

The ACS Newsletter

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018 EDITION

U.S. EMBASSY, DHAKA

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A Few Words from the Vice-Consul

It seems like just yesterday that I was writing an article about how much I was looking forward to serving you as the new American Citizen Services (ACS) Officer. Now, here I am saying goodbye to make room for Bryan Furman, the incoming ACS Officer. As I reflect on my time, I'd like to pass on a couple tips that will make your life easier when obtaining services from the U.S. Embassy.

Children are one of life's joys, and passing your American citizenship to your children often comes with the territory. Per U.S. law, to pass on U.S. citizenship to your child and obtain a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), you need two things. First, you must be an American citizen when your child is born. This is demonstrated by showing your Naturalization Certificate, U.S. birth certificate, or U.S. Passport.

The second requirement is that the U.S. parent or parents must meet the proper residency requirements. For single parents, or couples with only one U.S. citizen parent, the U.S. citizen parent must have spent at least five years in the U.S., two of which must have been after the age of fourteen. You do not need to have been a U.S. citizen during the five years. Time spent as a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) counts, as does time spent as a student, temporary worker, or even as a visitor. The legal status of the time in the U.S. does not matter, only the physical presence. The best evidence of this is the

stamps in your passports, so make sure to keep them safe! Other records that can help are pay stubs, bank and credit card statements, and school attendance records. Tax records, leases, and W-2 forms generally do not prove actual presence in the U.S. If a child is born during the marriage of two U.S. citizen parents, then the only presence requirement is that one of the parents must show that they resided in the U.S. at some point before the child's birth.

Speaking of U.S. presence, if you ever want to travel as a U.S. citizen, you will need a U.S. Passport, and in order to get one, you need to demonstrate U.S. citizenship. As with a CRBA, the best evidence is a Naturalization Certificate, U.S. birth certificate / CRBA, or previous U.S. passport. A U.S. driver's license, LPR card ("green card"), work permit, or voter registration card do not prove U.S. citizenship. On rare occasions, we do have the ability to verify citizenship for persons who have lost their passport and apply in person for a new one.

Remember, bringing the correct documentation to your CRBA or passport appointment is not only critical to obtaining the desired document, but will also help minimize your time at the Embassy and help you get your documents faster. Last, please don't forget that as of 2 April, passport execution fees increased to \$35.00. As we say in Hawai'i – Aloha nui loa!



Larry V Dumlao

- ◆ Enroll with the Embassy for receiving alert emails by visiting the webpage at <https://step.state.gov/step>
- ◆ Enroll with the Embassy for receiving alert SMS by visiting the webpage at <https://usembassy.sslwireless.com/>

**Remember, your vote counts!
Be absent but accounted for!**



Your vote counts! Did you know that many U.S. elections for House and Senate seats have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? All states are required to count **every** absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per the instructions on the website. FVAP.gov will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature. If you must return a paper version, please see below for mailing options.

postage paid return envelope (available under “Downloadable Election Materials” on the FVAP homepage) or in an envelope bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address it to the relevant local election officials.

Follow a few simple steps to make sure that you can vote in the 2018 U.S. elections:

1. Request Your Ballot: Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). *You **must** complete a new FPCA **after** January 1, 2018 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2018 elections.* The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all **elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives)** including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted.

You can complete the FPCA **online** at www.FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic

2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot: States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

3. Return Your Completed Ballot: Some states allow you to return your completed ballot by email or fax. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can use international mail, a courier service such as FedEx or DHL, or you may also drop off completed voting materials during regular business hours at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. Place your materials in a

4. New this year – email to fax service by FVAP! - the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will provide an email-to-fax conversion service for voters who have difficulty sending election materials to States that do not accept emailed documents. Get more information [here](#).

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources. Check out the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). **Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, [FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov).** If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact the Voting Assistance Officer at VoteDhaka@state.gov



Watermelon Smoothie with Yogurt

Nothing can beat the heat of summer better than a watermelon smoothie prepared with yogurt.

Ingredients:

- => 3 cups, watermelon cubes
- => 1 small banana, chopped

- => 1 cup, ice
- => 1 1/2 cups, yogurt
- => 4-5 fresh mint leaves (optional)



Collected from : <http://foodviva.com/>

BANGLA NABABARSHA YEAR 1425 & POHELA BOISHAKH IN BANGLADESH: APRIL 14



The first day of the Bengali calendar month Baishakh, also known as **Pohela Baishakh**, is celebrated every year on April 14 as the Bengali New Year.

Pohela Boishakh festivals are widely celebrated all over Bangladesh. People organize a wide variety of programs for the occasion,

from loud outdoor festivals and parades to intimate recitations of Bengali poetry. It is a time when Bangladeshis show off their diverse culture, with colorful outfits special meals like panta rice, Hilsha fish, different bhortas.



Traditionally, business owners close their account books and start new ones on the first day of the Bengali calendar, as they believe doing so will renew and strengthen business relationships with their customers and business partners.



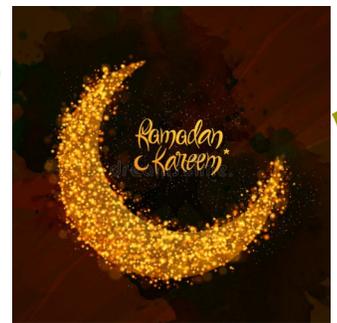
Ramadan etiquette

This year, the Holy month of Ramadan will start in mid-May in Bangladesh.

The month of Ramadan is a happy occasion: it is the month that the Muslim holy book, the Quran, was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Muslims celebrate the month by coming together in worship and fasting each day for thirty days from dawn until sunset.

So, the next time you find yourself in line for the copier with your Muslim colleague, be mindful of the following list of suggested Ramadan etiquette:

- Non-Muslims should be considerate when eating or drinking near the presence of people fasting, especially by avoiding food or drink with strong odors
- Non-Muslims should try not to schedule working lunch meetings
- Non-Muslims don't have to fast with Muslims, but you can if you want
- Greet Muslims with Ramadan Mubarak
- Please be a little flexible



All regular American Citizen Services are by appointment **only**. Walk-in hours are not available. To schedule an appointment online please visit the Embassy website at <https://bd.usembassy.gov/>



U.S. EMBASSY, DHAKA

U.S. Embassy, Dhaka

American Citizen Services

Madani Avenue, Baridhara
Dhaka – 1212

Phone: 88 2 5566-2000

(Hours of Operation: Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu, from
8:00 am - 4.00 pm)

E-mail: DhakaACS@state.gov

Website: <https://bd.usembassy.gov/>

ACS Services include:

- PASSPORT RENEWAL
- CONSULAR REPORTS OF BIRTH ABROAD
- CONSULAR REPORTS OF DEATH ABROAD
- NOTARIAL SERVICES
- ABSENTEE VOTING AND VOTER INFORMATION
- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER APPLICATION
- MEDICAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION
- FEDERAL BENEFITS APPLICATION
- TREASURY CHECKS DISTRIBUTION
- EMERGENCY MONEY TRANSFER FACILITATION

Stay Connected



Diplomacy in Action

Upcoming Embassy Closures

May 2018

Sun	Mo	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Shab-e- Barat*	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31		

June 2018

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Shab-e- Qadr*	13	14	15	16
17 Eid-ul- Fit*	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Note: April has only one holiday on the 29th (Sunday) for 'Buddha Purnima'. (*) Subject to change based on the religious calendar.**