

REVISED TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

BETWEEN

BANGLADESH AND INDIA

In order to liberalize the existing Visa Regime between the two countries and with a view to removing certain difficulties faced by the nationals of either country in obtaining visa, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Republic of India have agreed to revise certain provisions of the existing Passport/ Visa System which came into effect from September 1, 1972 and the Revised Travel Arrangement that has been in place since May 2001 to regulate travel between the two countries. Accordingly, the Agreed Text of the Revised Travel Arrangement between Bangladesh and India is as under:

#### A. PASSPORT

Valid passports issued by the Government of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Republic of India respectively to their respective citizens will be required for travel between the two countries. Bangladesh and India special Passports issued to their respective citizens by the two Governments will be valid for travel to both the countries till expiry of total validity. No special passports will be issued further.

#### B. VISAS

Nationals of Bangladesh or India traveling to the other country will be required to have a valid visa. Travel would be subject to affixation of visas by the respective governments and governed by the terms and conditions of visas affixed. Visa will be granted by the competent authorities designated by the respective Government. Visa will be given gratis.

#### C. Categories of Visas:

There will be the following categories of visas:

##### (a) Diplomatic and Official visas:

Visa free regime is agreed on reciprocal basis for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports for a period of up to 45 days stay. Diplomatic and consular officials posted in their respective diplomatic/consular missions/posts will be given multiple entry visas without restriction on number of entries, after arrival, with validity period of their tenure. The same facility will be extended to his/her spouse, dependant children/parents and authorized domestic aide with diplomatic/ official passports.

English Version

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Immigration-II

No.44.00.0000.039.13.013.12-00

Circular**Subject: Issuance of Visa on Arrival.**

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In order to attract foreign investment and technologies, expansion of commerce and trade, and development of tourism, the government has decided to provide Visa on Arrival (VOA) to the foreign nationals including those of Bangladeshi origin. The immigration authority at the International Airports and Land ports after examining the necessary travel documents and being satisfied can issue visa on arrival for a period of maximum 30 days to the citizens of the countries mentioned below under the following conditions:

- The nationals of those countries where there is no diplomatic mission of Bangladesh
- On the basis of invitation letters or interested/inviting organization may be allowed to issue visa on arrival. In this case, interested/inviting organization must inform in advance the arrival of the foreign visitor(s) to the immigration and passport authority;
- Only for the purpose of official duty, business, investment and tourism citizens arriving from USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, UAE, Saudi Arabia (KSA), Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and the countries of the Europe may issue visa on arrival after examining and being satisfied by the immigration authority at the International Airports and Land Ports;
- If any foreign national arrives Bangladesh from a country other than his/her own country, where there is no mission of Bangladesh may be issued visa on arrival;
- Bangladeshi origin foreign citizens, their spouses and their offsprings may be issued visa on arrival, on the proof of their being Bangladeshi origin;
- The staff/officials of the foreign missions, UN or its affiliated organizations located in Bangladesh may be issued visa on arrival. Only UN passport holders will get such facilities gratis (free of charge).

2. If the foreign visitors require extension of their visa after arriving Bangladesh under visa on arrival (VOA), the Department of Immigration and Passports Authority may extend their visa in light of the existing Visa Policy.

3. Transit visa will be allowed to the passengers awaiting for connecting flight for the period of maximum 72 hours or till the time of the next available flight on request of the concerned carrier.

(P.T.O)

গেটম্যান ও পাসপোর্ট বাধন  
পবন কাশিয়াল, ঢাকা।  
ভিসা শাখা  
তারিখ - ২৫/১১/০৬

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1. Multiple entry tourist's Entry Visa:

Nationals of third countries, whose representative missions are concurrently accredited to Bangladesh from India, may be granted multiple entry visa valid for a maximum period of three months. Stay during the visit should not exceed 25 days. This visa will be non-extendable and the purpose of the visit will be endorsed on the Visa sticker.

(c) Long term multiple entry tourist visas:

Long term multiple entry tourist visas may be issued to nationals of either country visiting the other to meet relatives, friends, or children studying in recognized educational institutions, pilgrimage or for any other legitimate purpose for a period not exceeding one year, if owing to the nature of requirement, a prolonged stay is necessary. However, the foreigner cannot stay for a period of more than 90 (ninety) days in one stretch on a tourist visa.

(d) Medical visas:

Medical visas valid for up to one year or for the period of treatment whichever is less and with three entries with permission for multiple entry on need basis, may be issued to nationals of either country visiting the other for specialized medical treatment with prior appointment from BMDC/ICMR recognized doctor/clinic/hospital. The medical record should clearly indicate the diagnosis and the requirement for specialized treatment of the ailment/disease. Medical attendant visas may be granted to three accompanying attendants, co-terminus with the validity of the Medical Visa granted. The Medical visa and the Medical Attendant visa will be extendable by another one year subject to production of the required medical report.

(e) Long-term employment visa:

Professionals of one country appointed by the Government of the other country or expatriate consultants or experts under agreement between the two Governments may be issued long-term employment visa (with multiple entry) in either country for the tenure of assignment or one year, whichever is less subject to production of documentary evidence of assignment and the terms & conditions governing employment in respective countries. The same visa facility will also be available to the spouse, dependent children and parents of such visa holders. In the case of India, the type of visa admissible to the spouse, dependent children and parents will be Entry (X) Visa with multiple entry which will be co-

terminus with the visa of the principal Visa holder. Employment visa may be extended up to five years from the date of issue of initial employment visa, on year to year basis.

Multiple-entry employment visa valid for one year may be granted to citizens of one country who visit the other country on regular assignment for reputed organizations of both the countries (such as Biman Bangladesh Airlines, International Bus Service, Sonali Bank, Air India etc. or Government to Government projects or where a government organization has awarded a contract to a private firm or are inter-corporate transferees of a multi-national company) subject to production of documentary evidence of assignment and the terms & conditions governing employment in respective countries. The same visa facility will also be available to the spouse, dependent children and parents of such visa holders. In the case of India, the type of visa admissible to the spouse, dependent children and parents will be Entry (X) Visa with multiple entry which will be co-terminus with the visa of the principal Visa holder. Visa may be extended on year to year basis up to a period of three years.

(f) Investors and businessmen:

Bona fide business persons or investors of either country registered with or sponsored by the appropriate authorities (e.g., Reserve Bank of India, Bangladesh Bank, Board of Investments, BEPZA, FBCCI, DCCI, MCCI, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII, NASSCOM etc. of India or reputed Chamber of Commerce of Bangladesh) may be issued Multiple Entry Business visa valid up to five years with the stipulation that each stay shall not exceed three months. The same facility may be accorded to the spouse and dependent children and parents of such visa holders. In the case of India, the type of visa admissible to the spouse, dependent children and parents will be Entry (X) Visa with multiple entry which will be co-terminus with the visa of the principal Visa holder.

(g) Visa for Journalists:

Journalists working in reputed print and electronic media of either country will be issued multiple entry visas for one year on production of documentary evidence justifying purpose of visit and subject to clearance of the concerned authorities. The maximum permissible duration of each stay will be thirty days.

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(h) Research Scholars/Fellows working in educational/research institution:

Research Scholars/fellows working in education/research institutions of either country on assignment of job/fellowship in the other country or for the purpose of scholarly research in archives and libraries will be issued renewable multiple entry research visa for one year, extendable on year to year basis for a maximum period of five years from the issue of initial research visa with no limitation on number of journeys on production of a documentary evidence. The same visa facility will also be available to the spouse, dependent children and parents of such visa holders. In the case of India, the type of visa admissible to the spouse, dependent children and parents will be Entry (X) Visa with multiple entry which will be co-terminus with the visa of the principal Visa holder. The concerned Mission will convey the decision regarding granting of visa within three months from the date of submission of application.

(i) Visa for Students:

Respective Missions of the two Governments may issue multiple entry student visas for the period of study or for two years, whichever is less to the students of both the countries who have been admitted in government and government approved private Universities, colleges and other educational institutions for general or technical study or training on production of documents in support of such admission and proof of financial ability to support their studies. Visa will be extendable on year to year basis on production of documentary evidence of the course/study up to 5 years. Spouse and children of only postgraduate students will also be eligible to get long-term visa for the same period on production of proof of adequate financial support for maintenance of their family. In the case of India, the type of visa admissible for spouse and dependent children will be Entry (X) Visa.

(j) Transit Visa:

Nationals of one country transiting through the other country by land, river or air routes will be required to have a transit visa to be availed of within 15 days of its issue, valid for a stay up to a maximum of five days from the date of entry, subject to the production of onward confirmed air/rail/bus ticket.

No Visa will be required for direct transit through an Airport/Seaport.

(c) Double Entry Visa:

Nationals of either country intending to visit a third country through the other country by air/rail/road/sea may be issued a Double Entry Visa for a stay up to a required period but not more than 15 days, subject to production of onward confirmed air/rail/road/sea ticket.

(i) Miscellaneous:

Other cases which are not covered by this agreed arrangement may be disposed of under the general visa policy pursued by the respective Governments and according to international norms and practices.

C. URGENT SERVICE (TOKAL SEBA):

In case of emergencies, the nationals of either country will be allowed to obtain visa on payment of a service charge.

D. ROUTE:

Nationals of Bangladesh and India traveling to each other's country may be allowed to travel by air/land (Road and Rail)/sea whichever is convenient to the applicant.

E. ENTRY INTO BANGLADESH AND INDIA:

Bangladeshi and Indian nationals holding valid travel documents will be required to leave one country and enter the other only through designated check-posts. Both sides agree that corresponding check-posts of the two countries should be located as near as possible to each other.

F. CHANGE OF ROUTE:

Nationals of Bangladesh and India exiting by designated check posts other than the one used for their entry, would be required to produce evidence of having intimated their new exit points at the point of their entry. Nationals of either country traveling by air/rail/road and desirous of exiting through a check post other than that of entry may, on application, be given a visa specifying the entry and exit points.

G. PROHIBITED AREAS:

All categories of Visas will be valid for travel to and stay in any part of the country concerned except for those areas designated by the respective Governments as protected, restricted or prohibited areas.

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K. INLAND WATER TRANSPORT PERSONNEL:

Ranking personnel and Ratings of an inland vessel belonging to one country, visiting or transiting through the other country, and calling at designated check points on the route; will not require a transit visa. They are required to carry a certificate of employment and permit with a photograph duly authenticated by specified authorities of respective countries.

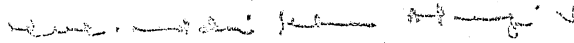
L. BORDER TRADE:

Border crossing for the purpose of any border trade regime would be regulated by suitable mutually agreed arrangements which may be worked out separately by the two countries.

M. REVIEW:

Both sides agree that the arrangements set out above will be reviewed after a period of five years or earlier as and when desired by either party, at one month's notice.

Done on the 28th day of January 2013 at Dhaka



Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, MP

Minister

Ministry of Home Affairs

On behalf of the Government of the  
People's Republic of Bangladesh



Sushilkumar Shinde

Home Minister

On behalf of the Government of the  
Republic of India