

Strengthening Local Govt in Bangladesh Steps Needed to Make it Effective

Local government should be composed of elected representatives of the people and there should be independence of decision making and power to mobilise adequate financial resources...

resources. Equitable and Steady Flow of government funds: What is important is that there should be steady flow of such resources to each of the various tiers of local government...

Recognition of the Right to Govern: Recognition of the right of the Peoples Representatives to govern the administrative and development functions of the locality through the respective local government is the first prerequisite for a local government to be effective...

They should exist on their own legal and constitutional rights and not be dependent on the discretion and wishes of the national government. In the past, local government could not attain self-rule or become self-government institution because of lack of independent authority and power...

For such transfer of power the law must specify the functions and responsibilities given to the local governments concerned and clearly state the powers and authority given to them in order to carry out those functions.

Independence of Decision Making: The local governments must be given full powers to take decisions in all matters that are transferred to them under the law and should not be required to refer anything to the national government or any other authority or official for approval...

Transfer of Authority and Power: The right of governance for local government has to be obtained through an Act of parliament which may bestow such authority and powers under the process of devolution.

giving funds for local works, the national government should not interfere with the local governments in their decision making process except to ensure that they follow the guidelines or rules and regulations, given by the national government for carrying out such activities.

Efficient Administrative and Management Staff: The local government must have full administrative powers and control over the machinery for implementation of the decisions of the local government which must be answerable to them.

The local government must have qualified and capable officers and staff to carry out the functions and responsibilities assigned to it. It should have its own core team of officers and staff for efficiently carrying out its activities and have powers to hire and fire these officers and staff.

As for functions, transferred by the national government to the local government, the departmental officers of the locality should be placed at the disposal of the local government to carry out such responsibilities.

For all intents and purposes such officers of the government departments should also be treated as the officers and employees of the local government parishes (District, Thana and Union level) working under their supervision and control as far as the functions transferred to local government are concerned.

At the initial stage, government should give financial support to the local government

officers working both for the transferred functions and the retained functions.

As for the core officers and staff, the zilla parishes and the upazila parishad/thana parishes should have a manager with qualification and experience in administration and management. They should also have qualified Accountants and Engineers.

As regards the question of local government activities in the field of maintenance of law and order, local government police and security administration should be strengthened specially at thana union and village level.

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parishad and field officers posted in unions should be made Associate Members of union parishads. They will be required to give all technical information, help the parishad in preparing development plans and in implementing them in their respective areas and help and assist the parishad in other regulatory or promotional and extension work.

Local Government to be Composed of Elected Representatives of the People: The local government must be composed of the elected representatives of the people so that it bears the mandate and support of the people and acts according to the wishes and felt needs of the people of the area.

Local governments should not be composed of persons appointed or nominated by the government, or any other authority so that their character as a democratic body is not tarnished. They must be directly or indirectly elected by the people or their representatives.

It has to be borne in mind that election of chairman by representative members of the lower tier of local government, for instance election of upazila/thana parishad by the chairman of union parishads or their members, may give greater scope for corruption and manipulation, besides diminishing peoples participation in the democratic process.

Special representation of peasants, workers and women should be made in the local government as required by constitution, through election and not by appointment or nomination by any authority.

Coordination and Cooperation amongst the Various Tiers: Coordination amongst the various tiers of local government must be established by developing appropriate institutions so that there is proper cooperation and understanding amongst them.

Cooperation between Local Departmental Officers and Public Representative: It will be extremely necessary to have good cooperation and support of the local officers of various government departments for carrying out the activities relating to such departments, both vertically and horizontally.

If immediate action is taken by the Government, the study proposed can be completed in 30 months. The physical and numerical models can be carried out simultaneously. Implementation of the Barrage can be completed in 6 to 8 years.

THE change of Governments in Bangladesh and India has opened a new chapter of improved bilateral relations between the two countries.

The new Government of Bangladesh since assuming power in June, 1996 gave high priority for permanent solution of the sharing of Ganges, Brahmaputra and all other common river.

The new Government in India expressed their political will to solve the water and other bilateral problems.

The Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and India met at Dhaka in the first week of October, 1996. The meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere. They gave priority to water sharing issue along with other bilateral matters.

Mr. Abdur Razzak, Minister of Water Resources, in his interview with press said that a permanent water sharing agreement would be made before the next dry season and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and India were likely to sign the treaty in December, 1996.

The Delhi talks by the water Resources Minister Mr. Abdur Razzak was more political than technical. On his return, he expressed the hope that the long standing water sharing problem would be solved. He hoped to complete the process of signing the agreement/treaty before the lean period by the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India at a summit level meeting.

It is expected that a permanent water Treaty will be signed by December, 1996. Is Bangladesh ready to use the water? Have we prepared the necessary infrastructures for maximising the use of the precious water? In the absence of any Barrage the water will go down to the sea.

The Ganges Barrage

The reduced flow in the Ganges due to upstream withdrawal by India has affected our agriculture, fishery, forestry, navigation, industry, hydrology and domestic water supply and thus is the need for a barrage to maximise the use of the precious water, writes Amjad Hossain Khan.

In the past, several recommendations by foreign and local consultants were made for conducting the survey and investigation of the study of the Ganges Barrage.

In 1963, M/s Tams of USA investigated the feasibility study of the project and prepare a preliminary report.

In 1964, M/s IECO of USA while preparing the Master Plan included Ganges Barrage project in their study.

In 1968, M/s ACE (Pakistan) prepared a report on the agricultural aspect of the project.

In 1968, M/s ACE (Pakistan) prepared a report on the Ganges Barrage and the irrigation system.

In 1984, M/s Sir William Halcrow and Partners carried out an engineering appraisal for the construction of the Ganges Barrage. In 1993-94, FAP study on South West Region recommended construction of a barrage across Ganges.

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DEPTNews

But no firm decision was taken by any previous Government to start the work. The bureaucratic tangle always kept the files in cold storage.

About 37 per cent of the area is dependent on the Ganges and its distributaries for supply of fresh water which maintain the ecological and environmental balance of the area. Nearly 40 million people live in the Ganges dependent area.

The reduced flows in the Ganges by upstream withdrawal by India has affected the following sectors of the economy in the Ganges dependent area: Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Salinity, Navigation, Hydrology and hydraulic, Industries, Domestic water supply.

The main objective of the Ganges Barrage study is to conduct a feasibility study, socio-economic and other hydraulic surveys and a detailed engineering design for construction of the Barrage and associated engineering infrastructure on the Ganges for integrated water Resources development in the Ganges basin area in Bangladesh by providing irrigation to a gross area of 1.30 million hectares of land in the greater districts of Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna, Faridpur, Barisal, Rajshahi and Pabna with a network of irrigation canals.

If immediate action is taken by the Government, the study proposed can be completed in 30 months. The physical and numerical models can be carried out simultaneously. Implementation of the Barrage can be completed in 6 to 8 years.

The Government of Bangladesh must take a decision urgently on the Ganges Barrage project so that works can start without further delay.

The writer is ex-Chairman, Bangladesh Water Development Board

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Monday 18th November (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes.)

BTV 3:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary 3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patriotic song 3:20 Recitation from the Bible 3:25 Cartoon Film: The Lone Ranger 3:50 Rerelast-cast of selected programmes 4:45 Educational programme 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Dorian Change 5:50 Sports programme 6:30 Anu Paramanu 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Band show 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:30 Janamat 10:50 Comedy series: Seemfield 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tuesday's programme 11:40 Close down

CHANNEL V 6:00 Frame by Frame 7:00 Rerewind VJ Sophiya 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 10:30 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rerewind VJ Sophiya 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 3:00 First Day First Show 3:30 Sansui Mangla Hai 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 By Demand VJ Trey 5:30 Rerewind VJ Sophiya 7:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 8:00 Planet Ruby 9:00 BPL Oye! 10:00 First Day First Show 11:00 Launch Pad VJ Sophiya 12:00 Over The Edge VJ Sophiya 12:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Playstat 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey

STAR SPORTS 6:00am International Motorsports News 7:30 NBA Game Of The Week Sacramento @ Seattle 9:30 Argentina v South Africa 10:30 Omega Sailing Magazine 11:30 Inside PGA Tour 12:00 Gillette World Sports Special 12:30 Macau Grand Prix Highlights 1:30 The Asian Football Show 2:30 Asia Road Racing Champs Philippines 3:30 Sports India 4:00 High 5 4:30 The Asian Football Show 5:30 Trans World Sport 6:30 Asian Club Championships West Asia Quarter Finals Zaira (Iraq) vs Piruz (Iran) Qatar Club 8:30 Asian Club Championships West Asia Quarter Finals Al-Rayan (Qatar) vs Nassr (Saudi Arabia) Qatar Club 10:30 SEA Touring Cars Rd 11 and 12 11:00 This is the PGA Tour 12:00 Thai Kickboxing Highlights 1:00 Same Day Delay National Football League, 1996-1997 3:30 Futbol Mundial 4:30 Argentina v South Africa 5:30 This is the PGA Tour

ZEE TV 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 A to Z of Computer 8:30 ZEE Education Prog 9:30 The Dream Merchants 9:00 Hum Zameen 9:30 Gaane Anjane 10:00 Sailaab 11:00 Dak Ghar/Apna Ghar 11:30 Gopaljee 12:00 Suno Suno Tring Tring 12:30 Celeste 1:00 A to Z of Computer 1:30 Asian Sky-Marketing 2:30 Tara 3:00 Kyrakshetra 3:30 Mere Ghar Ana Zindagi 4:00 Mano Ya Na Mano 4:30 Khana Kharana 5:00 A to Z of Computer 5:30 Akbar Birbal 6:00 Cartoons 6:30 Love Stories 7:00 ZED 7:30 The Hindi News 7:45 Raahaat 8:15 Tol Mol Ke Bol 8:30 TVS Sa Re Ga Ma 9:15 Akai Jhalak 9:30 Campus 10:00 Daraar 10:30 The News 11:00 Shayed 11:30 Close Up Antakshari 12:00 Parivartan 12:30 Andaz 1:00 9 Malabar Hill 1:30 Aap Ki Pasand 2:00 Zee Arabic Arabic Programme 2:30 Zee Arabic: Intertainment - TM

EL TV 06:30 Dance Dance 7:30 Jugal Jodi 8:30 Music Time 9:30 Jodi Tarane Aur Fasane 10:30 Kal

Bhi Aaj Bhi 11:00 Teri V Chup 11:30 Amar Prem 12:00 Manoranjan 12:30 Song Yatra 1:00 Special: Naam Gum Jayega 1:30 Tarunam 2:00 Aaya Saawan 3:00 Shatranj 3:30 Abhinavi 4:00 Balwanti

The Music Real Count Down 5:00 Talasha 5:30 Special: Jhomo Nacho 6:30 Si My Choice 7:00 Siyaram Kamaal Combination 7:30 Awaz Nah! Andaz Wahi 8:00 Fit Or Fat 8:30 Sorry Mery Lory 9:00

Dance Mania 9:30 Karz 10:00 Chalo Cinema 10:30 Yeh Duniya 11:00 Hee Hee Ha Ha 11:30 Hit Hi Hit Hit 12:00 Inlezaar 12:30 Helen Special 1:30 Music Time 2:30 Ched Ched 3:30 Jazbaat

BBC 6:00am BBC World News 6:10 World Focus: The Money Programme 7:00 BBC Newsworld Inc World Business Report/24 Hours 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky News 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:30 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 10:30 Videofashion 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Dynasty 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Bunyavad 3:30 Lifetime 4:00 Home and Away 4:30 Lost in Space 5:00 Adventures of Black Stallion 5:00 Kate & Allie 6:30 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 7:00 The Animal India Show 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 9:00 Imihan 9:30 Star News 10:00 Yes Minister 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 12:00 Santa Barbara 1:00 The X Files 2:00 Star Trek 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00

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STAR MOVIES 7:30 Documentary: Charlie Chaplin: A Celebration 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:20 Classic: Hell And High Water 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 True Story: The O J Simpson story 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Family: The Wrong Trousers 2:00 Family: Inside the Wrong Trousers 2:45 Family: The Snowman 3:30 Romance: Changes PG (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Western: The Price of Power 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Film Fiction: Pride and Prejudice Part 3 9:50 Extreme Close Up 9:30 Comedy: Rosalie Goes Shopping 11:30 Cinema: A Hungarian Fairytale 18 (English Subtitles) 1:30 Thriller: Overruled 3:30 Action: The Great Texas Dynamite

PTV 8:00 am Tilawat Aur Iarjuma/Hamdi Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabraan 8:45 Abb Pata Challa 9:05 Khat Farzakh 9:20 Sargam Sargam 9:45 Ilaaj-Bil-Ghiza Pakistan 10:05 Shab Daigh 10:35 English Film: Gool Troop 10:55 Mili Naghma 11:00 Khabraan 11:10 The Saint (Pogor Moor) 12:00 Shama (Drama Serial) 12:55pm Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Angaar (Drama Serial) 2:00 Sherrad (Drama Serial) 2:50 The Face Of Cultural 3:15 Roushni 3:30 Paimaney 4:00 Gardani 4:35 Biology for 10th/Geography/ Chemistry 5:55 Inter College Quiz 6:25 Ailou

Garfield® by Jim Davis

TOM and JERRY ARE YOU AND TUFFY STILL PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK? YES. HE'S BEEN HIDING FOR TWO DAYS! AREN'T YOU AFRAID HE'LL STARVE? TUFFY? NO, HE WOULDN'T STARVE!



ZEE CINEMA 3:45 Memsaab 7:00 Waqt Ka Shehensha 9:30 Shankar Dada 12:30 Kanyadaan 3:45 Ninnana 6:30 TBA (Marathi) 10:00 Harjee 2:45 Do Shatru