

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Security Services Division
Ministry of Home Affairs
Section: Immigration-2
Bangladesh Secretariate
www.ssd.gov.bd

No.58.00.0000.041.01.021.12 (part)-634

Date: 25.10.2020

Subject: Standard operating procedure (SOP) regarding visa and immigration for the proposed Air Bubble Flights between Bangladesh and India

- References:**
- 1.MOFA OM 19.00.0000.411.47.444.17-621, 20/08/2020
 2. MOFA OM 19.00.0000.411.47.444.17-717, 13/09/2020
 - 3.Special Branch OM 44.01.0000.086.38.003.20, 15/10/202
 - 4.Department of Immigration and Passport OM 348, 15/10/2020

In the wake of COVID-19 outbreak and in response to the Indian proposal of initiating Air Bubble Flight between Bangladesh and India, the following categories of visa and health procedures are set forth for visa and immigration purpose of foreign nationals by the Government of Bangladesh. This Standard Operating Procedure will be in effect for visa and immigration in connection with Air Bubble Flights between Bangladesh and India and other authorized immigration check posts between Bangladesh and India until further instructions as notified by the Government of Bangladesh.

2. The following categories of foreign nationals will be allowed to enter Bangladesh by Air:

- a. Business persons travelling to Bangladesh on Business visa (visa category- B);
- b. Private investors travelling to Bangladesh on Private Investor visa (visa category- PI);
- c. Persons working in projects of Government/ Semi-Government/Autonomous institutions of Bangladesh and their dependent family members (visa category- A3, E, E1, FA3, FE);
- d. Persons employed in Government/Non-Government industrial/commercial organizations in Bangladesh and their dependent family members (visa category- E, E1, FE);

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e. Persons employed in Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and their dependent family members (**visa category- N, FN**);

f. Bangladeshi descendent foreign nationals and his/her dependent family members, family members or spouses of Bangladeshi nationals intending to come to Bangladesh for family reunion (**visa category- NVR, TF**);

g. Students enrolled in recognized educational institutions of Bangladesh. However, students of Government/Non-government medical and dental colleges shall require recommendation for getting visa from Division of Medical Education and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health on case by case basis (**visa category-S**);

h. Persons employed at United Nations Organizations/International Organizations stationed in Bangladesh and their dependent family members (**visa category-A2, FA2**);

i. Diplomats and officials accredited to Diplomatic Missions in Bangladesh and their dependent family members (ordinary passport holders), non-diplomatic staff and their dependent family members (**visa category- D, ND**);

j. Official and diplomatic passport holders as per Revised Travel Arrangement (RTA) signed between Bangladesh and India;

k. Foreign pilots and crews of sea vessels having continuous discharge certificate (CDC) will be able to enter Bangladesh for signing on to the ship and allowed time period for signing on after arrival to Bangladesh is maximum 72 (seventy two) hours;

l. Pilots and crews of scheduled/ chartered aircraft possessing valid crew ID card;

m. Pilots and crews of scheduled/ chartered aircraft with Crew visa (**visa category- C**);

3. Visa/health related conditions for entry by air: All incoming foreign passengers have to have appropriate and valid visas except persons mentioned in serial 2(j), 2(k), 2(l). And all such foreign passengers except those mentioned in serial 2(l), 2(m) (pilot and crew of aircraft) shall be required to furnish PCR based COVID-19 negative certificate (with English translation) to the health official and immigration counter of the entry port where the sample is collected within last 72 (seventy two) hours of travel. In case where someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 symptoms, health officials at the entry port will decide whether they will be self or institutionally quarantined.

4. Entry through land port: Foreign nationals mentioned in category a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j of para 2 will be allowed to enter Bangladesh by land ports (Benapole, Bhomra, Banglabandha, Hili, Burimari, Roumari, Darshana, Nakugaon, Tamabil, Shewla, Akhaura) upon satisfying the conditions stated in para-5.

5. Health related conditions for entry through land port:

a. Possession of valid visa;

b. Submission of PCR based COVID-19 negative certificate (with English translation) to the health official and immigration counter of the entry port where the sample is collected within last 72 (seventy two) hours of travel;

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c. Must be diagnosed as free of COVID-19 symptoms at the examination of health officials of the entry port;

6. The above SOP is being issued due to the extra ordinary circumstances created by COVID-19 and will be in effect for an initial period of three months only, corresponding to operation of Air Bubble Flights between Bangladesh and India. Under regular circumstances, the Revised Travel Arrangements (RTA) between Bangladesh and India will regulate the visa regime and travel between the two countries.

7. This is issued with approval of competent authority.

Monira
23/10/2020
(Monira Haque)

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