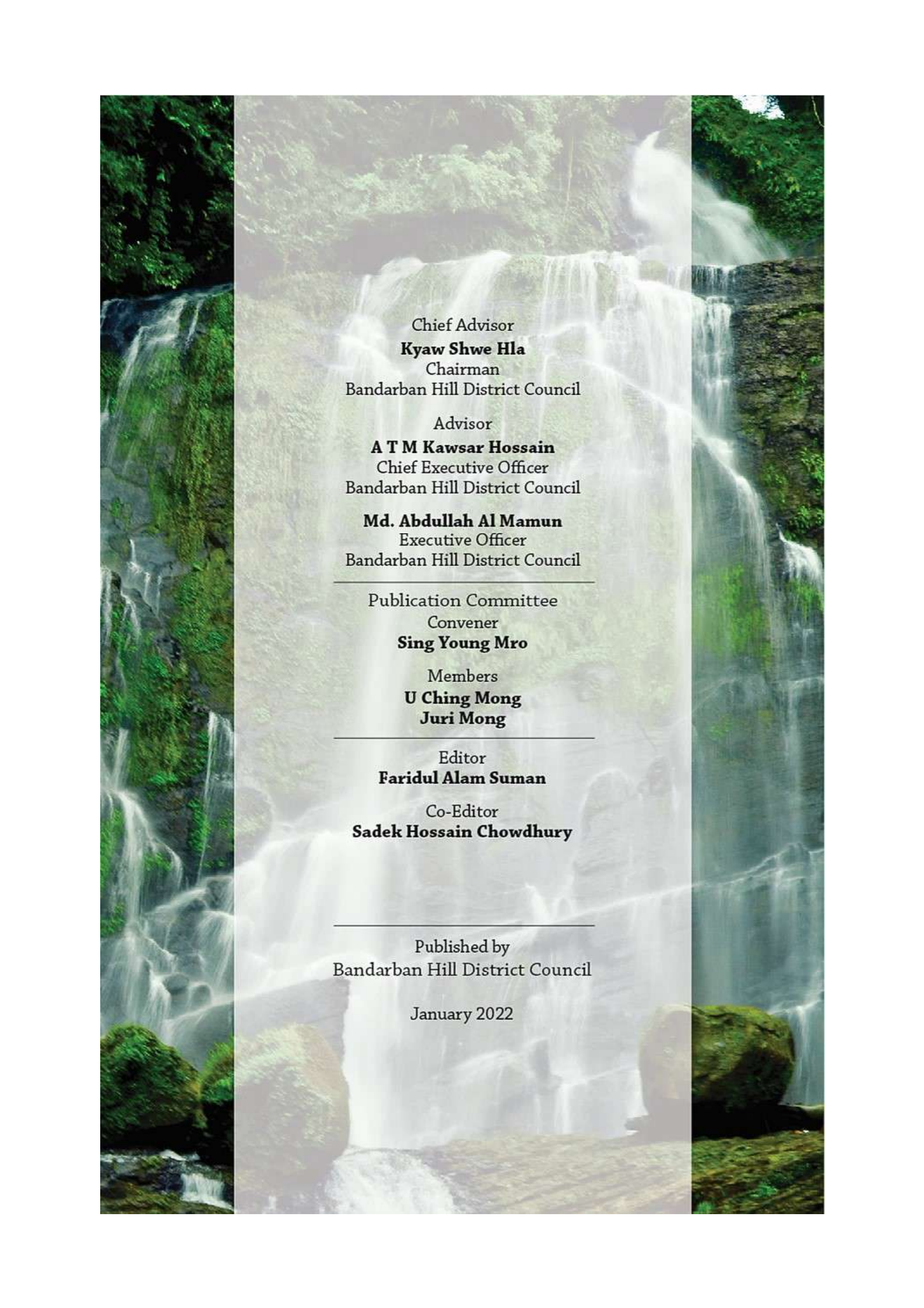


DISCOVER

BANDARBAN

2022





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January 2022



Message

It brings me immense pleasure to know that Bandarban Hill District Council is going to publish a magazine "Discover Bandarban" to unlock the beauty of Bandarban to the visitors.

In this auspicious moment, I remember with deep respect Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under whose leadership Bangladesh came into being as a sovereign and independent state. It is Bangabandhu who brought us an independent country of immense beauty and potential that are being unlocked and explored by the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter to the father of the nation.

The hilly regions which were once intractable and isolated in deep darkness now have access to all sorts of facilities including electricity, education, health, food security. Communication has received a tremendous impetus during the tenure of the present government. People can travel the remotest parts of the district through vehicles, which was a dream even in the recent past. The Internet has reached almost every household. Schools have been established in almost every village/paras to impart education. Colleges, vocational institutions and even a university got its way in Bandarban to ensure quality education.

Tourism has been identified as a

prospective sector of Bangladesh especially; Chittagong Hill Tracts can be a suitable destination for tourists to enjoy the beauty of nature in diverse ways. Chittagong Hill Tracts having enormous potential of tourism incorporates at least one tenth area of the whole country. The terrain, the spring, the serenity of nature, the culture of ethnic people living here etc have a unique appeal to the tourists. To promote tourism multiple plans have been adopted by the government for development of this industry in Bandarban and other two hill districts as well.

Bandarban Hill District Council, aligning the programmes chalked out by the government, has also been working hard to ensure socio-economic development of Bandarban Hill District. The Council also promotes the tourism prospects of the district. The publication of 'Discover Bandarban' will be of great use to the travel loving people. The magazine will act like a torchbearer for the travellers and tourists by helping create a visual image of Bandarban beforehand.

I wish a grand success of "Discover Bandarban"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bir Bahadur U Swe Shing'.

Bir Bahadur U Swe Shing, MP

Minister

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs



Message

I am delighted to know that Bandarban Hill District Council is bringing out a magazine "Discover Bandarban".

Bangladesh, a land of unique natural beauty, is developing very fast under the direct leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who dreamt of shaping a war-ravaged country into a self-dependent and developed country. The dream of Bangabandhu has now been materializing by his qualified daughter Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The development of a nation cannot be inclusive if all the citizens of the country do not get the benefit of it. In order to ensure people's basic right, safety and comfortable living the Government has taken several visionary initiatives and the Government is committed to implement the development activities for better living of the people. The development of Chittagong Hill Tracts has been considered very seriously and accordingly has been incorporated into the short term and long-term development plan. Government is relentlessly working to ameliorate the living standard of people residing in three hill districts of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh flourishes with the diversity of nature. The beauty of three hill districts is spectacularly unique that takes the breath away. The hill, the spring, the cultural diversity of the ethnic population living there, the wild life etc. take somebody into the realm of peace and solitude brushing aside the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The astounding beauty of the hill districts can be one of the vibrant modes of boosting the economy of the country if the tourism sector of the area can be planned to develop further. The government has rightly sketched an elaborate program to flourish tourism in the hilly regions of the country; especially in the three hill districts.

The magazine "Discover Bandarban" delineates an artistic picture of Bandarban. The book will be very helpful for travel loving people.

I wish every success of the magazine "Discover Bandarban".

Mosammat Hamida Begum

Secretary
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs



Message

It's a matter of pride and joy to let everyone know that Bandarban Hill District Council is publishing a new magazine 'Discover Bandarban' containing a brief and precise visualization of Bandarban Hill District. I am happy that the magazine is coming into being on the eve of 'MujibBorsho', the birth centenary of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The three hill districts of our beloved motherland are unique in terms of natural beauty and unique lifestyle of 11 ethnic sects and Bangali living in harmony and peace in those districts. Of the three hill districts, Bandarban is the only district where people from all 11 minor ethnic sects are to be seen. This is the abode of peace loving people who love to lead a simple and tranquil life in the serenity of nature.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord signed in 1997 has ushered a new era of peace and prosperity and opened a new horizon of development in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Government, especially The Awami League government has been paying a special attention from very beginning of forming government to ensure peace, prosperity and development in this region that was unattended for a long time. Projects after projects are being implemented in this region to impart

quality education, smoothen connectivity, secure employment for unemployed, make the standard of living better and to promote tourism.

Tourism can play a vital role to gear up the wheel of the economy of the country. The Chittagong Hill Tracts undoubtedly come into force in terms of promotion of tourism, thanks to its distinctive beauty and appeal. Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari have turned to be popular tourist destinations nowadays. Hundreds of thousands of tourists throng these places almost round the year. Government has come up with new initiatives to promote tourism in these hilly areas. Bandarban Hill District Council patronizes tourism giving it the top priority. In line with the Council's promotion of tourism, 'Discover Bandarban' is getting its way to be of a great use to the travel loving people. It will help the tourist know about Bandarban ahead of their trip.

I wish "Discover Bandarban" to be the torchbearer to the travellers.



Kyaw Shwe Hla

Chairman

Bandarban Hill District Council



Message

It's our pleasure to come up with the news of publication of a magazine "Discover Bandarban" by Bandarban Hill District Council. It adds more value as the magazine is going to be published in 'Mujib Year', the birth centenary of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman upon whose clarion call Bangladesh emerged as an independent state in 1971 through nine months of struggles, sacrifices and determination.

Under the wise leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has graduated to a Middle Income Country. The list of success stories is long—from socio-economic development to the optimal use of information technology; from infrastructural development to the improvement of overall living standard. In line with the ongoing development trend Chittagong Hill tracts have also been taken under the umbrella of overall development. To ensure development of this hilly region, the government has taken multi-faceted initiatives. Government is trying to flourish the tourism industry in the three hill districts as this region possesses some marvelous and unique traits that attract the tourists from home and abroad.

The untapped opportunities of the pristine mountain areas are now capable of offering all the fundamental and civic

amenities. People from all walks of life have access to the facilities. As the land of immaculate beauty tourism has been identified as a significant development tool for the hill districts.

Bandarban Hill District Council, since its inception, has been promoting tourism in Bandarban, subsequently ensuring standard living of the people living here in harmony and peace. In line with the commitment to promote tourism, Bandarban Hill District Council has brought the idea of publishing "Discover Bandarban" into forth. I believe, 'Discover Bandarban' is going to be an informative and useful publication for the tourists intending to visit Bandarban. The Magazine contains information of famous tourist spots of the district, heritage, cultures, festivals and overall lifestyle of the people living here.

I hope "Discover Bandarban" will have a blast.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ATM Kawsar Hossain'.

ATM Kawsar Hossain
Chief Executive Officer
Bandarban Hill District Council



Message

It's been a great opportunity for us to publish this new edition of 'Discover Bandarban' in 'Mujib Year'-the birth centenary of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The whole nation is celebrating the glorious moment of its golden jubilee.

Under the strong leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is graduating from a least developed economy to a developing one. Her government is prioritizing sustainable actions to develop the socio-economic status of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Bandarban is one among the three hill districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts with its

vibrant natural beauty, diverse culture, tradition, language and heritages. Bandarban Hill District Council is promoting tourism in Bandarban to generate employment, reduce poverty and to improve the quality of lives of the people.

This tour guide and fact book 'Discover Bandarban' is one of our many steps toward tourism development. Hope, this will be able to hit the ground!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Md. Abdullah Al Mamun'.

Md. Abdullah Al Mamun
Executive Officer
Bandarban Hill District Council

Bandarban Welcomes You

Bandarban, an incredibly beautiful district of Bangladesh, is located in the southeastern part of the country. It is a land of mesmerizing beauty bordering Myanmar and India. The Shangu, Matamuhuri and Bakkhali-three rivers snake through the hilly region. It's like a green artwork in the lap of mountains.

Bandarban is the abode of 11 ethnic tribes. Their day-to-day living in small machang houses at the base of the mountains, jum cultivation, tweeting birds in the evening remind us of a fairy tale. Because of its eye-catching natural beauty, it has already started to become a very popular destination for tourists. This can be a refuge for a while from the hectic and busy city life.

Tajingdong and Keaokradong are the highest and second highest mountain peaks respectively in the country. Chimbuk is known as the Darjeeling of Bangladesh. Numerous waterfalls namely BogaLake, Nafakhung, and Remakrikhung etc. aggravate the beauty of Bandarban. It is a living museum of forests, trees and shrubs. Various social, cultural and religious festivals are celebrated here during different seasons of the year with due solemnity and fervour. If you want to get lost for a while in a green dreamland or in the silence of mountains with your dearie, Bandarban can be the destination.



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Bandarban Hill District Council

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The Naming

There is a story behind the naming of Bandarban Hill District. Native residents believe that once upon a time there were many monkeys. A troop of monkeys used to cross the Shangu River to find food holding each other in rows and come back in the evening. The queue of monkeys holding each other's hands looked like a dam and drew the attention of the Marma community and they named it Myawkchi. In the Marma language the term myawk means monkey and Chi means dam. In Bengali the word monkey is 'Bandar' and dam is 'Ban'. So Myawkchi means dam of monkeys. Thus the word Bandarban came into being.

Bandarban Hill District is the only district having 11 different ethnic groups with different cultures and languages.

Social norms, lifestyles, customs and practices have enriched the culture and brought a fascinating diversity to Bangladesh. This diverse culture plays a great role to attract tourists and subsequently Bandarban Hill District has become a famous travel destination in Bangladesh.

The Tajingdong and Keaokradong hill, the Chimbuk hill, the Nilgiri, Boga Lake, Nafakhung waterfall, Amiyakhung waterfall, Meghla Lake, Prantik Lake, ShoiloPropat water stream, Rijuk waterfall, Bono Propat, Nilachol, Mirinja, the Shangu, Matamuhuri, Bakkhali and lifestyle of different ethnic groups and harmony between Bengalis and the ethnic sects attract travel loving tourists.



Humidity and Wind

Bandarban has some extremely humid months, and above average humidity throughout the year. The least humid month is February (68.2% relative humidity), and the most humid month is August (85.6%).

Wind in Bandarban is usually extremely calm. The windiest month is July, followed by June and May.

Weather in Bandarban

Average temperatures in Bandarban vary somewhat. Considering humidity, temperatures feel hot for most of the year with a fair chance of precipitation about half of the year. The area is less temperate than some — in the 29th percentile for pleasant weather — compared to tourist destinations worldwide. If you're looking for the very warmest time to visit Bandarban, the hottest months are May, June, and then September. The warmest time of year is generally mid May where highs are regularly around 91.6°F (33.1°C) with temperatures rarely dropping below 80.6°F (27°C) at night. ~

information from: championtraveler.com

Month	Avg. High(°C)	Avg. Mean(°C)	Avg. Low(°C)
Jan	25.4	20.2	15.6
Feb	27.8	22.4	17.8
Mar	30.6	26	21.7
Apr	32.3	28.2	24.5
May	32.7	29.3	26.3
Jun	31.8	28.7	26.1
Jul	30.7	27.9	26
Aug	31.2	28.2	26
Sep	31.6	28.4	26
Oct	31.7	27.7	24.7
Nov	30.2	24.6	20.3
Dec	26.8	21.2	16.7

Transportation

Jeep, microbus, Land Cruiser, Nissan Patrol, Pajero and local jeeps are available for transportation. Vehicles can be hired at any time from Bandarban Bus Stand. Three wheelers terminal is located at the Traffic Point of the town and jeeps and minibuses are available nearby Hill Bird Hotel. Fare varies according to the class of vehicles.

How to reach

AC and Non-AC buses are available from Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Rangamati. Dhaka-Bandarban is a 7/8-hour journey. One can take an air journey from Dhaka to Chittagong/Coxs bazar and then to Bandarban by road.



International Tourists

If any foreign citizen wants to visit Bandarban, they must take permission from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) for security purposes. Foreigners cannot apply directly. Any Bangladeshi citizen can apply to the Deputy Commissioner on their behalf. Or, if they book rooms in any hotel, the hotel authorities or travel agencies may apply for permission. Specific Name, address of the travelers, country of origin, passport number, visa information etc. should be mentioned clearly in the application form. It is also necessary to mention the purpose of visiting Bandarban with details of address of stay, intended days to stay and places to visit. Photocopy of tourists' passports and visa stamped pages must be attached. The Deputy Commissioner may grant permission on the basis of a report taken from Special Branch of police.



Time Table of Coach Services

Desh Travels			
Fare: BDT 1500			
Route	Time	Terminal	Contact number
Dhaka to Bandarban	11:15 PM	Kalabagan	02-9124544
		Arambag	01709989438
Bandarban to Dhaka	9:30 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01888211562
Unique Service			
Fare: BDT 750			
Bandarban to Dhaka	9:00 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01553208010 01963622275
Dhaka to Bandarban	10:30AM & 9:00PM	Fakirapul	01963622226
		Sayedabad	01963622230
S. Alam Service			
Fare: BDT 700			
Dhaka to Bandarban	8:30 AM & 10:00 PM	Gabtali	01813329394 / 02-9002702
		Kamalapur	01917720395 / 02-8315087
Bandarban to Dhaka	9:30 AM & 8:00 PM	Adjacent to Officers' club	01673535043
Eagle Paribahan			
Fare: BDT 750			
Dhaka to Bandarban	09:30 PM	Motijheel	044 78 113 222
	10:00 PM	Fakirapul	044 78 113 223
		Kolabagan	044 78 113 235
Bandarban to Dhaka	8:30 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01888211562
Hanif Paribahan			
Fare: Non-AC BDT 750, AC: 1600 BDT			
Dhaka to Bandarban	11:15 PM	Arambag	01713402632
Bandarban to Dhaka	9:30 AM & 9:20 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01737446811, 01556742974

Time Table of Coach Services

Dolphin Paribahan			
Fare: BDT 750			
Dhaka to Bandarban	10:45 PM	Kolabagan Terminal	01731823721
Bandarban to Dhaka	8:45 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01853077092
Shyamoli Paribahan			
Fare: Non AC-BDT 750 and AC- BDT 1600			
Dhaka to Bandarban	11:00 PM & 11:30 PM	Gabtali	02 90 14 560
		Fakirapul	02 719 37 25
		Komolapur	02 83 16 246
Bandarban to Dhaka	10:00 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01837833977, 01617699977 01879437019
Soudia Paribahan			
Fare: BDT 750			
Dhaka to Bandarban	10:00 PM 10:30 PM	Kolabagan Fakirapul	01919654861
Bandarban to Dhaka	9:00 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01919654833 01610704165
Saint Martin Paribahan			
Fare: AC-BDT 1600 and Non-AC- BDT 1100			
Dhaka to Bandarban	11:30 PM	Arambag	01762691341 01972691340
	10:15 PM	Fakirapul	01762691342 01972691350
	9:30 PM	Kolyanpur	01762691353 01972691394
Bandarban to Dhaka	10:30 AM 09:15 PM	Bandarban Bus Terminal	01762 691 356

Chattogram –Bandarban

The distance from Bandarban to Chattogram bus terminal is 75 km. Purabi and Purbani coach services are available at every 30 minutes interval from Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal, Chattogram and Bandarban Bus Terminal from 6:00 AM to till 7:00PM. The fare is BDT 230

Cox's Bazar –Bandarban

The distance from Bandarban to Cox's Bazar is 122 kms. Purabi and Purbani services are available on this route. The fare is BDT 170.

Schedule of Purabi: 8:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM

Schedule of Purbani: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 1:00 PM 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM

Bandarban - Cox's Bazar

Schedule of Purabi: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM & 4:00 PM

Schedule of Purbani: 7:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM and 4:45 PM 5:30 PM

Rangamati – Bandarban

Coach leaving schedule of the route is 7:30 AM, 2:00 PM from both sides. The fare is BDT 150

Bandarban – Ruma

Local bus is available every hour from Bandarban to Ruma Bazar from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM from both sides. The fare is BDT 130

Bandarban-Nilgiri-Thanchi

Local bus is available from Bandarban to Thanchi.

Schedule of bus-

Bandarban to Thanchi

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM.

Thanchi to Bandarban

7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM & 3:00 PM.

Visitors can visit Nilgiri by the first trip and come back by the bus from Thanchi to Bandarban in the evening. Visitors have to wait for the bus at the gate of Nilgiri. The fare from Bandarban to Nilgiri is BDT 200 . For Balipara and Thanchi the fare is BDT 230

places to
VISIT



Meghla



The Meghla Tourism Complex is located at the gateway of Bandarban town adjacent to Bandarban Hill District Council office. The complex offers the visitors a clear and soothing view around. The spot is taken care of by the District administration. It features a lake with clean water, two hanging bridges, picnic spots, an open stage, the ArunSharki Museum, a canteen, a mini zoo, boat journey arrangement on the lake, a children park and restroom. The entry fee is Tk 50 each. Cable car riding costs Tk 50 and Tk 100 for a paddle boat journey for 20 minutes.



It is the most amazing and well known tourist spot for tourists coming from home and abroad. There are lots of arrangements for children to play and have fun around. Monkeys, deer, snakes, bears and different kinds of birds are colorful attractions that adds value to the tour.



Meghla Lake is just 5km away from Bandarban town. Visitors can hire a private 3 wheeler for Tk. 500 from Bandarban town to Meghla for a round trip. Local buses are also available to reach the spot. Jeep or Micro-bus can be hired at Tk. 800-1000 for a roundtrip.



For food visitors can visit the fast food shops inside the complex. Holiday Inn, a beautiful resort and restaurant is located just the opposite of Meghla gateway.





Photo: Sai Sing Aung

Nilachol:



Nilachol finds its way on a hill peak. The height of the peak is 1800 feet above the sea level and 6km from Bandarban town. Visitors can see a total glance of Bandarban town and a vast landscape from this place. In the rainy season.

Visitors can touch the clouds and can take a thrilling walk through the clouds. Chimbuk hill range and Chittagong port is clearly viewed from the highest peak if the sky remains clear. Tangchangya, Marma and Tripura people live around this spot. The spot is maintained by the District Administration. The entry fee is Tk 50 per person.



Visitors can hire a three wheeler for Tk 600 for a round-trip from Bandarban town to Nilachol. The fare for a Jeep or micro-bus is TK 1000-1200 for a round trip.



Forest Hill Restaurant and several other tea and snack stalls are available at Nilachol. Visitors can taste seasonal fruits round the year.



Shoilo Propat

It is one of the famous spots of natural water streams. The distance is about 8km from Bandarban town and it takes around 20 minutes by three wheelers to reach Shoilo Propat along with Chimbuk road. The rhythmic flow of stream water that soothes both the mind and body comes from different hills around. This is a busy tourist spot for tourists throughout the year. There are several picnic spots at the bottom of the hills near the stream. Natural beauty and sweet chirping of birds make visitors ecstatic. The Bawm people live around the stream. Local handlooms and handicrafts made of bamboo are available here for sale. Moreover, the Bawm people sell chemical-free local products such as pineapple, papaya, banana, jackfruit and mango etc. Visitors can take a pause on the way to Chimbuk.



The fare of three wheeler Mahindra is Tk. 600 for a round-trip while jeep and micro-bus may cost around Tk. 1000-1200.



Snacks and drinks are available at the spot. Lunch may not be available often times.

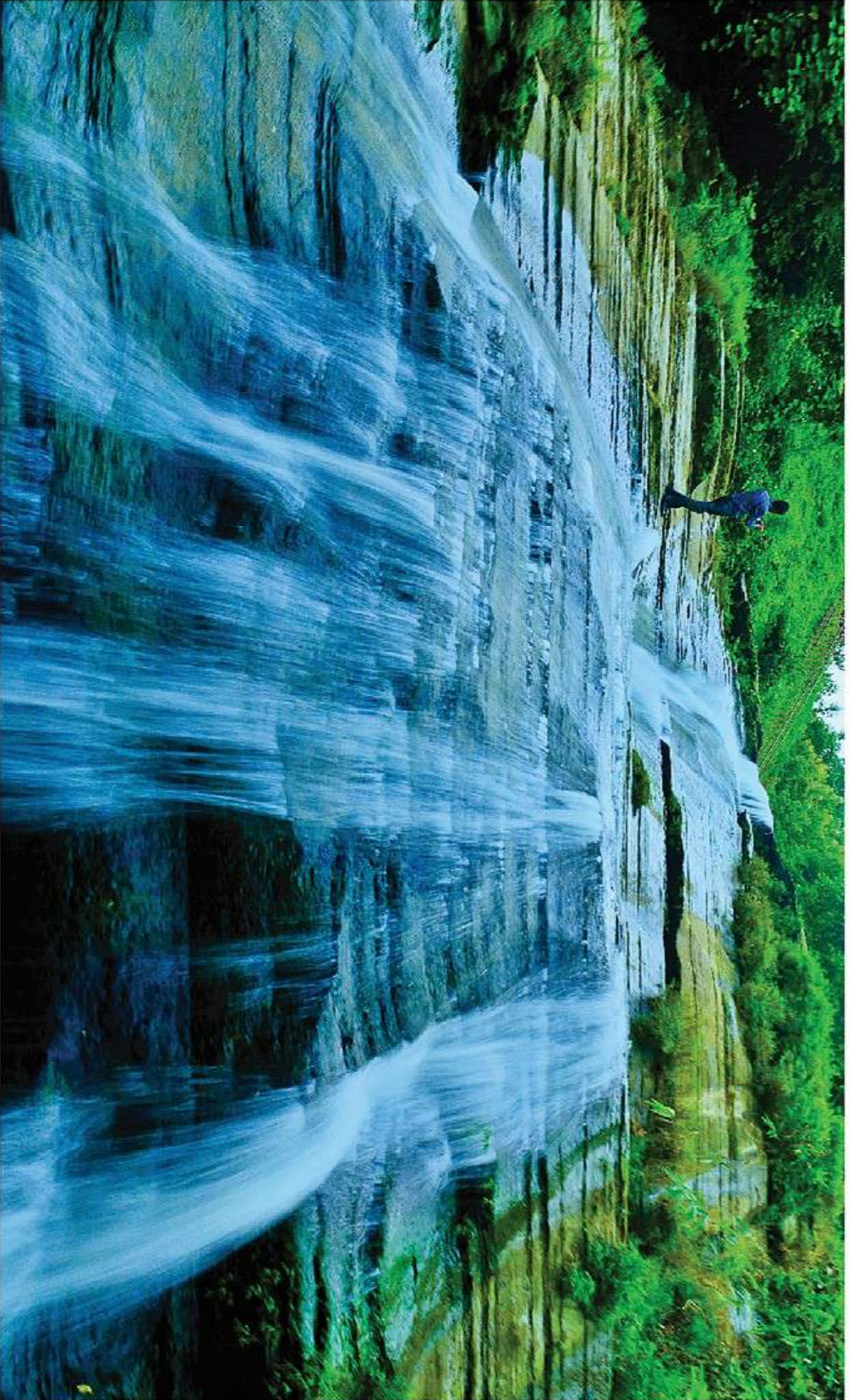


Photo: Iqbal Karim

Prantik Lake



This Lake is located in Haludia, a place on Bandarban-Keranihat road. It is about 14km from Bandarban town and 5 km from the main road. This is a lake of 25 acres in size. The whole area of the lake is bigger than 25 acres. Visitors become delighted by feeling the sweet puff of air and seeing clean water of this lake. This is a wonderful place for fishing. With the permission of the concerned authority one can go fishing in Prantik Lake. The place is well known as a picnic spot. Bandarban District Administration is in charge of managing the Prantik Lake.



Three wheelers and jeeps can be hired for Tk. 1000-2000.



Visitors should take necessary food and drink along with them.



Chimbuk Hill



The height of the peak of Chimbuk hill is about 2500 feet from the sea level. The hill ranges of Chimbuk look very high from the ground. The sea beach of Cox's Bazar is clearly viewed from the top of the Chimbuk hill if the weather is clear. It is known as 'BanglarDarjiling' to tourists because of its amazing hill ranges and

crooked road. Rainy season is the most attractive season here on this hill. The Mro ethnic people live around Chimbuk hill.



It is 26km far from Bandarban town. Visitors can hire three wheelers and jeeps that charge Tk. 2000 to 3500 for a two way trip.



Restaurants are available in Chimbuk hill.



Nilgiri



The Nilgiri, managed by the Bangladesh Army, is one of the most attractions to many travelers. It is situated at the top of a hill on the way to Thanchi from Bandarban Town. The green hill ranges, shifting cultivation of many different ethnic communities and small villages that surround the hills make travelers feel ecstatic. This beautiful hill is surrounded by misty clouds and beautiful natural views most. Once visitors reach the top of

the mountain, they feel that the cloud is embracing them all around. This is the right place to feel a natural heavenly touch of the cloud. It is 47km from Bandarban town. Communication system from Bandarban town to The Nilgiri is quite good. Road construction along this way was done by the Bangladesh Army. Cottages with modern architecture are available to stay there.



Nilgiri



Visitors can hire three wheelers or jeeps to visit this spot. The fare of a three wheeler Mahindra is around Tk. 2500 and a jeep or micro-bus can be hired for Tk. 4700 excluding parking fee. Visitors can also take a regular bus that goes to Thanchi for Tk. 230 and return to Bandarban on a regular bus for the same fare.



Food is available at the resort for boarders. However, visitors can order food a day ahead of their arrival. Canteens are open for light food. Visitors can also order food for lunch at a restaurant in the Chimbuk on the way to Nilgiri and take lunch there on their way back.



Visitors can book rooms at the Nilgiri for night stay. The rent of rooms varies from around Tk. 5,000 to Tk. 10,000



Tongma Tongree



Tongma Tongree has been developed under the management of Bangladesh Army. In Marma language, Tongma Tongree means The big hill amongst the hills. There are three view points. One of the special features of Tongma Tongree is that, from its tourist view points one can see the highest peak of Bangladesh, Tajingdong, Keokradong and Kra u tong. It is about 78km from Bandarban town.



It is possible to go to the Tongma Tongree from Bandarban by any three-wheeler or by boarding a bus on the Bandarban-Thanchi route. The bus fare is 200 Tk per head. In that case there will be no stop at any other tourist spot along the way. After noon, a return bus from Thanchi will return to Bandarban city. The rent for three-wheeler's, to Tongma Tongree is 3000 tk. Jeep and microbus rent is 5500 taka.



There is no accommodation facilities at Tongma Tongree. It's just a view point for tourists.



There is a canteen in Tongma Tongree. Besides this, it's better to carry enough water and dry foods with you.

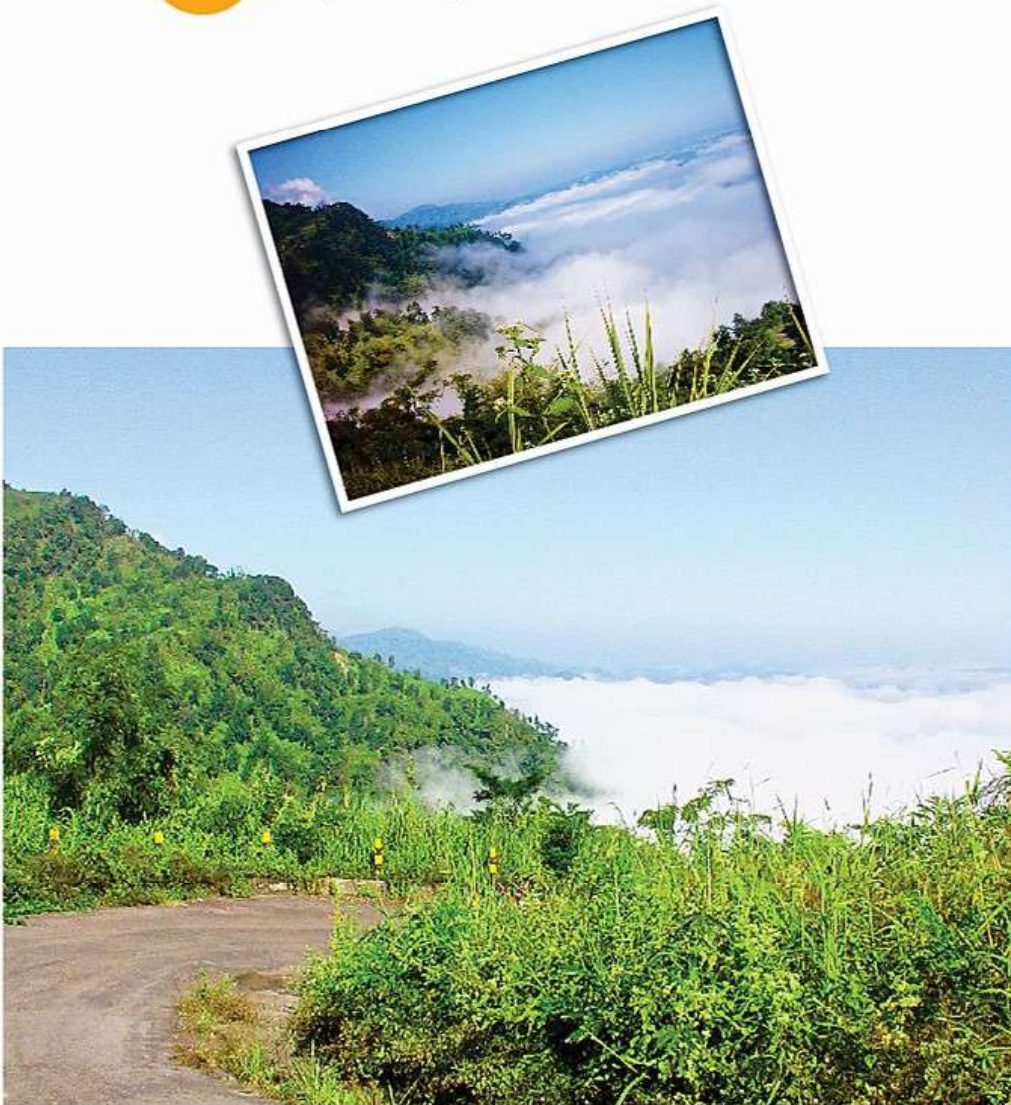
Jibon Nogar



It is located at Bolipara of Thanchi Upazila (54 km from Bandarban and 7 km away from Thanchi). This is on the hill ranges of the Chimbuk on the way to Thanchi. This is a place on top of hills that is seen after passing a long way of ups and downs through breath taking scenarios. Although there is no spot nearby to rest, visitors can stop somewhere at the JibonNogor to view and enjoy the eye-catching natural beauty. Here, one always finds gentle wind that soothes the mind.



The fare of jeep and micro-bus is Tk. 5,500 to Tk. 6,000. Visitors can also visit the JibonNogor on the way to the Nilgiri.





Neel Digonto



If you wish to get the magical feeling of losing yourself in the silence of unknown green mountains and clouds, you must visit the Neel Digonto Tourist spot. It is 50km away from Bandarban Town. While visiting the Nilgiri, anyone can take a visit easily to this spot. There are viewpoints, round houses and canteens on the Neel Digonto. From the view point, the mountains of Tahjingdong and Keaokradong can be seen. This is a unique opportunity to see the pleasant lifestyle of local people with the mysterious looking hills.



It is possible to go to Neel Digonto from Bandarban Town by any three wheeler or by boarding a bus on Bandarban-Thanchi route. Bus fare is 230Tk each. In this case there will be no stop at any other tourist spot along this way. In the afternoon, a returning bus from Thanchi will ride you back to Bandarban Town. The fare for a three wheeler to Neel Digonto is Tk. 3000 and Jeep and microbus fare is 5000 taka.



There is no accommodation facility at Neel Digonto. But if you have any room booking in Nilgiri, you can stay there. Or you can come back to Bandarban by day time and stay in any hotel.



There is a canteen at Neel Digonto. Besides this, it's better to carry enough water and dry food with you.

Rijuk Waterfall



This is 54km far from Bandarban town and located under Ruma Upazila of Bandarban Hill District. Through the range of hills, water of the fall comes down from about 300 feet to the Shangu River. Sound of the waterfall will make visitors very blissful. There are Mro, Marma and Bawm villages around the fall. Visitors will get opportunities for a memorable journey by boat and sight-seeing of the virgin natural beauty. This could be a wonderful place for many to swim in natural water and enjoy memorable moments once in a life time.



Bus is available from Bandarban town to Ruma for Tk. 130. Jeep and microbus can also be hired for Tk 6,000. Paddle boats or an engine boat can be hired to go to Waterfall. The fare of Tk. 1500 for a round trip.



Visitors must take necessary food along with them from Ruma market. If visitors want to cook near the waterfall, they may seek help from local people.



There is no residential facility around Rijuk waterfall. Visitors may stay at any residential hotel in Ruma Bazar.





Munlai Para, Ruma



Munlai Para is located at Ruma upazila. Munlai is basically the thorp of Bawm ethnic group. This is the first community based tourism village in Bangladesh. This neat and clean quiet village is surrounded by mountains. Here one can stay at native villager's house and enjoy food in a natural environment. There are many types of amusement facilities including exciting trekking, kayaking, tree-top activity, zip lines, taking bath in water streams etc.



You can go to Munlai Para from Ruma upazila sadar by Jeep or personal vehicle. The fair of jeep is 50 taka each.



One can stay at the houses of local people here with ease and comfort.



Here you get the opportunity to enjoy food in local houses at a reasonable price. You can taste traditional local food in hilly style along with delicious Bengali food according to your interest.



Boga Lake



Boga Lake is located on top of a hill which covers an area of 15 acres. There are lots of myths among different ethnic peoples behind the creation of this lake. Locals believe that there is a big dragon under the lake. Some think that it was a crater of dead volcano. This is 17 km far from Ruma Upazila.



Local jeep is available from Ruma bazar. Visitors will have to find a tourist guide from Ruma bazar and go to the local army camp to register their details. It is better to negotiate the charge of the tourist guide per day or for the total days necessary in advance. Reserved Jeep fare is about Tk. 4500 for a round-trip from Ruma to the lake. Local passenger jeep fare is Tk.200 per person.



It is quite enjoying that local cottages are available for accommodation around the lake. The rent of cottages are also reasonable.



Local tasty cooked food is available at Boga Lake. The price of food is cheap.



Keaokradong



This is one of the highest mountain peaks in Bangladesh. The height of the peak is 3,172 feet. This is located at a Mro village of Pasing Para under Remakri Prangsha Union of Ruma Upazila. This is 25 km far from Ruma bazar, and 8km far from Boga Lake. Though travelers can travel by jeep during summer, there is no alternative to walk during rainy season.



Visitors can go to the Keaokradong by jeep from Ruma bazar.



For accommodation home stay and cottage arrangement are available in Keaokradong at a pretty reasonable price.



Food can be arranged at any local house in Keaokradong.



Jadiphai Fall



The beauty of Jadiphai waterfall takes the breath away of the visitors. It is located in Ruma Upazila. Water of Jadiphai fall flow from many hill ranges. The beauty of sun ray surrounding the waterfall looks like rainbow. Visitors can visit the fall on a day trip staying at Keaokradong Guest house.



After crossing Pasing para and Jadiphai para. Visitors will reach the destination. It will take about 2 hours from the village. The road to waterfall is a little bit rough having lots of slippery stones on the way. Therefore, it is necessary to look carefully before stepping on.



Cottages are available at Jadiphai village. Visitors can stay night at cottages. Cottage fare ranges from BDT 200-500 as per its setting.



Food can be found at Jadiphai village. However, it is good to take drinks and light food along with.



Jadiphai Fall, Photo: Aye Aye Maung

Tahjindong Hill



Tahjindong hill is one of the highest peaks in Bangladesh. Once upon a time it was known to be the highest peaks in Bangladesh of many government and non-government surveys. The Tahjindong is located at Ramakri Prangsha Union under Ruma Upazila. It is about 70 km away from Bandarban town and 38 km from Ruma Upazila.



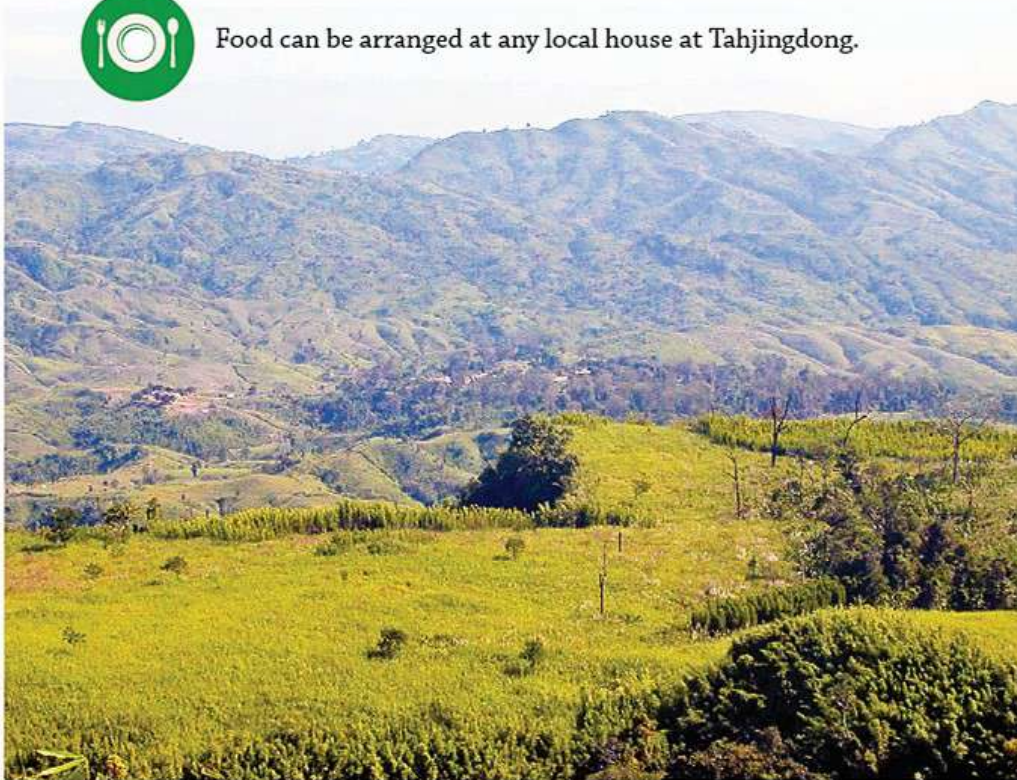
Visitors can visit this place both from Ruma and Thanchi Upazila. On the other hand, the Tahjindong can be reached via the path of Boga Lake and the Keaokradong hill. It will take about 8 hours on foot. Adventure loving people can trek and visit the spot from Bogalake-Darjeeling village, Keaokradong Pasing para, Baklai para and then Tahjindong. From Thanchi, Visitors can go to Boarding Para; then Sherkorpara and then the Tahjindong. It takes about 7 hours on route.



Accommodation can be arranged at Sherkor para on the way from Thanchi and Pasing Para/Thaikhyong para on the way from Ruma to Tahjindong hill.



Food can be arranged at any local house at Tahjindong.



Nafakhung and Remakrikhung



Nafakhung is a name of a beautiful natural waterfall located in Thanchi Upazila. The source of the waterfall is the Remakri stream. Water flows through many hills and stones. There is a legend behind the naming of the waterfall. A kind of fish called 'Nafa' in Marma language is available here. The word 'khung' in Marma means 'to jump'. This

fish jumps against current of stream while crossing. Therefore, locals believe that the place of Nafakhung was named following the scenario of this fish jumping. Remakrikhung is located on the way to Nafakhung nearby Remakri Bazar. The natural beauty of Remakrikhung enchants the tourists.



Visitors must register at the BGB check post of Thanchi before heading to Remakri by boat. They must take a local guide along. It takes an hour from Thanchi to Tindu and another 2 hours from Tindu to Remakri by engine boat in rainy season. The fare of engine boat is BDT 4,000 to 4,500 for round trip. Engine boat is not available in winter and summer season; rather, pedal boat is available. The fare of the pedal boat is BDT 2,000 to 2,500. Visitors have to hit the trail to Nafakhung from Remakri on foot.



Shops are available at Remakri bazar where visitors can take lunch and dinner.



There are few rest houses built by local people. The fare is BDT 500 per night for a room where 8-10 visitors can stay easily. Home stay can also be arranged in Remakri.





Photo: Tusher Ahmed



Baklai Fall



The waterfall is located under Naiting Mouza of Thanchi Upazila of Bandarban Hill District. The fall is adjacent to Baklai village. The name of the fall is attributed after the name of the village.



Visitors can go to the spot from Ruma to Boga Lake by jeep; then to Keaokradong on foot and then Jadiphai Fall.



Travelers should take light food along with. Food can also be arranged at local houses.



Visitors have to stay the night at the Jadiphai village. In the next morning tourists have to trek the hilly path to reach the Baklai fall.



Amiya Khung



Amiya Khung is another spectacular natural waterfall located in Thanchi upazila of Bandarban Hill District. Water of the fall continuously flows from many small hills. The silence of the nature and relaxing sound of the waterfall can make any nature loving tourists feel very special.



It's better for the visitors to take a tourist guide. Reaching Amiya Khung by walking along with the hilly river adds more adventure to the trip. On the way to this waterfall, visitors may have to stay at night at Zinnah Para. Next morning they can take the way to Amiya Khung waterfall.



It is good to take dry food along. Visitors can find food at Zinnah village if they stay there at night.



Accommodation can also be arranged at Zinnah Para.

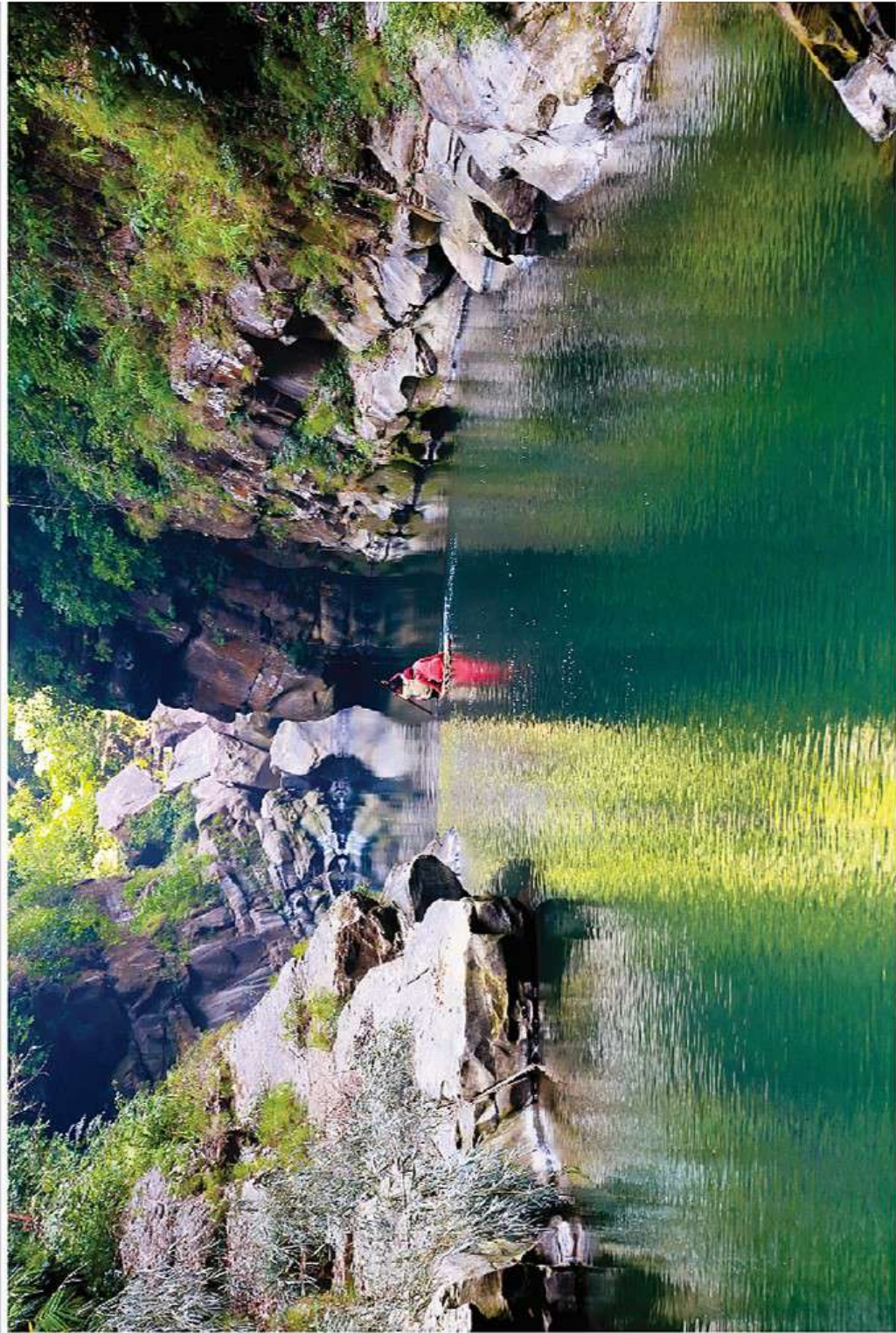


Photo: Aye Aye Maung

Shatvai Khung



Shatvai Khung is located a bit up of Amiya Khung. One can reach there by bamboo raft (vela). Vela is a kind of little boat made of bamboo used for transportation. It takes 10 minutes to cross this waterway and it's really a unique waterway. There one can see the big rocky mountains and feel a heavenly quiet silence. The feeling of riding vela through this transparent waterway is really unforgettable. If somebody wants to hide from the usual busy life, this is surely the most wonderful place to be lost in serene and calm nature.

Mirinja Tourist Complex



It is located about 7 km away from Lama Upazila of Bandarban Hill District. This is about 1500 feet high from the sea level. Mirinja Tourist Complex is managed by the Parjatan Corporation. It is a famous picnic spot. In good weather, visitors can view Maheshkhali Island, Bay of Bengal, the Matamuhuri River and Lama Upazila at a glance from this complex. The entry fee is BDT 20



each. Visitors can take jeep or any other vehicle from Chakaria, on the way to Chittagong-Cox's bazar to reach Mirinja. The Bus fare from Chakaria to Mirinja is BDT 50 only. Jeep can be hired by BDT 500 from Chakaria.



Photo: Sai Sing Aung

Upaban



Upaban Lake is located in Naikhongchari of Bandarban Hill District. This is 2 km away from Naikhongchari Upazila Sadar. The hanging bridge of the lake is the longest hanging bridge in Bandarban Hill District. The tranquility of the nature and chirping of various birds delight the tourists. This is also a great place for picnic. Tourists can easily visit the place by taking any kind of vehicle from Naikhongchari sadar.



It is always great to show respect to the local people and their cultures. Local clothing, food habits, behaviors, language and many customs may not be similar to yours. However, never disrespect anyone due to the dissimilarities.

Alir Surongo (Ali's Tunnel)



The Tunnel is located in Alikadam upazila of Bandarban. It is 4 km from the upazila town. There is a lot of myth among the locals about this Tunnel. Some people believe once Hazrat Ali (R) came to this place. Some believe that this Tunnel was built by the British troops during the World War II. History says that, 18 Arakanese (Myanmar) kings took Muslim titles for the welfare of their kingdom. Of

those, King Mangkhari ascended the throne in 1434 and reigned till 1459. His Muslim title was 'Ali Khan'. In 1531, King Thazatha reigned. His Muslim surname was Ali Shah. It is argued that Ali's Tunnel could be built at that time. However, whatever the myth, the Tunnel is too mysterious to fathom unless being there in person.



It is easy to take auto-rickshaw from Alikadam bus stand, upazila sadar or from paan bazar to go to Ali's Tunnel. It's 4km away from the Alikadam-Thanchi road. One can also go on foot from Matamuhuri Bridge area during winter season through the bank of Tain-khal. Flashlights should be kept while roaming the Tunnel.



Few shops are there at paan bazar and on the north of Ali Bazar on the way to Ali's Tunnel. Tourists can have some light snacks including lunch in those shops at paan bazar.



There is a rest house at Alikadam Sadar managed by Upazila Parishad. On availability, tourists can stay there. Besides, there are some privately operating resorts like Damtua Inn and Restaurant, Alikadam Boarding and Shaila Kuthi Resort. The rent varies from Tk 500-2000.



Damtua Falls



Damtua fall is one of the greatest natural wonders in Bandarban. The structure and motion of this waterfall is really fascinating. This is one of the largest fall of the country. Water from the fall splashes on top of the mountain and gets converted into vapor. It looks like full of misty cloud in the deep of the hills. It's a 5 hours walk

through mountainous roads and slopes to Damtua fall. The track is somewhere high, somewhere low. Rainy season is the best time to watch and experience the spectacular beauty of this fountain.



One can go to Damtua Fall from Alikadam bus stand, Alikadam Bazar and Paanbazar. Jeeps are available at the bus stand and motorcycles at Paanbazar. One has to go 17 km through the Alikadam-Thanchi road to Adu murong para by jeep or motorcycle. It's approximately a three hour walk via adu para. Local tourist guides are available at adu para bazar to guide you to damtua.



There is no restaurant in the vicinity of damtua. So, it's better to buy some light snacks from local shops at Paanbazar.



Tourists can enjoy a night stay at local Mro para near damtua taking permission from the army. There are also some other night hold facilities in Alikadam sadar.



Rupmuhuri Falls

Rupmuhuri waterfall is one of the spectacular gift of nature to Alikadam upazila. It is located in Poamuhuri area, approximately 40 km away from upazila sadar. There are 4 more waterfalls in Poamuhuri area. To enjoy the beauty of this overwhelming natural waterfall, you have to walk along the western side of water stream from Poamuhuri Bazar to the side of Matamuhuri River. There are tricky clay and somewhere rocky soil on the spillway. Transparent water of Rupmuhuri fall splashes from about two hundred feet high through an oval rocky wall.



Till now, the only way to go to Rupmuhuri fall is engine boat through the Matamuhuri River. With the permission of army, tourists have to hire an engine boat from Matamuhuri bridge area at Alikadam sadar. It's a 4 to 5 hours journey by boat. However, it is estimated that the undergoing construction of Alikadam-Kurukpata-Poamuhuri road will be completed by the year 2021. Presumably it would be possible to access the sites directly through these roads.



There are restaurants and shops in Poamuhuri bazar. Also, tourists can carry some snacks and light meal with them.



With the permission of army, tourist can spend the night at the hotel in poamuhuri bazar or in local Mro para though tourists are usually not allowed to stay there. So, it's better to return by the day time.

Maraing Tong Jadi



This Jadi is located in a soothing environment. It is a part of The Mirinja Mountains. Maraing Tong Jadi was built on the summit of mountain (about 2,000 feet high) by Buddhist monks in 1992. Standing on top of the mountain one can feel a profound relation between green nature and blue sky. Green hills to the east and scenic beauty of the Matamuhuri River together soothe the eyes of the beholder. The world's longest Sea Beach of Cox's bazar can be seen in the west. In

1993, a Buddha statue was erected here with the funding of Bandarban Hill District Council. Besides, several more statues have been erected. The first Maraing Tong Maha Buddhist fair was organized on 5th January in 1995. A three day festival is organized here in every year where Buddhist monk from all over Bangladesh and neighboring countries grace the festival.



To go to the Maraing Tong Jadi from Alikadam Sadar or Chakariaone have to drop by at the Alikadam-Fasiakhali Abashik road bazar. Then, through the southern residential school road, crossing Shilbunia, one have to walk on foot to the top of the Maraing tong hill. Vehicles like Jeep, auto-rickshaw or bike go upto Shilbunia Marma Para; then a 3 hours walk up to the hill.



There are restaurants and shops at Alikadam-Fasiakhali abashik bazar.



Some tourists enjoy staying in the tent at Maraing Tong peak at night. Visitors can also stay at any hotel of Alikadam sadar if they return by the day.



Kra U Tong (Dim Pahar)



Recently Dim Pahar became one of the most attractive tourist spots to the travelers. This infinite beauty and diverse environment is another gift of nature. The height of the east faced road to the Dim Pahar from Alikadam Sadar is more than 2800 ft. The Dim pahar is 22km away from Alikadam. It's an oval shaped

mountain. It's a land of green natural beauty. You will enjoy the scenic beauty of the Shangu River at the east and Thanchi Upazila Sadar from the top of Dim Pahar. The Mirinja Hills range can be seen on the far west side of the horizon.



You can go to Dim Pahar by jeep or motorbike from Alikadam bus stand or Alikadam bazar or paanbazar. You have to show your Identity card to the Bangladesh army at Adupara, around 10 kilometers away from bus stand.



You can buy snacks and light food from Paanbazar or nearby shops. There are also few shops at the base of Dim Pahar.



There are no accommodation facilities at Dim Pahar. You have to stay at Alikadam Sadar or Thanchi Sadar.

Rupali Fall



This waterfall is located in Raicha area nearby Bandarban sadar. It is 6km away from the town. It takes about 15 minutes from Raicha Bazar. It is very eye catchy in rainy season.



Tourists can visit the place by bus or three wheeler vehicle from Bandarban Town to Raicha army checkpost. Tourists will have to go there on foot from the army checkpost.



In many areas of Bandarban many ethnic people still wear their short traditional dresses. Visitors should seek permission before taking pictures of them and to publish anywhere. Photographs of someone during taking bath in rivers or streams should not be clicked without their consent anyway.

Debota Khung (Nait Oyng)



This boundless beautiful ravine or khung is located near Kocchoptoli area of Roangchori Upazila. A very rough but awesome waterfall is streaming through this ravine. Mystic environment, chirping of birds of this paradise can make you feel lost within nature from urban life for a while. You can travel by boat in the

Khung. As Debota Khum is near to Bandarban town, travelers can return by the day. Debota khung becomes a bit risky in rainy season. It's also risky in other seasons as the water here always flows at a very high speed. It is safe to wear life jacket while roaming here.



One has to ride on a bus from Roangchori Bus stand near Bandarban city to Roangchori Sadar. The bus fare is 60 taka each. From Roangchori one has to go to Kocchoptoli by a three wheeler auto that charges Tk 100 each. There is an army camp at Kocchoptoli where visitors need to register their details. Tourists can take a local guide from there. Then one has to walk about 40 minutes to reach Shilbandha Para. Debota Khung is adjacent to Shilbandha para.



Necessary dry food and water can be bought from Kocchoptoli. There is a restaurant on the way from Shilbandha Para to Debota khung where tourists can have lunch within 150 to 180 taka.



No accommodation facility is available in the vicinity of Debota Khung. There are some residential hotels in Roangchori Sadar where travelers can book a room within Tk 500 to 1500.



Boat Ride



Journey by boat would be a special breathtaking event for those who can manage time during their visit to Bandarban Hill District. Visitors can enjoy a journey by boat in the river of Shangu from Bandarban to Thanchi upward viewing natural beauty of river sides. The more visitors go upwards, the more speeds of the current and the size of the river get narrower. There are lots of stones scattered across the Shangu River.

Many big stones are also seen on the way to Ruma and Thanchi. There are lots of picnic spots around the river banks. Tourists can choose a spot for picnic anywhere they wish. Tourists may seek help from boatman for cooking. Necessary goods must be bought from Bandarban bazar before commencing the boat journey.

Tourists can take auto rickshaw or three wheelers to go to Kyawching ghata, the place where boats are available. Engine boat can be hired from the boat stoppage. It is a good idea to book an engine boat before the day of journey.



Boat Fare

Destination	Upto 10 persons	Upto 15 persons
Braitali Para	800 Taka	900 Taka
Taracha	1200 Taka	1500 Taka
Bandura Jharna	1500 Taka	1800 Taka
Sinai Para Lake	1500 Taka	1800 Taka
Betchora Bara Palli	1700 Taka	2000 Taka
All Spot upto Betchara	1800 Taka	2000 Taka
Per Hour Fare	700 Taka	800 Taka





Photo: Sai Sing Aung

places to
STAY





View from Nilachol Photo: Saiful Bablu

Parjatan Motel

Parjatan Motel is situated on the way to Dhaka or Chittagong from Bandarban Town. It's 5 km far from Bandarban town. This motel is run by the Bangladesh Tourism Corporation. It has all the modern amenities required for a tourist. There is a restaurant which has a variety of delicious Bangladeshi dishes and various foreign dishes. There is a seating arrangement for 80 person at a time. The contemporary motel surrounded by mountains attracts tourists very easily. There is ample parking facility and standby electric generator facility, etc. The Meghla police camp is in front of the tourist motel and the Raicha Army Camp is also at nearby area. From here it is very convenient to travel anywhere in Bandarban.



☎ Contacts: 01991139548



Holiday Inn Resort

Holiday Inn Resort and Lakeview Restaurant is located near to Parjatan Motel. Both are run by private organizations. The charming environment of this resorts surrounded by open forests offers tourists unprecedented pleasure. Lake View restaurant features a variety of local and foreign cuisines. There is a seating arrangement for 100 person at a time. This resort has a conference hall ideal for meetings, training, workshop etc. There is also a low cost laundry service for tourists.



☎ Contacts: 01553325347



Venus Resort

A glamorous and sophisticated resort named Venus is located near the Meghla Lake tourist spot, 5 km away from Bandarban Town. There is a lovely lake there. Small cottages are available for rent at the top of the hill. Forest plants and varieties of flower orchards add more beauty to the resort. There is also a good quality restaurant and coffee house in this resort.



📞 Contacts: 01552808000





Venus Resort Photo: Aye Aye Maung

Sairu Hill Resort

Sairu Hill Resort is a unique example of modern architecture. It's located at 20 km away from Bandarban Town. The resort has been built with the fusion of modern touch keeping the natural environment intact. It has all the wonderful amenities. This resort might be your first choice if you want to take a break from your busy life and enjoy the silence of the forest.



📞 Contacts: 01887057777



Hotel Aranna

The hotel is located beside the Bandarban-Chimbuk road, nearby the post office.



☎ Contacts: 01874555005

Hill View Hotel



It is located at the bus stand of Bandarban town. Restaurant, Convention Hall and various transportation facilities are available from this hotel.

☎ Contacts: 01828866000



Hotel Hillton

This hotel is located at the bus station nearby Officers' Club. It is standard and situated at the heart of the town. Jeep and Micro-bus station is located beside the hotel. Thus, it is quite easy for tourists to get around the town from this hotel.




 Contacts: 01747626111

Royal Hotel

Royal Hotel is situated at the heart of the town nearby K.S. Prue Market. The Hotel is famous for neat, clean and good services to the customers.



 Contacts: 01832760749

Hotel Green Land

The Hotel is located at the main road (nearby the Post Office) of the Chimbuk Road. It is very quiet and relaxing.

 Contacts: 01810058025



Palki Guest House

The Guest House is situated on top of a hill (close to main Post Office) of Chimbuk road. The place is very calm and relaxing.

 Contacts: 01812686755



Bono Nibash


This Resort is located nearby Ruma Bus station on the way to Chimbuk. It is a place of calm and tranquility away from the town. Nature lovers who wishes to listen to the sound of birds chattering and enjoy serene beauty of nature may stay at this hotel.

 Contacts: 01725159415



Forest Hill Resort


Forest Hill Resort is situated at Milonchori area on the Bandarban-Chimbuk road. There are many colorful cottages throughout the resort. Natural beauty of river bank of the Shangu can be seen from this resort.

 Contact: 01865246101



Nilambari Resort

Nilambari Resort was established along with Nilachal Tourist Spot. Entire Bandarban Town is visible from this resort. The resort is designed in combination with the green nature at the top of the hill. Nilambari resort is a unique spot for watching sunrise and sunset from mountains.

 Contact: 01551444000



Hillside Resort

It is situated in a hillside known as Milonchory, 4 km away from Bandarban town on the way to Chimbuk. Small cottages are built in resemblance with different house style of different Ethnic people of Chittagong Hill District. The place has already become famous for film making.



Contact: 01711858495, 01730045083

Shoilokuthi Resort

Shoilokuthi Resort has been set up on the embankment of the Matamuhuri River in Alikadam upazila. This resort is developed artistically. It has gained wide popularity countrywide. Shoilokuthi Resort currently has 2 cottages, aesthetic restaurants, cafes, campfire and viewpoints with other entertainment arrangements.



Contact: 01519770077, 01647133444

Ecosense Resort

People who love offbeat places, remote destinations and complete isolation couldn't find a place better than this. Ecosense Resort in the hills of Bandarban is truly spectacular! Words fail to do justice to its unique charm. This all season destination in Bandarban is sure to cast its magical spell on you in the first go itself. Looking at this you will find it to be an ordinary cottage.

It is about 6km from Bandarban town. Near the Nilachol Tourist Spot.



Contact: 01777765789



Contact number of hotels and resorts

Name of Hotel	Contact Number
Hotel Hill Crown	01837505551
Hotel Hill Bird	01823346382
Hotel Hill Queen	01714368349
Hotel Green Hill	01726800862
Hotel Purabi	01823346383
Hotel Hill City	01553144244
Hotel Hill Night Heaven	01739865251
Master Guest House	01852678891
Hotel Darjeeling	01857271594
Hotel Rahul	01740605111
Hotel Sumaiya Plaza	01820402427
Hotel Bilkis	01746339028
Hotel Shawon	01820400719
Hero Boarding	01812101300
Hotel The Paradise	01728707073
Paharika Guest House	01833886681
Hotel Garden City	01815509608
Atithi Hotel	01813526919
Hotel Four Star	01813278731
Hotel Nilgiri	01558421319
Hotel Hill Palace	01814200918
Hotel Paharika	01820424433
Green Peak Resort	01845776633
Hotel Night Heaven	01876000444
Meghaloy Hill Resort	01842775660
River View Hotel	01733115585
Hotel Three Star	01974612355
Hotel Azmir	01817055108

places to EAT



Knain Hang



Hmai Hang



Ngakhrak Hang

Food is available at hotels, motels, resorts and restaurants in Bandarban town. You will be happy to find some good restaurants which may provide food according to your taste.

Local traditional food is also found in many restaurants besides common food. Restaurants of local food are available in Madhyam para and Ujanipara. The flavors of local food are quite different from the Bengali food that is usually found in many common restaurants. Visitors may arrange food at villagers' house in remote tourist spots. This might be a good memorable event to recollect of having food at the locals house.



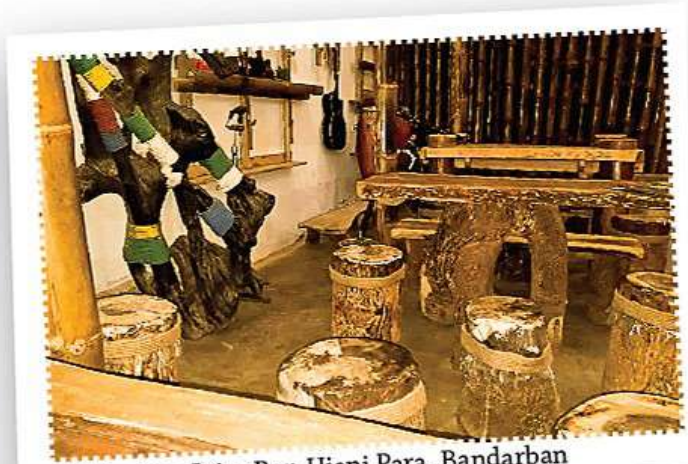
Venus Resort and Coffee House, Meghla



Cup of Joy, Bandarban Sadar



Choruvati Restaurant, Rajar Math, Bandarban Sadar



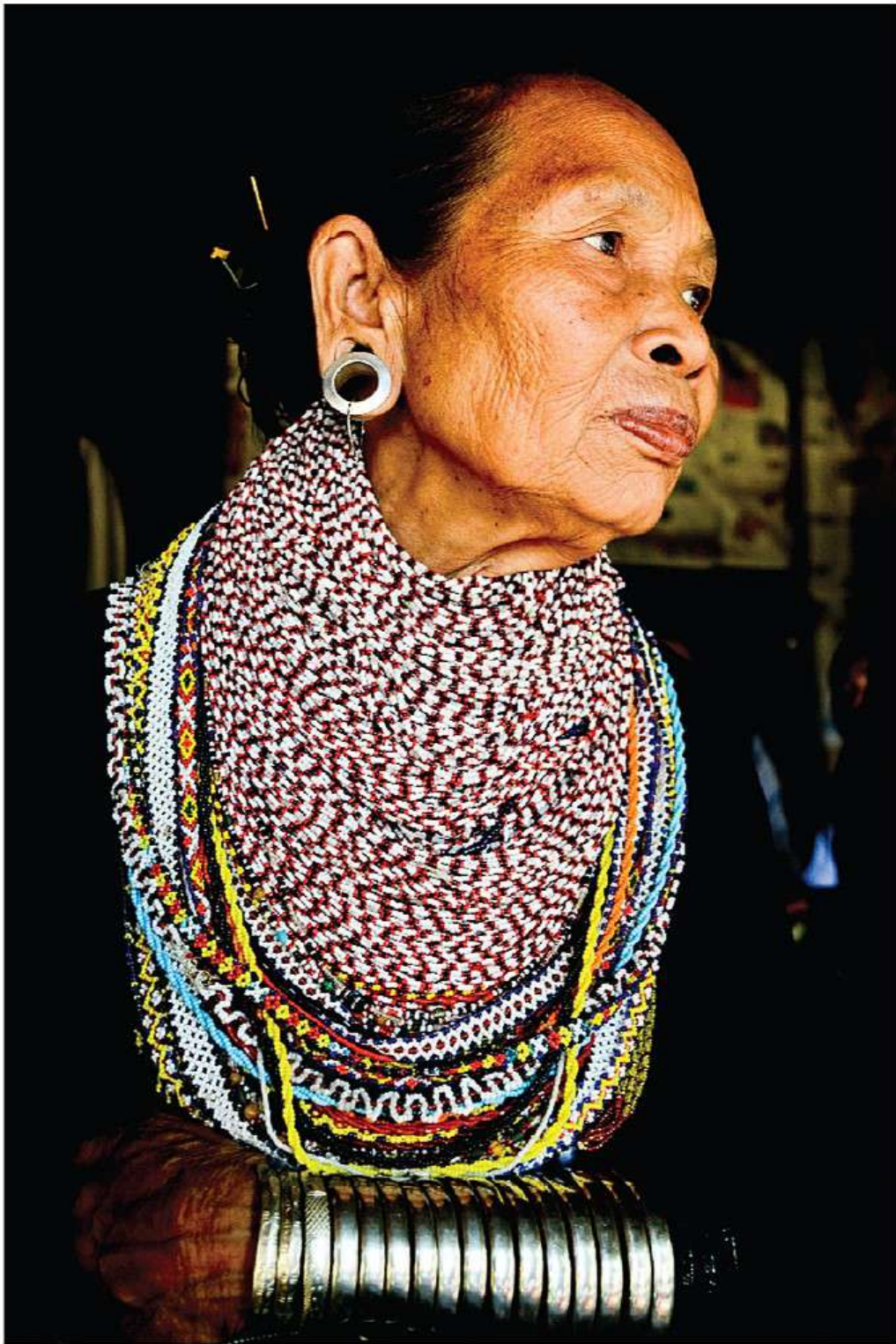
Rikhyaing Juice Bar, Ujani Para, Bandarban



Feast Restaurant, Officers' Club Market, Bandarban Sadar



Chainda Café, Beside Shorno Mondir, Balaghata, Bandarban



Tripura woman Photo: Mong Khing Marma

the PEOPLE



The beauty of Bandarban lies with its people. Apart from Bengali community, people from 11 different ethnic communities are to be seen here with their own vibrant culture, tradition, language, norms, festival and heritages. The peaceful coexistence of people from all communities makes Bandarban unique in terms of peace and prosperity. Although many different things are observed within the ethnic groups, many similarities are also found among them in terms of shifting cultivation, house pattern and many cultural festival observances. Languages of the people belong to language families of the Indo-Asian, Sianese Chinese and Tibetan Burmese.

11 different ethnic groups are The Marma, Mro, Tripura, Bawm, Tangchangya, Chakma, Chak, Khyang, Khumi, Lushai and Pangkhua. The harmonious relation between Bangali and ethnic people are noteworthy here.

Marma

Marma people are majority in number in Bandarban Hill District. Though, Marma people lives in 3 hill districts in Chittagong Hill Tracts, their main concentration is in Bandarban Hill District. The word 'Marma' comes from 'Mraima'. The clan Marma of Chittagong Hill Tracts came from Myanmar (Burma). Thus, they named themselves 'Marma' from the word Mraima. The Marma

people belong to the Mongolian race. They believe in Buddhism. Marma people use the scripts of Burmese language for writing though they have their own language. The Marma society is patriarchal. Marma women are given their father's heritage. The main food of Marma people is rice. Pangkhung, Jaik, Kapya etc. are very famous in Marma culture. Their main festivals are The Sangrai poye,



Mro

The term Mro means 'human being'. In their history, Arakanese recognized the Mro as ancient and a well off ethnic group. The Mro people live in high hill areas of Bandarban district. The Mro people are mainly animists though these days some of them believe in Christianity, Buddhist and Krama religion. They have no religious scripture. Buddhism has great influence in their lives. They still maintain and exercise their traditional dress and traditional festivals. Many of them still believe in traditional healing, black magic and witchcraft. They also sacrifice goat, pig, chicken and cow to protect them from evil. They worship big trees, stones, streams and big mountain. Mro people are disadvantaged and marginalized in education. Thus, they are still lag behind in employment and education. They have discovered their own writing system and practice it.



Tripura



Historically the Tripura people are very ancient in Indian sub-continent. Tripura people ethnically belong to the Mongolian race. About five thousand years ago, the forefather of this ethnic people came to Chittagong Hill Tracts and other eastern parts of India through central Asia-Tibet and Siberia from Mongolia. A section of Ethnic group is known as the 'Bodo' or 'Boro'. They were recognized as the Tripuras later. Tripura people practices patriarchal system in their society. Some of the Tripuras mainly who lives in Khagrachari Hill District, believe in Hinduism while some who live in Bandarban Hill District and Rangamati Hill District believe in Christianity (Catholic). The main cultural festival of the Tripura is 'Boisuk'. Tripura women love ornaments. In the past, they were fond of silver ornaments. However, these days they are similarly keen to wear ornaments made of gold and other metal. Most of the Tripuras live on slash and burn cultivation. Many of them who are educated are engaged in various jobs and business.





Bawm

It is assumed that the origin of the Bawm people was in the middle of the Irawadi and the Chindwen rivers in Myanmar. Historians predict that their origin was in the hill ranges of Chinlung of China. Later they came to Myanmar. Chinlung refers to a mountain full of stones. Lots of stones are seen around the villages of the Bawms. The Bawm are now Christians though once upon a time they were animists. Their cultural practices have also been changed followed by their religious beliefs. Once upon a time, the Bawm people used to address God 'Khajing'. They used to worship a spirit known as 'Kornobul'. They offered chicken to Kornobul. Bawms have their own language and they use Roman scripts.





Tangchangya

The Tangchangyas are thought to be part of the Chakma race due to linguistic and cultural similarity. They are identified as a different ethnic group because of some of their distinct characters. Tangchangyas are easily differentiated from the Chakmas in terms of traditional clothes, ornaments and house pattern. The Tangchangya people belong to the ethnic background of the South-Eastern part of Mongolian ethnicity. Language of the Tangchangas is similar to Aryan old Bengali language. Lots of words from Pali and Sangskrit languages are found in this language. They believe in Buddhism. The Tangchangyas live in Machang houses. Once upon a time the Tangchangyas were known as the Doinak in Arakan who came to the North-West of Toinchari of the Matamuhuri river. The Toin Tongya and the Tangchangya refer to same ethnicity. Buddha worships, the full moon observance, Bishu, Kothin Chibor Dan and Maghi Purnima are their main festivals.





Chakma

The Chakmas are majority in number in Chittagong Hill Tracts, The Chakmas belong to Mongolian race. They have their own language and scripts. Their language is a part of Indo-Aryan language family. There are huge similarity between Chakma language and local Bengali dialect of Chattogram. Although there is no specific information on the Chakmas arrival in Chittagong Hill Tracts, there are lots of evidence of starting of their dwelling in Chittagong Hill Tracts in early 16th Century. Chakma people usually live nearby rivers and on top of the hills. Most of the Chakmas are Buddhists though few of them practice animism. Biju is their main religious and social festival. Their folklores and literature are very rich. The folk song known as 'ubogit' is very famous. In the past, the 'ubogit' was sung while young men and women fell in love. It is also known as love song. Chakma women are well known for making marvelous handloom. Though the Chakma people used to live on shifting cultivation in the past, they are now well educated and pursue livelihood at home and abroad.



Chak

Arakanese call them The Shak or Mingshak. The word Chak means 'to stand'. Thousand years ago, the Chak used to live at the source of the Irawady River in Myanmar. Although they are known as Chak to others, they call themselves 'Achak'. The Chak people came from Arakan. Their own language is 'Tu'. They believe in Buddhism. Their marital system is controlled by their clan system. Their social rituals are very similar to the Marma people in many ways. They are mainly concentrated in Naikhongchari upazila of the district.



Khyang



The Khyang people live on slash and burn cultivation. They used to move here and there often due to their livelihood. However, these days they live permanently in Bandarban and Rangamati. Though they are known as Khyang to different communities, they call themselves 'Hyo'. Their language belongs to the Kuki-Chin language family. The Khyangs are originally Buddhists and animists. However, these days many of them have converted into Christianity. Their main festival is 'Henei' or harvesting festival. Most of them live in Dalupara close to Bandarban town.



Khumi

Majority of the Khumi people live in Chin State of Myanmar nearby Arakan State. It is historically known that due to a communal conflict in Myanmar some of the Khumis moved to remote areas of the Bandarban hundred years back. They are mainly animists. In terms of behavior, traditional clothes, cultural practices and marriage system they are similar to the Mro people. One of the main festivals among the Khumi is 'Avang Ja' or a ritual of protecting village from evil. The Khumi ladies love to beautify themselves with silver ornaments. They live on shifting cultivation. The Khumi believe in animism, Christianity and Krama. Khumi men and women usually keep long hair.





Photo: Faridul Alam Suman

Lushai

Majority of the Lushai lives in Mizoram state of India. They are named after the Lushai hill in Mizoram. Most of the Lushai people moved back to Mizoram during the partition in 1947. Their Language also belongs to the Kuki-Chin language family. They have distinct folk songs and dances like other ethnic people. They used to believe in animism before they converted into Christianity. Their clothes are well designed and patterned. Their language and culture is very rich and developed.



Pangkhua

The Pangkhua used to live in a forest full of silk cotton or a place where the flower of silk-cotton trees bloom. Therefore, they call themselves the Pangkhuas. Some argued that they belong to the Lushai clan. It is often seen that they don't hesitate to identify themselves as a part of the Lushai. Women of the community love to use ornaments made by bronze. Their Language belongs to the Tibetan Kuki-Chin language families. There are some similarities between Pangkhua and Lushai. All of them believe in Christianity.



FESTIVALS



Marma water festival



Marma traditional dance



Tripura traditional dance



Boisabi

The Boi-Sa-Bi is observed with utmost festivity in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The term 'Boi-Sa-Bi' is a combination that refers to 'Boisuk' in Tripura, the 'Sangrai' in Marma, 'Bizu' in Chakma, 'Bisu' in Tangchangya. Moreover, the Mro calls it 'Changkran', the Khyang calls it 'Shangran' and the Khumi calls it 'Sangkrai'. This is a social festival that every ethnic group celebrates in their own ways to say good bye to old year and welcome a new year. Few days before the celebration of festival they clean their houses, clothes and surrounding areas and bring festive charm all around their houses. On the day of the Boi-Sa-Bi, making local cakes, seeking blessings of young boys and girls from old people for their good luck are very much adorable social custom and tradition of this festival. On the second day, the Marma people observe the Sangrai festival by throwing water to each other with view of washing away sorrows of past year and at the same time welcoming a new year.

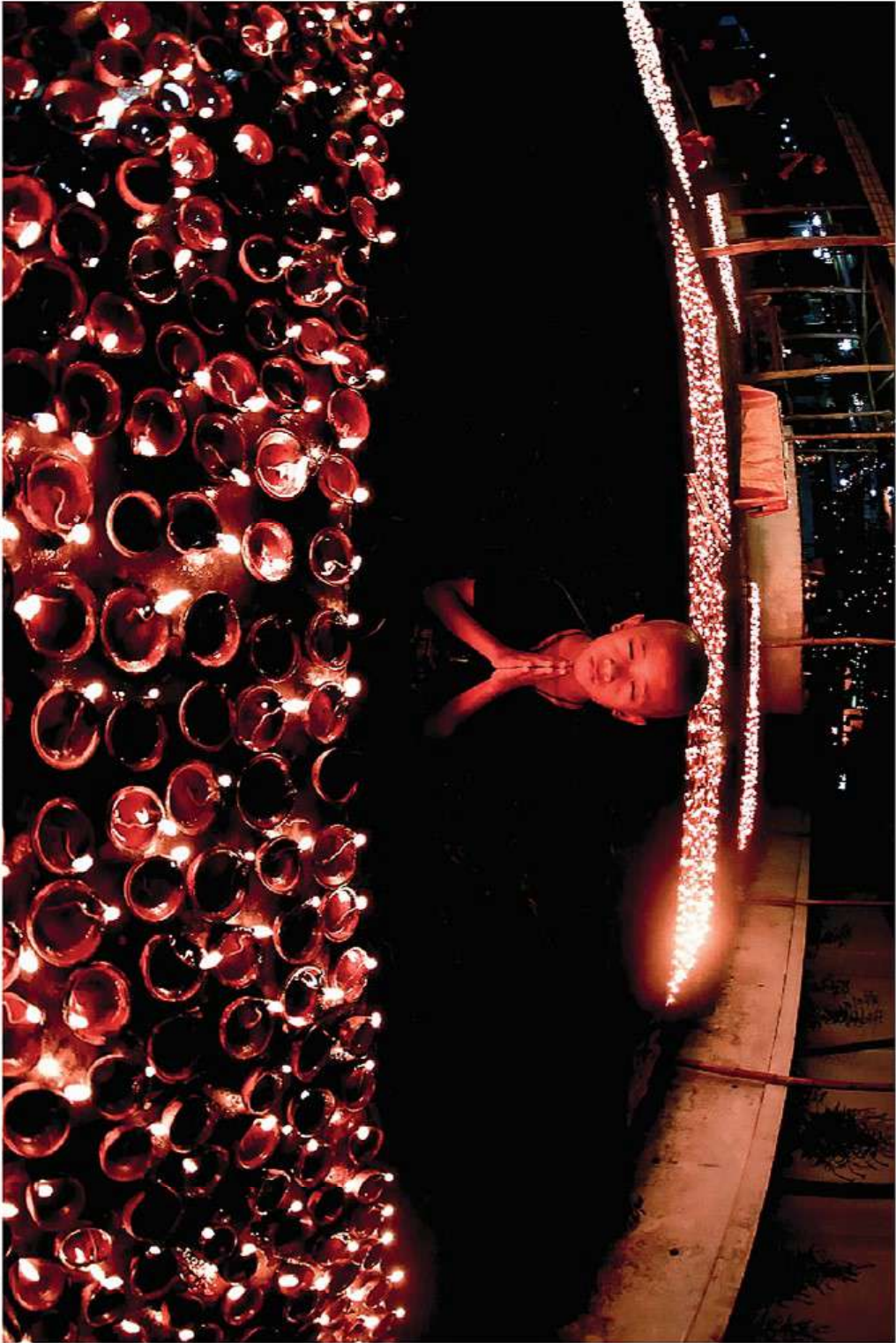
Chittagong Hill Tracts become lively during these days. However, Bawm, Lushai and Pangkhua do not celebrate Bio-Sa-Bi due to their different beliefs.





Some moments of Sangrai water festival





A Buddhist devotee worshipping in the occasion of Probarona Purnima ■ Photo: Aye Aye Maung



Bandarban Hill District becomes very cheerful and joyous during the full moon known as Wagyo festival among the Buddhist community. The Marma people call it Wagyo. Main attractions during this festival are flying Lamp Air Balloon, locally known as Fanush, and the arrangement of dragging a Chariot. Moreover, Buddhist temples are well decorated with colorful lights during this festival. Young girls and boys remain busy whole night with making local cakes. The sky smiles with hundreds of lamp air balloons during night time. The festival of dragging a chariot becomes very cheerful and alive with the participation of young boys and girls. Later, the chariot is thrown into the Shangu River at midnight.

Probarona or Wagyo



Thlaithar Festival

Every family becomes happy and delighted after harvesting grains from Jum field cultivation. The Marma people call this festival of tasting new crops kokshawi. On the day of the festival they go to temples to offer their new crops to monks. They also invite neighbors and relatives on the day. The Khyang calls it Henell and the Bawm and Lushai call it "Thlaithar".

Anaibuk Poye

The Anaibuk Poye, festival of tasting new crops, is the main folk festival of the Chak. This festival is celebrated after harvesting all crops. Many Chaks live on shifting cultivation. The Chak people usually arrange this festival in September before commencing any work or on the first day of work. On the first day of harvesting crops, they go to a local astronomer or a fortune teller to seek advice if the day is good to start their work. The Chaks invite relatives for having new rice and crops.

Henei

The Henei festival is celebrated by few families jointly. Khyangs usually celebrate it when they put seeds into the ground and harvest crops from Jum cultivation. They usually celebrate this Henei festival 3 times a year. This is also known as

festival of tasting new rice. Villagers celebrate the festival jointly by sacrificing a cow or buffalo in a stream. They cook the meat of the cow or buffalo altogether, offer cooked foods to spirits and they eat together. Some also drink local wine during festivals.

Ker Ritual

The word of 'Ker' means boundary. This ritual is arranged by the King (Moharaja) of Tripura to protect their state and civilians from natural disaster, cholera and enemies. Later Ker ritual got confined in regions and even villages. The Ker ritual has different names; such as if it is observed within a village, then it is called 'Grammudra'; if it is observed within region, then it is known as 'Mohamudra'; and if it is celebrated across a state, then it is called 'Rajmudra'. The Tripura people in Bangladesh usually celebrate the ritual within villages. Ker ritual is a universal worshiping ceremony for villagers based on a co-operative society. Everyone participates in the ritual. During Ker ritual outsiders are not allowed to come into village where the ritual takes place. If someone comes into the village willingly or unwillingly, he/she must be fined as per the rules of the ritual.



Chiyashod Poi (Cow killing festival)

Chiyashod Poi (The Cow killing Festival) is held at a convenient time of November to February. The Mro people believe that there is a supernatural power behind the creation of Moon, Sun, Planets and Stars, Earth and animals of the world who is the God or Thurai. Thurai decided to give religious scriptures to all nations of their own to keep them in the right path. The leaders from different nations came to God and took their respective religious books but Mros did not come to receive their book on that day as they were busy with harvesting crops at Jum field. The next day God sent the book to the Mros by a cow. The cow started its journey to bring the book to the Mros. On the way the cow took a nap under a banyan tree

keeping the book under its head making it as pillow since it was unbearable. The cow was hungry when he woke up in the evening and subsequently ate the book. Since then the Mros consider the cow as their enemy. God cursed the cow saying that until the Mros get another religious scripture, it will be punished by the Mro people. Meanwhile, many Mros have already accepted the scripts and religion discovered by Menle Mro. They now do not observe the cow killing festival.



Photo: Najim Uddin

Rajpunya

The Rajpunya is a traditional festival when Circle Chief collects taxes from shifting cultivators. A portion of taxes is deposited with the government exchequer. The formal occasion of tax collection is called the 'Rajpunya'. On the occasion a glorious folk-fair is arranged at the Rajar Math in Bandarban town every year. The Rajpunya is observed on a convenient time at the end of December or first week of January. The Headmen, representatives of Bohmong Raja collect revenue from their respective jum cultivators and hand over the revenue to the Raja (Circle Chief) on the day of the Rajpunya. People of the district and outside come to the festival few days before the Rajpunya. Guest rooms remain open at the Chief's Palace for visitors and general people. In the morning Raja

attends the Darbar (audience hall) wearing royal dress. Ladies and gentlemen welcome the Raja by throwing flowers on him. The Raja's traditional soldiers, messengers and thousands of people including government officials, diplomats and many foreigners join the festival. The Headmen and Karbaris (village leaders) kneel down to bow the Raja in throne and hand over the collected revenue to him along with many offerings of fruits, chickens and local wine. This festival goes on for 3 to 5 days. In the festival traditional products are sold. Many traditional games, circus, housie and puppet shows amuse people during this festival.



The Bohmong Thong

Bohmongree Kong Hla Prue started to settle around Sangu river in Bandarban Hill District of CHTs in 1727 AD with his followers. His successors Bohmongree Htet Htan Prue, Bohmongree Kong Hla Nyo and Bohmongree Maung Prue administered the circle respectively. In May 1900 during the rule of Bohmongree Saw Hla Prue Circle Chief, Headmen, Karbari and Rouza were authorized to collect taxes through the annexation of CHT Regulation of 1900 besides the Deputy Commissioner.

The Bohmong Circle consists of 114 Mouzas- 95 Mouzas of Bandarban Hill District and 14 Mouzas of Rangamati District. The Bohmong Circle is for Bandarban Hill District, Chakma Circle is for

Rangamati Hill District and Mong Circle is for Khagrachari Hill District. The Circle Chiefs are known as Rajas. The Circle Chiefs are responsible for implementation of customary laws and some administrative works in relation to lands. The Circle Chiefs are famous and respected to the people of the circles. They have been taking lead roles for centuries in the social, cultural and traditional arenas of the different ethnic peoples of the areas.



Jum (shifting cultivation)

Shifting cultivation is the main livelihood of the most of the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts though lots of changes have taken place in agricultural sector. The ethnic people of Chittagong Hill Tracts cut jungle in January & February within their village boundaries for shifting cultivation. Then they burn the jungle at the beginning of April after drying the field for about a month or more and plant different crops across the field. This is a part of their tradition. This shifting cultivation system is only to be found in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The main grains for Jum field are rice, cotton, chilly, pumpkin, corn, ginger, sesame seed etc.

Farmers start harvesting crops from July. Rice is harvested in September while cotton is harvested in October. Shifting cultivation is completely interwoven in the lives of the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts. Traditional rituals are blended closely with different stages of shifting cultivation. Lots of spellbinding folk songs and dances are also performed in different cultures and societies of ethnic peoples of CHTs. However, these days many ethnic people are tending to horticulture and mixed fruit gardens besides shifting cultivation.



Photo: Faridul Alam Suman



Khudra Nrigosthir Sangskritik Institute

Khudra Nrigosthir Sangskritik Institute of Bandarban has been working for a long time to do promotion, research, conservation and development of ethnic culture. Since its inception in 1976, the organization has been playing a significant role for the development of extinct and near extinct cultures of different ethnic groups. It's introducing the culture of small ethnic groups to the country. This organization publishes various publications on folk tales, allegories and lifestyles of small ethnic tribal groups. In addition, the institute conducts various training and competitions throughout the year. There is a full-fledged museum inside the institute. The history and heritage of Chittagong Hill Tracts and the artifact of different folk cultures of existing eleven ethnic groups are preserved here.

ATM Booths and Mobile Banking

ATM booths of several banks are available in Bandarban town. Agents of all Mobile Financial Services like bKash, Rocket, Nagad etc. are also available at the marketplaces.



Shopping

Lots of local made handlooms and handcrafts are available in the tourist spots of the district. Visitors can also buy some special traditional clothes and souvenirs from the local markets. It is great to go for shopping in the evening after when the market places take a festive look.



Some tips for visitors

Avoid fast food

Visitors may avoid eating fast food before their journey to any places. The fast food may make some unpleasant and awful in stomach while journey.

Negotiate price before you buy

It is wise to negotiate price before visitors buy something or seek for any supports. Do not overpay to any sellers especially rickshaw drivers, boat drivers and CNG drivers. You may need to check the original price of any vehicles. Be aware that your journey may not be the locals' lives expensive.

Keep pure water

Be careful of drinking water. Visitors should be aware of the temperature of the place they will visit, and they should take the amount of drinking water they may need accordingly.

Take backpack

Backpack is important for long journey. Visitors may leave their big bags at hotel and take small backpacks for taking necessary things along with.

Keep necessary equipment and medicine

It is wise to keep paracetamol tablets, antiseptic cream, mosquito repellant cream, saline, gas lighter, pen, dry food and national ID card.

Buy appropriate shoes

If visitors have a plan to go for hiking, then they must buy some appropriate shoes so that they can walk in rivers, on slippery stones and jungles.

Mobile network

Mobile network is not available in many places of Ruma and Thanchi upazilas. Therefore, visitors may finish their necessary phone calls before they depart for those places.

Always keep the NID card with you

If you are visiting different areas of Bandarban, you may have to show your national identity card to the army, BGB or police camps. This is done in the interest of the security of the tourist and to register your name and address. Therefore, please keep your national identity card with you when traveling.

Do not throw fire here and there

Do not throw cigarette or any other fire while hiking or riding on jeeps in hilly areas. Throwing little fire like cigarette butt may cause bush fire and damage huge jungles and even villages. So, visitors must be very careful of throwing fire here and there.

Do not throw wastes

Do not throw things like plastic bottles, cans and any other plastic packets here and there. Try to be environmentally friendly everywhere. Throwing plastic things around may endanger environment.

Just enjoy the beauty of the waterfalls. Please don't get down. Most of the falls here are dense and the rocks are slippery and vulnerable. So it is better to enjoy the beauty from a distance.

Emergency Phone Numbers

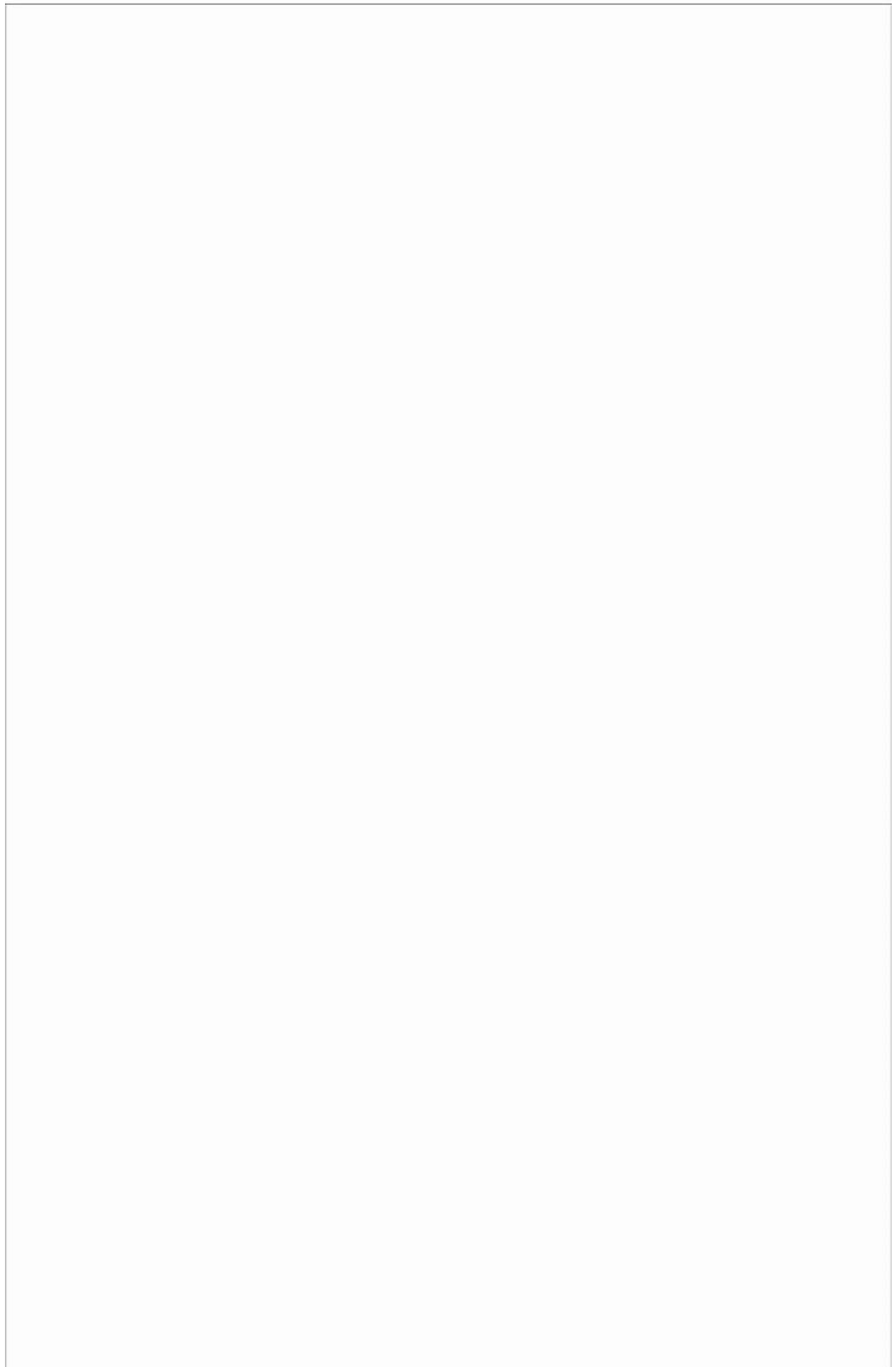
Deputy Commissioner	02333302101, 01556766666
Superintendent of Police	02333302128, 01320110400
Tourist Police	01320159695
Fire Service and Civil Defense	02333302555
Sadar Hospital, Bandarban	01867099767
Power Distribution Center	01553588365
NDC, Deputy Commissioner's Office	02333302706, 01550029471
UNO, Bandarban Sadar	01757338855
UNO, Naikhyongchari	01818125508
UNO, Ruma	01711012357
UNO, Rowangchari	01550007182
UNO, Lama	01771475447
UNO, Thanchi	01550007186
UNO, Alikadam	01708399011
Police Control Room, Bandarban	01769058223
OC, Sadar Thana, Bandarban	01730336166
OC, Ruma Thana	01769058218
OC, Thanchi Thana	01554024030
OC, Rowangchari Thana	01820425642
OC, Lama Thana	01820425644
OC, Naikhyongchari Thana	01820425646
OC, Alikadam Thana	01820425645

Emergency contacts of Bandarban Hill District Council

Administrative Officer	01550601820
Public relations officer (PRO)	01556536396
CA to Chairman	01820400485
CA to Chief Executive Officer	01558670991



A Chakma girl in traditional outfit. Photo: Mong Khing Marma





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