

# GOOD PRISON MANAGEMENT

Dhaka 10-13 September 2000

A Workshop Report

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)  
Penal Reform International (PRI)

## **GOOD PRISON MANAGEMENT** **A Workshop Report**

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### **Published by:**

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)  
Penal Reform International (PRI)

### **With financial Assistance from:**

Government of United Kingdom

### **Computer Graphics & Cover Page:**

Md. Shahjahan Qureshi

### **Printed From :**

#### **Nova Ad Ltd.**

146, Arambagh, Dhaka-1000.  
Phone : 7101033, 018216883

**Dhaka**

November 2000

## **'GOOD PRISON MANAGEMENT'**

*A Training Course in Human Rights and Prison  
Management for Senior Prison Officers in Bangladesh*

*Organised by:* **Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)**  
**Penal Reform International (PRI)**

**BRAC Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 10 to 13 September 2000**

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## **Preface**

The main theme of the *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*, held at Geneva in 1955, was that prisoners are human beings and able to enjoy all Human Rights except those are curtailed by their incarceration. **Standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners** was adopted in this Congress. However, these rules are still far from being properly implemented. The traditional approach to the offender and punishment is something more than retributive. Moreover, prisoners are kept totally isolated from the outside world. As a result, most of the inmates, after their release, become incapable of living a life and often unacceptable to the society.

With a view to improve the pathetic state of affairs within the iron bars, the Penal Reform International (PRI) has undertaken many initiatives. The organization is committed to meet its objectives through increasing awareness among the inmates and prison personnel world over of their rights. Training on "Good prison management for prison personnel of Bangladesh" arranged by PRI in collaboration with Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) is one of such attempts. It is the first ever training conducted for the prison officials of Bangladesh, a break through indeed! The training has achieved an astonishing success where twenty Jail Superintendents participated and got acquainted with good prison practices and standards.

On recognition of the deplorable condition of the prisoners in Bangladesh, BLAST takes the privilege to extend all out support and cooperation to like minded organizations in surge to improve the present prison management in Bangladesh. This report has been a detailed compilation of the four days training programme on Good Prison Management. In addition, speeches given by the significant dignitaries during the course of training, which would be of great importance for the readers, have also been included.

We acknowledge endless debt to the Government of United Kingdom, the Ministry of Home Affairs and senior prison personnel of Bangladesh for extending their support and cooperation to make the training programme a success. We believe this report will provide readily available information to the people who have keen interest in prison reform.

**Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)**  
**Penal Reform International (PRI)**

## Section 1

### Introduction

Analysis and assessment of the Training Course needs to be preceded by a description of the groundwork that was required during a preliminary visit to Bangladesh by a PRI team consisting of Ahmed Othmani, Rani Shankardass and Nikhil Roy.

The task of the team was to have discussions with officials in the Prison Department and the Home Ministry with a view to convincing them that the training programme was a necessary part of good prison management and had been adopted as such in many regions of the world with good results.

The training module was based on the pattern and schedule used in India in 1999 and was adapted for Bangladesh with the following features in mind:

- There is no debate about prisons.
- There are no professional training programmes worth the name in place for prison officers in Bangladesh and certainly none that address the relational aspects of running and managing prisons.
- In a country with a strong tradition of NGO activity, most voluntary organisations that have done good work in the area of prisons have not seen the inside of a prison.

The training was done for the most part in English with a liberal use of Bangla; this proved satisfactory both in terms of getting the message and content across effectively and of enabling the participants to feel comfortable enough with the concepts and the vocabulary to make it a truly participatory programme.

The schedule was laid out with care and precision; time was productively used and its value was emphasised at the beginning of the course.

The Training Guide "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh" compiled jointly by BLAST and PRI prior to the workshop that was used as the main resource document. The Training Guide covered the full list of topics dealt with during the workshop and also included the text of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in English and, for the first time ever, in a Bangla version prepared by BLAST.

## Good Prison Management

### Day 1

For a group that had no taste of totally participatory programmes before, the first step was to make them 'at home' and 'at ease'. This done the second step was the framing of ground rules by the officers themselves. Each trainer took turns to communicate with the participants so that rapport was built between all the trainers and participants and among the participants themselves.

The sessions chosen with care for the first day were:

1. WHY HUMAN RIGHTS for Prison Management?
2. THE STANDARDS AGREED TO BY ALL COUNTRIES:
  - (i) international standards
  - (ii) national constitution, legislation and judicial pronouncements
3. STAFF RIGHTS
4. FILM: THE PRISON: DOES IT SERVE THEM RIGHT?

To highlight the 'universals' about running prisons and how they have (or have not) been handled in different regions of the world

Each session provoked ideas, brought about good discussion and seemed well worth the while.

### Day 2

Each day always began with exercises and tales to create an atmosphere. The novelty of it in the context was evident and it generated interest among the participants, who began to enjoy the programme by day 2.

Particular chapters and concepts in the Standard Minimum Rules were worked through in each session on day 2 starting with 'Maintaining Human Dignity' and moving on to particular rights that were basic to the concept of the right to life and human dignity.

Difficulties voiced at each juncture were suggestive of a reluctance to try doing it another way: after some toing and froing some modicum of agreement was usually reached, at least in principle.

The concept of making action plans was introduced on day 2 – and a blue print was provided so that the following day's activities could be worked forward with planning and anticipation.

### Day 3

The participants made their first Action Plans in groups of five, and with different subjects assigned to them, such as health and hygiene,

accommodation, etc. Each group's plan was reviewed by calling a representative of the group to come up and explain the plan; comments and criticisms were then invited from the other groups. It was an energy-filled session and elicited much discussion.

The session on Women Prisoners was intended to demonstrate the need to attend to the question of special categories of prisoners, women being taken as one example to demonstrate the concept of prisoners with special needs. Other groups discussed included juveniles, mentally ill, old aged, pre-trial prisoners, etc. The session was conducted with role plays and exercises (scarf wearing) and were actively and sportingly participated in.

The end of this day brought the group and the trainers closer together and there were free flowing of exchanges on issues that were moribund till then. The ice had melted and the process of understanding the issues and the objectives of the training course seemed have been showing some results.

#### **Day 4**

The participants made Action Plans unaided and the plans were assessed once again, with critical analysis by the co-participants. The two subjects of the last day's sessions were (i) Open Prisons (as a model of best practices/alternatives) and (ii) community service as an alternative to imprisonment. Both were well received as the discussion showed. The problem seemed to be about 'who will bring the change?'

Points to ponder/pursue for further success of prison projects in Bangladesh:

- Repeated exposure to what is happening elsewhere by way of good practices particularly in the (South Asia) region, *despite* the existence of similar difficulties.
- Encouraging general and specific debates about the prison and social justice in the region and inviting proposals that address the problem from the perspective of socio-economic visions.
- Demonstrating through documents, visuals etc how crucial is the debate about criminal justice and seeking to enhance the prestige of those engaged in the entire process of criminal and penal justice.
- A short "Assessment and Follow Up" note, jointly prepared by PRI and BLAST on the last day of the workshop, outlines concrete follow up activities which need to be undertaken in order to sustain the momentum generated as a result of this workshop.

#### **ASSESSMENT AND FOLLOW UP NOTE**

1. The project has been successful both in terms of delivering the training needs for prison superintendents as well as raising the profile of the prison sector generally.
2. A window of opportunity now exists to take forward reform in the much neglected prison sector. The involvement of both Law and Home Ministries (represented by the Ministers from the two departments at opening and closing sessions of the workshop) in the training project indicates that political support for the project is and will continue to be forthcoming.
3. Prison officials (from the IG down) have indicated approval not just for the workshop but for proposals for follow up projects as well.
4. Follow up projects are essential to maintain the momentum for change and to ensure lessons learnt from the training project are implemented in practice.
5. The follow up projects should focus on different issues within the prison sector and should also raise the wider issue of penal reform to introduce and implement alternatives to prison.

#### **Follow up training projects**

6. In terms of providing further training to prison staff and management, at least three issues are crucial for follow up in the short term.
7. First, further training for staff not included in the first training project: these could include staff at superintendent level as well as others (the next level down).
8. Second, a training of trainers project to develop local capacity within the prison service to carry forward training programmes using internal resources: a team to be selected from amongst those who have participated in the first training course.
9. Finally, a policy level workshop/seminar aimed at senior officials within the prison department and the government with a view to developing a mission statement and plan of action for the prison service as a whole.

### Follow up micro level pilot project

10. For implementing the lessons learnt and issues raised during the good prison management course it is proposed that a micro level prison project be implemented as soon as possible. The aims of such a project would be:
  - to develop a model prison with a view to wider national replication;
  - to improve prison conditions at district level;
  - to introduce programmes aimed at developing alternatives to prison.
11. The logistics of such a project would need to be discussed with relevant officials within the Bangladesh government at various levels, but the outline programme would involve the following steps:
  - selecting of one or two district level prisons;
  - identification of the main needs of the prisons chosen;
  - involvement of other agencies within the criminal justice system to initiate discussions on introducing alternatives to prison;
  - involvement of the local community including civil society groups;
  - putting in place adequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

## Section 2

### Salient Features from the Workshop:

#### i. The Training Guide

The Training Guide was specially compiled for the workshop. This unique bi-lingual document contains a wealth of material relating to prisons and prison conditions, both international as well as specific to Bangladesh.

The Training Guide can be obtained from the offices of both BLAST and PRI. Given below is the list of contents from the Training Guide.

#### *Preface*

#### *Section One: Introduction*

#### *Section Two: Rights in Prisons*

- Why Human Rights of Prisoners?
- Rights of Prison Staff / Staff Welfare
- Summary of Key Principles of Human Rights in Prisons

#### *Section Three: Human Rights of Persons Subjected to Detention or Imprisonment*

- Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (full text)
- International Systems and Standards for Human Rights in Law Enforcement

#### *Section Four: Materials Related to Prison Conditions in Bangladesh*

- Cases
- List of Relevant Documents Relating to Prisons and Prison Conditions
- Organisational Set Up of Bangladesh Prisons Department

#### ii. Purpose and Objectives

##### a) Purpose:

To develop awareness amongst prison officers on the operational aspects of Human Rights to implement initiatives to improve the management of Human Rights in Prisons.

**b) Objectives:**

1. To enable the participants to state why Human Rights in Prisons are important.
2. To expose the participants to Human Rights provisions in United Nations instruments, Bangladesh legislation and various reports and Judgments.
3. To pool together ideas as to how to implement Human Rights in Prisons.
4. To know as to how to set up an implementation plan to ensure Human Rights is achieved in Prisons.

To encourage participants to evaluate the achievement of Human Rights in Prisons.

**iii. Ground Rules**

1. Congenial Atmosphere
2. Participatory
3. Respect Other's Views & Listen Patiently
4. Keeping Time As Far As Possible
5. Speaking In Turn Without Interruption
6. Polite Intervention
7. Keep Time/Schedule
8. Focus On Subject
9. Speak Clearly & Precisely
10. Ask Freely

**iv. Staff Rights**

[incl: problems of staff]

1. Adequate salary
2. Decent accommodation
3. Proper promotion provisions

4. Regulated hours of duty with leisure time
5. Right to personal security
6. Adequate compensation to family in case of accident
7. Sufficient holidays
8. Enough staff to man the jail
9. Welfare of staff [health etc.]
10. Proper grievance mechanisms THAT WORK!
11. Enhance prestige of jail service
12. Proper training [at different levels]
13. Recreation facilities
14. Reward system

**v. Learning Points From Day One**

1. Value of theme 1
2. Fear about how much liberty for prisoners
3. Congenial training atmosphere
4. Participatory technique
5. Presence of dignitaries & their speeches
6. If you want change, codes must also change
7. Officers have got a chance to feel less isolated
8. Rights are for all living beings
9. Learnt about excessive unnecessary arrests by police
10. Over crowding is a violation of 'human rights'
11. This programme of great use
12. Officers must behave like model persons
13. The need for improving conditions
14. Jail code needs review
15. That rights of staff were emphasized

16. First time upliftment of institution of prison has been considered especially of prison staff
17. Need for adequate training for all staff
18. To have better interaction education of inmates should be improved (also guarding staff)
19. Need for classification

#### **vi. Home Work**

##### **a) What is the most significant incident that has occurred in your life as a prison officer?**

- Tactful handling of threat of hunger strike
- 10 day hunger strike stopped without force
- Saved life of a person
- Helped avert kidnap/ransom case through timely detection
- Attempted escape averted
- Moved by the plight of a young family of a prisoner who was hanged
- Helped colleague/officer
- Helped submit appeal petition leading to acquittal
- Minor, deaf-dumb girl sent to custody- restoration through publicity
- Escaped prisoner recaptured
- Helped to release woman & child held in safe custody for 12 years
- Enabled release of a prisoner by investigating his records
- Saved prisoner from being beaten up by intervention
- Miscreant with a pistol at prison gate overpowered
- Timely medical assistance saved life, personal vehicle provided
- Facilitated education of 'adivasis'

#### *Good Prison Management*

- Release of under trial in time
- Helped with the repatriation of Burmese refugees

##### **b) What is the most important change you would like to bring about in your prison?**

- Ensure imposing instruments of restraint in the name of restoring security are not administered.
- Accommodation capacity of prisoners should immediately be increased in order to accord to them humanity.
- Sending of the prisoner to an outside hospital for treatment should be avoided as far as possible from a security point of view. Instead, medical facilities within the prison should be modernised.
- Persons who are arrested on minor charges should not be sent to prisons because they create problems for the jail administration, instead courts should be encouraged to give him a chance to go on bail or personal bond.
- With a view to provide equal treatment of jail law to all prisoners classification of them inside internal of their social status (Division I, II and III as properly known) should immediately be abolished.
- Motivate staff prison to ensure proper distribution of food to the prisoners, so that every prisoner should get their own share. Such a step would not increase expenditure for the government.
- Personally consult prisoners due for release to find out what appropriate assistance, either monetary or otherwise, is needed to help with rehabilitation within the society. Where possible seek monetary and other assistance from the government and other concerned agencies.
- (a) Kitchen system must be changed and there should be one kitchen for every three hundred prisoners. (b) Hygiene in prisons should be improved by issuing toothpaste and soap to prisoners. (c) Modern equipment such as C.C. Camera, Metal Detector and Computer should be provided for security.



- There is no female doctor for female prisoners. A lady doctor should be provided and the matter needs to be brought to the attention of the competent authority.
- Sanitation systems now available for the prisoners should be improved and the relevant authority needs to take action on this matter.
- Illiteracy is one of the most important problems existing in the society. In the prison, compulsory basic education to the uneducated inmates needs to be provided.
- Ensure that the prison administration shall provide for the careful selection of every grade of the personnel since it is their integrity, humanity, professional capacity and personal suitability for the work on which the proper administration of the institution depends.
- Replace firewood with gas line in the prison kitchen, to ensure food is cooked within a short time and distributed to the prisoners in a timely manner.
- To avoid over congestion of prisoners it is essential that the long pending cases of under trial prisoners be disposed of early. Attempts to dispose cases early must be introduced and encouraged.
- Ensure training for prison staff with particular emphasis on treating prisoners with dignity at all times.
- Accommodation facilities for prisoners should be increased and modern sanitation equipment installed in buildings constructed more than 100 years ago.
- No further punishment should be imposed on a prisoner since imprisonment is already the punishment being given. Human dignity should be maintained at all times.
- Improve medical facilities by making the facilities of Pathological Laboratory and X-ray available in the Jail.
- Ensure respect for human dignity at all times, particularly at the time of admission and also afterwards. A person remanded to custody should be handled in a manner so that he does not feel that his personal dignity is jeopardized.

**vii. Action Plan Version One**

**Topic: Accommodation**

**UN:** Accommodation shall meet all requirements of health with due regard being paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation.

**STANDARD** : 36 Sq. Ft (75 C.ft)

**PRESENT POSITION** : Narayangonj Dist. Jail  
 a) Capacity- 157+2  
 b) Present Position- 750+12

**GAP** : a) No. of Prisoners 593+10  
 b) Space- 21348+360 Sq. ft.

Now	MID TERM		LONG TERM	
	By us	By Others	By Us	By Others
a) To write to the Local Court and the District Magistrate not to send prisoners of petty cases for the time being	Submit proposal for construction of at least 12 prisoner barracks to accommodate excess number of prisoners	PWD should come forward with plan and estimate for construction of proposed buildings	Proposal for construction of a new dist. Jail having Capacity of 800 Prisoners	Govt. already sanctioned fund for construction of new Jail & construction which is in progress
b) To write to the I.G Prisons to arrange shifting of some prisoners to other nearby Jails to mitigate the problem				

1. Syed Rafiqul Alam, 2. Md. Haroun-or-Rashid, 3. A.K.M. Fazlul Hoque, 4. Forhad Miah, 5. Giashuddin Mollah

**Topic:** vocational training

**International standard** : vocational training in useful trades shall be provided.

**Jail code rule** : work should be provided to all the able convicted prisoners.

**Gap** : there is no sufficient vocational training, so there is a need of improved vocational training.

**Suggestions**

Just now	6 months to 1 year	Long term
We shall write to the district magistrate to arrange the training programme for prisoners in jail using local technical know how from basic or other vocational institutions, and send a copy to I.G. Prisons for necessary action	We may write to the I.G. Prisons for making a vocational training programme for the long term prisoners with another vocational institute, so they can teach other convicted prisoners in the long term	We may write to the I.G. Prisons to establish a vocational training center for the long term convicted prisoners, with permission of the government

1. Md. Mokbul Hossain, 2. Abdul Mannan, 3. Md. Abdur Rouf, 4. Abu Md. Sohrab, 5. Mir Jabber Ali.

**Topic:** Health Rights Of Prisoners

**Standard** : Every Jail hospital should have a well-equipped and trained staff.

**Position** : Not sufficient staff and equipment.

**Gap** : To provide Doctors and Medical staffs as per standard.

Now	MID TERM		LONG TERM	
	By us	By Others	By Us	By Others
1. Make contact with Local medical authority to make sufficient arrangements	1. Peruse with I.G. Prisons & D.I.G. Prisons	1. I.G. of Prisons will communicate the matter with the government	1. Meet personally with the Home-Secretary	1. M/O home will refer the matter to M/O refers & M/O Finance
2. Proposal submit to the I.G. of Prisons through D.I.G. of Prisons to move with govt. for sanctioning: a) Doctor-2 b) Pathologist-1 c) Pharmacist-1 d) Nurse-2 e) Lab. Asst.-1	2. Again Personally	2. Proposal sent to the M/O Health through M/O Home	2. Peruse again	2. Post Sanctioned
3. Arrange Medical Call up with the approval of the D.M.				3. D.G. Health deputed Doctor, & I.G. of Prisons arranges require other staffs

1. Md. Rezaul Karim, 2. Md. Ataur Rahman, 3. Md. Abdul Quadir, 4. A.Y.M.A. Basar, 5. S.K. Abdul Amik

**Topic:** Communication with out-side world

**UN Standard** : Contact with outside world is important.

**National Standard** : Allowed frequent interviews, correspondence, radio, newspapers etc.

**Position** : Inadequate facilities for interviews and correspondences.

**GAP** : Construction of sufficient cubicles.

Now	MID TERM		LONG TERM	
	By us	By Others	By Us	By Others
To be done by us: Proposal to I.G. to call for an estimate	Discussion with I.G. to get approval to write to P.W.D.	1) P.W.D. submit plan-2 estimate 2) I.G. Sends to Govt.	Peruse the matter in the secretariat	1) Ministry approves. 2) Finance Ministry clears. 2) Construction process starts

1. Md. Azizul Haque, 2. Md. Nurul Islam, 3. Mir Moqsud Hossain, 4. Zakir Hossain, 5. Azmal Hossain

**viii. Action Plan Version Two**

**Subject** : Sanitation And Hygiene

**International Standard** : The sanitary installation shall be adequate to enable every prison to comply with the needs of nature when necessary.

**Present Position** : The present position of sanitation system and hygiene such as water supply, sanitary latrines, drainage, supply barracks are not adequate and should be improved.

**Gap** : The total sanitation and hygiene system are not up to the mark.

**Suggestions:**

Particulars	Now	Mid. Term.	Long-Term
Sanitation * Water supply * Sanitary Latrines * Drains	The P.W.D. authority has already been requested to prepare a plan and estimate for installing a deep	After receiving the plan and estimate to solve the problem from the P.W.D. authority, we shall write to the	The I.G. of Prisons will refer the plan and estimate to the Ministry of Home Affairs for administration and financial approval.

Tube-well, construction of some sanitary latrines and drains in prison  The PWD authorities has also requested to consult for 300 prisoners barrack with a prison of 36 S.ft. per prisons and sufficient open space. In the mean time we are trying to improve cleanliness, sanitary and hygiene conditions in jail and providing soda, phenyl etc. The correspondence is being made with I.G. prisons regarding sanction of soap for using each locations of prisoners. The Civil surgeon has been requested to supply bleaching powder lysine etc for proper health care of prisoners	I.G. of Prison for kind sanction with a copy to D.I.G. of prisons  Time to time we shall remind the I.G. of prisons for early clearance  * As regards toilet soap: After getting the sanction for the I.G. of Prisons we shall proved toilet soap as approved	After getting the administration and financial approval we shall write to the P.W.D. authorities for immediate implementation of the works
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1. Mir Jabber Ali, 2. Md. Abdul Mannan, 3. Md. Sohrab Hossain, 4. Md. Abdur Rouf, 5. Md. Mokbul Hossain

**Subject** : Women Prisoners

**Standards** : Special need of women prisoners should be required in the way to trained staffing, accommodation, pregnancy, childbirth and healthcare.

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**Position** : No Separate accommodation for pregnant Prisoners health care arrangement after childbirth.

**Gap** : To provide separate ward within the female ward and trained nurse i.e. necessary staffs.

Now By us	MID TERM		LONG TERM	
	By us	By Others	By Us	By Others
1. To contact the competent Medical authorities for maternity support for pregnant Prisoners and those who are suffering from infectious diseases	1. Written proposal for building one female hospital and medical staffs (Administrative approval and fund)	1. I.G. of Prisons for estimate for proposed building	1. Personal contact with concerned officer of M/O House	1. M/O Home permit for construction of a Female Hospital and allotment of necessary fund
2. Correspondence be made with trying court for bail matter on the ground of child birth and for safe custody	2. Issue reminder of the above correspondence for early disposal	2. Exen. P.W.D. prepared estimate & Submit accordingly	2. To expedite the matter Draw attention of D.M. & Board of visitors	2. M/O Home sanction the positions of medical staffs also
3. The pregnant prisoner should be transferred to the central jail where better facilities are available, with permission of the authority concerned	3. Seeking permission from the D.M/Higher authority over phone	3. I.G. of Prisons refer the matter to the M/O Home with a copy to chief-prisoners and P.W.D.	3. When construction work starts we supervise the work so that it is done as per schedule	3. Exam. P.N.D. arrange for construction of a new Female Hospital

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4. Telephone talk with D.M/Higher authority for taking NGO logistic support	4. Future reminder of the issue	4. I.G. of Prisons peruses the matter with the Ministry concerned for early disposal	4. Supervision continued that women prisoners are living in a dignified manner.	4. I.G. of Prisons arranges for recruitment of Medical Staffs Thus the Problem solved
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Md. Rezaul Karim, 2. Md. Aatur Rahman, 3. Md. Abdul Quadir, 4. A.Y.M.A. Basar, 5. S.K. Abdul Amik

**Subject** : Making Best Use of Prisons

**UN** : Promotion of Skills and education of Prisoners with vocational training and work which must be of effective nature. Educational facilities to be integrated with the educational system of the country & facilities of recreational and cultural activities also to be provided for the benefit of mental and physical health of the prisoner's social relation and after-care system to be maintained.

**Standard &**

**Position** : All convicted prisoners are to be employed in 3 categories i.e. hard, medium and light. However, no prisoner can be employed into work of a degrading nature. Literate convicts in the district Jails can enable the illiterate prisoners to read and write.

**Gap** : Our standard and position of vocational training does not seem to be effective for livelihood of a prisoner after his release. Therefore, introduction of modern sophisticated vocational and skills training are required to be introduced for imparting to the convicts.

Now By us	MID TERM		LONG TERM	
	By us	By Others	By Us	By Others
a) To train up Prisoners in present day suitable trades and crafts by which they can earn a living after release	a) BSIC and other allied authorities may be asked to help the Jail vocational training programme with modern skills and sophisticated tools	a) I.G. Prison to provide equipments, tools and plants for establishment of sophisticated small industries like electronic goods, repapering, type writing and operating computers etc.	a) To write to I.G. prisons for establishing mid scale suitable industries in the Jail including Garments, leather goods and textile manufacturing	a) I.G. Prisons will please move the Govt. to institute mid scale industries inside the Jail
b) To train selected educated convicts to enable them to carry out a literacy programme	b) To write to I.G. prisons to create post of teachers for all Jails to gear-up educational programme	b) I.G. Prisons will please move the govt. for creation of the post of teachers	b) Write to I.G. Prisons to establish full fledged High Schools in Central Jail and primary Schools in district jails with adequate staff and educational materials to equate these educational programmes to the national one	b) I.G. Prisons will liaise with the Govt. for establishment of these schools with adequate teachers and other reading and writing materials

1. Syed Rafiqul Alam, 2. Md. Haroun-or-Rashid, 3. A.K.M. Fazlul Hoque, 4. Md. Farhad Mian, 5. Md. Giashuddin Mollah

Subject : Admission of Prisoners-Human Dignity

Un Standards

: Written information on Jail-regulation should be provided to staff and the Prisoners to be handled with dignity.

Information regarding nature of offences, date of conviction/release provided. Lists of prohibited articles and jail offences are placed in the prisons barracks.

Position

: Information Cards containing Regulation and Treatment are not provided.

Gap

: System of information Card to be introduced.

Now By us	MID TERM		LONG TERM	
	By us	By Others	By Us	By Others
1. Prison officers are being trained to handle the prisoners with regard to dignity	Persuasion	I.G. will assess the requirement and obtain administrative and financial clearance from the Ministry	Pursue the matter through I.G.	Sanction accorded and fund placed
2. Prisoners on admission to be informed of the jail regulations and treatment verbally				Order placed to press and work begins
Proposal to I.G. for introducing information cards				

1. Md. Azizul Haque, 2. Mir Moqsud Hossain, 3. Nurul Islam  
4. Zakir Hossain, 5. Azmal Hossain

## viii. Evaluation Report

### 1. Which aspects of the workshop did you like most? Why?

- Learning about Action Plans
- Suggestions in respect of human dignity of prisoners
- The action plan was the best aspect because it was very practical
- “Rights in Prisons” because the prisoner and staff suffer the most
- The emphasis on all prisoners being treated with humanity as they are human beings
- The style of the training method
- The focus on maintaining human dignity in the prison
- “The action plan”, since the various problems of prisoners found in Bangladesh prisons can be solved by using the action plan
- Evaluation programs
- Garments factory, because now 10% of Bangladeshi people mostly women are engaged with these activities.
- All aspects of the workshop, particularly the focus on prison management
- Rights to adequate training resources for each of the prison staff
- Human dignity
- Proper training of jail staff, because with proper training more understanding can be given to human beings
- The training and the environment, I have learned many aspects of the jail management

### 2. What did you like least about the workshop? Why?

- Every item was good
- Only one video film was shown, why not more?
- Maintain human dignity, because without giving any dignity to human beings we can not expect good results from this

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- Very much fruitful for the prison management, and for the welfare of the prisoners
- Nothing
- No more comments, everything is ok
- There was no least aspect in my view, because all aspects were important
- Day to day training program/ Schedule: for retaining attention, there should be gap of at least a minimum of 10 minutes for each topic
- It was very good
- Arrangements of training and video system
- All the aspects which we have learnt in this workshop are important in our prison service
- The time limit for such workshops should be extended
- Existing jail code system is tied up in some rules in the view of security
- There is no least about the workshop, as it concerned all prisons
- Every item is good no doubt
- I learned that an administrations manager was needed by other groups and the society

### 3. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the organization of the workshop?

- If it is seven days it would be more effective for us
- This type of workshop should be continued
- Very good and appropriate
- It is a very useful workshop for the prison personnel to organize the smooth administration in jails
- The duration of the workshop should be increased to a week
- This type of workshop should be continued for the welfare of the prisoners, as well as for the society
- It was much appreciated and fruitful
- Suggesting the organisation of the workshop be continued further

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- This type of workshop should be organized at least per annum
- Organisation program is very much helpful to the prison officers as well as the prisoners especially on human rights
- The bank can give invest loan to the jail dept for establishing a garments factory Bangladesh Garments Manufacturing Association can give technical training and support to the prisoners
- Further arrangements may be made for this workshop for improvement of prison administration
- I have suggestion that such workshop is needed to train officers in Bangladesh
- This will be more effective if all the jail officers i.e., guards to supervisors are allowed to take part in the workshop
- All officials should participate in a course like this one
- The time allowed is only four days, there should be more time allowed for at least 15 days
- The organisation should conduct similar workshops in Bangladesh
- I suggest that further arrangements for this group of jail officers should be introduced to the good management of prisons

#### **4. Please indicate follow up activities you will carry out when you return to work.**

- Admission of prisoners, ensure the dignity of prisoners is maintained
- After returning back to my station I shall try to implement the things that I have learnt within this four-day scheme
- I shall read out the training guide to my sub-ordinate staff and explain the spirit of the program i.e.: Good Prison Management, and also discuss the items with the District Magistrate and other members of the jail visitors
- Arrangement for prisoner's seminar
- I shall follow up human dignity in returning to work
- Yes definitely
- Treatment of prisoners with humanity at the highest level
- Initiative to solve the accommodation problems

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- Priority health care of prisoners
- To classify the prisoners according to their offence
- Humane activities towards the prisoners
- I shall motivate the staff that work under me to behave towards the prisoners with humanity, so that the prisoners in the jail now can feel that they are also a part of the society and are not forgotten by the outside world
- From the suggestion of opportunity of information, the prison should arrange a supply of newspapers with immediate effect
- Initiate a project profile with the help of the local Garments officers and send the proposal to the IG prison for a loan from the bank, and taking technical help from the BGMA of Bangladesh.
- Motivate the officers to handle the prisoners with dignity
- Follow up the session of the maintaining Human dignity of prisons
- I shall try to implicate all the matters which I have learned on my training
- I shall maintain proper human dignity to the prisoners, I shall not impose any problems to the prisoners
- The knowledge which I have gained, I shall implement into my jail
- On my way to work I shall try to the best of my ability to distribute food to the prisoners
- When I return to any prison I shall behave with a person who is in prison with dignity
- I will see that no one will be expelled from his rights.

#### **5. Please add any comments you wish to make regarding any aspects of the workshop.**

- All lecturers were very nice, and were well qualified to deliver the workshop
- The prisoners should be treated in a good manner from admission to discharge; physical and mental tortures can never be justified
- All aspects of the workshop were good
- Very good and inspiring
- It is a valuable measure, no doubt at all

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- These should be an option whether the participants want to avail their accommodation or not
- This type of workshop is very much useful to us
- This type of workshop should be arranged every six months
- I think the aspects of the workshop have encouraged all the things we need badly for the settlement of the prisons, as well as the society
- Everything is fair
- The training of the workshop is very good
- This workshop has opened my eyes, and given me many new ideas
- All judicial officers i.e judges and magistrates should give us opportunity for this training so that they will better understand the problems faced by the prison administration
- Long term convicts should be imprisoned in a certain jail where training workshops should be set up; training should be given in radio making, assembling and also repairing
- I would like to add the comment that Bangladesh jails will be developed up to the mark of international level
- In my opinion this nice training will be helpful in good jail administration and good management
- My opinion is that the training was good and will be helpful for prison administration
- In my opinion such workshops should be held every six months
- This type of workshop is very useful for the prison officers, so I think that training programmes should be arranged very frequently in our country and this will help improvement of prison conditions
- The arrangements made for the workshop were good.

**Section 3:**

## **Models of Good Practice**

### **'Open prison system in India'**

In the context of history of prison development in India, the establishment of open prisons is perhaps the most remarkable innovation. It has undoubtedly opened a new vista in the realm of correctional treatment promising an offender greater freedom, natural surroundings and lesser tension which culminate in creating an atmosphere more conducive to reform himself and to achieve social, moral, and economic rehabilitation in the society.

The underlying philosophy of administration, mode of maintaining discipline and enforcement of orders and assessment of problems and methods of tackling them, being different from those of the closed prisons, instill a sense of self esteem and social responsibility among prisoners and ease the pains of imprisonment to a great extent. The real success of an open prison lies in its objective of providing an offender a free situation where he is trusted upon and afforded an experience that helps him constructively to re-socialise and to make a smooth entry in the country as a law abiding and useful citizen.

In India, although the practice of employing prisoners outside the prison walls was prevalent for a long time, the idea of open prison system was not encouraged by the various prison reforms committees set up during the British period. In the post-Independence period, the Open prison movement gained momentum only in the wake of growing realization of the need for a change of attitudes towards the treatment of offenders. As a beginning of the experimentation, a small annex was created at the Model Prison Lucknow in 1949 in which a small number of convicts were allowed to stay with greater freedom and nominal watch and ward. This was followed by another successful experiment of employing two thousand prison inmates in the open site on the construction of an earthen dam in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

During the last 40 years most of the federal states in India have established such prisons from time to time. There is also unanimity of opinion that such institutions have proved successful and do not pose any



special risk to the custody of prisoners. Thus the open prisons are now regarded as a necessary adjunct to any programme of reforms in prisons and they have now more or less come to stay.

In India, there are at present 27 Open Prisons functioning in various states of the country. Generally, the open air prisons are located in the outskirts within 15 kilometers of the nearest town. Most of them are agriculture-based and provide village setting. The criteria for the selection of prisoners for open air prisons varies from state to state. Normally well-behaved able-bodied prisoners with good health, not convicted of heinous offences and below the age of 50 are selected after undergoing certain period of imprisonment by a selection committee.

### ***Effectiveness of open-air prison system in India:***

The experience of the last 40 years has completely falsified the fear about escape from Open Air Prisons. In fact there were fewer escapes from open prison than from closed prisons. This is particularly interesting when we analyze the inmate population of open prisons. 75% of the prisoners in Open prisons were those who had been sentenced to imprisonment for 10 years or above, including life terms. Also, 70% were convicted of offences against people and 6% were there for such grave offences as dacoity. Thus the facility of Open institutions in India, extended to prisoners of various categories, has not generally been misused.

It has been clearly established that it is not only cheaper to control and run open institutions than the closed prisons, but that the system of open institutions has also a definite rehabilitative value. It restores dignity of the individual and gives him self-reliance and self-confidence besides instilling in him a sense of social responsibility which is necessary for an effective and useful community living. Greater attention therefore needs to be paid and more convicted prisoners may avail of the benefits of these progressive institutions.

In this context, particular mention must be made about the Sampurnananda Bandi Sibir, Sanganir, an open institution at Jaipur in the State of Rajasthan where prisoners are allowed to live with their families in temporary huts constructed at their own cost on government land. Here, the prisoners and their families work and live on their own, and are not a burden to the state exchequer. The prisoners carry on their independent business or work on daily wages for outside establishments or organisations. For all practical purposes, the camp is managed by the

prisoners themselves through an elected Panchayat. A few warders, however, are posted there to run errands and to take the count of prisoners in the mornings and evenings. The Superintendent, Central Prison, Jaipur exercises general supervision and control over the camp and pays occasional visits to it. The camp inmates are given usual remissions and are released on completion of their sentences or under the premature release system. An important advantage of this scheme is that it gives the prisoners an effective exercise in self-reliance, co-operation and community living in a family atmosphere. Such an institution represents a further step within the progressive stage system of the Open camp movement where prisoners have maximum freedom and opportunity to shape their lives in their own way.

In the State of Andhra Pradesh, prisoners living in open air jails at Ananthapur, and Moula Ali are trained at the Government Fruit Research Station to learn scientific methods in floriculture and horticulture. This is in addition to their learning modern methods of Agriculture, dairy farming and poultry. In Ananthapur Open Air Prison which has vast areas of 1,428 acres, a novel 5-year scheme to raise orchards and plant trees in 1,000 acres, was taken up in 1995. The District Administration, the Forest Department and the Horticulture Department are actively associating with the project. This project, besides providing substantial revenue to the Government, is proving to be a boon to the drought-prone area of Ananthapur. Orchards and teak cultivation were also taken up in Moula Ali open prison. The prisoners of these camps are extended liberal facilities in granting of furlough, parole, premature release, remissions, etc.

### **Community Service (as an Alternative to Custody)**

#### **What is Community Service?**

Community Service is an order of the court whereby the offender is offered the opportunity of compensating society for the wrong s/he has done by performing work for the benefit of the community, instead of going to prison.

#### **You mean an armed robber is let out to work in the community?**

No. Community Service is only available for certain types of offence and for certain types of offender. The serious offender who is a risk to the community will not satisfy the criteria for a community service order. The order is aimed at specific offenders

who would normally attract a short sentence and who do not pose a risk to society.

**So, the serious offender would not qualify for Community Service?**

Precisely. The courts are given guidelines which advise them firstly which offences may qualify for a Community Service order, or any other non-custodial sentence — then they must question the offender as to his/her personal circumstances so that the court is satisfied that offender will be able and willing to complete the order. Imprisonment should always be a ‘last resort’ of the courts when considering sentence.

**What if s/he doesn’t qualify?**

The court will sentence the person to a term of imprisonment.

**What if the person satisfies the conditions, but then fails to complete the order?**

Quite simply the individual will be brought back before the court which originally passed the order to give a reason why s/he failed to complete the order. If the court is not satisfied, the offender can be sent to prison. If community service is used as a direct alternative to imprisonment, then it acts — in effect — as a deferred term of imprisonment.

**Why do we need Community Service, why can’t we just lock people up?**

Prisons are expensive to maintain for one thing: think of how much public money is spent on feeding thousands of people, house and clothe them and care for their basic medical needs. Secondly, most of the people in prison are not ‘dangerous criminals’ from whom society expects to be protected. They are often poor people who have committed offences at the lower end of the criminal scale (simple theft, damage to property) and who are not ‘professional criminals’. Who benefits by simply locking them up? The government incurs additional expense, neither the victim nor society is compensated and the prison population grows more congested. The rationale emerges that by placing the offender in an institution

where s/he can do some useful work on behalf of the community (i.e.: do some good), a more positive result is obtained.

**Such as?**

Persons working under a Community Service order are sent to a public institution (such as a school, hospital, clinic, public place) to carry out voluntary work for a number of hours. They carry out much needed work than no one else is employed to do (so they do not take away jobs).

**Isn’t it a ‘soft option’?**

No, not if it is properly implemented and supervised. A programme of work is drawn up with the offender around the number of hours s/he is ordered to carry out. The work is supervised and reports submitted that monitor the work carried out. If the offender is unemployed, the work will substitute for an eight hour working day; if the offender is employed, s/he must work in his/her free time.

**Does it take into account the interests of the victim?**

Community Service provides a way in which the non-violent offender can compensate the community for the wrong s/he has done by carrying out a number of hours of work for the public good.

**Isn’t this just another European import?**

On the contrary; the institution of ‘prison’ is the import, prison did not exist in South Asia before the arrival of the Europeans. Prior to the colonial era, the community dealt with its offenders within the community.

**What concrete steps are needed in order to introduce Community Service in Bangladesh?**

Different countries go about introducing community service in different ways. In general however it can be said that FIVE concrete steps are needed in order to begin the process of introducing Community Service:

- Sensitising public and political opinion, through media and awareness campaigns;
- Setting up a Committee comprising representatives of all the key agencies in the criminal justice system with a view to discussing



issues, looking at possible problems, and initiating a process for drafting relevant legislation;

- A programme of advocacy and lobbying to get new legislation introduced and accepted;
- Pilot projects to begin implementation of Community Service orders;

Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of Community Service orders once the scheme has been introduced and is fully operational.

## Section 4

### i. **Speech of the British Secretary of State for Home Affairs The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw at the Training Session on “Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh”**

It is a great pleasure for me to be here to give my personal support to this important initiative on prison reform.

Prison reform is a subject which is close to my own heart. As has often been said, the way we treat our prisoners is a judgment on our societies as a whole. It is also a judgment on the criminal justice process as whole. The criminal justice process does not end with sentencing someone to prison. Prison itself is a part of the criminal justice process. The human rights situation within our prisons should therefore be of concern to all those involved in the criminal justice process. I am delighted to see the support which this workshop is receiving from government, civil society and prison officers themselves in Bangladesh.

Prison reform is a process. In the United Kingdom we have been talking about prison reform for over 200 years. It is not a project which will ever be completed. What matters is that we continue to debate and discuss the issue, and keep the spotlight shining into all corners of prison life. It is too easy for society to turn its back on its prisons and the people in them. There are international guidelines on the treatment of prisoners, including United Nations and Council of Europe model prison rules. These are the minimum standards which should be applied to the treatment of prisoners and provide a baseline by which we should be judged.

Throughout the world all countries – rich and poor – are struggling with the same set of problems: a growing prison population, overcrowded prisons, and the use of prison for people who should be dealt with in other ways. Internationally we should all support each other in providing solutions to these common problems.

We need to think about alternatives to prison, so that only those who need to be kept out of society are imprisoned. We also need to think about how to deal with vulnerable people – children and the mentally ill

– who commit crimes and find themselves facing a prison sentence. Incarceration should be the last resort for such people, particularly for children, who are likely to emerge even more alienated from society.

That is why I welcome projects such as this, and the international involvement in it. We gave our backing to the prison reform conference in Nepal of which this workshop is a spin-off, and we are, of course, also giving our support – financial and moral – to this workshop.

I wish you every success.

ii. **Speech of Dr. Kamal Hossain, Chairperson Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust at The Inaugural Session of The Training on “Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh”**

I would like to thank our Chief Guest, the Law Minister, who was himself an active member of the legal profession before he assumed Ministerial office for his thoughtful address, which reflects an awareness gained from personal knowledge of how important it is to provide training on good prison management in order to deal with the intolerable conditions currently prevailing in our prisons. I would also like to thank Mr. Ahmed Othmani, Chairperson of PRI, co-sponsor with BLAST of this training programme; Mr. Stephen Turner, Deputy High Commissioner of the British High Commission for the support extended by the U.K. Government for holding of this programme; and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, the Additional Inspector General of Prisons, who agreed at short notice to speak in place of the Inspector General of Prisons, Brigadier Md. Waliur Rahman Chowdhury whose active cooperation for both organising this training and for its follow – up and the implementation of good practices will be invaluable.

The most important challenge faced by those responsible for prison management is underscored by some simple statistics. Whereas accommodation capacity of the prisons in Bangladesh is 23,942, the actual number of inmates as on 7 September, 2000 is 75,937, that is, three times larger than the number of jails were built to accommodate. In the Dhaka Central Jail the situation is even more painful. While the officially approved capacity is 2, 632, the number of inmates as on 7

September, 2000 is 9,507, that is, nearly four times the approved number.

Penal reform has not received the high priority it merits not only because of the scarcity of resources, which are subject to many other claims but also due to attitudes, which are a legacy from the past. Prisoners are still viewed through the prism of a retributive approach to the issues of crime and punishment. The old attitudes are expected to change since the leadership of Bangladesh’s independence struggle had themselves experienced long years in prison and were, therefore, aware of the agonies which are suffered by prisoners in jail.

Prisoners, however, remain a pitiable section of our population, as prison conditions tend to receive little public attention. This makes prisoners invisible. Their anguished voices are not heard. Their suffering remains out of sight. It is, therefore, through occasional press reports and the activities of human right organisations and human rights lawyers that some of the cases revealing gross violations of human rights come to public notice. A survey of under- trial prisoners produces evidence of thousands, who have waited for long years without being produced for trial. In one of the celebrated cases, a person in this situation was found to have suffered 12 years in prison awaiting trial. He had been all but forgotten until a newspaper report led the High Court Division on its own motion to call for a report and subsequently to order the release of that prisoner.

Other cases have come to light through public interest petitions filed by human rights organisations and human rights lawyers. The case of a prisoner who was kept in bar fetters for more than two years in breach of prison rules and could well have ended up with paralyzed limbs was brought before a court through a Writ Petition filed by ASK, and result in the bar fetters being removed. Following the passing of that order, ASK wrote to many jail superintendents informing them of the court’s order and seeking information regarding the number of persons held in bar fetters.

Although a few responses came in, we would hope for a much wider response and continuing co-operation, now that we have had the opportunity to discuss these types of problem with so many of you who are directly concerned with these issues.

The detention of handcuffs of a rape survivor being ironically described as being kept in "safe custody" was another instance of an inhuman practice, which was exposed by newspaper reports. Ultimately she was rescued through an application by BLAST to the High Court Division.

While these are cases which have seen the light of day through press reports and interventions of human rights lawyers and human rights organisations as well as by the Supreme Court, the over all conditions prevailing cry out for urgent penal reform. PRI's joint initiatives with our human rights organisation has been timely in putting penal reform on the agenda and one positive result is the present training programme.

It is gratifying that it has received encouragement demonstrated by the presence of the Law Minister and the senior officials in-charge of prisons. This must bring home to every one the need for a basic change of attitude with regard to prisoners and prisons. The outdated retributive framework must be replaced by a reformatory framework and one must reaffirm that prisoners are human beings, who are entitled to enjoy their human rights even while their personal liberty is curtailed by way of punishment. As Justice Krishna Iyer so eloquently said, "Convicts are not, by mere reason of the conviction, denuded of all the fundamental rights which they otherwise possess".

This is also a moment when we welcome the signature by Bangladesh of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which took place in New York last week during the Millennium Summit. The signature of this covenant reaffirms Bangladesh's commitment to Articles 35 (4) of our Constitution, which declares: "No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment". This should enable us even more forcefully to invoke the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners approved by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. We have also ratified the Convention against Torture and the Convention for Elimination of Discrimination against Women and thus undertaken international obligations to protect human rights, including those of prisoners.

If we are to remain true to our commitment to uphold the rights of every human being to which we are pledged by our Constitution and as party to the international human rights instruments, prisoners who are victims of a whole range of deprivation of their human rights can no longer be a forgotten section of our population.

I believe the prison officers have a vital role to play in improving conditions in prisons and the situation of the prisoners. Many of us have

from personal experience knowledge of how conscientious prison officers strive to deal with humanity with prisoners who are under their care. The lawyers and human rights organisations who are here are not those who seek to provide privileges for rich and powerful criminals but are primarily moved by concern for the plight of those many poor, helpless and forgotten prisoners, who suffer from neglect and deprivation of their human rights. I believe we do not have any adversarial relationship with prison officers because we share with them a common concern to uphold the pledges made by our Constitution to protect the fundamental rights of every person, including prisoners. This is the challenge which prison officers must strive to meet and, therefore, to contribute actively towards promoting penal reform and implementing good practices. Today's training programme, I trust is the beginning of a process which will contribute towards the realisation of this shared objective.

### iii. **Speech of Mr. David Carter, High Commissioner, British High Commission at the Closing Session of The Training on "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh"**

Chairman for this closing session, Mr, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Hon. Minister for Home Affairs Mohammad Nasim, Participants.

To me, one of the highlights of the British Home Minister's visit to Dhaka earlier this week was the time he spent here with you at this workshop. Why?

**First** because the workshop is a very good example of the practical way in which Bangladesh and Britain co-operate to the common good, in this through a British Foreign Office grant.

**Second**, because the workshop has demonstrated how Government and civil society-both from Bangladesh and Britain-can come together in a productive relationship for the betterment of human kind, in this case some of the most disadvantaged.

**Third** because Prison reform is an issue about which Jack Straw feels passionately. This across very clearly in his remarks. He valued your counsels and your observations.

Mr. Straw commented that 'the way we treat our prisoners is a judgement on our society as a whold.' it reminded me of a newspaper

article I had seen just a couple of days before, here entitled 'A tale of 8 women and 2 children'-about conditions in a jail in Munshiganj District. **Mr. Straw** mentioned a recent case in Britain where some prison officers had been found guilty of abuse of a prisoner. The officers had been subject to the full force of the law. Two had been sent to jail, the first time this had happened in Britain in recent times. Our Home Minister brought up this case to acknowledge that we, too, have problems-and are giving real priority to tackling them.

There is no monopoly of wisdom on the complex issues of penal and criminal justice reform. We can and must learn from each other's experiences and ideas. This workshop, with its focus on Good Prison Management and Human Rights, will be making a real contribution to better understanding-both of the problems and the best ways to overcome them.

It is, I know, very easy for 'VIPs' (I use the term in inverted commas) to come along to gathering like this one to lecture and to preach, in the safe knowledge that they will quickly go away and turn their minds to other things. I recognise that Prison officers cannot do this and have a stressful and demanding job. Your problems need to be addressed as a part of the wider concerns about prison reform. Prison Services, anywhere in the world, must have the resources and training to do the job and be accorded appropriate recognition in society. I hope that this workshop will have contributed to that necessary process of recognition and training.

#### **Three final points:**

The work that BLAST and Penal Reform International have done in organising this workshop is an excellent example of the contribution that civil society, national and international, is making on penal reform-a vital area all too often forgotten.

I am delighted that the British Government has been able to play a central role in this mould breaking workshop initiative bringing together Bangladesh Government and NGO experts.

The Hon. Law Minister said at the opening of this workshop that the Government was ready to consider your ideas and suggestions for better prison administration and the treatment of prisoners. I hope you have lots of suggestions to put to him from your discussions.

You face tremendous challenges. Good luck with them.

#### **iv. Speech of Mr. Stephen Turner, Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission at the Inaugural Session of The Training on "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh"**

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office is delighted to be fully funding this important workshop today.

This is a big subject and I commend PRI and BLAST for organising the proceedings. Prison Reform is not new to Bangladesh. Concerned and committed people, represented here this morning, have a record of achievements to their credit. I know the British Home Minister, Jack Straw, is looking forward to speaking to you later this afternoon. As he knows well criminal justice systems are in need of reform all over the world. It is not particularly a problem for developing countries.

In Britain prison reformers and those seeking easier access to justice for the poor and less able parts of the community have been working at the process for many years. It's an ongoing process that advances when the political will is there to support change. It is important that the process of reform takes account of international obligations as well as special circumstances pertaining in any country keen to make advances in accessible justice, speed up trials and reduce the period on remand.

Although the circumstances of UK and Bangladesh differ we share some similar problems. Too many people in prison - too long on remand access to justice has to be through arcane and difficult to follow procedures. Access to justice is the key both for victim and offender and it is vital that the process is fast, transparent and fair. But too often none of these conditions are met. It ought to be a matter of deep regret that the legal profession is not more widely respected. Too often those needing the law, to protect them or to defend them feel that the process is self serving and the only beneficiaries are lawyers. This may be fallacious but it is hard to see the general public view of the law changing quickly. Reformers continue to point out that dragged out court proceedings, hard to follow procedures, insensitivity to cultural and traditional feelings damage the high standing which to the legal process should be held. But progress in reform is very slow.

There needs to be a higher profile for penal reform among us all, government, the legal profession and civil society as a whole. There must be greater engagement at every level. Reformers should not see the process as the enemy and officials should not see reformers as a nuisance. If society as a whole does not tackle soon the problems which our penal systems have produced, scarce resources will continue to be sucked up by an unproductive system serving only the few instead of the many.

Prisons are easy to disregard, isolated from society and easily forgotten. Often they are crowded, and sometimes offer poor sanitary and hygiene. They generally contain too great a proportion of poor or disadvantaged people. All too often they are regarded as schools for criminals where young people accused of minor crimes mix with hardened recidivists. For this and other reasons, it is important to ensure that children are kept out of adult prisons and treated appropriately when they have to be confined.

I was struck by the comments of the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission of India at the Katmandu Conference last November that "Prisons/homes where women and children are kept should have an environment conducive to their dignity and growth as individuals and their management should be by persons specially trained for such purposes with an interest in reform and sensitivity towards it"

Our inability to deal satisfactorily with the menace of Drugs in our society generally lead to an excessive use of prison as a means of controlling the problem. Prison management is a difficult job; I suspect that prison officials feel forgotten or ignored. The very real problems they face in managing prisons are under appreciated and they are an easy target to aim at. But prisons are necessary. The essential seems to be that prisons should be fit for the purpose, contain only those who have to be there and not lost to society as a whole.

Bangladesh has a opportunity to look closely at alternatives to formal prison as a means of reducing the problem. Cultural and societal pressures and controls could play a part in managing this in the future; I know that PRI is exploring mediation as a means of introducing traditional or informal justice more widely. Perhaps this can be one of the ways whereby the framework for penal reform emphasises access for the poor and the marginalised whose voice is seldom if ever heard.

v. **Speech of Ahmed Othmani, Chairperson Penal Reform International at The Inaugural Session of The Training on "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh"**

It is a great honour and privilege to be in Bangladesh to work together with so many people dedicated to a cause which we all believe in - that of prison and penal reform and access to justice.

Being first to speak makes me feel a bit nervous. Addressing such an important audience on such an important subject is a huge gratification to me personally and to my organisation, Penal Reform International (PRI). Having little time to speak prevents me from the temptation of being long winded and pushes me to go straight to the business in hand.

Let me first say a few words about PRI to set the stage. Created in 1989, PRI works to achieve penal reform by:

- Promoting the development and implementation of international human rights instruments with regard to law enforcement, prison conditions and standards;
- The elimination of unfair and unethical discrimination in all penal matters;
- The abolition of the death penalty;
- The reduction of the use of imprisonment throughout the world;
- The use of constructive non-custodial sanctions which encourage social reintegration while taking into account the interests of victims.

We work with the agencies of the United Nations, give technical assistance to governments and develop partnerships with relevant government institutions and civil society groups on concrete penal reform projects. We have regional offices in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and we are planning to open an office in Kathmandu for the South Asia region.

South Asia is a vital area for all of us, not only because it is a heavy-weight in terms of population but more importantly because it has



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a rich culture of humanity and brotherhood. It has a lot to teach the world in terms of values. We in PRI recognise these realities and have been working hard to build up strong partnerships with you, people and institutions. Indeed we have worked with our friends and members in India, contributed to the penal reform movement there and learnt a great deal. I am proud to be here with my eminent friends and colleagues from India to support your initiatives in striving to make Bangladesh a safer society, respectful of human dignity and human values. I am proud to have Dr. Shankardass as my vice-chair, vice-chair of PRI.

Indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen, I personally met a number of you here back in 1994 and since then PRI has developed concrete projects to enhance the process of justice delivery. From here I had moved to Nepal and Pakistan. We interacted with NGOs and -government officials built up long lasting trust and co-operation. We worked in Pakistan to support the vulnerable groups of prisoners and help enhance the capacity of the training institute for prison staff. We supported Nepal in the training of prison personnel and in planning a term programme of prison and penal reforms.

Here in Bangladesh we have been lucky to work with our partner NGOs, BLAST, ASK and others on very important issues. On the informal justice sector, for instance, to show to the world that your shalish, under certain conditions, may well contribute to making justice more accessible to the poor and the powerless. More importantly, like in India, in Nepal and in Pakistan, we, PRI and our local partners from the civil society in Bangladesh, are proud to have started a direct co-operation with the government and the prison administration to help meet some of the compelling needs for reform.

All of this has reinforced and deepened our belief that there is a lot of work we can do together. We knew right from the beginning that this is useful and we know that it is becoming possible. This workshop is therefore very symbolic, a very special event.

The criminal justice system is an area of work about which I have found a lot of concern expressed in the region. This was formally recognised last November in Kathmandu by the First Regional Conference on Penal Reform where representative of four countries agreed an agenda for improving prison conditions, promoting alternatives to prison and

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protecting the rights of vulnerable prisoners. Bangladesh, we know, is doing a lot of good work from which we have learnt much.

We had last year our first penal reform regional conference in Kathmandu. You may have taken a copy of the brochure containing the important recommendations of that conference. If not please do take one. We believe that it constitutes a corner stone for penal reform and good co-operation for working together towards penal reform in this region. To the extent that we are now able to start planning the opening of a regional office.

We hope that this unique opportunity is only a first and will lead to further programmes for prison staff to access international standards and norms, to improve their daily work and learn from each other and from good prison practice elsewhere.

We are here today and the next few days to give whatever support we can to this endeavour. Our partners in the region who share our commitments will also give support. The donor community has also come forward to support us in this important task. We are grateful to the UK government for the financial support and encouragement that helped organise this workshop. We hope that this initiative will convince the British Government and the international community to lend their helpful hand to penal reform in this country. Likewise, they need to see concrete results in order to do so and the strongest political will the task in hand deserves.

Prisons are closed places, not just here, and not just in third world countries. Should they be? For what good does it do to society as a whole or for the government? Nothing. Quite the opposite, I can assure you.

The good news is there are now growing numbers of countries in Africa, in Latin America, and also here in South Asia where changes have been made. Where the public is allowed to help the administrations cope with crime prevention, with rehabilitation programmes, with alternatives to imprisonment. For ultimately prisons and prisoners are part of the society and have to be cared for by the community.

This is not just for human rights, although it is important, but it is about protection for society. We are today reassured that Bangladesh has joined up and become an integral part of this movement.

I have no doubt that such moves towards "openness" will stand Bangladesh in good stead, will enhance its prestige in the world and make Bangladesh a good model from which others can learn in the future. Let us work together towards that bright future.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish the participants a successful workshop

I wish to thank you.

**vi. Speech of Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government Republic of Bangladesh at The Inaugural Session of The Training on "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh"**

*Hon'ble Chair; Dr. Kamal Hossain*

*Mr. Stephen Turner, the Deputy High Commissioner of the United Kingdom*

*IG, Prisons, Brigadier Md. Waliur Rahman Chowdhury*

*Mr. M. R. Ahmed and Dr. Rani Dhavan Shankardass from India*

*Participating Superintendents of Jails,*

*Officials of Ministries of Home and Law*

*Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,*

**Assala-mu-Alaikum,**

Issues of crime and punishment have troubled us for centuries. Questions regarding why people commit crime and how should a society deal with crimes and criminals are not amendable to easy answers. A related issue is the treatment of prisoners in jails: should lives of prisoners be made difficult to make them 'pay' for the crimes they have committed or should we endeavor to reform the prisoners?

At different times and different stages, societies have evolved varying responses to these issues and have fashioned their criminal justice system and administration of prisons accordingly. We must not forget that prisons in our part of the world were introduced by the East India Company and the, focus of punishment in our penal laws, particularly the Penal Code, was retribution. Punishment is the reaction of the society to

crime and criminals: "Prison must be seen in order to grasp the true nature of it, as part of a larger pattern of penal practices that have undergone a number of transformation over the course of time. Prisonisation symbolizes a system of punishment and also a sort of institutional placement of under trials and suspects during the period of trial. From the dawn of the civilization there have been hardly any society which is not beset with crime and criminals, from that perspective the institution of prisons is indispensable for every country."<sup>1</sup>

"For controlling crime society formulate penal policy to achieve a number of objective, it considers imprisonment the means for attaining each of them. The emphasis is on reform, rehabilitation and treatment of criminals, as the society wants they will commit no more crime. The prison is expected to reform and rehabilitate criminals. Next, society wants protection from the criminals. The prison isolates criminals from general society so that they cannot commit crime during certain periods of time. Also, society wants retribution. The prison is expected to make life unpleasant for people who, by their crimes, have made others life unpleasant. Finally, society wants to reduce crime rates. The prison is expected to reduce crime rates not only by reforming criminals but also by deterring the general public from behavior, which is punishable by imprisonment. Since the prison has been designed for working toward each of society's goals, the attainment of goals may be considered the objective of imprisonment."<sup>2</sup>

The prisoners were classified into two main categories, namely: (i) incorrigible or hardened criminals; and (ii) corrigible or ordinary criminals who are capable of reformation. With new developments in penology during the early decades of twentieth century the prisons no longer remained the dump houses for the convicts but were used places of industry to train inmates for skilled work. This obviously served a dual purpose. Firstly, it helped in the rehabilitation of prisoners and secondly, work in prisons kept inmates engaged during their stay in

<sup>1</sup> Sharma P.D: Police and Criminal Justice Administration in India (1985) P.145. Quoted in Paranjape N.V. Criminology and Penology, P.252

<sup>2</sup> Louis N. Robinson, "Contradictory Purposes of Prisons," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 37: 449-457, March-April, 1947. Quoted in Edwin H. Sutherland and Donald R. Cressey, *Principles of Criminology*, Sixth Edition, pp. 460-461.

prison with the result they were mentally and physically fit to return as useful member of society after their release. It was around 1930 that individualization of prisoners became the object of punishment and hence the criminals were graded not according to their age, sex or dangerousness but according to their individual needs and chances of rehabilitation.

According to Mr. Justice J.S. Verma, Former Chief Justice of India

"There is also a need to rethink the method of classifications of prisoners and to attend to certain special categories such as women, children, aged and mentally ill. Prisons/homes where women and children are kept should have an environment conducive to their dignity and growth as individuals and their management should be by persons specially trained for such purposes with an interest in reform and sensitivity towards it. Conditions in which female prisoners are kept give rise to many serious social and psychological problems after release. Degradation of the individual is considerable but the effect of the family and society is worse. A female prisoner is exposed to treatment, which makes it difficult for her smooth reintegration into society after release. The situation in the case of children is much worse.

To ensure better efforts and measures for both protecting the rights and dignities of prisoners and facilitating the goal of their reform and rehabilitation, a whole range of programmes will have to be fashioned. These would include more resources, better training for staff, provision for rehabilitative opportunities and, above all, the understanding of all concerned that if a prisoner is not reformed or rehabilitated properly he could pose an even greater threat to the society when he is freed."

To formulate Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners which could be uniformly applicable throughout the world the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission made an endeavor in 1929, but its attempt failed because of the variations in geographical, physical and political conditions of different countries. Thereafter, in 1949 the United Nations convened a meeting of the group of experts to consider the problem of crime prevention and to frame standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners. In 1955 the first Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders submitted a draft of

standard minimum rules for the treatment of the prisoners. Modern prison reforms of most of the countries are mainly based on these Standard Minimum rules. The rules sought to eliminate undue torture and suffering to prisoners and narrowing down the gap between the prison life and the free life. There was greater emphasis on rehabilitation of the prisoner and training him for this return to normal life in society. The prisoners were to be humanely treated and not brutally punished. The General Assembly of United Nations passed a resolution in Geneva Congress in 1955 providing for convening every five years, a world Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of offenders. Consequently, the second Congress was held at London in 1960, the third in Stockholm in 1965, the fourth in Kyoto in 1970 and the fifth in Toronto in 1975, sixth in Caracas in 1980 and the seventh in Cuba in 1985.

The objectives of the Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of offenders are to work out evaluative methodologies for correctional services and treatment of offenders. To comply with the recommendations of U.N. Congress on crime and prevention, many member countries modified their prison rules with a view to mitigating the rigorous of prison life. These changes were directed towards reforming the delinquents and preventing their relapse into crime. The prisoners should be engaged in work suitable to their physique and should receive wages for their labor. They should not be subjected to unnecessary humiliation but arrangement should be made to help them in readapting themselves to social life after their release.

The issue of prison and lives of prisoners are closely intertwined with prison administration. Problems in prisons are similar in almost every country, though there may be variations in degrees. Overcrowding in prisons afflicts not only the developing countries but the developed ones as well. Resources for prison and prison administration are inadequate in almost every country, leading to unhygienic conditions for prisoners, insufficient food and water, lack of activities and training, and sometimes, violence in prison. Problems of segregation of under-trial prisoners from convicts, women from men and providing separate facilities for juvenile delinquents are common to almost all jails, all over the world.

Prisons department is one of the most sensitive and important department under Ministry of Home Affairs and deals in safety, security and correctional treatment of prisoner.

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At present there are 80 Jails in the country, which includes 9 central 55 district and 16 thana jails. Most of the central and district jails were established during the British regime.

The govt. of Bangladesh have taken up the following programme in the year 1999 to reduce overcrowding in the jails, ensure supply of pure drinking water and improve hygiene and sanitary condition:

1. Construction of 26 permanent / temporary barracks with estimated cost of Tk. 9.12 crore increasing accommodation capacity of the jails to accommodate more 3424 prisoners has already been completed.
2. Construction of 34 jails at a cost of Tk. 399.65 crores under Annual Development Project is in progress. Construction work of 7 district jail has already been completed and started functioning.

Construction of Dhaka Central Jail at Kashimpur of Gajipur District at a cost of Tk. 126.20 crores is going on.

Extension / modernization work of Chittagong Central Jail at a cost of Tk. 79.89 crores have been started during last fiscal year.

3. Ensured supply of pure drinking water and improvement of hygiene & sanitary condition at a cost of Tk. 5.44 crores for 50 jails.
4. At Rajshahi a training centre at own arrangement has been established to impart training to the prisons personnels to develop their administrative skills and efficiencies, initial training of jail warders is being conducted at present.

To rehabilitate the prisoners in the society after release, they are provided with training in handicrafts and a scheme to provide wages to the convicts under R.I. is under active consideration of the govt.

5. Primary & mass education to the illiterate prisoners are in vogue in different jails. More over they are also given moral & religious teaching.
6. To materialize correctional activities one probation officer in each district is already appointed.

With the completion of these projects, the overall prison capacity will increase substantially, relieving the problem of overcrowding. Budgetary allocations for prison department for poor country like ours, is not meagre, The current budget provides for more than 100 crore taka for

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this department which, I must mention, is more than the budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. I understand that the number of persons employed by the prison department is more than 7,000. I mention these figures to indicate that our government is sensitive to the issue of prison and prison administration, keeping in view the several constraints with which we have to operate.

The new and emerging dimensions of prison administration and treatment of prisoners are issues, 'which need to be constantly explored. Obviously, not all experiments are nor can be successful. However, there are sufficient examples of these newer approaches and these deserve our attention. I am happy that these emerging methods with be subjected to security in this training programme and persons will experience and ideas with senior prison officials of Bangladesh. I am sure that during the next four days there will be fruitful exchange of experience and new ideas and methods would germinate to benefit our prison department and prisoners. I note that Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) has forged alliance with Penal Reform International on this issue of penal reform and I expect this collaboration to be fruitful.

Our attitude to reform is reflected in the fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs has permitted it's officials to participate in this exercise and I understand that our Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has taken a keen interest in this training programme. This government, as you are well aware, is responsive to new ideas and plans and we are ready to experiment with better systems and methods of management and administration. Deliberations in this training programme would be of interest to the government and I am sure participation of such a large number of high prison officials and the presence of our Inspector General of Prisons already indicate are commitment to prison reform.

The ideas of open prison, probation, suspended sentence and other emerging methods of dealing with prisoners need to be dealt with cautiously. Our prison system as well as the relevant laws are geared towards segregating prisoners from the outside world and restricting their liberty. In this prevailing milieu, which has been in practice for more than a century, any proposal for change will have to be weighed carefully and we can proceed only after extensive consultation and preparation. Issues of punishment and treatment of prisoners are also legislative matters as these are laid down in relevant criminal laws and our statutory framework for prisons and prison administration. Hence, changes in these areas will have to be slow, as these in many instances may require

legislative amendments. This is not to say that new methods and ideas can not be initiated and applied. We must experiment with better methods and systems and I am sure the experienced prison official and academic from India will share their thoughts on this score and there would be plenty to learn.

Let me end by re-iterating that the government is ready to consider your ideas and suggestions for better prison administration and treatment of prisoners. Emerging methods of dealing with prisoners including their punishment can also be looked into. If these methods have led to positive results in countries with similar socio-economic conditions, I don't see any reason why we should not also explore these new methods to gauge their applicability in our context.

I wish this training programme a success. I am sure the participating superintendents of jails will return to their infused with new ideas, ways and means for ensuring a better life to the prisoners under their charge.

*Khoda Hafez*

vii. **Speech of Mohammad Nasim, Hon'ble Minister of Home and State Affairs, Government Republic of Bangladesh at The Closing Ceremony of The Training on "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh"**

*Assala-mu-Alaikum,*

The Chair of this session Justice Namiuddin Ahmed, Mr Ahmed Othmani, Chair of PRI, His Excellency Mr. David Carter, the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom Mr. M.R. Ahmed and Dr. Rani Dhavan Shankardass from India, Officials of Ministries of Home Affairs and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Officers of the Department of Prisons Participating Superintendents of Jails, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!

First, let me thank the organisers for their timely initiative in arranging this training programme for Superintendents of our prisons. I am happy that Penal Reform International (PRI) has now chosen Bangladesh for their training activities and forged partnership with Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST). We appreciate the support of the British Government towards this effort.

The importance of such training has been underscored by the address of the British Home Secretary Rt Hon Jack Straw, M.P. to the participants and guests of this training programme. Appreciation of our government towards such initiative is amply evident from the fact that we had deputed high-ranking prison officials to participate in this programme and I am sure the deliberation and exchanges of the last four days will pave the way for better prison management in our country.

You are well aware that the present government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the prevailing law and order situation of the country. You must appreciate the fact that problems of crime and punishment are not amenable to easy and readymade solutions. All countries and societies are afflicted with problems of crime and punishment. Similarly, the issue of good management of prisons have to be looked into constantly to devise better ways and means for effective deterrence and reform of prisoners.

Our prison system has evolved over more than a century. Many of our practices in running and administration of prisons date back from the last century. At the same time, we have evolved new mechanisms for more effective administration of our prisons. The participation of our senior prison officials in this training programme indicates our willingness and readiness to learn and implement newer methods of prison administration.

For a country of close to 120 million people, our jails, officially, has a capacity of less than 25,000 prisoners, though the prisons have to accommodate a much larger number of prisoners. Recently, the government has taken measures to increase the jail capacity and a number of new prisons, including facilities for juvenile delinquents, have been built. Large prison constructions are underway in different parts of the country. With the completion of these projects, the overall prison capacity will increase substantially, relieving the problem of overcrowding. Budgetary allocations for prison department for poor country like ours is not meagre. The current budget provides for more than 100 crore taka for this department which is not insubstantial.

The new and emerging dimensions of prison administration and treatment of prisoners are issues which need to be constantly explored. Obviously, not all experiments are nor can be successful. However, there are sufficient examples of these newer approaches and these deserve our

attention. I am happy that these emerging methods have been subjected to scrutiny in this training programme and persons with experience and expertise in these fields have travelled to Bangladesh to share their experience and ideas with our senior prison officials.

The ideas of open prison, probation, suspended sentence and other emerging methods of dealing with prisoners need to be dealt with cautiously. Our prison system as well as the relevant laws are geared towards segregating prisoners from the outside world and restricting their liberty. In this prevailing milieu, which has been in practice for more than a century, any proposal for change will have to be weighed in carefully and we can proceed only after extensive consultation and preparation. Issues of punishment and treatment of prisoners are also legislative matters as these are laid down in relevant criminal laws and our statutory framework for prisons and prison administration. Hence, changes in these areas will have to be slow, as these in many instances may require legislative amendments. This is not to say that new methods and ideas can not be initiated and applied. We must experiment with better methods and systems and I am sure the experience gained by our prison officials will be shared with the policy planners to pave the way for newer and more effective ways for dealing with prisoners and their reform.

I understand that the training has also dealt with human rights of prisoners. Our dealings with prisoners have to be infused with notions and concepts of human rights? However, prisoners are separate from ordinary citizens and they are in the prison because they have harmed ordinary citizens. This cardinal fact must not be lost sight of in dealing with prisoners. Also, there may be violent elements among the prisoners, making the task of ordering their lives within prison problematic. Safety of prisoners in this gathering of violent persons is another issue which demands constant and sensitive handling. The issue of human rights of prisoners, therefore, is more problematic than human rights for ordinary citizens. One has to keep the issue of safety of prison officials in mind as well. This is not to say that human rights of prisoners do not deserve attention. They do and more so because prisons are sites of power, power of prison officials over prisoners. Moreover, the lives of prisoners are regulated by laws and rules more than any other segments of population. Hence their plight deserves our constant attention. I am sure this training has helped our officials to better understand the human rights dimension of prison administration.

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The Government of Bangladesh has taken up the following programme to reduce overcrowding in the jails;

- a. Construction of 19 District Jails at Vhola, Sirajganj, Panchagor, Serpur, Lalmonirhat, Manikganj, Gazipur, Coxbazer, Laxmipur, Satkhira, Magura, Norail, Noaga, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Gaibandha, Bagerhat, Moulvibazer, and Sunamganj with estimated cost of Tk. 259 core and 57 lac by the year 2004;
- b. Construction of 12 Districts Jail at Rajbari, Gopalganj, Chadpur, Nator, Chuadanga, Netrokona, Nilfamari, Meherpur, Feni, Madaripur, Pirozpur, and Jhinaidha with estimated cost of Tk. 35 core and 31 lac by the year 2001;
- c. Construction of Dhaka Central Jail at Kashimpur of Gazipur with estimated cost of Tk. 26 core and 21 lac by the year 2002;
- d. Construction of 3 District Jails at B. Baria, Habiganj, Kishoreganj with estimated cost of Tk. 79 core and 89 lac by the year 2002;
- e. Extension and modernisation of the Chittagong District Jail with estimated cost of Tk. 48 core, 16 lac and 29 thousand by the year 2003;
- f. Construction of outside jail godowns and inside jail kitchens with estimated cost of 12 core and 64 lac by the year 2000.

With the completion of these projects, the overall prison capacity will increase substantially, relieving the problem of overcrowding.

Let me end by again thanking the organisers and assuring you that the new ideas and methods presented during the last four days of deliberation will receive the attention these deserve. We shall explore ways and means of making our prisons a better place for reform of prisoners and undertake activities for further training of prison officials.

*Khoda Hafez*

viii. **Speech of Rani D. Shankardass, Vice Chairperson, Penal Reform International at the Closing Ceremony of The Training on "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh"**

On behalf of PRI I would like to thank the Bangladesh Prisons Department and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) for

enabling and organising PRI's programme of Training Prison Officers in Good Prison Management and Human Rights. Superintendents from many districts participated in the training and any foreboding which we as trainers might have had before we came were belied by the atmosphere and satisfaction that accompanied the training. The prison officers confessed that they had never before participated in this kind of programme and that they believed they had learnt extraordinary things from it, including the fact that they were performing tasks that were extraordinary and remarkable. I would like to take their word for it.

It is true that the concept of Human Rights was greeted with apprehension and mistrust at the start of this programme as it has been anywhere where such training has been carried out. But fears were laid to rest when it was spelled out that 'Human Rights' was but another name for what we all really want in our personal lives, in our societies and in our world. Human Rights is dignity and decency in dealing with people whether they are poor, rich, high class, low class, men or women, power-wielders or simple citizens, offenders or law abiding citizens.

Human Rights is not an alien concept, nor one borrowed from the West. It is a good gauge for a civilized society. Two remarkable persons from two ends of the world – West and East - have said to us that the best test of a nation's civilization is the way it treats its worst off people (in particular those it punishes): Winston Churchill said it for Britain and Gandhi said it for India. I do believe that this is a tough but apt test of a nation's culture and of its enlightenment.

But alas most of us fail the test: not just in this part of the world but also in what gets called the First World or developed world: for there is anger, prejudice and injustice there too. And prison populations reveal that ore than other areas: The US Census Bureau informs us that in 1999 in the US the black population was 12.1% and the black prison population was 44.2%. Does that make sense?

The right kind of equation between the State and society is one of the most vital features of democracy; the State was set up to serve the better interests of all of society not the society for the State. States have something that other organisations do not have – a power that is unique and a power that is both feared and respected. It is this power that promises equality and justice to one and all without discrimination.

It is when the State apparatus fails in this mission that civil society gets restless and begins to play an active role for the betterment of society. The history of Bangladesh is itself the best testament to the restless of civil society at a particular moment in time, and we do not need to spell out the details here. Civil society has perforce become increasingly involved in the move for improvement and development of conditions and institutions, and it should not surprise us.

The intervention of civil society must go on, for better justice which is the hallmark of democracy. Non-government organisations all over the world have done valuable work in areas that the State often put aside as low priority for political reasons. They do this not in competition with the State but to cooperate with it.

We have eminent government functionaries in our midst and I would not like to be so presumptuous as to preach the art of Statecraft to them. A democratic State is one that carries all of its people along the path of betterment and development and gives all of its people justice. The State that leaves behind large chunks of its people when it strives to march forward is more than likely to run into trouble in the long run. And the test again is - what is happening to the worst-off ?

One look at prison populations will show that most of those locked inside are poor, uneducated and ill-equipped to face the power of the establishment. They are easy targets for locking up which is often done to show the public that crime is being tackled. All those inside prison are not hardened dangerous criminals from whom society needs to be protected. On this the prison officers and we as reform-seeking non-government agencies were agreed: that only five per cent of those who are in prison are hardened, dangerous or habitual. The rest are not and could be dealt with in other way, because in prison they get damaged often beyond repair. And there are plenty of offenders 'outside' who can never and will never be inside and we shall not go into the reasons. But this we know that in our part of the world where the major part of the population is comprised of the most impoverished and powerless people anywhere in the world, a failure of justice is unpardonable. The violation of human rights in our region affects people with an intensity that is beyond the imaginative powers of the endowed.

Prison is a vital area where all the strands of justice converge: and we believe that the way prisons are viewed and managed offers a kind of

understanding about the society in which they are located that no other institution can.

Penal Reform International has worked in this area of prisons and the criminal justice process for over ten years now and believes it has gained an understanding and expertise that few organisations have. We are happy to share our experiences and expertise wherever they are needed and wanted. But we also know that at the end of the day the State machinery must take the initiative for change – including that of exploring alternatives to prison so that overcrowding and the injustice that goes with it is diminished. From our experience of preparing this programme with the Bangladesh prisons department over these past few months we believe an impact has been made. We are confident that this first step will be one of several to ensure justice and humanity for those locked up; prisoners and staff must get a better deal and work better together shedding old attitudes to which they have been conditioned.

We would like to thank everyone here for an atmosphere of congeniality and cooperation which has made our work pleasant and satisfying. We would like to extend particular thanks to the Inspector General of Prisons and his colleagues for helping this programme to achieve what it did and we look forward to further interaction in this area

**ix. Speech of Liakat Ali Khan, Additional Inspector General of Prison, Bangladesh at the Closing Ceremony of The Training on “Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh”**

Hon’ble Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Chairperson PRI; Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission; Chairperson BLAST; and other dignitaries, ladies, gentlemen.

I thank you for the opportunity awarded to me to say a few words at the Inaugural Session of the workshop on “Training in Good Prison Management.” For the first time this type of workshop or training programme is going to be held in our country with the benevolent assistance of BLAST. Therefore our cordial and sincere thanks to BLAST. A training in good prison management will surely contribute much for our jail administration. I would also like to thank the resource persons of this programme and have no doubt that they, working together

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with the participants at the workshop, will contribute greatly to the success of the event.

Here I would like to point out that the present prisons system in Bangladesh is a traditional system, inherited from and introduced by the former colonial British Government. Though the Bangladesh prisons are carrying a legacy of penal practices inherited from the past, presently various reformatory measures are being taken for the reformation of the prisoners. The jail reforms committee of 1919 first recommended the introduction of corrective measures for the prisoners inside the jail. They recommended the introduction of corrective training, which can be imparted through the works of the prisoners. In this context we provide the prisons with training in handicrafts to rehabilitate the prisoners in the society after their release. It should also be mentioned here that the Government is considering a scheme of providing wages to the convicted (working prisoners).

At present we have got 9 Central and 55 District Jails with a registered capacity of 23942 prisoners with an allotment of 36 square feet to each prisoners. However, against this capacity we have a total number of 65137 prisoners. This figure shows that the Bangladesh jails are highly over populated. This over population inside the jails are the main theme of all problems.

To ease the above over crowding problem the government has taken some initiatives such as the construction of 34 new district jails at a cost of Tk. 399.65 cores, which are going on in a full swing. Construction of Dhaka Central Jail at Kashimpur in Gazipur District at a cost of Tk. 126.20 crores is going on. Modernization and improvement of living conditions in Chittagong Central Jail has been started.

On completion of the construction of the new jails and steps to improve prison facilities which are already under way, the overall prisons capacity and facilities will substantially improve and the total prison population capacity will stand at 36491.

Let me conclude with thanks to BLAST and PRI and let me extend my request to arrange such programmes quarterly each year in our country. Also it would be helpful to arrange training for four of our trainers abroad to enable them to form a core group to initiate and improve the training programme in our prison training center, which has recently started. In this connection I would like to request PRI to facilitate the attendance of our jail officers at such programmes abroad on an annual basis.



Thanking you all.

x. **Thanks Speech by Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Advisor, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) at the Closing Ceremony of The Training on "Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh"**

Respected Chair of this Closing Session of the 4-day training programme on "GOOD PRISON MANAGEMENT" for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh, Mr. Justice Naimuddin Ahmed;

Chief Guest Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Md. Nasim;

His Excellency, Mr. David Carter, the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom;

Our Colleagues and Resource Persons for the Training Programme from India and UK: Dr. Rani Dhavan Shankardass, Mr. Riaz Ahmed and Mr. Nikhil Roy;

Participating Senior Superintendents and Superintendents of Prisons; Esteemed Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

We have come to the end of this four day training programme, the first ever of this kind here. It is now my pleasant task to convey to you our gratitude and thanks. First of all, the participating Senior Superintendents and Superintendents of 20 Prisons of Bangladesh deserve our appreciation and gratitude for unflinchingly standing up to the barrage of new ideas, many of them critical, during the long hours of training and responding to these in a spirit of understanding, indicating a willingness to internalise many of the suggestions put forward to them.

Dr. Shankardass, Mr. Riaz Ahmed, who is a DIG Prisons from Hyderabad, and Nikhil Roy of PRI, London have surely made this training a worthwhile exercise for all concerned. Our collective quest for better prison management with dignity for the prisoners is an ongoing process and they are the key players in the process in the South Asian region. We thank them for taking the trouble of travelling to Dhaka, for spending four days holed up here at this Inn and responding to queries and probes of the participants. We are grateful that they shared their experience, skill and training expertise to benefit us all and we look forward to further benefiting from their capabilities in our future endeavours.

The Prison Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs have made this training possible and we are grateful for the open and frank discussions we have had over a number of days with the Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier Waliur Rahman Chowdhury; Additional Inspector General of Prisons Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan; and Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Dhaka Central Jail, Mr. Md. Abdul Jahir who has been involved with this process from the Conference in Kathmandu in November, 1999. He has worked committedly to make this training programme possible, discreetly making a number of arrangements possible and soothing over a number of hitches that are inevitable in an exercise like this.

The Ministries of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Home Affairs, together with the Ministers in charge of these Ministries, Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru and Mr. Md. Nasim, have obliged us by participating in the opening and closing sessions of the workshop and facilitating the progress of the event. To all of you my sincere thanks on behalf of BLAST!

## Section 5

### Annexure

#### GOOD PRISON MANAGEMENT IN BANGLADESH 4-Day Pilot Course for Prison Superintendents

##### i. Programme Schedule

Day	Time	Content	Contributors
10 <sup>th</sup> September Sunday Day-1	9.35	Opening Ceremony	Mr. Ahmed Othmani Chairperson, PRI
		Workshop	
	9.45	Inauguration	Mr. Stephen Turner Deputy High Commissioner British High Commissioner, Dhaka
		Address of Welcome	
	9.55	Address by Special Guest	Brigadier Md. Waliur Rahman Chowdhury
		Address by IG of Prisons	
	10.05	Address by Chief Guest	Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru, M.P. Hon'ble Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
		Address by the Chair	
10.25	Tea Break	Dr. Kamal Hossain Chairperson, BLAST	
10.45	Getting Started	Nikhil Roy M. R. Ahmed	
11.00	Why Human Rights?	Rani D. Shankardass	

#### Good Prison Management

	1.00	Lunch	
	2.00	International and National Standards for Maintaining Dignity in Prisons	Ahmed Othmani Guest Speaker: Mr. Nirmalundu Roy
	3.00	Staff to have Rights	M.R. Ahmed Rani D. Shankardass Ahmed Othmani Nikhil Roy
	4.15	Visit of the British Secretary of State for Home Affairs the Rt. Hon. Jack Straw	
	5.00	Tea Break	
	5.30	'The Prison: Does it serve them Rights?'- A Video by PRAJA	Rani D. Shankardass
	6.00	Finish	
11 <sup>th</sup> September Monday Day-2	9.00	Review of the Previous Day	M.R. Ahmed
	10.30	"Working through Theme 1" The 1 <sup>st</sup> Principle: 'A person in Prison does not become a 'non-person' • Maintaining Human Dignity • Health Rights in Prison	M.R. Ahmed Nikhil Roy
	11.30	Tea Break	
	11.45	'Working through Theme-1' (Contd.)	Rani D. Shankardass

A Workshop Report

	1.00	Lunch	
	2.00	Lesson: "How to construct an Action Plan?"	M.R. Ahmed Rani D. Shankardass
	3.15	Tea Break	
	3.30	'Working through theme-II: The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Principle: 'Prisoners retain all the rights of being human except those limited by their incarceration' • Making Prisons safe places' • Making the best use of Prisons	M.R. Ahmed Ahmed Othmani
	5.00	Finish	
12 <sup>th</sup> September Tuesday Day-3	9.00	Review of the Previous day (including home work)	M.R. Ahmed
	10.00	'Working through Theme-II' (Contd.) • Prisoners' contact with the outside world • Complaints and Inspection Procedures	Rani D. Shankardass
	11.30	Tea Break	
	11.45	'Working through Theme-II' (Contd.)	M.R. Ahmed
	13.00	Lunch	
	2.00	'Working through Theme-III': The 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rani D. Shankardass

Good Prison Management

		Principle: 'Special needs of Prisoners' • <b>Special Categories</b> e.g. <b>Women and Juveniles.</b> • <b>Under Trials</b>	Rani D. Shankardass M.R. Ahmed
	3.30	(Screening of the ASK Video: 'Women in Safe Custody')	
	4.00	'Working through Theme-II' (Contd.)	Rani D. Shankardass
	5.00	Meetin with Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK)	
	6.00	Tea Break and Finish	
13 <sup>th</sup> September Wednesday Day-4	9.00	Review of the Previous Day	Training Team/Participants
	9.30	Action Planning	
	10.30	Tea Break	
	11.00	Action Planning	
	12.00	Evaluation	
	1.00	Lunch	
	2.00	Models of Best Practice: 1) Community Service 2) Open Prisons	Rani D. Shankardass Nikhil Roy M.R. Ahmed
	3.30	Tea Break	

A Workshop Report

	4.00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>	Address of Welcome
	4.10	Address by the Special Guest	Mr. David Carter High Commissioner British High Commission
	4.20	Address by the Chief Guest	Mr. Mohammad Nasim, M.P. Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs Government of Bangladesh
	4.40	Address by the Chair	Mr. Justice Naimuddin Ahmed Member Law Commission and Vice President, BLAST
	4.50	Awarding of Certificates	
	5.10	Vote of Thanks	
	5.15	Tea Break	
	5.30	Finish	

**ii. Participants List**

**1. Syed Rafiqul Alam**  
Senior Superintendent  
Rangpur Central Jail  
**Education:** B.A.  
**Years of service:** 29 Years  
**Number of prisoners under your charge:** Approx. 1580  
**The two main problems faced by you:**  
1. Proper trained guarding staff.  
2. Overcrowding of Prison.

Good Prison Management

<p><b>2. Md. Abdul Quadir</b> Superintendent Joypurhat District Jail <b>Education:</b> B.Com. <b>Years of Service:</b> 26 Years <b>Number of prisoners under your charge:</b> 517 <b>The two main problems faced by you:</b> 1. Inadequate supply of water to the prisoners barrack due to electricity failure. 2. Lack of skill man power.</p>
<p><b>3. Md. Azizul Haque</b> Senior Superintendent Barisal Central Jail <b>Education:</b> B.A. (Hons); M.A. (Social work) <b>Years of Service:</b> About 13 Years <b>Number of prisoners under your charge:</b> Approx. 1250 <b>The two main problems faced by you:</b> 1. Inadequate manpower. 2. Lack of Prisons industry.</p>
<p><b>4. Md. Abdul Mannan Khan</b> Superintendent Sherpur District Jail <b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Commerce <b>Years of Service:</b> About 24 Years <b>Number of prisoners under your charge:</b> Approx. 400 <b>The two main problems faced by you:</b> 1. Accommodation. 2. Medical treatment of prisoners due to non-functioning jail hospital for want of sufficient guarding staff.</p>

**5. Shaikh Abdul Amik**

Senior Superintendent

Central Jail, Rajshahi

*Education:* M.Com. (Management)

*Years of Service:* 23 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* Approx. 3100

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Facing problems for pushing back Indian & Myanmar citizen.
2. Handing over the dead body of foreign prisoners to their relatives or proper authority.

**6. Md. Ataur Rahman**

Superintendent

Nawabgonj District Jail

*Education:* B.A.(Hons); M.A.

*Years of Service:* 24 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 560

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Shortage of manpower.
2. Visitors waiting room.

**7. A.Y.M.A. Basar**

Superintendent

Norsindi District Jail

*Education:* B.A.

*Years of Service:* 29 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 830

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Due to over capacity, too much congestion.
2. Guarding staff shortage.

**8. Md. Rezaul Karim**

Superintendent

Jamalpur District Jail

*Education:* B.A. (Hons); M.A.

*Years of Service:* 24 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 452

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Over Population.
2. Disposal of cases of the prisoners.

**9. Mir Moqsud Hossain**

Superintendent

Khulna District Jail

*Education:* B.A.

*Years of Service:* 27 Years 5 months

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 2134

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Over crowding.
2. Delay in disposing the cases by court concerned.

**10. Md. Mokbul Hossain**

Superintendent

Noagaon District Jail

*Education:* M.A.; B.Ed.

*Years of Service:* 25 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 850

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Over population.
2. Disposal of Cases of the prisoners.

**11. Md. Haroun – or – Rashid Sarkar**

Superintendent

Kishorgonj District Jail

*Education:* B.S.S. (Hons); M.S.S. (Pol. Science)

*Years of Service:* 8 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* Approx. 900

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Staff shortage.
2. Accommodation problem of prisoners.

**12. Md. Abdur Rouf**

Superintendent

Jhenaidah District Jail

*Education:* B.A.

*Years of Service:* 23 Years 10 months

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 693

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Problem of over crowding.
2. Problem of insufficient staff.

**13. A. K. M. Fazlul Hoque**

Superintendent

Bogra District Jail

*Education:* B.Sc (Hons); M.Sc.

*Years of Service:* 7 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* Approx.1900

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Congestion.
2. Sanitation.

**14. Forhad Mian**

Superintendent

Narayangonj District Jail

*Education:* B.A. (Hons); M.A. (Pol. Science)

*Years of Service:* 24 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 782

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Over Population.
2. Inadequate security measures.

**15. Md.Giashuddin Mollah**

Superintendent

Manikgonj District Jail

*Education:* B.A.

*Years of Service:* 21 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 255

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Accommodation.
2. Over Crowding.

**16. Abu Md. Sohrab**

Superintendent

Magura District Jail

*Education:* B.Com.

*Years of Service:* 23 Years 10 months

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 428

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Over congestion.
2. No hospital inside the jail for prisoners.

**17. Md. Nurul Islam**

Superintendent

Panchagarh District Jail

*Education:* B.A.

*Years of Service:* 27 Years 6 months

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 208

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Delay in disposal of pending cases.
2. Shortage of guarding staff and Executive Staff.

**18. Md. Azmal Hossain**

Superintendent

Gopalganj District Jail

*Education:* B.Com.

*Years of Service:* 23 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* 461

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Over Crowding.
2. Problems of Sanitation.

**19. Mir Jabber Ali**

Superintendent

Pabna District Jail

*Education:* Bachelor of Arts

*Years of Service:* 27 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* Approx.1165

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Accommodation.
2. Treatment of Prisoners (mental prisoners).

**20. Md. Zakir Hossain**

Superintendent

Gazipur District Jail

*Education:* B.A.

*Years of Service:* 23 Years

*Number of prisoners under your charge:* Approx. 650

*The two main problems faced by you:*

1. Inadequate man power and security hazard.
2. Over Population- Three times the capacity.

## ii. List of the Resource Persons

**Mr. Ahmed Othmani**  
Chairperson  
PRI, Paris

**Dr. Rani Dhavan Shankardass**  
Vice Chairperson, PRI  
and  
Secretary General  
Penal Reform and Justice Association (PRAJA)  
7A & B Sector 14, Mehrauli Road  
Gurgaon-122 001, Haryana, INDIA  
Tel: +91 124 6323564  
Fax: +91 124 6323959  
E-mail: praja\_email@yahoo.com

**M. R. Ahmed**  
Deputy Inspector General of Prisons  
Coastal Andhra Region  
RAJAHMUNDRY-AP-533105, INDIA  
Ph: 0883-476051 (Office & Residence)  
E-mail: riazuddinahmed@hotmail.com

**Mr. Nirmulendu Roy**  
Ex. DIG Prisons  
Bangladesh

**Nikhil Roy**  
Programme Director  
Penal Reform International  
Unit 14  
The Chandlery  
50 Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7QY, U.K.  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 721 7678  
Fax: +44 (0) 207 721 721 8785  
E-mail: royn@pri.org.uk

## iii. Clipping from national newspaper

### The Independent

11 September 2000

# Prison management to be improved, says minister

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru said here yesterday that the government would consider with due importance any well-conceived opinions or counsels about providing greater facilities to the prisoners for improving prison management, reports BSS.

Khasru said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was committed to establishing human rights as announced by the United Nations and was opposed to any discriminatory attitudes towards any citizens.

He was inaugurating a training course entitled, "Training in good prison management" jointly organised by British aided Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Penal Reforms International (PRI). Twenty officials are participating in the three-day course.

Presided over by President of BLAST Dr Kamal Hossain, the function was addressed, among

others, by British Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Turner, PRI President Ahmed Othmani and Additional Inspector General of Police (Prison) Liaquat Ali Khan.

Referring to the steps taken by the government for the reforms and modernisation of the prisons of the country, Khasru said the number of prisoners had risen with the increase in crimes.

He said 80 prisons, including nine central jails of the country, were now accommodating inmates more than three times their capacity.

Referring to the progress of Taka 126 crore under-construction Dhaka Central Jail in Gazipur, the Minister said the construction of 34 more jails at district headquarters was progressing at a cost of about Taka 400 crore.

Dr Kamal Hossain urged all concerned to play proper role in the protection of human rights as envisaged in the UN charter.

# The Daily Star

September 12, 2000

## Overcrowded Prisons

QUITE predictably, the issue of overcrowding at some nine central, 55 district and 15 thana jails across the country came up at Sunday's inaugural session of the three-day training programme titled *Good Prison Management for Prison Personnel in Bangladesh*. The facts and figures that featured in the discussion pointed to a harrowing reality inside the penitentiaries: the number of inmates is nearly four times the capacity of the prisons. Although the additional inspector general of prisons contradicted the figures presented by Dr Kamal Hossain (75,300 detained in jails with accommodation for 23,942) his own estimate (62,000 for the same) was no less appalling.

The key, as Great Britain's deputy high commissioner to Bangladesh said, is "access to justice." According to the latest statistics, there had been a rise in the number of under-trial prisoners from 26,000 in 1995 to 37,000 in 1999 while the number of convicts went down from 15,730 to 13,422 over the same period. So alongside expansion and modernisation of prison facilities, there is the crucial need for legal and judicial reforms. Here lies the crux of the matter.

Regardless of the extent to which we might enhance the capacity of different prisons, unless we do something about the huge judicial backlog, the jail-houses would continue to be overburdened. Many senior judges and jurists have rightly, therefore, expressed their concern over the judicial logjam. In its overzealous criticism of the judiciary, the government appears to have overlooked the fact that for any attempt to reform the legal and judicial systems, convergence of political opinion is of utmost significance. Therefore, instead of launching diatribe campaign against the higher judiciary, it should right-away get its act together to facilitate the process of required reforms.

# ইত্তেফাক

১০ই সেপ্টেম্বর ২০০০

## কারা কর্মকর্তাদের ৩ দিনব্যাপী প্রশিক্ষণ আজ শুরু

ট্রেনিং ইন গুড প্রিজন্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট শীর্ষক বাংলাদেশের কারা কর্মকর্তাদের ৩ দিনব্যাপী এক প্রশিক্ষণ আজ শুরু হইবে। প্রশিক্ষণে বাংলাদেশের ২০ জন সুপারিনটেনডেন্ট পর্যায়ের কারা কর্মকর্তা অংশ নিবেন এবং সংবিধান ও আইনগত প্রেক্ষাপটে বাংলাদেশের কারা ব্যবস্থাপনা, কারাগারে মানবাধিকার, কারাবন্দীদের অধিকার ও কল্যাণ প্রভৃতি বিষয়ে আলোকপাত করা হইবে।

ব্রিটিশ সরকারের অর্থ-সাহায্যে কারা কর্মকর্তাদের এই প্রশিক্ষণটি আয়োজন করিয়াছে যৌথভাবে পেনাল রিফর্ম ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (পিআরআই) এবং বাংলাদেশ লিগ্যাল এইড এন্ড সার্ভিসেস ট্রাস্ট (ব্লাস্ট)। সকাল সাড়ে ৯টায় ব্র্যাক সেন্টার ইন অডিটোরিয়ামে অনুষ্ঠানটি উদ্বোধন করিবেন আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রী আব্দুল মতিন খসরু। বিশেষ অতিথি থাকিবেন ব্রিটিশ ডেপুটি হাইকমিশনার স্টিফেন টার্নার এবং সভাপতিত্ব করিবেন ব্লাস্টের সভাপতি ডঃ কামাল হোসেন। ব্রিটিশ স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী জ্যাক স্ট্র আজ প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের উদ্দেশে বক্তব্য রাখিবেন।

প্রশিক্ষণের সমাপনী অনুষ্ঠানে স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী মোহাম্মদ নাসিম প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের মাঝে সনদপত্র বিতরণ করিবেন। বিশেষ অতিথি থাকিবেন ব্রিটিশ হাইকমিশনার ডেভিড কার্টার। সভাপতিত্ব করিবেন ব্লাস্টের সহ-সভাপতি নাসিমউদ্দিন আহমেদ।-প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তি

# দৈনিক জাগরণ

১২ই সেপ্টেম্বর ২০০০

## ব্রিটিশ স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী জ্যাক স্ট্র আজ আসছেন

কূটনৈতিক রিপোর্টার ৯ বাংলাদেশ ও ব্রিটেনের ইমিগ্রেশন সমস্যা সমাধান এবং সন্ত্রাস মোকাবিলাসহ উভয় দেশের স্বার্থ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয় নিয়ে আলোচনার জন্য ব্রিটিশ স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী জ্যাক স্ট্র এমপি দু'দিনের জন্য আজ শনিবার বাংলাদেশ সফরে আসছেন। বাংলাদেশ সফরকালে তিনি স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী



মোহাম্মদ নাসিমের সঙ্গে এসব বিষয়সহ বিভিন্ন বিষয় নিয়ে আলোচনা করবেন। সফরকালে মিঃ স্ট্র প্রধান বিচারপতি লতিফুর রহমান, প্রধান বিরোধী দলের নেত্রী বিএনপিপ্রধান খালেদা জিয়াসহ দেশের অন্য সরকারী ও বেসরকারী

## ব্রিটিশ স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী (১২-এর পাতার পর)

নেতৃস্থানীয় কর্মকর্তার সাথে মতবিনিময় করবেন। সফরকালে তিনি মানবাধিকার ও কারাগার ব্যবস্থাপনা বিষয়ক একটি কোর্স পরিদর্শন করবেন। পেনাল রিফর্ম ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (পিআরআই) ও বাংলাদেশ লিগ্যাল এইড এন্ড সার্ভিসেস ট্রাস্ট (ব্লাস্ট) যৌথভাবে ঢাকায় এই কোর্সটি পরিচালনা করছে। সফরকালে মিঃ জ্যাক স্ট্র ব্রিটিশ অনুদানের একাধিক প্রকল্প পরিদর্শন করতে পারেন। মিঃ স্ট্র ব্রিটেন সরকারের একজন শীর্ষস্থানীয় মন্ত্রী। এটাই তাঁর বাংলাদেশে প্রথম সফর। তাঁর সফরসঙ্গীদের মধ্যে ব্রিটেনের স্বরাষ্ট্র, পররাষ্ট্র ও কমনওয়েলথ মন্ত্রণালয়ের বেশ কয়েকজন কর্মকর্তা রয়েছেন। মিঃ জ্যাকের সফর উপলক্ষে ইতোমধ্যে ব্রিটেনের স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের একাধিক কর্মকর্তা বাংলাদেশ সফরে এসেছেন আগাম দল হিসাবে। মিঃ জ্যাক ১৯৯৭ সালে স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী হন।



# The Daily Star

September 11, 2000

## 75,300 being detained in jails with accommodation for 23,942

Overcrowding, poor conditions in prisons key topics discussed at training

By Staff Correspondent

Prisoners from lower income group number the highest among jail inmates and are neglected by traditional judiciary system, speakers said at the inaugural session of a training programme of prison officials in the city yesterday.

The programme titled "Good Prison Management for prison personnel of Bangladesh" was jointly organised by Bangladeshi Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) and Penal Reform International (PRI) at the BRAC Center Inn at Mohakhali in the city.

"At present 75,300 prisoners in the country are being kept in prisons with a capacity to 23,942 persons only," Dr Kamal Hossain said adding that the condition of Dhaka is far worse, where 9,507 prisoners are crammed in a place with a capacity for 2,632 prisoners.

The figures given out by Dr Kamal Hossain was contra-

dicted by Liaquat Ali Khan, Additional Inspector General of Prisons, who said that the total number of prisoners in the country stood at 62,000 only.

Quoting newspaper reports Dr Kamal pointed out that "Even under trial prisoners are being kept inside the jail for more than twelve years at time."

Twenty superintendents of different jails, are participating in the three-day training programme that concludes tomorrow.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Matin Khasru, who attended the programme as chief guest said that rich people can easily come out of jails and even get better life while in custody.

"The prisoners should be engaged in work suitable to their physique and health. They should also be receive wages for their labour. Arrangements

should be made to help rehabilitate them in the society once they were released," he added.

Overcrowding in prisons is a problem common not only the developing countries but also the developed ones. Lack of adequate facilities leads to unhygienic conditions for prisoners. Poor supply of food, water, vocational training etc at times lead to violence in prison, the minister pointed out.

The government took up a programme in 1999 to reduce overcrowding in the nine central, 55 district and 16 thana jails, the minister said.

"Access to justice is the key," Stephen Turner, Deputy High Commissioner of British High Commission, Dhaka said.

A large number of young men and women are being detained in jails in this country for longer duration for minor faults, Turner said.

### iii. Photograph of the Good Prison Management Training Workshop:



The participants along with the resource persons and the organisers are seen at the training venue



Rt Hon Jack Straw (center) the British Secretary for Home and State Affairs address the training session. From left; Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director, BRAC, Ahmed Othmani, Chairperson, PRI and from right; Dr. Kamal Hossain, Chairperson, BLAST, Brigadier Waliur Rahman Chowdhury, IG, Prisons, BD

*A Workshop Report*



[From Left] Stephen Turner the British High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Abdul Matin Khasru, M.P., Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Chairperson, BLAST, Ahmed Othmani, Chairperson, PRI, Liakat Ali Khan, AIG, Prisons, Bangladesh are at the innagural Programme.



M.R. Ahmed and Dr. Rani D. Shakardass, Resource Persons conducts the training session