

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Demonstration Notice
General Strike or Hartal in Sylhet District on Thursday, August 29, 2013.

A local faction of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party has called for a general strike, or hartal in the Sylhet District on Thursday, August 29, 2013 until 6:00 p.m.

A hartal is a mass protest, and can involve a total shutdown of the country. It is a recognized political method for articulating any political demand. Hartals can turn violent if the population, or political groups, enforce the shut down. Violence can also occur the evening/night before a hartal. We advise all U.S. citizens to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel to that part of the country.

The U.S. Embassy is taking a prudent approach to ensure the safety of all of its employees.

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.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Bangladesh at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the [U.S. Embassy, Dhaka](#) for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter at <https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/travelgov>, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8> to have travel information at your fingertips.

The regular work week for the American Citizen Services Unit is Sunday through Wednesday, 08:00-16:00 hours. Emergency American Citizens Services are available at all times. The [U.S. Embassy in Dhaka](#) is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, and by telephone at (88) (02) 882-3805 during regular hours. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (88) (02) 885-5500. For after-hours emergency services please press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

Please monitor the local media for updates. English language local news is available on the following channels at the following times:

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| BTV: | 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. |
| ATN Bangla: | 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. |
| ATN News: | 7:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. |
| NTV: | Airs the VOA program "Washington Barta" every Friday at 00:30 a.m. |
| Bangla Vision: | 6:00 p.m. |
| Boishakhi: | 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. |
| Maasranga: | 5:00 p.m. |
| Independent: | 10:00 p.m. |
| Diganta: | 6:00 p.m. |
| ABC Radio: | Broadcasts English bulletins at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. |

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