

MONTHLY UPDATES, JULY 2011

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asian Region (ANSA-SAR) based at IGS provided strategic support to one of its grantees – PRIP Trust, Dhaka, Bangladesh in the area of designing and implementing Community Score Cards (CSC). The training workshop was held from July 9 to 13, 2011 at PRIP Trust's project site in Jamalpur. The three day-long workshop on Community Score Card was conducted for the staff at PRIP Trust and also members of the facilitator groups of the CSC exercise followed by a limited on-site mentoring of the CSC implementation team from PRIP Trust. The training workshop also guided the staff and facilitator group in implementing the first CSC exercise on the primary school at the project site. Barrister Manzoor Hasan, adviser of the IGS, delivered a lecture on "International Law and International Court of Justice" at the National Defence College on July 11, 2011. 53 members of the rank of Brigadier General/Joint Secretary and equivalent, including 21 foreign course members from six different countries attended the lecture.

Dr. Ipshita Basu, Head of Research of IGS, joined the meeting of the International Development Research Center (IDRC) at New Delhi, India. The meeting was held on July 26, 2011 to discuss the ongoing programmes of IDRC in South Asia.

A research team of IGS conducted a field visit from July 24 to July 28, 2011 in Rangpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat as a part of the ongoing research for the upcoming State of Governance in Bangladesh report. During the visit, the team interviewed both NGO and non-NGO leaders including trade unions, local government leaders, media representatives, local political leaders, and university teachers. The aim of this field trip was to analyse and enhance understanding about the accountability of NGOs in promoting citizens voices, enabling environment of NGOs/CSOs, ability or inability to create linkages between state and citizens, political environment, key factors inhibiting NGOs from functioning efficiently and finally to understand the relationship between government's objectives and citizens' objectives through the role of the NGOs.