

Tourist flow peaks at Cox's Bazar

UNB, Dhaka

The beach town of Cox's Bazar, the country's one of the hottest tourist spots, is now overcrowded with visitors, forcing posh hotels to turn away many guests.

The tourist town has been witnessing an increased flow of tourists from different parts of the country since December 16 but the flow reached its peak on December 23.

"All the top ranking hotels are now fully booked. This trend will continue till December 31 but there might be fluctuations (tourists flow) from December 26-28," Mohammed Abdul Kauam Chowdhury, general secretary of Cox's Bazar Hotel, Motel Owners Association, told the news agency.

Chowdhury said weekly holidays, Christmas Day (December 23, 24, 25 and December 30, 31) contributed to the huge jump in the tourist inflow.

The newly built posh hotels are also doing brisk business.

"We're fully booked except a few suites... I think this trend will continue until early January," Mahub Hossain, sales executive of a hotel, which has 228 guestrooms, including 16 Panorama Ocean Suites.

Talking to this correspondent, Mohammed Munir Hossain, operation and finance manager of another hotel, which opened on December 20, said, "Since December 23, tourists' inflow has reached its peak."

Though Cox's Bazar is now overflowed with tourists from different parts of the

country, very few foreigners were spotted on the world's largest beach.

Talking to the news agency, senior French journalist Bruno Philip said it was a small place with few people and few hotels when he had visited Cox's Bazar in 1992.

"Now the changes are absolutely amazing. It's tremendous. I think it shows how Bangladesh has changed a lot over the past 25 years," Bruno said, as he strolled down the sandy beach.

"I could hardly find any room... everything is booked. I think Cox's Bazar symbolises the booming tourism (in Bangladesh)," said the 57-year-old who arrived in Cox's Bazar on December 21.

Responding to a question, Bruno said he visited Teknaf and other parts of the beach which was much more beautiful with trees and quiet environment.

"I have to say it's not my favorite place. I prefers that place (Teknaf) compared to Cox's Bazar, which I find noisy and too modern for me," he said.

Bruno, however, said Cox's Bazar was still a nice place for the people of Dhaka and other parts of the country to relax.

There are some tourists who are extremely unhappy with the attitude of many hotel authorities, except for the five-star hotels.

"Many of the general hotels deceive tourists. Their restaurants charge unnecessarily high prices. Even you'll be cheated by Tomtom (battery-run three-wheelers) drivers," said Ferdous Hasan, who was visiting with his school friends from Dhaka.

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A bridge being built as part of a project, similar to the one in the capital's Hatirjheel, undertaken by Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy to excavate a body of water, to be named Begum Fajilatunnesa Mujib Lake, and build walkways and set up greenery all around it by 2017, giving the city's residents a space to wind down and get the much-needed tranquility. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Vehicles seized by Shahbagh police occupy a large portion of the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, ruining the beauty of the park. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Rajshahi beekeepers eye profits following high mustard yield

Over 250 tonnes of honey produced from 7,500 bee colonies

BSS, Rajshahi

More than 250 tonnes of honey were produced in Rajshahi region during the current season making growers hopeful of getting a good earning.

The amount is five times higher than that of last year, said sources at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) of the region.

Farmers of Rajshahi, Naogaon, Natore and Chapainawabganj districts had been engaged in honey extraction since mid-November, said Fazlur Rahman, additional director of DAE. Due to favourable weather, the number of farmers increased this year to 250 from 75 in the region and other districts last year, he said.

Farmers set up 7,500 bee-colonies near mustard fields in different villages where there was good flowering, and got around 80kg of honey from

each colony in two weeks, the growers said.

The farmers said they were able to sell one-third of the honey to local people and wholesalers at around Tk 150 per kilogramme, and are waiting for business companies to buy the rest.

They said they will be able to make a good profit if the companies buy their honey for Tk 150 to Tk 200 per kg.

"I got 35 maunds of honey from my 63 bee-colonies in Borobilla area under Paba upazila. I sold 12 maunds to locals. Now I'm waiting to sell the rest to a company at a good price," said Habibur Rahman Babu, a farmer of Darusha village.

Growers said they had to spend about 50 percent of the earning to meet the cost during extraction and for feeding the bees during the off-season.

Deputy Director of DAE Dev Dulal Dhali said mustard was cultivated on around 30,000 hectares of land in the district, and there was good growth of the crop due to favourable weather.

As a result, honey farmers were encouraged to set their bee-colonies beside mustard fields across the district and were able to collect a large amount of honey, he added.

Prof Dr Bidhan Chandra Das of the zoology department of Rajshahi University told the news agency that honey farmers need technological support, financial assistance and a sound marketing system. Prof Bidhan said the country can even export queen bees, candle and gum which will further contribute to the export.

"If the government takes proper steps, honey production will get a boost, ushering in a new opportunity for export," he added.

Child missing

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Nespati Begum, 35, Dr Sarwar's wife, received head injuries after their boat turned turtle. She was declared dead at SBMCH.

On Saturday, Sub-inspector Mizanur Rahman filed a case with the police station accusing eight people.

Police arrested Kalam Sharif and Ohidul Islam, president and secretary of the Speedboat Owners' Association of Barisal respectively, the same night.

Abdur Rouf Khan, deputy commissioner (DC) of Barisal Metropolitan Police, said, "Despite a ban on speedboats plying at night, some unscrupulous owners continue doing that putting passengers at risk. We will take strict actions against them."

Contacted, the members of the association claimed they also discourage the passengers to travel at night but sometimes customers press them to do so in order to save time.

Azmul Huda, deputy director of river safety and traffic, BIWTA, said, "We have notified the police several times regarding the issue."

The DC said the passengers also need to be aware of the risk. Around 500 passengers in Barisal use the speedboats on a daily basis, according to the Speedboat Owners' Association.

Bangladeshis top Oman

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migrated to Oman for working in different sectors, especially for construction, says BMET.

Zahed Ahmad, counsellor at the labour wing of Bangladesh Embassy, told the Times of Oman that most Bangladeshis in the country were blue collar workers.

"The Omani sponsors are also very happy with the Bangladeshi workers, and this helps us employ more workers," he added.

A large number of the Bangladeshis who come to Oman earn a salary of around OMR90 (US\$ 233.64) to OMR100 (US\$ 259.6) a month. "In this salary range, it is hard to hire people from other countries. It is one reason more Bangladeshis are

coming to Oman," Zahed said.

Mohammed Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan, president of the Bangladesh Social Club in Oman, said most Bangladeshis worked in sectors like construction, agriculture, household, and restaurant.

"Efforts by the Bangladesh government to promote migration are adding to the Bangladeshi migrant workers' number in the Sultanate. Moreover, Oman now needs more manpower for a number of projects. As our people are capable of taking up the responsibility, they are being preferred," he said.

The other main expat communities in Oman are Ethiopians, Indonesians, Filipinos, Egyptians, Nepalese, and Sri Lankans.

EC's actions reliant

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government's good sense would prevail."

Strongly criticising the government, Fakhrul said the Sheikh Hasina government had made the country "totally unliveable" through destroying all the state's pillars.

"I am not the only one who is saying this. The chief justice has also made the same remarks," he said.

Referring to the rescue of a seriously injured child from a militant's den at the capital's Ashkona, Fakhrul said, "I don't know what the truth is. Is it because of an explosion by a suicidal female? Is his father or mother a militant? I don't know what is real." He said, "We will have to get rid of this situation."

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	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & ICT/Posts and Telecommunications Division.
1	Agency	Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
2	Procuring entity name	Director General, Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
3	Invitation for	Purchase of Jeep, Car and Microbus for DoT.
4	Invitation Ref. No.	14.30.0000.213.26.001.16.
5	Date	22.12.2016.
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).
7	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
8	Office name	Office of the Director General, Department of Telecommunications.
9	Tender publication date	26.12.2016.
10	Tender last selling date	17.01.2017.
11	Tender closing date and time	19.01.2017 at 11:30 hrs BST.
12	Tender opening date and time	19.01.2017 at 11:40 hrs BST.
13	Name & address of the office	Office of the Director General, Department of Telecommunications, 423-428, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.
14	Place of selling, receiving & opening tender document	Office of the Director General, Department of Telecommunications, 423-428, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.
15	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderer will have legal, financial, professional and technical capacity to deliver the requirements of this tender and have to fulfill the obligations of all tax requirements as per the tender document.
16	Brief description of goods or works	Purchase of Jeep, Car and Microbus for DoT.
17	Price of tender document	2000/- (non-refundable).
18	Tender security amount	Lot A: Tk 120000/- Lot B: Tk 120000/- Lot C: Tk 350000/-
19	Completion time in days	30 days.
20	Name & address of official inviting tender	Office of the Director General, Department of Telecommunications, 423-428, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.
21	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	

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