

Seychelles bans unvaccinated visitors from Bangladesh

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Dhaka: Seychelles in East Africa has banned entry of unvaccinated visitors from Bangladesh effective immediately, according to a notice issued by the country's government on April 20.

Apart from Bangladesh, the new travel restrictions also apply for India, Pakistan, and Brazil, in view of the worsening coronavirus spread in these countries, Seychelles' Ministry of Health said in the notice.

"With immediate effect, travellers from Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan are not permitted to travel to or enter Seychelles without proof of Covid-19 vaccination," the notice read.

The proof of vaccination "should be presented on the application for travel authorisation. Vaccination certificates are subject to verification and approval of the Public Health Authority," said the Ministry.

On the other hand, travellers from Brazil are not permitted to travel or enter Seychelles altogether.

These measures do not apply to Seychellois citizens and permanent residents, who are

permitted to travel and enter and must quarantine on arrival in accordance with Public Health Authority instructions.

The new move comes about a month after Seychelles reopened its doors to all visitors, except those directly from South Africa, in a bid to relaunch its tourism industry severely affected by the travel plunge following the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, in the latest update on the vaccination uptake in Seychelles, 50,524 people out of the entire population of 98,462, have received two doses of either the Covishield or Sinopharm vaccines. That is 51 per cent of the whole population.

The target population to achieve herd immunity is 70,000. Currently, 66,433 people have been vaccinated amounting to 95 per cent of the target.

The vaccination campaign of the island nation started on January 10 and two vaccines being administered: Covishield and Sinopharm.