

Country Profile

Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country on 16 December 1971 following a nine-month WAR OF LIBERATION. Dhaka (previously spelt Dacca) is its capital.

INFORMATION BRIEF

Official name: People's Republic of Bangladesh (Gana Prajatantri Bangladesh).

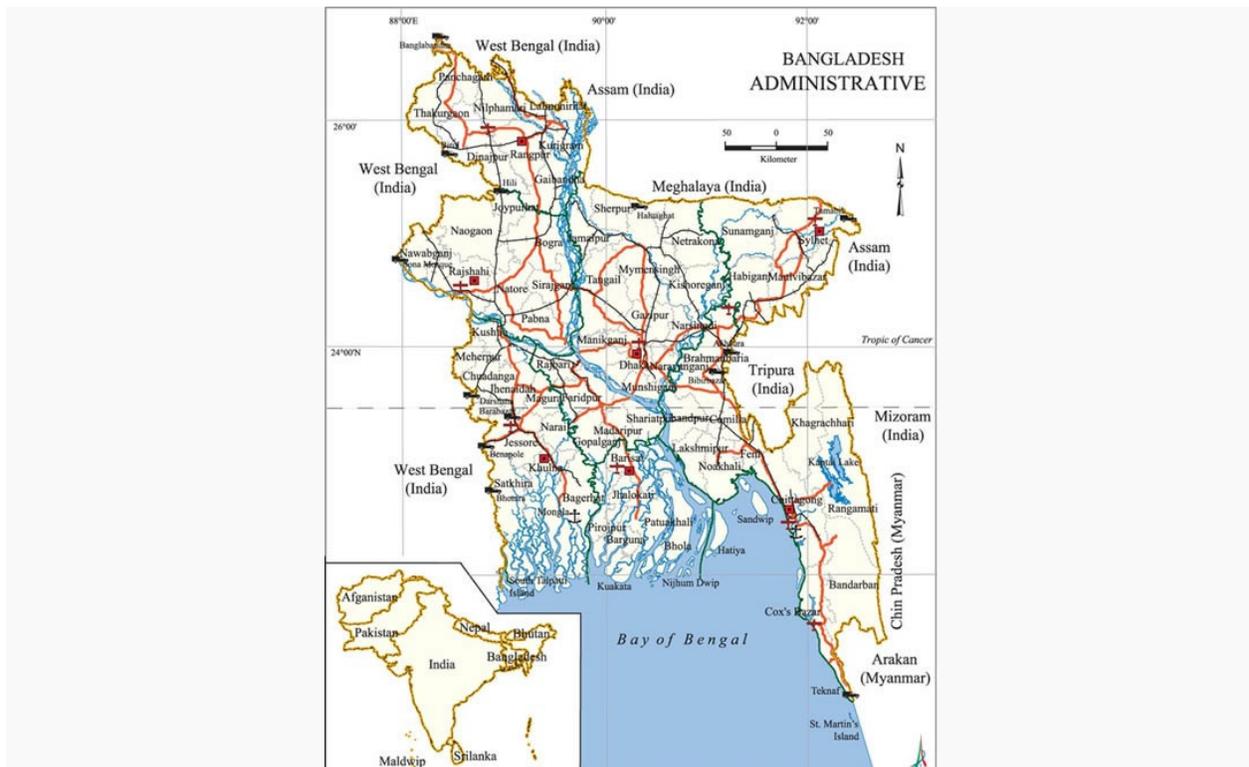
Capital: Dhaka.

Government Parliamentary form of government, PRESIDENT is head of the State and PRIME MINISTER is head of government.

UNO member: UNO membership no 136, admitted on 17 September, 1974.

Geographical location: In South Asia, between 20°34' to 26°38' north latitude and 88°01' to 92°41' east longitude. Maximum extension is about 440 km in E-W direction and 760 km in NNW-SSE direction.

Time GMT +6.00 hours.



Area and boundaries Area: 147,570 sq km. Boundaries: WEST BENGAL (India) on the west; West Bengal, ASSAM and Meghalaya (all the Indian states) on the north; Indian states of Assam, TRIPURA and Mizoram together with Myanmar on the east; and BAY OF BENGAL on the south. The total length of the land border is about 4,246 km, of which 93.9% is shared with India and the rest

6% with Myanmar. Limit of territorial water is 12 nautical miles (22.22 km) and the area of the high seas extending to 200 nautical miles (370.40 km) measured from the baselines constitutes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Administrative unit's division: 7

(Dhaka, [CHITTAGONG](#), [KHULNA](#), [RAJSHAHI](#), [BARISAL](#), [SYLHET](#) and [RANGPUR](#)); district 64; upazila 483 and thana 599 (2008), union 4,498 (2008), mouza 59,990, village 87,362; city corporation 6 (Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal); municipality 309 (2008).

Physiography: A humid low-lying alluvial region, Bangladesh is composed mainly of the great combined [DELTA](#) of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna rivers. It is one of the largest deltas in the world. The monotony of flatness has been relieved inland by two elevated tracts - the [MADHUPUR](#) and the [BARIND TRACTS](#), and on the northeast and southeast by rows of hills. Some 75% of the land is less than 3m above mean sea level (MSL) and vulnerable to floods and cyclones. The maximum elevation is 1,280m above MSL at Saichal Range in [RANGAMATI](#) district. Tajingdong is the highest peak and called as Bijoy.

Rivers: Total rivers including tributaries and distributaries are about 700 under three mighty river systems: [GANGES-PADMA RIVER SYSTEM](#), [BRAHMAPUTRA-JAMUNA RIVER SYSTEM](#) and [SURMA-MEGHNA RIVER SYSTEM](#). Rivers of the southeastern hilly region are considered as the [CHITTAGONG REGION RIVER SYSTEM](#). Principal rivers are: ganges, padma, brahmaputra, jamuna, surma, kushiyara, meghna, karnafuli, old brahmaputra, arial khan, buriganga, shitalakshya, tista, atrai, gorai, madhumati, kobadak, rupsa-pashur, feni.

Climate: Sub-tropical [MONSOON](#). Average maximum and minimum winter temperatures are 29°C and 11°C respectively; average maximum and minimum summer temperatures are 34°C and 21°C respectively. Annual [RAINFALL](#) 1,194 mm to 3,454 mm. Highest humidity 80% to 100% (August-September), lowest 36% (February-March).

Archaeological sites: [PAHARPUR](#) (5 km west of Jamalganj railway station in Joypurhat district, actually the site includes the Badalgachi upazila of Naogaon district), [MAHASTHANGARH](#) (about 12 km north of Bogra town, the site includes partly Shibganj and partly Bogra Sadar upazilas of Bogra district), [BHASU VIHARA](#) (about 4.8-6.4 km northwest of Mahasthangarh), [MAINAMATI](#) (8 km west of Comilla town), [HALUD VIHARA](#) (about 14.5 km west-south-west of Paharpur), [SITAKOT VIHARA](#) (Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur district), [WARI-BATESHWAR](#) (Narsingdi).

Tourist spots:

[COX'S BAZAR](#), [RANGAMATI](#), [CHITTAGONG](#), [SYLHET](#), [KUAKATA](#) (Patuakhali), [SUNDARBANS](#) (Khulna). The 120-km long Cox's Bazar sea beach is considered to be the longest in the world. Kuakata is a unique beach for viewing sunrise as well as sun-setting.

Population (2008) total population 146.6 million; density 993 persons per sq km, annual growth rate' 1.39%, male-female ratio 104:100, urban population 37.4 million, rural population 109.2 million. Life expectancy at birth (2008) 66.9 years. At the point of ethnicity Bangladeshi people are amalgamation of Dravidian, Proto-Australoid, Mongoloid, and Aryan. Tribal people with a population of just over 1.2 million occupy mainly khagrachhari, bandarban, Rangamati, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, habiganj, Sylhet, sunamganj, mauvi bazar, dinajpur, joypurhat, Rajshahi, naogaon, rangpur, bogra, nawabganj, mymensingh, netrokona, barguna and bhola districts. There are some 45 tribal groups in Bangladesh and among those chakma, garo, hajong, khasia, magh, santals, rakhain, manipuri, murong are notable.

Religion: Muslims 88.3%, Hindus 10.5%, Buddhists 0.6%, Christian 0.5% and others 0.1%.

Language National Language: Bangla (99.5% speak Bangla and 0.5% other dialects). English is the second most important language.

Food Staple diet: rice, wheat, vegetable, pulses, fish and meat.

Principal crops: jute, rice, wheat, potato, tea, tobacco, sugarcane.

Principal fruits: [MANGO](#) (am), [JACKFRUIT](#) (kanthal), black berry (jam), [PINEAPPLE](#) (anarax), [BANANA](#) (kala), [LITCHI](#) (lichu), [LEMON](#) (lebu), [GUAVA](#) (peyara), [PAPAYA](#) (pepe), tamarind (tentul), watermelon (tarmuj), rose apple (jamrul), jujube (badai).

Principal fishes: Freshwater fishes: [HILSA](#) (Ilix) [*Tenualosa ilisha*]; [CARPS](#) (Rui, Catla, Mrigal, Kalibaux, etc); barbs (Punti, Mahaxol, etc); minnows (Darkina, Chela, Mola, etc); catfishes (Tebgra, Aid, Shingi, Magur, etc); Climbing Perch (Koi), [*Anabas testudineus*]. Saline water fishes: Jew fishes (Poa), thread-fins (Tapasi), mullets (Bata), pomfrets (Rupchanda), etc.

Flora: 6000 species (5000 flowering plants).

Fauna Vertebrates: about 1600 species; [FISH](#): 266 inland species and 442 marine species; [AMPHIBIANS](#): 22 species; [REPTILES](#) 126 species (109 inland and 17 marine); [BIRDS](#): 628 species (388 resident and 240 migratory); [MAMMALS](#): 113 species (110 inland and 3 marine).

Forest: Total 21403 sq km. Hill forest land 13,617 sq km; Inland forest land 1,220 sq km; Littoral forest 6,566 sq km.

National days: Shaheed Dibas (Martyrs' Day) on 21 February now observed as [INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY](#); Swadhinata Dibas ([INDEPENDENCE DAY](#)) on 26 March; [PAHELA BAISHAKH](#) or Bangla Nababarsa (Bangla New Year); Bijoy Dibas ([VICTORY DAY](#)) on 16 December.

Festivals Common: Navanna, [PAHELA BAISHAKH](#) (Bangla Nababarsha). Religious: Muslim [EID-UL FITR](#), [EID-UL AZHA](#), [SHAB-E-QADR](#), [SHAB-E-BARAT](#), Eid-e-Miladunnabi, [MUHARRAM](#); Hindu [DURGA PUJA](#), [KALI PUJA](#), [LAKSMI PUJA](#), Saraswati puja, Doljatra, Holi; Christian [CHRISTMAS](#); Buddhist [BUDDHA PURNIMA](#).

Games: [KABADI](#) is the national game;

Football, CRICKET, HOCKEY, TENNIS, BADMINTON, VOLLEYBALL, HANDBALL, CHESS and carom are also popular games.

National flower: Shapla or water lily (*Nymphaea pubescens*).

National fruit: Kanthal or jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*).

National bird: Doel or [MAGPIE-ROBIN](#) or Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*).

National fish: Ilish hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*).

National animal: Bagh or [BENGAL TIGER](#), well known as Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*). [Masud Hasan Chowdhury]