

## BD's tourism lost BDT 26,490cr in 2020 : WTTC

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : Bangladesh's travel and tourism industry, hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, suffered a massive loss of BDT 26,490 crore (USD 3.1 billion) last year, said a latest World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) report.

The WTTC's 2021 Economic Impact Report estimated that the country's travel and tourism sector accumulated a gross domestic product (GDP) of BDT 53,960 crore in 2020, which was BDT 80,450 crore in 2019.

Hence, Bangladesh experienced a 32.9 per cent decrease to the sector's contribution to the economy. Besides, over 4 lac people involved in the country's tourism sector lost their jobs last year amid the crisis.

According to the report, Bangladesh's travel and tourism industry was responsible for more than 1.86 million jobs (2.9 per cent of total employment) in 2019. But in 2020, the number of jobs declined 21.9 per cent to 1.45 million (2.3 per cent of total employment).

The country's domestic travel spending saw a decrease of 33.9 per cent - declining from BDT 68,650 crore in 2019 to BDT 45,380 crore in 2020. Meanwhile, international visitor spending in Bangladesh dropped by 59.7 per cent in 2020 - decreasing from BDT 3,030 crore in 2019 to only BDT 1,220 crore in 2020

