

# A glimmer of hope amid doubts and despair



**Geneva Camp: The day of the stranded Pakistanis starts with stepping into filth as they come out of their so-called houses in the morning.**

“How do we prove our loyalty

The survey also reveals that some 50,000 to 52,000 Biharis are living in Dhaka in around 30 camps. The largest of all these camps is the Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur where around 22,000 Biharis live in around 3,000 households.

Collecting water is another ordeal, said another resident named Baby. "Most of the time foul water comes out of the line. To collect the dirty water we have to stand in queue."

APPROXIMATELY 2000

Food poisoning and waterborne diseases are very

The living condition of Biharis in other places is worse than that in Geneva Camp. With rubbish piled up in every alley, with broken toilets, dirty water, messy pathway and damp living quarters, Geneva Camp is considered the finest among the 116 camps.

# Community comes to the rescue of a park at Baridhara

## Another park

Baridhara Society has been also making Baridhara Park from its own funding. DCC handed over the land to Baridhara Society around seven years ago. After the completion of the park, various types of trees were planted according to the design.

The park is open for all.

"Even street urchins can enter the park and pluck the flowers. Even when the flowers are in bloom, no one collects those," said R. S. Sen, president of Baridhara Society. "It is a sense of discipline among the park users."

There are several posters and signs in the park.

"After receiving their consent we

Rajuk is assisting in setting up walkways in the park.



**A strip of walkway in the Baridhara Lakeside Park.**

## Another park well maintained for 7 years

The park is open for all. "Even street urchins can enter the park. But they never pluck the flowers. Even when the flowers fall on the pavement no one collects those," said Rauf, talking about the sense of discipline among the park users.

"We introduced 24-hour security system in the park. Seven workers are employed for maintenance. The park is open from 5:00am to 10:00am and 2:00pm to 5:30pm. City Bank Ltd gives an amount of Tk 2.5 lakh annually for the maintenance of the park," he added.