

**United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
**Message for U.S. Citizens**  
**Traffic Disruptions for Bishwa Ijtema Annual Gathering (Jan 9-11 and Jan 16-18)**  
**January 8, 2015**

Islam's second-largest annual gathering after the Hajj, "Bishwa Ijtema," will take place January 9-11 (Fri-Sun) and January 16-18 (Fri-Sun), 2015 on the banks of the Turag River in Tongi. The main gathering point is about 3 km north of the International Airport. The government expects between three and four million visitors from around the world will attend the Ijtema this year.

The Ijtema leads to major traffic disruptions in Dhaka every year. We expect disruptions at **Mohakhali, Kakoli, Nikunja, Progoti Sharani (the road in front of the U.S. Embassy), Khilkhet, Uttara and Tongi.**

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

**General Security Guidance:** U.S. citizens are reminded to exercise vigilance when traveling in Dhaka as demonstrations can occur with little warning. As always, avoid crowds and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](http://www.Travel.State.Gov) at [www.Travel.State.Gov](http://www.Travel.State.Gov). 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](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information](#) for Bangladesh. For additional information, refer to our [Travelers Checklist](#).

You can visit the U.S. Embassy Dhaka web page ([dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)) for up-to-date information on travel restrictions or call the Embassy directly at (88) (02) 5566-2000. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in 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](#) and [Facebook](#).

The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212 and is open Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (88) (02) 5566-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizens Services  
U.S. Embassy  
Dhaka, Bangladesh