

## **Nijhum Dwip: The island where silence awakens a secret paradise**

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Noakhali : Once a quiet estuarine expanse known as "Char Osman" in the early 1950s, this small island in southern Bangladesh was later christened "Nijhum Dwip"-the "Island of Silence"-a name echoing its tranquil spirit and whisper-thin population.

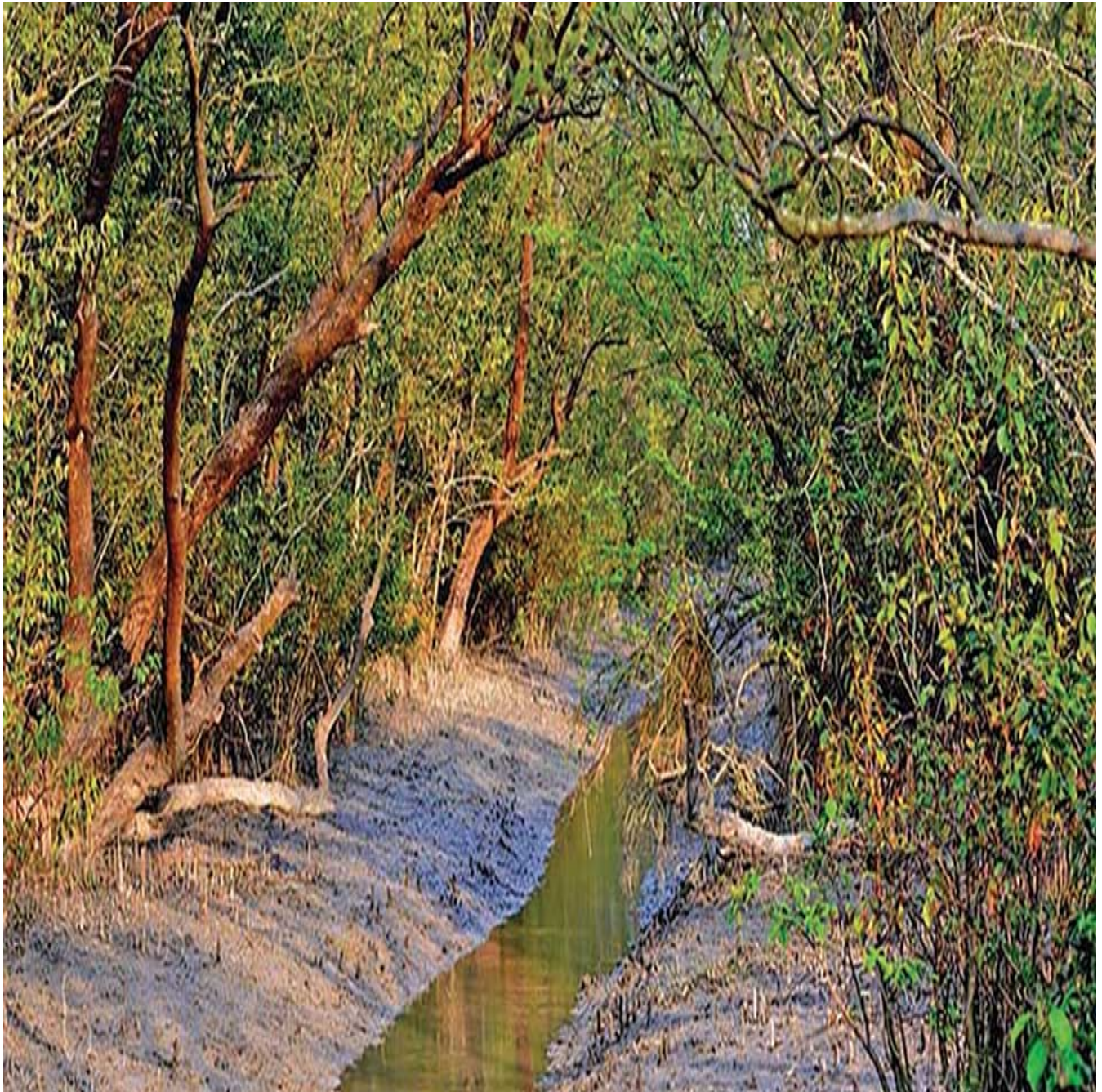
Decades on, this once-silent gem in Hatiya upazila of Noakhali is making waves on the global map-rising fast as a must-visit ecotourism hotspot.

Home to just around 25,000 souls, the island stays true to its name-"Nijhum" or "silent"-with its unspoiled landscapes, hushed horizons, and a wild symphony of thriving biodiversity.

At its heart lies Nijhum Dwip National Park, a sanctuary born in 2001 under the care of the Bangladesh Forest Department, cradling wild wonders and whispering mangroves in its emerald embrace.

The park harbors a rich mosaic of wildlife-spotted deer drifting through dappled clearings, clawless otters are slipping through the waterways, elusive fishing cats prowling at dusk, and monkeys stirring the forest canopy.

Overhead, more than 35 bird species lend color and chorus to the skies. Off its shores, the island's marine realm teems with life as well-turtles, tortoises, and dolphins surfacing like fleeting visions from the deep.



A lush cathedral of Keora, Gewa, Bain, Babul, and Karamja trees weaves through the island-its verdant heartbeat and ecological signature.

In addition to its natural splendor, Nijhum Dwip offers a trove of lesser-known yet captivating spots, including Komolar Dwip, Chowdhorir Khal, Kobirajer Chor, Choakhali and Namar Bazar Sea Beaches, Domar Chor,

and the island's much-whispered Virgin Beach.

Anchored in tradition, the island's economy sails on fishing nets and livestock herds, while timber from native trees shapes homes, boats, tools-and feeds the hearth.

Though development remains modest, the tide of tourism is steadily rising, bringing new energy to its quiet shores.

From the rustic charm of Forest Department guesthouses to the comfort of the Nijhum Resort and starlit tent stays, the island now welcomes travelers with open arms.

Six bustling markets brim with fresh, local bounty, while cozy eateries serve up the authentic flavors of the region.

Recognizing Nijhum Dwip's growing appeal, the authorities are stepping up efforts to enhance safety, preserve its fragile beauty, and promote sustainable tourism.