



## Interesting fact about Bangladesh - Geography, Polity, National flag

Hey aspirant, welcome back to our captivating “**Know your Country**” series. This time, we invite you to join on an exploration of the remarkable country that is **Bangladesh**. Bangladesh is a beautiful country in south Asia, known for rich culture, history, and natural beauty.

**Bangladesh** is known as the **Gana Prajatantri**. Bangladesh, to the east of India on the Bay of Bengal, is a South Asian country marked by lush greenery and many waterways. Bangladesh is a country in Southern Asia and is located on the Bay of Bengal bordered by India on all sides except for a small border with Burma. Before looking at different aspects, one must know the country symbols of the particular country. The country **symbols of Bangladesh** are:



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Bangladesh	
<b>Official Name</b>	People's Republic of Bangladesh
<b>Capital</b>	Dhaka
<b>Continent</b>	Asia
<b>President</b>	Mohammed Shahabuddin
<b>Prime Minister</b>	Sheikh Hasina
<b>Currency</b>	Bangladeshi Taka
<b>Language</b>	Bangla English
<b>Religion</b>	Sunni Muslims and Hindus
<b>National Flag</b>	
<b>National Anthem</b>	Amar Shonar Bangla
<b>National Game</b>	Kabaddi
<b>National Bird</b>	The magpie robin
<b>National Tree</b>	Mangifera indica (Mango tree)
<b>National Flower</b>	water lily

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[Source: Asia property award]

So now, let's move on the first aspect of the blog i.e. **History of Bangladesh.**

## History of Bangladesh

History of Bangladesh as a civilized nation goes back for more than four millennia to the Chalcolithic. Bangladesh is known for its vibrant history, ancient archeology, rich culture and beautiful landscape. Some of the oldest Islamic, Buddhist, and Hindu archeological relics can be found in Bangladesh.

### Ancient and Early Medieval Period:

For most of its history, the area known as Bangladesh was a political backwater an observer rather than a participant in the great political and military events of the Indian subcontinent. In ancient times, the area now known as Bangladesh was the eastern portion of a huge river delta region called Bang, where the Ganges and Brahmaputra River systems empty into the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. The region became known as Bengal in more modern time.





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[Source: National Archive]

## Medieval Period:

The Medieval Age in Bengal began with the assumption of power by the Muslims. Before the advent of the Muslims, people belonging to the Hindu and the Buddhist religions lived in Bengal. The Muslims under the leadership of Bakhtiar Khalji entered Bengal as a royal power in the beginning of the thirteenth century.

## Colonial Period:

European colonialism ceased in 1947 but it was followed by Pakistani colonial rule (1947–71), and one way of describing the period since 1971 is as a period of neo-colonial domination. A vital development under British rule was the rise of Calcutta to political and cultural prominence.

## Independence and Beyond:

Independence of Bangladesh was declared on 26 March 1971, celebrated as Independence Day, from Pakistan. The Independence Day of Bangladesh is celebrated on 26 March when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Liberation War started on 26 March and lasted till 16 December 1971 which is celebrated as Victory Day in Bangladesh. There is a dispute along partisan line on who declared the Independence of Bangladesh. Before going further we will get discuss about the events of the country.

## Here is the timeline of some key events in Bangladesh:

- **1947** - British colonial rule over India ends.
- **1949** - The Awami League is established to campaign for East Pakistan's autonomy from West Pakistan.
- **1970** - The Awami League wins an overwhelming election victory in East Pakistan.
- **1971** - Awami League proclaims independence of the province as Bangladesh. Pakistan is defeated in war, with Indian assistance.
- **1972** - League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman becomes prime minister and begins a programme of nationalising key industries.
- **1974** - Severe floods devastate much of the grain crop, leading to an estimated 28,000 deaths.
- **1975** - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is assassinated in a military coup in August. Martial law is imposed.
- **1983** - Limited political activity is permitted.
- **2004** - Parliament amends constitution to reserve 45 seats for female MPs

The timeline showcases Bangladesh as a rich and diverse history in a simple way. Let's move on to the next aspect of this blog i.e. **Geographical Aspects**.



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## Geographical Aspects of Bangladesh

The physical geography of Bangladesh is varied and has an area characterised by two distinctive features: a broad deltaic plain subject to frequent flooding, and a small hilly region crossed by swiftly flowing rivers.



[Source: National Geographic Education Blog]

## Demographical Aspects:

The 2023 population density in Bangladesh is 1329 people per Km<sup>2</sup>, calculated on a total land area of 130,170 Km<sup>2</sup>. About (91.04%) of Bangladeshis are Muslims, followed by Hindus (largest-minority) at (7.95%), Buddhists (0.61%) and Christians (0.30%) and others (0.12%) as per 2023 census. Bangladesh has one of the highest population densities in the world.

Bangladesh is largely ethnically homogeneous. Indeed, its name derives from the Bengali ethno-linguistic group, which comprises 98% of the population. Bengalis, who also predominate in the West Bengal province of India, are one of the most populous ethnic groups in the world. Variations in Bengali culture and language do exist of course. There are many dialects of Bengali spoken throughout the region.

## Soil and Vegetation:

Bangladesh has three broad types of soil; Flood Plain Soils, Brown Hill Soils, and Terrace Soils. Soil fertility level is low to medium. Moderately acidic throughout, low in organic matter content on the higher land, but moderate in the lower parts. Bangladesh in general possesses a luxuriant vegetation, with villages appearing to be buried in groves of mango, jackfruit, bamboo, betel nut, coconut and date palm. However, only a small portion of the country's land surface is covered with forests.

## Climate and Weather:

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Bangladesh has a humid, warm climate influenced by pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon circulations and frequently experiences heavy precipitation and tropical cyclones. Bangladesh's historical climate has experienced average temperatures around 26°C, but range between 15°C and 34°C throughout the year.

Bangladesh has a tropical monsoon-type climate, with a hot and rainy summer and a dry winter. January is the coolest month with temperatures averaging near 26 deg C and April the warmest with temperatures from 33 to 36 deg C.

Now, let's look at the **political aspects of Bangladesh**.

## Political Aspects of Bangladesh

The Constitution of Bangladesh was written in 1972 and has undergone seventeen amendments. The current parliamentary system was adopted in 1991. Between 1975 and 1990 the nation experienced military rule. A caretaker government was first introduced in 1990 after the resignation of military dictator Lieutenant General HM Ershad to observe a neutral democratic election, as per demands of the two major political parties Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Bangladesh Awami League.



[Source: The Financial Express]

- **Legislature:** The Constitution of Bangladesh designates the official name of the legislature Jatiya Sangsad in Bengali and House of the Nation in English. The term Sangsad a Bengali word for "Parliament", derives from the Sanskrit word Samśada
- **Judiciary:** The justice system comprises the Supreme Court, a nationwide system of criminal and civil courts, and magistrates' courts in the major cities. The Supreme Court judges are appointed by the President of the republic. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has been described in Article 94(1) of the Constitution of Bangladesh.
- **Executive:** Bangladesh is a unitary state and the central government has the authority to govern over the entirety of the nation. The seat of the government is located in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The executive government is led by the prime minister, who selects all the remaining ministers.



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Although Bangladesh has been under authoritarian regimes, it has been a democratic entity for a majority of the time since the country's foundation. The state of democracy can be judged by looking at the violations of the core principles of democracy as laid out by the United Nations.

So now, let's look at the **Culture of Bangladesh**.

## Culture of Bangladesh

The culture of Bangladesh is deeply intertwined with the culture of the Bengal region. Basically Bengali culture refers to the culture of Bangladesh. The Bengal Renaissance contained the seeds of a nascent political Indian nationalism which was the precursor in many ways to modern Indian artistic cultural expression.

### Language:

The predominant language of Bangladesh is Bengali. The Chakma language is another native of Bangladesh. Other tribal languages include Garo, Meitei, Kokborok and Rakhine.

### Cuisine:

Bangladeshi cuisine is the national cuisine of Bangladesh. It has been shaped by the region's history and river-line geography. The country has a tropical monsoon climate. The staple of Bangladesh is rice and fish.

### Festivals:

Pohela Boishakh is the biggest cultural event among all the festivals in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a country of colorful celebrations.

### Performing Art:

Performing arts in Bangladesh has a rich tradition. From ancient times, Jatra, Baulsong, Gombhira etc. presented through singing, dancing and play-acting.

### Sporting Culture:

Cricket is the most popular sport in Bangladesh followed by football. Ha-du-du is the national sport of Bangladesh.

### Art and Craft:



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Alpana and Nakshi kantha are some of the most attractive forms of Bangladeshi folk art. Pottery and Ivory are also some popular forms of the art. Narayanganj is famous for Jamdani and Muslin sarees. Cotton sarees, lungis, t-shirts are produced almost everywhere in Bangladesh.

## Cultural values:

Basically Bengali culture refers to the culture of Bangladesh. The Bengal Renaissance contained the seeds of a nascent political Indian nationalism which was the precursor in many ways to modern Indian artistic cultural expression.

## Multiculturalism:

Bangladesh has a rich, diverse culture. Its deeply rooted heritage is thoroughly reflected in its architecture, dance, literature, music, painting and clothing.

## Indigenous Heritage:

The most populous indigenous peoples in Bangladesh are the Santal, Chakma, Marma and Mandi. Indigenous peoples in Bangladesh call themselves 'Adivasi'.



[Source: Travel Dhaka]

## Education of Bangladesh

Bangladesh has formally adopted a new skill-based curriculum for secondary and higher secondary levels beginning with the academic year 2023, marking a significant step towards revolutionizing the educational system and preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century. The country has been recovering from poverty but the campaign "education for all" is under many challenges, including education inequality, unemployment, childhood marriage, and shortage of education materials.

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## Economy of Bangladesh

The economy of Bangladesh is a major developing market economy. As the second-largest economy in South Asia, Bangladesh's economy is the 33rd largest in the world in nominal terms, and 25th largest by purchasing power parity. Bangladesh is seen by various financial institutions as one of the Next Eleven. As the second-largest economy in South Asia, Bangladesh's economy is the 33rd largest in the world in nominal terms, and 25th largest by purchasing power parity.



[Source: World Bank]

Agricultural sector is still the largest employer in Bangladesh. It accounts for 37.6% of the total work force and 13.1% of the GDP. Industry employs 21.4% and represents 27.8% of GDP. Services account for 53.5% of GDP and employ 39.8% of the total workforce.

Now, let's check out **some interesting facts about Bangladesh**.

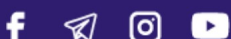
## Interesting Facts about Bangladesh

Bangladesh has one of the longest beaches in the world. Bangladesh has part of the world's largest mangrove the Sundarbans. Bangladesh is characterized by low land area and high population. Beyond its ancient ruins, beautiful beaches, and amazing wildlife, the island nation has many other stories to uncover.

1. **Cox's Bazar Beach:** Cox's Bazar Beach offers 75-miles of uninterrupted sandy beach. Only Praia do Cassino in Brazil and Ninety Mile beach in Australia are longer than Cox Bazar. The beach takes its name from Captain Hiram Cox of the British East India Company, who founded the sandy stretch in 1869.
2. **The Royal Bengal Tiger:** The Indian Tiger – is Bangladesh's national animal. In eastern Asian culture, tigers represent royalty, fearlessness and wrath. The East Bengal Regiment is nicknamed 'Bengal Tigers' and the regiment's logo is a tiger face. The Bangladesh Cricket Board's logo also features a Bengal tiger.
3. **Sundarbans:** The Sundarbans mangrove forest covers an area of about 10,000 sq km, of which forests in Bangladesh's Khulna Division extend over 6,017 sq km and in West Bengal, they extend over 4,260 sq km

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[Source: BBC]

Bangladesh has a strong track record of growth and development, even in times of elevated global uncertainty. A robust demographic dividend, strong ready-made garment (RMG) exports, resilient remittance inflows, and stable macroeconomic conditions have supported rapid economic growth over the past two decades. This is my first country visit as the Special Rapporteur for the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.