



The Kattali beach.

Kattali beach needs attention

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A little care and security measure can make the Kattali beach at the southwestern outskirts of the city an attractive tourist spot.

For its tranquil atmosphere and exotic beauty, huge tourists travel to the beach everyday.

Hundreds of nature lovers, irrespective of ages and sex, throng the beach to take a break from the monotony of life and pass some leisure time enjoying beauty of nature with dearer ones.

Nestled amid Jhau forests the spacious beach is unique with a two-kilometre grassy patch that becomes visible

when ships anchored in the sea during the low tide.

Fishermen returning home with nets and fishes after fishing in the sea is a common sight here when one can also take a chance to visit the nearby fishermen village and see closely their lifestyle.

A number of shrimp hatcheries developed just beside the shore creating a fishing environment.

Belayet Hossain, a resident of city's Bohoddarhat area who came to the beach along with his family on last Friday, said this is a unique with greenery and vastness of sea side by side.

He said he usually avoids the Patenga beach as it has

become chaotic and makeshift shops and wine traders disturb the visitors.

Chittagong University student Mahfuzur Rahman who came with his friends said there is no such spot in the city to pass time with nature.

He said visitors feel insecure here as it is solitary one and proper initiative and maintenance by the government can make it most attractive tourist spot of the country.

Urban Planner and former President of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong centre Engineer Ali Ashraf said the place has a great potential for tourism with an area of

over 15 kilometre from Patenga to Fouzdarhat coastal area under Sitakunda upazila.

Ashraf said a little nursing by the government can create a great opportunity for the tourists here. A number of beaches can be created in the area dumping sand, he added.

Opposing any permanent structure for hotel or restaurant in the beach area to offer a spacious place, he said the authorities should not allow beach-bike, motorised vehicles, horse and other entertaining events to make it different and tranquil.

Engineer Ashraf said this is high time to take care of

the beach as construction work of Chittagong City Ring Road will start soon and the road will go through alongside the beach.

Though transportation to and from the beach is easier now, the Ring Road would surely help the city people to rush here faster than before, he added.

When contacted local Ward Councillor Mohammad Hossain echoing Engineer Ashraf said the potential beach should be explored for the country's interest.

He said they have requested the police to take special care of tourists of the beach and deploy additional forces during holidays.

Education in mother tongue ushers in hope for CHT children

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Mother tongue-based multi-lingual education (MLE) has ushered in a new hope for the underprivileged indigenous children in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to get education properly.

Under the MLE, both formal and non-formal lessons are being given to the children with their respective mother tongue as well as Bangla in the classrooms. As a result, children who were earlier found uncomfortable and unsuccessful appeared to be more attentive and successful learners in their studies. The method has also instilled confidence in them, especially those who were shy in classes.

Save the Children, UK has been implementing the MLE project in partnership with local NGO Jabarang Kalyan Samity in Khagrachhari with a view to improving access to education and providing quality education through mother tongue to three communities -- Chakma, Marma and Tripura.

Under the project, 60 pre-primary schools and 10 Community Learning Circle (CLC) have been set up to support over 7,00 children and help them get an education in their mother tongue, sources said.

Now the children have started to reap the benefits from the pre-primary schools in the remote hilly backward areas of Khagrachhari.

Three indigenous languages -- Chakma, Marma and Kokborok (Tripura) -- are being taught at the schools side by side Bangla and English to develop their talent.

The schools start at 7.30am and break up at 10.00am everyday.

While visiting a Kokborok (Tripura) pre-primary school at Merung, some 30 kilometres from Khagrachhari town, Priyanka Tripura, a teacher of the school, was seen teaching the children.

She was giving lessons to 20 students, half of them were girls. They sang songs and recited rhymes in Kokborok and few stanzas in Bangla.

Similar scenario was seen in Nakshaful Pre-primary School (Chakma) in Merung Union at Ward No-2, where Dhanabi Chakma was teaching his pupils in Chakma and Bangla.

"I am very delighted that our children can learn in their mother tongue. I think it's a good move and minority communities will be greatly benefited from it," said Hotendra Lal Tripura, a guardian and also a member of Merung union parishad.

MLE programme is also providing language and math skill development support to the indigenous children enrolled in grade-1 and 11 in the government primary schools through the community learning circles.

Save the Children is also supporting development and training for MLE in eight languages in three hill districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban.

It also has taken programmes for awareness building and orientation of MLE, training for implementing partners on MLE, formation of eight language committees, orthography workshop with eight language committees to reach a consensus on script, upgrade MLE curriculum and teaching learning materials and teachers guides and training for the staff and teachers.

Md Matiur Rahman, programme manager (education) of Save the Children, said the programme is to create an opportunity for the ethnic minority children to get education through their respective languages. "The government could follow our theory in all government primary schools," he said.

He said they have started the programme in Khagrachhari that will be expanded gradually to two other hill districts -- Rangamati and Bandarban.



Indigenous children at Angkur Pre-School of Kachang in Rangamati.

theweekthatwas



Drishy Adviser Sufi Ahmed Bhuiyan speaks at a view exchange meeting at a local hotel on Friday.

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Students urged to be involved in extra-curricular activities

Speakers at a view exchange meeting urged the students to engage themselves in different extra-curricular activities like debate competition for enhancing their general knowledge and other skills.

They discussed about preparation of the debate competition titled 'The Daily Star-Mutual Trust Bank Debate Competition 2009'.

Drishy, a cultural organisation, will organise the debate competition scheduled to begin on July 12. This year the competition features 17th School Debate, 2nd Inter-School Debate and 6th Inter-Varsity Debate competitions. Drishy Adviser Sufi Ahmed

Bhuiyan was the main speaker at the view exchange meeting with Drishy President Masud Bakul in the chair.

The participants of the debate and moderators participated at the meeting.

Drishy Vice President Rashedul Amin Rashed, Khashaful Hoque Shehjad and Executive Member Mill Chowdhury spoke at the meeting moderated by General Secretary Saif Chowdhury.

Call to stop hill cutting

Speakers emphasised taking immediate measures to stop hill cutting for preventing hill slide in Chittagong.

They also urged the government for forming a hill management system in scientific way and for rehabilitating the people from

the foothill slums to avert casualty.

They stressed the need for enforcing law in this regard.

They were speaking at a roundtable titled 'Hill slide in Chittagong: Problem and Solution' organised by Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong chapter at its conference room on Saturday.

Chittagong University (CU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Abu Yusuf Alam was the chief guest at the roundtable with IEB Chittagong Chairman Engineer Delwar Majumder in the chair.

Former IEB chairman Engineer Ali Ashraf in his key-note paper displayed formation and nature of the hills in Chittagong through a multimedia presentation.

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) teacher Dr Jahangir Alam, Bangladesh Economic Society Chittagong chapter President Prof Muhammad Sikander Khan,

Engineer Sultan Mahmud, Engineer ABM Baset, Engineer Subhash Barua, Chittagong Press Club Vice President Asif Siraj and labour leader Siddiqur Rahman participated in the discussion. Speakers blamed different development activities for human accommodation for widespread incidents of hill slide.

Contribution of journalist Afzal recalled

Speakers at a condolence meeting on Monday recalled the contribution of local Bengali daily Dainik Purbotara Editor Afzal Matin Siddique for welfare of the working journalists.

The meeting was held at the Engineer Abdul Khalek Conference room of Chittagong Press Club.

Speakers said late Afzal as an editor never deprived any of his colleagues and tried his level best for the betterment of the journalist working in his newspaper.

Many journalists who are now working at different leading local and national dailies started their career at Dainik Purbotara, they said.

Azadi Editor and Chittagong Newspaper Parishad President MA Malek, former President of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) and veteran journalist Obaidul Hoque, former CPC President Ataul Hakim, Parishad General Secretary Mainuddin Qudery Shawkat, Journalists' Housing Society Secretary Helal Uddin Chowdhury, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Joint Secretary General Dabakar Ghosh, Dainik Naya Bangla editor GM Enayetullah Hiru, Chittagong Union of Journalist (CUJ) General Secretary Nazimuddin Shyamal, CPC General Secretary Rashed Rauf and Joint Secretary Mohsin Chowdhury spoke at the meeting.

Call to solve admission crisis

Speakers at a meeting on Saturday demanded of the government for establishing more government educational institutions in Chittagong to solve the admission crisis.

They also demanded allocation 25 per cent of the total budget for the education sector according to the recommendation of Unesco for ensuring quality education for all.

They were addressing an activists' meeting organised by Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) Double Mooring unit organised the meeting at Pathikrit Library in the city's Pathantuli area.

SCF city unit President Saifuzzaman Sakon and Library Secretary Taj Nahar Ripon spoke at the meeting with SCF city unit Office Secretary Jinnat-ul-Ferdous in the chair.

Saifuzzaman said the present government like other previous rulers deprived the education

sector by allocating only 11.9 percent of the budget for sector ignoring the long-term demand of the student communities.

A good number of students who achieved GPA-5 in this year's SSC examination under Chittagong educational board were deprived of admission for lack of adequate number of quality government colleges, he said.

He said the problem has been created as no government college was established after the independence in Chittagong city against the increased number of students.

Speakers urged the students for continuous movement to realise the demand for quality education for all.

'Establish consumers' rights'

Industries Minister Dilip Barua underscored the need for more awareness programme and social movement with a view to establishing consumers' rights.

Only law can never do much in this regard, he said.

He was addressing as the chief guest a dialogue titled "Consumers Rights Preservation Act '09" organised by Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Chittagong chapter at Zila Parishad auditorium on Thursday.

CAB Chittagong President M Najer Hossain presided over the meeting moderated by General Secretary Kazi Iqbal Bahar Sabery.

Barua said the number of unscrupulous businessmen in the country is very few but nothing can be done against them due to absence of strong social movement by the consumers.

CAB Central President Borhan Ahmed, General Secretary Kazi Faruq, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Panel Mayor Rekha Alam Chowdhury, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) city unit President Shah Alam, Dainik Suprobbat Bangladesh city editor M Nasirul Hoque, former general secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Dr AQM Sirajul Islam Chowdhury spoke at the dialogue.



Prof Emeritus Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, third from left, unveils the cover of a book on classical music titled "Sangeet Kathokata" at a publication ceremony at Chittagong Press Club auditorium in the port city on Saturday. Writer of the book Ustad Swarnamoy Chakraborti, third from right, is also seen.

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