

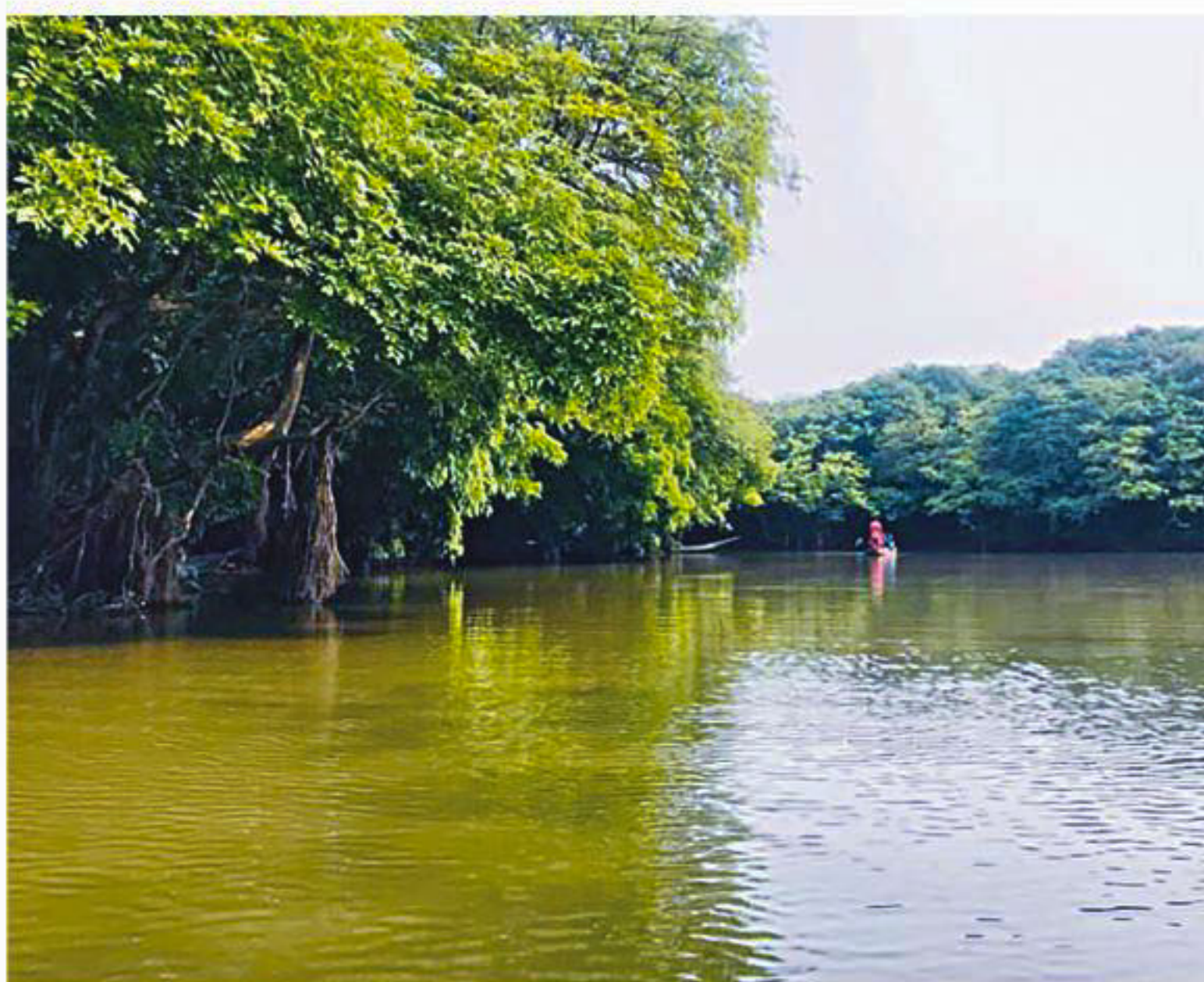
Beautiful *Ratargul*



The Meghalaya river pours into the Gowain, and a narrow stream flows through the Chengi canal to flood the entire region of Ratargul — not only the only freshwater swamp in the country, but also among very few in the entire world.

Although the Sunderbans, the largest mangrove forest, gets noticed for all the right reasons, monsoon in Ratargul is another surreal experience that can only be felt, and never fully explained. As the small boats move through the snaking waterways canopied by the lush foliage, often spreading as high as 15 metres, many feel, and some for the first time, that we are indeed part of nature; the environment around us.

Ratargul has the distinguished feature of supporting a diverse ecosystem of flora and fauna.



Although the forest was completely natural at one point, the Forestry Department of Bangladesh has introduced some trees in the area. A conservative figure puts the number of plant species in the swamp at over 70. The diversity of animals and birds is equally mesmerising.

Monsoon is the right time to see Ratargul in its best; it seems that during the rainy season, Ratargul radiates the unmatched beauty that draws the large crowd from distant places.

One needs to take permission from the forest office to visit the forest. Local boats can be hired to traverse the



swamp. A popular destination in the wilderness is the tower, which offers an aerial view of the entire swamp.

Essentials: After reaching Sylhet city, travel to the Fatehpur Union of Gowainghat in Sylhet district, south of the river Gowain. It is about 26 km from Sylhet city. One has the option to take CNGs, although cars too, can be rented.

Tourists should be reminded that there are no dining options in the vicinity of the swamp. So, make sure you take some light meals that will last the two-way journey. And assuming you are travelling in monsoon, do not forget the umbrellas and the raincoats.

By Syed Asaduzzaman Suhan

Photo: Syed Asaduzzaman Suhan

CHECK IT OUT



Amari Dhaka debuts new way to enjoy pizza

This September, Deck 41, Amari, is taking guests on a journey to Naples. Guests dropping by Deck 41 will get to enjoy the best of Calzone Pizza, featuring spinach, cream cheese, mushroom, and chicken — the perfect combination of scrumptiousness.

A calzone is an Italian folded pizza made from salted bread dough, baked in an oven, and stuffed with salami, vegetables, mozzarella, ricotta and Parmesan or pecorino cheese, as well as an egg. Considering the tastes and demand of

the guest, the chefs of Amari have designed this special pizza menu, which provides guests with a fully customisable experience from start to finish.

With the amazing fillings, accompanied by green salad, sauces and mayo, there's a delicious pairing to match every guest's preference. The offer is available from 6PM to 2AM throughout the month of September, and priced at Tk 1,350 all inclusive.

For more information, call 01878499999 or visit www.facebook.com/amaridhaka

NEWS FLASH

Bibi Russell announced as Earth Day Network Bangladesh's Ambassador

Earth Day Network, the global environmental organisation that engages with over 50,000 organisations in around 195 countries, has announced Bibi Russell, the internationally renowned Fashion Designer and peace promoter, as their ambassador in Bangladesh.

"It is critical for the human society for its own survival and wellbeing to respect and nurture the environment. To pay my homage to the environment, I am happy to take on the role of ambassador for Earth Day in Bangladesh and to support Earth Day Network in advancing the environmental awareness. I applaud the work that Earth Day Network has done over the past five decades and I look forward to lending my voice to build awareness about the need for all humans to contribute towards a greener, cleaner and less polluted

planet. As an artist, it is my mission to promote sustainable fashion, as there is a lot of work yet to be accomplished in this industry to safeguard and uphold our natural heritage," Bibi said on the occasion.

Kathleen Rogers, President, Earth Day Network said, "Human activities and climate change currently threaten 1 million species with extinction and our goal at Earth Day Network is to broaden, diversify and mobilise the environmental movement, driving action year-round. Earth Day Network does this through advocacy, education, public policy, and consumer campaigns. With strong voices like of Russell, we are sure that we will reach out to millions of people and awaken them towards the environmental conservation and climate crisis."

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/bibirusselluk