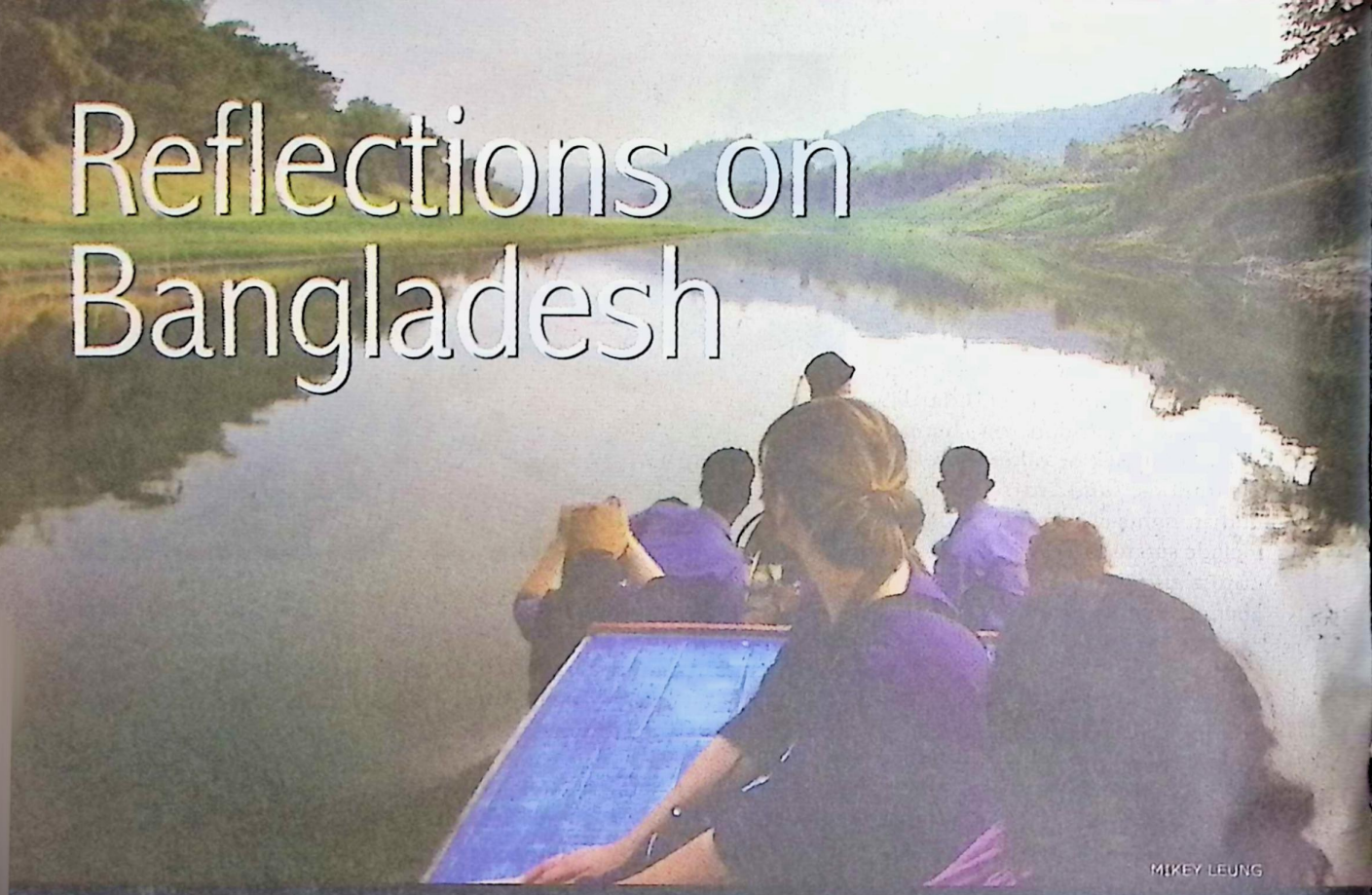
Reflections on Bangladesh



MIKEY LEUNG

In July 2009, Bradt travel guides will publish *Bangladesh: The Bradt Travel Guide.* To begin promotion of the country as a destination, author Mikey Leung recently brought a small group of five international travel writers and travel agents to see the country with the assistance of Guide Tours. What follows is some of their reflections.

BANGLADESH is all about people.

For most travellers, the thought of visiting a crowded, impoverished Muslim country where a hard drink is hard to find and the majority of the landscape is flooded for months at a stretch seems like a real turn off. But this is a good thing, believe it or not: most tourist riff raff stay far away from Bangladesh's borders.

In reality, Bangladesh is blessed with the fact that it already attracts intrepid, well-seasoned and curious travellers: the kind who seek genuine, honest, and heartfelt interactions with real people. Whether filthy rich or dirt poor, each Bengali is imbued with a sense of duty that they should care for their foreign guests and introduce them at every turn to their cultural milieu, with all the hospitality they can barely afford, as anything less would be nothing short of rude. It is this single and simple fact that makes