

Scenic Bandarban fails to attract tourists

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Bandarban with its abundant natural beauty and exotic locations has failed to draw an optimum number of tourists due to lack of projection of its infrastructural facilities, sources

said.

Like the picturesque Rangamati, Bandarban in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) has all the potential to become a tourist hub with its unbelievable geographical diverse, varied culture, and several artificial and natural lakes, scenic valleys,

natural waterfalls and several mountains, including the highest one in Bangladesh.

Bandarban has the wilderness in true term while the ethnic and cultural diversity makes it palpably different from two other hill districts.

The life style of 11 indigenous

communities is a matter of wonder and charm to the tourists. Three lakh people, including Bangalee and ethnic minorities, live in 4,479.03 square kilometre in the hill district.

The most attractive spots in Bandarban are Meghla Parjatan Complex and its artificial lake, Parjatan Motel, Hanging Bridge, Royal Palace, Banglar Darjiling Chimbuk, Shaila Propat, Natural Boga Lake, Tajingdong Mountain, Ruma Natural Waterfall, Kao-cradong Mountain, Sangu River, Milonchhari, Bouddha Dhatu Chetti, Man-made Kyamolong Lake, Holiday Inn Resort, Tiger Hill, Kanapara, Hilltop Rest House and Prantik Lake.

Meghla Parjatan Complex is the most favourite spot for the tourists. It takes only ten minutes from the district headquarters to go to the spot.

Keo-cradong, the second highest mountain in Bangladesh, is located at Ruma upazila, 30km away from the district town.

Tajingdong Mountain, the highest mountain in the country, is also located at Ruma. Its height is 4500 feet. Tourists, who have excitement to adventure, can take a ride to this gorgeous mountain.

Ruma Natural Waterfall is the largest natural waterfall in Bandarban and the place gives a

fresh breath of air to the visitors. Engine boats are available to experience a thrilling ride in the Sangu River here.

Visiting Chimbuk is a must. Twenty-six kilometre away from the district headquarters, Chimbuk is called 'Banglar Darjiling.' It is 3,500-ft above from the sea level and one can even touch the floating cloud. The tourist also can see the beauty of Bay of Bengal from here. The people who belong to 'Mrs,' an ethnic group, live here.

There are many government and private rest houses, motels, hotels and guesthouses for the tourists. They can avail these at a very reasonable price.

The tourists especially the foreign ones are reluctant to visit Bandarban as the roads are in bade shape, local people said. Besides, eating places are not hygienic, they added.

Didar Ahmed, superintendent of police, said adequate security measures are taken for the foreign tourists. About 15 foreign tourists visit Bandarban a week, he added.

Around 30 to 35 per cent of tourists in Bangladesh visit Bandarban in the winter from December to March, said Humayun Kabir, an official of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation in Bandarban.



Shaila Prapat, a natural waterfall, left, and the natural spring, right, at Ruma in Bandarban.

Ctg Zoo visitors bored



Chittagong Zoo

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Chittagong Zoo, the only place in the port city for the children to have glimpse of wild animals here, is yet to get a desired shape in its 17 years of journey.

As a result, most of the visitors who stepped once in it hardly find any pleasure to repeat their venture.

Around 2,000 animal loving people, mainly children with their parents or family members, throng the zoo on an average daily. The zoo is located near the picturesque Foy's Lake at Khulshi area.

The visitors are bored to see the same animals in the zoo for long. They always expect new comers or varieties along with rare and endangered species of animals and birds in the zoo.

Mohammed Yasin Khan said, "I visit the zoo along with my children very often whenever time permits us for recreation, but we are now frustrated watching the same animals again and again."

"My children are eager to see hippopotamus, rhinoceros, giraffe and other attractive or rare animals," Yasin added.

Bankers Syed Mahmud, Rashedul Amin, Chittagong University teacher Prof Helaluddin Nizami, ward com-

missioner MA Naser, Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) resident surgeon Dr Matiar Rahman Khan and government official Kamrul Ameen expressed the same sentiment.

A 30-member managing committee headed by the deputy commissioner (DC) looks after the zoo, where 19 staffs, including two officials, are working.

The zoo started its journey on four acres of land on February 28, 1989 with a pair of monkeys only. Now it has 270 animals and birds of 62 species. The animals are kept in 35 cages on six acres of land.

The animals and birds include tiger, lion, crocodile, python, heron, little egret, vulture, turtle, sambar deer, barking deer, spotted and para deer, monkeys, palm civet, leopard cat, striped hyena and fishing cat.

People and different organisations have donated most of the animals to the zoo, zoo sources said.

Shadhu, who prefers to remain anonymous, topped the list of voluntary donors by giving highest number of animals to the zoo. He also donated a handsome amount of money to the zoo authorities for taking care of the animals.

Shadhu's gifts include differ-

ent species of rare birds, monkeys, owl, camel cat, horse and deer. He also sends poultry feed for the animal, said the sources.

Zoo expenditures, including development, procurement of animals or their treatment, animal food and meat and staff salaries, are to meet from the gate money, the lone source of income of the zoo, said Veterinary Officer Dr MM Morshed Chowdhury.

"The animals in the zoo are sufficient compared with the space. Land constraint is the main barrier to expand the zoo and if we want to increase the number of animals it would be difficult for us to accommodate them in the existing cages," Morshed said.

"We have prepared a master plan to reconstruct the zoo," he said. The number of visitors to the zoo has decreased after an amusement centre of Foy's Lake was established in front of the zoo, Morshed said.

He said, "When a middle class family plans to visit the zoo they are to consider their children's request to enter the nearby Foy's Lake. Its not easy for them to afford visits to both the zoo and amusement park and they often opt for the park and avoid the zoo."

theweekthatwas

'Arrest killers of journo Goutam'

Speakers at a rally on Friday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible for the killing of the daily Samakal journalist Goutam Das.

They were addressing at a rally to mark the first death anniversary of Goutam Das in front of the Chittagong Press Club (CPC).

The rally was followed by a human chain.

Veteran revolutionary Binod Bihary Chowdhury, Chittagong Union of Journalist (CUJ) President Shahid-Ul Alam and General Secretary Reaz Haider, Communist Party Of Bangladesh (CPB) Chittagong unit General Secretary Shah Alam, Engineers Institute of Bangladesh, (IEB) Chittagong unit President Ali Ashraf, News Editor of the Daily Azadi Kazi Jafrul Islam, women leader Nur Jahan Khan, CPC acting General Secretary Ejaj Yusufi, Oikyabaddha Nagorik Andolan Secretary General Hossain Shahid Mufti, Chittagong Newspaper Hawkers Association President Hossain Ahmad and General Secretary Makbul Hossain Sarker spoke at the rally.

Professionals urged to update knowledge

President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - Bangladesh Mahbubur Rahman called upon the professionals to update their knowledge

and energise skill to survive and compete with the world trading system.

He was addressing as chief guest the inaugural function of a workshop on "Transport Documents in Trade Finance: How to get Paid?" organised by ICC at Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) on Thursday.

"Time is changing very fast and as we witness, the world is becoming more competitive everyday, if not every hour. If we fail to comply with the need



An artist performs at a musical programme titled 'Anurodher Gaan' organised by 'Portrait' at Theatre Institute auditorium on Sunday.

of the hour, we are only losing the opportunities for our sustenance", he said.

CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury said the workshop will help our professionals to cope with the growing changes taking place in international trade.

Workshop Resource Person Pavel Andrie, an expert of international trade finance, also spoke at the workshop.

About 40 participants from

Bangladesh bank, commercial banks, carriers and shipping attended the workshop.

CCCI Senior Vice President SM Nurul Hoque, Vice-President MA Latif, FCCI and CCCI Director Amirul Hoque were present.

Later, Mahbubur Rahman distributed certificates among the participants.

New committee of Kidney Foundation takes over

The new committee of Bangladesh Kidney Foundation and Hospital took over the charge on Friday at a meeting at its office in the port city with Prof Dr Mahbub Kamal in the chair.

Shamsul Hoque, Md Kamal Uddin, Dr Mulkutur Rahman, Dr Mamunur Rashid Safdar, Abul Kashem, Dr Badruddoza, Sharar Khaled and Dr Mahbubur Rahman spoke at the meeting.

The meeting decided to restart dialysis immediately in the newly built foundation building, sources said.

Member of the new committee Abul Hossain donated Tk one lakh in cash at the meeting.

The foundation is working for establishing a full-fledged kidney hospital on over one acre of land at Zakir Hossain Road.

Md Kamaluddin and Mir Mahmudul Hasan were elected coordinator and secretary general of the new committee.

BCL demands

CEC's withdrawal

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders on Friday demanded immediate withdrawal of Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz, commissioner SM Zakaia and others from the commission for the sake of democracy.

They called for formation of an unbiased election commission in order to hold a free, fair and credible election to be participated by all political parties.

They were addressing a protest rally organised by BCL city unit at Sholoshahar with its President MR Azim in the chair.

Former BCL central leader Abul Hossain Abu, city unit Vice President Ali Reaz Khan Roxy, Joint Secretary Morshed Akhter Chowdhury and Organising Secretary Md Wasim Uddin also spoke at the rally.

The leaders said the election commission is directed by a particular building.

Later, a procession paraded different city streets.

CDC distributes wheelchairs

Center for Disable Concern (CDC) distributed wheelchairs and monthly allowances to 20 students with disabilities.

Inner Wheel Club of Chittagong donated the wheelchairs to the CDC authorities.

Speakers at a function on the occasion urged all to contribute for the welfare of the persons with disability along side the government initiatives.



Hindu Bouddah Christian Oikya Parishad forms a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club demanding immediate punishment to the accused of Banskhali carnage that left 11 members of a Hindu family burnt alive on November 18, 2003.

Additional District Commissioner (Education and Development) Mohiuddin Ahmed Khan was chief guest at the ceremony organised by CDC with its director Md Kamal Uddin in the chair.

Inner Wheel Club of Chittagong President Tahmina Mahmud, Ladies Club President Jinat Azam, Social Welfare officer of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) Paruma Begum and CDC Executive

Director Selim Nazrul addressed the ceremony.

'Donate blood for sake of humanity'

Sandhani, Chittagong Medical College unit, organised a function on the occasion of the farewell of Dr Mamtaj

Begum, its life member and assistant professor of the Anatomy Department of the college, on Wednesday.

Dr Mamtaj in her speech thanked all and urged her students to continue to donate blood for the sake of humanity.

Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) Director Brigadier General Dr Abedur Rahman was present as chief guest and Prof Dr Prabhat Chandra Barua special guest at its office at CMC.