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## Govt lifts lockdown restrictions from July 15

## - A Monitor Desk Report



Dhaka: The Bangladesh government has announced to lift lockdown for nine days from July 15 to 23, allowing people to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha.

"The decision was taken to celebrate the holy Eid-ul-Azha, to allow the public to travel, so that pre-Eid business and commerce can be conducted, in consideration of the socio-economic condition of the country and the need to maintain normal economic activity," according to a notice issued by the Cabinet Division on July 13.

But the public must remain alert and adhere 'strictly' to health protocols, such as wearing masks, the government added.

The Bangladesh government imposed a week-long strict lockdown starting July 1 to curb the spread of the <u>coronavirus Delta varian</u>t. It was later extended by another week to July 14.

Once the Eid holidays end, from July 23, previous restrictions will again come into effect and remain in place until August 5.

Some of the major restrictions to be enforced from July 23 are:

All public, semi-public, autonomous, and private offices are closed.

All public transit by road, rail, the river is suspended, as is domestic air travel.

All stores, including shopping malls and markets, are closed.

All tourist venues, resorts, community centers, and entertainment centers are closed

All factories are closed.

Large social gatherings, including political and religious events, are barred.

Government workers must stay close to their workplaces and complete their work virtually.

Wet markets and stores selling necessities may stay open from 9 am to 5 pm if they follow health protocols.

People cannot leave their homes except in case of emergencies, such as purchasing medicine and other necessities, seeking medical care, or conducting funerals for the dead. Legal action will be taken against those who violate this restriction.

Those receiving vaccines may travel to get them after showing their vaccination cards.

Restaurants and hotels may offer online delivery and takeaway, but not dine-in service, between 8 am and 8 pm.

International flights will remain in operation and those who have tickets will be able to travel, subject to inspections.