

REVISED TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

BETWEEN

INDIA AND BANGLADESH

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 Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh 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 Arrangements between India and Bangladesh is as under:

A. PASSPORT

Valid passports issued by the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh respectively to their respective citizens will be required for travel between the two countries. India and Bangladesh 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 India or Bangladesh 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.

1. 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, dependent children/parents and authorized domestic aide with diplomatic/ official passports.

(b) Short-term Double Entry Visa :

Bangladesh nationals applying for visa of third countries, whose representative missions are concurrently accredited to Bangladesh from India, may be granted double entry visa valid for a maximum period of three months. Stay during the visit should not exceed 15 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 visa:

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 ICMR/BMDC 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 as 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.



(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 upto 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.

(k) 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.

(l) 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 (TOTKAL 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 India and Bangladesh 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 INDIA AND BANGLADESH:

Indian and Bangladeshi 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 India and Bangladesh 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.

H. ISSUING AUTHORITIES:

Diplomatic Missions and consular posts of the two countries and other agencies designated by the two Governments will be authorized to issue visas. A list of visa issuing authorities designated by the one Government will be communicated to other government through normal diplomatic channels.

I. REGISTRATION:

Nationals of one country, visiting the other country on a valid visa, who wish to stay for a continuous period exceeding six months will be required to register within 14 days of arrival with the respective FRRO/relevant authorities and obtain residential permit.

J. SEAMEN:

Seamen of both the countries holding a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) bearing a photograph and other prescribed particulars will be accorded the following facilities:

- (a) A seaman of one country visiting a port in the other country as a member of the crew of the ship which brings him need not hold a passport or a visa. He will be issued a Landing Permit on deposit of his CDC if he wishes to land.
- (b) A seaman, who arrives at a port in the other country as member of the crew of the ship which brings him and who is discharged at the port, will not require passport/visa. He will be issued with a Landing Permit for a specified period and will also be allowed to travel to the country of which he is a national.
- (c) A Bangladeshi Seaman, who has signed on Bangladeshi articles and desires to join his ship at an Indian port, will require an Indian Visa on Bangladesh passport and his CDC is required to be attached with the passport as the proof of a seaman.
- (d) Similarly, an Indian Seaman, who has signed on Indian Articles and desires to



join his ship at a Bangladesh port, will require a Bangladeshi visa on his Indian passport and his CDC is required to be attached with the passport as proof of a seaman.

(e) In all other cases, a seaman will be subject to the normal requirement governing travel between the two countries.

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 Twenty Eighth day of January, 2013 at Dhaka

On behalf of the Government  
of the Republic of India

  
(Sushil Kumar Shinde)  
Home Minister

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

  
(Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir)  
Home Minister