The last fishermen of Buriganga searching fish in polluted waters.



Mohsin the pet peddler and his pigeon.

storm). Each carriage needs one coachman and two groomers for the two horses. Mohsin has great respect for his master coachman. He always recites the name of his guru before harnessing the horses. According to him driving a horse cart through the busy streets of Dhaka is very hard. But he wants to continue doing it as he loves this work and his horses.

The Last Fishermen of the Buriganga

The Buriganga is the life line of Dhaka. But with pollution and waste disposal we have almost killed this river. The waters of Buriganga have become black thanks to the poisonous chemicals dumped by nearby factories. Once Buriganga was a bountiful source of fish and fresh water, and there were many fishing villages on the bank of the river. With mass urbanisation and pollution, these fishermen have had to leave these areas. So, when we meet one of the last descendants of Buriganga fisherman we are naturally surprised. We ask them about their work. One of the fishermen says that he and one of his neighbours are still into fishing. The catch is not good. Fish can only be found after the rainy season. With such a small catch, he can sell only a little after. He does another job during the dry season-- ferrying people by boat from one side of the river to the other. But he also says that he will never leave the Buriganga as he regards it as his mother.

Dhaka is the melting pot of all the cultural specialities of Bangladesh. The tradition of old Dhaka and cultures of the rest of the country have set a new dimension in the livelihood of its citizen. The rapid change of the country's economic situation is also a contributing factor, but the innovative and unusual profession of its citizens will always make this city more charming than many others of the world.

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