

No trace of 23 Bangladeshi men

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and five from Madaripur -- have been missing since March 2024, months after they travelled to Libya from Bangladesh through human trafficking networks that promised them jobs in Europe. They are aged between 18 and 30.

Their families do not know whether they are being kept in detention camps or traffickers' hideouts in Libya or drowned in the Mediterranean during perilous journeys to Europe.

For many families in Shariatpur, migration to Italy is more than an aspiration; it is woven into the social fabric. In Naria upazila, locals even refer to an area as "Italy Village" because nearly every family there has one of its members living in Italy.

Human traffickers are well aware of this. They target families with modest landholdings, migrant workers in the Gulf, and young men desperate to make fortunes abroad.

Rashedul was one of them. He had been working in a restaurant in Saudi Arabia since 2021, but Italy was always his preferred destination, said his father Selim.

"I did not want him to go [to Italy], I knew the dangers," said Selim, alleging that two local brokers -- Rashed Khan and Tunnu Khan -- trapped his son after he returned home from Saudi Arabia in 2023.

The family eventually paid around Tk 12.5 lakh to the brokers. Selim had to sell cattle, mortgage land, borrow money from relatives, and even transfer ownership of 20 decimals of land to traffickers.

Rashedul was asked to take a trafficking route that is common now: from Bangladesh to the UAE, from there to Egypt and then to Libya, a country fractured by years of conflict and instability since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

From the northeastern Libyan city of Benghazi, he was moved to Tripoli in the northwest and kept in what migrants call a "game ghar" -- a holding facility where fortune-seekers are kept confined before being sent across the Mediterranean by boat.

The last phone call from Rashedul came on March 22, 2024.

"He only said they were taking away their phones, then the line went dead," Selim recalled.

Since then, there has been no trace of Rashedul.

"We repeatedly asked the brokers about our son. At first, they said my son was detained in Malta. Later, they claimed that he reached Italy," Selim

said. Eventually, both the brokers disappeared and could no longer be contacted on their mobile phones.

In nearby Char Chatang village, Kamala Begum, a homemaker, has been waiting for information about her 25-year-old son Aminul Islam for over two years.

Aminul went to Dubai in 2020 before brokers convinced him that he could earn far more in Italy. He

torture them, demanding ransoms from families back home.

They subject migrants to electric shocks and starvation, and film the torture sessions to force their families to send more money.

For Bangladeshi migrants, Libya has become both a transit point and a trap.

According to the UN, Bangladeshis are now among the largest groups attempting to cross the central Mediterranean to Italy. Thousands leave Libya each year despite the risks.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 31,000 migrants, including Bangladeshis, have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean since 2014. Many bodies are never recovered.

The IOM and the Bangladesh embassy in Libya support repatriation of migrants once they are released from jail or freed from detention centres. But they don't know exactly how many Bangladeshis are now languishing in Libyan detention centres.

For the families of the missing Bangladeshis, this uncertainty is perhaps the cruelest part.

They cannot mourn because there is no confirmation of death; nor can they hope because there is no evidence that their loved ones are still alive.

Several families said they faced intimidation after filing cases against local brokers and human traffickers.

More than a dozen cases were filed with courts in Shariatpur and Madaripur against the alleged traffickers. Two of them were arrested but later secured bail from court, they said.

Some families said traffickers retaliated by filing counter-cases against them, while others said they were intimidated into silence.

Afroza Akter, whose brother Atiqur Rahman went missing in Libya, said some of the traffickers initially tried to settle matters through local arbitration before going into hiding.

"They started threatening us after we held a press conference in November 2024, demanding that the perpetrators be brought to book," she said.

With a faint hope of seeing their loved ones again, these families are weighed down by grief, yet life goes on.

Fathers return to the fields they mortgaged to finance the dreams of their sons. Mothers keep waiting for phone calls that never come. Children grow up unsure whether their fathers are even alive somewhere far away.

Nearly 6,000 minor girls raped in 10yrs

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judicial proceedings.

Expressing concern over the recent rape and murder of an eight-year-old in Dhaka's Pallabi, Odhikar in the statement said, "Ramisa's death is not an isolated incident. It reflects the broader failure of state institutions, law enforcement agencies and social accountability mechanisms to ensure the safety and dignity of children."

The group highlighted serious weaknesses in the criminal justice system, pointing to the absence of child-sensitive investigation mechanisms and the ease with which alleged perpetrators secure bail and intimidate victims, perpetuating a culture of impunity.

Condemning sexual violence against children, Odhikar demanded



Two years have passed, yet I still do not know whether my son is alive or dead.

Rina Begum, mother of 24-year-old Rashedul Islam who went missing on his way to Italy via Libya.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

returned home in 2023 and later left for Libya through the same trafficking network.

The family paid traffickers nearly Tk 18 lakh in different phases before he was taken to a "game ghar".

The last call from Aminul came in April 2024.

"He only said he had reached Tripoli and would talk later," Kamala said, adding that the call lasted only a few seconds.

"I do not want money... I just want my son back," she cried.

Stories like these intersect with a brutal trafficking system, which has thrived amid years of conflict and lawlessness across Libya.

The United Nations and rights groups have documented widespread torture, extortion, forced labour and arbitrary detention of migrants in Libya. Human traffickers often imprison migrants in camps and



- 1,018 victims of gangrape
- 236 murdered after rape
- 44 died by suicide after rape

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division
Directorate of Food
Ministry of Food
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
Website : www.dgfood.gov.bd

No. 13.01.0000.052.07.003.26.325

Date: 24/05/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following goods:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of Tender	Tender/Proposal Selling /Closing & Opening Date and Time	Ref. No. Date
1	1280193 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 436.000 (Four Hundred and Thirty-Six) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Dhaka Division. (36 LSDs of 36 Upazilas)	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	309 24/05/2026
2	1280197 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 449.000 (Four Hundred and Forty-Nine) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Chattogram Division. (66 LSDs of 66 Upazilas)	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	310 24/05/2026
3	1280200 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 498.000 (Four Hundred and Ninety-Eight) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Rajshahi Division. - (34 LSDs of 34 Upazilas)	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	311 24/05/2026
4	1280201 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 328.000 (Three Hundred and Twenty-Eight) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Khulna Division. (30 LSDs of 30 Upazilas)	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	312 24/05/2026
5	1280229 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 340.000 (Three Hundred and Forty) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Barishal Division. (25 LSDs of 25 Upazilas).	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	313 24/05/2026
6	1280231 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 184.000 (One Hundred and Eighty Four) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Sylhet Division. - (22 LSDs of 22 Upazilas).	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	314 24/05/2026
7	1280233 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 495.000 (Four Hundred and Ninety-Five) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Rangpur Division. - (25 LSDs of 25 Upazilas).	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	315 24/05/2026
8	1280236 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 391.000 (Three Hundred Ninety-One) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Mymensingh Division. (18 LSDs of 18 Upazilas).	24-May-2026; 5:00 PM 22- June -2026; 10:00 AM	316 24/05/2026

1. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted;

2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required;

3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through branches of any registered Bank.Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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GD-1239

Nine more held in 7 districts over 2 days

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He was later sent to jail.

Meanwhile, the child was sent to Bandarban District Sadar Hospital for medical examination and primary treatment.

According to locals, the child was allegedly lured to the accused's house with the promise of food and was then raped. When the victim informed her family, she was immediately taken to the local health complex for treatment.

When news of the incident quickly spread among students and locals, they later surrounded the police station, demanding justice for the victim and punishment for the accused. Tension briefly escalated between locals and members of the police and Border Guard Bangladesh.

In Kishoreganj, police yesterday detained a man on charges of raping a seven-year-old girl in Kuliarchar upazila.

The detainee, Mahbubullah, 23, from Khalishapur village under Netrokona's Purbadhala, is an imam of a local mosque.

Citing locals, police said Mahbubullah raped the girl yesterday afternoon when she went to deliver food to him.

As the news spread, locals confined Mahbubullah in the mosque. On information, police rushed to the spot and detained him, said Kazi Arif, OC of Kuliarchar Police Station.

The victim's mother filed a case last evening in this regard.

In Gazipur, a man was arrested yesterday on charges of raping a nine-year-old girl on multiple occasions and taking photos.

The accused, Selim Khan, 40, is a relative of the victim.

Police said the incident came to light on Saturday after the victim's elder sister found some objectionable photos on Selim's computer.

Later the same day, the victim's father filed a case with Pubail Police Station.

Selim was arrested around 4:00am yesterday from his residence, said the station's OC Atiqur Rahman.

The family said that between March 15 and May 21, the accused lured the child to his room on several occasions, raped her, recorded the acts, and saved the pictures on his computer.

In Barguna, police yesterday arrested a man allegedly for raping a teenage girl.

The arrestee, Alamgir Hossain, is a resident of Amtali upazila and a relative of the victim.

Police said Alamgir raped the girl on May 18 when she was alone and made the same attempt again on Saturday afternoon.

The victim's grandmother yesterday filed a case, and police later arrested the accused, said Abu Shahadat Hasnain Parvez, OC of Amtali Police Station.

In Savar, three people -- Saiful Islam Rana, 36; Mujibur Rahman, 48; and a 16-year-old boy -- were arrested on Saturday night on charges of raping a 16-year-old homemaker.

Police said the prime accused, Saiful, a mason and neighbour of the victim, had previously made inappropriate advances towards her.

On May 21, he and his accomplices broke into the victim's room around 3:00am and raped her. They also recorded the assault on their phones and threatened the victim with publishing the video if she disclosed the incident.

The victim's mother filed a case against five people the same night, after which police arrested the three from the Kaundia area, said Noor Mohammad, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station.

Another accused, Shakib, 20,

and one unidentified person remain absconding. The inspector said police were trying to arrest them.

The victim is receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's One-Stop Crisis Centre.

In Jamalpur, police on Saturday night arrested a man on charges of attempting to rape a teenager.

The accused, Shahjahan Molla, 45, is a resident of Madarganj upazila's Mirzapur area.

Police said the 14-year-old girl was home alone on Thursday afternoon when the accused broke in and attempted to rape her.

Hearing her screams, locals rushed there and rescued the girl, but the accused fled the scene.

The victim's mother filed a case with Madarganj Model Police Station, after which police arrested the accused, said OC Snehashish Roy.

In Jashore, a medical officer of Monirampur Upazila Health Complex was arrested on Saturday night on charges of raping his sister-in-law.

Dr Rafsan Jani, 45, was arrested from his residence in the Upashahar area of Jashore town, said Abu Syed, OC of Monirampur Police Station.

He had been on the run since the 19-year-old victim filed the rape case in April.

According to the case statement, around three years ago, Rafsan allegedly brought his sister-in-law to the district under the pretext of supporting her education and helping care for his children.

During her stay, he allegedly forced her into sexual relations and secretly recorded videos of the assaults. The victim alleged that the doctor later used the footage to blackmail her repeatedly.

(Our correspondents from Bandarban, Kishoreganj, Patuakhali, Jamalpur, Gazipur, Savar and Benapole contributed to the report.)

The horror that befell Ramisa

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"My wife told me to flee, and I broke the window grilles with a wrench and escaped. As the crowd kept pounding on the door, my wife held it shut and helped me flee."

She opened the door only when he successfully fled, he added.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said the

trial proceedings in the case are likely to be completed within the next five to seven days.

Arrangements are being made to keep the relevant court open during the Eid holidays, he added.

Referring to the recent rise in gruesome crimes, Salahuddin said, "This is a form of social degradation. We need social reform. The level,

frequency and nature of rape are going beyond our limits of tolerance."

Sparked by Ramisa's murder, protests continued for the fifth straight day in Dhaka and beyond yesterday, denouncing violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups. Demonstrators demanded swift justice for sexual violence and stronger social resistance to such crimes.

Measles-like symptoms claim 16 more lives

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The country has been battling one of the worst measles outbreaks in recent memory, with children accounting for almost all the deaths.

Till yesterday, 50,558 patients with measles or measles-like symptoms had been admitted to hospitals, while 46,214 had been discharged, leaving around 4,000 children still undergoing treatment.

In the 24-hour period, 1,169 patients were admitted to hospitals, while 1,203 left medical facilities, according to DGHS data.

By Wednesday, the campaign's preliminary deadline, 1.84 crore children aged between six months and under five years had been vaccinated against a target of 1.8 crore, pushing the coverage to 102 percent, according to government

data.

Officials said the campaign would continue as some children still remained outside the coverage.

DGHS officials said they had been receiving information from hospitals and found that the number of cases was declining, but deaths may continue for several more days as many children had already been admitted to hospitals.



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Tender Cancellation Notice

Tender Invitation Ref. No.EDCL(Dhaka)/PUR/PT/2026/155 dated 10/05/2026, Invitation for: Procurement of different type Vehicle for EDCL, Dhaka, Bogura and Khulna Factory is hereby cancelled.

Note: The above Tender was published earlier in the Daily Star and the Daily Ittefaq on 11/05/2026.

NB: The Information is also available at our Website: www.edcl.govt.bd

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General Manager (cc)
Procurement Department
For: Managing Director.



Office of the Netrokona Pourashava
District: Netrokona

Memo No. Net/Pou/Eng/2026/547

Date: 24/05/2026

e-Tender Notice: 07/2025-26 (Open Tendering Method)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works given below:

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	e-Tender ID No.	Last date & time of selling documents	Opening & closing date & time
01	LGRRP/ Netrokona/ 2025-26/ W-11	Maintenance of Nagra Zila Parishad Road by Bituminous Surfacing -Wearing Course Over Existing RCC Road Leading from Netokona Nagra Micro-Stand more to H/O S.M Muazzam Hushen via Nagra Zila Parishad & Thana Bridge (Ch. 00.00 to 1405.00m =1405.00m), Ward No. 08, under Netrokona Pourashava.	1283937	Date:14.05.2026 Time:16:00pm	Date:15.05.2026 Time:14:00pm

These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tendering documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 14 June 2026 at 16:00pm.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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GD-1228