



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Dhaka (Bangladesh), Continued Vigilance

Riots/Civil Unrest

South Central Asia > Bangladesh > Dhaka

9/27/2012

The past two weeks have seen a number of protests around the Dhaka area. Some of them have formed with very little notice. While there is no specific information regarding planned protests for this weekend, all U.S. citizens are reminded that large unscheduled events occur frequently and usually spill out on to the road, making it impassable. Baitul Mukarram Mosque (National Mosque), Muktangan (bordered by Baitul Mukarram Mosque to the east, the General Post Office or GPO to the south, the Secretariat to the West, and Topkhana Road to the North), and Topkhana-Motijheel Road should be avoided on Fridays from noon to 6:00 pm. U.S. citizens encouraged to exercise continued vigilance and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

In particular, U.S. citizens are reminded that unpredictable processions or demonstrations may occur with little or no advance warning. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. Be alert and aware at all times - in addition to possible violence, large crowds attract pick-pocketing. All individuals are reminded to carry their mobile phones with them at all times. U.S. citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

The Embassy also reminds all U.S. citizens that recognizing changes in the normal environment is the key to staying safe regardless of circumstances. U.S. citizens should be aware that travel could be affected should the situation deteriorate.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs internet website, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, Travel Warnings, and Country Specific Information can be found. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well. You can also download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your



fingertips.

U.S. citizens resident or traveling to Bangladesh are urged to enroll with the U.S. Embassy via the Department of State's on-line enrollment service through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). Travel enrollment allows the Department of State to contact its citizens in the event of an emergency and to provide up-to-date safety and security information. Enrollees wishing to receive such information must provide an e-mail address with their enrollment. All enrollees are urged to provide complete contact information and a departure date when signing up on-line.

The regular work week for the American Citizen Services Unit is Sunday through Wednesday, 08:00-16:30 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) 885-5500 during regular hours and for after-hours emergencies. For after-hours emergency services please press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers in other areas, by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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

BTV - 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.
Bangla Vision – 6:00 p.m.
Diganta – 8:30 p.m.