

Staff Reporter

The number of returnees from trouble-torn Iraq keeps on rising as another batch of 30 Bangladesh nationals arrived last night.

An Air Arabia flight carrying the Bangladesh nationals is scheduled land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 8pm, an official at the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

They were stranded at Tikrit and Mosul in distressed conditions since the outbreak of hostilities in Iraq, said the official.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Iraq coordinated the repatriation of these Bangladeshi workers, including arrangement for food and shelter, and passage to Bangladesh under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With their departure, according to the Bangladesh Embassy in Iraq, there will be no Bangladeshi left in Mosul and Tikrit areas.

Earlier on Saturday, 15 Bangladeshi nationals, who got stranded at Erbil International Airport, Iraq, returned home.

Each of the returnees was given Tk 2000 in cash so that they can go back to their respective villages from the airport.

Meanwhile, over 130 Bangladeshis returned home from Iraq at their own initiatives.

Some of the returnees claimed that they were held captive by rebels in the Iraq city of Tikrit for 24 days till July 4.