

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT

Part I. Name of Country : Bangladesh

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

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American Citizen Services
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Embassy Telephone: +880-2-5566-2200
After Hours Duty Officer: +880-1713-043746

For detailed information about visiting Bangladesh, including suggestions regarding safety and security, see the Department of State's [Bangladesh Country Specific Information page](#) and [Embassy's website](#).

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Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services Available to Visitors

Country Profile: Host Country Religions (See "[Background Notes: Bangladesh](#)")

Islam was declared the state religion in 1988. Bangladeshis are predominantly Sunni Muslim (83 percent) and Hindus comprise a 16 percent minority. Followers of other religions, such as Buddhists, Christians, Bahai's, and animists, number only one percent.

Religious Activities for Visitors

The Constitution of Bangladesh grants freedom of religion. Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian groups are found throughout the country.

Muslims constitute the majority of Bangladesh's population. Most Muslims in Bangladesh are Sunni, but there is a small Shia community. Baitul Mukarram, located in Dhaka, is the National Mosque of Bangladesh. Hinduism is the second largest religious affiliation in Bangladesh. The Hindu population is spread throughout Bangladesh. Bangladesh has the third largest Hindu population after India and Nepal. Buddhists are about 0.7 percent of the population. Most followers of Buddhism adhere to the Theravada school of Buddhism. Buddhists are mostly in the south-eastern region, especially in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Chittagong and Comilla districts.

Generally, a court order is required to exhume remains.

Christian congregations have been established for generations in Bangladesh. There are several different denominations of Christianity represented in Bangladesh. Christian congregations include Roman Catholics, Anglican, Episcopalian, Methodists, Presbyterians, Seventh-day Adventists, Latter-day Saints, and Mennonites. [Places of worship in Bangladesh](#).

There are no organized Jewish services at this time.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically and the order, in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

Mortuary Establishments in Major Bangladesh Divisions

Below is a list of hospitals and establishments in major cities of Bangladesh (Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet) that store remains. Some of these establishments offer embalming services. Cremation services are described in a separate section.

DHAKA

BIRDEM HOSPITAL (Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Center)

Address: 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000
Telephone: Ward Master Room - +880-2-58616641-50, Ext-2349 (24 hours service), +88-02-9661551-60
Website: <http://www.dab-bd.org/>
Email: info@dab-bd.org

Maximum storage capacity: 3. The cost is Tk.2000 (approx. \$25.00) per 24 hours. Partial payment should be made at the time of booking.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

DHAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE, DHAKA

Address: 100 Ramna, Dhaka-1000
Telephone: College Principal, +880-2-55165088
Email: principal@dmc.gov.bd
dmc_principal@yahoo.com

Maximum storage capacity: 20. They will keep remains if space is available. On occasion this may be used free of charge on a courtesy basis provided prior permission is obtained from the College's Principal. There is no guarantee that permission will be granted. To request permission, contact the College Principal.

Generally, a court order is required to exhume remains.

Embalming services are available. The cost of services is between Tk. 40,000- 45,000 (approx. \$506.00 - \$570.00). Cash must be paid in advance to embalmers. They will need four to six hours notification to start processing. Total processing at the hospital may take four to five hours.

Contact Information for Embalming Services:

Address: Department of Forensic Medicine, Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka 1000
Telephone: +880-2-8619334; 86268913-23 Ext 359
Morgue in-charge: 8801715164632
Website: www.dmc.edu.bd

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR DIARRHEAL DISEASE RESEARCH, BANGLADESH (ICDDR, B)

General Services Unit

Website: www.icddrb.org

Email: info@icddrb.org

Telephone: General Services Unit: +880-2 9827001-10 Ext. 3624

Cell no: +880-1713090408 (manager); Hotline: +880 1711401097

Maximum storage capacity: 6. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk.1,000.00 (approx. \$12.50) per 24 hours. Partial payment can be made at the time of booking.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

SQUARE HOSPITAL, DHAKA

Address: 18F West Panthapath, Dhaka – 1205

Telephone: Duty Manager- +880-2- (880-2) 8144400, 8142431, Mobile: 01713141447 (PABX), PABX for OPD Appointment: 2001, 2002 & 2018

Ambulance: +880 1730011734, +880 2 8859007

Emergency Numbers: +880 1713377773-5, +880 2 8144466, 8144477, 8144488

Maximum capacity for storage: 5. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk. 3500 (approx. \$45) per day.

Email: info@squarehospital.com, Web: www.squarehospital.com

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

UNITED HOSPITAL, DHAKA

Address: Plot#15, Road #71, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212

Hotline: 10666, Emergency: +880 1914001234

Duty Manager +880-01914001399, +880-2-883-6000, +880-2-883-6444

Maximum storage capacity: 2. They will keep remains if space is available. Costs include Tk. 4800 (approx. \$61.00) per 24 hours and Tk. 200 (approx. \$2.50) per additional hour. Transportation is not provided, but if requested, the duty manager may arrange for an ambulance to transport the body.

Transportation costs depend on the distance traveled.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

Generally, a court order is required to exhume remains.

CHITTAGONG

CHITTAGONG MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, CHITTAGONG

Address: Chittagong Medical College, 57, K.B. Fazlul Kader Road, Chittagong.

Telephone: Personal assistant to the principal, +88-031-619400

Medical Exchange: +88-031-212155

Web: <http://www.cmc.edu.bd/> , Email: info@cmc.edu.bd, rashedhasan_cmc@yahoo.com

Maximum capacity for storage: 20. The cost is Tk. 1,000 per day (approx. \$12.50).

Embalming services are available. The price can vary, but the approximate expense is Tk. 150,000 (approx. \$1875).

SYLHET

DIABETIC HOSPITAL, SYLHET

Address: Puranlane Zindabazar, Sylhet 3100

Telephone: Duty officer, +88-0821-713632, +88 0821-830383

Maximum capacity for storage: 2. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk.1,500 (approx. \$19.00) for the first 24 hours and Tk. 1,000 (approx. \$12.50) per additional hour. Transportation services are provided by request; the duty officer can arrange for an ambulance to transport the body.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

OSMANI MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, SYLHET

Address: Osmani Medical Road, Kajalshah, Sylhet Sadar, Sylhet

Telephone: Ward Master, Morgue +88-0821-726241-50, +880 821-713667, +880 173-0700800 (info 24 hours)

Maximum capacity for storage: 12. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk.1,000 (approx. \$12.50) for 24 hours. Transportation services to Dhaka are available and cost depending on distance and timing.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

Documents required for storing remains:

1. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
2. Police Clearance. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)

After storage, the following documents are required:

3. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
4. Copy of deceased's passport.
5. Request letter for the hospital from the employer, family or Embassy. [Sample letter](#) (PDF 8KB) for the request to Hospital.

Generally, a court order is required to exhume remains.

Documents required for embalming:

1. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
2. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
3. Copy of deceased's passport.
4. Police Clearance. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
5. Request letter for the hospital from the employer, family or Embassy. [Sample letter](#) (PDF 8KB) for the request to hospital.

Cremation

Non-nationals require permission to cremate remains. In order to request permission, a non-national must:

- (1) Make a request in writing to the Director General of America and Pacific Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
- (2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) will submit this request to the Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Home Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka 1000.
- (3) Once the Home Secretary grants permission, the Ministry of Home Affairs will arrange for a Magistrate to witness the cremation. It will also inform the Municipal Corporation to give permission to use their funeral pyre.
- (4) Once permission from the Home Ministry and Municipal Corporation is received, the family can contact Dhaka City Corporation to schedule the cremation.

[Sample letter](#) (PDF 8 KB) of Cremation Request to MFA. Once the letter is submitted, it can take up to two weeks to process your request.

Cremation charges: The registration fee is Tk. 20 (approx. \$0.30) and the cremation fee is Tk. 1800 (approx. \$70). The total cost of supplies is between Tk. 8,000 to 10,000 (approx. \$100 -\$125).

Dhaka City Corporation contact information:

Address: Dhaka City Corporation, Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Point of contact: Social Welfare Unit

Telephone: +880-2-956351, +880-2-9563504, +880-2-9563506

Documents required for Cremation:

1. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
2. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
3. Permission from the MFA.
4. Permission from nearest/ related City Corporation to use the funeral pyre.

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains

Burial is the norm in Bangladesh and embalming the remains before burial is not common. Due to limited refrigerated storage facilities available at hospitals, prompt arrangements for transfer of the body to a funeral home are required soon after the death has occurred.

Due to the lack of space in the Government approved grave yards in Dhaka, permanent grave plots cannot

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be purchased. Permanent plots are only allotted for VIPs and are authorized by the Government. For the general population, plots are available for free which are after a year of previous burial.

(1) Maximum Period Before Burial

There is no Bangladesh law limiting the time in which a body must be interred, but the scarcity of refrigerated storage facilities dictate that the disposition of remains be completed as quickly as possible, particularly in the summer months.

(2) Embalming

There are few embalming services in Bangladesh. In cases where the remains are to be shipped overseas, the regulations require that the remains be embalmed at least 24 hours prior to the flight departure.

(3) Cremation

Cremation is common among Hindu and Buddhist communities, but the processes are different for non-nationals. Non-nationals have to make a written request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for cremation services. [Sample letter](#) (*PDF 8 KB*) of Cremation Request to MFA. Once the letter is submitted, it can take up to two weeks to process your request.

(4) Caskets and Containers

There are no Bangladesh laws, national or local, governing the exportation of human remains. A casket containing a body or human ashes is treated as ordinary freight. Shipping companies, however, require that the body be placed in a metal lined casket. There are locally made caskets or coffins that meet the requirements for overseas shipment. Imported, foreign-made coffins and hermetically sealed caskets or coffins are not locally available. Zinc-lined coffins can be purchased from the following location:

St. Joseph Technical School
Narinda
Telephone: +880-2-711-5995
Cell Phone: +880-1711-528209
Working hours: Monday – Saturday from 8:30 am-5:00 pm closed on Sundays.

Chero Biday Store
20, Dhaka University Market,
Katabon, Dhaka-1000
Contact person KABUL – Cell Phone: +880 1762-057209
Contact: +880 1926-001133, +880 1920-952606

(5) Exportation of Remains

Bangladesh requires various procedures and documents to export human remains. Homebound, a Bangladesh shipping company, offers domestic and international transportation services, and can provide information on permits, authorization letters and clearances needed to export human remains.

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HOMEBOUND

Web: <http://www.homeboundbd.com/services.html>

Corporate Office

SW (A) 26, Gulshan Avenue,

Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

Tel : +880- 2 - 8811021 / 8811022 / 9895241 / 9894745 / 9594746 / 9894748 / 9894749 / 9894750

E-Mail : commercial.dept@homebound.com.bd

Branch Office- Chittagong

Address: Pragati House, 1st Floor

1070, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong – 4100

Telephone: +880-31-713145, 723548

E-Mail: sarwar.alam@homebound.com.bd

Except as noted, all are shipping company or U.S. requirements:

Documents required for Shipment of Embalmed Human Remains:

1. Letter to airlines for space booking.
2. Airway bill from the airlines.
3. Customs clearance from the Office of the Joint Commissioner of Customs, Customs House.
4. Export permit from the Office of the Chief Controller of Export & Import.
5. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
6. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
7. Copy of the deceased's passport.
8. Embalming certificate.
9. Police clearance certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
10. Autopsy certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
11. Embalming certificate from the hospital or embalming facility.
12. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer of the deceased for export of the human remains. (if applicable)
13. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer for export of the human remains. (cargo facilitator) (if applicable)
14. Letter of payment for the freight charges to the airline.

Documents required for Shipment of Human Ashes:

1. Letter to airlines for space booking.
2. Airway bill from the airlines.
3. Customs clearance from the Office of the Joint Commissioner of Customs, Customs House.
4. Export permit from the Office of the Chief Controller of Export & Import.
5. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
6. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
7. Copy of the deceased's passport.

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8. Cremation certificate.
9. Police clearance certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
10. Autopsy certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
11. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer of the deceased for export of the human remains. (if applicable)
12. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer for export of the human remains. (cargo facilitator) (if applicable)
13. Letter of payment for the freight charges to the airline.
14. Cremation certificate.
15. Affidavit from local funeral director concerning contents of urn.

Documents Required for Shipment of Human Ashes by Mail:

Ashes cannot be shipped by mail through Bangladesh postal facilities.

Procedures taken by the airlines:

The airlines require that the remains are embalmed and enclosed in a properly sealed metal lined coffin.

For air carriage of remains it is necessary to furnish to the airlines the contact information for the consignee or an undertaker. On receipt of these details, the airlines will then contact the next of kin when they accept the human remains. We suggest the family make reservations with the airlines as soon as possible.

The formalities to export the deceased by natural death usually take four to five working days. It could take longer when the death is not caused by natural causes.

(6) Costs

All dollar costs have been converted from the cost in local currency at an exchange rate of 79 taka to one dollar, which prevailed on December 2015.

	TAKA	DOLLARS
(a) Local burial: (This includes registration and other burial costs in Dhaka.)	2,000.00	25.00
(b) Embalming fee: (This may vary according to the hospital or establishment performing the embalming and cost of the casket.)	25,000 - 55,000.00	312.50 - 687.50
(c) Cremation fee:	12,000.00	150.00
(d) Preparation for shipment: (including coffin and forwarding charges)	54,400.00	680.00

(e) When death occurs outside of the Dhaka metropolitan area, the remains can be transferred to Dhaka for preparation. Generally, the remains are transported via ambulance which has its own mechanism for refrigeration. Hospitals usually assist the family to arrange this service.

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(f) Air Freight:

Remains: The average weight range of an export-type casket with remains is 110 to 150 kilograms. Approximate costs for air freight shipment from Dhaka to various points in the United States are as follows:

DHAKA TO:	RATE/KG
New York, NY	Tk. 496.00 (\$7.29) per kg.
Dulles, VA	Tk. 371.00 (\$5.45) per kg.
Los Angeles, CA	Tk. 664.00 (\$9.76) per kg.

Ashes: Ashes in an urn are shipped at the same rates as above.

(7) Exhumation and Shipment

Exhumation of remains is rare in Bangladesh. Ashes are normally placed in an urn in the family mausoleum and not buried. The only requirement for transfer of the urn is approval by the temple or church's priest or official who has jurisdiction over the locality of the family mausoleum. In a municipal cemetery, this person would be the city, town, or village officer in charge of said cemetery.

(8) Autopsies

Autopsies are not common when someone dies of natural causes. Autopsies are required in circumstances where someone dies of unnatural causes or if a report is filed with the Bangladesh police. While there is no cost to obtain a court order for a judicial autopsy, the family may have to pay for transportation costs from the facility where the autopsy is performed to a funeral home.

(9) Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services

Bangladesh funerals include a funeral ceremony, a burial in a family or local grave and a periodic memorial service. More than 99 percent of deceased Bangladeshis are buried in a family grave. A wake is performed on the third day after the death.

Families may choose between public, government-maintained burial grounds, or privately-owned family grave sites. In government-maintained burial grounds, the land is publically owned. Due to the lack of space in the Government approved grave yards in Dhaka, permanent grave plots cannot be purchased. Permanent plots are only allotted for VIPs and are authorized by the Government. For the general population, plots are available for free which are later re-used after a year of previous burial.

(10) Remarks

Generally, the cost of a death certificate is Tk. 40 (approx. \$0.60) for Bangla translation and Tk. 100 (approx. \$1.50) for English translation. The point of contact in Dhaka City Corporation is the Chief Health Officer (+880-2-9556017).

The total cost of other expenses may vary due to continuous changes in procedures and exchange rates. All cost listed in this report are approximations and subject to change.

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