

The ACS Newsletter

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018 EDITION

**U. S.
EMBASSY,
DHAKA**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Inside Story	1
Consular Currency Exchange rate	1
Worldwide Caution update	2
Peanut Butter cupcake recipe	2
Wanted Wardens	3
Personal Security	3
ACS Services	4
Embassy Closures	4

Happy New Year to all of our U.S. Citizens in Bangladesh! My name is Nathan Flook and it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce myself to the American community here in Bangladesh. I am the most recent new arrival to the Consular Section and serve as the Deputy Consul General. In this capacity, I assist the Consul General in providing oversight for all consular operations here at U.S. Embassy, Bangladesh. I am from the state of Maryland on the East Coast, but have spent most of my adult life overseas, having served in the military for six years, then subsequently joining the U.S. Department of State. My career has taken me to various postings in Africa, Costa Rica, Iraq, Australia, State Department Headquarters in Washington, and now to Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Now that 2018 has arrived, the Consular Section would ask U.S. citizens to review their U.S. passports and check their expiration dates. If you only have a year of validity before your passport expires, it is not too early to apply for a replacement. Keep in mind that a number of countries require that travelers have at least six months of validity remaining on their passport when applying for a visa or upon arriving at that destination. If you have children, consider renewing all the family's passports at one time so as to avoid multiple trips to the Embassy. Adult passport holders may be eligible to renew their current passport via our contracted mail in-service, so avoid the traffic and check out the instructions on our website at <https://bd.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>. Remem-

ber, it can take about 15 days to process and receive a new passport, so don't delay and get caught out when you decide to take that last minute weekend getaway or business trip, only to find your passport is near its expiration!

Again, it is a pleasure to be here in Bangladesh and working with this great team of professionals at U.S. Embassy, Dhaka. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months, and wish everyone a very happy and safe 2018.



**Deputy Consul General
Nathan D. Flook**

U.S. Embassy Dhaka's Consular Currency Exchange rate

The consular exchange rate at U.S. Embassy Dhaka is now 82 BDT. All consular services including visa fees,

Consular Report of Birth Abroad applications, passport applications, and notaries will follow this new exchange rate.



◆ Enroll with the Embassy to receive alert emails by visiting <https://step.state.gov/step>

Travel.state.gov Redesign and New Consular Messaging



Travel.State.Gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE — BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

As part of the Department of State's continuous efforts to provide U.S. Citizens with safety and security information, the Department updated its travel.state.gov website on December 4, 2017. The website features improved, simpler, navigation; providing a seamless experience across all devices, including mobile platforms. The redesign delivers a new format for providing clear, timely, and reliable safety and

security information worldwide. On January 10th, the Department rolled out a new consular messaging system to accompany the website redesign.

Travel Advisories have replaced Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts. Travel Advisories follow a consistent format and use plain language to help U.S. citizens find and use important security information. Travel Advisories

apply up to four standard levels of advice, give a description of the risks, and provide clear actionable steps U.S. citizens should take.

Alerts have replaced Emergency Messages and Security Messages. Alerts will inform U.S. citizens of specific safety and security concerns, such as demonstrations, crime trends, and weather events.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to read Country Specific Information pages and Travel Advisories, on travel.state.gov before planning a trip.

More information at travel.state.gov



Collected from:
[www.http://allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)

Peanut Butter Cup Cookies

Ingredients:

- => 1 3/4 cups of all-purpose flour
- => 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- => 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- => 1/2 cup of butter, softened
- => 1/2 cup of sugar
- => 1/2 cup of peanut butter

- => 1/2 cup of brown sugar
- => 1 egg, beaten
- => 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- => 2 tablespoons of milk, whole milk
- => 40 miniature chocolate covered peanut butter cups, unwrapped

Procedure:

- 1) Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Sift together the flour, salt and baking soda; set aside.
- 2) Cream together the

butter, sugar, peanut butter and brown sugar until fluffy. Beat in the egg, vanilla and milk. Add the flour mixture; mix well. Shape into 40 balls and place each into an ungreased mini muffin pan.

- 3) Bake at 375 degrees for about 8 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately press a mini peanut butter cup into each ball. Cool and carefully remove from pan.

WANTED, WARDENS

Why U.S. Embassy needs Wardens?

As part of our effort to serve American citizens living or traveling abroad, the U.S. Embassy has a warden system to assist American citizens, especially in times of emergencies. Wardens are volunteers who serve the particular geographic zone usually where they live.

Normally, we are able to communicate with most of the registered Americans citizens in Bangladesh via email or cell phone. However, if a natural disaster, personal crisis, or other emergency strikes;

we look to our wardens for help.

Who can become a Warden?

If you are you an American citizen over 18 years of age living/residing in Bangladesh and you are willing to help your fellow citizens, please consider becoming a Warden. The U.S. Embassy needs your assistance if you are living in the following areas: **Dhaka Zone -4** (Shantinagar, Sabujbagh, Khilgaon, Moghbazar, Mugdapara, Rup Nagara, Shahzadpur, Rampura, Badda, Noya Nagar, Siddeshwari and Malibagh)

Dhaka Zone-8

(Bashundhara, Khilhet, Uttara, Tongi),

Please contact us at DhakaACS@state.gov with your name and contact information. Also let us know how long you have been in country and your anticipated length of stay in Bangladesh. Please note that we assign wardens based on their locations, so make sure to provide the address where you reside. We will review the submissions and contact selected volunteers.

Thank you for your interest!



Personal Security - At Home, On the Street, While Traveling

Continuation from previous edition of Newsletter....

Personal Security While Traveling

- Leave contact numbers with appropriate members of family or relatives.
- Check plane, train, and bus times before you travel.
- Sit near other people or near aisles or doors. Learn the location of emergency alarms and exits.
- Stay awake and alert when using public transportation.
- Consider purchasing special clothing or accessories to hide your passport, money, or credit cards. Keep the majority of your funds in travelers checks and hidden; carry some in your wallet or handbag.

Use a money clip. If you are robbed, you may lose the money in the clip but will retain important credit cards and documents.

- Keep valuables out of sight and luggage close at hand. If carrying a handbag, keep it in front of you, closed, with the fastening toward your body. Keep a wallet in your front pants pocket.
- Let go if your bag is snatched.
- Do some research on the area you are visiting.
- When traveling, dress casually; dress down where appropriate. Be aware of local customs.
- Don't wear excess jewelry. Reduce wallet and purse contents, particularly cards denoting affiliations, memberships, accounts, etc.

- At airports, proceed through security checks and go to the boarding area as quickly as possible. These areas are usually the most secure in the airport.
- In any crowded situation, be aware of any crowding or jostling, even if it appears innocent. This is often a ploy by pickpockets to distract you.
- Be very careful any time you use a telephone calling card. Fraudulent uses of these cards are on the rise. Look for people observing your card or your fingers as you dial your code. Avoid being heard giving the number to local telephone operators.

Keep an eye in the next newsletter for the rest of the article.....

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: 880 2 5566-2000

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

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

Diplomacy in Action

Upcoming Embassy Closures

Stay Connected



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tu	W	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Martin Luther King's	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2018

Sun	Mo	Tu	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 President's Day	19	20	21 Martyrs Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Note: March has only one holiday on the 26th (Monday) as 'Independence Day'.