training	Duration	Number of Trainees/Participants	Organised by	Funded by
1	Audio & Video Forensic	14 th to 23 rd March 2023	03	Italy	ACC Strengthening Project
2	The 2nd G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting	24 th to 28 th May 2023	01	G-20 (Held in India)	ACC
3	Workshop on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption for Governments and Sports organizations of South Asia	20 th to 21 st June 2023	01	UNODC (Held in Austria)	ACC
4	Participation in the webinar on corruption without borders. How to Cooperate to tackle it?	13 th July 2023	20	IACA	Online Training
5	Participation in the webinar on corruption without borders. How to co-operate to tackle it?	17 th July 2023	02	ACRC	Online Training
6	G-20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial meeting	12 th August 2023	01	G-20 (Held in India)	ACC
7	ACRC Training Course for International Anti-Corruption Practitioners	4 th to 9 th September 2023	02	ACRC (Held in Republic of Korea)	ACC
8	Training Course for International Anti-Corruption Practitioners	4 th to 9 th September 2023	20	IAACA	Online training
9	12th Assembly of the Parties (AoP)	9 th November 2023	01	IACA (Held in Austria)	ACC
10	Regional Conference on Corruption as a Facilitator of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants	21 st to 22 nd November 2023	01	UNODC (Held in Thailand)	UNODC
11	Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)	11 th to 15 th December 2023	03	UNCAC (Held in USA)	ACC



CHAPTER EIGHT

Future Plan of the Commission

- 8.1 Institutional Capacity Building
- 8.2 Effective Enquiry and Investigation
- 8.3 Effective Prosecution
- 8.4 Effective Prevention and Research Programmes
- 8.5 Effective Education System



Future Plan of the Commission

In order to combat and prevent corruption, as well as to ensure the best use of limited resources, the Anti-Corruption Commission has formulated a strategic action plan. The Commission has taken concrete steps to implement short term action plan within next one year, medium term within 2-3 years and long term within five years. Through proper implementation of Strategic Action Plans, the Commission continues to perform its statutory functions targeted towards combating and preventing corruption in the country.

The ACC in its Strategic Plan has put emphasis on taking punitive measures for eradicating corrupt practices and making educative and advocacy interventions for preventing corruption. In this Strategic Plan five cardinal issues have succinctly been well identified notably-

1. Institutional Capacity Building;
2. Effective Enquiry and Investigation;
3. Effective Prosecution;
4. Effective Prevention and Research Programmes; and
5. Effective Education Strategy.

8.1 Institutional Capacity Building

Institutional capacity building is one of the major challenges for the ACC. In 2023, 128 employees have been recruited for the Commission. However some sanctioned posts are vacant. As per Strategic Action Plan of the Commission, the most important issues in institutional capacity building are as follows:

Short term:

(a) Formulation of an up-to-date organogram; (b) Recruitment of new staff; (c) Provision of special incentives as reward for good work; and (d) Ensuring adequate logistic support.

Medium term:

(a) Need assessment analysis, planning and taking action for human resource development; (b) Capacity building of Digital Forensic Lab of ACC; (c) Development of trained manpower for forensic accounting; (d) Establishment of a dedicated training institute; (e) Preparation of annual training plans and implementation; (f) Organizing Training of Trainers (TOT) Courses; and (g) Identifying suitable partners and engaging with them to assist ACC in combating corruption.

Long term:

(a) Conducting training for media persons for enhancing interaction between ACC and the public; (b) Formulating an Ethics Code consistent with the fundamental purposes of ACC to ensure accountability and transparency; and (c) Taking action against violators of Ethics Code.



8.2 Effective Enquiry and Investigation

Enquiries and Investigations are the fundamental activities of the ACC. But lack of capacity and working with conventional procedures severely hamper the ACC's efforts to investigate corruption in Bangladesh. As per Commission's Strategic Action Plan, following steps must be taken to ensure Effective Enquiry and Investigation process:

Short term:

(a) Updating the organogram incorporating necessary manpower, logistics and other facilities and ensuring adequate financial allocations; and (b) Rewarding the officer(s) maintaining the highest standards of integrity.

Medium term:

(a) Preparation of up-to-date guidelines/manual/instructions for enquiry and investigation incorporating relevant Acts, Rules, Circulars and Office orders and ensuring its adherence; (b) Conducting regular training of enquiry and investigation officers and their supervisors; and (c) Provision of special allowances for enquiry and investigating officers.

Long term:

(a) Preparation of interactive website to provide adequate technical support to ACC officers for effective enquiry, investigation, prosecution and prevention of corruption; and (b) Making facilities where investigating officers, when lawfully allowed, can conveniently interrogate an accused in custody.

8.3 Effective Prosecution

Prosecuting and monitoring under-trial cases of corruption is a key responsibility of any anti-corruption agency. However, to provide strong support to prosecuting such cases, the Anti-Corruption Commission currently has neither sufficient workforce and skilled manpower, nor adequate logistics. To increase the rate of convictions in those cases, the Commission needs to carry out the following activities according to the Strategic Action Plan:

Short and medium term:

(a) Updating the organogram incorporating requisite extent of manpower for prosecution units with logistics and other facilities; and (b) Appointing competent and experienced prosecutors accordingly.

Medium and long term:

(a) Preparing instruction manuals for prosecutors and their supervisors; and (b) Conducting trainings for prosecutors and supervisors.

8.4 Effective Prevention and Research Programmes

ACC believes that enforcement of law cannot be the only tool in all-out fight against corruption. No anti-corruption initiative can succeed or sustain without active support or participation of the people. Research is essential for understanding the trends of corruption, identifying its varying forms, chalking out new ways to tackle it and assessing perceptions of corruption in Bangladesh. ACC requires its own 'Research and Development Unit' to assist its efforts to effectively investigate,



prosecute and prevent corruption. As per Strategic Action Plan, the key issues for preventing corruption effectively are as follows:

Short term:

(a) Organising regular public hearings to prevent corruption; (b) Conducting sudden (surprise) visits to corruption-prone government offices; (c) Establishing a well-equipped 'Research and Development Unit' to assist the ACC in curbing corruption; and (d) Formulating annual research plans and conducting research activities accordingly.

Medium term:

(a) Organising regular stakeholder meetings with ministries/divisions/departments concerned on service delivery and providing recommendations for system development; (b) Organising seminars, workshops, trainings, short film shows, dramas and debates to help prevent corruption; and (c) Making it mandatory for Government departments to submit report on corruption to Anti-Corruption Commission as indicated in the National Integrity Strategy, 2012.

Long term:

(a) Conducting regular research to review pertinent Acts and examining measures provided in them; and
(b) Providing adequate technical assistance to the 'Research and Development Unit'.

8.5 Effective Education System

Educating and sensitising the people, particularly the young segment of the populace, about the dreadful consequences of corruption is a fundamental prevention strategy. To address this, the ACC has formed Integrity Units (IUs) in a large number of schools across the country. These units are working as associated bodies of CPCs to create awareness against corruption and promote integrity among the younger generation. Followings are the key issues concerning enhancement of coordination with educational institutions as indicated in the Commission's strategic action plan:

Short and medium term:

(a) Inclusion of specific chapters related to ethics, morality and integrity in the school curriculum with a view to inculcating anti-corruption outlooks amongst students; and
(b) Inclusion of modules on anti-corruption policies and other associated issues in training curriculum designed for public servants.

Medium and long term:

(a) Organising regular anti-corruption training under the initiative of the Commission; and
(b) Providing scholarships for higher education at home and abroad on corruption issues.



CHAPTER NINE

Conclusion



Conclusion

The term corruption was initially coined by Greek philosopher Aristotle. Then philosopher Cicero added the word corruption to the words bribery and desertion of good habits. Corruption is a criminal behaviour contrary to the prevailing principles, ideals and values of society. Corruption is related to abuse of profession, power, privilege and position. Consumerism and in many cases scarcity of resources are major reasons behind corruption, which plays a role in income and wealth inequality. As a result, the benefits of development are not properly distributed in the society. Being a global phenomenon, corruption has emerged as a major challenge in the progress of our development. The state has a Constitutional obligation to take measures to ensure that no one can enjoy ill-gotten wealth. As an important step for the implementation of this Constitutional mandate, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has been established by strengthening legal and institutional frameworks to combat corruption in Bangladesh. The Commission has taken various steps that are indicative of its clear commitment towards establishing good governance and preventing corrupt practices. In implementing this commitment and mandate, the Commission continues its efforts to investigate and prosecute cases and take preventive measures to combat corruption.

Since its establishment as an independent and impartial entity in 2004, the ACC has evolved steadily into its present shape as a result of various activities. The Commission has implemented several strategic initiatives to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness. The Commission is implementing multi-dimensional activities for institutional capacity building in light of its five-year strategy. The progress of enquiry, investigations and prosecutions has been brought under monitoring, done through an institutional capacity building (2nd Revised) project. A digital case management system has been introduced, an anti-money laundering unit has been established and awareness programmes have been expanded. The Intelligence Unit of the Commission works to achieve the objectives and goals of the Commission through collection of intelligence maintaining the highest level of confidentiality. Actions are taken by analysing the information received on the basis of hotline number 106, news-items published in mass media, information spread through social media and communication with other intelligence agencies. Through these works, ACC has been able to demonstrate its trustworthiness as an independent and unique institution in combating corruption.

The Commission has taken appropriate steps for the development of its human resources. The Anti-Corruption Commission (Employees) Service Rules, 2008 is being updated to streamline the work of the ACC. Training is arranged for the officers of the Commission at home and abroad for augmenting skills and developing a positive mind-set. These trainings provide opportunities for exchange of experiences, sharing best practices, mutual discussions and hands-on learning. Practical training is provided to eradicate corruption through effective enquiry, investigation and prosecution and to prevent corruption before it occurs. Apart from basic courses, training is arranged in various subjects including banking, finance, auditing, stock market, intelligence, cybercrime, digital intelligence, procurement and so on. The Commission believes that a trained and skilled workforce will contribute towards achieving its anti-corruption objectives and accomplishing its fundamental works in an easier way.



Prevalence of corruption has a correlation with the decline of moral values. Effective prevention and control of corruption are impossible without integrity. For this reason, corruption prevention initiatives are being implemented in combination of patriotism and conscience. In order to achieve these goals, the Prevention wing of the Commission undertakes various activities including the celebration of International Anti-Corruption Day, opening Honesty Stores, arranging debates and forming Integrity Units and Anti-Corruption Committees. Activities relating to good practices and integrity are based at various educational institutions as they are targeted to create a generation with honesty and devotion in mind. The Commission has also focused on building partnerships with civil society, public-private organizations, media and international organizations to raise awareness against corruption and bring transparency. ACC Media Awards are given to media professionals to encourage creative and helpful reporting on anti-corruption. The Commission is optimistic about the positive outcomes of these activities with the involvement of citizens from all walks of life.

The Commission has taken sturdy steps in fostering a corruption-free and accountable administrative system. Government servants have a Constitutional responsibility to provide services to the public. The Commission is playing a vital role in establishing direct connection between service receivers and service providers in order to improve the delivery of government services to the people transparently and without any harassment. In this case, the Commission has initiated tripartite public hearings. The real state of government service delivery becomes visible through public hearings organised at the grassroots level across the country. Suffering people can raise complaints directly about irregularities, inefficiency, mismanagement, procrastination and corruption. As a consequence, it has become possible to take steps to bring mobility in rendering services. Transparent and accountable administrative systems are developed by redressing crime. On the other hand service receivers are informed about the procedure of how to receive services. Thus this process ensures people's participation and enhances their empowerment. Follow-up actions are taken regularly regarding the next steps about the complaints received in public hearings. Effectiveness of public hearing is evident as the disposal rate of complaints raised in hearing sessions is highly satisfactory. The Commission strongly believes that the impact of public hearings will lead to the development of an accountable and transparent administration.

With the development of technology and globalization, the methods and patterns of corruption are constantly changing. Currently, assets gained through corruption are transacted not only within the borders of the country, but smuggled abroad. International networks of corruption are constantly developed in newer ways. As a result, corruption prevention and control are faced with many challenges which will increase in the future. To meet these challenges, ACC has adopted a strategy for its future journey. ACC has taken steps in liaison and coordination with foreign agencies to remove its limitations on recovery of money laundered through bribery and corruption. Communication and coordination with foreign agencies, exchange of information and mutual cooperative activities in collecting evidence have been strengthened.

Corruption is a totalitarian, social cancer. Prevention is better than cure for corruption. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for building a social movement to prevent corruption. Familial values teach people honesty, loyalty and integrity. Therefore, it is necessary to start anti-corruption movement from within the family. Along with families and Anti-Corruption



Commission, people from all walks of life, especially young people should come forward to fight against corruption. Mass awareness, patriotism and commitment of the youth can eradicate corruption from the society. Everyone's involvement and strong role is necessary so that corrupt people get no acceptance in the society. The Anti-Corruption Commission is working on the prevention and eradication of corruption with equal importance. Achieving the goal of preventing corruption among the UN Sustainable Development Goals is the first priority of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Building a corruption-free, prosperous and smart Bangladesh is our promise for the future.