



Dhaka: Silence has gripped the capital yesterday as city dwellers followed self quarantine fearing the possible infection of novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Dhaka city was vertically deserted as plying of all mass transports has remained shut down across the country to avert the spread of the deadly virus.

Following the government's decision, all the avenues and roads in the capital including the small roads are now out of vehicles including the three-wheelers, even the rickshaws could hardly be seen.

Offices, business houses, markets and shopping malls except the pharmacies and groceries are also remained closed while people are hardly seen walking on foot on the roads.

While paying a visit to the Purana Paltan, Zero Point, Kakrail, Motijheel, Khilgaon, Tikatuli and Malibagh areas, it was found that there were no vehicles while common people were hard to be noticed.

Like the other countries of the globe, Bangladesh is also experiencing the spread of COVID-19 and the government has already declared General holidays till April 4 to check the spread of this deadly virus.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her address before the nation has urged the countrymen to stay at home to stop spreading of this virus.

Members of the different law enforcement agencies alongside the personnel of Bangladesh

Army are patrolling on the roads and highways to ensure that people stay at their homes in such a situation.

The mass road transports was shut from yesterday while communication through river ways, railways and airways were shut earlier having only ferry operations in limited scale for which the roads and highways turned into a deserted state.

From yesterday, no bus has left the terminals from Sayedabad, Mohakhali, Jatrabari, Fulbaria and Gabtoli in the Capital while the transport workers of these terminals are passing their time in idle. Many of those transport workers have already left the capital while the rest are staying at the terminals and cooking by themselves.

Talking to BSS, Sayedabad Inter-District Bus Owner's Association President Abul Kalam said no single bus left the terminal yesterday and there was no passenger here. "Such situation was never created in the past and the transport workers of our terminal are passing their time in idle. Now I have made arrangement for their cooking and food."

Earlier on March 24, Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader in a video message announced that all sorts of mass transports would remain shut from March 26.