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The Beauty of Bangladesh

Haors and Beels

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Haor is a bowl shaped shallow wetland, which during monsoon, receives water from surrounding rivers and canals and turns into a large water body. After the rains most of the wetlands get dry and become farmland again. A beel, on the other hand, is a lake-like wetland with static water. When full to the brim, a haor looks like a sea and the villages within it appear as islands.

Satla Beel

Satla Beel, the marshland, is like a sea of floating water lilies expanding as far as the eye can reach. This lasts for around five months, from June-July to October-November and draws visitors from all over. The 200 acres beel is in Uzirpur upazilla's Halta and some 60 kilometers away from Barishal city. These aquatic flowers begin to conjure up a vibrant pink carpet on the lake from last part of *Autumn* to the mid of *Late Autumn*. The scenic beauty of the beel with expanse of waters, red lilies, the green patch of trees around the banks is heart touching. A boat ride in the beel will be an unforgettable memories of life.





Rangamati/Kaptai Lake

Kaptai, the largest artificial lake of the country, has a surface area of 58,300 hectares and water holding capacity of 524,700 cu. m. With the average depth of 30 m, the lake is a good source of fish. There are 76 species of fish of which 68 are indigenous and 8 are alien. With its charming look, calmness, greenery, local and migratory birds and fresh food, the lake attracts visitors who prefer to undertake a daylong boat journey and enjoy ten exciting spots at one go.

Matian Haor

Matian Haor is another noteworthy lovely *Haor* in Sunamganj District. The crystal clear water and lush greenery under the semi blue sky keeps you in a canvas. Lens suffocates at a point to image the mesmerizing beauty of Matian Haor. It is a paradise for travel lovers.



Hail Haor

Hail Haor is situated in Moulvibazar District. It is one of the notable wetlands of Bangladesh. This is one of the safest abodes of many wild animals and migratory birds.



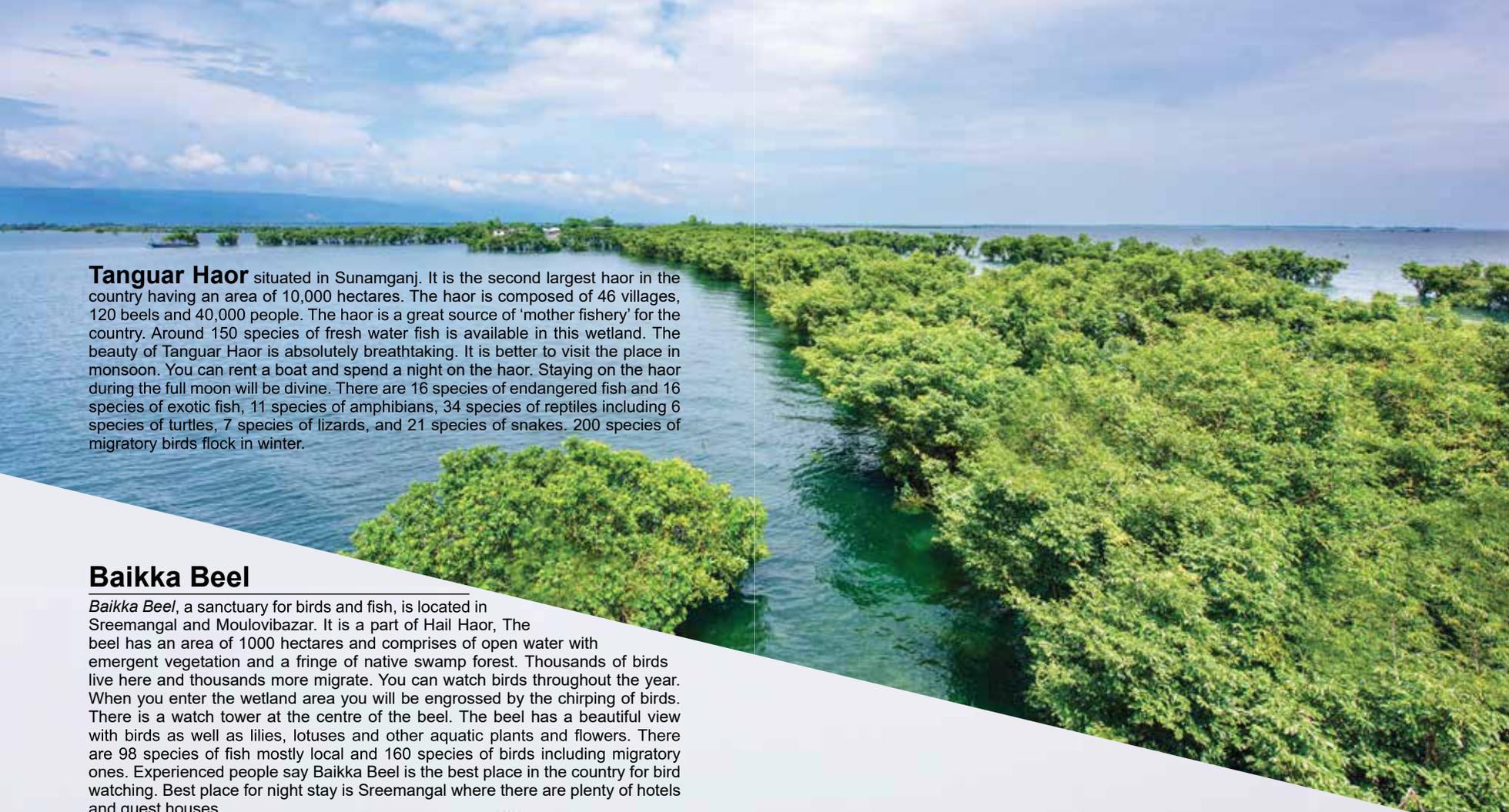


Hakaluki Haor, the largest haor in Bangladesh, is situated in Moulvibazar District with a small part in Sylhet District. Total area of this haor is about 18,400 hectares. It is designated as an Ecologically Critical Area and a protected Ramsar site. Some 190,000 people live in the surrounding of the lake area. The haor consists of 238 beels. In winter the haor is reduced to one fourth, the beels continue to retain water. The haor houses 525 species of plants, 416 species of birds, 140 species of wild animals and 105 species of fish. In winter migratory birds swarm. Many tourists prefer to visit this place in winter. But the rainy season has its charm of vastness.

Sunamganj

Sunamganj, one of the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh, is famous for wetlands, locally known as *Haor-Baor-Beel*, not only in the country but also in abroad. Lush greenery canvas and never ending water ways add a new dimension and mesmerizing beauty to the water basin. As numerous *Haor-Baor-Beel* spread through this district, Sunamganj comes in the first place in case of an amazing haor excursion.





Tanguar Haor situated in Sunamganj. It is the second largest haor in the country having an area of 10,000 hectares. The haor is composed of 46 villages, 120 beels and 40,000 people. The haor is a great source of 'mother fishery' for the country. Around 150 species of fresh water fish is available in this wetland. The beauty of Tanguar Haor is absolutely breathtaking. It is better to visit the place in monsoon. You can rent a boat and spend a night on the haor. Staying on the haor during the full moon will be divine. There are 16 species of endangered fish and 16 species of exotic fish, 11 species of amphibians, 34 species of reptiles including 6 species of turtles, 7 species of lizards, and 21 species of snakes. 200 species of migratory birds flock in winter.

Baikka Beel

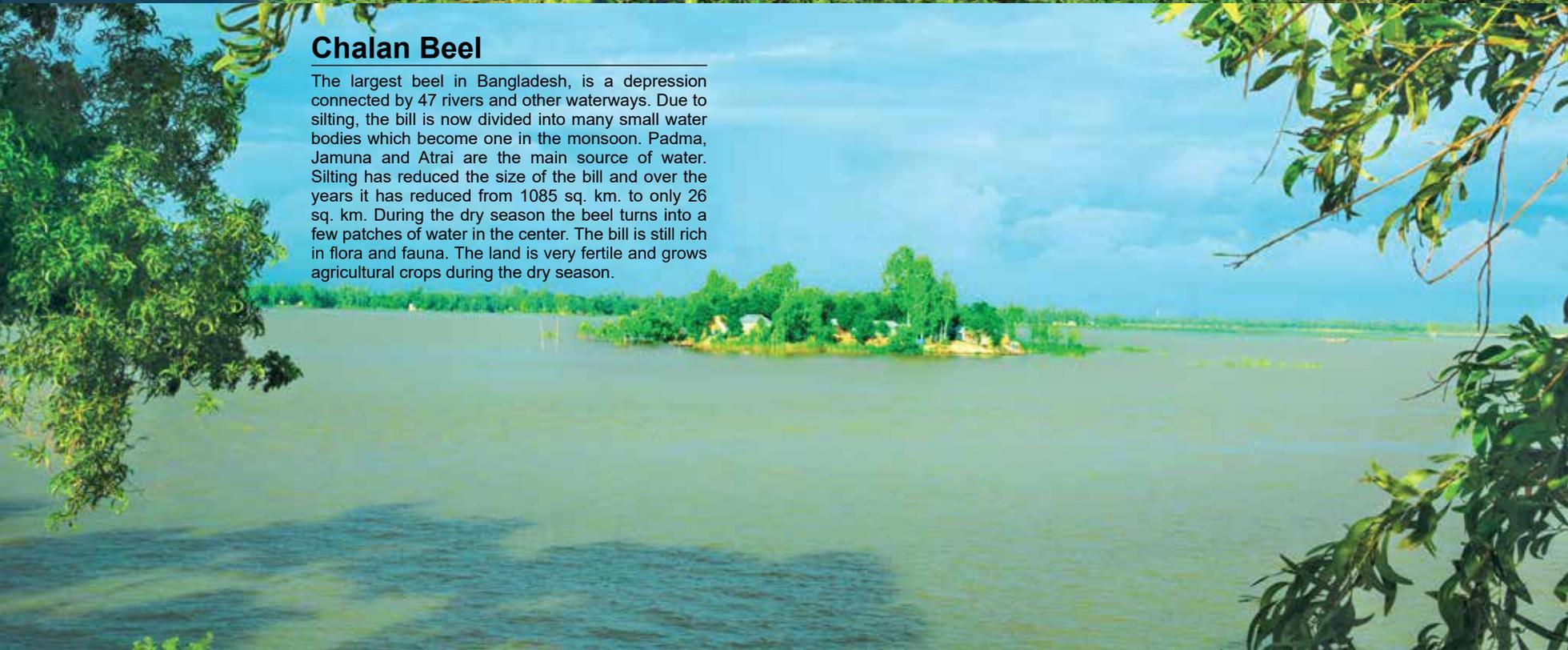
Baikka Beel, a sanctuary for birds and fish, is located in Sreemangal and Moulvibazar. It is a part of Hail Haor, The beel has an area of 1000 hectares and comprises of open water with emergent vegetation and a fringe of native swamp forest. Thousands of birds live here and thousands more migrate. You can watch birds throughout the year. When you enter the wetland area you will be engrossed by the chirping of birds. There is a watch tower at the centre of the beel. The beel has a beautiful view with birds as well as lilies, lotuses and other aquatic plants and flowers. There are 98 species of fish mostly local and 160 species of birds including migratory ones. Experienced people say Baikka Beel is the best place in the country for bird watching. Best place for night stay is Sreemangal where there are plenty of hotels and guest houses.





Arial Beel

Arial Beel is the third largest wetland in Bangladesh covering an area of 136 sq. km. It is situated in Srinagar Upazila of Munshiganj District. The beel consists of many small ponds and canals. During the rainy season the plants become livelier and the vast expanse of water with land borders look exotic. Though the beel reduces in winter, it still remains navigable. The beel abounds in fish and during the dry season the farmers produce corns and vegetables in the dry area. The pumpkin of this beel is famous. You can have a tour of the beel by boats. The beel is just 35 km from Dhaka and can be reached in an hour and a half.



Chalan Beel

The largest beel in Bangladesh, is a depression connected by 47 rivers and other waterways. Due to silting, the bill is now divided into many small water bodies which become one in the monsoon. Padma, Jamuna and Atrai are the main source of water. Silting has reduced the size of the bill and over the years it has reduced from 1085 sq. km. to only 26 sq. km. During the dry season the beel turns into a few patches of water in the center. The bill is still rich in flora and fauna. The land is very fertile and grows agricultural crops during the dry season.



Najipur Beel

Najipur Beel is a different type of wetlands, where floating cultivation is successfully implemented at least twice in a year. The process is locally known as Dhapchash in Pirojpur-Barisal District while Bairra in Gopalganj.



Chyar Haor

Chyar Haor, one of the most wonderful wetlands, is situated in Shalla Upazila of Sunamgonj District. Tranquility and landscape beauty of this widespread waterland provide an amazing environment for the tourists.