

Dhaka Day by Day

Why the Exodus to the City?

Fayza Haq

Bull Begum, better known as 'Belaler Ma' comes from Manikganj. Since the age of ten she has been learning how to weave mats in the village from her mother. She has been selling them to the wholesale buyers, who came to the village homes, and in turn sold the mats at retail price at Jikatala Bazar at Manikganj.

Today she has abandoned the mat making at her village home, but continues with her favourite pursuit at Dhaka. While at Manikganj she made about three mats with complicated designs, or six mats with simple ones, a day. She got paid Tk. 10 to Tk. 30 for each mat, depending on the work done. In Dhaka, today, on the other hand, she gets paid Tk. 50 to Tk. 60 for her mats, which she weaves at her spare time.

What made a fairly good looking, light-eyed, fair-complexioned woman abandon her home in the peaceful environment of Manikganj, and come to the hussle and bustle of Dhaka? 'Belaler Ma's' husband, who was a supervisor of the cutting of lands died, a year ago, and she found herself an unwanted soul in a family, of four brothers and three sisters.

When one asked her why she had not married again, she answered promptly, "The husband makes you work and barely feeds you. You tend to the animals, kitchen-garden, cooking, threshing of rice, and even help out in the fields. I would have to bear my husband's children according to his moods, and I would get little respite. A woman's position in the village, socially and economically is little consequence. Moreover, my son Belal, would not like a step-father, and I respect his sentiments. Here, at Dhaka, I have a small job, get paid better remunerations for my mats; and can go and see my son as often as possible; pay for his education; carry presents for my family and in-laws. I also have some peace of mind."

When one asked her why she did not bring her son to the city, she replied without a second's hesitation, "I would not like him to grow up in the city. It is hard to bring up a son without a father. He would pick up bad habits as he grew up, and I would have no control over him. His 'mamas' look after him and my mother too. I feel more at ease that way."



'Belaler Ma' making a mat

'Belaler Ma' who has been married for 12 years, misses her husband naturally, and tries to keep herself busy in all possible manner. Apart from mat-making of clients in the neighbourhood, she does cleaning and cooking for a home, where she is paid Tk. 500 per month. In all, with her education of her son, her own upkeep of items like clothes — of which she possess only two 'saris' — 'paan-su-pari', oil and soap, the single pair of plastic bangles; she has still managed to save Tk. 2,000, which she has left with her mother in her village. She plans to buy some land in time, when she has saved enough.

She certainly enjoys her independence, and does not have to worry about growing 'alu' 'shag' 'data'; threshing of rice; cooking; cutting; chopping; fishing; tending to the home and still being a nonentity.

How is she treated when she goes home to visit her son and her family on the two Eids, and occasionally? She gets a week off for each Eid and about three days for casual leave; spends Tk. 170 in all in the rickshaw to Gaptali and then the bus ride to her home. She takes biscuits for the family and a set of clothes for her son. Her sisters-in-law, the wives of her brothers, Sabar-

uddin, Jainal, Nazrul Islam and Jasmuddin, treat her with 'khir', 'pitha', and even rice and vegetables, or the occasional fish. "It is a matter of apparent joy when I visit home, and so the in-laws are cordial. I go basically to see my son. I have even known days when I have had to have my rice with salt and chillies. I watch the occasional 'jatra', if there is one there in the village, when I visit and hear the raddios of the neighbours. 'Belaler Ma' says honestly, and without any humming or hawing,

Where she works at Dhaka, she gets her rice, fish and even meat; and spends her time in 'Fazr' and 'Maghrab' prayers. "My mat-making soothes my nerves, and earns me the amount I want. My only regret is that my parents did not educate me. However, I am not complaining of my present state of affairs." Contentment certainly lies in simple things for certain people still in Dhaka, and there is no mad stampede in them to make money, or lead a luxurious life.



The out-going Ambassador of Russian Federation, Yuro K Alekseev, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. — PID photo

Dhaka-Moscow trade link to be geared up

The out-going Ambassador of Russian Federation, Yuro K Alekseev, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

Alekseev stayed with the Prime Minister for some time and discussed matters of bilateral issues. The Prime Minister recalled the contribution of Russian Federation to our power sector and hoped that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation would be strengthened between the two countries following the changes in former Soviet Union. She hoped that the bilateral trade and economic links between Bangladesh and the Russian Federation would be further expanded as both the countries favour market economy.

The Prime Minister hoped that Moscow would import jute, jute goods, garments and other commodities from Bangladesh and come forward to set up joint venture projects. Alekseev outlined the reforms being taken place both in political and economic sectors in his country. He appreciated the present democratic government's effort for uplift and assured of best possible cooperation. The Prime Minister re-

Kuwaiti envoy meets Lutfor

The Ambassador of Kuwait in Bangladesh Mohammad Ebraheem-Al-Najran called on State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters related to bilateral issues, particularly the relief and repatriation of the Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh.

UP chairmen urged to explore local resources for uplift

Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam yesterday called upon the union parishad chairmen to help the democratic government, enhance internal savings and explore local resources for overall development of national economy, reports BSS.

The present government was trying its level best to improve the lot of the people despite resource constraints and many other hindrances like population boom, natural calamities and social disturbances. He was addressing as the chief guest the concluding and certificate giving ceremony of 'union parishad office management appraisal course' for newly elected UP chairmen of Jessore district at the local BD hall.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Jessore and organised by National Institute of Local Government in cooperation with local district administration, the three-day course was addressed, among others, by Maulana Shakhawat Hossain MP, Khan Tipu Sultan MP, Tabibur Rahman Sardar MP, Raushan Ali MP and Anwar Hossain UP chairman.

Tariqul Islam called for proper application of ideas and techniques appraised in the course for smooth functioning of the UP management and administration. Later, he distributed certificates among the participating UP chairmen.

Earlier, at another meeting with local MPs, DC, TNOs, PIOs and other concerned officials at DC's conference room, Social Welfare Minister approved various development schemes under test relief programme in different union parishads of Jessore district and re-allocated the allotment of foodgrains for implementation of these projects. A total of 639 tonnes of foodgrains has been allotted for this purpose.

He also reviewed with them the progress and present state of affairs of canal digging and tree plantation programmes undertaken in different parts of the district.

Standing Committee on labour and manpower held at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the advancement of development activities of the ministry. Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain, members of parliament Mirza Muraduzzaman, Mohammad Abdus Shaheed, Mohammad Aminul Islam, Mohammad Mozafer Hossain, Sharifuddin Ahmed and Shahduzzaman attended the meeting.

This was disclosed at the meeting of the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on labour and manpower held at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the advancement of development activities of the ministry. Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain, members of parliament Mirza Muraduzzaman, Mohammad Abdus Shaheed, Mohammad Aminul Islam, Mohammad Mozafer Hossain, Sharifuddin Ahmed and Shahduzzaman attended the meeting.

This was disclosed at the meeting of the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on labour and manpower held at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the advancement of development activities of the ministry. Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain, members of parliament Mirza Muraduzzaman, Mohammad Abdus Shaheed, Mohammad Aminul Islam, Mohammad Mozafer Hossain, Sharifuddin Ahmed and Shahduzzaman attended the meeting.

This was disclosed at the meeting of the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on labour and manpower held at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the advancement of development activities of the ministry. Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain, members of parliament Mirza Muraduzzaman, Mohammad Abdus Shaheed, Mohammad Aminul Islam, Mohammad Mozafer Hossain, Sharifuddin Ahmed and Shahduzzaman attended the meeting.

This was disclosed at the meeting of the Parliamentary

Khulna City Corporation
Khulna

Quotation for the Acoustic and Interior Decoration Work of Khulna Public Hall Complex

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from the bonafide Consulting Firms for the above mentioned works which will be received through Tender Boxes kept in the office of (1) Chief Executive Officer, Khulna City Corporation and (2) Chief Engineer, Khulna City Corporation, Khulna till 1 PM on 5-9-92.

The quotations will be opened on the same day at 3 PM in presence of the quotationers (if any).

The quotationers shall have to submit draft Plan, design approximate estimate etc. with the quotation.

The successful quotationer shall have to submit detail Plan, design, drawings, details Estimate etc. within 10 (ten) days after receipt of the Work Order.

Intending quotationers may visit the work site before submission of quotation and may also contact the undersigned for any information if required.

The authority reserves the full right either to accept any or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason.

Md. Shah Alam
Chief Engineer,
Khulna City Corporation
Phone-20643

Bangladesh expatriates fetch Tk 3220 cr

Bangladesh earned Taka 3220.53 crore in foreign currency as remittance from the Bangladesh labourers working abroad during the fiscal 1991-92, reports BSS.

During the period, a total of one lakh 85 thousand 257 workers had been employed abroad, an official handout said here yesterday.

In the fiscal 1990-91 the amount of remittance was Taka 2744.45 crore while the number of Bangladesh workers abroad was 96,691.

This was disclosed at the meeting of the Parliamentary

Boat passengers robbed

Armed pirates swooped on a mechanised boat in the river Padma near Hariampur thana Wednesday morning and looted valuables worth about Tk 70,000 from the passengers, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of dacoits numbering 10 to 12 attacked the Hariampur bound boat coming from Dauladia Ghat. They beat the passengers indiscriminately and decamped with the booty.

A case has been filed with the police. Local people alleged that river piracy here are on rise in the recent days creating alarm the passengers and vessel owners.

Nepalese envoy presents credentials

The Ambassador designate of the Kingdom of Nepal Lok Bahadur Shrestha yesterday presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban, reports BSS.

Accepting the credentials President Biswas said that the relations between Bangladesh and Nepal was developing satisfactorily over the years.

He said that the present government of Bangladesh had attached great importance to further consolidating the bilateral relations with Nepal and expanding them both in dimension and content.

He pointed out that both the countries have to work together to make SAARC more active and effective.

Presenting his credentials, Shrestha said Nepal had supported the 'Daal Bhaat' approach of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and would play a supportive role for the success of the seventh SAARC summit to be held in Dhaka.



Anniversary of Saidur Rahman's death today

The fifth anniversary of death of the noted educationist and philosopher Principal Saidur Rahman, will be observed today (Friday), says a press release.

On this occasion a 'Kangal Voj' (feeding the destitute) has been arranged at his residence 'Shangshay' at 49, New Airport Road, Tejgaon on the day.

ADDED
DHAKA AUGUST 27 1992
CHIEF GUEST
HON'BLE FINANCE MINISTER
MR M SAIFUR RAHMAN
SPONSORED BY
PORT BANGLADESH LIMITED
ment consultant/trainers and publisher

FINANCE MINISTER M SAIFUR RAHMAN addressing the inaugural session of a workshop on VAT at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. — Star photo

SC Bar Assoc slates attack on Bosnian Muslims

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday strongly condemned the barbaric actions by the Serb forces upon the Muslim population of Bosnia-Harzegovina, reports BSS.

In a meeting the association adopted a unanimous resolution calling upon the UN, OIC and all Muslim countries to take immediate actions to stop the brutal murder of the Muslims including children in Bosnia-Harzegovina. They also urged all concerned to supply food, shelter and financial assistance to the affected Muslim population on an urgent basis.

According to a press release, the meeting was presided over by Khandoker Mahbubuddin Ahmed

Weather

Light rain likely
By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or shower may occur at many places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions, at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy falls at places during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday).

Rainfalls recorded in 12 hours from 6am to 6pm yesterday (Thursday) were 25 mm at Rajshahi, 23 mm at Satkhira, 17 mm at Sitakunda, 19 mm at Rangpur and 10 mm at Comilla.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:20 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:39 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.2	26.4	88	77
Chittagong	32.4	24.8	86	84
Rajshahi	30.0	25.0	92	97
Khulna	31.6	25.5	97	86

What's on today . . .

Seminar on 'Eye Donation'

An international seminar on 'Eye Donation' jointly organised by Shandhan National Eye Donation Society, Bangladesh Eye Care Society and the ORBIS International, will be held at the BCIC auditorium in the city today (Friday) at 9 am.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will attend the seminar as chief guest while the Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan will be the special guest.

Nirmul Committee meet

Muktijuddher Chetona Bastabayan-O-Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee will hold a public gathering at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city today (Friday) at 5 pm to demand trial of the killers of Ratan Sen and the assassins of Rashed Khan Menon and to demand ban on Jamaat-Shibir-Juba Command.

Juba Union Conference

The two-day fourth national conference of Juba Union begins at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the city today (Friday). The conference starts at 10 am.

Workers Party rally

The Workers Party will hold a public gathering at Kamalapur Bazar in the city at 4 pm today (Friday) to protest the assassination bid on the party's General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

BSD (Khaleq) rally

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Khaleq) will hold a rally to be followed by a procession in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city today (Friday) at 5 pm in protest against the killing of Ratan Sen, the killing attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, MP, and unabated terrorism activities throughout the country.

Lions Club of Dhaka Lalbagh

The Lions Club of Dhaka Lalbagh will hold a tree plantation programme today (Friday) at different places of the city and its suburb.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Friday) jointly with the Rotaract Club of Wari at 10 am at the Wari Community Centre in the city.

Mahanagar Puja body confce

The biennial conference of Mahanagar Sarbajatin Puja Committee will be held today (Friday) at 10 am at its office at the Dhakeswari Mandir in the city.

A meeting of the Jessore Zilla School Ex-students Association will be held today (Friday) at 4:30 pm at the Anaesthesia Department of the PG Hospital.

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Motijheel will be held today (Friday) at 6:30 pm at House No 83, Road No 7, Sector -4, Uttara Model Town.

A discussion meeting of the Executive Committee of Mymensingh Zilla Samity will be held today (Friday) at 5 pm at the office of the samity at 384, Moghbazar (2nd Floor), Dhaka.