

## After 21 years, 'missing' man returns home from India



A Bangladeshi national returned home from India through Banglabandha land port in Panchagarh today, 21 years after he went missing.

The returnee is Matiur Rahman, 36, son of Sahidul Islam of Akhanagar-Debiduba village in Thakurgaon's Sadar upazila, reports our Thakurgaon.

Indian immigration police formally handed Matiur over to Banglabandha Immigration police this afternoon, said Khairul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Banglabandha police.

Matiur's father Sahidul Islam said his son went missing in 2002 while he was 15 years old. After failing to find him, they filed a general diary with Thakurgaon Police Station in this regard.

Indian social worker Nitish Sharma said Matiur was rescued by Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation in India in a disoriented state from a road in Karjat area of India's Maharashtra in June, 2019 and brought him to its custody.

After examining him he was diagnosed as a patient of schizophrenia, said Nitish, adding that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the procedure of returning him to Bangladesh stopped.

Later, the foundation identified the boy through Noakhali Gandhi Ashram Trust in Bangladesh and started the procedure of his return. What happened to Matiur before that and how he ended up in India remain a mystery.

Nitish Sharma further said she and Dr Swarali K Kondwilkar, a physician of the foundation, will stay at Matiur's house for 2/3 days for observation.

Matiur's mother Morjina Begum, expressing her gratitude, said she always believed her son will return to her one day.

Saifun Nahar, younger sister of the youth, said her brother went missing when she was in class four and he was in class nine.

"After about two decades we got him back, no need to say what a joyous day today is for us, our family. We are grateful to all who helped in his homecoming," added Nahar.