

EMAIL FROM DIMIA BANGLADESH 14 December 2004

CHANGE IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISA APPLICATION LODGEMENT
AND FEE PAYMENT IN BANGLADESH

Dear MIA

I am writing to you to let you know of forthcoming changes to arrangements for visa application lodgement and fee payment in Bangladesh.

The Australian Government has entered into an agreement with Visa Facilitation Services (VFS)(Bangladesh) Pvt Ltd for the provision of visa support services to applicants in Bangladesh.

The arrangement is an initiative to reduce congestion and waiting times at the High Commission.

From 20 December 2004, applications for all categories of Australian visa (except refugee/humanitarian) that were previously lodged at the High Commission should be submitted to the new Australian Visa Application Centre, at the following address:

Taj Casalina, SW(1) Flat 3 C
25, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1 Dhaka

Helpline: 882 5973

E mail: info@vfs-au.com.bd

Website: www.vfs-au.com.bd

The centre will be open Sunday-Thursdays from 09:00-13:00 and 14:00- 7:00.

The centre is located about 3km from the High Commission.

The centre will be operated by VFS.

At the centre, VFS staff will accept visa applications, scan them for completeness and accept the visa fee. VFS will offer an on-line facility to make appointments to lodge applications (details from the VFS website following 20 December).

VFS will charge a standard fee of Bangladesh Taka 500 per application.

VFS will schedule an appointment date and time with DIMIA at the Australian High Commission. Passports, applications and documents for visa applicants will be couriered each day to the High Commission by VFS, and couriered back from the High Commission to VFS to arrange collection by the applicant.

There will be no access to the DIMIA area of the High Commission for visa applicants (again, with the exception of refugee/humanitarian applicants) unless they have a scheduled appointment or present a visa grant letter from another DIMIA office (i.e. for visa evidencing).

There is no change in Australian immigration requirements. VFS staff at the centre will have no role in assessment and decision-making on applications. All decisions will continue to be taken by officers at the High Commission, usually following interview. All applications for visas to Australia will continue to be assessed on their merits and according to Australian legal requirements.

Applicants for citizenship are not affected by these arrangements.

Tim Menetrey
Principal Migration Officer
Australian High Commission
184 Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan 1 Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tel: +(8802) 881 3101-5
Fax: +(8802) 881 1124
Email: dima-dhaka@dfat.gov.au