



CAG NEWS

Quarterly News Letter of the Office of the CAG

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CAG's Views

I am happy that the second issue of CAG NEWS is published. The first issue created immense impact upon the distinguished readers and many of them have written to me felicitating CAG NEWS. Comments of a few distinguished readers are included in this edition.

A quite revolution is taking place in CAG office with multifarious activities and productivity. Audit party briefing check-list, Audit mandays structure sample format, Local audit report (formerly inspection report) sample format, Inspection report sample format, Audit para sample format, Audit-Report sample format, Restructuring of audit reports into volume-1 (executive summary) in five pages, volume-2 (audit paras) in one page each, volume-3 (annexure), auditing by Directors General, Directors and Deputy Directors of the Audit Directorates etc. are all aimed at improving the quality of auditing and audit reports. Audit parties follow new time frame of issuing Local Audit Reports (LAR). CAG has written to all the Principal Accounting Officers (Secretaries) of Ministries and Divisions impressing upon them to attend to replies to audit observations of serious irregularities and help settle pending audit observations as their priority job. Our main target is the audit parties whose high quality output could alone ensure quality audit report. Side by side motivation and awareness building thrust have been geared up to enhance commitment level of the manpower. CAG NEWS is meant to play an instrumental role towards those achievables.

Comments from our revered readers are most welcome which could definitely upgrade the standard of CAG NEWS.

ASIF ALI

Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh

CAG Submits Audit Reports to the President

The Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Asif Ali submitted 23 audit reports including 9 special audit reports and 14 annual audit reports to the Honourable President Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed on 12 May 2003 at



CAG submits Audit Reports to the President

Bangabhaban. The special audit reports included reports on Rajshahi City Corporation and Khulna City Corporation (1997-99), Director General of Post Offices, (1995-98), Local Government Parishads (Khagrachari and Bandarban) (1993-98), Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (1995-98) etc. The annual reports included Ministry of Agriculture, Finance Division of Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Communication and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. President Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed appreciated recent initiatives for the improvement of audit standards and underscored the need for accelerating the process of ensuring accountability and transparency. The CAG was accompanied by Deputy Comptroller and Auditor Genral (Accounts and Reports) Abduhu Mahmood Khan and Asstt. Comptroller and Auditor General (Report) Abul Kalam Azad. Secretary to the President Md. Abdul Latif Mondol and Military Secretary to the President Major General M. A. Matin, ndu, psc were present on the occasion.

PM apprised of Audit Reports: Emphasis on quality audit for transparency

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid emphasis on quality audit to ensure transparency and accountability of government expenses when the Comptroller and Auditor General Asif Ali apprised her of 23 audit reports at her



CAG apprises PM of Audit Reports

office on April 15, 2003. Appreciating the efforts of the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Prime Minister suggested enhancing the quality of audit report to be useful for the Parliament and the Government. She stressed on maximum utilization of government funds and minimizing wastage/misuse of public resources. She suggested that audit oversees that development projects are implemented on the basis of priorities and are completed in time. Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor Genral (Accounts and Reports) Abduhu Mahmood Khan and Asstt. Comptroller and Auditor General (Report) Abul Kalam Azad were present on the occasion.

CAG informs the Finance Minister of preliminary investigative findings on Food Department

The Minister for Finance and Planning M. Saifur Rahman was apprised of the preliminary observations on special audit conducted on 7 SILOs, CSDs and LSDs under the Food Department located in the different districts of the northern area of Bangladesh on his request when CAG Asif Ali met him on 19 April 2003. The Minister was briefed by the CAG on the findings containing information about the important management issues, causes of irregularities, losses and recommendations thereon. The financial irregularities amounting to Tk. 2.02 crores include shortage of stock, excessive leakage during transportation, procurement of low quality of wheat and rice, unnecessary movement of food grains etc. The Finance Minister thanked the CAG for the good work done. The CAG was accompanied by Faruque M. Siddiqui, Director General, Commercial Audit and Manindra Chandra Datta, Director General, Performance Audit

CAG calls on the Dhaka City Corporation Mayor

CAG Asif Ali called on Sadeque Hossain M.P, Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation in the Mayor's office at "Nagar Bhaban" on 20 May 2003. They discussed important issues relating to audit of the Corporation. M. Mesbahuddin Khan, Director General, Local and Revenue Audit Directorate was present.

CAG calls on PAC Chairman: co-operation between Parliament and Audit Office emphasized

CAG Asif Ali called on Advocate Harun-AI-Rashid, MP, Chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Jatiya Shangshad at his parliament office on 11 June 2003. CAG apprised the PAC Chairman of the steps and plans taken recently for improvement of audit. He also reaffirmed the whole-hearted support and cooperation of the audit office to the parliamentary committee for ensuring the accountability and transparency of government activities. The Chairman of the Committee emphasized upon revenue audit along with expenditure audit to ensure that all the government income, particularly revenue from courts and land registration is properly accounted for and deposited in the exchequer.



CAG calls on PAC Chairman

Dy CAG (A&R), Abduhu Mahmood Khan, Chief Accounts Officer of parliament secretariat, Md. Harun-or- Rashid Zomadder and ACAG (Report), Abul Kalam Azad were also present.

Bangladesh Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) announces candidature for re-election to ASOSAI Governing Board Membership

The **Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)** was established in 1979. Auditor-Generals' offices of all countries are known as Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI). The main objectives of ASOSAI are to promote understanding and cooperation among member institutions through exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of Public Audit, to provide facilities for training and continuing education for government auditors with a view to improving quality and performance.

Bangladesh has been an active member of ASOSAI since its inception and became member of its Governing Board in 2000 for three-year term. Bangladesh SAI announced candidature for reelection to ASOSAI Governing Board on 21 May 2003 when Finance Ministry requested the Foreign Ministry to actively promote and campaign for Bangladesh's candidature.

Information Technology (IT) Audit to start: Leaping forward to new audit arena

A presentation on IT Audit was held in the Conference room of the Audit Bhaban on 17 May 2003. The programme was presided over by CAG Asif Ali and was attended by officers of different levels of Audit Directorates and the CAG Office.

Ahsan Abdullah Addl. Dy CAG presented the key-note paper elaborating the basic ideas of Information Systems and IT Audit. He was assisted by Shah Aminul Haque, Director, Foreign Aided Projects Audit Directorate (FAPAD) and Md. Iqbal Hossain, Director (MIS) of the Office of the CAG. The audience was apprised of the basics of IT systems and IT Audit and the COBIT standards and auditing techniques. The presenter also proposed a future course of action on the subject.

The presentation covered the following basic concepts

- common features and assets of IT systems
- data integrity and data security of IT systems

- control variables (both general and application controls)
- internal controls of IT systems
- system efficiency and effectiveness
- business continuity plan
- auditing techniques
- Control Objectives for Information and related Technology (COBIT) standards.

The paper highlighted the general and application controls of IT systems and COBIT standards.

The presenter suggested an action-plan for the Audit Office which covers the following aspects:

- Set up an IS Audit wing in the CAG Office
- Prepare a core-group for conducting real-life IS Audits
- Appoint IS Audit professionals whenever necessary
- Make a detailed study of the existing Computerized Information Systems (CIS) in the Government sector
- Make a detailed and realistic IS Audit Plan
- Co-ordinate IT initiatives with Financial Management Reforms Programme (FMRP) Project, jointly funded by GOB, DFID and Royal Netherlands Embassy.

Seminar held on “Auditor-Auditee relationship”: An important area explored

The Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Asif Ali declared that henceforth issue-based auditing would be emphasized. He expressed this view while addressing as Chief Guest at the seminar on “Auditor-Auditee Relationship” organized by the Railway Audit Directorate at the Railway Rest House Auditorium in Dhaka on May 22, 2003. He laid importance on taking initiatives for building up Railway Finance as an effective instrument for the Railway management through combined endeavor of both the Management and Audit Office. Firoz Ahmed, Director General, Railway Audit Directorate presented the theme paper of the seminar. In his presentation he apprised the audience about the types of audit, problems of railway audit and shortcomings in present audit approach. He mentioned that the present CAG carried out reform initiatives to address these problems. A crash programme is planned to settle long pending audit objections. A high powered committee was formed towards better functioning of the Railway Audit Directorate.

The committee has suggested the following recommendations.

- Relieve Bangladesh Railway (BR) of bearing the budget of Railway Audit Directorate which actually belongs to CAG’s budget thus saving BR expenditure of Tk. 170 lac annually.

- Dissolve 10 dispersed locations and instead establish Railway Audit headquarter in Dhaka with two regional offices in Chittagong and Rajshahi.
- Re-organise audit management in line with other audit directorates.
- Bills of Railway Audit be passed by Civil Accounts offices to ensure independence of audit and budgetary norms.
- Besides financial audit, introduction of issue-based audit and performance audit are necessary.

The Special Guest of the seminar AKM Rezaul Karim, the Director General of Bangladesh Railway, requested for holding regular meeting between the Railway Management with the assistance of Railway Finance Deptt. and Audit Office in order to keep the operating system of Bangladesh Railway productive and dynamic. Senior officials of CAG Office, Bangladesh Railway and Railway Finance Department including the Controller General Defence Finance AK Nasim Haider, Dy CAG (Senior) Waliul Haq Khandker, Addl. Director General (Finance) Arunangshu Sen, Addl. Director General (Infrastructure) Nurul Amin Khan, Addl. Director General (Operation) Khurshid Anoar, and Addl. Director General (Rolling-stock) KMA Rob also took part in the discussions.

CAG inaugurates in-house training in Civil Audit and Local and Revenue Audit Directorates: Initiatives

- CAG Asif Ali inaugurated a two day long in-house training programme at Civil Audit Directorate on 16 April 2003. The programme focused on Finance Accounts, Appropriation Accounts, Accounts reconciliation, balancing of the Public Accounts etc. Abdullah al Mamun, Controller General of Accounts (CGA) was present as special guest.
- In-house training programme of Local and Revenue Audit Directorate was inaugurated at FIMA by CAG Asif Ali on 9 April 2003. The training module included courses on issue-based audit, editing audit report, internal control audit and performance audit. M. Mesbahuddin Khan, DG, Local and Revenue Audit Directorate and other officers of the Directorate participated in the deliberations.

Grameen Bank DMD Mohammad Khaled Shams speaks on " Loan operations and Internal Audit of Grameen Bank"

Mohammad Khaled Shams, Deputy Managing Director of Grameen Bank talked on the loan operations with special reference to the role of Internal Audit of Grameen Bank through his excellent presentation on 30 June 2003 in the Conference Room of CAG office with Asif Ali in the Chair. The session was attended by senior and mid level officers. DMD Khaled Shams briefly described the Bank activities as well as the functional relations between the internal audit



Grameen Bank DMD Khaled Shams speaks

and the management of Grameen Bank. He highlighted the role and activities of internal audit in Grameen Bank. The Bank carries out various types of audit depending on subject and time. The types include full-fledged audit, surprise audit, subject-based audit, motivational audit and 100% balancing audit.

The basic principles of internal audit include:

- the financial transparency and accountability at various levels
- settle balances and apprise members about their accounts and reconcile with the Bank
- educate the members on maintenance of passbook and passbook transactions
- motivate the members on sound credit management
- train the staff about correcting the faults
- encourage the members about new programmes

Zonal Audit Officer works as the shadow of the Zonal Manager and helps directly to implement the programmes. Zonal Audit Officer appraises the Zonal Manager of the positive sides as well as irregularities of the programmes. Thus in Grameen Bank, Internal Audit and Management work hand in hand for common goals.

Information Systems Audit and Controls Association (ISACA) seminar on IT governance and control: possibilities of mutual co-operation explored

A seminar on IT governance and control was held in the Conference room of the Audit Bhaban on 14 June 2003. The programme was presided over by the CAG Asif Ali and was attended by senior officers of the Audit Office. ISACA, Dhaka chapter organised the seminar. Nazrul Haidar, Secretary of the Dhaka chapter, presented the key-note paper. Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Professor of Accounting and Information Systems, University of Dhaka and President of ISACA, Dhaka chapter and other office bearers of the chapter also participated in the deliberations.

Founded in 1969 at USA, the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) is a globally recognized leader in IT governance, control and assurance representing 30,000

members in 150 chapters spread over 100 countries. ISACA Dhaka Chapter was formed in late 2002 with 30 charter members from both Accounting and IT profession of various trades. Responding to the challenges and responsibilities of today's Information Technology (IT) professional, ISACA is uniquely positioned and equipped to be the single provider of the leading-edge products and services needed to be successful and maintain competitive advantage. ISACA membership is comprised of all levels of Accountants and IT professionals – executive, management and practitioner – who recognize ISACA as a harmonizing source of IT governance, control and assurance practices and standards for all over the world. From the presentation it was clear that with the control and security of IT based systems more critical than ever, the role of individuals able to capitalize and leverage new technological advances to ensure secure and reliable information becomes even more important. The newly formed ISACA Dhaka Chapter is working in conjunction with more than 150 chapters worldwide engaged in developing expertise in the field of IS audit and control objectives from international perspective.

Presentation on "Audit Forum"-a quarterly journal published by SAI, Indonesia: issue on "Corruption"

Six Directors General of Audit Directorates presented articles published in the 20th edition of the journal "Audit Forum" of SAI, Indonesia on 19 May 2003 at the conference room of Audit Bhaban. CAG Asif Ali presided over the session. M. Mesbahuddin Khan, DG, Local and Revenue Audit presented the preface of the journal before the audience. The journal of SAI, Indonesia is published quarterly and focuses on training and research, seminars, workshop on audit, besides regular news on audit. The main focus of the edition is "Corruption". Al-Mamoon Md. Sanaul Huq, Director General, FIMA, Ahmed Ataul Hakim, Director General, Civil Audit, Motaher Hussain, DG, FAPAD, Mohammed Moslemuddin, DG, Missions Audit and Firoz Ahmed, DG, Railway Audit participated in the discussions.

Foreign Aided Projects Audit Directorate (FAPAD) organizes review meeting for financial reporting/auditing working group with different stakeholders of GOB and Donors

A review meeting sponsored by Financial Reporting/Auditing Working Group of UNDP was held on 28 April 2003 at the Conference Room of Foreign Aided Project Audit Directorate (FAPAD) with DG, FAPAD, M. Motaher Hussain in the chair. CAG Asif Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Textile Syed Tanveer Hussain, Resident Representative, UNDP, Jorgen Lissner, Country Director, ADB, Toru Shibuichi and other senior officials of Ministries and Audit Directorates were present in the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to share the findings of the group through open discussion and to receive the comments across the board in order to find a comprehensive and reasonable work-plan. The working group was formed to review the important issues that affect the implementation of development assistance procurement, financial reporting, auditing and training. CAG Asif Ali stressed on the need of efficient financial management audit for measuring effective utilization of foreign aid.

Indian Audit Team visits CAG Office: example of SAI co-operation

An Indian Audit Team made a courtesy call on Asif Ali, CAG on 22 June 2003 at his office. The Indian Audit Team was auditing Food and Agricultural Organization Representation (FAOR), Dhaka as part of its FAO, UN audit-programme.



Indian Audit Team visits CAG Office

The team consisted of Team Leader, K.Srivastava, Accountant General (Audit), Jharkhand, Rajesh Singh, Director in the office of CAG India and Venugopal Bhandary, an officer of CAG India. It is to be noted here that Ahsan Abdullah of SAI Bangladesh was included in the FAOR Audit Team, which is a befitting acknowledgement of SAI Bangladesh's recent qualitative improvement.

UNDP Delegation meets CAG

A three-member delegation of UNDP met the CAG on June 25, 2003. The delegation was headed by Sohail Jehangir Malik from UNDP Head Quarter. Other members of the delegation were Jawad A. Anani and Ruby Sandhu-Rojon.



UNDP Delegation meets CAG

They discussed various issues relating to country evaluation programmes called Assessments of Development Results (ADRs) launched by UNDP. The discussion focused on the purpose, objectives, areas and processes of the ADRs including country circumstances, strategic and specific areas and issues of UNDP's support.

Dignitaries call on CAG Bangladesh

- Danish Ambassador in Bangladesh H.E. Neils Severin Munk called on CAG on 02 April 2003. They had discussion on future co-operation and possible training support from DANIDA. The Ambassador was assisted by Karsten Iver Schack, Financial Controller of the Danish Embassy. M. Motaher Hussain, DG FAPAD was present.
- Barrister Monzur Hassan, Executive Director of Transparency International, Bangladesh Chapter called on CAG on 6 April 2003 in his chamber.
- CAG Asif Ali had a meeting with FMRP Project Delegation headed by Dr. Donald Curtis, component leader, component –5: FIMA on 22 April 2003 at Audit Bhaban. FIMA capacity building, training delivery and proposed new para-accounting course came up in the discussion. FIMA component advisor, John Wallace, CGA, Abdullah Al Mamun, Dy CAG (Senior) Waliul Huq Khandker, Dy CAG (A&R). Abduhu Mahmood Khan and Addl. CGA Rafiqul Islam were present.
- DFID representative Ian Collins with Tony Hole, component leader and Tyab Monwar Hosain, national consultant of FMRP component-1 called on CAG on 7 May 2003. Discussion was held on inception report of FMRP component-1. DCAG (Senior), DCAG (Procedure) and ACAG (report) were present.
- Donald Cuper, Programme Manager, DFID, Mike Frazer, Supervising Director of FMRP, Trevor Davies, Managing Director of ATOS-KPMG consulting and Tony Hole, component leader of FMRP component-1, met the CAG on 9 June 2003 and discussed issues relating to FMRP components 1 and 5.
- Donald Cuper, Programme Manager, DFID, along with Chris Murgatroyd of DFID called on CAG on 24 June 2003 and discussed issues related to FMRP project inception issues.

CAG visits General Auditing Bureau (GAB), Saudi Arabia : International co-operation explored

CAG Asif Ali visited GAB, Saudi Arabia from 23 April to 26 April and met the President of GAB Tawfiq Ibrahim Tawfiq at GAB headquarter at Jeddah. The two SAI chiefs discussed issues of mutual interest and co-operation.

CAG attends 30th Foundation Ceremony of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, (ICAB)

CAG Asif Ali attended 30th Founding Anniversary and National Conference of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) on 27 May at 11 AM at Bangladesh-China friendship conference centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. The program was inaugurated by the Honourable

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and attended by cross section of professionals. AKM Mosharraf Hossain, FCA, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources was the special guest. Prof. Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmood presented the key-note paper on "Financial Sector Reforms".

CAG visits Controller General Defence Finance (CGDF) and ADG (Finance), Bangladesh Railway offices

The Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Asif Ali visited the office of the Controller General Defence Finance on 12 April 2003 to have an overview of the accounts keeping, defence budget management and other related matters. Controller General Defence Finance A.K. Nasim Haider, DCAG (Senior) Waliul Huq Khondker and other high officials of Defence Finance Department were present during the visit.

CAG Asif Ali also visited the Office of Additional Director General (Finance), Bangladesh Railway at "Rail Bhaban" on 11 May 2003. A deliberation on "Financial Management of Bangladesh Railway at present situation" was presented during the occasion at the conference room of Rail Bhaban. Arunangshu Sen, ADG (Finance), Bangladesh Railway made the presentation. CAG urged that all possible steps be taken to improve the quality of railway accounts. He requested ADG (Finance) to propose a technical assistance project for railway finance to the railway authority. A.K. M. Rezaul Karim, Director General, Bangladesh Railway and other officials of Bangladesh Railway and Railway Finance Department were present.

Audit Forum- Progress review

Audit Forum commencing from 2 February 2003, which consists of 10 Directors General of audit directorates, has met in the following sessions:

- 10 Feb 2003 1st meeting at Works Audit Directorate
- 24 Feb 2003 2nd meeting at Missions Audit Directorate
- 10 March 2003 3rd meeting at Commercial Audit Directorate
- 24 March 4th meeting at Local and Revenue Audit Directorate
- 27 April 2003. 5th meeting at Civil Audit Directorate
- 2 June 2003 6th meeting at Foreign Aided Projects Aided Directorate.
- 15 June 2003 special meeting at Commercial Audit Directorate

CAG Asif Ali who was instrumental in the creation of Audit Forum, a think tank for government auditing, took keen interest in activities of the Forum and gave useful instructions/guidelines from time to time.

The Forum has made significant contribution in the following fields:

- Quality of Audit Report has improved due to framing and application of uniform models for Audit Report. Quality has also improved due to better editing of reports.
- It has led to improved professionalism through exchange of ideas and experiences among the Directorates.
- It is facilitating adoption of new approach of auditing techniques.

CAG office finalizing IT policy: Timely step towards modernization

Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh is introducing a new IT Policy to ensure better management control and efficient use of Information Technology system. This initiative is one of the very few in government offices in Bangladesh which is being introduced at the initiative of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh.

To keep pace with the technological achievement in new millennium as also in line with the Bangladesh Government's new Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy, the CAG office would like to use its Information Technology in efficient way. CAG office has also the responsibility to guide and suggest the economic and appropriate use of Information Technology in public sectors through IT Audit. The proposed policy will try to encompass these areas. Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, Director, MIS, CAG Office made a presentation on Draft IT policy in a meeting held in the conference room of the CAG Office on 17 May 2003 in the presence of all senior officers of the department. It was a threadbare discussion on different aspects of the policy. Subsequently comments were sought from all departmental heads and incorporating the views of all concerned the policy framework was prepared. A final draft was submitted to CAG on 11 June 2003.

It is expected that by implementing this policy the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General will greatly benefit from economic and efficient use of Information Technology.

Model Report sample presented at Audit Bhaban: initiatives aimed at effective audit reporting

Presentations on Model Local Audit Report (LAR) sample, Model Draft Para (DP) sample and Model Inspection Report sample were made by Director General, Local and Revenue Audit, M. Mesbahuddin Khan and Director General, Works Audit, Shahad Chowdhury on 12 May 2003 with CAG in the chair. In his inaugural speech, CAG Asif Ali pointed out that with change in requirements and approach of clients/users, audit reports have to be tailored accordingly. In his presentation, M. Mesbahuddin Khan briefed the audience of the recently introduced structured Inspection model, known as the Local Audit Report (LAR). He also presented an example

of a model DP sample, which is very concise and self-explanatory. Shahad Chowdhury came up with his Model Inspection Report sample and Model Draft para sample. He made a comparative analysis of the traditional reporting method and the recently introduced structured model. He pointed out the advantages of the said models. After the presentations, CAG congratulated both the presenters and emphasised that all Audit Directorates develop these models and send recommendations for further improvement of the models to the CAG office. All Directors General, Directors and Deputy Directors of Audit Directorates were present during the presentation.

FMRP Consultants present inception report

Tony Hole, component leader and Tyab Monwar Hosain, national consultant of FMRP component-1 presented inception feedback and project work-plan on FMRP-component 1 at the Conference room of Audit Bhaban on 22 May 2003. Senior and mid level officers of Audit Directorates were present in the session. In the presentation, the consultants put across the audience the project design, inception conclusions and the future course of action. Improving quality and focus of audit reports, introduction of new audit approaches and methods and enhancing the effectiveness of audit would be the prime objectives of the project.

They presented the following inception conclusions:

- Project design is to be based on soundness
- Some provisions e.g. restructuring, staffing etc. are to be made
- Project working approach needs some changes on structure of manuals and focus of training
- Some priorities have to be re-fixed
- Changes to be reflected in work plan
- New ways of managing and carrying out audits are essential
- Project will provide need-based operational support

The consultants pointed out that substantial and positive changes were already in progress by recent initiatives of CAG and FMRP would actively supplement those efforts.

Committee Report on General Financial Statement (GF) submitted

A six-member committee was formed by CAG to examine and review the background information, purpose and necessity of preparing the General Financial Statement (GFS). The committee was also asked to make recommendations whether the said statement needed to be prepared in view of the provisions of CAG's (Additional Functions) Act of 1974 as also the recent separation of accounts from audit and thus relieving the CAG of the accounting functions. The committee submitted its report on 30 April, 2003, which is under review of the CAG.

Farewell reception accorded to senior outgoing officers of BCS (Audit & Accounts)

Syed Sajedul Karim, ex Chairman, Petro Bangla and Dulal Abdul Hafiz, ex Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food, were accorded a farewell reception on 30 April 2003 in the conference room of Audit Bhaban. Another such reception was accorded to Mahmud Hassan Mansur on 6 June 2003. The three officers went on LPR after completing their stipulated service career. Both the receptions were presided over by CAG Asif Ali and was attended by officers of the Department. The speakers recalled their association with them and the carrier achievements of both.

Important assignments on contract basis

Syed Sajedul Karim was made Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs on contract after he went on LPR on 31 April 2003. He worked as Chairman of Petrobangla on deputation and lastly as DCAG (senior) before his present assignment. Mahmud Hassan Mansur was made Director General of Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC). He worked as a Director General in the Prime Minister's Office and lastly as DCAG (Sr.) prior to his present assignment. Dulal Abdul Hafiz was made Director General of the Women and Children's Affairs Directorate on contract. Hafiz served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Food before going on LPR.

Demise of Md. Ataur Rahman Chowdhury ex-Military Accountant General and former CGDF: condolence meeting held

A condolence meeting was held in memory of late Md. Ataur Rahman Chowdhury, Ex-Military Accountant General and former CGDF at the Audit Complex premises who expired on 18 June 2003 in New York, USA on 26 June 2003. Presided over by the Comptroller and Auditor General Asif Ali it was addressed among others by Finance and Planning Adviser of the previous Care-taker government and Chairman of the Expenditure Review Commission M. Hafizuddin Khan, Ex-CAGs K.M. Hossain and Syed Yusuf Hossain, Commerce Secretary, Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary of Religious Affairs Syed Sajedul Karim, Ex-Secretary Nurul Abedin, DG of Women Affairs Directorate Dulal Abdul Hafiz, ex-members of Audit and Accounts cadre Sufi Awsaful Islam and Abu Md. Zahurul Islam and the only son of the deceased M. Obaidur Rahman Chowdhury. Begum Ataur Rahman Chowdhury and Ex-Governor, Bangladesh Bank Dr. M. Farashuddin among others were present. Many of his ex-colleagues, admirers and a large number of officers and staff of the Audit Service attended the meeting. The speakers recollected the glorious achievements of the deceased as a valiant freedom fighter, a brilliant bureaucrat and a man of integrity. Munajat was held for the salvation of the departed soul and heartfelt condolences were conveyed to the bereaved family.

Readers' responses

"I congratulate you on taking this initiative which can keep people informed of happenings in the office of the Comptroller & Auditor General and also in the field of government audit. The term "audit" conveys sense of accountability, and dissemination of information on activities surrounding audit work will certainly focus on the importance and significance of accountability in national spheres "

- **Enam A. Chaudhury**, Chairman (State Minister), Privatisation Commission, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

"It stirs me with much pleasure to receive the latest issue of "CAG NEWS" as a token of your personal compliment. I find the said Newsletter quite contemporary and informative. It will definitely find its right place in our Library. I wish every success of CAG organisation".

- **Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, ndc, psc**, Chief of the Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy

"Thank you for sending me a copy of the first issue of quarterly CAG NEWS. This is a welcome move which will keep us informed of important developments taking place in your office. I hope it will continue to be published regularly."

- **Syed Rezaul Hayat**, Secretary, Ministry of Communication, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

" I have received a copy of CAG NEWS (Quarterly newsletter of the Office of the CAG). Thank you very much for sending the News letter. I congratulate you for taking initiative to publish this informative quarterly Newsletter. I believe publication of this-subsequent Newsletters in future will continue under your concerted efforts and leadership"

- **Karar Mahmudul Hassan**, Secretary in-charge, Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

"Thank you for sending me the copy of a CAG NEWS. Convey my congratulations to Mr Asif Ali for taking a very timely step. My only request to you that please include in it some information which can help us to have an idea how the CAG's office is trying to solve some very major problems."

- **A Z M Abdul Ali**, Ex Joint Director General, Finance, Bangladesh Railway

"Thank you very much for sending me a copy of CAG News-quarterly newsletter of the office of C&AG. This is indeed a laudable move and I hereby congratulate the Comptroller and Auditor General and his officers for bringing out the Newsletter. Adding a paragraph on status of Audit Reports may deserve consideration."

- **Zakia A Choudhury**, Former Secretary, Government of Bangladesh

"I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your quarterly publication "CAG NEWS". The news letter will be very useful for the Accounting Professionals of our country. On behalf of the Institute and on my own behalf I congratulate you for publishing such an important and colorful news letter. I would request you to kindly send "CAG NEWS" regularly to us"

- **Md. Abdur Rashid, FCMA**, President, The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh.

CAG NEWS

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