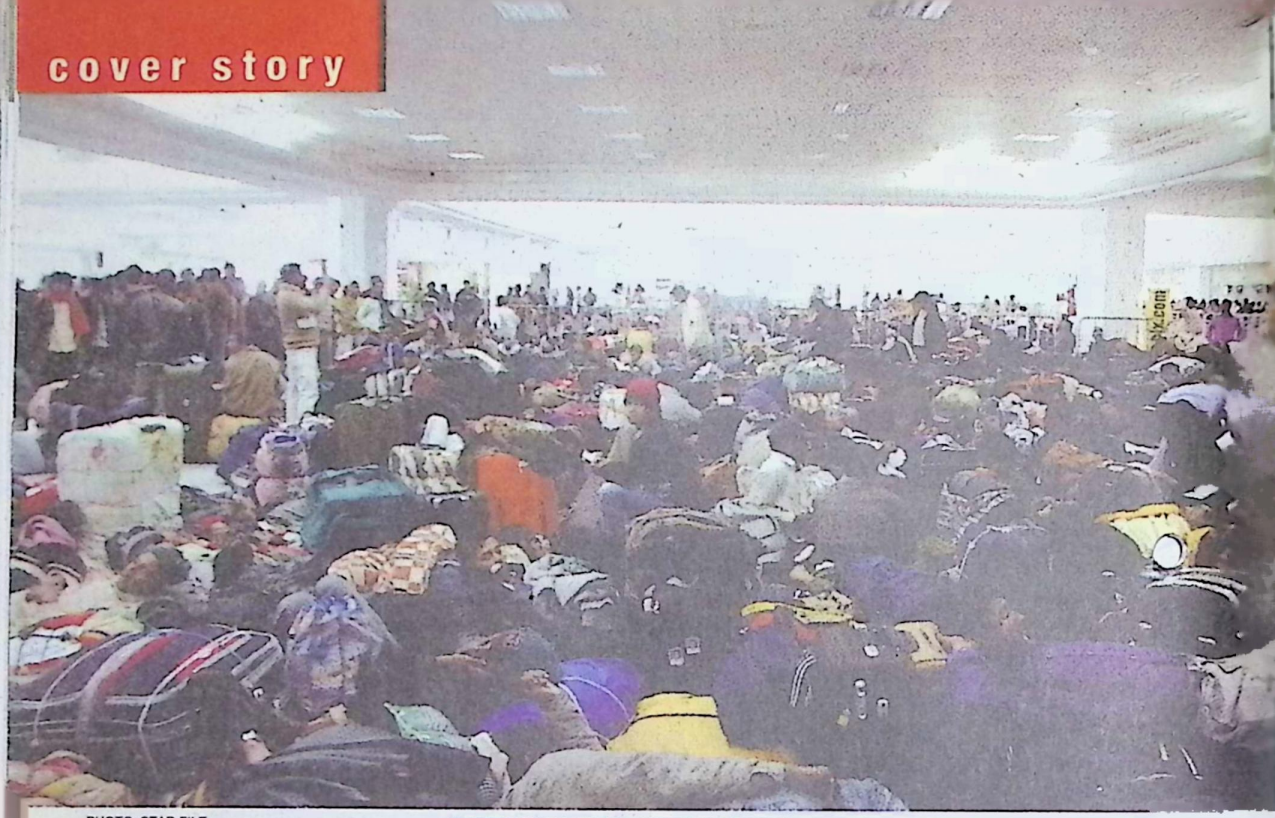


PHOTO: STAR FILE

ered that my husband had sold all the properties, wasted all the money and married another woman," Mahmuda says. She – the woman who had financed all her husband's wealth – was literally thrown away.

Now Mahmuda lives in misery and without family. "For the sake of money I sacrified my life as a mother. And now I am alone," she says.

But there is still some hope: Mahmuda is filing a case against her husband. She wants to get divorced and – first of all – retrieve her money back. At the moment, Mahmuda is saving money to go back abroad again. "People in my village have spread nasty rumours about my character and I have no prospect here of finding a job similar to my work abroad," she explains.

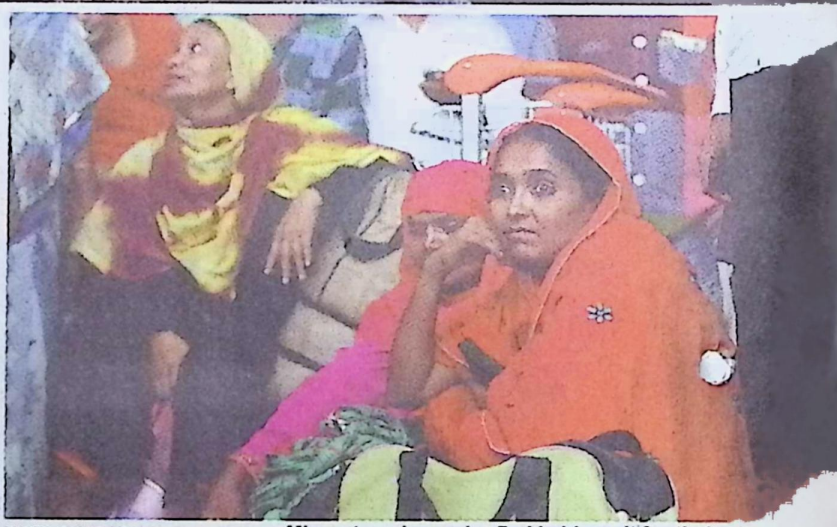


PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Migrant workers who fled Lybia wait for their plane back home. Now, many of them want to go back.

Poor Job Prospects

Due to low education, the job prospects are bleak for many returnees. "Before they leave the country, the migrant workers don't care about their skills," says Shakirul. They only dream of making money.

Bangladesh traditionally exports unskilled labourers, says Grégoire Crettaz from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Only 30 percent of the migrants have skills, he estimates.

An yet-to-be published survey of more than 7,000 Libya returnees by the IOM gives an idea about the education level of the average migrant to the Middle Eastern countries: almost 40 percent of the surveyed migrants said they had no formal education or incomplete primary school experience. Only four percent of the migrants had completed their higher secondary education.

The unskilled people not only carry a higher risk of being exploited abroad, they also struggle hard with the reintegration, Crettaz says. Back home, they are not able to find a job nearly as well paid as abroad.