

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Message for U.S. Citizens
Traffic Disruptions for Bishwa Ijtema Annual Gathering (Jan 8-10 and Jan 15-17)

January 5, 2016

Islam's second-largest annual gathering after the Hajj, "Bishwa Ijtema," will take place January 8-10 (Fri-Sun) and January 15-17 (Fri-Sun), 2016 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 Annex), 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 to changing traffic conditions. 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. 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, you can enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

You may also regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#) for current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information](#) for Bangladesh. For additional information, refer to our [Travelers Checklist](#).

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 (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).

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