



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 234/2020-21
Date: Tuesday, 27 April 2021

From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

The government has decided to extend the ongoing lockdown for a week to go by the advice of the public health experts and considering the ongoing coronavirus situation in Bangladesh and the world, State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain said yesterday. A gazette notification will be issued on Tuesday (today) in this regard, he informed.

The government has warned that stern legal action will be taken against those who do not use masks while venturing out, in an effort to contain the coronavirus transmission. "The government is repeatedly instructing people to use masks to prevent the spread of coronavirus. However, there is laxity among many about wearing masks. Stern legal action will be taken against those who don't wear masks outdoors," a Press Information Department-PID handout said yesterday. It also suggested all to use two masks if necessary. Earlier in July last, the government made it mandatory to wear face masks for all while going outside.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed a four-point proposal in the recorded statement aired in the three-day 77th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific-ESCAP that started virtually yesterday. In her first proposal, she said, "The developed world, development partners and international financial institutions (IFIs) should come forward in attaining quick recovery from the Covid pandemic." The Premier, secondly, said, the development approach should be more inclusive, resilient and environment friendly to build back better from any crisis. In her third proposal, the Prime Minister said, the Asia-Pacific region should take efficient policies and strategies for a strengthened and universal public health system. "We need to establish seamless connectivity in the areas of trade, transport, energy and ICT, science and technology," she said in the fourth and final proposal. In her statement, the PM also urged the international community to remain focused on sustainable repatriation of the 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas and advocated for regional cooperation for shared prosperity. Highlighting her government's measures to offset the onslaught of the Covid-19, the Premier also elaborated the government's different steps taken for environmental management.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader urged all to stand by people from their respective positions amid the ongoing coronavirus crisis. While virtually exchanging views with officials of Cumilla Road Zone of BRTC and BRTA yesterday, he said, protecting lives is more priority than livelihood and that is why everyone should follow health guidelines to remain safe from the virus. Mentioning that this is not time for politics, he said, but BNP is deliberately making falsehood against the government, so the government must respond to the lying of the party. Many BNP leaders have pharmaceutical companies and they have scopes to provide healthcare for people through these companies but they are not doing so. About the mayhem of Hefazat-e-Islam, he said, dissolving its central committee is not enough but it must shun the politics of communalism and violence.

Coming down heavily on BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir for his comment over the arrest of Hefazat leaders, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud questioned, "How is it possible that those, who unleashed misdeeds during the pandemic, could not be arrested?" While addressing a health protection materials distribution ceremony among the members of Dhaka Union of Journalists and different media houses at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, he further questioned, "Would it be logical that the persons who burned houses and properties of innocent people, set fire to land offices and burned documents of commoners and carried out attacks on rail stations and the masses could not be arrested? In the same way, who could agree on that the country's existing criminal laws would not be applicable to them (troublemakers)?" The Minister said, there is no other political party, but Awami League that stands beside the people amid the COVID-19 situation. Even, the activists of the party are cutting paddy of farmers, he added.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen is scheduled to join a Beijing-led South Asian Foreign Ministers meeting today to discuss cooperation in combating the pandemic including accessibility to COVID-19 vaccines developed by China. Dr. Momen while talking to the national news agency yesterday said, the prospect of setting up a South Asia COVID-19 vaccine storage facilities would also be discussed during the meeting. Meanwhile, the

Foreign Minister in a message sent to his Indonesian Counterpart Retno L P Marsudi, expressed deep shock for the loss of lives at the tragic disappearance of an Indonesian submarine.

The fair price products of state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh-TCB would be reached to the homes of middle class families through e commerce, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said that while addressing a program organized by the E Commerce Association (e-CAB) yesterday. He also opined that e-commerce could gain popularity in short time due to the materialization of Digital Bangladesh awarded by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Minister further said, transactions worth Taka 16,000 crore took place through online last year while the government has taken all necessary steps to support e commerce.

The government will procure at least 18 lac tons food grains-11.50 lac tons Atap and parboiled rice and 6.50 lac tons paddy from the internal markets, during the current Boro season, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said this in a virtual press conference yesterday. The boro paddy procurement drive will begin from April 28 and the rice from May 7 and will continue till August 31. Under the procurement drive, the Minister said, a total of 10 lac tons parboiled rice will be procured with a price of Taka 40 per kg and Taka 39 has been fixed for purchasing 1.50 lac tons Atap rice. The government will procure paddy from the farmers with a price of Taka 27 per kg, he said.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday in a circular asked the authorities concerned to hold Eid congregation of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr at nearby mosques instead of Eidgahs or open space aiming to contain the spread of coronavirus. It also asked the Muslim devotees not to hug each other and shake hands after Eid-ul-Fitr prayers. All the devotees are urged to wash their hands for at least 20 minutes during their ablutions. The devotees must use masks while offering Eid prayers and they cannot use caps and prayer mats kept at the mosques, the circular said.


State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak said, by using technology, online product delivery, education, health, commercial and judicial activities ran smoothly in the last 13 months. As a result of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's various effective steps specially in the ICT sector, the per capita income, even in this pandemic situation has risen from below 500 USD to 2,069 USD, he said while speaking at a virtual program yesterday.

The government has introduced 'Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib' Award from this year, to be given on August 8 every year on the birth anniversary of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib to recognize five Bangladeshi women in different categories. The award will be considered as the highest state award for women in 'Ka' category. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira, joined a virtual meeting yesterday on formulating program for giving the 'Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak-2021'.

The 59th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq is being observed in the country today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages marking the death anniversary of Sher-é-Bangla.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Hefazat-e-Islam leaders Mamunul Haque and Junayed Al Habib on a seven-day remand each in two cases filed with Motijheel and Paltan police stations. Meanwhile, two cases have been filed against Junaid Babunagari, Ameer of the defunct Hefazat-e-Islam committee and its current convener, for his alleged involvement in the Chattogram's Hathazari violence. Ahlea Sunnah Wal Jama'at Bangladesh demanded imposing ban on Hefazat-e-Islam permanently for carrying out militancy and anti-religious activities in the country. Ahlea Sunnah Secretary General A N M Masoud Hussein Al-Qadiri made the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, saying that Islam does not allow any destruction but Hefazat established a reign of terror in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Brahmanbaria and Chattogram on March 26 and later on.

The country recorded 97 fatalities from COVID-19 yesterday, taking the death toll to 11,150. With 3,306 fresh cases, the tally of infections surged to 7,48,628. At the same time recovery count rose to 6,61,693. A total of 1,31,651 people were administered the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine yesterday, taking the total number of vaccine receivers given the second dose of vaccine to 24,58,517. As many as 72,33,585 people got registered till 2.30 pm yesterday to take vaccines.


27.4.2021
Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091