

HSIA Third Terminal to open in October 2023

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : The Third Terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital is expected to open in September-October 2023 as the construction work is progressing in full swing with completion reaching 1.9 per cent more than the April target.

The State Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism Md Mahbub Ali said this in a press briefing during his visit to the construction site on April 11.

"By April 8, the construction of the third terminal was supposed to be 32.7 per cent complete. However, in reality it is at 34.6 per cent. The construction will be completed within the stipulated time," the State Minister mentioned.

He further added, "Passengers at the third terminal will enjoy the same quality of services they get at London's Heathrow Airport or Thailand's airports.

There will be no compromise with quality," he said of the project being implemented by Mitsubishi and Fujita of Japan, and Samsung of South Korea.

"Even if there is some work left, the soft launch can be done earlier. During the Covid-19 outbreak, construction work of the third terminal did not stop for a single day," he claimed.

Around 4,000 national and international workers are working on the project, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

Once completed, the terminal can serve twice the number of passengers than the Dhaka Airport is handling currently, officials added.

About the elevated expressway, the State Minister said, "These works need to be coordinated. Work on the elevated expressway will begin in a few days, when the terminal will be connected to the expressway."

"The Prime Minister has directed us to extend the tunnel to Ashkona Hajj Camp. We will work accordingly."

After completion of the project, HSIA will be able to provide service to over two crore passengers every year, according to CAAB.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said, "The construction of the Third Terminal is going on as per schedule. There was a small delay because work on the Dhaka Elevated Expressway is starting a little late."

The Third Terminal will also double the airport's annual cargo handling capacities, said AKM Maksudul Islam, Project Director of the Third Terminal. He claimed, after completion of the terminal, the airport will be able to handle five lac tonnes of cargo from the current two lac tonnes.

According to reports, the terminal is being constructed on 542,000 square metres of land and will have a floor space of 230,000 square metres, 115 check-in counters, 64 departure and 64 arrival immigration desks.

The Chairman also said that the work of installing a new radar at the airport has begun.