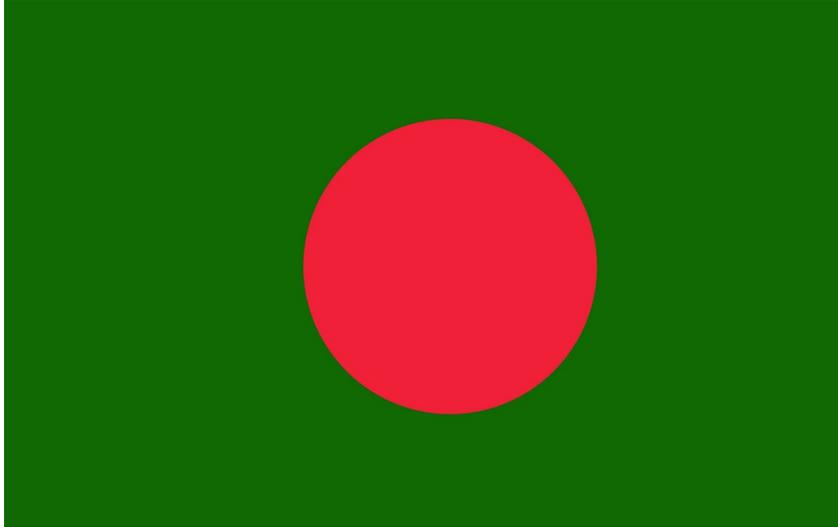


# People's Republic of Bangladesh



Formerly East Pakistan, Bangladesh came into being only in 1971, when the two parts of Pakistan split after a bitter war which drew in neighbouring India. Bangladesh spent 15 years under military rule and, although democracy was restored in 1990, the political scene remains volatile. Recently, Islamist extremism has been rising in the usually tolerant country.

Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries which has put stress on the country's already limited natural resources. The low-lying country is vulnerable to flooding and cyclones, and stands to be badly affected by any rises in sea levels. However, with the help of international development assistance, Bangladesh has reduced its poverty rate from over half of the population to less than a third, achieved Millennium Development Goals for maternal and child health, and made great progress in food security since independence. The economy has grown at an annual average of about 6% over the last two decades and the country reached World Bank lower-middle income status in 2015.

## Geography

**Official Name:** People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Conventional Short Form:** Bangladesh

**Region:** Southern Asia

**Area:** 148,460 sq km

**Bordering Countries:** Burma, India

**Physical Features:** Mostly flat plains, but hilly in the southeast

**Climate:** Tropical with a mild winter (October to March), a hot, humid summer (March to June), and a humid, warm rainy monsoon season (June to October)

**Natural Resources:** Natural gas, arable land, timber, coal

**Natural Hazards:** Droughts, cyclones, heavy rain during monsoon season

## **People and Society**

**Population:** 156,186,882 (9th in the world)

**Ethnic Groups:** Bengali (at least 98%), other (1.1%)

**Official Language:** Bangala/Bengali

**Other Languages Spoken:** English

**Religions:** Muslim (89.1%), Hindu (10%), Other (0.9%)

**Capital City:** Dhaka

**Other Major Cities:** Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshah

**Median Age** (*half the people are younger than this age and half are older*)

Male: 25.6

Female: 26.9

Total Population: 26.3

**Literacy Rate** (*percentage of the population 15 and older who can read and write*)

Male: 64.6%

Female: 58.5%

Total Population: 61.5%

**Life Expectancy at Birth** (*average number of years to be lived by those born in the same year*)

Male: 71

Female: 75.4

Total Population: 73.2

## **Government**

**Country Founded:** December 16, 1971 (independence from West Pakistan)

**Type of Government:** Parliamentary Republic

**Country Leaders**

President: Abdul Hamid

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

**Allies:** India, China, Japan, Russia, United States, Malaysia, South Korea

**Enemies:** Pakistan, Myanmar

## **Economy**

**Currency:** Bangladeshi Taka

**GDP:** \$628.4 billion (2016 est.)

**GDP Composition:** agriculture (15.1%), industry (28.6%), services (56.3%)

**Unemployment Rate:** 4.9% (2016 est.)

**Population Below Poverty Line:** 31.5% (2010 est.)

**Major export and imports**

Exports: Garments, knitwear, agricultural products, frozen food (fish and seafood), jute and jute goods, leather

Imports: Cotton, machinery and equipment, chemicals, iron and steel, foodstuffs

**Biggest trading partners**

Exports: United States, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Spain

Imports: China, India, Singapore

More information can be found at:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bg.html>