

# TOURISM MONTH'96

## Visit Bangladesh

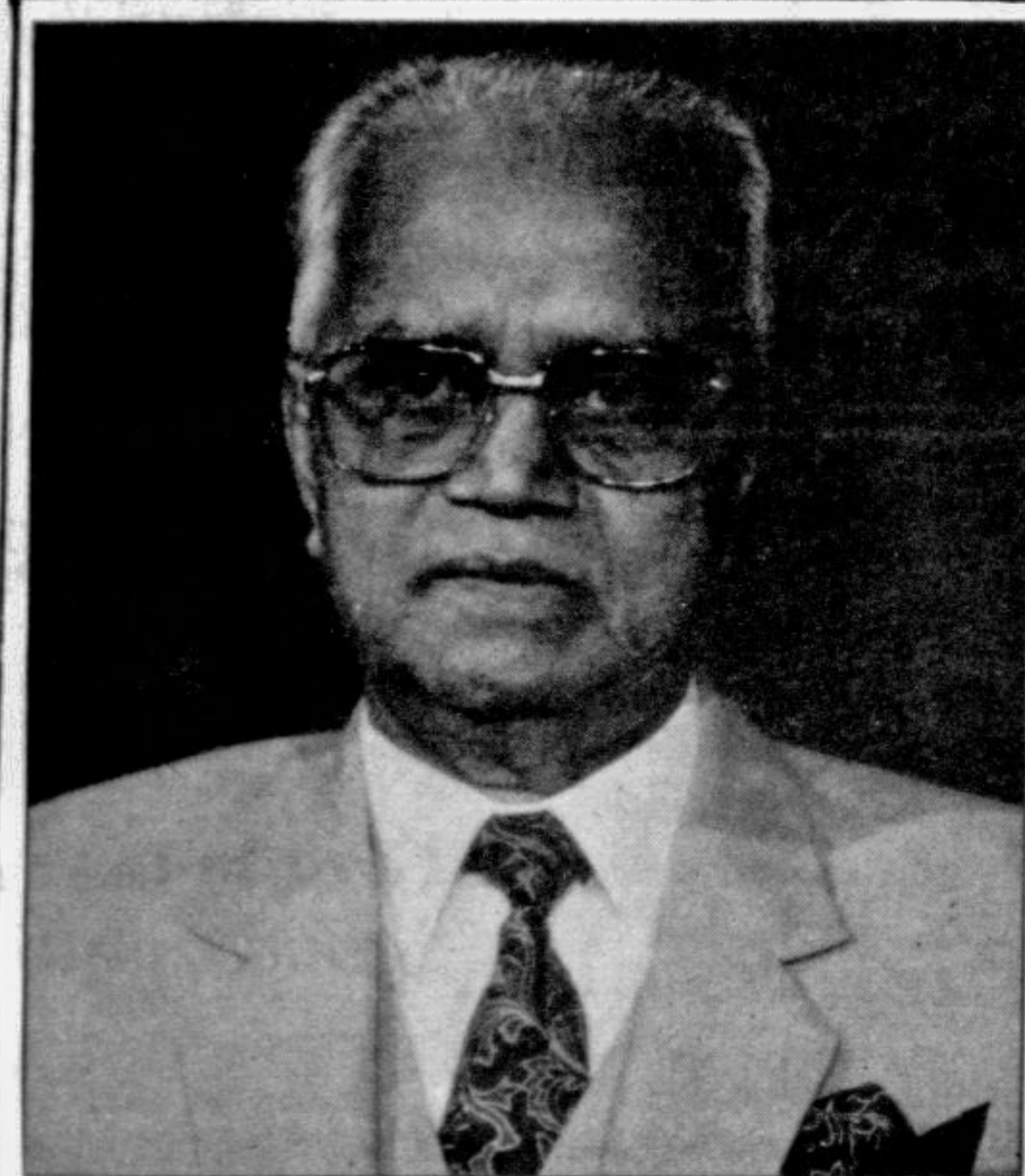
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM



The Daily Star

Special Supplement

October 1, 1996



### বাণী

সারা বাংলাদেশে পর্যটন মাস '৯৬ উদ্বোধন করা হচ্ছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত। পর্যটন প্রচারণা ও বিপণনের অংশ হিসেবে অতীতের ন্যায় এবারও বিভিন্ন অনুষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে পর্যটন শিল্প বিকাশের লক্ষ্যে মাসব্যাপী কর্মসূচীর উদ্যোগকে আমি স্বাগত জানাই। আমি এই উদ্যোগের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে জানাই আমার আন্তরিক মোবারকবাদ।

বর্তমান বিশ্বে পর্যটন অন্যতম প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও স্বীকৃত শিল্প হিসেবে বিবেচিত। এই শিল্প বিশ্বব্যাপী দ্রুত প্রসার লাভ করেছে এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশে পর্যটন শিল্পের বিকাশ ঘটিয়ে জাতীয় আয়ের উৎস বৃদ্ধি করার উদ্যোগ নেয়া হয়েছে। আমাদের দেশেও এই শিল্পের সমৃদ্ধি এবং বিকাশের যে কর্মসূচী নেয়া হয়েছে তার ফলপ্রসূ বাস্তবায়নে আন্তরিক প্রয়াস চালাতে হবে।

নৈসর্গিক সৌন্দর্যের লীলাভূমি বাংলাদেশ। সুদূর অতীতকালের মত বর্তমানেও প্রাকৃতিক সৌন্দর্যের আকর্ষণে বহু দেশী-বিদেশী বাংলাদেশ ভ্রমণ করে থাকেন। আমাদের সকলের দায়িত্ব পর্যটন শিল্পের সামাজিক ও অর্থনৈতিক গুরুত্ব সম্পর্কে জনগণকে সচেতন করা। এক্ষেত্রে আমরা আমাদের জীবনধারা, প্রকৃতি, সংস্কৃতি, ইতিহাস ও ঐতিহ্যের ধারাবাহিকতা সম্পর্কে পর্যটকদের মনে যত আগ্রহ সৃষ্টি করতে পারব, পর্যটনের ক্ষেত্রে ততো বেশী আমরা সাফল্য অর্জন করতে সক্ষম হব। আমি পর্যটন মাস '৯৬ এর সকল কর্মসূচীর সাফল্য কামনা করি।

আবদুর রহমান বিশ্বাস  
রাষ্ট্রপতি  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

## Bangladesh-the paradise of countries

Dr. A.K.A. Mubin  
Chairman  
Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

Noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore depicted the country as Golden Bengal. Its fertile alluvial plains with lush green crop fields, roll out into the home of the villagers, whilst the colourful hills of the borderland, cut by numerous deep gorges, open valleys and hill streams, are thickly covered with evergreen virgin forests which wear the most vivid colours of nature throughout the varying seasons of the year. It is indeed a vast garden where the highland forest throbs with a multitude of gaily coloured song birds, and the streams teem with fish as the other fauna of the forest compete to beautify the landscape. It is not surprising therefore, that the ancient chroniclers, when extolling its captivating beauty, have described the country as "a land of emerald and silver," "a garden fit for kings" or even as the Mughal official documents styled it "Jannat-ul-bilad the "Paradise of countries".

With about 110 million friendly inhabitants crowded into an area of 1,44,000 square kilometres, Bangladesh emerged as an independent state in 1971 by breaking away from Pakistan after the horrors of an incredibly savage civil war.

The history of Bangladesh is old and eventful. The land always attracted people. The earliest inhabitants were Austro-Asians who were followed by Dravidians from western India and Aryans from central Asia. With time there were other influxes: Mongols, Abyssinians, Arabs, Armenians and a host of other races joined the Pathans and Turks culminating in the final entry of the English to create one of the most interesting melting pots in this part of the world.

Bangladesh thus has become a country of diverse attractions, bountiful nature and friendly millions with more than a millennium of cultural heritage. Let us discover this beautiful country.

**DHAKA-the capital city**  
The capital of Bangladesh is Dhaka with its exciting history and rich culture, known the world over as the city of mosques and muslin, it has attracted travellers from far and near throughout in all the ages. It has a history dating back to earliest time. But the exact date of its foundation is not known. However, according to recorded history it was founded in 1608 A.D. as the seat of the imperial Mughal Viceroy of Bengal. Dhaka as the capital of Bangladesh has grown into a busy city of about seven million people with an area of about 815 sq. km.

Having a happy blending of old and new architectural trends, Dhaka has been developing fast as a modern city and is throbbing with activities in all spheres of life. It is the centre of industrial, commercial, cultural, educational and political activities of Bangladesh.

**SUNDARBANS : The beautiful forest**

In the south western part of Bangladesh in the district of greater Khulna, lies the Sundarbans, "The beautiful forest". The Sundarbans is a cluster of islands with an approximate area of about 7000 sq. km. forming the largest block of green forests. Its beauty lies in its unique natural surrounding. Thou-

sands of meandering streams, creeks, rivers and estuaries have enhanced its charm. Sundarbans, meaning beautiful forest, is the natural habitat of the world famous Royal Bengal Tiger, spotted deer, crocodiles, jungle fowl, wild bear, lizards, rhesus monkey and an innumerable variety of beautiful birds.

preach Islam and defeated the then Raja Gour Gobinda. Sylhet thus became a district of saints, shrines and daring but virile people. For miles and miles around, the visitor can see the tea gardens spread like a green carpet over the plain land or on the sloping hills. A visit to the tea plantation in Sylhet is

road from Dhaka and Chittagong.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES & MONUMENTS**  
Bangladesh is a country considerably rich in archaeological wealth especially of the mediaeval period both during the Muslim and pre-Muslim rules, though most of it is still unexplored and unknown. The earlier history of Bangladesh reveals that Buddhism received royal patronage from some important ruling dynasties like the great Pala rulers, the Chandras and the Deva kings. Under their royal patronage numerous well organised, self-contained monasteries sprang up all over the country. The major archaeological sites are described below.

Paharpur



Dr. A.K.A. Mubin

Paharpur is a small village 5 km. west of Jamalganj in the greater Rajshahi district where the remains of the most important and the largest known monastery south of the Himalayas has been excavated. This 7th century archaeological find covers approximately an area of 27 acres of land. The architecture of the pyramidal cruciform temple is profoundly influenced by those of South-East Asia, especially Burma and Java. A small site-museum built in 1956-57 houses the representative collection of objects recovered from the area. The excavated findings have also been preserved at the Varendra Research Museum at Rajshahi.

**Mahasthangarh**

Mahasthangarh, the oldest archaeological site of Bangladesh is on the western bank of river Karatoa, 18 km. north of Bogra town beside Bogra-Rangpur road. Several isolated mounds, the local names of which are Govinda Bhatta Temple, Khodai Pathar Mound, Mankair Kunda, Parasuramer Bedi, Jiyat Kunda etc. surround the fortified city. This archaeological site is still held to be of great sanctity by the Hindus. Every year (mid-April) and once in every 12 years (December) thousands of Hindu devotees join the bathing ceremony on the bank of river Karatoa. A visit to the Mahasthangarh site museum will open up for you a wide variety of antiquities, ranging from terracotta objects to old ornaments and coins recovered from the site.

**Mainamati**

An isolated low, dimpled range of hills, dotted with more than 50 ancient Buddhist settlements of the 8th to 10th century A.D. known as Mainamati-Lalmal range are extended through the centre of the district of Comilla. Salban Vihara, almost in the middle of the Mainamati-Lalmal hill range consists of 115 cells, built around a

spacious courtyard with a cruciform temple in the centre facing its only gateway complex to the north resembling that of the Paharpur Monastery. Kutila Mura situated on a flattened hillock, about 5 km. north of Salban Vihara inside the Comilla Cantonment area is a picturesque relic of an unique Buddhist establishment. Here three stupas are found side by side representing the Buddhist "Trinity" or three jewels i.e. the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Chapratra Mura is an isolated small oblong shrine situated about 2.5 km. north west of Kutila Mura stupas. The only approach to the shrine is from the west through a gateway which leads to a spacious hall. The Mainamati site Museum has a rich and varied collection of copper plates, gold and silver coins and 12th bronze objects.

**HISTORICAL SITES**

**Lalbagh Fort**

The capital city Dhaka predominantly was a city of the Mughals. The finest specimen of this period is the Aurangabad Fort, commonly known as Lalbagh Fort which indeed represents the unfulfilled dream of a Mughal prince. It occupies the south western part of the old Dhaka city, overlooking the Buri-



### বাণী

বাংলাদেশে পর্যটন শিল্পের উন্নয়ন এবং বিদেশী পর্যটকদের ব্যাপকভাবে আকৃষ্ট করার লক্ষ্যে প্রতিবছর মত এ বছরও ১লা অক্টোবর থেকে ৩০শে অক্টোবর পর্যটন মাস পালন করা হচ্ছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত।

পর্যটন একটি সেবামূলক শিল্প। সাম্প্রতিককালে সমগ্র বিশ্বে এটি একটি উল্লেখযোগ্য শিল্প হিসেবে স্বীকৃত। এই শিল্পের মাধ্যমে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা অর্জন, পুঁজি বিনিয়োগ, দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন ও কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি হয়। পর্যটন দেশে দেশে এবং মানুষে মানুষে সেতুবন্ধ রচনার একটি কার্যকর মাধ্যম হিসেবেও বিবেচিত। এসকল দিক বিবেচনায় রেখে উন্নত ও উন্নয়নশীল দেশসমূহে পর্যটন শিল্পের বিকাশ ও উন্নয়নে যথেষ্ট গুরুত্ব দেয়া হয়। সময় এসেছে সম্ভাবনাময় এই শিল্পে বিনিয়োগ বাড়িয়ে পর্যটন ক্ষেত্রে আরও উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিত করার। এই লক্ষ্যে সরকারী, বেসরকারী ও ব্যক্তি-পর্যায়ে সমন্বিত প্রচেষ্টা জোরদার করতে হবে।

বাংলাদেশের ঐতিহাসিক নিদর্শন, মনোরম নৈসর্গিক দৃশ্য, অনুপম সমুদ্র সৈকত, সমৃদ্ধ ঐতিহ্য ও সংস্কৃতি, উপজাতীয় জীবনধারাসহ গ্রামীণ জীবনের ছবি দেশী ও বিদেশী পর্যটকদের কাছে আকর্ষণীয় করে তোলার কাজে এগিয়ে আসার জন্য আমি সকলের প্রতি আহবান জানাই।

পর্যটন মাস পালনের সময়োচিত উদ্যোগ দেশের জন্য কল্যাণ বয়ে আনবে- এই কামনা করে আমি পর্যটন মাস '৯৬-এর সর্বস্বীন সাফল্য কামনা করি।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু  
বাংলাদেশ দীর্ঘজীবী হোক।

শেখ হাসিনা  
প্রধানমন্ত্রী  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

### SYLHET - The Tea Capital

Nestled in the picturesque Surma valley amidst scenic tea plantation and lush green tropical forests, Sylhet is a prime attraction for all tourists visiting Bangladesh. Lying between the Khasia and the Jaintia hills on the north, and the Tripura hills on the south Sylhet breaks the monotony of the flatness of this land by a multitude of terraced tea gardens, rolling country side and the exotic flora and fauna. Here the thick tropical forests abound with many species of wildlife, scented orange groves and luxuriant pineapple plantations spread their aroma around the typical hearth and homes of the manipuri tribal maidens famous for their dance. The valley has a good number of haors which are big natural depressions. During winter these haors are vast stretches of green land, but in the rainy season they turn into a turbulent sea. These haors provide a sanctuary to the millions of migratory birds who fly from Siberia across the Himalayas to avoid the severe cold.

Sylhet has also a very interesting and rich history. Before the conquest by the Muslims, it was ruled by local chieftains. In 1303, the great Saint Hazrat Shah Jalal came to Sylhet from Delhi with a band of 360 disciples to

a memorable experience. Sylhet, the tea granary of Bangladesh, not only has over 150 tea gardens but also proudly possesses three largest tea gardens in the world both in area and production.

### TRIBES OF BANGLADESH

There are as good as thirty different tribes living in different tribal areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Dinajpur and Rajshahi. Their life, culture, custom, heritage, religion, language and history are all different. Life of the tribal people extremely fascinating. Majority of them are Buddhists and the rest are Hindus, Christians and Animists.

### COX'S BAZAR - the Tourist Capital of Bangladesh

Miles of golden sands, towering cliffs, surfing waves, rare conch shells, colourful pagodas, Buddhist temples and tribes, delightful sea food this is Cox's Bazar—the tourist capital of Bangladesh. Having the world's longest (120 kilometres) beach sloping gently down to the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal, Cox's Bazar is one of the most attractive tourist spots in the country. Located at a distance of 152 km south of Chittagong, the leading sea port of Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar is connected both by air and

ganga on whose northern bank it stands as a silent sentinel of the old city. The main purpose of this fort, was to provide a defensive enclosure of the palatial edifices of the interior and as such, was a type of place of refuge rather than a seize fort.

### Kantanagar Temple, Dinajpur

The most ornate among the medieval temples of Bangladesh is the Kantanagar temple near Dinajpur town, which was built in 1752 by Maharaja Pran Nath of Dinajpur. It was originally a navaratna temple, crowned with four richly ornamental corner towers on two storeys and a central one over the third story. Unfortunately these ornate towers collapsed during an earthquake at the end of the 19th century.

In spite of this, the monument rightly claims to be the finest extant example of its type in brick terracotta built by Bengali artisans.

Besides, there are many other mosques, temples and monuments which interest many a tourist to Bangladesh.



Clean Sandy beach of Cox's Bazar

### Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Success Story

Year	Income	Expenditure	Profit
1990-91	507.97	485.29	22.67
1991-92	425.43	397.04	28.38
1992-93	467.38	428.93	38.44
1993-94	438.51	400.50	38.01
1994-95	485.93	437.82	48.11
Total	2325.23	2149.59	175.63

. In million Taka

Courtesy

**Biman**  
BANGLADESH AIRLINES