



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
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DHAKA



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News Brief

China has assured Bangladesh of extending all kinds of assistance in fight against Covid-19. Health Minister Zahid Maleque said this while talking to reporters at his Baridhara residence after a meeting with Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jiming. The Minister also said, Bangladesh helped China when they were struggling to deal with the coronavirus situation. Now, China wants to stand beside us by sending physicians, nurses and medical equipment.

Meanwhile, three more people have been tested positive in Bangladesh for coronavirus in the previous 24 hours till yesterday raising the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 27. IEDCR at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday informing this said, 5 infected people fully recovered and released from Hospital, 2 persons have so far died and now corona infected people are 20 in the country.

The government has made the office attendance mandatory for all the government officials and employees with an aim to provide necessary cooperation for facing the current catastrophe of the coronavirus outbreak in the country. Cabinet division issuing the instruction yesterday said, all the government employees working at divisions, districts and upazila levels have been asked to ensure their attendance at their working place for round.

The government has called upon the people to adopt preventive measures to fight the menace of novel coronavirus instead of getting panicked unnecessarily. Press Information Department in an official handout yesterday said, if spreading of any false or wrong information about COVID-19 over social media or any other medium is noticed, the countrymen are being requested to contact with PID newsroom numbers.

The government has withdrawn all sorts of customs duty, regulatory duty, supplementary duty, VAT, Advance Tax and Advance Income Tax on import of test kits and other necessary materials and equipments in a bid to tackle the global outbreak of novel coronavirus. The National Board of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance issued an SRO in this regard yesterday.

Prime Minister's ICT Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy in a post on his Facebook page yesterday urged the countrymen to follow all necessary safety instructions to fight the lethal coronavirus. He said, the government is working tirelessly to keep the prevailing situation under control. He also called upon the people to stay alert against fake news and rumours regarding the coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has urged party leaders and workers to organise various programmes for creating public awareness on coronavirus. While talking to the media in Dhaka yesterday Obaidul Quader sought cooperation of all to encourage the people to follow the government's instructions for containing the pandemic.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has blamed that BNP is spreading confusing messages among people over coronavirus. He said this while addressing a views-exchange meeting with journalists at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. He said, the government has opened a new cell to raise awareness among the people about coronavirus. Information Secretary Kamrun Nahar was present at the meeting.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen while talking to reporters at his office yesterday said, the government is also allowing private companies to import testing kits and other medical logistics. The Foreign Minister also said, Bangladesh has decided to contribute

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1.5 million US dollar to propose SAARC's health hazard prevention fund to combat deadly COVID-19 pandemic. Indian Premier Narendra Modi has proposed creation of the special voluntary fund to fight coronavirus while the SAARC leaders met together at a virtual summit through video conferencing on combating coronavirus on March 15.

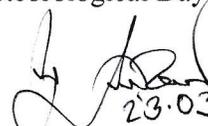
Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent examinations scheduled to begin on April 1 have been postponed due to coronavirus outbreak. The Education Ministry will announce the next schedule for the examinations in the first half of April.

The government banned entry of foreign nationals through the country's land ports to prevent transmission of coronavirus and the restriction will remain in force until further notice, according to a notification of the Home Ministry yesterday.

The Supreme Court administration has scaled down the lower court activities to prevent the transmission of coronavirus. According to a Supreme Court circular, all activities except bail, temporary injunction and other emergency ones will remain suspended until a reasonable period.

All the country's shopping complexes and malls will remain closed from March 25 to 31 over the spread of coronavirus. Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity informed this yesterday. However, kitchen markets, pharmaceuticals, grocery stores and super shops will remain open.

The World Meteorological Day is being observed in Bangladesh and elsewhere across the world today commemorating the emergence of the World Meteorological Organization as a specialized agency of the United Nations. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion of the World Meteorological Day.



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