

29 Bangladeshis deported from 3 EU countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 29 Bangladeshis deported from Italy, Greece and Cyprus for illegal stay and alleged involvement in crimes were flown back to Dhaka yesterday.

Of the returnees, 16 came from Italy, nine from Greece and four from Cyprus. None of them had legal documents to stay in those countries, The Daily Star has learnt from immigration officials.

Another 13 Bangladeshis will be deported from the three countries, according to foreign ministry officials.

Under the Frontex-European Union Reintegration Programme, a BRAC team provided post-arrival support at the airport. Each returnee was given Tk 29,140 (EUR 205) in cash, food and assistance to contact their families.

"People must avoid irregular migration, particularly via sea routes through the Mediterranean, where Bangladesh ranks first globally for such attempts – this is a national shame," said Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Platform.

Among yesterday's returnees was Hasan Khan from Dohar, who went to Greece five years ago. Speaking to this newspaper, he said he had spent Tk 10.5 lakh to brokers for a risky journey through the Mediterranean.

"I just managed to pay back my debt and am now deported back to my home country – I do not know what to do now."

Hundreds of Bangladeshis have been deported from the US, Libya and now Europe over the past one and a half years, according to official data. At least 187 Bangladeshis were sent back from the US between 2024 and September this year.

On August 2, a US C-17 military aircraft deported 39 Bangladeshis, including one woman. On June 8, a chartered flight brought back 42, while between March 6 and April 21, multiple flights deported another 34.

On August 21, some 174 Bangladeshis also returned from Libya after failing to reach Europe through the Mediterranean.

Man killed by mob over theft charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A man was allegedly killed by a mob in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore early yesterday on suspicion of "stealing fish".

The deceased is Nasib Talukder, 50, a resident of Gopinathpur village. "Nasib's body bore multiple stab injuries. A case was filed today with the police station against 20-30 unidentified people," said KM Robiul Islam, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police Station.

Three persons were detained for interrogation, he added.

Quoting witnesses, OC Robiul said Nasib entered a fish enclosure in Nolamara area around 3:45am when locals spotted him. They chased him down and attacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him dead on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent it to Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A guiding light for business

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Recalling their years together at the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, he said,

"Chowdhury never asked others to draft solutions – he would sit down himself and work with us until a decision was finalised."

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Mohammed Farashuddin called Chowdhury a "guiding light" in business and the economy.

He recalled seeking his advice when the banking sector faced rampant loan defaults in the 1990s, crediting him for crucial support in establishing the Central Depository System

(CDS).

"He was a man of extraordinary humanity and inclusiveness, who embraced people of all backgrounds," Farashuddin said.

Writer and researcher Denish Dilip Datta shared lesser-known stories, including Chowdhury's brief service in the Royal Indian Navy and his resilience during setbacks.

He noted that Square Hospital, now a leading healthcare institution, was originally planned as a hotel project before Chowdhury transformed the idea.

His son Tapan Chowdhury described him as a man of faith, integrity and dedication whose contributions will remain unforgettable.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

A youth organisation arranges the Climate Strike 2025 programme with the slogan "Protect the Coast, Protect the Nation" in Shyamnagar, Satkhira yesterday. The event, organised on the newly emerged char of the Kholpetua River near Nowabeni Bazar, echoes the sentiment of protecting the area alongside the country.

MOTHER, CHILD CENTRE IN JHENNAIDAH

Staff shortage hampers healthcare

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenaidah

The 10-bed Mother and Child Welfare Centre in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenaidah, built at a cost of Tk 44.2 crore, is struggling to deliver essential health services for pregnant women and children due to an acute shortage of doctors, nurses and staff.

Inaugurated on February 22, 2022, the hospital was equipped with modern facilities to provide advanced medical care to pregnant mothers and children, ensure safe childbirth and treat paediatric diseases.

But it lost its efficacy within a few months because of manpower shortage and is now practically on the verge of a service shutdown.

Although there are 12 approved staff posts, only one medical technologist and one family welfare

inspector currently work there full-time. Four others are posted under joint orders.

There are no regular doctors, pharmacists or the manpower needed to keep the operation theatre running.

"I came to see a doctor, but there is no one. So, I have to leave," said Rehena Khatun, who came to the hospital for treatment.

Another patient, Selina Begum, shared a similar experience.

Left unused for a prolonged period, the operation theatre is now

in disrepair, expensive instruments and equipment are being damaged, and beds lie empty. Even the water lines are out of order.

"Every month, some 200 to 250 patients come for treatment. Due to shortage of manpower and medicine, we cannot serve them adequately," said Anjali Rani, family welfare inspector at the hospital.

Dr Kamal Hossain, medical officer and in-charge of the hospital, said, "We are suffering from an acute manpower crisis and shortage of medicines for a long time. We are trying to keep some services running on a limited scale."

Contacted, Dr Md Kamruzzaman, civil surgeon of Jhenaidah, said he had forwarded a letter to the concerned authority for appointing necessary manpower and providing other essentials to the hospital as soon as possible.

Man beaten, thrown into Turag by mob
Police recover body from river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a youth from the Turag river after he was allegedly beaten and thrown into it by mob over mugging allegations.

The deceased was identified as Shaheen Miah, 26, an auto-rickshaw driver, said Rakibul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station.

He said a group of locals caught Shaheen and Mosharraf Hossain, 30, around 2:00am Tuesday in the capital's Dimpnagar area on suspicion of mugging. They were beaten before being thrown into the river, he said, adding that Mosharraf swam to safety, but Shaheen drowned.

"We have arrested three people in this connection," the OC said, adding that police are trying to find the others involved.

Shaheen's brother, Shameem Miah, however, alleged that his brother and Mosharraf were called out of their home in Adabor Switch Gate area by some locals on Monday night.

"They claimed that someone named Dipu, owner of local factory Al-Madia, wanted to see them. Later, around eight men -- staffers of Al-Madia and Dipu's associates -- beat them with sticks and iron rods before throwing them into the river."

Shameem filed a case with Darussalam Police Station against eight people yesterday.

Police said Dipu remains on the run.

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Bridge lies idle as approach road caves in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A portion of the approach road of a bridge has been broken down in Mymensingh's Nandail upazila due to recent heavy rainfall, creating risk for locals.

Constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), the 96-metre-long Daspara Bridge on the Sukhajhuri river was completed two years ago at a cost of Tk 7.42 crore.

But a portion of its approach road has collapsed. As the 1.5km mud road remains unfit for use, even reaching the bridge on foot has become impossible.

Amir Uddin, a farmer of Daspara village, said the mud road through Darilla village connects the concrete roads on both ends -- Nandail-Tarail and Amlitola-Kaliaganj roads.

The condition of the mud road is dire, with knee deep water accumulating in large potholes this season, while portions of the 200-metre approach roads on both ends have already caved in.

Md Kamal Uddin of Darilla village said they used bamboo bridges in the dry season and boats in the monsoon to cross the river.

"Even though a concrete bridge was built, the mud road has not been made concrete yet. So, this expensive bridge is of no use to us," he said.

Easy bike driver Raju Mia alleged low quality materials were used in the construction work.

Denying the use of substandard materials in constructing the bridge, Abdul Malek Biswas, upazila engineer of LGED in Nandail, said they have already contacted the construction firm and asked them to repair the broken site immediately.

He also said a proposal has been sent to the authorities concerned to pave the mud road to make the bridge more functional for the people.

Separate SC secretariat

FROM PAGE 3

declared that "judicial independence has been translated into lived reality," citing "near one hundred percent implementation" of pledges made in September 2024.

The programme, jointly organised by the Supreme Court and UNDP at a hotel, was presided over by Justice Zubayer

Rahman Chowdhury of the Appellate Division.

British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke, Swedish Ambassador Nicolas Weeks, Norwegian Ambassador Håkon Arild Gulbrandsen, EU Ambassador Michael Miller, and UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller

also spoke, among others.

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