

US, UK issue travel alert for Europe

AFP, Washington/London

The US State Department issued a formal alert Sunday warning Americans travelling in Europe to remain vigilant against "the potential for terrorist attacks" and urging precaution in public places and transportation systems.

Britain's foreign ministry on updated Sunday its advice for citizens travelling France and Germany, warning there was a "high threat of terrorism" in the two European countries.

"We can confirm that the travel advice for France and Germany has been updated," a Foreign Office spokeswoman told AFP.

"Like other large European countries, they have a high threat of terrorism, which is reflected in our updated travel advice."

The updated travel advice for France and Germany on the Foreign Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) said that "attacks could be indiscriminate, including in public places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers".

It came shortly after the US State Department issued a travel alert for Europe in general, warning of "the potential for terrorist attacks" and urging Americans to take precautions in public places and transport systems.

"Current information suggests that al-Qaeda and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks," the State Department said in its alert.

"US citizens should take every precaution to be aware of their surroundings and to adopt appropriate safety measures to protect themselves when travelling."

It said attackers may use "a variety of means and weapons and target both official and private

interests," and that particular targets could be railways, subways and other tourist infrastructure.

The alert -- which the State Department issues regarding specific events, and is one step down from a travel warning -- follows intelligence reports, which suggested an al-Qaeda attack could be imminent.

"European governments have taken action to guard against a terrorist attack and some have spoken publicly about the heightened threat conditions," the State Department said.

US officials on Saturday said such an alert was likely.

"The bottom line would be to tell Americans to continue to travel but be vigilant," a US official told AFP on Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another US government official told AFP the State Department would take "further actions as appropriate."

"We have been and continue to be focused on al-Qaeda's interest in attacking us, our allies and our interests. We will spare no effort to thwart terrorists' plans, and will take further actions as appropriate," the official said.

News media in the past week reported that Western intelligence agencies had uncovered an al-Qaeda plot to launch attacks in Britain, France, Germany and the United States.

The reports said well-armed, commando-style teams of jihadists planned to seize and murder Western hostages in a manner similar to the attacks two years ago in the Indian city of Mumbai on two hotels and its main railway station, in which 10 gunmen killed 166 people and injured more than 300.



The wife weeps as she sits with her children mourning the death of Ezzedine Kawasba, 38, (photo) during his funeral in the Israeli occupied West Bank village of Saair, west of the town of Hebron yesterday. Kawasba, the father of five was killed by an Israeli border guard after he allegedly tried to grab his gun when detained while trying to cross into east Jerusalem from the West Bank, a police official said.

Iraqi Kurds hold political cards for al-Maliki

AP, Sulaimaniyah

Kurdish lawmakers began Saturday to plot their course as Iraq's kingmakers with enough seats to secure a second term for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and press key demands, including a greater say over the oil riches in the country's north.

The Kurds, who control a semiautonomous northern enclave, emerged as the pivotal votes after al-Maliki's Shia-led coalition received a major boost Friday from a powerful Shia cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, who once opposed him. The support pushed al-Maliki close to a majority grip in the 325-seat parliament, but he needs help from other factions to break a nearly seven-month impasse.

A Sunni-backed coalition led by former prime minister Ayad Allawi, narrowly won March elections, yet without enough clout to control parliament and oust al-Maliki, leaving the country in political limbo.

Eventual Kurdish support for al-Maliki is anticipated. But first the Kurds are expected to lobby for their long list of issues, topped by a call for referendum to decide control of the oil-rich Kirkuk region that is now under Baghdad's sway.

Bosnians vote amid pessimism, division

REUTERS, Sarajevo

Bosnians voted yesterday in an election that may decide whether their divided country moves closer toward the European Union and Nato in the next four years or sinks deeper into stagnation.

Since the last vote in 2006, mistrust has deepened between nationalist Croat, Serb and Muslim leaders, and political divisions have widened between the country's two regions, the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb Republic.

"I am voting to replace the politicians who made this country stagnate for more than 15 years. It is about time they left," said Emina Sejdic, 59, who was among the first Sarajevoans to cast ballots when the polls opened at 7 a.m. (2 am EDT).

Since the 1992-95 war that killed about 100,000 people, Bosnia has held five general elections but has lagged in political and economic reforms and remains near the back of the queue of Western Balkan nations aspiring to EU and Nato entry.

More than 3.1 million registered voters can cast ballots for Serb, Croat and Muslim presidency members and deputies in the central, regional and cantonal parliaments, as well as a new president and vice-president of the Serb Republic.

Valentin Inzko, the international envoy who oversees the country's peace, has called on citizens to go out and vote.

"Please, get out and vote on Sunday," the Austrian diplomat told Bosnians. "This is your country, and it is your democratic responsibility to decide about its future."

SECESSION CALL

The country of nearly 3.9 million people in the heart of the Balkans has forests, coal and rapid rivers that make it the region's sole power exporter.

But the economy, which saw double-digit growth after the war as \$15 billion in international aid flowed in, has been slowed in the past few years by burdensome administration, corruption and bickering politicians.

"We just ask for economic changes and for a better situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Semir Sinanovic from Sarajevo, who is unemployed.

Mideast to expel US from the region

Says Ahmadinejad

AFP, Tehran

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday that Middle East nations will expel the United States from the region with a "kick in the butt," as he launched a vitriolic tirade against Iran's arch-foes.

"They have such nerve to threaten us and say all options are on the table. May the undertaker take you, your tables... away as you have dragged the world in mud," the hardliner was quoted as saying.

"If you don't leave the region, you should know that soon the nations of the region will expel you with a kick in the butt," he said in some of his harshest anti-US comments in recent times.

The United States and Israel accuse Iran of seeking nuclear weapons and have never ruled out a military strike to curb Tehran's atomic programme, which Iran insists has only peaceful aims.

The Iranian leader went on to cast fresh doubts on the September 11, 2001 terror attacks on the United States.

No talks until Israel halts settlements: PLO

REUTERS, Ramallah

Direct talks with Israel will not resume unless it halts the building of Jewish settlements on occupied land, the Palestinian leadership said on Saturday.

US-backed peace talks, launched a month ago in Washington, were plunged into crisis this week by the end of a 10-month Israeli moratorium on new settlement building in the West Bank. Israel has said it will not extend the freeze.

"The resumption of talks requires tangible steps, the first of them a freeze on settlements," Yasser Abed Rabbo, a senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official, said after a meeting of the body's executive committee in Ramallah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have held three rounds of face-to-face negotiations since September 2.

"The Palestinian leadership holds Israel responsible for obstructing the negotiations," said Abed Rabbo. Abbas, head of the PLO, chaired the meeting.

US envoy George Mitchell, who met Arab League head Amr Moussa and intelligence chief Omar Suleiman in Cairo on Saturday, said the United States remained committed to

a two-state solution despite challenges.

"Peace in the region and an independent and viable state for the Palestinian people will be realistically achieved through direct negotiations," Mitchell told reporters.

"This is a difficult process... We know there have been and will be many more obstacles, but we must work to overcome the challenges and we are doing so," he said.

Asked about possible options to resolve the impasse, Moussa said there were solutions but declined to elaborate ahead of an Arab League summit in Libya on Oct 8.

Netanyahu called on Abbas to continue negotiating.

"Just one month ago the Palestinians entered direct peace talks, without preconditions, after my government made a series of unilateral gestures to get the talks moving," Netanyahu said in a statement after the PLO decision.

"I hope now they will not turn their backs on peace and continue the talks in order to reach a framework agreement in a year," he said.

The end of the settlement freeze had been flagged as an early stumbling block facing President Barack Obama's attempt to reach a Middle East peace deal within a year. Israel imposed the freeze under US pressure.

ECUADOR REVOLT Three police colonels face investigation

AP, Quito

Three police colonels were under criminal investigation Saturday for failing to prevent a massive protest by their subordinates against President Rafael Correa that spun out of control, claiming at least five lives.

The three are being investigated for negligence, rebellion and attempted assassination, said Prosecutor Gonzalo Marco Freire.

Correa arrested on Friday, they were released Saturday on their own recognizance by a judge who barred from leaving the country.

Freire told The Associated Press that the three "should have known what their subordinates were doing." They are: Quito's metropolitan police chief, the provincial police commander and the head of the barracks where Correa was roughed up and tear gassed when he went to confront angry police.

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Assistant Vice President (AVP)/ Sr. Assistant Vice President (SAVP)/ Vice President (VP) (As Head of Branch and Manager Operation)	Candidate should be a graduate with 10 years (for AVP), 12 years (for SAVP), and 16 years (for VP) practical working experience in all areas of Banking operations including 4/5 years managerial experience in any urban Branch(es) of the commercial Bank(s). Age : Not over 45 years.
Senior Officer (SO)/ Executive Officer (EO)/ Principal Officer (PO)/ Senior Principal Officer (SPO)	MBA/BBA/Post Graduate degree in any discipline with minimum 3 years (for SO), 4 years (for EO), 6 years (for PO) and 8 years (for SPO) experience in Banking for service with adequate practical working experience in General Banking, Credit and Foreign Exchange (Export & Import). Age : Not over 40 years.

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CONCERN worldwide

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to elimination of extreme poverty. Currently we have opening for the following core positions :

Head of Haor Context Programme

This is a Senior Management position.

The Head of Haor Context Programme is responsible for ensuring commitment to the extremely poor people in Haor areas through delivering a quality development programme which unlocks community potential, impacts on poverty and results in lasting positive change.

Major areas of responsibility:

- To develop and lead a programme, which is based on a sound understanding of people's circumstances and how this contributes to their poverty in Haor areas.
- To lead the Haor Context Programme Team, in a manner that empowers them to deliver high quality programmes and deliver lasting changes to the lives of the beneficiaries.
- To enable pro-poor change through effective advocacy, which identifies and tackles critical factors impacting on poor people.
- To ensure the programme contributes actively to the learning process of the organisation, adopts best practices and embraces cross cutting themes.
- To ensure optimal use of financial, human and material resources within Concern work; in a transparent and accountable manner consistent with Concern's systems and procedures delivering quality results and demonstrating value for money.
- As a member of the Senior Management Team, to provide effective leadership to the organisation.

The candidate we are looking for will have a Masters Degree with at least 8 years progressively responsible professional work experience at senior level in participatory programme designing, proposal writing for donor funding, management, monitoring, and evaluation, within a development organisation/NGO. Experience of managing a team of senior staff including expatriate staff, proven ability to conceptualize and develop programmes in Bangladesh, experience in networking and liaison with GoB high level officials, donors and NGOs, knowledge and experience of latest developments in the Haor areas and international work experience would be an advantage.

Head of Socially Excluded Minorities Programme

This is a Senior Management position.

The Head of Socially Excluded Minorities Programme is responsible for ensuring commitment to people who are extremely poor and socially excluded through delivering a quality development programme which unlocks community potential, impacts on poverty and results in lasting positive change.

Major areas of responsibility:

- To develop and lead a programme, which is based on a sound understanding of people's circumstances and how this contributes to their poverty due to their marginalization and exclusion.
- To lead the Socially Excluded Minorities Programme Team, in a manner that empowers them to deliver high quality programmes and deliver lasting changes to the lives of the beneficiaries.
- To enable pro-poor change through effective advocacy, which identifies and tackles critical factors impacting on poor people.
- To ensure the programme contributes actively to the learning process of the organisation, adopts best practices and embraces cross cutting themes.
- To ensure optimal use of financial, human and material resources within Concern work; in a transparent and accountable manner consistent with Concern's systems and procedures delivering quality results and demonstrating value for money.
- As a member of the Senior Management Team, to provide effective leadership to the organisation.

The candidate we are looking for will have a Masters Degree with at least 8 years progressively responsible professional work experience at senior level in participatory programme designing, proposal writing for donor funding, management, monitoring, and evaluation, within a development organisation/NGO. Understanding of latest development in the areas of socially excluded minorities and experience of managing programmes with socially marginalized groups is essential. Experience of managing a team of senior staff including expatriate staff, proven ability to conceptualize and develop programmes in Bangladesh, experience in networking and liaison with GoB high level officials, donors and NGOs.

If you feel that your qualification and experience matches with our requirements, and you share a commitment to Concern's values and vision, please forward an application letter and a CV to: Concern Worldwide, Human Resources Department, House # 15 SW (D), Road # 07, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 or by email to: recruitment.bgd@concern.net

Equal opportunities: Concern values diversity in the workplace and is a committed equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from all suitable candidates regardless of gender, race, family or marital status, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability, class, caste or religion. Anyone working for Concern must agree to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Concern Staff Code of Conduct and the Programme Participant Protection Policy. Each of which is intended to ensure the appropriate behaviour of Concern staff and ensure the maximum protection of programme participants.

Please mark the position applied for on the envelope or in the email subject line. Any canvassing will result in disqualification.

Closing date for applications: October 11, 2010.

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