

NGOs and UPs

Towards an Effective Partnership

by Dr Salahuddin Aminuzzaman

The Task Forces Report of 1990 duly recognised NGOs as "a positive force in national development" and advised the GOB to consider and recognise the NGOs as a constituting and distinctive sector and "create a conducive and congenial policy environment ensuring an uninhibited operation of the NGOs to enable them to contribute effectively to national development".

THE UP officials were asked to identify some of the functional and institutional weaknesses of the NGOs. Surprisingly enough, about 58 per cent of the respondent UP leaders opined that as a whole NGOs are making the rural people thoroughly dependent upon the NGOs than that of their own potential and ability.

Observations of the NGO officials
The researchers wanted to tap the opinions and impressions of the NGO officials regarding the institutional and functional/operational linkages and collaboration between the NGOs and the UPs.

This might enhance political interference, delay the implementation of projects and result in undue pressure by the UP functionaries to use NGOs resources for their personal and political benefits.

The NGOs programmes at the local level. On the other hand, there are also instances where the NGOs have to compromise with the local elite and the members of the power structure to manage their projects.

disseminate the process of democratic governance at the grassroots level.
NGOs and the Local Bodies: Focus on Relationship

social innovations which bear on technological changes; g. lobbying for specific projects at the local level; and h. mobilising disadvantaged groups for empowerment.

in Bangladesh can be justified by both Public Good theory and Contract Failure theory. NGOs, to a great extent, have proved their worth as a force for democracy, poverty alleviation and efficiency enhancement.

greater confidence between the government both at national and local level and NGO sector would be most helpful for making NGOs programmes and objectives more effective.

UP officials also regarded that NGOs at the operation level do not have perspective plans and, consequently, most of their projects are designed on ad-hoc basis and thus are not sustainable in the long term.

Almost all NGO officials, both at the headquarters and local level, noted that they would prefer to work independently out of the UPs. Their arguments for not working closely the UPs are as follows:

Based on the findings of the survey the following broad observations may be drawn:

Under the present set-up there is no link between the Local Government (UPs) and NGOs. There exists no institutional mechanism or framework for such collaboration and support.

Experiences have established that the NGOs have demonstrated particular strengths in their works with the disadvantaged groups in:

From a theoretical perspective expanding role of the NGOs

Nevertheless, there seems to be a noticeable ambiguity in the policies of the GOB on the role and scope of the involvement of the NGOs in Bangladesh. NGOs, to a great extent, are working in isolation, confusion and suspicion.

Presently, the GOB is in a process of reviewing and reorganising the Local Government system in Bangladesh. The donor community is also strongly advocating the meaningful participation of the NGOs in the overall development process.

There is a popular notion that NGOs are wakening the local bodies in deliberate fashion. In this study the researchers wanted to tap the opinion of the UP officials about such notion.

The advantage of UP-NGO institutional linkages and collaborative projects have potential to enhance political support for the NGOs, make the NGOs more acceptable to the clientele groups and create a condition for broader participation. On the negative side,

the researchers have got a mixed picture. In some instances, NGOs have resisted the influences of the local power elite who attempted to influence

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Metropolitan



Prof A K M Nurul Anwar (C), Director General of Health Services, speaking at a press briefing organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO at a city hotel yesterday following a donors' meeting on the National Leprosy Elimination Campaign (N-LEC) in Bangladesh.

President, PM greet NZ Governor General, PM

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has felicitated Sir Michael Hardie Boys, Governor General of New Zealand on the occasion of his country's national day today, reports BSS.

ICDDR,B to establish five more centres

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) will establish five more centres of excellence to involve all existing scientific divisions for integrating their work on research and treatment, reports BSS.

BELA's concern

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA) has expressed concern over alleged irregularity in releasing twelve thousand tons of inedible rice as reported in a Bangla daily yesterday, said a press release.

Vice president of OECF meets Alamgir

Visiting Vice-President of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan, Tomio Uchida, called on State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr Moinuddin Khan Alamgir at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

Strength of city traffic police inadequate

As the present strength of traffic police was found to be too inadequate to control the city's vexing traffic system, Metropolitan Traffic Police has called for increasing traffic police at least by three-fold, reports UNB.

According to a source at DMP, Dhaka Metropolitan Police presently has 1567 traffic police. But the number is not adequate to control the city's increasing traffic volume.

Int'l seminar on Sylhet Feb 11-13

The second international regional seminar on "Sylhet: History and Heritage" will be held in Sylhet from February 11 to 13 under the aegis of Bangladesh History Association.

Dry weather forecast

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky across the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Indian Sex Workers Allege Denial of Right to Vote

SEX workers in India have charged the government with denying them their fundamental right to vote.

Issuing of voter identity cards to sex workers will go a long way in preventing the entry of minor girls into prostitution.

The denial of the voters' cards, which are now referred to by government agencies dealing with welfare projects as proof of identity, also means that these women are often not given access to food rations and health-care facilities, he added.

government draft report on prostitution recommended that sex workers be given photo identity cards along with other welfare benefits. But he expressed doubts about the government actually implementing the suggestions.

Some activists say the issuing of voter identity cards to sex workers will go a long way in preventing the entry of minor girls into prostitution.

Sex workers have demanded that they be given their identity cards before the general election next month and have accused the government as well as the Election Commission of being sluggish in issuing the cards to them.

Of the estimated 2.3 million sex workers and their 5.1 million children, only 25 per cent are registered voters holding identity cards, according to Bhola.

Some activists are even calling for legalisation of prostitution rather than prohibition, which it was agreed was an unachievable objective.

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of 48th Prosecution Witness

Former Air Chief AK Khandaker, PW-48 in Bangabandhu murder case was cross examined by the defence lawyers on Wednesday.

Intervening, the judge told the witness that he should know it. "I was abroad at that time," said Khandaker.

Q: This is not true. There was no such discussion.

Q: Is it that helicopters flew on August 15 as demanded by Khaled Mosharraf and ordered by you?

Following are the excerpts of the examination by Advocate Abdul Wahed, state defence counsel for absconding accused Major (ret'd) Shariful Haq Dalim:

Q: Were you not favoured by foreign posting after August 15 and later inducting in the cabinet?

Q: Were shocked as the government was formed by civilians and that is you resigned?

Q: Did Gen Osmany intervened to avert civil war?

Q: Were the army disciplined on August 15?

Q: Was the body of Bangabandhu taken to Tungipara by helicopter?

Q: Is it not true that Gen Osmany intervened to avert civil war?

Q: Did Gen Osmany intervened to overcome the conflict among the three services chiefs over the seat of power?

Q: Was the helicopter used on your order?

Q: Did you and Army Chief Shafulah take instant decision against the those who killed Bangabandhu?

Q: Was there any link in the chain of command between the army and the air force?

Q: How long you were a minister of Ershad?

Q: Did you not resign as in protest against the appointment of Tawab the Chief of Air Staff?

Q: Where operation bases in Dhaka, Chittagong and Jessore at that time?

Q: As the air chief, I had an overall conception.

Q: Was there a mass movement against him at that time.

Q: Had you control on your establishment on August 15?

Q: Were there any proposal for instituting a court of inquiry at the meeting on August 18?

Q: Were you not lucky person to know officers of navy, army and air force during the liberation war?

Q: What is your present occupation?

Q: You expressed allegiance on August 15 to the new government. Why did you resign later?

Q: Did you work in Foreign Ministry, under pressure?

Q: Who did represent air force in DGF on August 15?

Q: Did you have conception about the chain of command of other forces on August 14.

Q: When were you driven by your conscience?

Q: Did you observe a civil war-like atmosphere in the cantonment on August 15?

Q: Did you also know about tank movement on August 15?

Q: Did I not get any SOS.

Q: And then there was martial law of Ershad.

Q: Were you not lucky person to know officers of navy, army and air force during the liberation war?

Q: Did I not aware that the tanks again moved to the city on orders of three services chiefs?

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Q: Was the resignation a protest or a response to conscience?

Q: Were there any resentment in the Headquarters over the incident?

Q: Did I not recall.

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Q: Did you become a minister after retirement?

Q: Did the armed forces were active. But they could not go for any action without the order from the chiefs.

Q: Did the three chiefs met on August 15 morning to decide that the new government should be formed with civil-

Further texts of cross examination will be published as and when received.

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