

Migrant workers with BMET clearance to get priority on special flights

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 17 April, 2021



Dhaka: Migrant workers with clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) are going to get priority on the special flights starting from April 17 to return to their work destinations in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Oman and Singapore.

Following an inter-ministerial meeting on April 15, the government announced to operate around 100 special flights in the aforementioned countries in one week with the aim of repatriating about 20 thousand migrant workers, stuck in Bangladesh due to the weeklong ban on international flights, back to their respective workplaces in those countries.

The government from April 14 suspended operation of all international schedule passenger flights to and from Bangladesh for a week to curb the spread of coronavirus.

At the inter-ministerial meeting, it was decided that expatriate labours who have visit visa but do not have the BMET clearance, will not get priority in returning to their respective work destinations.

Besides, immigrant workers will be given priority to go abroad based on duration of their visa and iqama (valid work permit), according to the decision made at the inter-ministerial meeting.

The meeting also decided that ground handling charges at the airport for the special flights will remain the same as for regular flights to keep the price of special flight's tickets affordable for migrant workers.

If any Bangladeshi is stuck in those five countries and want to return home, they can do so by fulfilling certain conditions. Covid-19 negative certificate is required and they will be subject to 14-day institutional quarantine at their own cost upon arrival to the country.

The decision clarified that the special flights will be operated only from Dhaka. Those who had bought tickets from Chattogram will be brought to Dhaka on a connecting flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.