

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Nationwide Strike or Hartal called for Thursday, November 30, 2017

November 29, 2017

According to local news sources, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Samajtantrik (BSD), and other left-leaning political parties have called for a six-hour nationwide hartal on Thursday, November 30, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon in reaction to nationwide electricity price hikes.

The U.S. Embassy informs U.S. citizens that the hartals are expected to take place throughout Dhaka Thursday, November 30, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon. However, local experience has shown that hartal organizers and supporters often begin their protests the night before a hartal is scheduled to commence. As a result, extra caution and vigilance should be exercised from Wednesday, November 29 beginning at 6 p.m. and should continue until 12 noon, Thursday, November 30.

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 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 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
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American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh