

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Message for U.S. citizens
Bishwa Ijtema
January 23, 2014

Islam's second-largest annual gathering after the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah – *Bishwa Ijtema* – is held in Bangladesh. This year the event will be held in two phases. The first phase will take place January 24-26 (Fri-Sun) and January 31-February 2 (Fri-Sun), 2014 on the banks of the Turag River in Tongi. The main gathering point is about 3 km north of the Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport. The government expects between three and four million visitors from around the world to attend the Ijtema this year.

The Ijtema leads to major traffic disruptions in Dhaka every year. We expect disruptions at **Mohakhali, Kakoli, Nikunja, Natun Bazar (the highway in front of the U.S. Embassy), Khilkhet, Uttara and Tongi**. Due to events associated with the Ijtema road closures are possible.

The Airport Road and all roads from Gazipur Chourasta to Kuril may be blocked with traffic on the above-mentioned dates; remain alert while traveling in proximity to those areas. Travelers going to and from the airport will be allowed to use Airport Road upon showing their airline tickets to traffic police. If you are planning to travel over these weekends, please bear in mind that this event will result in increased air travel into and out of Bangladesh.

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.

American Citizens Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh