

Visitors suffer for ZIA yellow alert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people coming to receive or see off their relatives and friends at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday got stranded outside it and suffered a lot as the government has enforced a yellow security alert ahead of the February 6-7 Saarc summit preventing visitors from reaching the terminal building.

The restriction imposed since January 27 made the visitors, including many women, stuck up on the adjacent Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday. Armed police battalion and Dhaka Metropolitan Police deployed at the ZIA stopped them on the road, creating a state of chaos and confusion.

Periodic announcements over microphone were however being made near the gathering explaining the necessity of allowing fewer visitors. Only one visitor was allowed to accompany a passenger having valid travel documents to the terminal building after a strict security check.

Many of the visitors alleged harassment by security personnel.

Nasiruddin Rana from Narayanjanji came to receive his brother arriving on a Thai airlines flight from South Korea but police

did not let him in. "I have no information if my brother is still inside the terminal or has left it," he said in disappointment.

Another visitor, Yakub Ali from Demra, said, "I have come to pick up my brother coming from Saudi capital Riyadh. Since I had asked him to wait in the terminal until he sees me, I think he is still waiting for me."

Most of the visitors complained of not having access to any information about the passengers they were waiting for and blamed the authorities for this.

The authorities said however that prior to enforcing the yellow alert, they had made several announcements in newspapers about the restrictions.

"We have to ensure security ahead of the Saarc summit and we are taking all steps including restricting visitors from coming near the terminal," ZIA director Wing Commander Md Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said, "Delegates have started arriving. When the heads of state or government start coming, we will enforce even tighter security -- Orange alert-- from February 4. During the Orange alert that will continue till February 8, only pas-

sengers can pass through the terminal building and we will not allow any visitors."

On alleged harassment of waiting relatives and friends of passengers, Humayun said, "We understand their sufferings. So we are asking for minimising the number of visitors."

To tighten security at the terminal, Special Security Force (SSF) will be deployed from Monday both at the VIP terminal and main terminal where armed police were deployed yesterday morning.

Only one entrance out of four to the southern block of the terminal and only Gate-8 in the northern block would be kept open.

An official of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh said the entire airport compound has been fenced with barbed wire and fresh lighting installed to ease night patrol around the runway.

AGM postponed

BSS, Dhaka

The annual general meeting and election of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association, scheduled for January 31 at a local hotel, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.



US Ambassador Harry K Thomas places a wreath at the coffin of former finance minister and Awami League Advisory Committee member Shah A M S Kibria at his residence at Dhanmondi yesterday to pay his last respect to the former diplomat. Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker, extreme right, is also seen.

GRENADATE ATTACK

Govt trying to avoid responsibility: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been trying to avoid responsibility by making false statements on the grenade attack as it is involved in the recent attacks on the opposition rallies, said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, yesterday.

"As the government or its agents are involved in the attacks, they are not sincere to track down the criminals and punish them," he said at a press briefing at Sudha Sadan in the city.

Referring to the statements given by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan following the August 21 and January 27 grenade attacks on AL rallies in Dhaka and Habiganj, Saber said these are 'nothing but rhetoric'.

They are giving such statements only to divert the attention of the people from the real issues, he added.

He also expressed scepticism about the investigation carried out by the government, saying that it is just an attempt to cover up their involvement.

Five months have passed but there is still no headway in the investigation into the August 21 grenade attack, he added.

Refuting the government allegation that the opposition itself car-

ried out the attacks to gain public sympathy, Saber posed a question: "Why we will kill our own leaders and activists?"

He termed the attacks as a ploy of the government to weaken and destroy the opposition and ensure its victory in the next election.

Asaduzzaman Noor, publicity secretary of the AL, said the government has been using the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to repress the opposition in a violation of human rights.

He also condemned the police excess on opposition leaders and activists during hartal hours.

He called on all leaders and activists to make the hartal a success.

Pak HC expresses 'deep sense of outrage'

BSS, Dhaka

Pakistani High Commissioner to Bangladesh Manzar Shafiq yesterday expressed his 'deep sense of outrage' at the death of Shah AMS Kibria in a terrorist attack.

In a letter to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, the Pakistani envoy also "urged the government here to bring the perpetrators to justice as early as possible."

Manzar Shafiq said Kibria was not just a prominent political leader of the country but also a "distinguished member in his early days of the Pakistan Foreign Service."

He conveyed the deepest condolences to the family of Kibria and all other affected families.

FM condoles death of Kibria

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday expressed deep shock and grief at the death of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in a grenade attack.

In a message of condolence, he said the nation has lost a renowned diplomat, economist and political figure in his death.

Political secretary to the Prime Minister and BNP Joint Secretary General Haris Chowdhury also expressed his deep shock at the tragic death of Kibria.

CPA viva voce now on Feb 9

BSS, Chittagong

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has postponed the viva voce for recruiting sweepers, which was scheduled to be held on January 30 and 31, due to unavoidable circumstances, a CPA press release said yesterday.

The viva voce will now be held at 9.00 am on February 9 at the CPA Training Institute.

No new interview card for the test will be issued.

Bangladeshis in US raise funds for tsunami victims

Bangladeshi community living in the Greater Metro Washington DC area (Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC) held a fund raising event on Friday in support of the tsunami-affected people of India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, says a PDI handout.

The Bangladeshi community has been acknowledged and lauded for this compassionate gesture to assist the victim of tsunami devastation.

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Bookings are essential. Contact:

Australian Centre for Education
IDP Education Australia
CWN(A) 12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue
Gubshan 2, Dhaka-1212
tel: 9883545, 8821067, 9895913
email: info@dhaka.idp.com

Friends and Alumni Gathering:
Families of current students and alumni are invited to a gathering on 5 February 2005. Should you not have received your official invitation please email: g.mcintyre@unimelb.edu.au

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- Good programming skill in C++ /Java, Oracle, SQL Server, Postgresql, DB2, Access
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Death anniversary of Shaheed Lt Selim today

The 33rd death anniversary of Shaheed Lt Selim, a freedom fighter, will be observed today, says a press release.

On this day in 1972, he embraced martyrdom during an encounter with the remnants of Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators to liberate Mirpur area of the city.

Lt Selim also fought gallantly in 1948, he was a student of Rajshahi BTL. He joined the war on April 14, 1971.

A dormitory of Rajshahi Engineering University has been named after the name of Lt Selim. Milad Mahfil and feeding of the destitute have been arranged at different places to mark the occasion.

Shaheed Lt Selim Shikhalay has taken up a special programme to observe the day.

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Transport Sector Coordination Wing "Shaping national transport policy in the 21st century"

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To address these issues Government has approved a National Land Transport Policy mandating the formation of a Transport Sector Coordination (TSC) Wing in the Planning Commission. The TSC Wing will coordinate policy across relevant ministries, ensure sound economic investment in the transport sector, support the development of long-term plans for road, rail, air and inland waterways, and maintain a transport database.

With the assistance of UK Department for International Development (DFID) the Government of Bangladesh seeks to recruit a number of professionals to augment the capacity of the Transport Sector Coordination Wing.

- ### Transport Sector Professionals
- Principal Transport Coordinator** will have overall responsibility for the technical direction of the TSC and will coordinate with Government, private sector agencies in the transport sector and associated civil society organizations. Qualifications must include at least 15 years experience in public sector transport, an advanced degree in planning or administration and a first degree in engineering, planning or economics. Salary negotiable.
- Transport Economist** will evaluate public sector investment in the transport sector and will have an advanced degree in economics and at least 4 years experience as an economist in the transport sector. Salary up to Tk 30,000 per month
- Transport Planner** will support the formulation of transport development plans and will have a first degree in engineering, geography, statistics and an advanced degree in transport planning together with 4 years of relevant experience. Salary up to Tk 30,000 per month
- Transport Statistician** will carry out surveys and support the development of a transport database. Qualifications will include a first degree in a numerate discipline and may include a relevant advanced degree. Salary up to Tk 25,000 per month

These positions are for one year initially with the option of a multi-year extension subject to availability of funds and performance in the role. Government employees are eligible to apply subject to approval of lien. To receive a full job description and details of the application procedure send an email with "Transport Professionals" in the subject line to choudhury@wspdhaka.com or call Phillip Choudhury at 9128784. Applications arriving before 13 February 2005 will be advantaged.

TSC Wing, Room 28, Block 3, Planning Commission, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207.

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03	Sr. Executive/Executive (Commercial)	Masters/BBA/ Bachelor degree. MBA is preferable	05 years experience in similar field in any large Sweater Industry/Garment.	Responsible for BGMEA, EPB, UD, UP, BKEMA, Customs, Shipping Lines & other export related works and preparation of export documents.	02

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