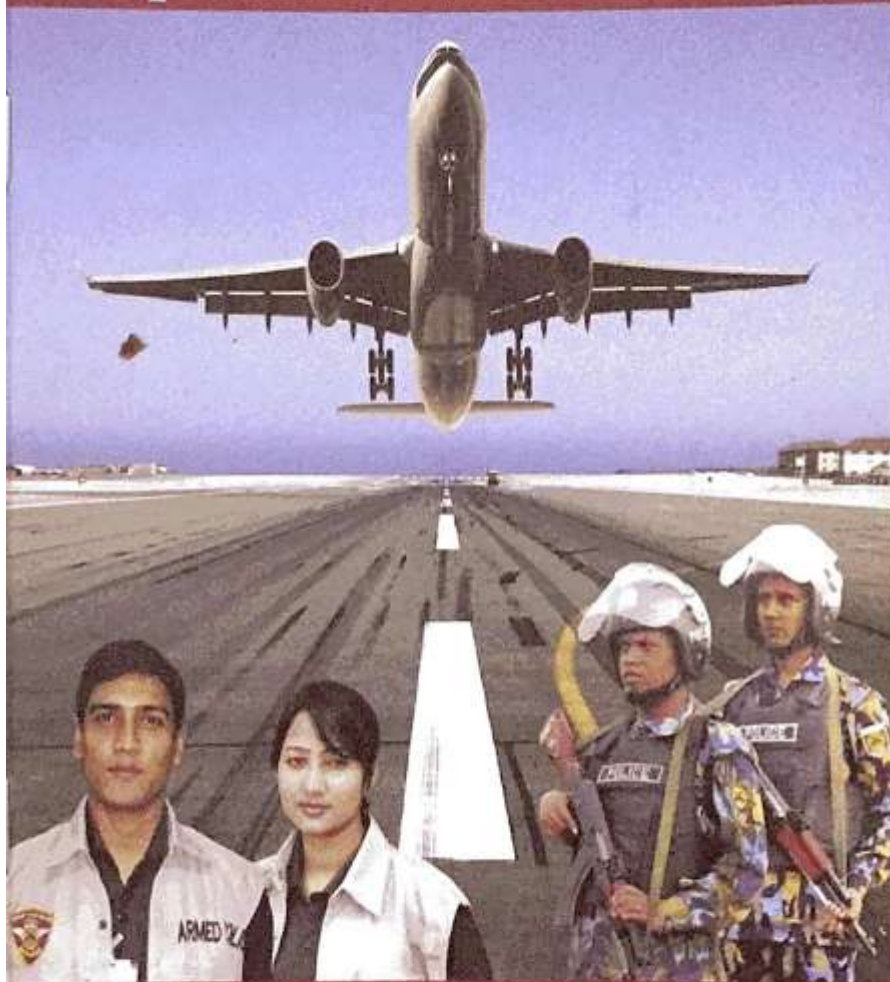


Two Years Journey of Airport Armed Police



Airport Armed Police
Dhaka, Bangladesh
www.aap.gov.bd

Introduction

With the increasing level of security concern around the world, security arrangements of most of the important airports have been beefed up after 2001. Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka is considered as the gateway between Bangladesh and the rest of the world. In the context of ever increasing security concern including militancy, terrorist attacks etc. there is no scope for compromise in case of such gateways. Considering the security threats, Bangladesh Government entrusted Armed Police Battalion, widely known as Airport Armed Police, with the responsibility of overall security of HSIA from June, 2010.

2. Background

With the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Government in Chair, it was decided in the 10th National Committee for Intelligence Coordination (NCIC) Meeting on April 13, 2010 to deploy Armed Police at all the airports of Bangladesh including Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka. Concerned Ministry was asked to take appropriate measures in this regard.

3. Area of Responsibilities

Airport Armed Police (AAP) is empowered to ensure internal security, arrest armed terrorists, recover arms & explosives, and any other responsibility endowed upon by the Government as per Section 6 of the Armed Police Battalion Ordinance, 1979. As per the discussions at the



AAP member in guard position

meeting dated 20 May, 2010 presided over by the Principal Secretary Prime Minister's Office, Airport Armed Police was deployed on 01 June, 2010 vide a letter of the Ministry of the Civil Aviation and Tourism. Later on, all concerned authorities were sent letters from the Ministry of Civil

Aviation & Tourism to provide assistance to Armed Police in disposing their services to secure the airport and taking necessary actions.

Airport Armed Police performs the responsibility of securing the airport independently under the guidance of the Chairman, Civil Aviation

Authority of Bangladesh. According to the memos issued from Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Police Headquarters, Airport Armed Police has been entrusted with the following responsibilities:

I. Ensuring overall security of the airport by preventing any type of subversive acts, illegal trespass of unwanted and unauthorized persons, preventing luggage pilferage/theft and protecting passengers from any sort of harassment at the airport.



II. Collection of intelligence and identification of probable criminals utilizing state of the art technologies in different areas of the airport including Arrival & Departure parking areas, conveyor belt, hanger and tarmac areas.

III. Searching and general checking at all the entries and inside the airport and examining travel documents, luggage or body of suspicious persons/passengers.



Escorting participating teams of Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in 2011

IV. Taking up necessary legal actions after investigation of any incident regarding luggage theft/pilferage, smuggling, unclaimed luggage, passenger harassment etc.

V. Coordination with other agencies working at the airport regarding any subversive activities, prevention of militancy or any other security related threats.



AAP Crisis Response Team in action

4. Specialized Teams/Units of AAP:

In order to ensure total security of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, several teams and specialized units have been established under the organizational structure of Airport Armed Police (AAP).

4.1 Guarding & Checking Team : There are aspects of physical security for any airport installation and it requires crowd and traffic management as well. AAP eyes to introduce modern technologies to ensure the effective guarding and checking procedures of the travelers, visitors and officials at airport. Recently, AAP has introduced Under Vehicle Surveillance System, first of its kind, at the hanger gate location for thorough and automated scanning of the incoming and outgoing vehicles.

4.2 Intelligence & Surveillance Team : AAP takes steps to engage Intelligence and Surveillance Team to collect advance information regarding any subversive, anti-state and criminal activities including smuggling.

4.3 Crisis Response Team (CRT): Establishment of Crisis Response Team is another endeavor of AAP. Crisis Response Team has been raised and trained in the line of SWAT of DMP to deal with any emergency situation at airport including mass destruction, hostage crisis etc.



AAP members helping pilgrims

4.4 Anti Human Trafficking Unit : Human Trafficking has become a matter of great concern in the South Asian region. Every year, thousands of people, especially woman and children are trafficked illegally and the traffickers sometimes use the airport for their evil purpose. AAP Anti Human Trafficking Unit is concerned about the issue and tries its best to reduce the rate of human trafficking through airport. A good number of men and women who were brought to the Airport to be trafficked have been rescued by the AAP members and more than thirty traffickers have been arrested so far.

5. Few Successes of Airport Armed Police

Immediately after taking the charge, Airport Armed Police managed to establish itself in a respectable height by the sincere and prudent execution of duty. AAP officers offered much dedication to establish Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport a safer place. From very onset, AAP figured out various problems and accordingly put efforts to find some solutions which paved the way to present the new look currently the airport has compared to that prior to the deployment of AAP.

5.1 Reduction of Luggage Pilferage, theft, passenger's and visitor's harassment

AAP first started working on the aim at reducing pilferage and theft of valuable luggage of the valued passengers which was a common phenomenon at that time.

Subsequently AAP has succeeded in reducing the pilferage and theft to a minimum, thanks to the sincerest duty performed by AAP members around the belt areas. Almost all the Airlines operating in the airport are experiencing the pleasant result of it. Airport Armed Police significantly managed to minimize passenger harassment by unscrupulous agents like middlemen, hawkers, beggars, street archins etc. Regular drives are being operated to find out these disturbing people and stern actions are being taken against them.

5.2 Freeing illegal parking areas

Before deployment of AAP, the car parking area in front of arrival terminal 1 and 2 were being used as a source of illegal income where middlemen could park their cars illegally. AAP in a special drive freed the occupied car parking which enhanced the beauty of the airport as well as reduced the chance of the middlemen to harass passengers and visitors.

5.3 Special Security Service During World Cup Cricket 2011

Airport Armed Police took special security arrangements for the participating teams and officials of ICC World Cup Cricket 2011 which earned much praises and attentions from the media and all corners. AAP provided high standard of security at the airport during arrival and

departure of the teams and officials. In addition to ICC World Cup Cricket, AAP arranged special security for participating teams and officials of T20 World Cup, BPL and other international sport events.

5.4 Database Management

AAP has been successful in building up criminal database in its own system. After being deployed in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, AAP arrested few hundred thieves, illegal currency dealers, drug dealers, human traffickers, money launderers and many unauthorized persons who were considered to be hazards to the airport security. AAP maintains a detailed database of all persons who are involved in illegal activities for future action.

It is another success of AAP that, now AAP has the list of all the vehicles of all rent-a-car dealers, who are authorized to carry passengers from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to different destination across the countries. Now passengers are mostly safe as the chance of mugging or abduction by the cab drivers in the middle of a journey has ended just for seamless efforts of AAP.

5.5 Additional Services



During the emergency situation of Libya in 2011, Airport Armed Police provided special assistance to the Bangladeshi workers arriving at the airport. A good number of AAP members were deployed at the arrival immigration area to help the ill-fated workers to fill out their immigration cards. In addition to

that, AAP has been providing special assistance service to all the pilgrims since 2010, especially to the senior citizens, going Mecca for performing Hajj.

6. Few incidents of Success

Since the inception of the Airport Armed Police in HSIA, the unit managed to achieve significant success against various crimes including smuggling, luggage theft, bribery, passenger harassment etc. within a very short span of time.



6.1 Airport Armed Police members arrested one Mr. Satyaban Chandra Sarker for carrying a 0.32 bore pistol and 10 rounds of ammunition illegally on July 20, 2010. The accused tried to enter airport area through the main entrance by a Toyota Premio car where he was challenged by the AAP members at the gate. A case under Arms Act, 1978 was filed in Airport Thana regarding the incident.



6.2 Ola Dipopo Jakasia, a Nigerian national was arrested with 6 kg heroin at the airport departure terminal on July 30, 2010. Jakasia traveled Bangladesh several times and he was wandering at the departure enclosure area that day. When he was approached for questioning, he tried to run away. AAP members nabbed him after a comparatively long chase. His luggage was checked and 10 packets of heroin each containing 10 polybags were recovered from it weighing 6 kg in total. A case was filed in this incident.

6.3 A man with foreign currencies worth Tk 1.57 crore was detained by Airport Armed Police members at Shahjalal International Airport on August 11, 2010. Mohammad Sunny, bound for Singapore, was attempting to smuggle seven types of currencies, including Euro, Pound and Singaporean dollar of the said amount. Sunny got his luggage scanned at the entry gate and moved forward. His movement aroused suspicion of nearby AAP member who asked Sunny about the contents of the luggage. Sunny offered Tk 500 at first and then Tk 1 lac bribe to that AAP member who informed senior officials. Later he was taken to the customs counter and the mentioned foreign currencies were recovered from his luggage through manual searching.

6.4 Kamrunnahar Tutul, a female cabin crew of Bangladesh Biman's Dubai-bound flight was arrested on September 29, 2010 by Airport Armed Police and Security personnel for the attempt to smuggle foreign currencies worth about Tk 2.5 crore at HSIA. Tutul was carrying some of the currencies in Pound, Saudi Riyal and Dubai Dirham strapping to her body and the rest in her luggage. Airport Armed Police Members and Security officials at gate 6 held her at 4.30 am noticing her unusual movement. Later a lady constable from the AAP searched her body and found the currencies strapped to her leg with



hager and also inside the body-pad she was wearing. Tutul was on duty in the Dubai-bound BG 018 flight, which was scheduled to fly off from the HSIA at 6:00 am.

6.5 Airport Armed Police arrested Joynal Abedin (54), a leader of the syndicated luggage theft group on January 1, 2012 in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area. He was arrested at about 7.00 pm from the multistoried car parking of the airport by the intelligence members of Airport Armed Police while he was running away. After arresting him with a Sony Wega Television, he gave valuable information on the basis of



which Airport Armed Police and Airport Thana police conducted a joint drive at KawlaBazar area with the help of Dakshin Khan Thana. The raiding team found huge amount of stolen cosmetics, perfumes, blankets and dresses which were stolen from the airport for days. Notorious thief Joynal Hails from Chowddogram Thana of Comilla district. He was also arrested on January 9, 2011 by Airport Armed Police for similar theft while he was caught red handed with seven luggages of Saudi Arabian Airlines passengers.

6.6 Airport Armed Police recovered foreign currencies worth Tk. 4.7 Crore and arrested two persons in December 20, 2011 from the final waiting lounge at the airport. Upon secret information, AAP officials went on a special drive at the boarding bridge waiting lounge and arrested two Dubai bound Emirates airlines passengers



named Sajal Das Gupta and Md. Kamal Hossain and recovered the said amount from their luggage which they were attempting to smuggle out of the country.

6.7 A sixteen years old girl was rescued and the kidnapper Md. Rashedul Islam (28) was arrested by Airport Armed Police intelligence members on December 16, 2010 from airport roundabout area. Being tipped off, a civil team led by Senior ASP Atia Husna arrested the kidnapper while he was receiving the ransom money of 1.00 lac from the relatives of the abducted girl. After interrogation, he was made to bring the girl to the airport technically.

6.8 Airport Armed Police recovered foreign currency worth BDT about 22.70 Crore from money laundering criminals.



Airport Armed Police envisions Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport as a world class airport as far as security and passengers' safety are concerned. Since taking up the responsibility of the overall security of the airport, AAP members put their sincerest efforts and maximum dedication to achieve its goal. On the passage of its two years journey, all the organizations working at the airport including Civil Aviation Authority Bangladesh (CAAB), Bangladesh Customs, Magistracy, Intelligence agencies like Special Branch, DGFI, NSI, the airline operators and other agencies extended their helping hands to AAP in securing its objectives. Airport Armed Police is indebted to all these agencies and expects future cooperation more explicitly.



Exchanging views with UK Border Agency



Heathrow Airport visit by AAP officials

Airport Armed Police

Uttara, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Phone : +88 02 791 3876

Fax : +88 02 791 4338

E-mail : info@aap.gov.bd

Web : www.aap.gov.bd

Airport Office

International Arrival Terminal 1

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport

Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Phone : +88 02 890 1491

Cellphone : +88 01743 914 919 (24 hours)