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Press Release

London, Sunday, 10 May 2020

Stranded Bangladeshis return home from UK on Bangladesh Govt special chartered flight



High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem saw off passengers at Heathrow Airport

A Bangladesh government special chartered flight, BG 4041, departed London at 7:45 pm local time for Dhaka, carrying 114 Bangladeshis who were stranded in the United Kingdom since suspension of international flights between Dhaka and London in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. Most of the returning passengers are students from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem saw off the returning passengers at the Heathrow Airport. The flight will land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 09:45 am BST on Monday.

Earlier at the request of Bangladesh High Commission London, the government arranged the flight, being operated by the national carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines and chartered by Bangladesh Air Force Welfare Trust (BAFWT).

London High Commission facilitated return of the Bangladeshis after forming a COVID-19 Emergency Repatriation Committee. Initially, more than 200 stranded Bangladeshi citizens, including students booked their flight, but many of them had cancelled their booking at the very last moment citing personal reasons and in the fear of institutional quarantine in Bangladesh on their arrival. However, London High Commission has already provided all the passengers with a health certificate based on their health assessment so that they would be directed to home quarantine only. Similarly, the High Commission has organised for all passengers travelling from Dhaka to London that they would be guided to home quarantine."



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Centenary of the Bangabandhu



High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem with a returning passenger at Heathrow Airport

Commenting on the flight, the High Commissioner said:

“We are grateful to Bangladesh Government, specially to Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; and for the initiative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bangladesh Air Force in particular for chartering this flight.”

“From the High Commission, we are humbly gratified that we could reunite the Bangladeshi citizens, in particular students, stranded in the UK with their families in Bangladesh before the Eid-ul-Fitr festival.”

“We also like to thank particularly UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK Home Office, UK Border Agency, London Heathrow Airport Authorities and Biman Bangladesh Airlines for their tremendous support to ensure safe return of the stranded Bangladeshis during this difficult time of unprecedented coronavirus pandemic.”

Ashequn Nabi Chowdhury
Minister (Press)