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Devolution stressed for local govt bodies

Staff Correspondent

Deputy Speaker Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali said yesterday the government should be decentralised further as the local government bodies remain ineffective due to lack of empowerment.

He was addressing the national consultation on "the Village Court Act, 2006: Challenges and Way Forward" organised by the Local Government Division (LGD) at Dhaka Officers' Club.

Shawkat Ali said village courts have been functioning in many upazilas, but many people are not aware about them. "People need to know that there is something called village court, and if they go there they would receive justice".

He also said the law should be written in an easy manner to make it more understandable to rural people.

The discussants said village court is a speedy and effective form of justice system as it brings the formal and informal justice system together with participation from the local community.

Village court is a five-member panel, headed by union parishad chairman, which include two representatives from the complainant and two others from the defendant for local arbitration.

Awaiting reader response.

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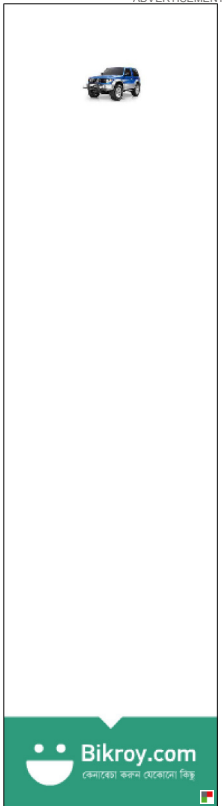
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