



Bangladesh

Smiling through it all



NATIONAL FLAG



NATIONAL EMBLEM



H.E. MD. ZILLUR RAHMAN
President



H.E. SHEIKH HASINA
Prime Minister

Europeans began to set up trading posts in the area of Bangladesh in the 16th century; eventually the British came to dominate the region and it became part of British India. In 1947, West Pakistan and East Bengal (both primarily Muslim) separated from India (largely Hindu) and jointly became the new country of Pakistan. East Bengal became East Pakistan in 1955, but the awkward arrangement of a two-part country with its territorial units separated by 1,600 km left the Bengalis marginalized and dissatisfied. East Pakistan seceded from its union with West Pakistan in 1971 and was renamed Bangladesh. A military-backed, emergency caretaker regime suspended parliamentary elections planned for January 2007 in an effort to reform the political system and root out corruption. In contrast to the strikes and violent street rallies that had marked Bangladeshi politics in previous years, the parliamentary elections finally held in late December 2008 were mostly peaceful and Sheikh Hasina Wajed was reelected prime minister. About a third of this extremely poor country floods annually during the monsoon rainy season, hampering economic development.



Geography

- LOCATION:** Southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and India
- GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES:** 24 00 N, 90 00 E
- AREA:** 143,998 sq km; Country comparison to the world: 94
- MARITIME CLAIMS:** Territorial sea: 12 nm
 Contiguous zone: 18 nm
 Exclusive economic zone: 200 nm
 Continental shelf: up to the outer limits of the continental margin
- COASTLINE:** 580 km
- LAND BOUNDARIES:** Total: 4,246 km
 Border Countries: Burma 193 km, India 4,053 km
- CLIMATE:** Average winter temperature (Max 29 deg. C and Min 11 deg. C).
 Average summer temperature (Max 40 deg. C and Min 11 deg. C)
 Seasons: Summer, Monsoon, Autumn, Late Autumn, Winter & Spring.
- ELEVATION EXTREMES:** Lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m
 Highest point: Keokradong 1,230 m
- NATURAL RESOURCES:** Natural gas, arable land, timber, coal
- NATURAL HAZARDS:** Droughts; cyclones; much of the country routinely inundated during the summer monsoon season.
- ENVIRONMENT - CURRENT ISSUES:** Many people are landless and forced to live on and cultivate flood-prone land; waterborne diseases prevalent in surface water; water pollution, especially of fishing areas, results from the use of commercial pesticides; ground water contaminated by naturally occurring arsenic; intermittent water shortages because of falling water tables in the northern and central parts of the country; soil degradation and erosion; deforestation; severe overpopulation.
- ENVIRONMENT - INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS:** Party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands
 Signed, but not ratified: None of the selected agreement
- STANDARD TIME:** GMT +6 hours

People

- NATIONALITY: Bangladeshi
- POPULATION: 158,065,841 (July 2010 est.); Country comparison to the world: 7
- POPULATION GROWTH RATE: 1.274% (2010 est.); Country comparison to the world: 98
- LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH: 60.63 years; Country comparison to the world: 185
- HIV/AIDS - ADULT PREVALENCE RATE: Less than 0.1% (2001 est.); Country comparison to the world: 139
- HIV/AIDS - PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS: 12,000 (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 95
- HIV/AIDS - DEATHS: Fewer than 500 (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 82
- MAJOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Degree of risk: High
 Food or waterborne diseases: Bacterial and Protozoal Diarrhea, Hepatitis A, and Typhoid fever
 Vectorborne disease: Dengue fever and Malaria are high risks in some locations
 Water contact disease: Leptospirosis
 Animal contact disease: Rabies
Note: Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)
- ETHNIC GROUPS: Bengali 98%, other 2% (includes tribal groups, non-Bengali Muslims) (1998)
- RELIGIONS: Muslim 89.5%, Hindu 9.6%, other 0.9% (2004)
- LANGUAGES: Bangla (official, also known as Bengali), English
- LITERACY: 47.9%





Government

- COUNTRY NAME:** Bangladesh; Official Name - People's Republic of Bangladesh
- GOVERNMENT TYPE:** Parliamentary Democracy
- CAPITAL:** Dhaka
- HEAD OF THE STATE:** H.E. President MD. Zillur Rahman
- HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:** H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
- INDEPENDENCE:** 16 December 1971 (from West Pakistan);
Note - 26 March 1971 is the date of independence from West Pakistan, 16 December 1971 is known as Victory Day and commemorates the official creation of the state of Bangladesh
- CONSTITUTION:** 4 November 1972; Effective 16 December 1972;
Suspended following coup of 24 March 1982;
Restored 10 November 1986; Amended many times
- LEGAL SYSTEM:** Based on English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
- SUFFRAGE:** 18 years of age; Universal

Economy

ECONOMY - OVERVIEW:	The economy has grown 5-6% per year since 1996 despite political instability, poor infrastructure, corruption, insufficient power supplies, and slow implementation of economic reforms. Bangladesh remains a poor, overpopulated, and inefficiently-governed nation. Although more than half of GDP is generated through the service sector, about 45% of Bangladeshis are employed in the agriculture sector, with rice as the single-most-important product. Bangladesh's growth was resilient during the 2008-09 global financial crisis and recession. Garment exports, totaling \$12.3 billion in FY09 and remittances from overseas Bangladeshis totaling \$9.7 billion in FY09 accounted for almost 25% of GDP.
GDP (OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE):	\$93.2 billion (2009 est.)
GDP - REAL GROWTH RATE:	5.6% (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 18
GDP - PER CAPITA (PPP):	\$1,600 (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 193
POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE:	36.3% (2008 est.)
INFLATION RATE (CONSUMER PRICES):	5.4% (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 148
AGRICULTURE - PRODUCTS:	Rice, jute, tea, wheat, sugarcane, potatoes, tobacco, pulses, oilseeds, spices, fruit, beef, milk, poultry
INDUSTRIES:	Cotton textiles, jute, garments, tea processing, paper newsprint, cement, chemical fertilizer, light engineering, sugar
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH RATE:	5.9% (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 16
ELECTRICITY - PRODUCTION:	22.99 billion kWh (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 68
ELECTRICITY - CONSUMPTION:	21.38 billion kWh (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 67
ELECTRICITY - EXPORTS:	0 kWh (2008 est.)
ELECTRICITY - IMPORTS:	0 kWh (2008 est.)
OIL - PRODUCTION:	6,426 bbl/day (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 92
OIL - CONSUMPTION:	95,000 bbl/day (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 76
OIL - EXPORTS:	2,612 bbl/day (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 111
OIL - IMPORTS:	87,660 bbl/day (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 68
OIL - PROVED RESERVES:	28 million bbl (1 January 2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 81
NATURAL GAS - PRODUCTION:	17.9 billion cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 32
NATURAL GAS - CONSUMPTION:	17.9 billion cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 36
NATURAL GAS - EXPORTS:	0 cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 202

NATURAL GAS - IMPORTS:	0 cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 201
NATURAL GAS - PROVED RESERVES:	141.6 billion cu m (1 January 2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 48
EXPORTS:	\$15.91 billion (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 70
EXPORTS - COMMODITIES:	Garments, frozen fish and seafood, jute and jute goods, leather
EXPORTS - PARTNERS:	US 24%, Germany 15.3%, UK 10%, France 7.4%, Netherlands 5.5%, Italy 4.5%, Spain 4.2% (2008)
IMPORTS:	\$20.22 billion (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 68
IMPORTS - COMMODITIES:	Machinery and equipment, chemicals, iron and steel, textiles, foodstuffs, petroleum products, cement
IMPORTS - PARTNERS:	China 15.8%, India 15.7%, Kuwait 8.1%, Singapore 7.6%, Japan 4.4% (2008)
RESERVES & FOREIGN EXCHANGED GOLD:	\$10.32 billion (31 December 2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 68
EXCHANGE RATES:	Taka (BDT) per US dollar - 69.047 (2009), 68.554 (2008), 69.893 (2007), 69.031 (2006), 64.328 (2005)



Communication

- TELEPHONES - MAIN LINES IN USE: 1.39 million (2009); Country comparison to the world: 67
- TELEPHONES - MOBILE CELLULAR: 45.75 million (2009); Country comparison to the world: 23
- BROADCAST AND TELECAST STATIONS: Radios: AM 17, FM 19, Shortwave(SW) 2 (2009)
Televisions: 17 (2009)
- INTERNET TLD: .bd
- INTERNET HOSTS: 4,209 (2009); Country comparison to the world: 135
- INTERNET USERS: 556,000 (2008); Country comparison to the world: 104
- INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE: +880





Transportation

AIRPORTS: 17 (2009); Country comparison to the world: 139

PIPELINES: Gas 2,597 km (2009)

ROADWAYS: Total: 239,226 km; Country comparison to the world: 21
Paved: 22,726 km
Unpaved: 216,500 km (2003)

WATERWAYS: 8,370 km; Country comparison to the world: 17
Note: Includes up to 3,060 km main cargo routes; network reduced to 5,200 km in dry season (2007)

RAILWAYS: Total: 2,768 km; Country comparison to the world: 61
Broad gauge: 946 km 1.676-m gauge
Narrow gauge: 1,822 km 1.000-m gauge (2008)

PORTS AND TERMINALS: Chittagong, Mongla Port.

Issues

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: 65,000 (land conflicts, religious persecution) (2007).