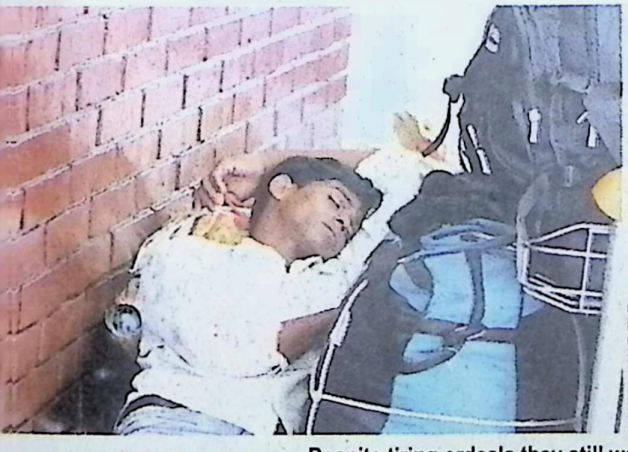


PHOTO: ENAMUL HAQ





PHOTOS: STAR FILE

Despite tiring ordeals they still want to go abroad and try their luck.

Although most of the migrants remit all their earnings, their families still expect them to come back with pockets full, Haque says. All that they have worked hard for is spent by their family, leaving them with next to nothing to bank on when they return.

The 34-year-old Walid has gone through this experience. "If you go abroad, you will become a money-making machine for your family," says the returned migrant who spent five years in London.

Domestic worker Mahmuda, too, has been used like a "cash cow" by her husband, she says. The 41-year-old, who went to Abu Dhabi in 1989, is a very successful migrant. The migration had been her husband's idea, as the migration cost for women is lower, he had argued.

Mahmuda worked for 19 years as a domestic worker in the United Arab Emirates, with hardly ever facing any problem. Every two years she came back to Bangladesh to see her husband and the three children she had left behind. "I sent all my money to my husband. I bought two cars, a house and also financed the two weddings of my daughters," Mahmuda says.

Thinking she had secured a comfortable life for her family with her toils of 19 years, she decided to come back to her land – and finally enjoy life. But a nasty reality greeted her in Bangladesh. "I discov-