

Dhaka: A Small Town to an Economical Hub

Throughout the history of Bangladesh, we've known that it was mostly popular as a trade center to the people of the west. Thus, Bangladesh had experienced a huge number of diverse races along its journey to grow. People from the western world used to come to Bangladesh for trade and business purposes. Many of them had settled down here in Dhaka and also in other cities and propagated their roots. This is why Bangladesh has much diversity of races.

Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh was mere a province of the Mughal empire of Bengal. Bangladesh was not a separate country at that time, rather a part of Bengal known as the East Bengal. It had many Mughal constructions those rose up in the center for the Mughal settlers to settle. Now, those are getting extinct part by part with the flow of time. Some of the Mughal constructions still stand at present those prove the existence of a much-enriched Mughal history of the country. The Lalbagh Fort, the Ahsan Manzil Museum, the Saat Masjid on the banks of the Buriganga river, etc. are such Mughal constructions. Although Mughal Dhaka was so enriched, it never received the kind of royal support. But now, tourists coming here from the whole world mostly seek these historical places of Dhaka for visiting. Other historical places like Sonargaon of the Narayanganj district also played a vital role in attracting and dragging people from outside the country to come and settle down here and in Dhaka district beside it. Sonargaon, one of the old capitals of the historic region of Bengal. Its hinterland was the trade center for Bengal's Muslin, the only fabric that could be passed from one side to the other side of a small ring. This Muslin trade got many immigrants in East Bengal. They came from different countries of the world for trade and settled down here and in the surroundings eventually. Thus, Dhaka's population started to rise afterward.

From the beginning of Dhaka's history, many people have come here from the other parts of the globe for better livelihood, for business and trading intentions. But they got themselves settled here afterward as it was a peaceful place to live

in, it had a great climate system, the soil was very fertile to cultivate different crops, etc. It had many options for people to live a better livelihood than in the other parts of the world. As a result, urbanization started to begin here. And as urban settlements started to rise, people from the other countries got to know more about the then-present good sides of doing business here. Consequently, people started to come here for trade and business more frequently. Thus, an economic empire grew here that attracted people more and so, ruling parties started to expand their rule on this part. There had been many rulers in Bengal throughout its history. Dhaka has experienced a lot of ruling systems along its journey. The history of Dhaka begins with the existence of urbanized settlements of the area dating from the 7th century CE. After its urbanization, its people came under the rule of the Buddhists and Shaivite Pala Empire before passing the control to the Sena Dynasty in the 10th century CE. Afterward, many ruling parties like the Delhi Sultanate, the Bengal Sultanate, the Mughal rule had ruled this part. It had been under the rule of monarchy from the beginning that is, the country was operated under the rule of a single person who was called a Nawab, King, Sultan, or a Subahdar. Now, it's under the republican ruling system which is also partly similar to the monarchy system. The vital differences between the two are, everyone is bound to obey what the monarch says whereas the ruler of the republican system cannot bound people to do whatever he or she wants them to do; people have no voting rights in the monarchy system whereas it's one of the characteristics of the republican system; monarchs are not selected, the ruling power is passed on to the descendants by heredity while on the other hand, rulers are being voted to rule the country by the citizens. Previously, the people of Dhaka or the entire Bengal could not vote their ruler as their wish. Now, they have the right to vote. They also have other rights being provided by the republican government. So, in a way, the ruling system also upgraded with time.

Dhaka, the present capital is now the most populated city of the entire country and the most uninhabitable one. Still, people are compelled to migrate to this part from their roots for a better livelihood. As a matter of fact, it's a sorrow that everything in Bangladesh is centered around the capital. There are more resources in rural areas than in urban Dhaka. But the government seems to give more importance to the capital city by developing it gradually. Consequently, the

population is tremendously decreasing in rural areas and increasing in Dhaka making it more of what it is today. Only 50 years ago, Dhaka was a small and peaceful town before Bangladesh was independent. It had more lakes and canals, less population, and was more habitable. Although people that time also used to migrate to Dhaka from the other parts of the country for business startups, most of them used to stay in their ancestral lands as Dhaka was not that much developed to fit for a better livelihood. Presently, it's no longer an underdeveloped town but a greatly developed city that has set new standards of living. We can see how it has changed into a megacity from a peaceful small town it was before. It's now more developed than the other parts of the country.

Bangladesh, in fact, has come a long way since its Independence. It also has come a long way since the beginning of urbanization here. Alongside, the capital city Dhaka has experienced many changes throughout all the time since its beginning. It has been experiencing urbanization from the beginning till today. Because, as it is gradually developed more by the government, more flocks of people are heading toward it every single day. As a result, urbanization is still in process here that made it the most populated city of the entire country and the most uninhabitable one. And it will be completely uninhabitable within a few years if this urbanization process continues here only. So, it's high time the government should utilize the resources in rural areas and make an equal distribution of population in the country.