

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Nationwide Hartal (General Strike) Called for Thursday, October 12, 2017

October 11, 2017

Jamaat-e-Islami, an Islamist political group, has called for a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal on Thursday, October 12, in reaction to the arrest and remand of its top leaders. "Dawn-to-dusk" hartals almost always officially begin at 6:00 a.m. on the day they are called, and generally end at 6:00 p.m. on the same day. However, hartal organizers and supporters will often informally begin their protests the night before the hartal is scheduled to commence. Due to this, extra caution and vigilance should be exercised tonight at 6:00 PM and should continue until 6:00 PM on Thursday.

In Bangladesh, a hartal is a mass protest and recognized political method for articulating a political demand. A hartal may or may not affect local transportation services, schools, shopping malls, and infrastructure. Extra caution and vigilance should be taken to avoid large crowds and protests. As always, be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the [U.S. Embassy in Dhaka](#), Bangladesh, located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, at (88) (02) 5566-2000, *8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.* Sunday through Thursday. Weekends and After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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Dhaka, Bangladesh