

## Allocate funds in budget to boost tourism at Durgapur, Kamlakanda

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the caretaker government to allocate special funds or incorporate projects in the national budget of the next fiscal year to boost environment and people-friendly tourism business in the discriminated and backward areas enriched with mineral and natural resources and beauty.

The government should start the development activities for such areas in priority basis so that a balanced economic system can be developed in the country, eradicating poverty and domestic discrimination from the country, they added.

Emphasising infrastructure development like building necessary communication system and ensuring power supply to these areas, they recommended several other points, including public-private partnership in this regard, that would subsequently help achieving the millennium development goal (MDG) of making population under poverty line halved by 2015.

The discussion was organised as a pre-budget proposal-2008 titled "Role of natural resources, beauty and tourism industry at Durgapur and Kamlakanda areas in eradicating domestic discrimination and poverty" at VIP lounge in the National Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) organised the programme with legendary advisi leader Kumudini Hajong in the chair and was attended by a large number of local people from Durgapur and Kamlakanda, two upazilas of Netrokona, 150 km off the Dhaka city.

"We want a Bangladesh balanced in all the ways, including in its economic system, with no deprivation and discrimination. We had liberation war in protest against economic deprivation of



PHOTO: STAR

CPD Executive Director Prof Mustafizur Rahman speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club yesterday. On his right is Dr Dibalok Singh and on his left are ETV Chief of News Shah Alamgir and Prof MM Akash.

Bangalees by Pakistan," said Unnoyon Somonoy Chairman Dr Atiur Rahman.

"Unless the government begins development work from the underprivileged and deprived areas ensuring right to hard-core poor people living there, no development actually takes place in true sense," he added.

"The rich, who can develop their own status, do not need assistance from the state. The state is for the poor and the government should undertake projects to perform this act," he added.

"If the government can ensure infrastructure development like communication, power and water supply in such areas considering geographical, cultural and natural importance, the areas will develop on their own," said Ittefaq Editor Rahat Khan.

"Years have gone by since independence and the governments passed their respective tenures by turns. But the deprived people in Durgapur and Kamlakanda areas could not witness only 23-km bridge they need the most to survive," said Prof MM Akash.

The speakers also suggested

boosting domestic tourism, spreading tourism business across the country, upholding heritage, culture, history and resources in the discriminated areas, ensuring power supply for cultivation to farmers living in such area, and coordination of public and private development efforts to develop such areas.

DSK Executive Director Dr Dibalok Singh presented a keynote paper in the discussion which was moderated by Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shyamol Dutta.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman, ETV Chief of News Shah Alamgir, BSS Managing Director Jagul A Chowdhury and News Today Editor Riaz Uddin Ahmed took part in the discussion.

The speakers also made several recommendations to develop the areas including building roads from Kalmakanda to Tanguar Haur via Panchgaon, Tanguar Haur to Durgapur via Kamlaganda along the border, Nazirpur to Netrokona via Sidhi, Birishiri to Bijoypur via Shibganj, Shyamganj to Durgapur via Birishiri, power connection to the areas, river training, river

redging and necessary measures to save bio-diversity and environment of the areas.

Durgapur and Kamlakanda is blessed with mineral, natural resources and beauty, enriched with heritage, history, archaeological treasure and diversity in ecology and population. But worst communication, government's reluctance to ensure power and fundamental rights to the people living here have pushed economy of the areas to a dilapidated condition.

Around 2,98,326 and 2,34,398 people including advasis (indigenous people) live on the areas of 293.42 square km and 377.411 square km at Durgapur and Kamlakanda with 44.8 percent to 50 percent of the people living under poverty line.

## RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### Call to implement UN convention that comes into effect today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Alliance of Disabled Peoples Organisations (Nadpo) yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps in implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which is coming into effect from today.

The convention was adopted at the UN General Assembly on December 13, 2006 to protect the rights of the people with disabilities.

The leaders of Nadpo urged the government to amend and implement the acts, policies, action plans and orders regarding the disability issue in the light of the UN Convention.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, Nadpo leaders also demanded that different organisations working with the people with disabilities should be involved in poverty reduction and national development activities.

Their demands also include reserve seat for the people with disabilities at every level of the local government and 15 seats in parliament to serve the interest of 10 percent of the total population, more allocation in the revenue budget to strengthen the organisations of the physically challenged people and to formulate a disability affairs ministry in consultation with the representatives of the people with disabilities.

The leaders said creation of post at every level of political



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed visits a stall after inaugurating the May Day fair at Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city on Thursday. (Story on Page 1)

## Kuet student drowns in pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A first year student of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) drowned in a pond adjacent to the Khanjahan Ali residential hall in Khulna city yesterday.

He was identified Junaid Rahman Pail, 20, a student of Mechanical Engineering department and son of Dr Fazlur Rahman and Dr Zebunnesa Rahman.

The tragic accident occurred while swimming in the pond along with his friend.

Fire brigade men recovered the body from pond. He was taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital where doctor declared him dead at 10:55am.

He will be buried at Azimpur graveyard in the city today.

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**ASCENT**



PHOTO: STAR

Members and guests render songs at the 56th founding anniversary ceremony of the Khela Ghar Asar at Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust building auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Khela Ghar marks 56th anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 56th founding anniversary of the Kendriya Khela Ghar Asar, an organisation that works for the children, was observed amid a gala ceremony yesterday.

The organisation was established on May 2 in 1952 with a view to giving the children a platform to flourish their talents with the ideology of the liberation war.

Deputy Editor of the Shamokal Mozammel Hossain formally inaugurated the founding anniversary programme while lighting a mangal pradep (a candle light) at the Shaheed Tajul auditorium of Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust in the city.

Right after the ritual, the auditorium took a festive look while the children of the organisation performed different types of dances with the organisational songs.

Mozammel Hossain said Khela Ghar could be a proper platform for the children to prepare themselves to work for the country's development with the ideology of the liberation war.

"Children have to be vocal against illegal activities in the society, have to come forward while people fall in troubles and be secular -- these are the basic ideologies of our great liberation war", he added.

The countrywide new membership collection of the organisation will be started from today that will continue throughout the year.

Prof Panna Kaiser, chairman of the presidents of the organisation, presided over the discussion. General Secretary of the organisation Pronab Shaha, music composer Selim Reza and Prof Nironjon Adhikari also took part in the programme.

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