

## E-gates to not help complete immigration in 18 secs as promised

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : Despite what was claimed before, e-passport holders will not be able to complete immigration formalities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital "in just 18 seconds", reports cited Dhaka airport officials saying on June 9.

The newly installed 12 e-gates are only able to automatically identify the passengers and their passports.

The passengers' visa and other information are being verified at the immigration desk like it used to be before the e-gates were installed.

This means, it will now take 18 seconds more for immigration formalities at the Dhaka airport than what it used to take.

According to reports, e-gates are unable to automatically examine passengers' visa. That is why the visas will be checked manually as before.

"E-gates do not have the capacity to process visas. E-gates will only check whether the passport belongs to the passport holder," said Additional DIG (Immigration) GM Azizur Rahman on June 9.

"Visas can be fake, e-gates cannot identify that," he said adding that there is no way to store - at the e-gates - the information on where the passenger will go or which planes they will board.

Meanwhile, immigration police said that just going through the e-gates will not

complete the immigration process.

"E-gate first checks the passport of the passenger. If the passport is correct, the first barrier is crossed. The face and eyes of the passport holder will be scanned before the next gate," said Immigration Police Officer Azizur Rahman.

"Passengers can pass the next gate if the passport photo and their faces match," he added.

It may be mentioned here, on June 7, Group Captain Kamrul Islam, Executive Director of Dhaka Airport, said that passengers with e-passports will be able to pass immigration through e-gate in only 18 seconds.