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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY ANNOUNCES VISA FACILITATION PROGRAM

DHAKA, JANUARY 7 --- Effective January 6, 2013, U.S. Embassy Dhaka will initiate a facilitation program that will exempt certain qualified returning foreign visitors from another interview with a consular officer. This facilitation program is designed to significantly reduce wait times for qualified foreign visitors without compromising security.

Under the new initiative, in select circumstances, qualified foreign visitors who were interviewed and thoroughly screened in conjunction with a prior visa application may be eligible to renew their visas without undergoing another interview. This facilitation program permits consular officers to waive interviews for qualified nonimmigrant visa applicants who are renewing their visa within 48 months of the expiration of their previously held visa, and within the same classification as the previous visa. In Dhaka, tourist (B2) and certain business traveler (B1) visas may be extended without an interview. We expect that this will benefit applicants, saving them time and money, and encouraging them to choose to visit the United States again. National security remains our highest priority, and this facilitation program does not entitle or guarantee any applicant to a waiver of an interview. Consular officers will retain the authority to interview any applicant who they determine requires an interview.

More information regarding this facilitation program can be found on the U.S. Embassy Dhaka's webpage http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/visa_scheduling.html and with our implementing partner, SAIMON Travel.

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