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Bangladesh: Procedures for a Bangladeshi national who does not have a Bangladeshi passport to have a passport issued at the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa, and identity verifications made before the passport is issued (April 2006)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

During an interview on 8 May 2006, the Counsellor of the Bangladesh High Commission provided the following information:

It is possible for an individual who does not have a Bangladeshi passport or who has lost his/her passport to apply for a passport at the Bangladeshi High Commission. A personal interview is required for all applications for a lost passport and for an individual who has never had a Bangladeshi passport. The applicant must also submit a notarized copy of Police report.

According to the Counsellor, if during the interview the individual cannot provide evidence that he/she is a Bangladeshi national, his/her application is cancelled. On the other hand, if during the interview the individual can prove that he/she is a Bangladeshi national, his/her information is sent to Dhaka for verification. After verification with the authorities in Bangladesh, the individual who has proved that he/she is a Bangladeshi national can obtain a first passport with a validity period of one and a half years, after which time, the High Commission may renew the passport for five years (Bangladesh 8 May 2006).

The information that follows, published by the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa, provides information on the procedures for a Bangladeshi national to apply for a new passport, if the original has been lost:

[the applicant] must have the photocopy of [his/her] lost passport. Fill in the prescribed form and attach all documents as stated in the application form, including photocopies of [the] lost passport and the police report.

If [the applicant] cannot submit [a] photocopy of [the] lost passport, [the High Commission] will not be able to issue a new passport until it is verified by the authorities in Bangladesh i.e. [the High Commission has] to refer the matter to Dhaka. However, [the High Commission] can issue a *Temporary Citizen - Identity Certificate* free of charges in [the applicants] favour, which will be valid for 90 (ninety) days. In that case [the applicant] still need[s] to apply in the prescribed form for a new passport.

...

If [the applicant] ha[s] lost the previously issued Bangladesh passport, two (2) Bangladeshis should sign [the] application form as guarantors/attesters certifying that they know [the applicant] personally and that [he/she is] a Bangladeshi in origin. Even [the applicant] ha[s] to obtain the signatures of two (2) guarantors/attesters in the form before [the High Commission] issue[s] any *Temporary Citizen - Identity Certificate* in [his/her] favour... (n.d.a).

Information posted on the Website of the High Commission for Bangladesh in Ottawa indicates that to apply for a new passport, the individual needs to provide the following:

- ...KA form to be filled and signed by the applicant at both places on the back page of the form and sent back to [the Bangladesh High Commission] with applicant's old passport. Four (4) recent colour passport size photographs are needed. If the passport is more than twelve (12) years old, six (6) copies [of] photographs are required.
- Child Endorsement: (up to twelve years [of] age only)
- If child is already endorsed in his/her mother's old passport: 2 copies of stamp size (2.5cm X 2.6cm) photographs are needed.
- If not endorsed before: 2 copies of stamp size (2.5cm X 2.6cm) photograph needed.
- Birth certificate where both mother and father's names are mentioned.
- A statement of facts on plain paper.
- Physical appearance of the child is required.
- In the case of a lost passport: six (6) recent coloured passport size photographs, a police report, birth certificate, academic certificate and a statement of facts on plain paper is required. The applicant must [go] to the High Commission to apply for a new passport. KA form has to be filled by the applicant.
- Physical presence of the applicant is required for issuance of fresh passports in the case of lost passport.
- Money order / bank draft amounting to C\$160.00 only in the name of Bangladesh High Commission, Ottawa as consular fees within 10 working days for ordinary service urgent fee is \$240.00 only for passport issued within 72 hours (3 working days) (n.d.b).

During an interview on 8 May 2006, the Counsellor of the Bangladesh High Commission indicated that the Website of the Bangladesh High Commission, Canada, is up to date and its contents are valid.

Please find attached copy of the Application form for a new passport containing the application instructions (Bangladesh n.d.c).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this

Information Request.

References

Bangladesh. 8 May 2006. Bangladesh High Commission, Canada. Interview with the counsellor conducted at the Embassy.

_____. N.d.a. Bangladesh High Commission, Canada. Consular Services. "Frequently Asked Questions : Lost Passport." <<http://www.bdhc.org/FAQ.pdf>> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2006]

_____. N.d.b. Bangladesh High Commission, Canada. Consular Services. "How to Apply for a New Passport." <http://www.bdhc.org/how_newpass.html> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2006]

Attachment

_____. N.d.c. Bangladesh High Commission, Canada. Consular Services. "Application Form for New Passport." <<http://www.bdhc.org/newppform.pdf>> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2006]

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