



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 223/2019-20
Date: Thursday, 7 May, 2020

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

News Brief

The Cabinet meeting is going to be held today on a small scale after a hiatus of one month due to the coronavirus outbreak. The cabinet meeting is scheduled to begin at 11am at the Prime Minister's official residence Ganobhaban with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Meanwhile, today is a red letter day in the history of the nation, as Awami League President and present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home on this day in 2007 defying a ban on her return home during state of emergency. Earlier, the then caretaker government imposed a ban on Sheikh Hasina's return home but her firm determination and mass support for her return to the country compelled the then caretaker administration to withdraw the ban. Later, the AL-led grand alliance formed government with a landslide victory after the ninth general election held on December 29, 2008. Marking the day, the AL and its associate bodies has decided not to organize any programmes this year due to Coronavirus pandemic.

The country's Covid-19 death toll hit 186 after three more patients died and total number of detected cases soared to 11,719 after 790 people tested positive for coronavirus in 24 hours till yesterday, said Additional Director General (Admin) of Directorate General of Health Services Prof Nasima Sultana in a virtual media briefing at her office. She said a total of 99,646 samples have so far been tested adding 6,241 tests in 33 labs across the country in the past 24 hours. The total number of cases of recovery reached to 1,209. Of the total 186 deaths, 155 took place in Dhaka division. Nasima said 41,193 people are now at quarantine, 1,794 people are now in isolation and a total number of 4,21,480 PPE are now in stock. Meanwhile, the deadly virus has now spread to all the districts of the country after four coronavirus-positive cases detected for the first time yesterday in Rangamati District.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday in a virtual press conference on the contemporary affairs from his official residence here said the BNP's politics is now fully dependent on television and the media have kept the party alive. Quader said as the government has given approvals for so many private television channels and the BNP has got the opportunity to reveal its existence through these channels. About BNP's demand for forming a national taskforce on COVID-19, the minister said whether they find any such taskforce of political parties in any country in the world. The AL general secretary said many prestigious magazines like the Forbes and The Economist applauded the bold leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in tackling the coronavirus crisis. Quader urged BNP to play a responsible role in tackling the ongoing coronavirus crisis, getting out of the circle of negative politics. He thanked Bashundhara Group for coming forward in tackling coronavirus crisis. On behalf of Awami League, Quader-greeted the Buddhist community on their biggest religious festival Buddha Purnima.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday while inaugurating a disinfection chamber at Dhaka Reporters Unity here said journalists are risking their lives to cover the coronavirus pandemic. Hasan, also the Awami League Joint General Secretary, prayed for the early recovery of the infected journalists. Pledging always to stay beside journalists, he said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University authority arranged a special COVID-19 testing facility for journalists after his request. He said I will also ask them to open a special booth for journalists. The Information Minister said the government is doing everything possible for the country's needy journalists and hoped that something could be done soon to this end. He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has brought the country's one third of population under the government's assistance, including economic stimulus, to protect their lives and livelihoods.

Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen yesterday in video message after holding the fifth inter-ministerial meeting at foreign ministry here to discuss on repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals from different countries due to COVID- 19 said Dhaka is expecting to receive nearly 29,000 Bangladeshi nationals, mostly expatriate workers of Middle East countries in the next couple of weeks. Momen also said so far 3,695 expatriates Bangladeshis returned home in last three weeks from the ME countries. Meanwhile, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das handed over the third tranche of emergency medical assistance, consisting 30,000 RT-PCR Covid-19 test kits, to Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen at foreign ministry here yesterday, said a press release of Indian high commission. She noted that Bangladesh is the first country to receive these test kits from India on priority, which reflects the importance of Dhaka to New Delhi. Recalling the time-tested friendship between the two countries, Foreign Minister Momen appreciated India's help for the three tranches of assistance following the outbreak of the pandemic.

The government has decided to allow all the mosques across the country to remain open for all devotees with sound health maintaining health guidelines and social distancing from Johr prayers today, a press release said here yesterday. Simultaneously, the ministry also issued a 12-point directive for stricter enforcement of the guidelines to contain the spread of the COVID-19 infection.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has started distributing eggs along with government relief in order to meet the people's demand for balanced and nutritious food in his home constituency of Charchat and Bagha Upazilas in Rajshahi amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Being collected from the local poultry farms, 1.5 lakh eggs will be distributed in the first phase, a press release said here yesterday.

State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed Mojumder yesterday while distributing daily necessities and sanitizer at Mirpur area in the city said the government has ensured food security for all during the COVID-19 crisis. Kamal Mojumder said the Boro paddy harvesting in haor areas has already been completed. At present, the country has sufficient stocks of paddy and other food grains.

Under the stimulus package announced by the government for SME sector, Industries Ministry has sought Taka 1,100 crore as seed money for providing loan assistance to the micro and small entrepreneurs outside the banking system, said an official press release yesterday.

Bangladesh Navy yesterday provided food materials, including Iftar items, among the poor and helpless people after going to their houses in the coastal and remote areas of Khulna and Chattogram. As part of their countrywide operations to prevent and control COVID-19, the Naval Force yesterday sprayed disinfectant at various roads and footpaths in the capital and also throughout the country, provided treatment facilities and conducted various awareness campaigns, said an ISPR press release.

The control room, introduced by the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry on April 4 to address the crisis in the country's fisheries and livestock sectors due to the coronavirus outbreak, will remain open till May 16, a press release said here yesterday. The control room was set up with a hotline number – 02-9122557, so that farmers and stakeholders concerned can inform the ministry of the problems they are facing during ongoing coronavirus crisis.

The government has extended closure of educational institutions until May 30 aiming to contain the spread of coronavirus in the country. An official letter said the students will have to stay at home during the period and protect themselves from Coronavirus and the guardians will ensure their staying at home.


Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091