

# THE NEWS TIMES

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## Civil society orgs' active participation essential

TIMES REPORT

The active participation of civil society organizations in development initiatives is essential to making Bangladesh's development more effective and sustainable, said speakers. They came up with the view at the Bangladesh NGO-CSO Coordination Process (BDCSO Process) annual meeting on Saturday.

The three-day annual meeting of the network of around 600 local and national NGOs, CSOs began Saturday. Participants in the session titled 'Local civil society: why and how building a third sector' also demanded legal acknowledgement of NGOs and CSOs' contributions to development across the country. The session was chaired by prominent econo-

mist and chairman of PKSF Kazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad. Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau KM Tariqul Islam was the chief guest at the session.

Deputy Secretary of the Development Effectiveness Wing of the Ministry of Finance Ak Azad, Sudipta Mukherjee of UNDP and Michelle Mousulman of Christian Aid spoke as special guests. Kazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmed said local administration needs to involve local government as well as local civil society to make development sustainable.

"Local NGOs and CSOs are working with transparency and accountability, but we have a lot more to do. We need to ensure the dignified participation of all.

**Sustainable Development**