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Chapter 1

21

1.1 21.guide

Texified version of data for Bangladesh.

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Bangladesh

1.2 21.guide/Bangladesh

Bangladesh

Geography (Bangladesh)
 People (Bangladesh)
 Government (Bangladesh)
 Government (Bangladesh 2. usage)
 Economy (Bangladesh)
 Economy (Bangladesh 2. usage)
 Communications (Bangladesh)
 Defense Forces (Bangladesh)

1.3 21.guide/Geography (Bangladesh)

Geography (Bangladesh)

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Location:

South Asia, at the head of the Bay of Bengal, almost completely surrounded by India

Map references:

Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

144,000 km²

land area:

133,910 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Wisconsin

Land boundaries:

total 4,246 km, Burma 193 km, India 4,053 km

Coastline:

580 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

18 nm

continental shelf:

up to outer limits of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

a portion of the boundary with India is in dispute; water-sharing problems with upstream riparian India over the Ganges

Climate:

tropical; cool, dry winter (October to March); hot, humid summer (March to June); cool, rainy monsoon (June to October)

Terrain: mostly flat alluvial plain; hilly in southeast

Natural resources:

natural gas, arable land, timber

Land use:

arable land:

67%

permanent crops:
 2%
 meadows and pastures:
 4%
 forest and woodland:
 16%
 other:
 11%
 Irrigated land:
 27,380 km² (1989)
 Environment:
 vulnerable to droughts; much of country routinely flooded during summer
 monsoon season; overpopulation; deforestation

1.4 21.guide/People (Bangladesh)

People (Bangladesh)

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Population:
 122,254,849 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.35% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 35.41 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 11.94 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 109.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 54.7 years
 male:
 55 years
 female:
 54.38 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 4.55 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Bangladeshi(s)
 adjective:
 Bangladesh
 Ethnic divisions:
 Bengali 98%, Biharis 250,000, tribals less than 1 million
 Religions:
 Muslim 83%, Hindu 16%, Buddhist, Christian, other
 Languages:
 Bangla (official), English
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:
 35%
 male:
 47%
 female:
 22%
 Labor force:
 35.1 million
 by occupation:
 agriculture 74%, services 15%, industry and commerce 11% (FY86)
 note:
 extensive export of labor to Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Oman (1991)

1.5 21.guide/Government (Bangladesh)

Government (Bangladesh)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 People's Republic of Bangladesh
 conventional short form:
 Bangladesh
 former:
 East Pakistan
 Digraph:
 BG
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Dhaka
 Administrative divisions:
 64 districts (zillagulo, singular - zilla); Bagerhat, Bandarban, Barguna,
 Barisal, Bhola, Bogra, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chapai Nawabganj, Chattagram ←
 ' ,
 Chuadanga, Comilla, Cox's Bazar, Dhaka, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Feni, Gaibandha ←
 ' ,
 Gazipur, Gopalganj, Habiganj, Jaipurhat, Jamalpur, Jessore, Jhalakati,
 Jhenaidah, Khagrachari, Khulna, Kishorganj, Kurigram, Kushtia, Laksmipur,
 Lalmonirhat, Madaripur, Magura, Manikganj, Meherpur, Moulavibazar,
 Munshiganj, Mymensingh, Naogaon, Narail, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Nator,
 Netrakona, Nilphamari, Noakhali, Pabna, Panchagar, Parbattya Chattagram,
 Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Rajbari, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Satkhira, Shariyatpur,
 Sherpur, Sirajganj, Sunamganj, Sylhet, Tangail, Thakurgaon
 Independence:
 16 December 1971 (from Pakistan)
 Constitution:
 4 November 1972, effective 16 December 1972, suspended following coup of 24
 March 1982, restored 10 November 1986, amended NA March 1991
 Legal system:
 based on English common law
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 26 March (1971)

Political parties and leaders:

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Khaleda ZIAur Rahman; Awami League (AL) ↔

Sheikh Hasina WAJED; Jatiyo Party (JP), Hussain Mohammad ERSHAD (in jail);
Jamaat-E-Islami (JI), Ali KHAN; Bangladesh Communist Party (BCP), Saifuddin
Ahmed MANIK; National Awami Party (Muzaffar); Workers Party, leader NA;
Jatiyo Samajtantik Dal (JSD), Serajul ALAM KHAN; Ganotantri Party, leader
NA; Islami Oikya Jote, leader NA; National Democratic Party (NDP), leader
NA; Muslim League, Khan A. SABUR; Democratic League, Khondakar MUSHTAQUE
Ahmed; Democratic League, Khondakar MUSHTAQUE Ahmed; United People's Party,
Kazi ZAFAR Ahmed

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

National Parliament:

last held 27 February 1991 (next to be held NA February 1996); results -
percent of vote by party NA; seats - (330 total, 300 elected and 30 seats
reserved for women) BNP 168, AL 93, JP 35, JI 20, BCP 5, National Awami
Party (Muzaffar) 1, Workers Party 1, JSD 1, Ganotantri Party 1, Islami ↔
Oikya

Jote 1, NDP 1, independents 3

President:

last held 8 October 1991 (next to be held by NA October 1996); results -
Abdur Rahman BISWAS received 52.1% of parliamentary vote

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad)

1.6 21.guide/Government (Bangladesh 2. usage)

Government (Bangladesh 2. usage)

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Judicial branch:

Supreme Court

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Abdur Rahman BISWAS (since 8 October 1991)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Khaleda ZIAur Rahman (since 20 March 1991)

Member of:

AsDB, C, CCC, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IDB ↔

IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS,
MINURSO, NAM, OIC, SAARC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIKOM, UNOMOZ, UNOSOM ↔

UNTAC, UNPROFOR, UPU, WHO, WFTU, WIPO, WCL, WMO, WTO

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 Flag:
 green with a large red disk slightly to the hoist side of center; green is
 the traditional color of Islam

1.7 21.guide/Economy (Bangladesh)

Economy (Bangladesh)

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Overview:

Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest, most densely populated, and least developed nations. Its economy is overwhelmingly agricultural. Major impediments to growth include frequent cyclones and floods, government interference with the economy, a rapidly growing labor force that cannot be absorbed by agriculture, a low level of industrialization, failure to fully exploit energy resources (natural gas), and inefficient and inadequate ←
 power

supplies. An excellent rice crop and expansion of the export garment industry helped growth in FY91/92. Policy reforms intended to reduce government regulation of private industry and promote public-sector efficiency have been announced but are being implemented only slowly.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$23.8 billion (FY92)

National product real growth rate:

3.8% (FY92)

National product per capita:

\$200 (FY92)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

5.09% (FY92)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$2.5 billion; expenditures \$3.7 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY92)

Exports:

\$2.0 billion (FY92)

commodities:

garments, jute and jute goods, leather, shrimp

partners:

US 28%, Western Europe 39% (FY91)

Imports:
 \$3.4 billion (FY91/92)
 commodities:
 capital goods, petroleum, food, textiles
 partners:
 Japan 10.0%, Western Europe 17%, US 5.0% (FY91)

External debt:
 \$11.8 billion (FY92 est.)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 4.0% (FY92 est.); accounts for less than 10% of GDP

Electricity:
 2,400,000 kW capacity; 9,000 million kWh produced, 75 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:
 jute manufacturing, cotton textiles, food processing, steel, fertilizer

Agriculture: accounts for about 40% of GDP, 60% of employment, and one- ←
 fifth of exports;
 imports 10% of food grain requirements; world's largest exporter of jute;
 commercial products - jute, rice, wheat, tea, sugarcane, potatoes, beef,
 milk, poultry; shortages include wheat, vegetable oils, cotton; fish catch
 778,000 metric tons in 1986

Illicit drugs:
 transit country for illegal drugs produced in neighboring countries

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$3.4 billion; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1980-89), \$11.65 million; ←
 OPEC
 bilateral aid (1979-89), \$6.52 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$1.5
 billion

Currency:
 1 taka (Tk) = 100 paise

1.8 21.guide/Economy (Bangladesh 2. usage)

Economy (Bangladesh 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:
 taka (Tk) per US\$1 - 39.000 (January 1993), 38.951 (1992), 36.596 (1991),
 34.569 (1990), 32.270 (1989), 31.733 (1988)

Fiscal year:
 1 July - 30 June

1.9 21.guide/Communications (Bangladesh)

Communications (Bangladesh)

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Railroads:

2,892 km total (1986); 1,914 km 1.000 meter gauge, 978 km 1.676 meter broad gauge

Highways:

7,240 km total (1985); 3,840 km paved, 3,400 km unpaved

Inland waterways:

5,150-8,046 km navigable waterways (includes 2,575-3,058 km main cargo routes)

Pipelines:

natural gas 1,220 km

Ports:

Chittagong, Chalna

Merchant marine:

42 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 314,228 GRT/461,607 DWT; includes 34 cargo, 2 oil tanker, 3 refrigerated cargo, 3 bulk

Airports:

total:

16

usable:

12

with permanent-surface runways:

12

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

4

with runways 1,220-2,439 m: 6

Telecommunications:

adequate international radio communications and landline service; fair domestic wire and microwave service; fair broadcast service; 241,250 telephones; broadcast stations - 9 AM, 6 FM, 11 TV; 2 Indian Ocean INTELSAT satellite earth stations

1.10 21.guide/Defense Forces (Bangladesh)

Defense Forces (Bangladesh)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force

paramilitary forces:

Bangladesh Rifles, Bangladesh Ansars, Armed Police Reserve, Defense Parties ↔

National Cadet Corps

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 30,909,597; fit for military service 18,348,702 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$355 million, 1.5% of GDP (FY92/93)