

Prospects of Eco-tourism at Cox's Bazar

Though Cox's Bazar is as a tourist destination, there is a great potential of developing eco-tourism here. Moreover, to conserve and preserve the tourism resources of Cox's Bazar, eco-tourism must be promoted here as soon as possible. Here the landmark eco-tourism resources are Safari Park at Ukiyah, the lush green forests at Inani upto Teknaf, Egg Island drifting amidst the Naf river, St. Martin's Island and Shah Parir Dwip, Kudumb Guha, Teknaf Safari Park, etc.

For keeping eco-balance here, some initiatives



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should be taken immediately such as guided tours inside the forests and parks, clear marking of do's and don't's at entrances, enforcement of set code of conducts, etc. At Inani, Shilkhali, Mankhali and Teknaf, the government may set up eco-resorts. One or two privately owned small eco-resorts are being operated here. But they can not maintain everything in environment friendly manner.

Local community's involvement in eco-tourism development should be done by promoting their handicrafts, traditional foods, local fishes and

vegetables. Here, a tripartite system including local government, private sector and the tourism department may be introduced for eco-tourism development. More and more local people can be trained up for working as small and medium eco-tourism enterprisers. Local people can be involved in beach cleaning, tree plantations and conservation of eco-system. Unplanned tourism activities must be stopped now at Cox's Bazar.

Ziaul Haque Howlader
DM, BPC

All it takes is intention and sincerity



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Bangladesh is beset with tons of problems which needs to be addressed and taken care of properly. For doing this all that is needed is intention and sincerity. It is evidenced from the actions of all successive governments that it is neither interested nor sincere in solving the problems the nation is facing. For example, let us take a look at the name change game of the party in power. What purpose will it serve the people at large? The answer is nothing.

If the following three issues are addressed and taken care of properly,

Bangladesh shall move ahead hundreds of years if not thousands. All it needs is intention and sincerity, the three issues are: 1. Total administrative decentralisation, 2. Eradication of illiteracy and 3. Halting population boom. Hope good sense will prevail upon the government to address and implement the above points and turn the country into a utopia, for which millions of lives were sacrificed.

Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

Dirty culture of false cases

Internationally famous person Dr. Yunus is facing false cases one after another. If a person like him is the victim of false cases, imagine the condition of the common people. I have seen criminals are using court to punish the innocent people and I think everybody of the society share my experience. If people working in our judiciary want to improve its image they should come up with agenda aiming to stop false cases. Responsibility of judiciary is to help the helpless people, but unfortunately, helpless people of our country are the victims of our judiciary. For example, thousands of farmers of our country lost their lands to the land-grabbers and developers and our government, politicians and intellectuals have been watching this crime for decades. Poor farmers cannot raise their voice because land grabbers and developers can easily put them in jail by filing false cases. Rape victims and acid victims hardly get justice in this country because criminals are usually rich (financially) and can hire famous and efficient lawyers.

I want to remind one thing, especially to our Muslim lawyers, that it is said in the holy Quran that it is a terrible crime (Kobira Gunnah) to fight for the criminals in the court. For establishing peace and justice our judicial system should be guided by humanity and religion and not by western style of profit motivation.

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Unanswered questions

The questions on the editorial page of DS on 27 Jan 2011 have prompted this letter.

1. Rationale of PM's UK tour? You have already said all that was needed to be said in your editorial. Perhaps a little too politely where others might have been a little rude. I have one question In what capacity did the sibling attend the meeting with the UK,PM (DS 28th) and what Bangladeshi agenda did she have to merit the expenses of the junket?

2. Why a new airport? Mass public opinion is against it.

Where is the need for a mega-airport costing Tk.50,000 ++ crores by laying waste 25,000 hectares of wetlands to satisfy a few sycophants? If we must have one named for the FOTN, rename HSJIA to BBSMR. Who is bothered?

3. Why go for a toothless ACC?

4. Yunus' ideas were exported to Scotland. Here in Bangladesh we honour our Nobel Laureate by making him stand in a dingy courtroom to get bail (DS 28th) for "producing sub-standard yoghurt"? No comments.

On page 15 Nury Vittachi's column relates the eccentric behaviour of Asians. He could have mentioned how easily our 2 women have pulled the wool over 32 crore eyes for over 20 years while enjoying all the perks of their elected office and achieving one party rule by boycotts on flimsy grounds.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Arabs are the stars!

The world has to pay attention to its troubles and the plight of the poor when the poor finally rebel. They can't say, "Let them eat cake!" when they're storming the Bastille! Those poor Arabs with their righteous cause in fighting for their lands that have been stolen from them! The Turks surrendered, the French surrendered, the British surrendered, the Germans have surrendered, and the Americans have pretty much surrendered ..., but it looks like the Arabs are not going to surrender this time!--At least, not yet.

They could never have made their rebel under a more favourable world climate than at the present moment. I mean the Arabs had to take some action. They had to put the pressure on, or nobody would even listen! Otherwise, most of the world couldn't care less. It's very interesting, very exciting to see what's going to happen, but very sad for the poor kids that have to suffer the brunt of it in the front lines, be they Arabs or Jews. War is hell, no matter how you look at it!--And it's always the youth who suffer most! But it does bring decisions, and it does make changes, and it does precipitate crises.

America's in trouble no matter which way she stands! But the Arabs are the rising star the up-and-coming.

Ted Rudow
Menlo Park, CA

Anti-corruption hysteria

When Bangladesh was world champion as the most corrupt society for several years in succession, there was hardly any ripple and hue and cry. But now when the TIB has classified some of the corrupt areas in sample surveys, the professionals have gone into hysteria trying to defend themselves. There was even a court case against TIB, which has been dismissed.

Corrupt cultures have styles of operation and execution. The going is good so long the allegations are generalised. The lawyers are doing roaring business as there is a rush for court cases from every sector. Sycophancy is another hobby which has turned into an institution (thanks to the prevailing dynasty rules).

Our leadership is leaking at the top tiers. It needs moral strength not to compromise with corrupt and unethical practices. In a have-not society, there is lack of patience and perseverance; and a tendency to cling to position and power.

There is hardly any political appreciation for the established public institutions, (the latter take decades to build up). Statistically, we got independence in mere nine months; but the sense of true freedom takes years (incubation of the democratic practices).

Our politics is still running through the probationary period. The economic standards and parties are hard to establish in the newly emerging LDCs. A greater challenge is the moral standards. The main players are the politicians, who run the government and the parliament. Diversionary tactics are not so opaque, after all!

Alif Zabr
Dhaka

Is Bangla there?

Recently, a national English language daily quoting a Bangla daily reported that the National Assembly of Pakistan is considering a bill concerning recognition to at least eight languages as the State language of Pakistan alongside Urdu. I appreciate the attached tag with the news which read "It seems that the Pakistani authorities have taken lessons from history!"

Perhaps the present regime in Pakistan has realized that the mother language is a part of human rights and it cannot be snatched away by political autocracy.

Meanwhile, the report under reference did not mention the names of the eight languages. As far as I know, province-wise Pakistan has 4/5 languages including Baluchi, Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, and Urdu. I wonder if Bangla is getting a place in the list of the proposed eight State languages of Pakistan. Would Pakistan regret the injustice and unjust killings done by the then Pakistani regime in 1952 and rectify the mistake by adding Bangla as one of the State languages as a mark of respect and recognition to our Language martyrs who made supreme sacrifices to establishing our dear as life, Bangla Bhasha?

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SEC ought to be stringent



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Thanks to our Finance Minister for his timely intervention to quell the capital market which has been going through a rough-and-tumbled weather due to massive slides in the prices of almost all shares. The minister came up with proposals on how to bring reforms and revitalise the market and safeguard the interest and confidence of the investors. We earnestly hope that his concrete and meaningful suggestions will help to alleviate the hitherto dwindling market and bring stability and confidence, especially amongst the retail investors. His package of reforms is indeed laudable provided those are implemented immediately and monitored correctly on a regular basis. His scraping of book building systems for the time being is also a good step which has been until now manipulated by a

few companies.

We think that SEC should thoroughly examine the prospectus and financial status of these companies and then fix a series of prices depending on the investors which price they choose in buying and then fix that price. However, it has been seen that the companies by manipulating Joint Registrar of Companies, Issue Managers, Lead Managers fixes the prices on their own (the case of Westin Hotel) which goes totally against the established practices of book building systems. We hope that SEC will be more stringent so that this practice does not surface again when it comes into effect again.

Humayun Hyder
Zikatola, Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "Biman's hiked fare re-fixed".

Mohammed Rukon Chowdhury
Biman should shift its head office near Brick Lane in London where the rent will be much cheaper. In Manchester it should buy a building instead of renting because it will be much cheaper.

Dr. Nazmul Haq
Competition increases the efficiency of a commercial entity like Biman. Open up the Bangladesh sky for more air lines and monitor those organisations and apply regulation fairly, for healthy competition.

If Biman cannot survive the competitive environment, let it face the consequence, bankruptcy.

Mohammed Uddin
Seems that no professionalism has developed inside Biman even after its privatisation. Pricing is a very important and delicate matter which needs adequate research, huge skill and of course, intelligence. So, who will bear the responsibility of this huge loss?

Khidir H. Khan
Biman is run by people who have no experience in airline business. Please hire CEO or MD from international market.

Riaz
I challenge Biman's decision regarding upholding the surcharge in the four routes....If KTM is an instance, many are shifting to other careers in past weeks....

Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opee
It purely portrays the quality of management Biman has; surprised to see that without doing proper research or study for evaluating impact of raising ticket price, it retracts its own position which is very damaging for market.

Applying fuel surcharge is a very simple affair. Why such mistakes are done is a serious question. Why Biman is never able to do anything properly is very surprising. Could it be deliberate? Has anyone seen the quality of calendar and diary Biman printed this year?

Manzoor Ashraf
All enterprises should be privatised since it's well documented that no public enterprises are run efficiently.

Beware of short-cuts!

At present the youth of Bangladesh are busy in making money via short-cut ways without working hard. We know a lot of companies have sprung up in our country within a very short period of time. It is needless to quote those companies' names that have been alluring the literate, half-literate and illiterate persons. They seduce people to invest and in return offer more than double of the real amount. Our young generation is vulnerable to this situation as they are immature and don't have enough experience.

Actually, we have to keep in mind that money is needed in our life but it should be hard-earned, in an honest way. Our religion also teaches us not to be greedy. However, anything which is earned with almost no or little effort or in a very short-cut way doesn't last long. That's why we should be cautious while investing our hard-earned money anywhere. We should know all pros & cons of the matter. My sincere urge to the fellow countrymen-- beware of short-cuts!

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