

Staff Reporter

India provided 30,000 surgical masks and 15,000 head-covers as assistance to the government of Bangladesh on Wednesday to fight coronavirus.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das handed over the assistance to Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen.

The assistance is intended to support the efforts of the government of Bangladesh in tackling the spread of Covid19.

As part of India's "Neighborhood First" policy and with a view to taking a collaborative regional approach to containing the spread of Covid19, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with leaders of other SAARC countries held a video conference on March 15.

This tranche of assistance is an initial emergency supply under the Covid-19 Emergency Fund announced by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and setup with an initial contribution of US\$10 million by India.

Following the announcement, various SAARC Nations including the government of Bangladesh (US\$ 1.5 million) contributed to the Covid19 Emergency Fund.

Preparations are also underway to conduct video conferences between medical professionals and other stake holders in India and Bangladesh for considering specific measures and exchanging best practices, said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

As a friend and neighbor, India is ready to stand with Bangladesh in times of challenge, it said.

"Working together, India, Bangladesh and other SAARC Countries can overcome the extraordinary situation created by the spread of Covid19," said the High Commission.