

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Nationwide Strike or Hartal Called for Thursday, May 12, 2016

May 11, 2016

Jamaat-e-Islami, a political group, has called for a nationwide “twenty-four hour” hartal on Thursday, May 12 to protest the execution of one of the defendants convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal. This “twenty-four hour” hartal will begin at 5:00 a.m. on the day it is called and will end at 5:00 a.m. on the following day. However, hartal organizers and supporters will often begin their protests the night before a hartal is scheduled to commence.

Additionally, Jamaat-e-Islami has called for a three day program of prayer and protest beginning on Wednesday, May 11. Extra caution and vigilance should also be considered over the weekend.

A hartal is a mass protest and recognized political method for articulating a political demand. As always, you should remain vigilant, avoid crowds and 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, *8:00 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 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 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Note: The timestamp on this e-mail message may reflect Washington, D.C., time, which may differ from local time.

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh