



New arrangement for US visa seekers

The US Embassy in Bangladesh has made a new arrangement with American Express Bank for the non-immigrant visa applicants to process their applications and to schedule non-immigrant visa interview appointments.

With the new arrangement effective from July 9, applicants for tourist, business, student, H1-B, J-1, V and other non-immigrant visas will no longer need to wait in line at the Consular Section of the Embassy to schedule an interview and pick up visa applications, said a press release on Wednesday.

Instead, selected offices of American Express Bank Ltd in Motijheel and Gulshan in Dhaka, Agrabad in Chittagong and Securex offices in Sylhet will offer applicants the opportunity to schedule interviews, purchase fee receipts, obtain and fill-out application forms, and submit passports in one step.

For this service American Express Bank Ltd will assess a per passport service fee of Tk 350 in Dhaka and Tk 450 in Chittagong and Sylhet.

Applicants unwilling to take the service through American Express Bank and Securex may continue to schedule interviews for non-immigrant visas in person at the Consular Section.

However, from July 9, the Consular Section will only accept non-immigrant visa applications and schedule interviews for walk-in applicants on Sunday mornings between 8 and 9 am.

The number of appointments available for applicants who appear at the Consular Section will be extremely limited, the release added.

For faster service, applicants are strongly encouraged to go to the selected American Express Bank Ltd and Securex offices mentioned above to schedule non-immigrant visa interviews and submit their visa applications.

Applicants residing outside of Dhaka will be able to schedule non-immigrant visa interviews without coming to Dhaka.

Non-immigrant visa applicants who use the services of American Express will only need to make one visit to the Consular Section in connection with their application, rather than the two separate visits that are required currently.

Immigrant visa and Diversity Visa scheduling will not be affected by these changes.

Visa applicants are encouraged to apply as far in advance of their proposed travel as possible to ensure their applications are processed before their planned departure date.

For further information, the contact number for the Consular Section of the American Embassy is 882-3800 or the American Express Bank 055 000 0000.