

Govt plans to build underpass for travellers from HSIA to Airport Station

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Dhaka: The government is planning to build an "integrated underpass" to connect Dhaka Airport with the railway station and other modes of transport, including the metro rail and the bus rapid transit, in a move to ease air passengers' hassles upon arrival to the city.

Also, the underpass will be linked to the Hajj camp in capital's Ashkona area so that pilgrims can reach the airport without any trouble.

Apart from a footpath, the underpass will have a travelator, a moving walkway.

Bangladesh Army is now carrying out a feasibility study and working on the design for the project to be implemented by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

The study is expected to be completed by two-three months. Then, RHD will

take up an investment project to build the underpass, said Mohammed Shamim Al Mamun, Executive Engineer of RHD's Dhaka Division, on July 4, according to reports.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), which is coordinating the plan, yesterday held a meeting with all stakeholders concerned at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) headquarters.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the army; Road Transport and Highways Division; the CAAB; the RHD; Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) which is implementing the metro rail projects; Bangladesh Railway; and Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Ltd. They also made a field visit.

"We convened the meeting for better integration of different stakeholders concerned," said Neelima Akhter, Executive Director, DTCA.

"The underpass will be built for better connectivity between the airport, the airport railway station and the hajj camp," she said, adding, air passengers will be able to easily access the bus rapid transit and the metro rail.

Various government agencies are implementing a number of projects near the airport.

The DMTCL will build the country's first underground railway from the airport to Kamalapur, while a dedicated bus corridor is being developed from the airport to Gazipur.

Besides, Bangladesh Bridge Authority is building two elevated expressways -- one from the airport to Kutubkhali on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway and the other from the airport to Dhaka EPZ on the Nabinagar-Chandra Highway.

The underpass will connect all three terminals at the airport with the railway station and the hajj camp, concluded Md Shamim Al Mamun.

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