

## Cox's Bazar airport opens new passenger departure lounge

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Dhaka: The newly built passenger departure lounge at Cox's Bazar airport was opened on December 8 to provide more comfort to local and international tourists.

"We have built the new passenger lounge for providing more comfort and facilities to air travelers, especially for tourists," said M Mahbub Ali, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism while inaugurating the lounge.

As per Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive, Ali said the government has taken the initiative to turn Cox's Bazar airport into an international standard one to make the country's most exciting tourism destination as a regional aviation hub to give a boost to the country's travel and leisure industry.

The government is upgrading Cox's Bazar airport at BDT 5,179 crore that includes the construction of a new terminal building, increasing the width of the runway from 9,000 feet to 12,000, feet and setting up an airfield ground lighting system.

The state minister expects that Cox's Bazar would become a popular destination for tourists of India, Nepal, and Bhutan after upgrading the domestic airport to an international one, he mentioned.