



PRESS RELEASE

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Bangladesh Govt arranges special chartered flight to bring home stranded Bangladeshis from UK

At the request of Bangladesh High Commission London, the Government of Bangladesh has decided to arrange a special chartered flight to take home Bangladeshi citizens who have been stranded in the United Kingdom since the suspension of international flights between Dhaka and London in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

As decided by the government, this special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines will be chartered and operated by Bangladesh Air Force Welfare Trust (BAFWT) and is scheduled to arrive at London Heathrow Airport on 10 May 2020, and depart the same day.

Since suspension of international commercial flights between Bangladesh and the UK in end-March, Bangladesh High Commission London undertook several initiatives and serious efforts to reach out to Bangladeshi citizens and students stranded in the UK, with an advisory to register with the High Commission for their repatriation facilitation.

In view of large number of Bangladeshi students having registered with the "Bangladesh High Commission, London COVID-19 Emergency Repatriation Committee", the High Commission in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), has successfully arranged this special chartered repatriation flight for all stranded Bangladesh citizens in the UK.

Earlier, at the request of Bangladesh High Commissioner H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem to the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the British High Commission in Dhaka, the British Government agreed to repatriate 100 Bangladeshi students stranded in the UK by a British Government chartered flight dedicated to bringing back British nationals from Bangladesh. However, given the overwhelming numbers of stranded Bangladeshis wishing to return to Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Government decided to arrange a special flight chartered by the Bangladesh Air Force.

The High Commission of Bangladesh has conveyed its deep appreciation to the British Government, in particular, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and FCO Minister for South Asia H.E. Lord Tariq Ahmad as well as British High Commission in Dhaka for extending their hands of friendship and goodwill in willing to accommodate Bangladeshi students in their dedicated repatriation flight.

At this stage, the High Commission calls upon all Bangladeshi citizens stranded in the UK and willing to return to Bangladesh to urgently register with the High Commission at the following link <u>https://forms.gle/4x4JKfy9jxGDaujL7</u>. Since seats at the chartered flight are limited, passengers will be registered on a first-come-first-serve basis and subject to availability. Following the registration, the High Commission Committee will get in touch individually with all registered passengers to notify them further details about the flight.





Passengers currently stranded in Bangladesh and willing to return to the UK availing the chartered flight should urgently register with the Bangladesh Air Force Welfare Trust at the following link <u>https://www.baf.mil.bd/bafwt/tickets.php</u>.

Bangladesh High Commission London would be working in close coordination with Bangladesh Air Force, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK Home Office, UK Border Agency and London Heathrow Airport Authorities to facilitate the smooth repatriation of Bangladeshis stranded in the UK and incoming passengers returning from Bangladesh.

For any further query on the repatriation flight, all concerned may contact the High Commission's following telephone numbers: +44-07769441030, +44-07404687745 and emails: *mahfuza.sultana@mofa.gov.bd* and *monirul.hoque@mofa.gov.bd*.

On behalf of HE the High Commissioner Ashequn Nabi Chowdhury Minister (Press)