

## Separate terminal for VVIPs at T3 of Dhaka Airport

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will get a separate terminal for Very Very Important Persons (VVIPs), which was originally included in the ongoing Third Terminal project design but discarded later.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh decided to re-include the terminal under the project after some careful consideration of VVIP safety and hassle-free movements of ordinary passengers.

According to reports, the VVIP terminal will now be built on the western side of the airport runway at an estimated cost of BDT 283 crore (USD 29 million), which will be drawn from the leftover fund of the airport's Third Terminal project involving a staggering BDT 21,399 crore.

"The decision to construct a separate terminal has been reconsidered to ensure 24-hour service for VVIPs. Besides, it will ease movements of ordinary passengers at the airport, reducing pressure on other terminals," said Md Mahbub Ali, State Minister for Civil aviation and Tourism.

"We do not need additional funds to build the terminal as BDT 800 crore (USD 82 million) have already been saved in the Third Terminal project," he added.

The government approved the Third Terminal project in late 2017 at an estimated cost of BDT 13,610 crore. Two years later, the project cost was revised up to BDT 21,399 crore. The construction of the Third Terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is

progressing in full swing. Reports said the soft launch of the much-awaited terminal is expected by the end of next year.