

175 Bangladeshis repatriated from Libya

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Dhaka: A total of 175 Bangladeshi nationals have been repatriated from Libya, highlighting ongoing risks linked to irregular migration and human trafficking routes to Europe.

The returnees arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday, April 1, early morning, at 6:25 am on a flight operated by Buraq Air, in a coordinated effort involving the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Libyan authorities, and the International Organization for Migration, read a press release.

Among those repatriated, 113 individuals had been detained at the Tajoura Detention Center in Tripoli, while 62 others were held at the Ganfouda Detention Center in Benghazi. All had expressed willingness to return voluntarily.

Officials said that most of the returnees had entered Libya irregularly, often lured by human traffickers with promises of reaching Europe via dangerous sea routes. Many reported experiencing abduction, abuse, and exploitation during their time in the country.

Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and partner agencies received the returnees at the airport. Authorities have encouraged them to share their experiences publicly to raise awareness about the dangers of irregular migration.

The International Organization for Migration provided assistance to each returnee, including travel allowances, food supplies, basic medical care, and temporary shelter where needed.

Bangladesh authorities, in collaboration with international partners, continue efforts to ensure the safe return of Bangladeshi nationals detained in Libya, while also working to discourage risky migration through stronger awareness and protection measures.

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