

REPORT ON MEDIA NEWS COVERAGE ON POPULATION MOVEMENT IN BANGLADESH

A Media content analysis



IOM International Organization for Migration

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The opinions expressed in the report is are those expressed by the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of International Organization for Migration (IOM) or Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI).

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FOREWORD

This report on Media News Coverage on Population Movement is not an initiative taken solely by IOM, in many consultations among stakeholders, there was a continuous demand to work with the media. There was also an incessant accusation against the media for not highlighting important population movement issues, in particular, labour migration, human trafficking and irregular migration in the news. However, all the stakeholders were in agreement that the media could play a crucial role in highlighting different population movement issues and contribute positively in policy reform.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Dhaka and the Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) together took the task of identifying the current role of media to learn areas where stakeholders and the media professionals could work together.

Other than assessing the news, the study also took the initiative to identify readers/viewers and stake holders view and more importantly the difficulties and challenges faced by the media professionals, unearthing the story behind the story. One of the major findings of the study was: to further the impact of media news, stakeholders has as much an important role as media professionals.

We are indebted to everyone who contributed in the study and to this report. We sincerely hope that this report will give a guideline in highlighting areas of improvement not only for the media, but also for stakeholders in bringing important migration issues and challenges to the people as well as to the policy makers.

Md. Shahidul Haque
Regional Representative for South Asia
IOM Dhaka

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The study team sincerely thanks IOM Regional Representative for South Asia Mr Md. Shahidul Haque for making this study possible. We had always been interested to probe into and know more about human mobility and proposed undertaking a proactive media and communication intervention in this area back in 2003. Since then Ms Rina Sengupta, the former National Programme Officer of IOM, had been treating the MRDI like a protégée. For that, we express our heartiest gratitude both to Ms Sengupta and Mr Haque.

Besides, we convey our appreciation for the inspiration we received from Mr Sakiul Millat Morshed, Executive Director of SHISUK, who helped us to envisage media intervention vision, of which this study is but initial road-mapping.

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The earnest efforts of Mr Shawkat Milton, Barisal coordinator of MRDI, and Mr Mohsin Milon, Benapole coordinator, to organise FGDs in their localities deserve more than just verbal acclamation.

Finally, we thank all the study team members of MRDI and Mr. Tanbirul Islam Siddiqui, Consultant who has been responsible for the assessment of the selected electronic media and finally lead consultant, Mr. A.K.M. Masud Ali, Executive Director of INCIDIN Bangladesh. The study team member of MRDI includes Researcher & Report Writer Mr. Azfar Aziz, FGD Facilitator & Report Writer Mr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Research Associate Mr. Sahil Zulfiquer, Coder Ms. Rukhsana Mily and Documentation Officers Ms. Shahanaz Begum, Ms. Ismat Ara Tina & Mr. Md Russel Mia for their hard endeavours to carry out this study. In particular we express our sincere gratitude to Mr Masud Ali for sharing with us his thorough understanding of various types of population movement and the issues involved, for advising the study team patiently and for playing a most charismatic role in steering the study.

Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director
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INTRODUCTION

STUDY BACKGROUND

Population movement has always been a part of life in Bangladesh and at a larger context South Asia. For hundreds of years, circular movements of people have taken place in some regions of South Asia to make sole source of income beyond subsistence agriculture.¹ In today's highly mobile world, migration and mobility have become an increasingly complex area of governance, inextricably interlinked with other key policy areas including socio-economic development, poverty reduction, national security, human rights, regional stability and interstate cooperation.²

Migration, particularly cross-border migration, cannot be dealt by a single country, as it always involves more than one. In the South Asian region, migration management has become a complex issue having political, economic, military/defense, cultural and other social implications and consequences. It's also complex and complicated because migration takes place in a number of diverse forms.³ A persistent and all-pervading lack of conceptual clarity about the multifarious genres of migration and their intricate linkage with the policymakers and civil society down to the masses makes it even more a grey area.

On the other hand, the media can play a major role in imparting that conceptual clarity to the policymakers and the civil society as well as raising their awareness on the diversity of migration.⁴ This role is expected from the media, as it has been its tradition to inform, educate, sensitise and motivate the citizens, create public opinion and thus function as one of the principal institutions guiding the society and the polity towards a better future.⁵

The portraits sketched by media of all phenomena pertaining to life generate public images on the issues, events and situations, while the quantity and quality of the portraits to a large extent depend on media professionals' understanding of the subjects, their ways of presenting and projecting them, and the procedures they employ in digging out and gathering facts. Therefore, whether a development issue would be promoted or dissuaded by the media depends basically on the media professionals' understanding or lack of it.

In this regard, population movement, in particular labour migration, irregular migration and human trafficking, is but a marginalised low-priority issue for Bangladeshi journalists and is often misrepresented in the media. At the local news or media organisations there is no personnel designated to look after the issue. It has also been observed that in the capital, the news on human trafficking is mostly covered by gender correspondents or crime reporters, labour migration

¹ Asian Development Bank, *Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia*, 2003, Page 1, cited in Haque Shahidul & Farjana, Nahreen, *Dynamics of Migration in South Asia: An Overview*, the draft Paper presented at the regional conference on *Revisiting the Migration and Trafficking Nexus: The South Asian Scenario*, April 4-6, 2005, Dhaka.

² Haque Shahidul & Farjana, Nahreen, *Dynamics of Migration in South Asia: An Overview*

³ Ibid

⁴ IOM Dhaka; Media News Coverage Assessment of Population Movement in Bangladesh (draft); 2005

⁵ Please see *Annex 1* for an overview on "Migration and Bangladesh Media: A Historical Overview".

by business correspondents and refugees or asylum seeking by diplomatic correspondents. At district/upazila level, general correspondents typically cover this and all other areas and that also only after such incidents have been unearthed or detected by the law enforcement agencies or in some other ways. Thus, media generally exhibits reactive news and very seldom pro-acts to the population movement issue.

And again, as gender, crime, diplomatic or local correspondents are not adequately equipped with the specialised understanding, access to information and experience, issues related to population movement, in particular, labour migration, human trafficking and irregular migration, these issues get but perfunctory treatment from both the print and electronic media. Therefore reports with scarce investigations and follow-up stories lack the capacities that would help the policymakers and agencies concerned make more-informed policy and intervention decisions.

Many a stakeholder including media consumers has been of the opinion that the news gatekeepers also need orientation on the issue, as they are the ones who decide the priority and treatment of the news on population movement and migration. Media consumers said many important migration events and issues had been denied due precedence and treatment. At times, some of the news dailies run pictures and give names and addresses of trafficking survivors, they said, adding that media often treats migrant workers as mere commodities rather than people, which go against journalism ethics and human rights. The significant contribution of migrant workers to the national economy is also downplayed, contributing to the sub-optimal government policy on population movement.

The situation clearly shows an urgent need for training, advocacy, sensitising and facilitating the journalists and media houses concerned to improve media understanding, focus, priority and coverage as a means to ultimately upgrade the policies and raise public awareness on human trafficking and irregular migration. By depicting and drawing attention of policymakers and the people to population mobility issues, journalists also can add up to the accountability and transparency of the government and other agencies concerned or involved.

However, before undertaking such a corrective intervention, the lacks, loopholes, constraints and needs of the media people and media houses have to be identified. Therefore, IOM (International Organization for Migration), Dhaka Mission with Regional Functions undertook this study styled 'Analysis of Media News Coverage of Population Movement' in partnership with Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) to assess the quantity and quality of the coverage and to identify the intervention needs. MRDI was tasked with conducting a two-month newspaper content analysis and holding eight focus group discussions, a consultant was assigned to monitor and evaluate the electronic media coverage and a lead consultant to oversee the project.

STUDY AIM

The study aimed at identifying by close examination and analysis the quantitative and qualitative lacks, loopholes and constraints in media coverage of population movement needing corrective intervention as well as the positive factors that should be boosted.

The term population movement means a process of moving, either within State or across international borders, including any type of movement, irrelevant of time period, causes and nature.⁶

The term population movement could be synonymously used with migration. Migration means, "a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants."⁷

Migration over the years has taken many forms. The diverse forms often overlap making it quite difficult to categorize.

- Voluntary and Forced Migration based on the subjective nature of the movement;
- Long-term or Permanent Migration and Short-term or Temporary Migration considering the duration of stay abroad;
- Internal and International Migration based on crossing political borders;
- Irregular and Regular Migration based on the legal status of migrants in case of international migrations.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the study were

- ⇒ To assess and analyse the following aspects of the media coverage of population movement:
 - Quantity/size and category, characteristics, treatments and other relevant qualities, both positive and negative, of reports, features, editorials, post-editorials, columns, articles, photographs, etc
 - Conceptual clarity
 - Priority and treatment
 - Media perspective on the issues
- ⇒ To raise awareness among the stakeholders, including readers/viewers, media workers, civil society, development workers and the former or current migrants, shortcomings and strengths of media in covering population movement issue as well as their expectations.

⁶ A glossary on different types of migration terms is given as *Annex 2*.

⁷ International Organization for Migration (IOM); International Migration Law: Glossary of Migration; 2004

⇒ To ascertain intervention needs, areas and strategies to enhance the motivation and capacity of media to better cover population movement or migration as a distinct and important beat

STUDY SAMPLE

NEWSPAPER STUDY SAMPLE

Fifteen news dailies -- five national vernacular, five national English and five leading local dailies, selected on the basis of highest circulation, were monitored and their coverage on migration and population movement clipped for January and February 2005.

Among them, the Dhaka-based, national and mass-circulation Bangla dailies are Jugantor, Prothom Alo, Ittefaq, Inqilab and Sangbad.

The Dhaka-based English dailies are The Daily Star, New Age, The Independent, New Nation and The Financial Express, which is also the country's lone quality business daily.

The local dailies are all in the vernacular. They are Korotoa of Bogra, Jessore-based Gramer Kagoj, Dainik Purbokone of Chittagong, Shyamol Sylhet of Sylhet and Barisal-based Ajker Paribartan. All the newspapers are private owned.

PROFILES OF NEWSPAPERS STUDIED

Daily	Base	Language	Regular No. of pages	Regular No. of coloured pages	Regular No. of B/W pages	Column width	Space per page (sq inch)	No. of Supplementary
Jugantor	Dhaka	Bangla	20	8	12	1.75"	287	2
Prothom Alo	Dhaka	Bangla	20	6	14	1.75"	287	3
Ittefaq	Dhaka	Bangla	20	4	16	1.75"	287	0
Inqilab	Dhaka	Bangla	20	4	16	1.75"	287	1
Sangbad	Dhaka	Bangla	12	4	8	1.70"	278.8	7
Daily Star	Dhaka	English	20	6	14	1.75"	287	3
New Age	Dhaka	English	20	6	14	1.75"	287	1
Independent	Dhaka	English	16	4	12	1.60"	262.4	3
Financial Express	Dhaka	English	16	4	12	1.75"-1.60"	287-262.4	0
New Nation	Dhaka	English	16	4	12	1.75"	287	1
Korotoa	Bogra	Bangla	12	4	8	1.75"	287	0
Gramer Kagoj	Jessore	Bangla	4	2	2	1.80"	295.2	0
Purbokone	Ctg	Bangla	12	4	8	1.75"	287	0
Shyamol Sylhet	Sylhet	Bangla	8	0	8	1.70"	278.8	0
Ajker Paribartan	Barisal	Bangla	4	0	4	1.75"	287	0

SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLICATIONS OF NEWSPAPERS STUDIED

Daily	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jugantor	Parobas	Bichchhu	Protimanca	Ghore Baire		Tara Bilashita	Sahitya Samoyiki
Prothom Alo	Chhutir Diney	Dhakai Thaki	Alpin	Noksha	Narimancho	Anando	Sahitya Samoyiki
Sangbad	Sarbo Joya	Durey Kothao	Jalsha	Saj	Khela Ghor	Onno Jibon	Ekushey Pa
Daily Star	Star Literariae			Life Style		Rising Stars	Weekend Magazine
New Age							New Age Extra
Independent			Stethoscope			Young	Magazine
New Nation			Life Style				
Inqilab							Signal
Financial Express	Features & Analysis						
Ittefaq							
Korotoa							
Gramer Kagoj							
Purbokone							
Shyamol Sylhet							
Ajker Paribartan							

TV CHANNEL STUDY SAMPLE

Four TV channels were chosen --- Bangladesh Television (BTV), Channel i, ATN and Ntv. Except BTV, all are private owned and airs through satellite. The TV channels were monitored for the month of January.

PROFILES OF TV CHANNELS STUDIED

TV Channel	Base	Language	Hour of broadcast in a week (7 days)	Hour of broadcast in weekends (2 days)
ATN	Dhaka	Bangla and English		
BTV	Dhaka	Bangla and English		
Channel i	Dhaka	Bangla and English		
Ntv	Dhaka	Bangla and English		

CONTENT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

PRINT MEDIA CONTENT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The study monitored all the news coverage of human mobility in the sample newspapers for the two study-months -- January and February 2005 - and the advertisements for February only.

The analysis mainly focussed on the news coverage in the regular pages, keeping the supplementary aside in a separate group, as out of the 15 dailies only 8 national dailies run supplements. This approach was adopted to ensure a level field for comparison between the dailies. Besides, the write-ups in the

supplements are mostly contributed by outsiders and so do not reflect the strength or ability of the daily's staff.

The advertisements were monitored only for February, as in this case the study mainly aimed at examining and identifying the source and volumes of advertisements only.

Each day, a coding team scrutinised the dailies selected for the study and clipped the reportage, analyses, opinions, editorials and advertisement on migration categorised into 25 topics.⁸

The team encoded the clipped coverage mentioning:

- name of the daily;
- date of publication;
- topic covered;
- heading;
- source(s) and destination(s) of migration or population movement;
- type of coverage or item;
- writer or source of the coverage;
- width of coverage or heading size (across how many columns);
- the page (e.g. front, national, back, metro etc) the item was published in;
- the page number;
- the page number to which the item has jumped (if at all);
- the number of colours used;
- the column(s) it occupied;
- the exact placement of it above or below the fold;
- any special treatment it received;
- the total size of coverage in sq inches;
- the size of text (including heading, highlights, inserts etc.) in sq inches; and
- the size of graphics (pictures, illustrations, logo etc) used in sq inches.⁹

In measuring the size of coverage the study used square inches instead of usual column inches, as the width of column varies from newspaper to newspaper. It even varies from issue to issue of a single daily if it changes the page/layout format or the size of the broadsheet, like in case of The Financial Express, the column width came down from 1.75 inches to 1.60 inches as the business daily went for a narrower paper, as is illustrated in the table above.

All the data of the two-month monitoring were then entered into two Excel files -- one for the advertisement content and the other for the rest of the items, processed and analysed.

⁸ Please see *Annex 3* for the lists of coverage types and topics of coverage

⁹ Please see *Anex 3* for the code used for each data type and *Annex 4* for a copy of the data-entry and clipping form

The quantitative analyses have focussed on dates of coverage, items or coverage types, sizes of texts and graphics, topics, sources and destinations, writers or news/coverage sources, and what pages they were published in.

While the qualitative analyses have been based on the heading size, page of publication, colours used, placement in terms of columns and in relation to the fold, special treatments received and jumps made or not, besides clarity and readability.¹⁰

Analyses of data were made to find trends in coverage including treatment of various migration issues. The differences between the coverage by the national and the local dailies as well as between the individual newspapers. Trends of coverage in time, by day, week and month were also identified. By comparing the trends, it is possible to get a sense how the press in general and the individual newspapers run stories on population movement.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA CONTENT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The study monitored all the news and views coverage of migration in the sample electronic media channels for the month of January 2005.

Each day, the consultant scrutinised the news of the channels selected for the study, monitored and clipped all coverage including reportage, analyses, opinions, editorials and advertisement on migration categorised into 25 topics.¹¹

The clipped coverage was then encoded mentioning:

- Date
- Name of TV Channel
- Issue
- Type of Coverage
- Time of the News
- When in the News
- Duration of the Segment
- Treatment:
 - News with footage
 - News without footage
 - Covered by reporter
- Treatment: Interview with concerned Person
- Special Treatment
- Overview of content

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Parallel to the newspaper and electronic media content analysis, seven (7) focus group discussions (FGDs) were held in Sirajganj, Dhaka, Barisal and Benapole in Jessore on newspaper and electronic media coverage of migration and population movement issues. The findings of the FGDs have been compiled separately and compared with the findings of the content analysis. It also represents the views of cross-section readers.

¹⁰ Please see *Annex 5* to have an idea how the data were compiled and managed

¹¹ Please see *Annex 3* for the lists of coverage types and topics of coverage

These seven Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were participated by 84 men and women including 10 adolescents, who shared their views on population movement, related issues and the role of media in this regard. Among the participants 26 were returned or potential migrants, 27 working journalists, 12 religious minority members and 10 Girls Guides. Almost all the NGOs working in migration and related fields were covered by the FGDs.

SN	DATE	VENUE	FOCUS GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
	10 Feb	Benapole	Local journalists	15
	11 Mar	Barisal	Religious minority leaders	12
	13 Mar	Dhaka	Dhaka-based print & electronic journalists	12
	13 Mar	IOM, Dhaka	IOM partner organisations	9
	18 Mar	BOMSA	Female returned and aspirant migrants	11
	16 Apr	Sirajgonj	Male returned migrants	15
	30 Apr	Dhaka	Bangladesh Girls Guide members	10
Total				84

STAKEHOLDERS MEETING TO SHARE STUDY FINDINGS

A meeting of a group of stakeholders to share the primary findings of the media content analysis on population movement was held at Dhaka on June 29, 2005. Besides the study team and IOM representatives, seven prominent media professionals and representatives¹² from NGOs working in population movement participated in the meeting.

At the event, the salient findings of the newspaper content analysis and TV coverage on the subject was presented separately. An open discussion was held in which the participants made observations and recommendations¹³.

TIMEFRAME

The study monitored the 15 selected newspapers from January 1 to February 28, 2005 and electronic media news coverage from January 1 to January 31, 2005. The advertisements of the newspapers were carried out on February 1 to February 28, 2005. The analysis of the content was carried out in February to May.

The focus group discussions were held in February 10 to April 30. A summery report was presented before a mixed group of stakeholders in June. The outcome of the stakeholders' meeting was incorporated into the report, with recommendations for corrective interventions made on the basis of stakeholders' views that match the lacking and shortcomings of the press found by the study.

¹² See Annex 7

¹³ See Annex 6

LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

Migration topics were so overlapping and inter-connected, and the reports sometimes so ambiguous that categorising them was quite a difficult task for the coders. Therefore, there is a slight chance of mis-categorising some incidents of population movement. Moreover, international coverage of migration issue were also not covered if it didn't have direct link with Bangladesh migration issues due to time constraint.

For electronic media there is a limitation of time and space in their news. One-month monitoring may not be sufficient to assess their ability or willingness on a particular and specialized issue like population movement. Moreover, only one person was assigned to this task because of budgetary constraints. Therefore, unwillingly, some coverage on population movement could be lost. Due to insufficient personnel to assess electronic media news, the coverage time has not been recorded.

The timeframe is very short in analysing media coverage for both electronic and print media in a totality. A case study is provided as a reference to this.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report has four major chapters. The first chapter describes some of the key concepts and reflects on the methodology adopted by the study. The second chapter presents the quantitative findings of the media assessment. The third chapter presents the critical analysis of the contents. The last chapter denotes the major conclusions and recommendations regarding the role of print and electronic media with respect to population movement.

The report further includes an annexure containing some conceptual elaboration and detailed findings of process documentation.

STUDY FINDINGS

KEY TRENDS FOUND IN MEDIA COVERAGE OF HUMAN MOBILITY

- **Reports are surface ones, mostly incident-based and shallow.**

Unless information is handed out by watchdogs, rights bodies, NGOs etc. no news would have been reported. For example the second highest daily coverage of population movement in newspapers were on February 6 was mainly due to:

 - A report released by Odhikar on border issues and
 - A press conference held by Bangladeshi expatriates in UK on visa problems
- **Absence of investigative reporting**
 - The reports mostly depend on bare facts received from police, border guards or other official sources.
 - Media houses don't feel much like sending reporters to investigate on human trafficking, etc.
 - Reports on human trafficking are mostly reactive, following the gang busting incidents, not proactive.
- **Unverified reporting**
 - Reports were found to lack cross-checking.
 - Some of them found to contain wrong information that can mislead people and make cheating by manpower agents easier.
- **In a few cases, headlines mismatched the content in newspapers**
 - Example: Headline of a Feb 15 report:
 - Headline - Malaysia to evict all irregular immigrants.
 - Content - Only Indonesians would be driven out.
- **Inadequate follow-up news**

On 8 January '05, 300 labor migrants returned from Maldives by Qatar Airways and two private TV channels (ATN Bangla and NTV) covered the news from airport in details while Channel i and BTV did not cover the news. Quoting the Qatar Air area manager and the returnees the channels informed that three more flights were due on 12, 17 and 28 January'05 respectively. But there was no follow-up from any of the channels on the news. The absentee channels (BTV and Channel i) could cover the next date. Though it was mentioned in the story that the labour migrants had to return due to Tsunami and its impact on local labor market but some of the returnees described different stories, the agents cheated them and they were forced to return without any savings.
- **Constraints in reporting**
 - ◆ **Unsatisfactory initiative to collect information**
 - Reports on forced migration were surface ones.

- Some reporters, if interested on the issue, cover the news on their own accord along with a designated official assignment. However, often the newspapers are not interested to publish the news.
- They sympathise with the victims of push in and out but don't reflect on their human rights violation aspect.
- ◆ **Local dailies' dependence on news agencies**
 - Very few have correspondents in Dhaka, the centre.
 - Blindly follow agency reports.
 - Thus agency-mistakes multiply.
- ◆ **Inadequate conceptual clarity and understanding of priorities**
 - Results in misplacement of an issue.
For example, there is an inclination noticeable of confusing between irregular migration and trafficking in persons.
- ◆ **Insufficient human & other resources**

Other forms of population movement-seasonal worker, rural-urban migration, displaced person and refugee issues were covered as a 'side bar' with other issues i.e. fire in gas field, Eid, inter-ministerial meeting etc. There was no single 'separate' or 'special' item or story on population movement covered by the channels or newspapers. Lack of information or orientation on this issue could be one of the major causes in this regard.
- ◆ **Unsatisfactory skill of field-level reporters**

Even though, journalists in Dhaka sometimes receive training from different NGOs and are designated to a certain field (not in case of migration however), field level journalists cover many different issues ranging from crime, human rights and politics. Moreover, very few of them receive training on reporting. Therefore, naturally the field-level journalists often lacks in reporting and issue-based skills.

STATISTICAL FINDINGS: PRINT MEDIA

TOTAL COVERAGE

A total of 243 items, 228 news and editorial items on regular pages and 15 features in the supplementary pages, on human mobility were published in the two study months of January and February 2005 in the 15 dailies monitored, occupying 4650.45-sq-inch area, of which texts account for 4,181.94 sq inches or nearly 90% and graphics 457.48 sq inches or a little less than 10%.

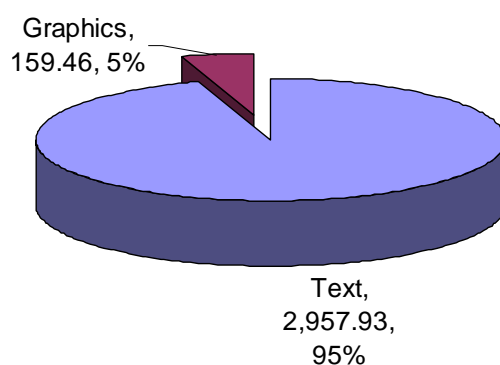
The major bulk, 298.02-sq-inch or 65.14%, of the graphic illustration was devoted to the stories run in the supplementary publications. The text-to-graphics ratio, which was 18.55:1 in case of news coverage, was as high as 4.1:1 in case of supplementary.

TOTAL COVERAGE OF HUMAN MOBILITY IN STUDY PERIOD				
	No. of Items	Total Size (sq inch)	Text (sq inch)	Graphics (sq inch)
News	228	3117.40	2957.93	159.46
Supplement	15	1533.05	1224.01	298.02
Total	243	4650.45	4181.94	457.48

TOTAL NEWS COVERAGE

A total of 228 news items on human mobility were published in the two study-months of January and February 2005 in the regular pages of the 15 dailies monitored, occupying 3,117.40 sq inches, of which texts occupied 2,957.93 sq inches or nearly 95% and graphics 159.46 sq inches or approximately 5%. The average daily coverage was 52.8373 sq inches.

Total News Text & Graphics in 2 Study Months
(in sq inches)



Month-wise, the total news coverage increased in number by 30.3% from 99 in January to 129 in February as well as in volume by more than 27.61% from 1,369.62 sq inches to 1,747.78 sq inches (mostly because of a report published by Odhikar, an NGO).

However, the February coverage received less display. While the ratio of text to graphics was nearly 9.16:1 in January with text occupying 1,234.85 sq inches and graphics 134.76 sq inches, it witnessed a drastic decline to less than 117:1 in February, when graphics accounted for only 24.7 sq inches against a massive 1,723.08-sq-inch text.

TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY COVERAGE

In the two study months, 15 items were published in the supplements of four national dailies, occupying a total of 1,533.05 sq inch space comprising 1224.01 sq inch text and 298.02 sq inch graphic illustration.

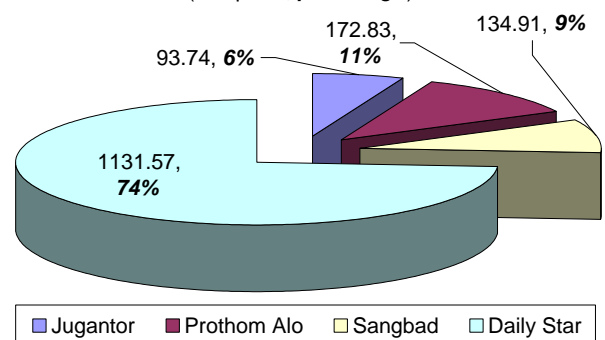
ITEMS ON HUMAN MOBILITY PUBLISHED IN SUPPLEMENTARIES IN JAN TO FEB 2005

Clip	Daily	Date	Item	Item Source	Colour	Total Size (sq inch)	Text (sq inch)	Graphics (sq inch)
1	Sangbad	6 Jan	Feature	Contributor	Bi-colour	57.75	43.42	14.33
2	Daily Star	7 Jan	Travelogue	Contributor	4-colour	149.14	139.69	9.45
3	Daily Star	7 Jan	Travelogue	Contributor	Bi-colour	97.38	97.38	00
4	Daily Star	7 Jan	Travelogue	Contributor	4-colour	98.77	98.1	0.67
5	Daily Star	14 Jan	Travelogue	Contributor	4-colour	199.98	174.47	25.51
6	Prothom Alo	16 Jan	In-depth report	Staff Byline	4-colour	55.35	36.63	18.70
7	Prothom Alo	19 Jan	Feature	Staff Byline	B&W	33.06	33.06	00
8	Daily Star	21 Jan	Travelogue	Contributor	4-colour	144.4	108.17	36.23
9	Prothom Alo	2 Feb	Feature	Staff Byline	B&W	18.50	18.50	00
10	Daily Star	4 Feb	Travelogue	Contributor	4-colour	156.9	94.07	62.83
11	Sangbad	7 Feb	In-depth report	Staff Byline	4-colour	77.16	58.46	18.7
12	Daily Star	11 Feb	Travelogue	Contributor	4-colour	142.5	107.7	34.8
13	Prothom Alo	17 Feb	Interview	Staff Byline	4-colour	65.92	53.45	12.47
14	Daily Star	18 Feb	Travelogue	Contributor	4-colour	142.5	109.62	32.88
15	Jugantor	26 Feb	Feature	Contributor	B&W	93.74	51.29	42.45

Of the 4 dailies, The Daily Star ran the highest 8 items, followed by Prothom Alo with 4, Sangbad 2 and Jugantor 1.

Of the 15 items, 10 were in 4-colour, 2 in bi-colour and 3 in black and white. The Daily Star ran 7 four-colour stories and 1 bi-colour, Prothom Alo 2 four-colour and 2 B&W, Sangbad 1 four-colour and 1 bi-colour, and Jugantor 1 B&W.

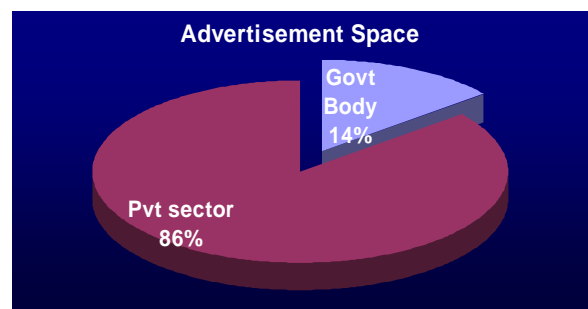
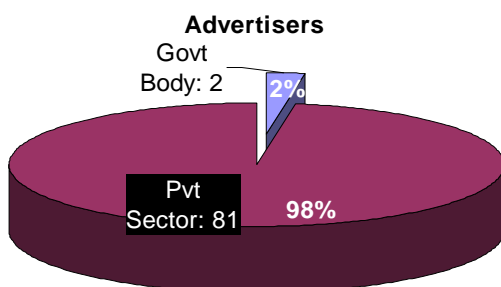
Supplementary Coverage of Human Mobility
(in sq inch, *percentage*)



ADVERTISEMENTS ON MIGRATION

In February a total of 83 migration-related advertisements were published in six of the 15 dailies occupying 891.04-sq-inch space. The newspapers that received those Ads were led by Ittefaq, followed by Prothom Alo, Jugantor, The Daily Star, Inqilab and The Financial Express. Except one bi-colour Ad, all were black and white.

Of the 83 Ads only 2 came from government agencies and the remaining 81 or 98% from private sector companies, containing dubious promises of jobs, studies and

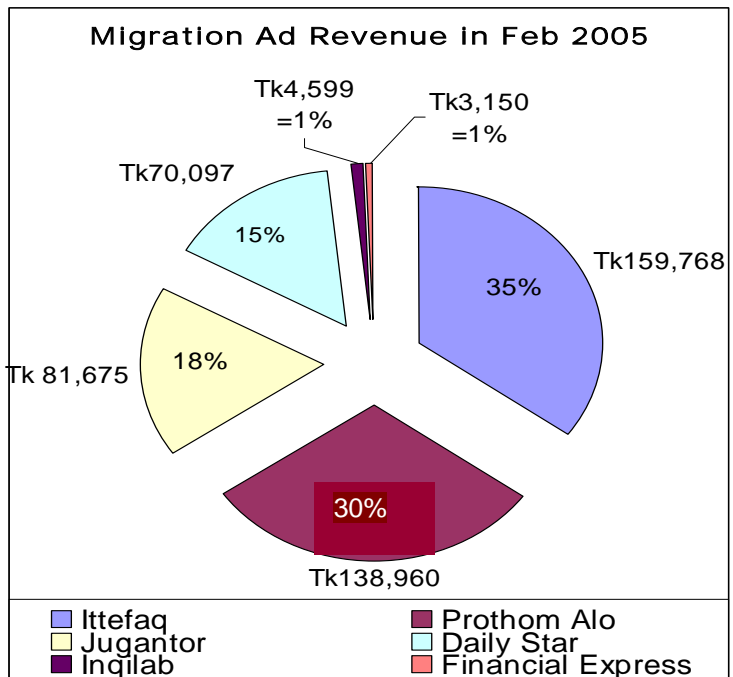


immigration in foreign and affluent countries. Of the 891.04-sq-inch advertisement space, government bodies accounted for 125.95 sq inches and private sector 765.09 sq inches.

AD REVENUE EARNED BY DAILIES IN FEB 05				
Daily	No. of Ads	Sq Inch	Column Inch	Approximate Revenue
Ittefaq	27	310.66	177.52	Tk 159,768
Prothom Alo	30	270.20	154.4	Tk 138,960
Jugantor	18	158.81	90.75	Tk 81,675
Daily Star	6	136.30	77.88	Tk 70,097
Inqilab	1	8.95	5.11	Tk 4,599
F Express	1	6.12	3.50	Tk 3,150

Of the 2 government Ads on migration, Ittefaq received one and The Daily Star the other.

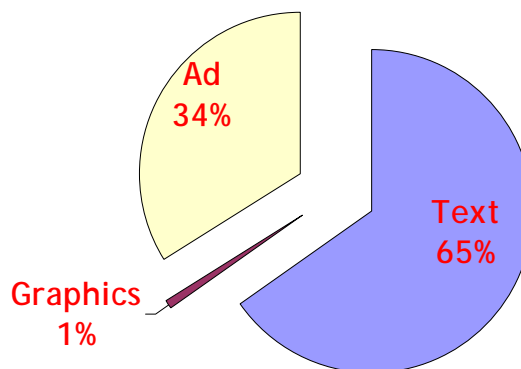
In February, from the 891.04-sq-inch or approximately 509.16-column-inch Ads, the six national news dailies together earned around Tk 458,244 calculated at an assumed rate of Tk 900 per column inch, with Ittefaq scoring the highest Tk 159,768, closely followed by Prothom Alo earning Tk 138,960. Jugantor and The Daily Star also gathered considerable amounts of migration Ad revenue -- Tk 81,675 and Tk 70,097 respectively. Inqilab and Financial Express each received just one migration Ad, of some 5-column-inch and 3.5-column-inch sizes. The remaining 4 Dhaka-based and 5 local dailies did not get any migration Ad.



COMPARATIVE COVERAGE OF ADVERTISE AND NEWS

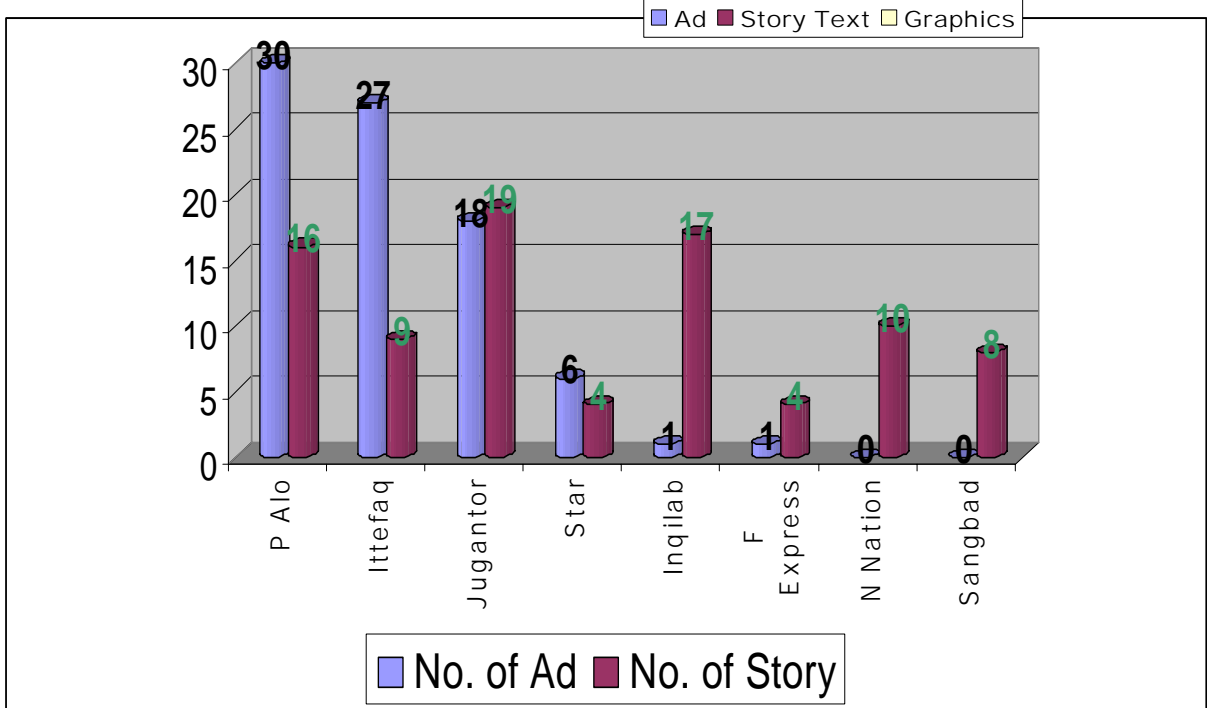
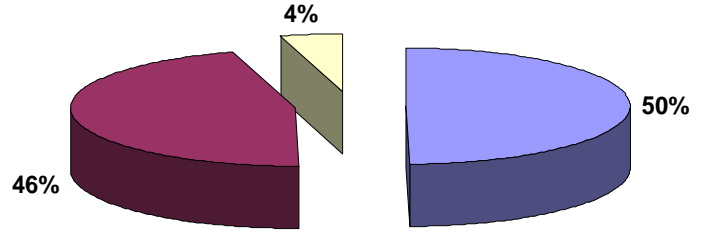
Together with the news coverage, migration issues accounted for 2,638.82-sq-inch space of the 15 newspapers in February. Of that, news accounted for 66% (65% text and 1% graphics) with 1,747.78-sq-inch area and Ads 34%.

But there is no apparent relationship between revenue earned from advertisement and coverage of migration issues and events. Because, of the 6 newspapers that received the 83 Ads in February, the highest number of Ad receiver, Prothom Alo, published only 16 stories, while Inqilab that got the least, only one, ran 17 stories. On the other hand, New Nation and Sangbad, who received no Ad on migration, did publish 10 and 8 stories respectively.



Totalling the stories and graphics published by these 6 Ad revenue earners, we however find same space allocated to stories as the migration ads.

Share of News, Graphics & Ads In 6 Receptier Dailies (in sq inches)



DAILY NEWS COVERAGE

HIGHEST DAILY COVERAGE

Among the 59 days from January 1 to February 28, the highest total daily news coverage was received on the very first day, January 1, with 21 items occupying 329.74 sq inches, of which text accounted for 253.98 sq inches and graphics 75.75 sq inches.

The high text and graphic were devoted to the return of a Bangladeshi truck driver named Abul Kashem from Iraq after being freed from local rebel abductors there. The story had a human interest aspect and so received prominent treatment with pictures of him and his family members by eight of the dailies. Though only one newspaper, the New Age, gave the news a 3-column treatment, with the rest sticking to 1-column headlines, each of the 8 papers published a photograph with the report. The pictures of Kashem and/or his family members virtually make up the total graphics published on migration that day, occupying 74.97-sq-inch space out of the total 75.75-sq-inch graphics. Apart from that, only a .78-sq-inch portrait of a Bangladeshi student killed in Sydney was published that day.

Among other stories run on that New Year day were five reports on border violence by BSF, two on arrest of a student leader with criminal records while trying to migrate abroad with forged documents, two on rescue of a trafficked girl and an alleged trafficker. The rest three

DAILY NEWS COVERAGE (in sq inch)				
DATE	NO OF ITEMS	TOTAL SIZE	TEXT SIZE	GRAPHICS SIZE
1-Jan	21	329.74	253.98	75.75
2-Jan	4	47.77	43.98	3.79
3-Jan	4	83.93	83.93	0.00
4-Jan	2	14.56	14.56	0.00
5-Jan	3	14.03	14.03	0.00
6-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
7-Jan	8	102.17	102.17	0.00
8-Jan	4	50.72	46.06	4.66
9-Jan	5	100.12	78.28	21.84
10-Jan	5	55.00	55.00	0.00
11-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
12-Jan	3	64.98	57.54	7.44
13-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
14-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
15-Jan	8	114.27	114.27	0.00
16-Jan	1	16.28	16.28	0.00
17-Jan	2	34.82	34.82	0.00
18-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
19-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
20-Jan	6	92.65	71.37	21.28
21-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
22-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
23-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
24-Jan	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
25-Jan	3	42.44	42.44	0.00
26-Jan	2	30.62	30.62	0.00
27-Jan	7	58.10	58.10	0.00
28-Jan	3	25.47	25.47	0.00
29-Jan	4	33.82	33.82	0.00
30-Jan	2	16.10	16.10	0.00
31-Jan	2	42.03	42.03	0.00
1-Feb	3	21.51	21.51	0.00
2-Feb	12	179.31	172.06	7.25
3-Feb	8	95.90	85.10	10.80
4-Feb	3	31.06	31.06	0.00
5-Feb	9	150.40	150.40	0.00
6-Feb	17	233.66	233.66	0.00
7-Feb	2	23.97	23.97	0.00
8-Feb	4	41.55	41.55	0.00
9-Feb	3	113.73	113.73	0.00
10-Feb	12	188.05	181.40	6.65
11-Feb	2	18.92	18.92	0.00
12-Feb	5	95.22	95.22	0.00
13-Feb	7	37.63	37.63	0.00
14-Feb	4	61.33	61.33	0.00
15-Feb	3	38.65	38.65	0.00
16-Feb	2	17.15	17.15	0.00
17-Feb	1	11.35	11.35	0.00
18-Feb	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
19-Feb	1	11.10	11.10	0.00
20-Feb	6	73.78	73.78	0.00
21-Feb	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
22-Feb	2	13.30	13.30	0.00
23-Feb	4	38.47	38.47	0.00
24-Feb	4	30.80	30.80	0.00
25-Feb	4	59.17	59.17	0.00
26-Feb	6	70.29	70.29	0.00
27-Feb	3	55.48	55.48	0.00
28-Feb	2	36.00	36.00	0.00
TOTAL	228	3117.40	2957.93	159.46

comprises one on death of a Bangladeshi student in Sydney, one on interest of Indian students to study medicine in Bangladesh and one in-depth report on orderly labour migration.

Among the dailies Jugantor and New Nation ran the highest number of stories, 4 each, and Prothom Alo published 3. Sangbad, New Age and Independent ran 2 items each, while Ittefaq, Inqilab and Daily Star published 1 story each. The rest had no item on migration.

Jugantor published two exclusive stories -- one on the death of a Bangladeshi student in Sydney and the other on Indian students' keen interest to study medicine in Bangladesh. New Nation had an exclusive, too, an in-depth report on 270,000 Bangladeshis obtaining jobs abroad in 2004. One of the 2 Sangbad reports that day, on an armed soldier of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) hiding in Bangladesh after allegedly killing a colleague, was exclusive too.

2ND HIGHEST COVERAGE

In terms of volume, the second highest coverage was received on February 6 with a total of 17 items published, occupying 233.66 sq inches. However there was no graphical display on that date.

The much larger than usual coverage was partly due to launch of a report on border issues by Odhikar, a human rights watchdog, which was reported by five dailies. A press conference on visa problems faced by expatriate restaurant workers and owners in UK was covered by 2 dailies and surface reports on killing, abduction and push-in bid by BSF came out in 4. There were reports in 3 dailies on rescue of an abducted girl and arrest of a suspected trafficker.

Ittefaq tops the list on this 6th day of February running 4 items, followed by Inqilab with 3 stories. Jugantor, Daily Star and Independent ran 2 items each while Sangbad, New Age, Financial Express and New Nation published 1 story each.

On the day, Ittefaq had an exclusive investigative report headlined 'Migrant workers in UK in virtual bondage' but it also ran an old report titled 'Stranded Pakistanis in Rangpur get healthcare services' which had been published by Jugantor on February 2. Jugantor, on the other hand, published two exclusive stories -- one on the death of a Bangladeshi student in Sydney and the other on Indian students' keen interest to study medicine in Bangladesh. New Nation had an exclusive, too, an in-depth report on 270,000 Bangladeshis obtaining jobs abroad in 2004. One of the 2 Sangbad reports that day, on an armed soldier of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) hiding in Bangladesh after allegedly killing a colleague, was exclusive too. Inqilab also published one exclusive on alleged illegal stay of over 1 lakh Indians in Bangladesh.

3RD HIGHEST COVERAGE

February 10 and February 2 both saw 12 items each, but the 10th day came out first spending 188.05 sq inch space for population movement, while the 2nd day allotted 179.31 sq inches.

The common stories on February 10 were lynching of 3 or 4 Bangladeshi cattle-traders who had trespassed into India by Indian villagers ran by 7 dailies and rescue of an abducted woman diaspora of Bangladesh and UK.

Among the day's exclusives, Financial Express published one report titled 'No passport to Noor Chy: Foreign Ministry' and New Nation on 'Infiltration of Rohingas: 54 pushed back in a day'.

Inqilab ran a small report headlined 'Deported workers from Malaysia asked to register names' which had been published as early as February 2 by Dainik Purbokone of Chittagong.

Actually, Purbokone tops the list on February 2, with 3 items -- one a day's common on abduction and killing of a child in Raujan, one on the Bangladeshi workers back from Malaysia, and an exclusive headlined 'US to ease visa procedure for Bangladeshi scholars soon: David Gross'.

A range of exclusives came out on that day. Those include an investigative report published by the Jessore-based Gramer Kagoj on alleged collaboration between local administration of Kalaroa upazila and traffickers in women and children and an exceptional item by Independent titled 'China's huge migrant labour force now want their rights'. There was a promotional report -- Rakin Canada Ins to guide aspirant immigrants to Canada - published by Shyamol Sylhet, an opinionated report titled 'Alarming rise in provocative activities of BSF' by Inqilab.

The regional dailies did unusually well on the day, as Korotoa also published two reports, both exclusives, one on suspension of a Malaysian government drive to round-up illegal immigrants and the second on a interesting story of a Indian couple on the run hiding in Bangladesh and the hunt for them.

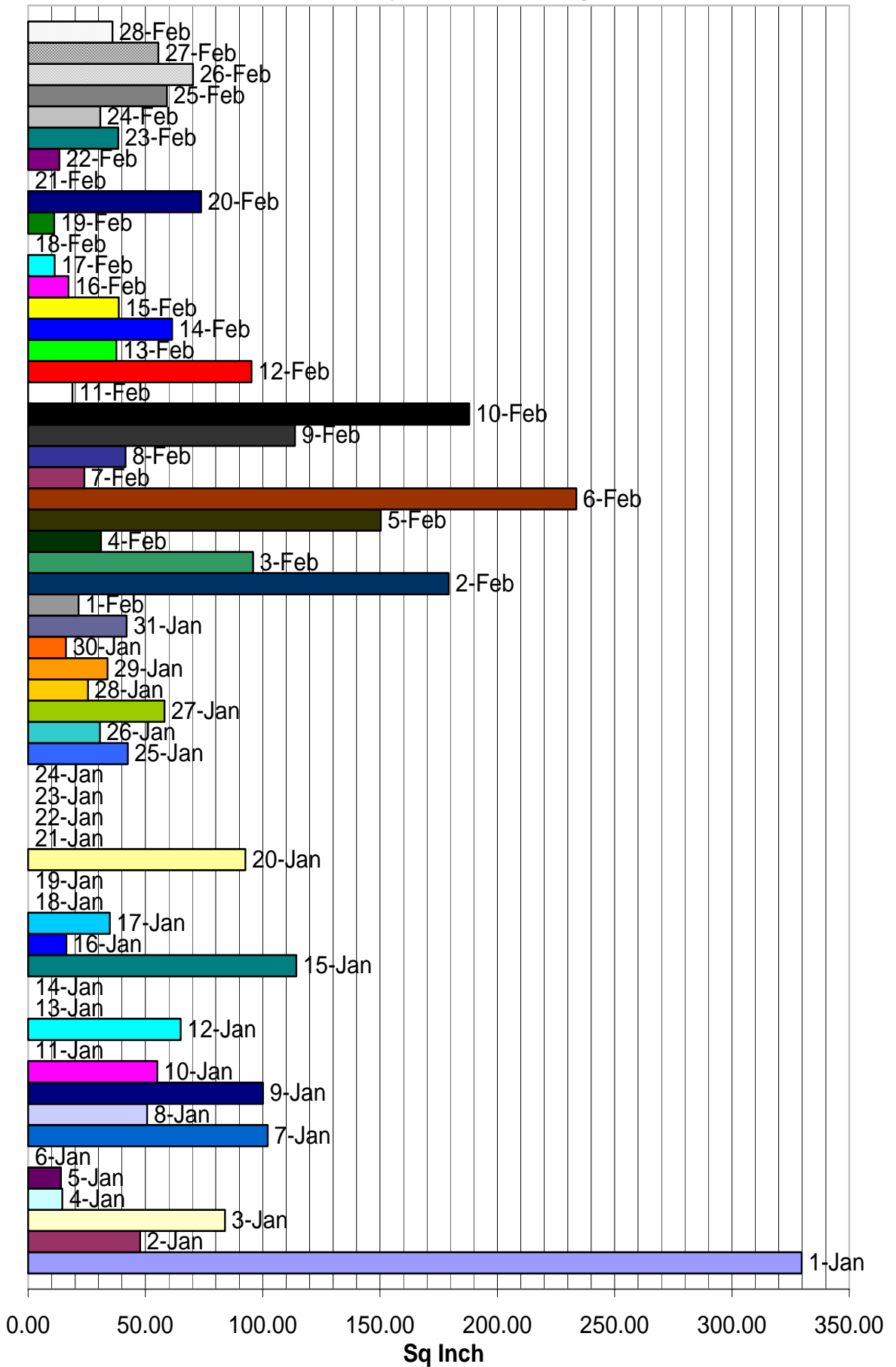
BLACK-OUT DAYS

On 12 out of the total 59 study days there was a complete blank in newspaper coverage of population movement. Of those days, again, 10 are in January and only 2 in February. That explains the lower monthly coverage in January than February.

The blank days in January were 6th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th.

The two black-out days in February were 18th and 21st.

Total Daily News Coverage



WEEKLY NEWS COVERAGE TREND

There is a trend of declining coverage during the last half of a month, that is, coverage tends to peak up in the beginning of a month. In the first week of January 42 items were published in 592.20 sq inches, showing an above average coverage. It then declined to 17 items in 270.82 sq inches in 2nd week and again 17 items in 258.02 sq inches in 3rd week and then nose-diving to 15 items in 156.63 sq inches in the 4th week, marking below-average coverage.

WEEK-ON-WEEK TOTAL COVERAGE				
Week	Total Size (sq inch)	Text Size (sq inch)	Graphics Size (sq inch)	No of Items
Jan 1st	592.20	512.65	79.54	42
Jan 2nd	270.82	236.88	33.94	17
Jan 3rd	258.02	236.74	21.28	17
Jan 4th	156.63	156.63	0.00	15
Feb 1st	735.81	717.76	18.05	54
Feb 2nd	556.43	549.78	6.65	37
Feb 3rd	152.03	152.03	0.00	13
Feb 4th	303.51	303.51	0.00	25

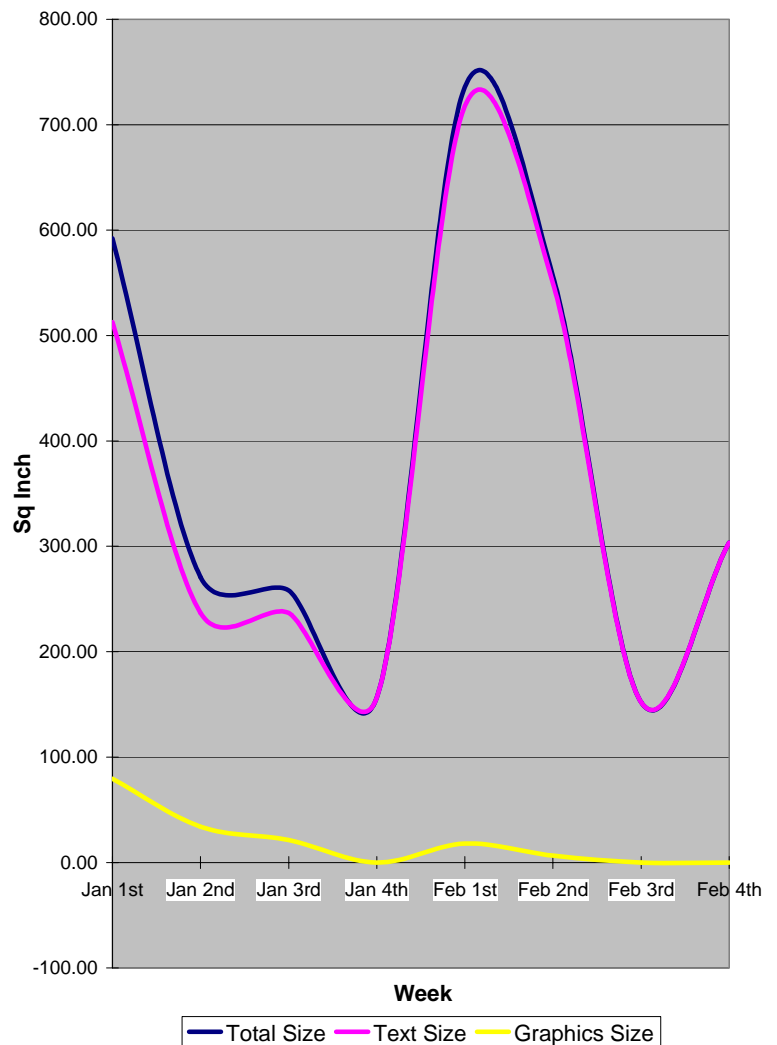
Similar trend was found in February. Starting with as many as 54 items in 735.81 sq inches or more than double of the average in the first week of February, it diminished to 37 items in 556.43 sq inches in the 2nd week, still over-average, but then dropped to 13 items in only 152.03 sq inches in the 3rd week. However, the coverage somehow re-gained some vigour in the 4th week rising to 25 items occupying 303.51 sq inches, though it still marked less than the 52.84-sq-inch daily average.

COMPARATIVE COVERAGE BY NEWSPAPERS

Jugantor topped the list of the news dailies studied by allotting the largest space in covering news on population movement. In the study period, it spent the largest 537.46-sq-inch space to publish the highest 39 stories on migration. The daily also published the highest number of pictures, six, taking 33.19-sq-inch area, which however is less than the 43.12-sq-inch invested by Financial Express in printing two large pictures.

In terms of number of items published and space allotted, Inqilab stood 2nd, expanding 426.97 sq inches to run 35 items. But it had no graphic illustration at

Week-on-Week Total Coverage



all. In fact, it was the only national daily that did not print a single photograph on migration events, not even on the return of Abul Kashem, a Bangladeshi truck driver, abducted and then freed in Iraq, published by 7 of its rivals.

The return of truck driver Abul Kashem Faruq was also the single most covered, both in terms of text and graphics, during the two study months.

Prothom Alo, which stood 3rd with 31 stories and 345.42-sq-inch news coverage, was also the only one to run a human-interest follow-up story on how the family members of Abul Kashem felt on his return home complete with a group photograph.

Sangbad came out 4th with 21 stories in 316.14 sq inches, while Ittefaq ranking 5th in terms of space of 271.22-sq-inch devoted migration, its item count, 28, was much higher than Sangbad. The fact that the stories run by Ittefaq were more word-and space-economic, or, in other words, more precise and concise, accounts for the lesser space allotted to population movement.

COMPARATIVE TOTAL NEWS COVERAGE OF MIGRATION BY INDIVIDUAL DAILIES (Size in sq inch)					
Daily	No. of Items	Total Coverage	Text Size	Graphics Size	No. & Description of Graphic Items
Jugantor	39	537.46	504.26	33.19	Six: A student dead in Sydney, Indian PM on expatriates, US report on trafficking, abducted girl, border meet
Inqilab	35	426.97	426.97	0.00	Nil
Prothom Alo	31	345.42	331.66	13.76	Three: 2 on truck driver Kashem, 1 on diaspora woman of Sylhet
Sangbad	21	316.14	308.49	7.65	One: Of Kashem
Ittefaq	28	271.22	270.22	1.00	One: Of Kashem
New Nation	15	259.27	254.90	4.37	One: Of Kashem
Financial Express	9	237.91	194.79	43.12	Two: One 3/C pix of post-tsunami return of Bangladeshis from Maldives, 2nd of push-in/out victims
Independent	13	234.37	214.61	19.76	One: Of Kashem
Daily Star	10	153.70	144.21	9.49	One: Of Kashem
New Age	6	113.75	90.13	23.62	One: Large D/C pix of Kashem with family
Korotoa	8	74.27	74.27	0.00	Nil
Purbokone	4	48.74	45.24	3.50	One: Of an abducted girl child
Shyamol Sylhet	5	44.16	44.16	0.00	Nil
Gramer Kagoj	3	41.41	41.41	0.00	Nil
Ajker Poriborton	1	12.61	12.61	0.00	Nil

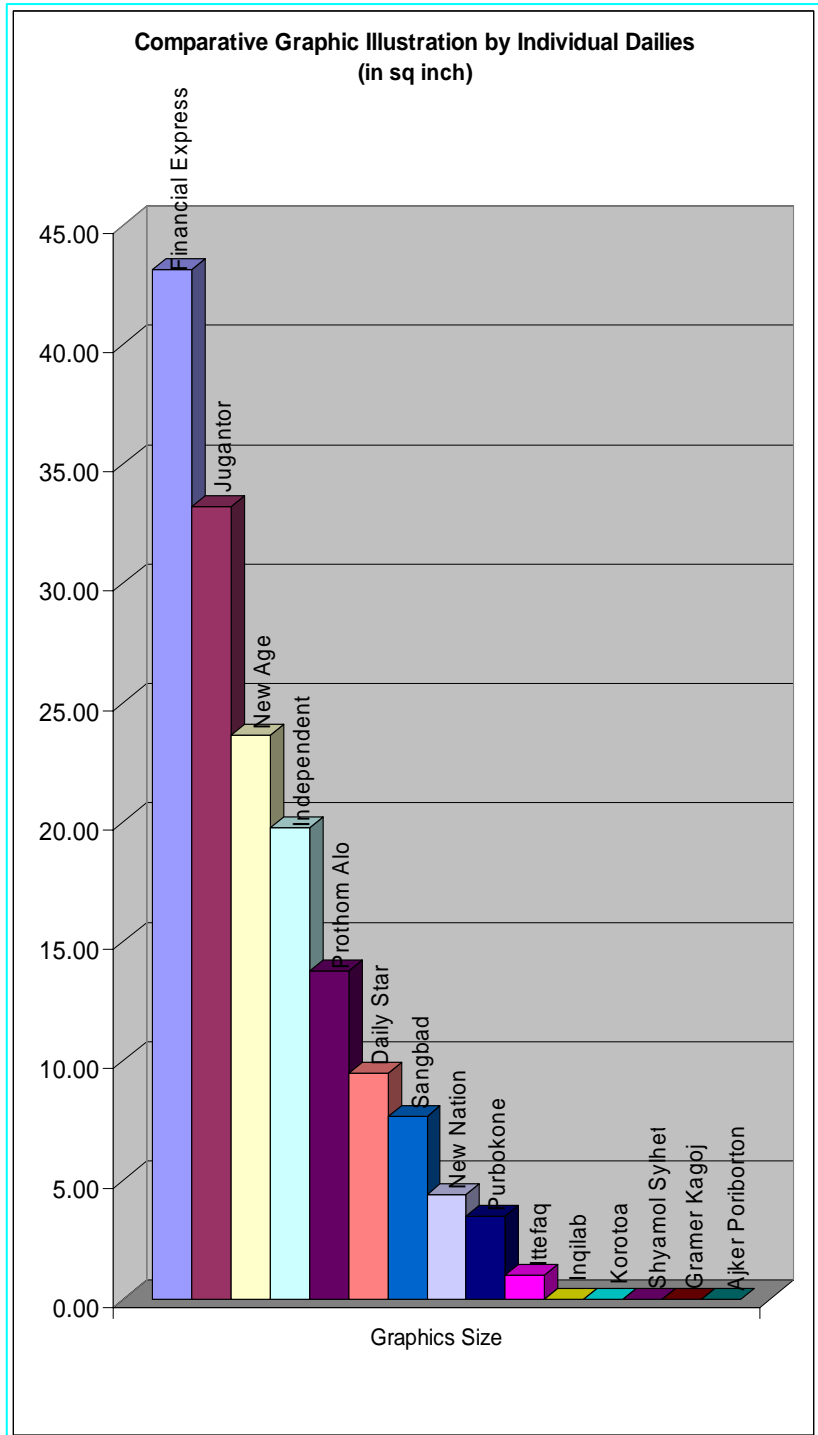
Among the English dailies, **New Nation** spent the most space, 259.27 sq inches, to migration news. Publishing 15 stories it stood 6th among the 15 dailies monitored.

Among the rest of the national dailies, **Financial Express** made the 7th position with 9 stories occupying 237.91 sq inches, **Independent** 8th with 13 stories taking 234.37 sq inches, **Daily Star** 9th with 10 stories in 153.70 sq inches and **New Age** 10th with 6 items in 113.75 sq inches.

Sangbad, Ittefaq, its sister daily New Nation, Independent and New Age each published one photograph only, that of Abul Kashem.

Express ran 2 rather large photographs, one of which appears to be a promotional of Qatar Airways that carried some Bangladeshis from tsunami-affected Maldives to Dhaka. The other picture was on some victims of push-in/out activities of border-guards

The coverage by local dailies was very poor. Korotoa led the bunch of five with 8 stories taking 74.27-sq-inch space, followed by Chittagong-based Purbokone with 4 items in 48.74 sq inches. Shyamol Sylhet stood 13th among the 15 dailies studies with 5 stories in 44.16-sq-inch space, Gramer Kagoj 14th with 3 items in 41.41 sq inches and Ajker Poriborton the last with just 1 item of 12.61-sq-inch size.

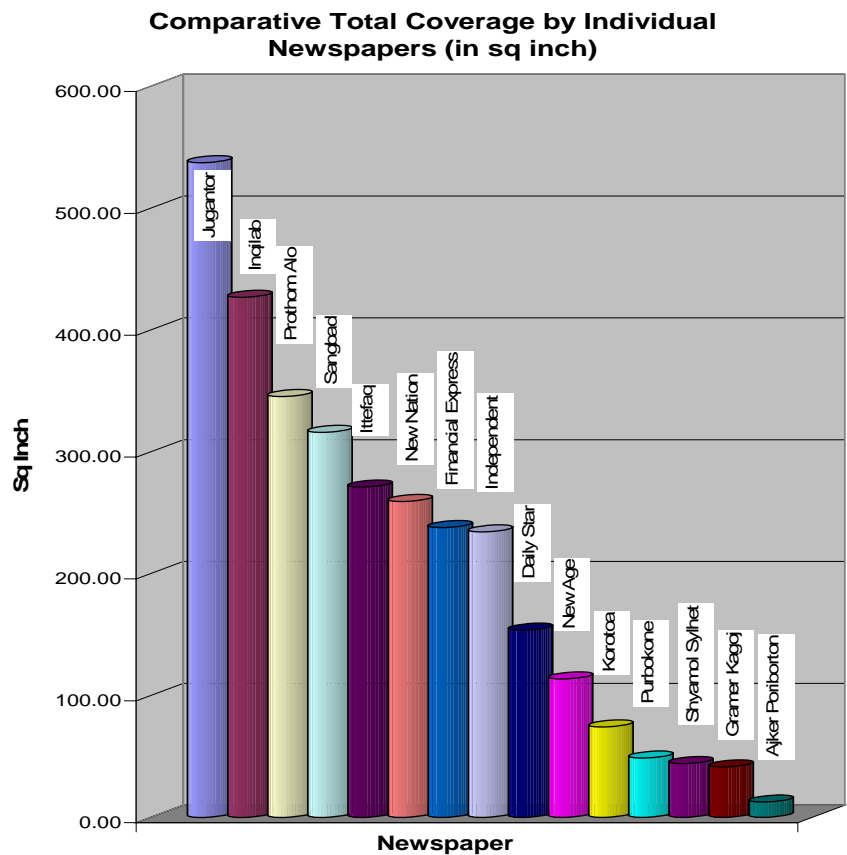


Among the local dailies, only Purbokone ran a photograph of an abducted girl child.

COMPARATIVE COVERAGE BY BANGLA & ENGLISH AND LOCAL & NATIONAL DAILIES

The study found the Bangla national dailies on average give twice the coverage given by the English national dailies. The five Bangla dailies monitored together invested 1,897.21 sq inches, or an average of 379.44 sq inches each, in covering migration issues, which is more than twice the 999 sq inches spent by the five Bangla national dailies together or studied, which marks an average coverage of 199.8 sq inches.

The case of local dailies in this regard is very poor. Together, the 5 local Bangla dailies allocated only 221.19-sq-inch space or an average of 44.24-sq-inch, one-ninth of their national counterparts.



OVERALL TREATMENT GIVEN

Only Financial Express and Independent assigned 5-column treatment to 2 and 1 migration stories respectively. Among the rest Inqilab, Jugantor, Ittefaq, Korotoa and Gramer Kagoj gave 4-column displays at the highest, with Inqilab having 5 such items and the rest 1 each.

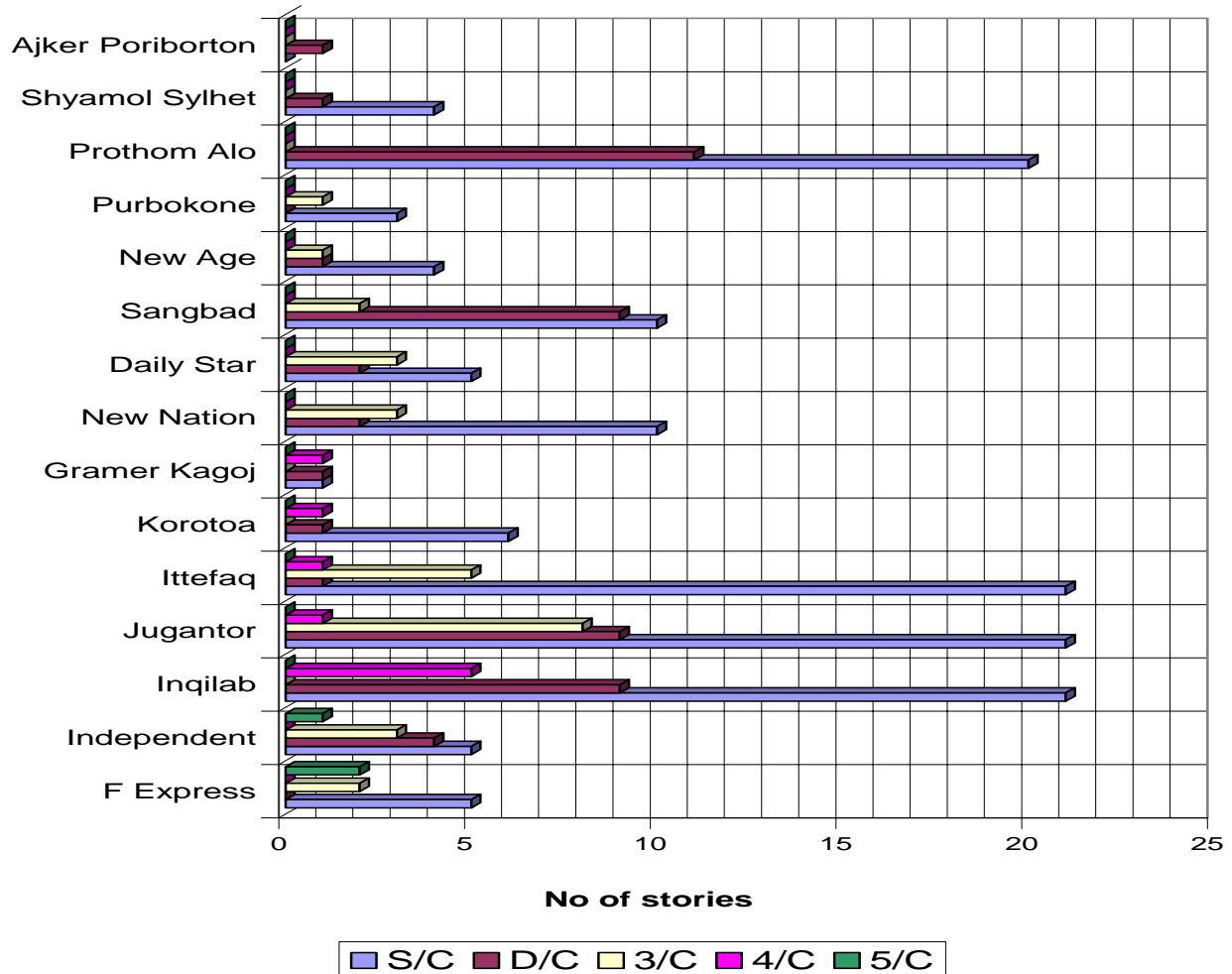
Of those assigning 3-column headlines, Jugantor leads with 8 three-column stories, followed by Ittefaq with 5. Independent, New Nation and Daily Star each had 3 three-column stories.

Prothom Alo had no wider than double column stories, but they numbered the highest, 11. Inqilab, Jugantor and Sangbad each published 9 migration items, Independent 4, New Nation and Daily

	Headline Widths Assigned to Migration News (number of items)				
	S/C	D/C	3/C	4/C	5/C
F Express	5	0	2	0	2
Independent	5	4	3	0	1
Inqilab	21	9	0	5	0
Jugantor	21	9	8	1	0
Ittefaq	21	1	5	1	0
Korotoa	6	1	0	1	0
Gramer Kagoj	1	1	0	1	0
New Nation	10	2	3	0	0
Daily Star	5	2	3	0	0
Sangbad	10	9	2	0	0
New Age	4	1	1	0	0
Purbokone	3	0	1	0	0
Prothom Alo	20	11	0	0	0
Shyamol Sylhet	4	1	0	0	0
Ajker Poriborton	0	1	0	0	0

Star 2 each, and Ittefaq, Korotoa, Gramer Kagoj, New Age, Shyamol Shylhet and Ajker Poriborton 1 each. Financial Express and Purbokone had no double column story.

Headline Sizes Assigned by Individual Dailies



NATURE OF 5/C & 4/C ITEMS

The two stories that received 5-column treatment by Financial Express are a post-editorial on a rising trend in manpower export and foreign remittance and an in-depth story on a Malaysian government drive to round up illegal migrants. The post-editorial with a by line was larger in size, of 62.70 sq inches, published above the fold in the editorial page, while the 48.36-sq-inch in-depth report, though run below the fold, came out in the front page and therefore can be considered as received equally prominent treatment.

Independent led its Business page that day with the 5-column item, an in-depth report on Bangladeshi restaurants in UK facing closure due to visa restrictions.

Of the five 4-column stories in Inqilab, 3 were in-depth reports on 'Delhi wanting Dhaka to hand over Anup Chetiya' and on alleged living of over 1 lakh Indians in Bangladesh illegally in front page, and on '1,500 Bangladeshis to get work in Italy'

in op-ed page. The remaining 2 were hard reports on 'Indian police serving extradition notice on Bangla speaking Muslims' in back page and on 'continued Indian pressure on Bangladesh to sign prisoner exchange treaty' in op-ed page. All the 5 reports were by line and 4 of them carry an anti-Indian bias, reflecting the daily's professed pro-Muslim and anti-Indian editorial stance.

Among the other dailies who had published 4-column items, Jugantor's was a by line in-depth report headlined 'S Asia makes little progress in fighting human trafficking: Observes USA,' accompanied by a picture, based on a US State Department report on trafficking in persons. It was made the second lead of its op-ed page.

The 4-column story of Ittefaq was also an in-depth report on '31,15,826 Bangladeshis working in over 40 countries' made the lead of its metro page with coloured and reversed headline. The display was prominent.

The 4-column story in Korotoa, the only local daily to run such a wide item on migration issues, was but a hard report on the outcome of an Indo-Bangla border talks in Rangpur made the lead of its front page. It was the most prominent treatment received by any migration-related story in the 15 news dailies.

Gramer Kagoj ran its 4/C byline investigative report on 'Trafficking in women, children in collaboration with Kalaroa administration' as the lead of its page 3, a news page.

COMPARATIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF MIGRATION TOPICS

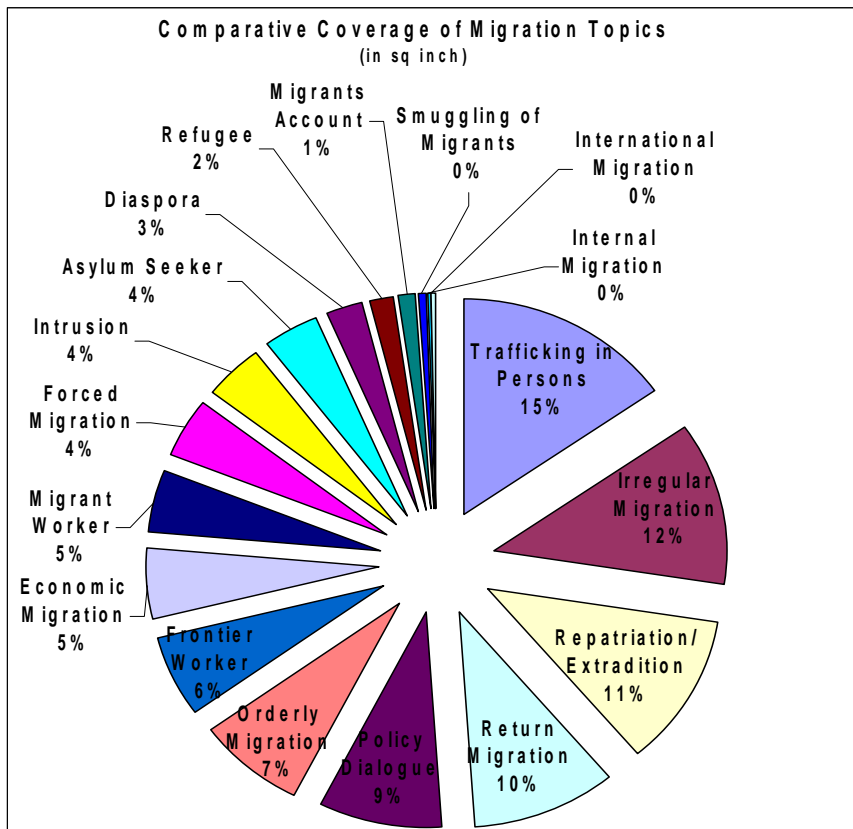
Both in terms of frequency and allotted space, 'trafficking in persons' received the highest coverage by the 15 dailies during the study period. They together ran the highest 45 items in 476.63-sq-inch space along with 7.25-sq-inch graphic illustration.

Next stood 'irregular migration' with 29 items and 380.26 sq inches of coverage. It however lacked graphic accompaniment.

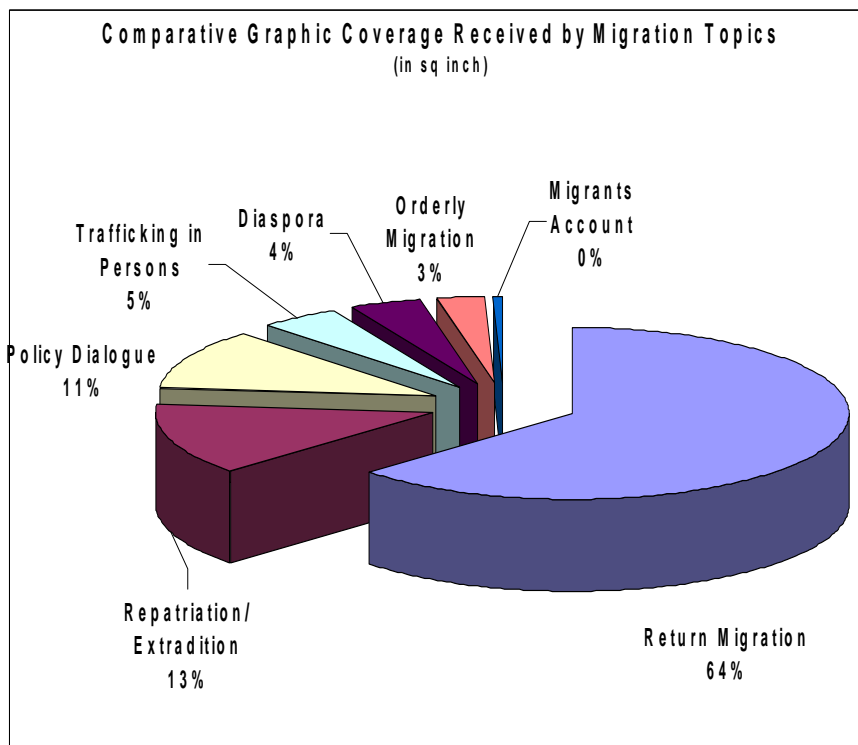
TOPIC	No. OF ITEMS PUBLISHED	TOTAL COVERAGE (IN SQ INCH)	TEXT SIZE (IN SQ INCH)	GRAPHICS SIZE (IN SQ INCH)
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS	45	476.63	469.38	7.25
IRREGULAR MIGRATION	29	380.26	380.26	0
REPATRIATION/ EXTRADITION	23	353.54	332.26	21.28
ORDERLY MIGRATION	21	229.93	225.27	4.66
FRONTIER WORKER	19	193.43	193.43	0
POLICY DIALOGUE	17	272.15	253.91	18.24
RETURN MIGRATION	14	311.41	210.81	100.6
INTRUSION	14	127.72	127.72	0
FORCED MIGRATION	8	137.58	137.58	0
ECONOMIC MIGRATION	6	161.08	161.08	0
MIGRANT WORKER	6	152.56	152.56	0
ASYLUM SEEKER	6	120.04	120.04	0
DIASPORA	5	78.77	72.12	6.65
REFUGEE/ STATELESS PEOPLE	5	52.47	52.47	0
MIGRANTS ACCOUNT	5	37.9	37.11	0.78
SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS	2	12.16	12.16	0
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION	2	9.78	9.78	0
INTERNAL MIGRATION	1	10.15	10.15	0
TOTAL	228	3117.56	2958.09	159.46

'Repatriation or extradition' received the 3rd highest prominence with 21 items in 353.54-sq-inch newspaper space. It was also assigned with the 2nd highest graphic coverage of 21.28-sq-inch, the highest graphic coverage of 100.6-sq-inch being received by 'return migration' due to the grandest coverage given to the return of Bangladeshi truck driver Abul Kashem Faruq from abductors in Iraq.

The cases of the next four topics, however, are debatable. While 'orderly migration' stood 4th in terms of frequency, getting 21 items published, it received only 229.93-sq-inch space allotment including 4.66-sq-inch graphics, falling far behind of 'return migration' with 311.41-sq-inch space and 'policy dialogue' with 272.15-sq-inch paper surface.



In frequency, 'frontier worker' stood 5th with 19 items covering 193.43-sq-inch area without any picture, mostly small hard reports on border trespassing. Then came 'policy dialogue' and 'return migration' with 17 and 14 items respectively. 'Policy dialogue' also received the third highest graphic accompaniment of 18.24 sq inches due to a 4-day border talks in Rangpur during the study months.



It should be noted here that 'smuggling of migrants' that was awarded 2 items in 12.16-sq-inch space could also be considered as 'trafficking in persons' events (as the stories were not clear if they were trafficking cases or smuggling cases), which would therefore would raise the focus on the latter topic a little higher.

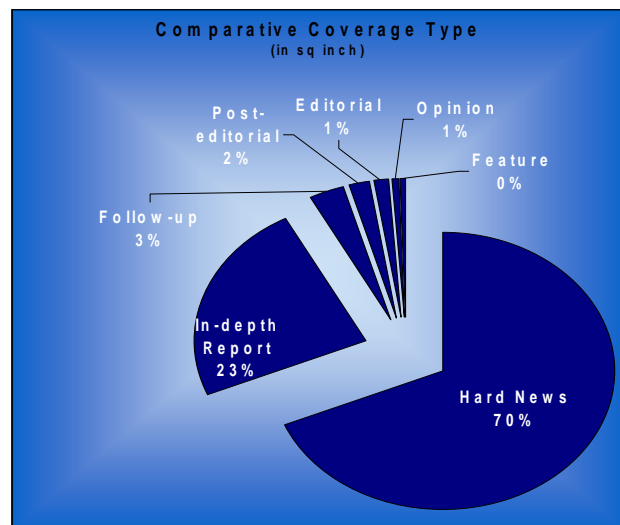
Of the total 3117.56-sq-inch space allotted to coverage of migration, 'trafficking in persons' accounts for 15%, 'irregular migration' 12% and 'repatriation/extradition' 11%, which mainly dealt with frequent bids of Indian Border Security Force to push Bangla-speaking people in Bangladesh and the attempts of Bangladesh Rifles to push them back.

'Return migration' coverage mainly focusing on driver Abul Kashem and post-tsunami return of Bangladeshi expatriates from the Maldives and Malaysia represents 10% coverage, 'policy dialogue' 9%, 'orderly migration' 7% and 'frontier worker' 6%.

'Economic migration' and 'migrant worker' each accounts for 5% coverage space, while 'forced migration', 'intrusion' and 'asylum seeker' each received 4% of the total coverage. 'Diaspora', 'refugee' and 'migrants account' had 3%, 2% and 1% nominal coverage respectively. The rest of the topics received either insignificant or zero coverage during the study period.

TYPE OR NATURE OF COVERAGE

The bulk of the press coverage of migration issues comprises of hard news. Out of the total 228 items published by the 15 news dailies in the study period, as many as 183 or 81%, if not more, items were of hard news or surface reporting. There were 31 or 15% in-depth reports, which is satisfactory. But, there was a marked lack of follow-up reports, as only 10 such items were run in the study months.



Comparative Coverage Type

Type of Coverage	No. of Items	Total Size (in sq inch)	Text Size (in sq inch)	Graphics Size (in sq inch)
Hard News	183	2142.13	1998.55	143.57
In-depth Report	31	730.41	718.31	12.10
Follow-up Report	10	107.62	103.83	3.79
Post-editorial	1	62.70	62.70	0.00
Editorial	1	40.60	40.60	0.00
Opinion	1	20.35	20.35	0.00
Feature	1	13.59	13.59	0.00
Total	228	3117.40	2957.93	159.46

There was a dire lack of editorial, post-editorial, opinion and feature, as only one each of such types appeared in the newspapers.

The study did not find any letter, travelogue or other sort of coverage in any of the newspapers.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF COVERAGE CONTENT: PRINT MEDIA

The January-February 2005 study found the Bangladesh media and its consumers acutely confused of and insensitive to population movement and the differences between its various types. There was extreme lack of follow-up and investigative reports as well as graphic accompaniments and a marked absence of editorial, post-editorial, opinion, feature, letter, travelogues etc. The study did not find any letter or travelogue and saw only one each of other types of coverage in the newspapers.

Overall, the Bangla national dailies did better than the English ones in covering population movement, which might be a result of the latter's comparatively poorer network of local correspondents. But, the local newspapers, on the other hand, displayed insufficient capacity and motivation to cover migration issues.

The reporters or writers concerned lacked understanding of migration process and categories. They also suffer from a huge lack of access to information and sources of information. Which are why the bulk of the coverage was superficial surface reporting, lacking details and backgrounds, poorly written and acting as a sort of mouthpiece of one or other law enforcement agency.

The gatekeepers and policymakers of newspaper houses were found not to attach much priority to and possess any clear perspective on migration events and issues. As a result, the visibility of migration news was found to be very poor, mainly due to poor writing and poorer treatment in terms of heading width, page, placement, highlights and graphic accompaniment.

The coverage was also not proactive but reactive to incidents, e.g., recovery of people being trafficked, aspirant migrants returning home being cheated by recruiting agents, press conferences, releases and hand-outs, etc. A large majority of the reportage focussed on border incidents and migration-related crimes.

The study confirmed that the media houses generally have no conscious or deliberate policy on covering migration. They have no designated newspaper space or air time, staff and facilities to deal with this area. This resulted in the coverage of population movement, in particular, labour migration, human trafficking and irregular migration, received only perfunctory treatment, with scarce investigations and follow-up stories that would have helped the policymakers and agencies concerned make more-informed policy and intervention decisions.

Many of the focus group discussants complained of some newspapers running pictures and giving the names and addresses of trafficking survivors, adding that the media also treats migrant workers as commodities, not as citizens, which are gross violations of journalism ethics and human rights. The media, they said, attaches too much emphasis on the foreign exchange earning and remittance by the expatriate workers, toeing the government line and keeping its eyes wide shut to other aspects of the expatriates' life and circumstances as well as ignoring other sorts of migration going on. This limitation in media keeps many harmful and illegal operations as well as profitable potentials in obscurity.

Some of the FGD participants even hinted at a media-manpower business nexus centred on the large chunk of advertisement revenue the former gets from the latter regularly. They also termed many of the newspaper ads on opportunities to study, work or emigrate abroad false, demanding that a code of conduct or ethics for migration ads be adopted by the media outlets. NGO representatives participating in an FGD maintained that allotting a small corner in the newspapers for discussing the core migration issues would be much helpful.

In response to these allegations, one Dhaka-based journalist replied, "There are allegations that many of the media policy makers have good relation with the recruiting agencies. However, this is not a general case." He however informed that *"As our society is not so large, some of the journalist might have personal contacts with the recruiting agencies. Therefore, sometimes the media professionals may not be able to avoid requests."*

When the journalists were asked whether the media can expedite or influence justice, they told 'sometimes'. One of them added, *"Especially, when the victims are relatives to media owners. Sometimes media continues reporting on an issue, which also expedite justice. But trail is not media's work; it's a responsibility of the court."*

EXAMPLES OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

RETURN MIGRATION

A total of 14 news reports have been recorded under this category. The reports provide a picture of Bangladesh's crisis management. For example, the government had to ask the Qatar Airways for bringing back the Bangladeshis working in the Maldives just after the tsunami last year. The government does not also have any policy on how to bring back the illegal migrants arrested in foreign lands. This is where the international organisations come in. A report on how IOM supported Bangladesh government in bringing back 24 Bangladeshis from Sahara (Clip # 80) can be a good example for any one concerned. There was no information on how these international organisations operated with the governments across the world. If the journalists knew about their operations, their objectives would have fulfilled in a greater extent.

FORCED MIGRATION

All the reports on this topic were superficial surface reports. These reports do sympathise with the people who are forced by border guards in and out of Bangladesh. But none of them reflect on the human rights violation of the affected people. *Jugantor* published an item on February 2 (Clip # 119) saying that members of outlawed parties have crossed the border and taken shelter in India. The subject was very good but the correspondent was very vague about his sources that did not seem to know anything for sure.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Jugantor printed a very small report on 3 Bangladeshis being arrested in the Indo-Pak border (Clip # 69) reflects an utter lack of endeavour to collect information. Bangladeshis are being held in foreign lands all the time, only Bangladesh media doesn't have adequate access to information regarding these events.

The same paper published one report saying that Malaysia would run an anti-illegal immigrant campaign (Clip 191) on February 15. But the headline doesn't match the content. The headline gives a picture that all illegal immigrants would be driven out, but the content says that only Indonesians were to be driven out.

ORDERLY MIGRATION

The news titled *US to ease visa procedure for Bangladeshi scholars soon: David Gross* (Clip # 110) in *Purbokone* on February 2 doesn't have any quotes by the special US envoy whose comment is the basis of the news. However, the *Purbokone* would never get or print such a story if the BSS didn't do this. This is due to the fact that local newspapers usually cannot afford to have enough correspondents in the capital, Dhaka, where most of the news generates. So, local papers have to depend on reports circulated by the wire services. Whatever the agencies pour out as news they carry attaching importance.

It should also be mentioned here that, formally, going abroad for study or on pilgrimage is not considered as migration. These are simply movement from one place to another for a particular purpose, like travelling or tours.

Ittefaq printed one good example of labour migration on January 25 titled *Record manpower export last year, highest remittance* (Clip # 78). The introduction of the news reflects that the number of people seeking overseas jobs in 2004 has cross the same of all previous years. This was a good item informing almost everything about seeking jobs abroad legally. The only problem with the report was that the real introduction had been given at the very end of the news. It said the government had been encouraging the expatriate Bangladeshis for sending their money home in proper ways. The number of overseas job holders had increased by number, the news said, because the government had been offering briefings to the job seekers through the manpower bureau which is motivating people to seek employment through legal means. This is what was missing: identifying the real news in an incident.

Ittefaq again carried a report on January 29 that can be an example of incomplete reporting. The report titled *Manpower export to Malaysia likely to resume soon* (Clip # 93) said the possibilities of manpower export from Bangladesh had become brighter than the past. The report did not elaborate anything as to why it would be easier than the past. There was also absolutely no quotation from any responsible person. This type of report can easily mislead people and encourage them to go abroad through illegal means. This type of reporting also could encourage the unscrupulous manpower agents to send people illegally.

Jugantor also ran an item titled *1.5 lakh migrant workers in Italy to be legalised* (Clip # 83) on January 27. The news also mentions that about 1,500 Bangladeshi labourers may also be allowed to get immigration there. The report filed by a contributor from Italy seems to have spoken to all the sources concerned. The daily had also filed an in-depth report on February 4 (Clip # 124) when the process of naturalisation actually started in Italy. These are two good examples of responsible and informative reporting.

Bangladeshi newspapers don't usually have their overseas correspondents. Having an overseas correspondent is too expensive for them. What the papers, especially

in Dhaka, do is to request expatriate Bangladeshis in the journalistic fields to work for them occasionally. Since these journalists, working in the foreign media abroad, usually do their research for themselves, it becomes easier for them to report accurately.

Inqilab carried the same report headlined *1,500 Bangladeshis to get work in Italy* (Clip # 158) on February 9 by a local correspondent, which might have been inspired by the *Jugantor* reports. This happens quite often with Bangladeshi journalists and newspapers -- they pick up their cues from other papers, too.

The headlines of items under this category in most of the cases matched the content, which reflects attentive editing by copy editors and news editors.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSON

There have been many reports on human trafficking during January and February 2005, but most of them were very small and have been used as fillers in the newspaper columns. The lack of investigation is also quite prominent in these reports. In many instances, they identified the traffickers, but did not say whether they were part of any crime syndicate. Many of them did not even quote anyone regarding what the administration was doing to address and contain these incidents of trafficking.

Some of these items were printed in all the papers just as fillers. This is a technique that news editors apply while sending the pages for printing. They keep some items as fillers so that they can just fill up the page and rush it to the press. The report in *Shangbad* headlined as *Teenager rescued in Sharonkhola while being trafficked* (Clip # 183) on February 13 having only two sentences was certainly much longer than what was published.

For example, the *Jugantor* item on February 26 titled *50,000 women, children trafficked a year from 6 regional countries* was a news that deserved a front-page treatment, but it was printed on page 16, one of the inner pages.

One such in-depth report titled *Trafficking in women, children in collaboration with Kalaroa administration* (Clip # 112) was placed *Gramer Kagoj* in page 3, which also reserved to be placed right in the front page.

The problem of leaving out the real story in the middle or at the end persisted in many news items. For example, in the *Ittefaq* story titled *Suspected child trafficker arrested in Doulatpur* (Clip # 48) on February 6, the reporter mentioned at the end of the story that the woman detained was the wife of a Union Parishad chairman. This actually could have been the focus of the piece. However, the introduction of this item was reasonable, as it described how the children were rescued from the trafficker.

In many instances, the reporters were unsuccessful in identifying an additional story embedded in a story-content. An *Ittefaq* item titled *Promising jobs abroad, they forced women into prostitution: 13 held* (Clip # 213) on February 24 was a good piece of reporting, but the daily could develop another story on the travel agencies involved in trafficking in the next day or the day after. However, no such follow-up story came.

The same item done by *Prothom Alo* (Clip # 207) gave much more details. Details are an important aspect of reporting on human trafficking, as it may help the possible victims to understand the situation and risks involved and avoid falling into the trap. It may also provide the law enforcers clues to such crimes. *Sangbad* however printed a report titled *161 childrens rescued, case filed against 24, 1 held* (Clip # 177) on February 12, providing the details and identifying that trafficking is a law and order failure.

It is worthwhile to mention that it is possible for a correspondent to run several news items on a single incident. But they [the correspondents] cannot do so, because, due to the lack of manpower in newspaper offices, they are forced to move on to another assignment. And that is why they typically lose track of the topics they have been working on.

There are quite a number of reports that inform about persons who were convicted and sentenced for being involved in human trafficking. However most of these reports received very casual treatment and ran in inside pages. One news item printed by *Prothom Alo* could be example for others. Headlined *20 get life in 4 districts for trafficking, rape, murder* (Clip # 125) on February 4, the report provides details on the trials. *Prothom Alo* rightly put this item in the front page quite prominently.

Inqilab did a very good story on how some unscrupulous traders in Moulvibazar are trafficking people in the name of sending them to London. Headlined *Moulvibazar racket: Cheats millions promising safe passage to UK* (Clip # 85) on January 27, this report perfectly depicted what was happening there. However, this report did not provide any quote from the victims.

Issues like human trafficking require right earnestness and a feeling for fellow citizens. As events, there are plenty of reports on human trafficking, but most of them are surface reports sent by mufassil¹⁴ correspondents based on just bare facts received from police, border guards or other official sources, without any apparent investigation, and the Dhaka newspapers print these because they have to print something from the districts. Sitting in Dhaka or without watching the real scene along the border or spots, journalists would never understand the real nature of trafficking. The newspaper authorities don't feel much like sending their reporters in the field to investigate on human trafficking. Journalists become active in human trafficking only when something big happens.

Human trafficking had not been reported as a law and order failure. Journalists also never looked at it as a failure of governance. For example, the report in *New Nation* under the headline *Human trafficking becomes attractive* (Clip # 179) on February 12. It was a fairly informative report but with the real introduction at the end. This was a *UNB* report based on a study on human trafficking by a feature agency called *News Network*. *News Network* had commissioned a journalist for doing a research on this issue. This was never done by any mainstream newspaper or news agency. Moreover, only the *New Nation* carried the *UNB* news.¹⁵

¹⁴ Sub-town

¹⁵ This news also came out in the Daily Observer, headlined: "One million women and children trafficked every year" in the front page, upper fold on Feb 14 with a rejoinder from IOM on Feb 18 on part of the interview.

FRONTIER WORKERS

Headlined as *4 Bangladeshi cattle traders lynched by Indian villagers* (Clip # 164) published by *New Nation* on February 10 is a good example how people in the border areas violate immigration laws and thus fall prey to distrust and suspicion. The report filed by the paper's Shatkhira correspondent, explains clearly the situation along the Bangladesh-India border. The report cites reasons why people brave such dangers to earn a living. But the same report, done by UNB, on the same day in *Financial Express* just tells that Indian villagers killed four Bangladeshis. *New Age* and *Independent* printed what seems to be the full version of the UNB report but was not as good as *New Nation's* Shatkhira correspondent's item. The Shatkhira correspondent of *Prothom Alo* said Indians had killed four Bangladeshis suspecting them as robbers. The *Prothom Alo* correspondent doesn't use any quotes from any officials. But on the other hand, the Shatkhira correspondent of *Gramer Kagoj*, spoke to BDR officials. The Jugantor report on the same subject is also a good one because of its in-depth information.

MIGRANT WORKERS

Very few news items, only 6, were published under this category during these two months. In a country, where going abroad is regarded as a sign of material success, there should have been many more news reports in a planned manner. The journalists -- and of course newspapers -- should have taken the issue with much more interest. There is a lot to inform the people on migrant workers. Information on this issue would have helped Bangladesh's economic development as well. If a newspaper ever runs a regular page on these issues, the circulation of the paper would surely go up.

However, the reports published under this category would serve as good reference for other reporters who would be reporting in the future. Statistically very rich, these reports provide details on Bangladeshis working in 40 countries across the world. One aspect seems quite interesting. The Ittefaq story on immigrants in the UK was taken from the BBC. However, a question remains: why the same report could not be generated by the local newspapers.

POLICY DIALOGUES

Most of the meetings and conferences during January and February 2005 on migration issues were basically held between officials of BDR and BSF on border-related issues such as border shoot-out, push-in and push-back, smuggling, arms proliferation. Whenever there is a conference, journalists are used in both the countries as their propaganda tools. However, in their bid to stay as impartial as they can, the Bangladeshi journalists are hardly given any chance to talk to these officials during any meeting.

Therefore, the newspapers usually run the agency copies, especially those of the government one. Some reports, however, were done by staff correspondents who did them very casually. Since, the BDR-BSF meetings fall under international diplomacy, focusing migration-related issues are underplayed in the reports.

DIASPORA

The two reports on some Sylhetis coming back to Bangladesh should have offered another dimension to the media. There could have been a series of reports on how

some Sylhetis are coming back. Also, a series could be done on how Sylhetis seek various means to migrate to foreign lands.

INTRUSION

Intrusion attracted some notice during the assessment timeframe. Citizens and border guards intrude each other's countries on a regular basis. However, the media never properly explains the nature of intrusion by Bangladeshis into India. Media reports are limited to Bangladeshis crossing the border and getting killed by the BSF officials. However, the Bangladesh media rarely carry reports from an angle when BSF intruding Bangladesh territory and the related laws of violating a territorial border.

There were, however, some reports treated casually by the newspapers. Possibly, the newspapers think their readers have become saturated with these types of news. And that is why they sent these news reports to inside pages.

REPATRIATION/EXTRADITION

The process of repatriation of Bangladeshis from any country has always been very difficult. The news reports that get preference in Bangladesh is how and when BSF personnel are giving back Bangladeshis to its authorities. On the other hand, news reports do hit the stand about how some people, especially children, cannot be brought back to the country. Journalists report on how Bangladeshis have been living in foreign prisons. So far, there have been little reporting on the process of bringing them back to the country. The media, too, failed to come up with follow up stories on the failure of the government to bring expatriate Bangladeshis languishing in foreign jails home.

The Indian High Court's direction for sending Bangla-speaking Muslims to Bangladesh was carried by only *Prothom Alo* and *Jugantor*, since these two papers have their correspondents in Kolkata.

However, most of the critical issues which may contribute in informing the readers on the legal and social consequences of persons in need or in the process of repatriation are missing in these reports. The correspondent reporting from border areas have not mentioned anything about the roles that international organisations such as UN or UNHCR. They also don't reflect anything about whether BDR has the right to push them back. Most of the reports reflect that correspondents have not spoken to anyone. Headlines of some reports also did not match the content.

LABOUR & ECONOMIC MIGRATION

This is one area in which Bangladesh government expects a large scale migration to other countries. The reason is simple: the migrants going abroad legally earn much-needed foreign currency for the country. The media in Bangladesh also looks at labour and economic migration in a positive manner. Since the overseas job holders benefit the country's economy, journalists tend to encourage this. But they also have their own limitations in this area: scarce of information and knowledge to differentiate between legal from illegal.

Ittefaq and *Inqilab* carried a story titled *Two Bangladeshi businessmen arrested in New York* (Clips # 62 and 67) on January 15 filed by ENA from New York. The item gives the details on the Bangladeshi businessmen's whereabouts but does not

mention why they were arrested. This was the major flaw of the correspondent. The reporter should have mentioned the reason for their arrest. On its part, the *Ittefaq* should not have carried such a report on its back page. A good way of approaching the news would have been to talk to someone at the US embassy in Dhaka about the arrests before printing this item. Even though the source is same, the *Inqilab* report gave readers more information about the arrested people. There is another noteworthy aspect regarding this news item: except *Ittefaq* and *Inqilab*, no other newspaper carried it.

REFUGEE/STATELESS PEOPLE

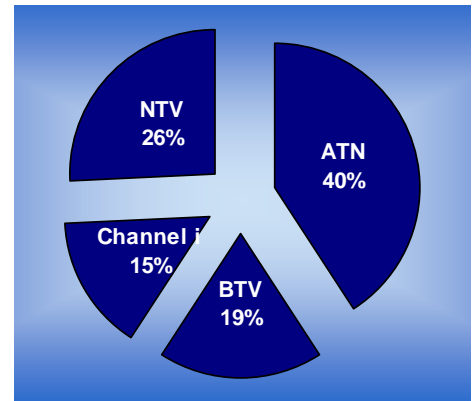
Except one, Clip # 167, four of the five items on refugees and stateless people were on stranded migrants locally known as stranded Pakistanis. These were routine reports by staff correspondents. No one filed any investigative report on the stranded Pakistanis. For example, the news carried by *Ittefaq* headlined *Stranded Pakistanis in Rangpur get healthcare services* (Clip # 150) on February 6, the reporter did not mention the state of their health or why they did receive the treatment. The same report published by *Jugantor* provided even fewer information. Another item in *Inqilab* on January 27 which deals with their demands of rehabilitation, never mentions their rights. The reporters seemed to have insufficient knowledge on stranded Pakistanis, nor did they do home work while writing the reports.

Another point that seems quite important is the treatments of these news items. None of these has got special treatment by the papers, because of the decreasing interest on the subject. Most of the newspapers have done in-depth news stories and features on stranded Pakistanis and have already become saturated with the subject. The subject of course doesn't allure any news editor after all these years.

STATISTICAL FINDINGS: ELECTRONIC MEDIA

TOTAL COVERAGE

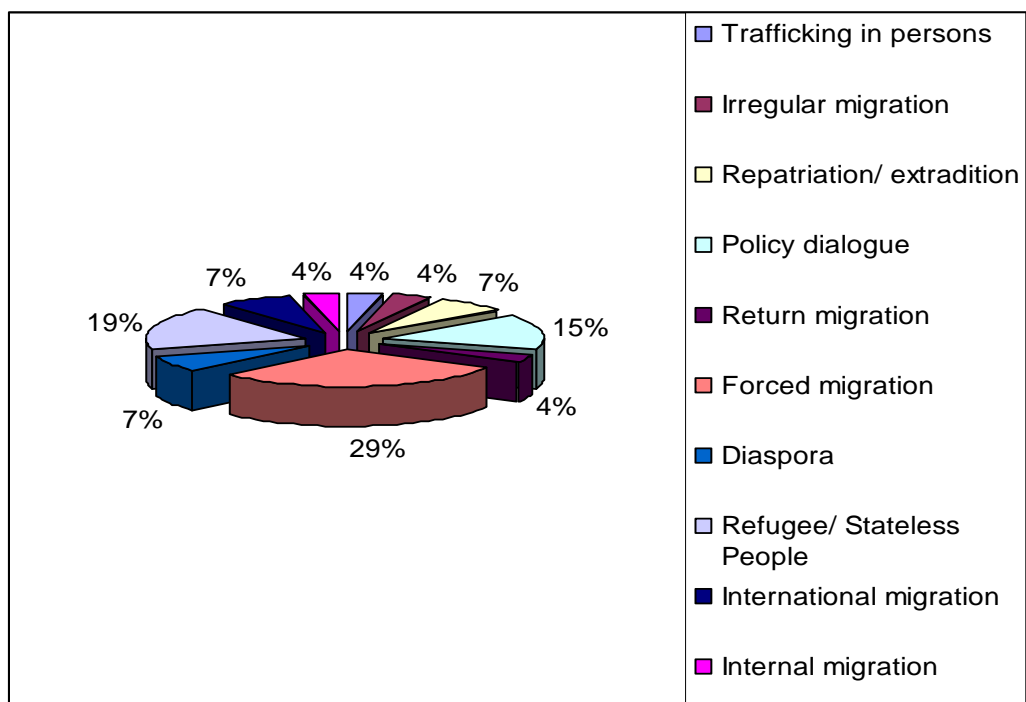
A total of 27 news items were aired during the month of January. Of which 11 were carried out by ATN, 5 by BTV, 4 by Channel i and 7 by NTV. In percentage, highest 40% by ATN, second highest 26% by NTV, 19% by BTV and 15% by Channel i.



It has been noticeable that there were a significant coverage of internal displacement, although the issue was exposed from a different angle. For example, due to fire in the Tengritila gas field in Habiganj, people were moved from their habitats. However, the story was more of an environmental degradation, rather than displacement.

COMPARATIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF MIGRATION TOPICS

During the month of January, the highest report were on forced displacement (29%), again due to the fire in the Tengritila gas field. Out of 8 reports, 7 were on internal displacement due to the gas field explosion and inauguration of a housing project by the Prime Minister for riverbank erosion induced displaces. The other report was on displacement of Bangladesh origin fishermen in Banda Aceh of Indonesia after the Tsunami. The second highest reports were on refugees (19%), the reports mainly focused on irregular settlement of Rohingya refugees. The third highest reporting was on policy dialogue, one was a press conference by a group of Bangladeshi caterers seeking intervention from the government on a British Govt. decision not to take caterers from Bangladesh and the other on an international workshop organised by BNWLA on trafficking and safe migration.



Return of Kashem, the Bangladeshi driver abducted in Iraq was also highlighted in the news. ATN also did a report on irregular migrants in Malaysia, the only report done on irregular migration in January by any of the channels.

On 8 January '05, 300 labour migrants returned from Maldives by Qatar Airways and two private TV channels (ATN Bangla and NTV) covered the news from airport in details while Channel i and BTV did not cover the news. Quoting the Qatar Air area manager and the returnees the channels informed that three more flights were due on 12, 17 and 28 January '05 respectively. But there was no follow-up from any of the channels on the news. The absentee channels (BTV and Channel i) could have covered the news on the mentioned next dates. Though it was mentioned in the story that the labour migrants had to return due to Tsunami and its impact on local labor market but some of the returnees described different stories, the agents cheated them and they were forced to return without any savings.

It was also noted that many coverage were event coverage without any interviews of people involved. For example, the coverage of the press conference by the Bangladeshi caterers or the workshop organised by BNWLA on trafficking and safe migration, there were no interviews, it was only event coverage without any in depth analysis.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF COVERAGE CONTENT: ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Only one month is not enough to assess electronic media news coverage, however, there were some interesting observations made on the basis of the news coverage.

Out of total 27 news covered by 4 channels, 22 were event based or a Minister or the Prime Minister has been to a certain place on the specific issue. There were continuous news of the Tengratila gas field explosion; otherwise, there were no follow-up of any other news. However, a preview of the Government housing project for the riverbank erosion induced displaces were carried out by the Government owned channel BTV.

EXAMPLES OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

RETURN MIGRATION

Kashem returning from Iraq was the only story which received a lot of coverage.

FORCED MIGRATION

Internal forced migration/ displacement received the most coverage during the month. Due to fire in Tengratila gas field in Habigang by ATN and NTV and inauguration of a Government funded housing project for riverbank erosion induced displaces by ATN, BTV and Channel i. The Tengratila gas explosion and subsequent forced displacement of the areas were the only news that was followed up.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The only report on irregular migration was covered by ATN Bangla on the Bangladeshi irregular migrants in Malaysia.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSON

The only news on trafficking, other than BNWLA international workshop on trafficking and safe migration was on UNICEF's confirmation on Child Trafficking from the Tsunami affected areas especially from Indonesia.

POLICY DIALOGUES

The press conference on British authority's decision not to take caterers from Bangladesh due to lack of proper training and a lot of labour migrants may face deportation, joblessness etc., organized by a group of Bangladesh caterers were covered by BTV and Channel i. It was an ordinary coverage of a press conference without any interview or analysis. The other event was BNWLA's two-day international workshop on trafficking and safe migration which was covered by Channel i on two subsequent days.

DIASPORA

Bengal Studies Conference/ held in Dhaka/ Conference by Bangladeshi Diaspora in US and UK and a Bangladeshi Diaspora dying in New York were the only news on Diaspora covered by ATN.

REPATRIATION/EXTRADITION

ATN and NTV covered the news of 300 Bangladeshi labour migrant workers returning to Dhaka from Maldives by Qatar Airways. It was said in the story that

they were forced to return due to non availability of works after the Tsunami. A totalling of 3,500 Bangladeshi labourers are expected to return by Qatar Airways flights on 12, 17 and 28 January according to Mr. Samsad Ahsan, Area Manager of Qatar Airways. The returnees said different stories with the media. Two of them categorically said that they spent 1 to 1.5 lac taka each to go to Maldives through 5 recruiting/travel agents and left Dhaka 5/6 months back. After arrival in Maldives they found themselves cheated by the agents and they were given 3 months visit visa and forced to work at different places with less wages and finally they were forced to return. According to a returnee about 18,000 Bangladeshi could be returned gradually. The official version was that these workers were returned due to Tsunami. However, neither was there any in depth analysis of the irregular migration, nor was there any follow-up.

REFUGEE/STATELESS PEOPLE

It was a story about the 'illegal' settlement of Rohingya refugees in St. Martin Island. Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and Civil Aviation and Tourism expressed their view on environment pollution of the tourism island due to unplanned development, illegal settlers. The LGRD minister expressed his view that the status of St. Martin Union Council could be cancelled subject to recommendation from the DC of Cox's Bazar as the island would be developed exclusively for tourism purpose. He also 'mentioned' that the Rohingya refugees has been travelling outside Bangladesh obtaining Bangladeshi passport and also got involved with different anti-social activities which has to be stopped.

An exclusive item done by the reporter of ATN Bangla from Tsunami affected Banda Aceh of Indonesia. It was mentioned that about 50 Bangladeshi fishermen were missing those were migrated in mid 40s from the Swandip and Chittagong area. According to local people of Banda Aceh, about 90 families originated from Bangladesh were living in that area.

AN ASSESSMENT OF MEDIA NEWS BY THE STAKEHOLDERS

The readers and viewers have expressed both their opinions regarding the present status of news media with respect to the issues of population movement and their expectation from news media on this issue. Some of the major aspects of the media converge assessed by the readers and viewers included:

INSUFFICIENT OR NO ROLE IN INFORMING PEOPLE ON SAFE MIGRATION PROSPECTS AND PROCESS

A group of the returnee migrants opined that newspapers and other media neither supported them before migration nor after return. They did not find any promotional messages on migration related issues to any where before departure.

They claimed "Newspapers are eager to publish more and more advertisements".

Two or three female returnees could recall a programme broadcasted through BTV which basically sketches successful migrants' life. To them this type of programme might create wrong impression about life abroad.

In the absence of access to "authentic information on mass media", the returnees and potential migrants with minimum formal education have informed that they obtain migration related information from *Dalals* or Middlemen of recruiting agents. The *Dalals*/Middlemen are well known in the community. The returnees have informed that these middlemen sometimes misuse media reports to expedite their campaign.

"Dalals distribute photocopies of newspaper reports, and say that newspapers don't tell lies".

One returnee outside Dhaka told, "*I see TV headlines. If there is no news on Malaysia, I quit*". Another returnee told, "*One of my friends let me know that Malaysian govt. will take people form Bangladesh. I saw the newspaper. My friend is still keeping that copy*". However, he could not mention name of that newspaper. Two other participants in Sirajganj FGD, told that it was Naya Diganta and the news appeared at around one month back.

Another returnee recalled similar news broadcasted by Radio Bangladesh. He specifically told that he received the information 2 months 14 days back from the News At 7 a.m. According to him the news informed that, those who came back within October 04 to February 05 would get opportunity to work in Malaysia once again.

Many of the participants (literate) found Women & Child Trafficking related reports in the newspapers. But very few could recall any such news/promos broadcasted by television.

These discussions and comments reveal that although there is a strong demand in existence presently the news media is not catering the information needs of its readers and viewers on the issues concerning safe migration (especially that of labour migration).

MEDIA ETHICS

A group of female students strongly protested against printing photographs of 37 women arrested from a training camp, in March, which however was outside the study period. They said that these types of news lead to harm the women as they are socially debased through such publicity. They said from the way media covered the news it appeared to most of the readers and viewers that the women were involved in some criminal activities.

"Printing photographs of trafficking victims in newspapers re-victimises the victims "

The media personnel during FGD sessions have highlighted that newspapers now-a-days are not printing names of trafficked or raped victims'. They commented that sometimes the law enforcement agencies create problems; they start searching for "victims" on the basis of newspaper reports, and asked for addresses in the news.

Responding to a question regarding the media ethics in analysing and presenting data, the journalists informed that media usually print whatever it gets from field. However, they do check and re-check before printing.

"Sometimes reports published with partial/biased information. To get a total picture, sometimes readers had to read at least 3 or 4 newspapers. But many people could not afford more than one newspaper"

Questions were raised in several FGDs about the media ethics on Advertisements. The NGO representatives have claimed that the newspapers do not investigate or report on the Recruiting Agencies due to good earning from the advertisements.

" Hundreds of people are being cheated through these advertisements but newspapers do not feel sorry for that." They questioned, " How can the media be so much irresponsible? The bulk of newspaper advertisements are false."

Girls Guide members believed that *" Many advertisements on Study Abroad are false. Only the rich men's sons/daughters get chance. The students face real difficulties when they reach to the destination"*.

A media personnel informed that advertisement is one of the main income sources for newspapers. Gatekeepers believe that there are a good number of readers of such advertisements. They have also agreed that there should be some ethics regarding publishing/broadcasting advertisements. In many countries a clear message is printed 'newspaper is not responsible for any advertisement', however, in Bangladesh this is not the case, they have informed.

The media personnel have clarified that advertisements can also be a source of information or misinformation. There should be caution taken on ensuring that no one is misinformed through advertisements.

One of the journalists mentioned, "*There is a code of ethics for media professional, but as it is developed by the Press Council/government, nobody honours it. But we don't take it into consideration.*" He suggested, "*Therefore, media professionals will have to develop their own code of ethics.*"

INADEQUATE FOLLOW-UPS

The readers and viewers in general have mentioned that the media covers stories of migration related disasters however seldom these news are properly followed up. They said the government forms different Probe Bodies on many cases, but there is no report on their investigation neither the journalists investigate themselves. As a result, *readers could never know the truth; and at one stage lose their interest.*

During the focus group discussion with media personnel on 'follow-up stories', they said it depended on 'demand', 'crisis' and 'support'. They have informed that as long as there is suspense in news, the demand remains alive. If a greater crisis appears the demand falls down. And if a specific issue gets donor support, it gets more and more follow-ups. For example, campaign against acid victim by Prothom Alo got priority as it was a donor supported initiative.

This reveals a context of "market of news" driven by demand. Presently it appears the media analyzes the demand to be much more biased towards "sensation" rather than "sensible" reporting. More importantly, within such a context the media personnel have indicated that issues such as population movement, which are not on the top list of "sensational" news, requires external patronization to make headlines or to retain continual coverage for public awareness.

LACK OF IN-DEPTH REPORTING AND CLARITY ON THE ISSUE

The readers and viewers have observed that although the media identify issues of public concern (such as trafficking in women and children, smuggling in persons, push-back etc.) regarding population movement, the media seldom contributes in revealing the critical context in which these phenomenon exist. One of the participants mentioned,

"We have learnt that blood, kidney and other human organs are sold in India; but how these trades are going on? Why don't the Newspapers raise these issues?"

One participant came to know from a Forum that a good number of Bangladeshi girls are living in misery in the brothels at Kolkata, India. These women fall in trap while travelling to India without any specific location or hotel. The taxi drivers create traps, take them to wrong locations and finally sell them to the sex traders. She asked, "*why these news didn't come out in our national dailies*". Another participant stated that she never found any news on any initiative that brought those unfortunate girls back to Bangladesh.

NGOs working on Population Movement issues observed that trafficking related news is very few in electronic media. Again these news are very much surface in nature. Pains and sufferings of the trafficked ones, causes and consequences, ways

and means of trafficking are absent in the news irrespective of print & electronic media. According to them -

- Population Movement related news usually get spaces in the inner pages.
 - Follow-ups are very few.
 - There is hardly any news on internal migration. During slum eviction or when any slum is ablaze, media covers it but the mobility issue remains missing.
 - They also identified media as sensitive towards number. It takes little care about the end result.
- Number of female returnees praised BTV's Arabic language teaching programme.
 - One female participant said that from a NTV report she came to know how women & children were being used in smuggling Phensidyl, a drug in the border.
 - The NGO representatives praised Daily Janakantha for its good coverage on the core issues.
 - Daily Prothom Alo, Daily Jugantor are in the good list of the readers.

The media personnel have also informed that the news treatment depends on the number of significant news available on a day. Population movement is yet to be considered as a special focus. Those who cover NGOs, Secretariat, Foreign Ministry, crime news usually look after such issues.

DIVERSITIES AMONG THE DIFFERENT MEDIA

The findings of the FGD have revealed a single form of news media cannot be expected to be effective at every context. An electronic media journalist surprisingly said he could not understand why print media covered the 'Mediterranean Sea'¹⁶ case three days after the electronic media coverage (in March, after the study period). He said many English dailies did not pick-up the news at all.

The print media journalists argued that it was easy for electronic media to pick-up any news with surface information but print media could not. Newspapers could not pick-up the 'Mediterranean Sea' news as there were many dilemmas in the story. There was no photograph of those misfortunate, they did not have any comment or information from the government part. *"Just depending on an unauthorized source newspaper can not make any news on sensitive issue, and so we had to wait"*.

The print media journalists commented, *"Electronic media have so many techniques. They can use 'flash' as well as can do hourly updates, which is not possible in the print media"*. The nature of print and electronic media is different. To the electronic media, even a single line of information can be news, but print media requires details.

The government officials are more motivated to appear in electronic media, however, not as much in print media. Electronic media journalists work in a team - reporter, camera crew and others; but the print media journalists have to work all alone. It is risky for the print media to release any news without getting proper

¹⁶ Please see Annex 8 for details.

answers of 'who', 'what', 'when', 'where', 'how' and 'why', the print media journalists argued.

The readers and viewers have mentioned that they are having access to a whole array of media for news and views on population movement; not just on print and electronic media. Some of the key findings of the FGD sessions are as follows:

- The returnees and the potential migrants preferred television and folk-media. These people were mostly illiterate. Few of them could complete school level. They hardly read newspapers. This group believed that if the electronic media air programmes on the issue concerning population movement (including that of labour migration and trafficking in persons), it would help them a lot. Again, there is difference between choices based on geographical location of the samples. Returnees and potential migrants outside Dhaka identified Bangladesh Television (BTV) as the right electronic media, while the urban returnees and aspirant migrants preferred satellite channels.
- Students preferred newspapers. They also preferred television for such kind of news.
- Most of the participants gave their opinion towards Bangla newspapers. While very insignificant number of participants supported English daily.

The findings indicate that there are some structural advantages as well as constraints within which print and electronic media operate. Based on these factors in some situation one is more prompt or effective in bringing news and views on population movement. However, the readers and viewers also have their own preference and access to different forms of media. Based on which their actual behaviour is determined as well as their expectation towards media is framed. Presently, the readers expect more news regarding population movement on each of these two forms of news media. More importantly they have revealed their preference to have engagement of the living media including folk to carry forward information and skills to the prospective migrants concerning prospects, process and challenges of safe migration alongside media news coverage.

UNEXPLORED POTENTIALITIES

Despite all the limitations and criticism most of the participants showed their faith on newspapers and its journalists. To them journalists are *"more reliable than the Police"*. In this regard, to a section of the sample the print media was considered more important in raising public awareness as they viewed electronic media more having a role of being a source of entertainment.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEDIA & ITS PROFESSIONALS

- ▶ *"There might be some otherwise relations between the newspapers and the recruiting agencies".*
- ▶ *"In spite of helping us, the journalists asked money".*
- ▶ *"The journalists took a lot of information but did not report".*
- ▶ *"The Girl Guide members claimed that the media loves to play with the victims and hides the culprits".*
- ▶ *"The NGO representatives told that the journalists are to invite to get information, very few of them are self-motivated".*

A group of female students informed that they came to know about "Tomy Mia" the well known Bangladeshi migrant and specialist in hospitality management. They praised for BTV's programme on Bangladeshi Diaspora and successful migrants. They believe that media can play strong role in raising awareness of people and disseminating right information. However, they observed that irregular

migration gets less priority in the media, but Diaspora, camel jockey, women in brothel abroad, students abroad – these types of news gets good coverage. The weekend magazines also make special items on such news. In general the readers and viewers have identified that the media hold a great potentiality in promoting safe migration and protecting risky movement of people.

The media personnel during the FGD sessions have indicated some of the critical constraints of print and electronic media in exploring their full potentialities with respect to population movement and other such issues of public concerns.

- The media professionals argued that media looks for glamorous news, disaster, conflict, tragedy, negativism. Media considers rural to urban migration as a part of life. Therefore, it gives less value to these kind of news, rather it emphasizes on regional migration, trafficking, Diaspora and the like.

" Bangladesh is an over populated country. Therefore if 11 Bangladeshi youths migrate to other country willingly, media is not interested to know about that. But when 11 Bangladeshi young men died in the Mediterranean Sea, it becomes glamorous news. It sells in the market. But Rubina, Nasima, Sokhina have no glamour, and so gets little value."

- They mentioned migration-related news get seasonal coverage -- like during the budget time, donors' meetings, while talking on economic migration, counting foreign remittance, during Day observance and when any mishap or trafficking, push-in, push-back takes place. Rural to urban migration came to the table during Monga, natural disaster and the like. Actually the newsmen have little time to dig-out. The NGOs, in most of the cases, take the journalists to sites, provide them necessary information. 'Bad news' is always 'good news' for media. Number or quantity also matters. That's why when 120 Bangladeshi are sent back from Saudi Arabia, it becomes news. Again if something is very much common or regular is loses news value. Trafficking related news is very much common. Almost everyday men, women, children are arrested during trafficking. Therefore, it has become a common phenomena and therefore getting less priority and coverage, unless the number is big.
- They said every organisations pushing for one or other issue these days are expecting more and more media coverage, but *"it is not possible to print a 100-page newspaper every day"*. NGOs are trying to sensitise the media professionals. *But why does not it work as desired?* One of the reporter replied, *"We are not PR agents. We have lots of agenda, so many responsibilities and assignments in a day. They remuneration of a journalist is very poor. Many newspapers do not even pay regular salary. To cover more and more story, the journalists have to spend more money from their own pocket to meet conveyance, food and other expenses, but the return is almost nil"*.
- Thy also pointed out that *"it is necessary to sensitise print and electronic media gatekeepers/policymakers on population movement and related issues"*.

CRITICISM OF MEDIA & ITS PROFESSIONALS

Dhaka-based journalists mentioned that there is a problem with perception. *"We all know that when a cultural team visits foreign countries, there is at least one or more 'Adam'¹⁷, but we have no way to report it"*.

They also pointed out that *"Ideology differs from newspaper to newspaper. Policy of newspapers also determines many things. Three newspapers give three different information on the same issue. Therefore the readers become confused."*

The FGD participants stated:

- *"Newspapers and TV news do not cover all sides".*
- *"There is hardly any in-depth interview".*
- *"Investigative reporting is almost nil".*
- *"Newspapers suppress information, balance news, and sometimes hide the truth".*
- *"Very few effort by the journalists".*
- *"There is hardly any series on a single incident".*
- *"Female migrants are absent in the news. They are covered only when they are trafficked".*

The study finds that as the potentialities remains unutilized, people are getting sceptical on the role of media, specially regarding the lack of interest of the media to investigate into migration related crimes. One student mentioned that *"when the newspapers or other media dig out some human smuggling or trafficking related news it becomes hotcake; but soon it cooled down with the interference of the politicians or the powerful persons."*

WAY FORWARD

During the focused grouped discussions and meeting with stakeholders, there were many suggestions to ensuring effective engagement of media in providing information on population movement. Some of the major suggestions are as follows:

1. **The NGO representatives believe that media can make people aware on the Migration Policies.**
 - There might be a small space in the newspapers where trafficking, different forms of population movement, HIV/AIDS related information might be available.
 - There should be experts to respond to the readers on relevant topics.
 - Innovative Interactive Information and Media Cell needed to be established.
 - Networking & coordination among the NGOs.
 - The NGO workers should have training on how to mobilise media.

¹⁷ Local term used for labour migrant.

2. The migrant workers recommended that the media should report on:

- The proper way to migrate.
- How can anyone complete his/her own papers/process.
- Pre-cautionary measures.
- New immigration laws.
- What benefits should the migrants get from Bangladeshi High Commission abroad.
- On the Migrants Welfare Department, its activities, policies, how do they extend help and support to the migrants.
- On migrants workers' rights.
- How the migrants could invest money in income generating activities.
- Where to get necessary and actual information.
- Government-approved recruiting and other emigration agencies.
- How can women make profitable joint ventures and earn good amount in the country rather than migrating to other countries, how the govt could help in this regard.

They further recommended that alongside media, mass media campaign should complement the efforts of media -

- There should be Bill Boards with visual information in different places specially to transit points to make people aware of risky migration.
- Visual media could be used for skill development training.
- The government-owned terrestrial radio and television could be utilised especially to reach the remote mass.
- For urban poor and illiterates satellite channels might be good medium.

3. The media professionals recommended that there should be:

To promote human mobility-related coverage in media they further recommended:

- Training workshops, seminars and information sharing meetings on population movement should be organised for the reporters.
- Sensitisation workshops for the gatekeepers/policy makers.
- Exclusive visit to destination countries to have in-depth practical knowledge on migration and related issues. There should be resource persons from destination countries, in particular, from the newspaper houses who deal with such issues.
- Facilitation of increased interaction between NGO personnel and journalists of regional and national dailies.
- Research cell in the established media houses.
- Training on Computer Assisted Reporting.
- Victim/survivor-media interactions from time to time.
- Field visits for the journalists.
- Advocacy /lobbying at policy level in media.
- Facilitating access to information.
- A common platform of organisations needed to be established, where information will be made available for the journalists.
- Forming Media Monitoring Cell.
- Forming a Forum for journalists covering population movement issues.

- Fellowship to be offered for in-depth, investigative reporting.
- Enhance quality of coverage on issues related to human mobility:
- Through interpretative discussion & in-depth analysis on the causes and impact of human mobility.
 - Orienting and sensitising journalists on core issues.
 - Emphasising on their social & ethical responsibilities.
 - Regular sharing with the news editors, deputy editors, shift-in-charge, chief reporters.
 - Publishing newsletters accommodating the published news & articles; and distributing those among the journalists.
 - Organising in-house training for the journalists.
 - Organising field trips for them.
 - Offer fellowship for investigative reporting.
 - Establishing Resource Centre for journalists.

Strengthen linkage between media and NGOs and other Civil Society actors:

- Bridging gaps between NGOs, Civil Society representatives and media professionals.
- Organising seminar, symposium, inter-organisational meetings, sharing with different stakeholders.
- Regular exchange of information.
- Regular press briefing sessions by NGOs concerned.
- Regular media releases and more PR activities targeting media.

Common recommendations

- There should be in-depth & investigated reports/articles.
- There should be success stories as well as negative stories.
- Television drama could be produced with popular stars and these should be interesting & entertaining.
- TV drama should project real-life story - how people are being cheated, trapped, trafficked, abused.
- There should be special programme on population movement in electronic media
- TV/ Movie stars, singers should also declare solidarity with this initiative being good will ambassador.
- Awareness raising.
- Messages could be disseminated through street theatre, magic, mime, puppet show, video show.

STUDY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the major conclusions of the study are as follows:

- The media generally exhibits reactive news and is very seldom pro-active to the population movement. The coverage of news related to population movement is very negligible. However, within the study period the print media covered more of the issues in comparison to the electronic media included in the study sample.
- In promoting issues of population movement, which are presently non-issues for the media, a single form of news media cannot be expected to be effective at every context. The electronic media has the capacity of bringing in breaking news while the print media has the capacity of bringing in-depth investigative reporting on such issues. Moreover, different groups and strata of the society have differential access and preference towards different media.
- The media personnel have insufficient specialization in terms of both identification and interpretation of the different aspects and categories of population movement. Moreover, there is no designated pool of reporters to cover such issues.
- Presently both the print and electronic media provide a marginal and event (especially negative event) based token treatment of the issues regarding population movement. Therefore reports with scarce investigations and follow-up stories lack the capacities that would help the policymakers and agencies concerned make more-informed policy and intervention decisions. This also deprives people about the aftermath of the breaking news on population movement.
- There is a great deal of expectation on both the media from the readers /viewers side. They expect the media to provide information to make population movement safe and to help to bring the criminals to justice. With respect to public awareness the living and folk media have also been found to have broad acceptance and potentiality.
- Both the print and electronic media at present in practice has inadequate clearly defined ethical guideline. This is reflected through the unsatisfactory commitment of the media to follow-up cases, dissemination of fake recruitment advertisement without verification and undermining the privacy of the “victims and survivors” of the mal-practice of organizers of the population movement. This more often makes the women more vulnerable to social stigma and discrimination.
- There exists a disjoint between the print and electronic media and the professional and development agencies working on population movement. Which on one hand deprives the professional and development agencies to take full advantage of the media potentialities while on the other hand it leads to a

failure on the side of media to add conceptual clarity and access to authentic sources of information and specialized views.

- People have expectations in accessing more information regarding migration and its related issues. Media campaign using living media including folk to carry forward information and skills to the prospective migrants concerning prospects, process and challenges of safe migration alongside media news coverage is an important consideration for other stakeholders.

The study also has formulated some major recommendations. These are:

1. Capacity-building initiatives are needed to help the local newspapers as well as local correspondents of national dailies to develop understanding of migration and related issues and the importance of disseminating the information on them. The initiative should also aim at raising the skills of the beneficiaries in information gathering, sourcing, writing and providing adequate coverage.
2. Sensitising and motivating newspaper gatekeepers and policymakers to give more importance and prominence to migration reports as well as the necessity of follow-up and investigative reports, graphic accompaniments and other sorts of coverage including editorials, post-editorials, opinions, features etc.
3. Initiatives are also required to create rapport between the journalists and the government and non-government agencies working in this area to exchange views and develop synergy to facilitate better and transparent information flow.
4. A sort of one-stop web-based resource centre for journalists on migration can be developed that would facilitate them in collecting facts, data, legal framework, international conventions and other legal instruments, in contacting the various national, regional and international organisations active in this field, etc.
5. A resource book can be developed for journalists assigned to cover migration events or issues, which would provide them with tips to carry out the task, basic facts, information and resource addresses, etc.
6. The choice regarding media for dissemination of information, news and views on population movement should not be restricted between print and electronic media. In this regard, the living media along with popular folk media can also be effectively engaged through government, NGOs, migrants' associations, etc.

MIGRATION AND BANGLADESH MEDIA: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The mainstream press in this land in a way started its journey through migration of two pro-Muslim League news dailies -- the Azad in the vernacular and the Morning News in English -- from Kolkata to Dhaka in 1949.

Before the 1947 division of Indian Subcontinent into Pakistan and India, Kolkata, as the capital of Bengal comprising all its eastern, western and northern wings, was the hub of all socio-economic activities, with Dhaka playing the role of a mere provincial town. Although James Augustus Hicky, a British citizen, brought out the Bengal Gazette, the first newspaper in the greater Bengal, though not a daily but a periodical, as far back as in 1780 from Kolkata but the first daily to come out in this part of Bengal now called Bangladesh was the Jyoti launched in 1921 as a weekly not from Dhaka but from the port city of Chittagong. Edited by Kali Sankar Chakravarti of Patia the Jyoti later switched into a daily. During the non-co-operation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, the Jyoti came under fire from the British Raj and was forced to shut down.

In the history of Bangladesh Press, Chittagong had been more advanced than Dhaka until 1947. It was also the city from where the Poigam, the only and the first daily to come out after the partition in East Pakistan and before the shifting of the Azad and the Morning News, was published on August 18, 1947.

The advent of print journalism in Dhaka in its modern sense took place concurrent to and as a result of the birth of Pakistan and transformation of the provincial seat of governance into the capital of East Pakistan. The birth was painful, if not worse, as it called forth mass exodus of millions both ways across the new political borders in the riot-ridden subcontinent. A cluster of mass circulation dailies emerged in this land after the partition. Veteran Muslim League leader Hamidul Hoq Chowdhury launched the Pakistan Observer, an English news daily now called the Bangladesh Observer, in March 11, 1949 as a tough competitor to the migrant Morning News. Also in 1949, popular leader Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani brought out the Ittefaq as a vernacular weekly later turned into a daily in December 1953 by its editor Tofazzal Hossain alias Manik Mia. It is still very much in vogue. Another mass-circulation vernacular daily, the Sangbad, also joined in the foray of newspaper publications in early 1950's with a neutral stance.

Opposite to the migration of the Azad and the Morning news, the weekly Amrita Bazaar launched in 1868 by pioneer journalist Shishir Kumar Ghosh was relocated in Kolkata from Jessore. Amrita Bazaar was the nucleus of the current cardinal newspaper house of the same name in West Bengal.

The number of newspapers in the country meanwhile has staged a tremendous leap from a mere 10 in 1971 to around 1,800 now. Not only the metropolises and cities, almost every town, whether large or small, now boasts of one or two newspapers. But none of this great swarm of newspapers or the news agencies has any staff specialised on migration, a regular content. So, how do they cover the migration events and issues? How wide and good is the coverage? These questions automatically crop up to anyone concerned about media coverage of population

movement and those were among the prime questions this study has tried to address.

HISTORY OF MIGRATION IN BANGLADESH

Migration or population movement has always been a major socio-economic factor in the life of the people of this land. For hundreds of years, circular movement of people has taken place in the South Asia to seek livelihood beyond subsistence agriculture. The trend continued during the British rule with migration of labourers a wide range of destinations including Europe and the Caribbean countries. At the fag end of the British Raj, a large number of people from Sylhet migrated to Europe, mostly to the United Kingdom.

Apart from that, migration, both regular and irregular, of the poverty-stricken people of this land to more affluent countries seeking economic security and wealth has been a perpetual phenomenon. Temporary or long-term economic migration has become a major livelihood option for many people. In the 1970's, many a Bangladesh workers, mostly unskilled and construction labourers, migrated to oil-rich Middle Eastern countries on short-term, mostly two-year but renewable contracts. The demand of cheap labour in the Middle East peaked in the 1980's, hiring large groups of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labourers from Bangladesh and other poor Asian economies. The rapid economic progress in some Asian countries including Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore and Brunei also resulted in a huge demand and recruiting of cheap labour from Bangladesh.

Gender discrimination and low social status of women make them desperate to get employment, which also make them vulnerable to trafficking. Acceptance of child labour boosts mobility of and trafficking in children. Forced migration to escape communal, religious, political and ethnic persecution, displacement due to natural calamities like river erosion and fear of mafia and criminal gangs are also common in certain areas.

DEFINITIONS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF MIGRATION

(This section has been developed from the IOM World Migration Report 2003, IOM World Migration Report 2005 and Glossary on Migration published by IOM)

TERMINOLOGY ISSUES

How should we define “*migration*” and, by extension, “*migrant*”? Providing a commonly accepted definition is not easy. As they result from distinct political, social, economic and cultural contexts, definitions of migration are highly varied in nature. This makes comparisons difficult not only because statistical criteria differ, but because these differences reflect real variations in migration’s social and economic significance, depending on the particular contexts (Castles, 2000).

Migration: A process of moving, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants.

A particular case of migration may fit several definitions; a migrant may embody characteristics that reflect more than one of the meanings given. However, for the purpose of the report, various types of migration divisions and practices of migration are discussed in the following.

Migration can be divided into *Voluntary Migration* and *Forced Migration* based on the voluntary or involuntary nature of movement. Based on duration of stay in another country other than the country of origin, it can be divided into *Long-term Migration* or *Permanent Migration* and *Short-term Migration* or *Temporary Migration*. A distinction may be drawn between *Internal Migration* and *International Migration* based on migrants crossing international borders. Based on the legal status of migrants in case of *International Migration*, it can also be divided into *Irregular Migration* and *Regular Migration*.

VOLUNTARY AND FORCED MIGRATION

Forced Migration: General term used to describe a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects). This term applies to refugee movements and forced exchanges of populations among states.

The term forced migration is also often synonymously used with displacement.

Displacement: A forced removal of a person from his/her home or country, often due to of armed conflict or natural disasters.

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN FORCED MIGRATION OR DISPLACEMENT

- ⇒ Internally Displaced Persons
- ⇒ Externally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- ⇒ Stateless person

Displaced Person: A person who flees his/her State or community due to fear or dangers other than those which would make him/her a refugee. A displaced person is often forced to flee because of internal conflict or natural or manmade disasters.

Internally Displaced Persons / IDPs: Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border (*Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, UN Doc E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2.*).

Externally Displaced Persons: Persons who have fled their country due to persecution, generalized violence, armed conflict situations or other man-made disasters. These individuals often flee en masse. Sometimes they are also referred to as “*de facto* refugees”.

De Facto Refugees: Persons not recognized as refugees within the meaning of the *UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951* and *Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967*, and who are unable or, for reasons recognised as valid, unwilling to return to the country of their nationality or, if they have no nationality, to the country of their habitual residence.

Refugee (Mandate): A person who meets the criteria of the UNHCR Statute and qualifies for the protection of the United Nations provided by the High Commissioner, regardless of whether or not s/he is in a country that is a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, or whether or not s/he has been recognized by the host country as a refugee under either of these instruments.

Refugee (Recognised): A person, who “owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country” (*Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1A(2), 1951* as modified by *the 1967 Protocol*).

Refugees in Orbit: Refugees who, although not returned directly to a country where they may be persecuted, are denied asylum or unable to find a State willing to examine their request, and are moved from one country to another in a search of asylum.

Refugees in Transit: Refugees who are temporarily admitted in the territory of a State under the condition that they are resettled elsewhere.

Refugees *sur Place*: Persons who are not refugees when they leave their country of origin, but who become refugees (that is, acquire a well-founded fear of persecution) at a later date. Refugees *sur place* may owe their fear of persecution to a coup d'état in their home country, or to the introduction or intensification of repression or persecutory policies after their departure. A claim in this category may also be based on bona fide political activities, undertaken in the country of residence or refuge.

Asylum Seekers: Persons seeking to be admitted into a country as refugees and awaiting decision on their application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, they must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any alien in an irregular situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds. Until the claim is examined fairly, the *asylum seeker* is entitled not to be returned according to the principle of non-refoulement. Not every *asylum seeker* will ultimately be recognized as a refugee.

Stateless Person: A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law (*Art. 1, UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954*). As such, a stateless person lacks those rights attributable to nationality: the diplomatic protection of a State, no inherent right of sojourn in the State of residence and no right of return in case s/he travels.

***De Facto* Statelessness:** Situation of individuals who possess the nationality of a State but, having left the State, enjoy no protection by it, either because they decline to claim such protection or because the State refuses to protect them. *De facto* statelessness is a term often connected with refugees.

Voluntary Migration: The voluntary movement of a person for reasons of seeking employment, settling in another country, etc.

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN VOLUNTARY MIGRATION

Migrant: - At the international level, no universally accepted definition of migrant exists. The term migrant is usually understood to cover all cases where the decision to migrate is taken freely by the individual concerned for reasons of "personal convenience" and without intervention of an external compelling factor. This term therefore applies to persons, and family members, moving to another country or region to better their material or social conditions and improve the prospect for themselves or their family.

LONG-TERM MIGRATION AND SHORT-TERM MIGRATION

International:

Long-Term Migrant: A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. From the perspective of the country of departure, the person will be a long-term emigrant and from that of the country of arrival, the person will be a long-term immigrant.

Short-term Migrant: A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least three months but less than a year) except in cases where the movement to that country is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends or relatives, business or medical treatment. For purposes of international migration statistics, the country of usual residence of short-term migrants is considered to be the country of destination during the period they spend in it.

Long-term and short-term migration occurs internally as well.

INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Internal Migration: A movement of people from one area of a country to another for the purpose or with the effect of establishing a new residence. This migration may be temporary or permanent. Internal migrants move but remain within their country of origin (e.g. rural to urban migration).

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN INTERNAL VOLUNTARY MIGRATION

Rural-rural migrants - Internal migrants who move from one rural area to another.

Rural-Urban Migrants: Internal migrants who move from rural to urban areas.

Urban-Rural Migrants: Internal migrants who move from urban to rural areas either for "new settlement" purposes or as return migration for those who have been rural-urban migrants.

Urban-Urban Migrants: Internal migrants who move from one urban area to another, generally for employment.

International Migration: Movement of persons who leave their country of origin, or the country of habitual residence, to establish themselves either permanently or temporarily in another country. An international frontier is therefore crossed.

International voluntary migration may be of three types:

Immigration/Emigration

Immigration: A process by which non-nationals move into a country for the purpose of settlement.

Emigration: The act of departing or exiting from one State with a view to settle in another. International human rights norms provide that all persons should be free to leave any country, including their own, and that only in very limited circumstances may States impose restrictions on the individual's right to leave its territory.

Labour Migration: Movement of persons from their home State to another State for the purpose of employment. Labour migration is addressed by most States in their migration laws. In addition, some States take an active role in regulating outward labour migration and seeking opportunities for their nationals abroad.

Seasonal Migration: Movement of people to a neighbouring country, leaving his or her country of residence to work in during harvesting season.

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY MIGRATION

Permanent Settlers: Legally admitted immigrants who are accepted to settle in the receiving country, including persons admitted for the purpose of family reunion.

Diaspora: Refers to any people or ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world.

Migrants for Settlement: Foreigners granted permission to stay for a lengthy or unlimited period and subject to virtually no limitation regarding the exercise of an economic, social and political rights (e.g. employment-based migrants, family-based migrants, ancestry-based migrants, migrants with the right to free establishment, or foreign retirees).

Migrant Worker: A person engaging in a remunerated activity in a country of which he/she is not a national, excluding asylum seekers and refugees. A *migrant worker* establishes his/her residence in the host country for the duration of his/her work. This term is applied to irregular migrant workers, as well as to staff of multinational companies whose duties require them to move from one country to another. The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families defines other more specific categories such as "seafarers", "project-tied workers" and "itinerant workers" (Article 2).

Economic Migrant: A person leaving his/her habitual place of residence to settle outside his/her country of origin in order to improve his/her quality of life. This term may be used to distinguish from refugees fleeing persecution, and is also used to refer to persons attempting to enter a country without legal permission and/or by using asylum procedures without *bona fide* cause. It also applies to persons settling outside their country of origin for the duration of an agricultural season, appropriately called seasonal workers.

Seasonal Worker: A migrant worker whose work by its character is dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year (*Art. 2(2)(b), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990*).

Temporary Migrant Workers: Skilled, semi-skilled or untrained workers who remain in the receiving country for definite periods as determined in a work contract with an individual worker or a service contract concluded with an enterprise. Also called contract migrant workers.

REGULAR MIGRATION AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Regular Migration - Migration that occurs through recognized, legal channels.

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN REGULAR MIGRATION

Documented Migrant: A migrant who entered a country legally and remains in the country in accordance with his/her admission criteria.

Documented Migrant Worker: A migrant worker or members of his/her family authorized to enter, to stay and to engage in a remunerated activity in the State of employment pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party (*International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990*).

Irregular Migration: Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it is illegal entry, stay or work in a country, meaning that the migrant does not have the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations to enter, reside or work in a given country. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country. There is, however, a tendency to restrict the use of the term “illegal migration” to cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

Clandestine Migration: Secret or concealed migration in breach of immigration requirements. It can occur when a non-national breaches the entry regulations of a country; or having entered a country legally overstays in breach of immigration regulations.

Smuggling in Migrants and Trafficking in Persons are closely related to irregular migration.

Smuggling: The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (*Art. 3(a), UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000*). Smuggling contrary to trafficking does not require an element of exploitation, coercion, or violation of human rights.

Trafficking in Persons: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (*Art. 3(a), UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Organized Crime, 2000*).

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Irregular Migrant (or Undocumented or Clandestine): A person without legal status in a transit or host country owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his/her visa. The term is applied to non-nationals who have infringed the transit or host country's rules of admission; persons attempting to obtain asylum without due cause; and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country. Also called illegal or migrant in an irregular situation.

Undocumented Migrant Workers or Migrant Workers in an Irregular Situation: Migrant workers or members of their families, who are not authorized to enter, to stay or to engage in employment in a State.

Trafficked Person: An individual who is a victim of the crime of trafficking in persons.

OTHER TYPES AND PRACTICES OF MIGRATION

Return migration: The movement of a person returning to his/her country of origin or habitual residence usually after spending at least one year in another country. This return may or may not be voluntary. Return migration includes voluntary repatriation.

Re-emigration: the movement of a person who, after returning to his/her country of departure for some years, again leaves for another stay or another destination.

Secondary Migration: A movement of a migrant within a host country, away from the community in which s/he originally resided.

OTHER CATEGORIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN MIGRATION

Skilled Migrant: Migrant worker who, because of his/her skills, is usually granted preferential treatment regarding admission to a host country (and is therefore subject to fewer restrictions regarding length of stay, change of employment and family reunification).

CODES USED IN NEWSPAPER CONTENT ANALYSIS

CODES FOR NEWS DAILIES

NAME	CODE
Jugantor	1
Prothom Alo	2
Dainik Ittefaq	3
Dainik Inqilab	4
Dainik Sangbad	5
The Daily Star	6
New Age	7
The Independent	8
The Financial Express	9
New Nation	10
Korotoa	11
Gramer Kagoj	12
Dainik Purbokone	13
Shyamol Sylhet	14
Ajker Paribartan	15

TOPIC CODES

TOPIC	CODE
Return Migration	1
Forced Migration	2
Irregular Migration	3
Orderly Migration	4
Smuggling of Migrants	5
Trafficking in Persons	6
Asylum Seeker	7
Economic Migration	8
Displaced person	9
Refugee	10
Frontier Workers	11
Migrant Worker	12
Seasonal Migration	13
International Migration	14
Internal Migration	15
Diaspora	16
Rural-Urban Migration	17
Internal Displacement	18
Policy Dialogue/Seminar/Workshop/Rally/Mobilisation etc	19
Training	20
Migrants Account	21
Other forms of migration in the country (mobility)	22
Advertisement	23
Intrusion	24
Repatriation/ Extradition	25

ITEM/COVERAGE CODES

ITEM	CODE
Hard News	1
Follow-up Report	2
In-depth Report	3
Feature	4
Editorial	5
Post-editorial	6
Opinion	7
Letter	8
Advertisement	9
Travelogue	10

ITEM SOURCE/WRITER CODES

SOURCE/WRITER	CODE
Staff Correspondent/Reporter	1
Local Correspondent	2
Staff Photojournalist/Artist	3
Staff Byline	4
News Agency	5
Staff Writer	6
Contributor	7
Reader	8
Government Agency (For Ad)	9
Private Firm/Individual(For Ad)	10
Foreign Correspondent	11
Press Release/Hand Out	12
NGO (For Ad)	13

HEADING SIZE/COVERAGE WIDTH

WIDTH	CODE
Single Column	1
Double Column	2
3/C, 4/C, 5/C,	3/ 4/ 5

PAGE CODES

PAGE	CODE
Front Page	1
Back Page	2
News Page	3
Editorial Page	4
Op-ed Page	5
Metro Page	6
National Page	7
Business Page	8
International Page	9
Cultural Page	10
Literature Page	11
Women's Page	12
Children's Page	13
Science/Health Page	14
Supplements	15
Others	16

COLOUR CODES

COLOUR	CODE
Black & White	1
Bi-colour	2
Four-colour	3

PLACEMENT CODES

PLACEMENT	CODE
Upper Fold	1
Lower Fold	2
Right Page (For non-broadsheet/tabloid)	1
Left Page (For non-broadsheet/tabloid)	2

SPECIAL TREATMENT CODES

SPECIAL TREATMENT	CODE
Boxed	1
<i>Italic</i> Heading	2
Coloured Heading	3
Reversed Heading	4
Screen	5
Illustration/Logo	6
Other	7

IOM NEWSPAPER MONITORING DATA FORM

S/N: _____ Daily Code: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Topic Code: _____

Heading: _____

Source Country: _____ Destination/s: _____

Item Code: _____ Item Source/Writer Code: _____ Heading Size: _____

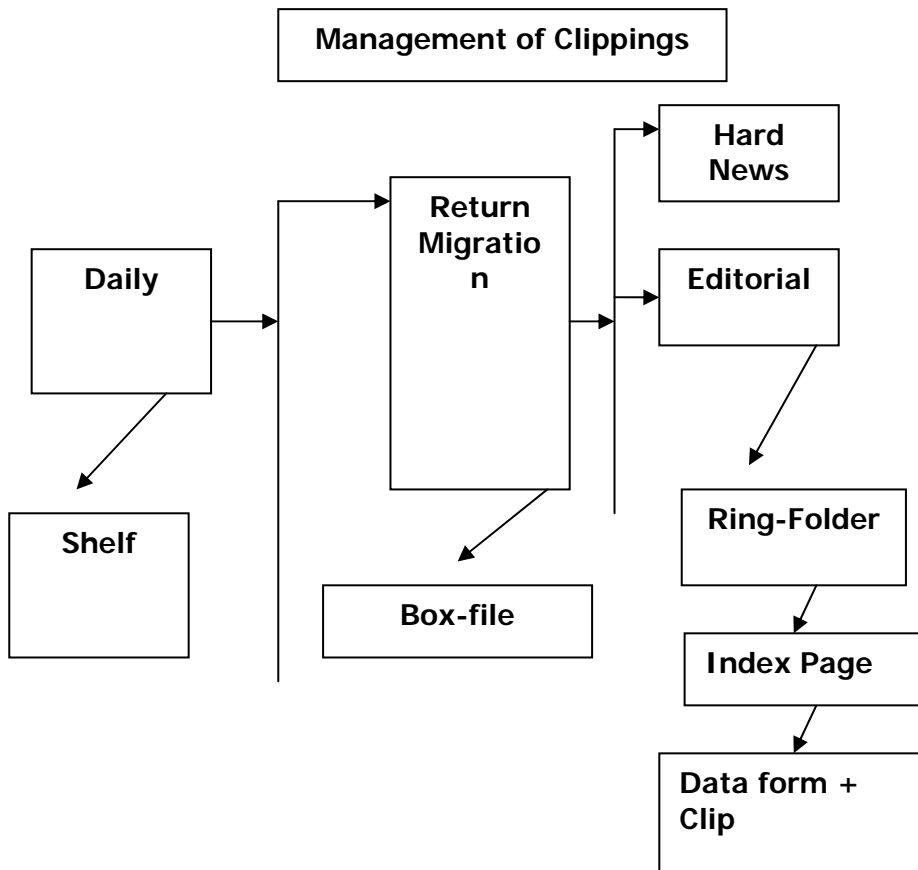
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CLIP

CLIP MANAGEMENT



QUESTIONNAIRE FILLED IN AT THE EXPERIENCE SHARING MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON THE
DRAFT REPORT

QUESTIONNAIRE

The participants were then asked to fill up a questionnaire and 15 of the participants filled that up, the outcome of which is summarised below.

1. What in your opinion is the standard of coverage of population movement by the leading national news dailies?

Response:

Standard	No. of votes	Percentage
Very Bad	0	0
Bad	2	13.33
Moderate	10	66.66
Good	3	20
Very Good	0	0
	15	100

2. What in your opinion is the standard of coverage of population movement by the local/small town news dailies?

Response:

Standard	No. of votes	Percentage
Very Bad	2	13.33
Bad	11	73.33
Moderate	1	6.66
Good	1	6.66
Very Good	0	0
	15	100

3. Which of the following supports/inputs do you think is/are urgently needed to upgrade media coverage of population movement?

Recommendation	No. of votes
Group Training	6
In-house Training	6
Orientation Session	7
Advocacy	7
1-stop Resource Centre	4
Interaction with stakeholders	9
Publication	2

Note: The respondents recommended one or more options

4. Do you recommend any other specific action/s towards this end for Dhaka-based journalists?

Response:

- a) No alternative of investigative reporting & follow-ups
- b) Have to be aware of the issues through study.
- c) More interactive meeting with Dhaka-based journalists is required
- d) Have to arrange Field/exchange visit for journalists
- f) Handbook on migration related issues
- g) Website
- i) Training for the reporters, even covering other issues, needed to organise so that they can understand the linkage between migration /trafficking with their own beats
- j) Development of journalist network on migration issues
- l) Workshop for journalists
- m) Interaction with the media professionals

5. Do you recommend any other specific action/s towards this end for local level journalists?

Response:

- a) Maintain liaison with the regional dailies
- b) Visiting websites
- c) Time-to-time trip to Dhaka
- d) Meeting with local newspaper editors, news editors & reporters
- e) Handbook on migration
- f) Newsletter
- g) Migration Feature Service
- e) Executive awareness program at border areas
- f) Highlight comparison between regular & irregular migration with real-life cases to help people take right decisions
- f) Develop local journalist network on migration issues

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
STAKEHOLDERS MEETING, JUNE 29, 2005

1. S.M. Shariful Islam Secretary General OSKF-Sirajganj	2. Munima Sultana Editorial Assistant Financial Express
3. Md. Nur Khan Director Ain O Salish Kendra	4. Sultana Naher Vice-President SHOSTI
5. Prof. Ishrat Shamim President CWCS	6. Masud Parvez Vice Chairman WARBE
7. A.R. Chowdhury Repon Project Development & research Officer Bangladesh Institute of Labour studies (BILS)	8. Shatabd Sarker Staff Reporter Prothom Alo
9. Syed Saiful Haque Chairman WARBE	10. Rafiq Hasan Reporter The Daily Star
11. Golam Kabir Khan Investigation Officer Odhikar	12. Sheikh Rumana General Secretary BOMSA
13. Pranab Kumar Nandi ICO ATSEC Bangladesh	14. Shamim Ahamed Staff Reporter Naya Diganta
15. Dipu Hasan Executive Editor INCIDIN Bangladesh	16. Farzana Yameen Intern IOM
17. Syed Ishtiaque Reza News Editor ATN Bangla	18. Lutfun Nahar Associate Coordinator, Social Inclusion, Action Aid
19. Sohrab Hassan Associate Editor Daily Jugantor	20. Sohel Monjur Managing Editor BD News24
21. Kalyan Saha Staff Reporter Sangbad	22. Ms. Munni Information Assistant MMC
23. A K M Masud Ali Consultant	24. Tanbir-ul Islam Siddiqui Consultant
25. Mizanur rahman National Programme Officer IOM	26. Nahreen Farjana Media Focal Point IOM
27. Hasibur Rahman Executive Director MRDI	28. Sajjad Hossain MRDI
29. Azfar Aziz MRDI	30.

An incident took place in March, where a group of 26 Bangladeshis were trying to enter Europe through irregular means and 11 of them lost their lives in the Mediterranean. The incident was picked up by the Bangladesh media and there had been series of stories on irregular migration, fraudulent travel agents and smuggling in migrants (which was after the study period). However, after a few months, this incident was also lost among many issues. For reference, please find a news article by the Daily Star on the incident.

The Daily Star, March 11, 2005, Friday

11 Bangladeshis perish at sea looking for hope

15 others languish in Algerian hospital after 10 days of hunger, thirst on Mediterranean

[Star Report](#)

Eleven Bangladeshis died of hunger and thirst in a boat on the Mediterranean en route to Spain from Morocco in the third week of February.

The dead along with 16 others, including 15 more Bangladeshis, ran out of fuel and supplies, and went without food and water for 10 days on the high sea as the boatman lost his way and headed for Algeria instead of Spain.

Algerian police rescued and arrested the surviving 16 and rushed them to a hospital.

THE ODYSSEY

Twenty-six Bangladeshis, helped by a travel agency, left the country on December 23 with the aim to reach Spain illegally.

Each of them paid Tk six lakh to two brokers -- Reazul Islam Raju and Mostak Ahmed -- of Dohar Travel Agency housed at Basundhara in the city's Baridhara area for the trip, said Syed Mozakker Hossain who has lost two brothers to the tragedy.

Mosaddeq Hossain and Shamsuzzaman Himel were his two siblings who perished, along with nine others, in their desperate effort to migrate by any means to a more affluent economy.

Mozakker Hossain said he met broker Raju of Mollah Bari, Dohar twice before paying him for his brothers' trip.

"The agency flew them to Dubai and from there took them to Mali," Mozakker told The Daily Star. "I had a talk with them over telephone for a minute when they were at Mali."

Their condition there was really bad, Mozakker said, adding, "They again called us after reaching Morocco by road, saying there the condition became even worse."

"They said they were not given adequate food during the 11 days it took them to reach Morocco from Mali. They were utterly dejected," he said, quoting one of his brothers as saying, "We would not have come here if we knew how much suffering was awaiting us."

Moroccan police arrested the group as they were traveling without proper documents and sent them to Algeria, Mozakker said. "The brokers again smuggled them back to Morocco," he added.

In Morocco the brokers put them on board a boat for a supposedly four-and-a-half-hour trip to Spain, said Mozakker.

But the captain of the boat lost his direction and headed for another way, resulting in their scanty supply of food, water and fuel running out soon.

After a aimless floating about on the Mediterranean for nine days without any food and water, the aspirant migrants started to drop dead one after another.

Of the brothers, Mosaddek was the first to go on February 23. His body was thrown into the sea. His brother Himel followed him the next day.

The death toll would have passed beyond the 11 if the Algerian Navy did not rescue the surviving passengers of the boat.

One of Mozakker's relatives residing in Spain noticed the rescue news aired on the national TV channel. He inquired about the dead and relayed the sad news to Mozakker, who later talked with one of the survivors named Mintu at the hospital. Mintu provided him with the details of the ordeal.

The identities of the rest of the team could not be known.