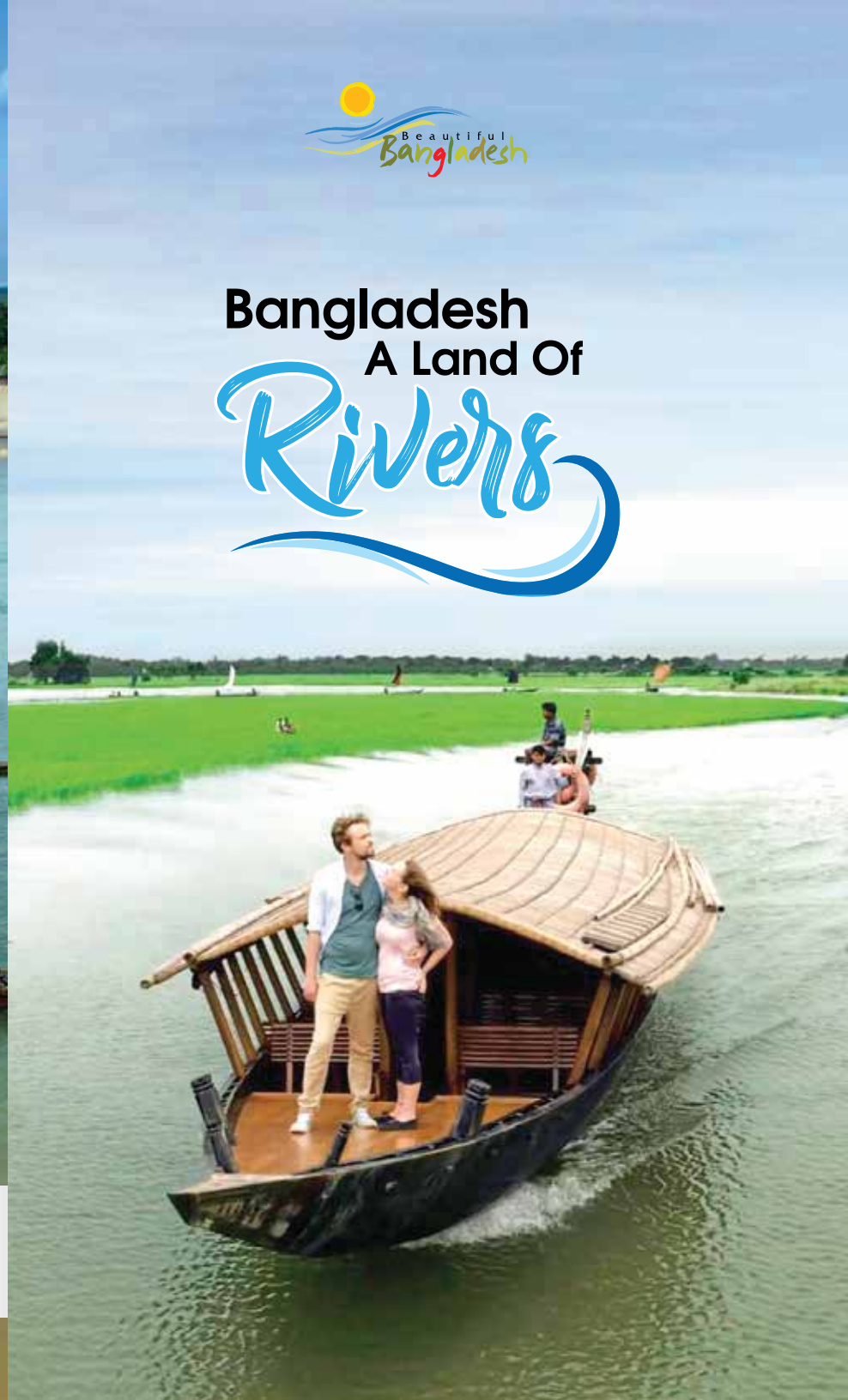




Bangladesh A Land Of *Rivers*



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Rivers of Bangladesh

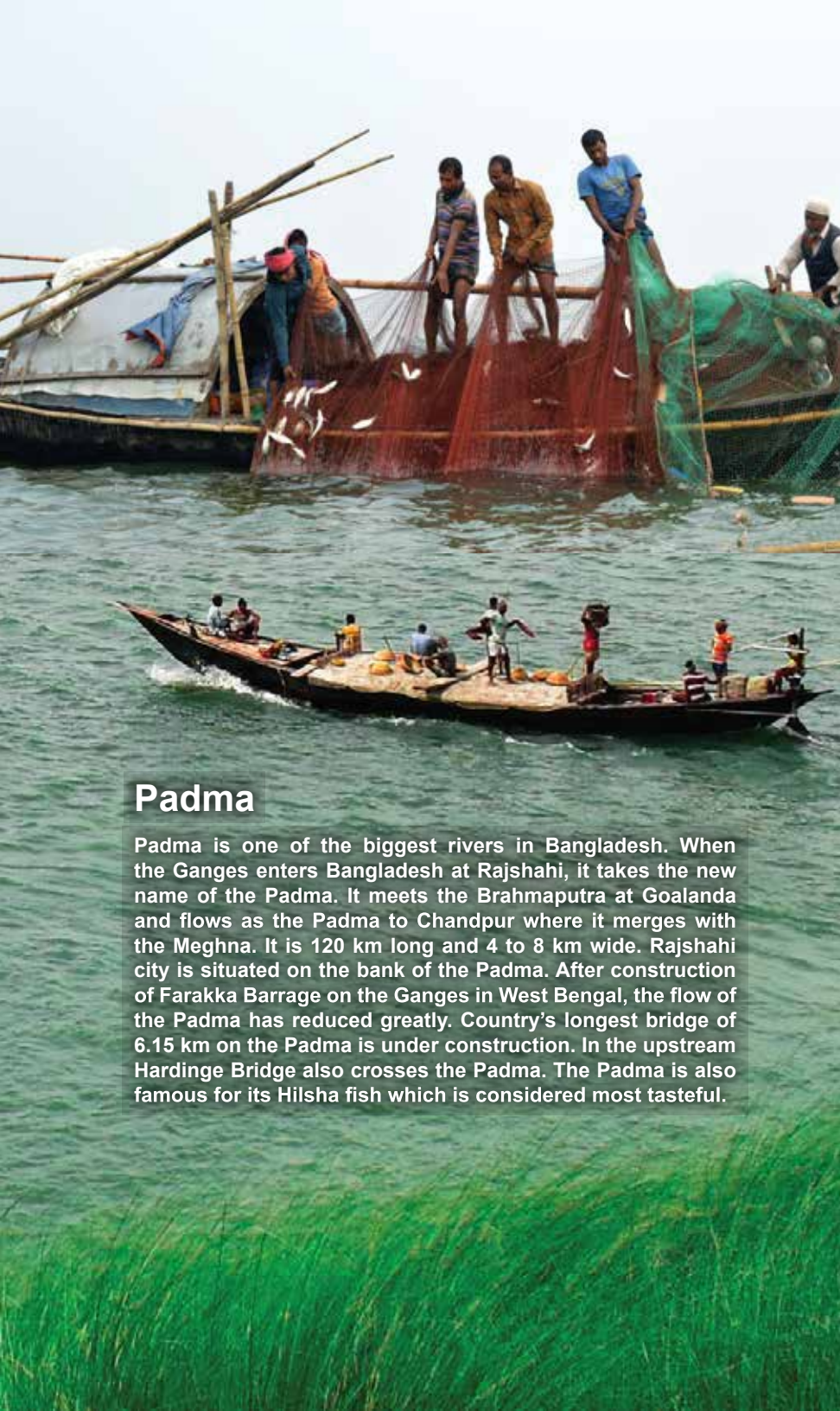
The fascinating scenic beauties of rivers with their expanse of water and the resilient lifestyles of people living by the riverside have made Bangladesh a unique landscape to explore. Bangladesh is a riverine country having as many as 800 rivers that crisscross the land to create the most complex river-system in the world.

Rivers, the integral part of social and cultural life, contribute generously to the national economy and employment. Water transport is very important in Bangladesh and rivers are the main arteries of this system. Rivers abound in fish and other aquatic resources. The wide rivers with boats, fishermen catching fish with traditional nets, the small islets and sandbars here and there are great attractions for the tourists. Boat races are arranged as a part of selected festivals. The children living near the rivers have a regular entertainment in rivers by swimming and jumping into water and playing traditional water games. Whether you cruise the rivers by boats or just stand at their banks and stare, the rivers always have something to give.



THE BOAT RACE IN BANGLADESH

The Boat Race or Nouka Baich is an age-old popular game in riverine areas of Bangladesh. It is an important element of folk culture. Boat races are usually held during the Bengali months of Bhadra and Ashwin. For racing, different types of boats are used: Sarengi boat in Cumilla, Brahmanbaria and Sylhet; Sampan boat in Chattogram and Noakhali; Goyna boat in Dhaka, Faridpur, Tangail and Pabna, etc. Made of local timber, these narrow boats are about 150 to 200 feet in length and 5 to 6 feet in breadth. This traditional race exhibits the boatman's performance and proficiency in giving their boats the maximum speed. The racing boats are manned by 25, 50 or 100 boatmen. Those who row standing take their position at the back. The team leader stays in the middle. The singers and the drummers provide beat and tempo to the boatmen. Thousands of spectators gather on the both banks of the river to watch the boat race. The excitement of the boat race is enjoyed by them. Attractive prizes are distributed among the winners.



Padma

Padma is one of the biggest rivers in Bangladesh. When the Ganges enters Bangladesh at Rajshahi, it takes the new name of the Padma. It meets the Brahmaputra at Goalanda and flows as the Padma to Chandpur where it merges with the Meghna. It is 120 km long and 4 to 8 km wide. Rajshahi city is situated on the bank of the Padma. After construction of Farakka Barrage on the Ganges in West Bengal, the flow of the Padma has reduced greatly. Country's longest bridge of 6.15 km on the Padma is under construction. In the upstream Hardinge Bridge also crosses the Padma. The Padma is also famous for its Hilsha fish which is considered most tasteful.

Padma Bridge



An epoch-making decision has taken by honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to construct the 6.15 km long Bridge on the Padma River fully financed by the government of Bangladesh. Two storied under Construction Bridge comprises 41 spans, 42 pillars with 18.1 meter breadth. The upper deck of the bridge will be used for road transportation and the lower deck will be used for rail transportation; hopefully the work will be finished at the end of 2020. The bridge will connect nineteen south-west region districts with the capital city Dhaka. The GDP will increase 1.2% and huge employment generation will also be created on that region after the commencement of the bridge.



Meghna

The Meghna is one of the major rivers in Bangladesh. It is also the widest river in the country. At a part of Bhola it is 12 km wide. With its upper tributary (the Surma) the river is 670 km long. Bhola, Chandpur and Bhairab Bazar towns are on the bank of the Meghna.



Jamuna

The Jamuna, one of the three main rivers of Bangladesh, is the lower stream of the Brahmaputra river. The 90 km long river flows south and then meets the Padma at Goalanda. The river is susceptible to channel migration and create chars (sandbars) only to be destroyed soon. Many of the sandbars have little or no water in the dry season but becomes turbulent river in monsoon. To connect northern part of the country a bridge, called the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, has been constructed. There are a good number of standard and luxury resorts on both sides of the bridge. Visitors can have rare opportunity to cruise, experience resilient lifestyles of the people and enjoy warm hospitality.

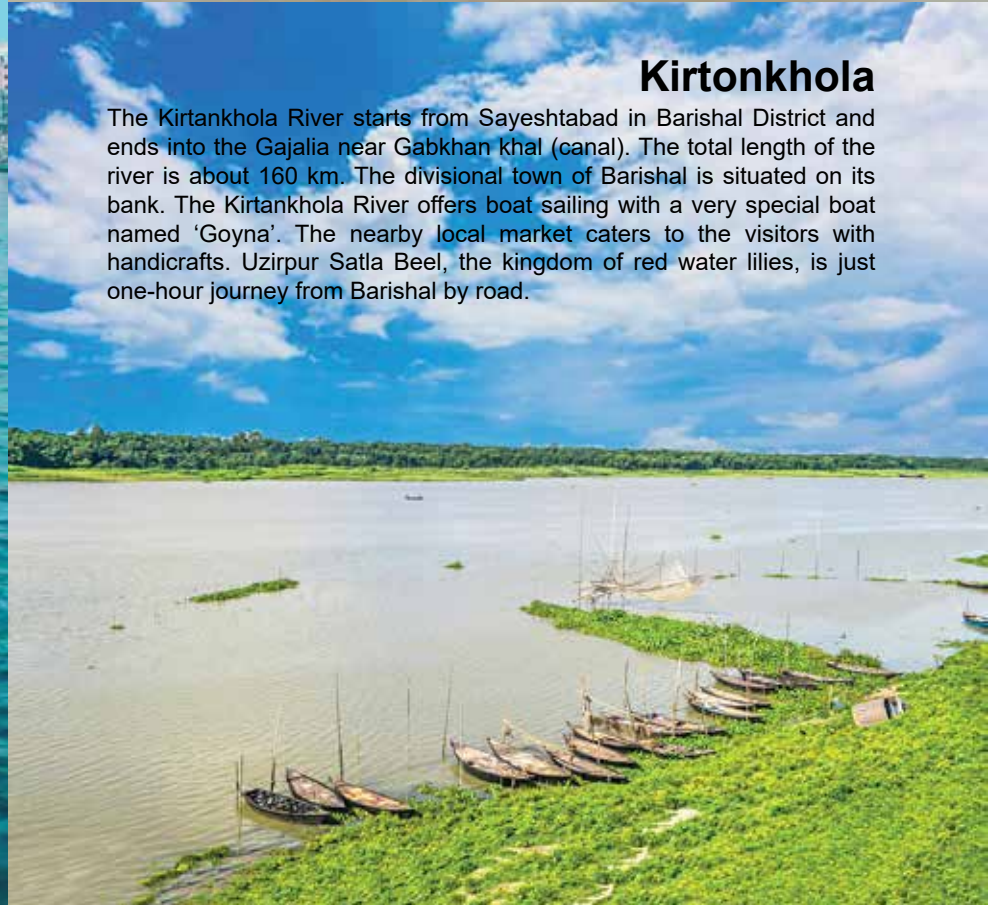
Buriganga

The Buriganga is a small river of 27 km, which passes through south and west of Dhaka city. This river connects Dhaka through other channels to rest of the Bengal and beyond and this factor was prime consideration for choosing Dhaka as the capital of Bengal by the Mughals. Originated from the Dhaleswari at Kalatia it joins with the Turag at Kamrangir Char. Dhaka river port is the busiest river port in the country. Everyday near about 200 large and small motor vessels and hundreds of boats carry near about 30,000 passengers and commercial goods to and from various parts of the country. The historical palace of Ahsan Manzil, Lalbagh Fort and 18th century Armenian Church are situated by the side of the Buriganga River. You can also taste the mouthwatering foods of old Dhaka here.



Kirtankhola

The Kirtankhola River starts from Sayeshtabad in Barishal District and ends into the Gajalia near Gabkhan khal (canal). The total length of the river is about 160 km. The divisional town of Barishal is situated on its bank. The Kirtankhola River offers boat sailing with a very special boat named 'Goyna'. The nearby local market caters to the visitors with handicrafts. Uzirpur Satla Beel, the kingdom of red water lilies, is just one-hour journey from Barishal by road.





Karnaphuli

The Karnaphuli River is the largest and most important river of Chattogram. Flowing through the hilly area of Chattogram Hill Tracts and Chattogram, it falls into the Bay of Bengal. The river is 100 km long. It is the swiftest river in Bangladesh. Chattogram, the commercial capital of the country, stands on its bank. The natural beauty along this river is awful.



Shitalakshya

A distributary of the Brahmaputra, the Shitalakshya River, is 110 km long. Naryanganj, a commercial center close to Dhaka, is situated on its bank. Sonargaon, the ancient capital of Bengal, stood on the bank of this river. Nearby places like Jamdani Palli at Rugganj, historical Panam City and Folk Arts Museum at Sonargaon will enthrall the tourists.



Brahmaputra

The Brahmaputra River originates in Tibet and flows through China and India before entering Bangladesh at Kurigram. It is 69 km long. the Jamuna is the lower part of this river. Originally, the Brahmaputra flowed southeast across Mymensingh District where it received the Surma river and united with the Meghna river. But in 19th century it changed its course. You can see the old Brahmaputra, now a minor river, flowing through Mymensingh and Jamalpur.



Sangu

The Sangu River has its origin in Arakan Hills of Myanmar. It enters Bangladesh near at Remarki of Thanchi Upazila in Bandarban District. Many of the waterfalls of Bandarban directly fall into the Sangu. It passes through Thanchi, Rowangchhari and Sadar Upazila of Bandarban and then through Satkania and Banshkhali Upazila of Chattogram District to flow into the Bay of Bengal. The length of the river in Bangladesh part is 173 km. The River thrills the visitors with its hills, forests and falls. The adventurous tourists can enjoy bamboo rafting which is full of excitement. The riverside tribal life will give extra experience and excitement.



Rupsha

It forms from the meeting place of the Madhumati and the Chitra rivers at Piroli Bazar, and flows through Khulna and meets the Pasur River near Mongla. Its entire length is affected by tides. The Rupsha and the Pasur are considered the same river. Together, they have a length of 130 km. The Rupsha River is one of the important development factors for Khulna. Boats are available for cruises on hour basis.



Piyain

The Piyain River is located in the scenic valley of Jaflong, Sylhet. From its origin in Assam to the end, the river is 145 km. This river provides temporary and stable source of income for thousands of stone collectors. The stones come with water from the other side of the border with India. The water of the river is transparent and one can see the stones of various colors from a boat. The river is surrounded by eye catching green forests, betel gardens and orange gardens. Khasia tribe lives near beside the bank of the river and tourists may visit them and see how they live.



Shomeshwari

The Simsang River, a major river in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, enters Bangladesh at Susang-Durgapur of Netrakona District and flows, under the name of Someshwari, into the Kangsha River. The Someshwari is one of the most beautiful rivers of Bangladesh. The water of this river is transparent. In winter the water level is low and people can pass across on foot. You can make a trip to nearby hills and enjoy the tribal lifestyle. There is an ethnic museum in Birishiri. China Matir Pahar, or the Hill of the White China Clay lies on the other side of the river. The Someshwari with its blue water, the hills, the orange and spice gardens and the heavenly calmness make the place so beautiful that people call it 'Paradise on the Earth'.