

**Bangladesh  
Basic Information  
and  
Media Guide**

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## Basic Facts

<b>Official name</b>	People's Republic of Bangladesh
<b>Location</b>	Latitude between 20° 34' and 26° 38' North. Longitude between 88° 01' and 92° 41' East.
<b>Area</b>	55,598 sq. miles (1,44,036 sq. km)
<b>Boundary</b>	North-West Bengal and Assam (India), South-Bay of Bengal and Myanmar, East-Assam (India) and Myanmar, West-West Bengal (India).
<b>Climate</b>	Bangladesh enjoys generally a subtropical monsoon climate. There are six seasons in a year but three clearly defined seasons are Summer (March-May), Monsoon (June-October) and Winter (November-February). The average annual temperature ranges between 24.4°C and 26.7°C. Annual rainfall varies from 120 cm in the West to 508 cm in the North-East. The rainless winter is the most

pleasant season when the average temperature is around 17°C. In the summer, temperature may rise up to 39°C. Rainfall, sometimes accompanied by cyclones, storms and tidal bores, is common in the summer.

<b>Time</b>	6 hours ahead of GMT
<b>Population</b>	108 million Urban-15.2% Rural-84.8% Density-1762 per sq mile. Sexratio-106 males, 100 females. Literacy 31%.
<b>State language</b>	Bangla (English is also widely used).
<b>Capital</b>	Dhaka, the largest metropolis (815.85 sq kilometers). Population 7 million.
<b>Other cities and towns</b>	Chittagong, the port city, is the second largest (population about 2 million). Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Comilla, Mymensingh, Dinajpur are other major towns.
<b>Currency</b>	Taka (Tk. 1=100 Poisha )
<b>Exchange ratio</b>	One US \$=Tk. 39
<b>International Airports</b>	Zia International Airport, Dhaka (20 km from city centre with duty free shop, bank, post office and car hire facilities) and Chittagong, Airport.
<b>Seaports</b>	Chittagong and Mongla

## Country

Bangladesh is located in the northeastern part of the South Asian subcontinent between latitudes 20° 34' and 26° 38' North and Longitudes 88° 01' and 92° 41' East. It is bordered by India on the West, North and the East and by Myanmar (Burma) on the Southeast. To the South lies the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh has a land area of about 144,000 sq km.

Once known worldwide for its crafts, particularly the hand, woven gossamer fabric "muslin". Bangladesh is a country with a rich cultural heritage and a glorious past. Its flat alluvial plains provide some of the world's most fertile agricultural lands. The land mass comprising mainly the delta of the three mighty rivers, the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna presents an enchantingly vista of vast green fields bounded by low hills in the Northeast and Southeast with an average elevation of 244 and 610 metres. The highest peak in the Hill Tracts rises 1230 metres above sea-level.

## Climate

Bangladesh has a subtropical Monsoon and short duration dry Winter climate. Out of six marked seasons in a year, Winter (November-February), pre-monsoon (March-May), Monsoon (June-September) and post-monsoon (October-November) are predominant. The temperature across the country ranges between 24 and 39°C during Summer months and between 18 and 23°C in Winter months, while the

rainfall varies from 120 cm in the western part to 250 cm annually in the southeastern part. The highest average rainfall of 508 cm is recorded in some northeastern districts.

The seasons which include Spring and Autumn have their special colours and sounds which give an ever changing variety to the landscape. Lightning across the horizon and the distant thunder herald the rains washing away the Summer heat while Autumn comes with clear blue skies and misty mornings. The dew on the tiny grass blades usher in the Winter while Spring adorned by a blossoming flora rounds off the local Bengali calendar.

## People

About 85 percent of the Bangladeshis live in villages or semi-urban areas. The country's population estimated at 108 million (census 1991) calculates to an average density of about 800 people per square kilometre.

Muslims constitute about 86.1 percent of the population, Hindus 12.2 percent, Buddhists 0.6 percent, Christians 0.4 percent, and the rest belongs to other faiths. There are about 1.2 million tribal people who live mostly in the hilly areas. The adult literacy rate for age group 15 years and above is around 31 percent.

## History

The territory comprising Bangladesh was inhabited in the pre-historic era by the Proto-Australoids and the Proto-Mongoloids.



Later the Dravidians, Aryans and Mongolians came.

Islam spread in the Eleventh century through Muslim missionaries, Arab traders and through conquests. For about 500 years the region had been under the rule of the Turko-Afghans and the Mughals. By the end of the Sixteenth century Europeans started arriving. The rule by the British began in 1757 and continued till 1947 when the subcontinent was partitioned into India and Pakistan. The territory now comprising Bangladesh formed the eastern wing of Pakistan. After a nine-month long War of Independence Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country on 16 December 1971.

## **Political system**

Bangladesh has a multi-party democratic system with a parliamentary form of government. A sovereign Parliament called the Jatiyo Sangshad is elected by the people for a five-year term. It acts as the legislature and approves the budget. It can amend the Constitution with the support of at least two-thirds of the 330 Members in the House. A simple majority is, however, sufficient to approve laws and pass the annual national budget.

Parliament adopted unanimously the Constitution Twelveth Amendment Bill on 6 August 1991 which led to the change over to parliamentary form of government from the presidential system. The historic bill was piloted by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia whose Bangladesh Nationalist Party government also initiated further changes which led to the peaceful transformation to the

parliamentary process. The switch to parliamentary system was approved in a referendum on 15 September 1991. Later the unicameral Parliament elected the President of the Republic.

## Government

The government's accountability to the people is ensured by the democratic system. It conducts its business in utmost transparency. The Prime Minister appointed by the President from among the Members of Parliament who commands the majority is responsible to Parliament. So also is the Cabinet of Ministers. The Prime Minister chooses the Ministers from among Members of Parliament but can also appoint up to one-fifth of the cabinet from outside Parliament. There are parliamentary standing committees for different government ministries who act as watchdogs over the activities of the ministries.

## Administration

The country is divided into four administrative Divisions each headed by a Divisional Commissioner. A Division has a number of Districts headed by a Deputy Commissioner. There are 64 Districts and 487 Thanas. Generally each Thana is divided into several unions. The Unions are made of the villages. Every Union has an elected Union Parishad (council) responsible and accountable to the local community and acts as the local government at the lowest level. There are local government institutions in the urban areas. These are the city corporations headed by mayors

and the municipalities in the small towns led by chairmen.

The government is reviewing the entire system of local government to ensure greater and more effective participation of the people in local administration and development.

## **Parliament (Jatiyo Sangshad)**

Bangladesh has a 330-seat Parliament called the Jatiyo Sangshad. Three hundred Members of Parliament are directly elected while another 30 seats reserved for women are filled by voting among the directly elected Members. The Parliament has a tenure of five years. The President summons the Parliament's sessions.

## **Judiciary**

The highest judiciary in the country is the Supreme Court headed by the Chief Justice. The Supreme Court comprises the Appellate Division and the High Court Division. There are also courts at the district level to try civil and criminal cases.

## **Agriculture**

The country's economy is largely dominated by agriculture which accounts for about 50 percent of the gross domestic product, 75 percent of employment and more than 50 percent of the export earnings.

The total cropped area is 32 million acres. Rice, the country's staple and the most important crop,

is grown on 68 percent of the cropped area, jute the main agricultural export, on 24 percent, wheat on 4 percent and lentils, oilseeds, sugarcane, vegetables and tea, another important export, on the remaining 4 percent.

The country produces about 90 million pounds of tea annually, a sizeable quantity of which is exported. Shrimps and prawns have become valuable sources of foreign exchange. Marine fishing is being expanded for supply of high grade protein food to the people.

## Industry

Although an agricultural country, Bangladesh has a considerable number of large industries based on both indigenous and imported raw materials. Among them are jute, cotton, textiles, paper, newsprint, sugar, cement, fertilizers, chemicals and tannery industries. Other notable industries are engineering, ship building, iron and steel, rerolling mills, oil refinery, paints, electric cable and wires, electric lamps, fluorescent tube, electronic goods, safety matches, and cigarettes. Among the cottage industries are handlooms and carpet weaving.

An export processing zone in Chittagong port city in southern Bangladesh provides customs free privileges and special incentives for the promotion and development of export-oriented industries, through either domestic or foreign investment. Similar EPZs are expected to be operating also in the capital Dhaka and the southern coastal city of Khulna.

The garment industry is a relatively new feature of

the industrial scene and has become a major export earner selling its products in the US, the EEC and other advanced markets.

## **Transportation**

There are 2818 kilometres of railroad, 10,407 kilometres of paved road and 8433 kilometres of perennial and seasonal waterways which provide the cheapest mode of transport.

Dhaka is connected by the national flag carrier Biman with 26 international destinations in Asia, Africa and the Europe and all major towns within the country. Fifteen foreign airlines including British Airways, Thai Airways, Singapore Airlines, Indian Airlines, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways, Saudia, Pakistan International Airlines and Aeroflot operate flights to and from Dhaka.

There is a large network of road transports operated by the state-owned Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation as well as by private owners connecting almost every district and sub-district town with Dhaka and other major cities.

The two seaports of Bangladesh are Chittagong and Mongla. There are eight river-ports including Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chandpur, Barisal and Khulna.

## **Finance and Banking**

Bangladesh Bank is the central bank of the country responsible for promoting healthy growth and development of the banking system. Banks and insurance companies both in the private and public sectors are operating freely contributing to

the economy.

There are other specialised financial institutions like the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (industrial bank), Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (industrial credit organisation), Krishi (agriculture) Bank, House Building Finance Corporation, Grameen (rural) Bank and several cooperative banks. The Industrial Promotion and Development Corporation of Bangladesh and the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) provide equity support to public limited companies in the private sector.

Bangladesh pursues a liberal market economy.

## **Trade and Commerce**

Bangladesh's major exports are raw jute, jute goods, tea, leather, frozen foods, readymade garment and fish. The major imports include food, fuel, machinery, equipment, chemicals and capital goods.

A liberal trade policy has been introduced to encourage maximisation of industrial capacity and efficiency and for ensuring adequate supply for the consumers and for export.

## **Education**

There are seven universities in the country located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Savar (near Dhaka) and Sylhet. A new one is coming up in Khulna. The total enrolment in the existing universities exceeds 40,000. There is an Islamic University at Kushtia with an enrolment of about 600 full-time students. An open university is being set up and permission has been given for establishing private universities.

establishing private universities.

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka caters to higher technical education. Another specialized university for science and technology has been set up in Sylhet. There are also four engineering colleges and technical institutes. Eight medical colleges, one Institute for Post-Graduate Medicine and Research in Dhaka and one dental college have a total enrolment of 8460 students. An agriculture university in Mymensingh and two agricultural colleges in Dhaka and Patuakhali have a total enrolment of 4475 students.

Colleges and institutes for textiles, leather technology, glass and ceramic, music and fine arts have been setup. There are 18 polytechnic, 17 commercial and 54 vocational training institutes. Over 19,500 'Madrasahs' offer Islamic education.

The country has 8000 secondary and 46,000 primary schools. Universal primary education programme is being implemented in phases while special incentives are being given for female education.

Over 40,000 qualified scientists and technologists and about a 100,000 people are engaged in different scientific and technological spheres. Research and development activities in science and technology are being conducted by about 60 institutions.

## **Health and Family Welfare**

The global plan to reach the target of "Health for All" by the year 2000 has been adopted as the national objective. There are about 600

government and over 200 private hospitals and another 1300 government dispensaries. They have a total number of about 28,000 beds. Over 15,000 registered doctors, 65,000 nurses and 5000 lady health visitors and midwives provide healthcare to the people.

Production of essential drugs at home has substantially increased reducing the past dependence on imports.

The government has identified the relatively high rate of population growth as the number one national problem and efforts to check population increases by curbing births and improving the health of mother and children have been made integral parts of overall development strategy. Policy guidelines and directives are given by the national council for population planning. The Fourth Five-Year Plan (1990-95) aims at reducing the birth rate from the existing 2.2 to 1.8 percent.

## **Rural Development**

The majority Bangladeshis live in rural areas which contribute more than 50 percent of the country's GDP. There are local level programmes aimed at the welfare of the rural people through alleviation of poverty, provision of jobs, better sanitation and supply of clean water, health care services and primary education.

The Directorate of Social Welfare at the centre finances and manages social service projects. The Rural Social Service Programme runs 1600 mothers' clubs, 1950 youth centres, 2100 children centres, 8443 adult centres and 540 vocational training schools.



The Directorate also coordinates the welfare activities of over 7500 private voluntary agencies, known as NGOs, throughout Bangladesh.

## **Relief and Rehabilitation**

There is an effective relief and rehabilitation mechanism which responds quickly to the aftermath of a natural disaster. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation as the apex body guides the mechanism of distribution of relief to the distressed people. The efficiency and rapidity with which the government tackled the widespread effects of the unprecedented cyclone which hit the coastal belt and the offshore islands on 29-30 April, 1991 have been lauded worldwide. About 140,000 people died in the cyclone and accompanying tidal waves which also destroyed over 1.75 million homes. Crops on 278,600 acres were washed away or damaged. The scale of the destruction was overwhelming and the task of meeting the aftermath was gigantic by all standards for the democratic government which had been installed recently. The total damages in the cyclone were estimated at 2.4 billion dollars. The government had mounted a coordinated cyclone preparedness programme and about three million people were evacuated from vulnerable positions on the coast. A total of 1348 medical teams provided immediate medical care to the injured and the suffering. Over 32.5 million taka were distributed as gratuitous relief and another 85 million taka as house building grant. Food worth 200 million taka were distributed

among the needy.

The national relief efforts were boosted by international help. Friendly countries offered logistical and technical support including helicopters for reaching relief to remote coastal villages and offshore islands which had been temporarily cut off by the disaster from the rest of the country by surface routes. A naval task force from the United States and another from the Royal British Navy joined the relief operations.

As part of a permanent rehabilitation measure the government has taken up a 200 million dollar plan for construction of cyclone shelters in the coastal areas and offshore islands to boost the existing number of 299 such shelters. The shelters where people can take refuge with their properties during the cyclonic storms will possess support systems such as emergency communication, early warning and water and sanitation facilities.

## Housing

The government has shifted its role in housing from construction of housing units to helping people build their own homes by providing them with plots of land and housing finances. The Housing and Settlement Department and the city development authorities have taken up large scale land development programmes for housing units. The state run House Building Finance Corporation provides long term loans at reasonable rates of interest.

In the last several years private real estate companies have constructed and sold apartments and multistoried housing complexes in Dhaka and other major cities. Co-operative housing societies

are contributing positively to the housing scene in Bangladesh.

## **Women's Affairs**

Women have come into the mainstream of the development process with the opening on new horizons for their participation in different spheres of national life. The government has ensured the share of women in administration by keeping definite quotas for female employment in government and autonomous organisations.

There are 204 skill development training and production centres to provide skill training to women, to educate them about their rights and to motivate them to participate in national development activities. Sixty percent quota have been set aside for female teachers in primary schools.

## **Foreign Relations**

Following a glorious liberation war, Bangladesh emerged as a sovereign state on December 16, 1971.

Bangladesh follows a forward-looking, positive and constructive foreign policy based on "friendship with all and malice towards none".

As an active member of the UN, NAM, OIC and the Commonwealth, Bangladesh pursues peace, stability and development in the world generally and in the South Asian region in particular. Imbued with this spirit, Bangladesh pioneered the concept of SAARC, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The seven-member forum is now engaged in the promotion of collective

wellbeing of their peoples.

Bangladesh believes that balanced economic development of all countries of the world is a prerequisite for global peace and stability. It has, therefore, urged upon the world community the need to take meaningful steps to create a more equitable and just economic order keeping in mind the requirements of the least developed countries. Bangladesh's positive and constructive role in the international arena has been widely acclaimed. This has also been reflected in its election to the United Nations Security Council. It had also elected Chairman of the Group of 77, President of the UN General Assembly and member of the UNICEF Executive Board.

Bangladesh maintains 46 diplomatic and 13 consular missions abroad. There are 48 diplomatic and three consular missions in Bangladesh.

## **Labour and Manpower**

It is a challenge for Bangladesh to utilize its vast manpower with limitations of its resources. The government has implemented plans to improve the domestic working environment and seek overseas jobs for the surplus manpower.

Remittances by Bangladeshis working abroad constitute an important source of foreign exchange earnings for the country.

The government has taken measures to ensure the welfare of Bangladeshis employed overseas. Vocational and training institutes across the country produce skilled manpower according to domestic needs. Some of these institutes are managed by the Bureau of Manpower, a government agency which looks after all affairs

relating to manpower export and welfare of the Bangladesh is serving in different countries.

The Labour Policy of the government is based on the primary objective of stepping up productivity and on giving a fair deal to the working people. The Policy encourages settlement of disputes in a spirit of cooperation and understanding between the management and labour and discourages agitations and tensions in industries and commercial establishments. In recent times there have been vast improvements in both wages and conditions of employment.

Worker's welfare receives the ardent attention of the government. Labour welfare centres have been set up in important industrial areas to provide free medical treatment, recreational facilities, family welfare care and adult education. Multi-storied housing complexes have been constructed in industrial areas for workers.

Labour laws regulate the working environment, terms and conditions of employment and welfare of workers of mills, factories, shops, transports and all commercial establishments through provision for health, hygiene, physical safety, recreation, payment of overtime, limited working hours, night allowances, compensatory benefits, female employment and child labour. The Inspectorate of Factories and Establishments is the official agency for ensuring the enforcement of labour laws.

Industrial workers represent over 0.18 percent of the population. A high rate of population growth is responsible for unemployment and under employment. The government gives priority to the

creation of new employment and improvement of the living conditions of workers.

## **Telecommunication**

The district headquarters have been connected with nationwide direct dialling telephones and telex communication. The Upazilas (sub-districts) are also being provided with automatic telephone exchanges using digital technology.

Two satellite earth stations in the country are playing a vital role in overseas telecommunication. The cities of Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna and the town of Sylhet have international subscribers' dialling system. Telex and fax services, both domestic and international, are widely available.

## **Water Development**

Bangladesh is basically a delta created by three major rivers, the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna having a total flow of about 5.2 million cusecs during the Monsoon rains and about 0.2 million cusecs in the dry season. Each year during the rainy season the country faces floods of varying intensity. The government has given due importance to flood control, river training, canal digging, irrigation and construction of embankments.

## **Energy and Mineral Resources**

### **Gas**

Proven and probable reserve of natural gas is estimated at 15 trillion cubic feet. About 500

million cubic feet of gas is being consumed daily through 1000 km long gas transmission system. Almost 83 percent of the gas is used in industries, 11 percent for commercial purposes and 6 percent utilized in domestic consumption. Most of the district headquarters in the eastern region have been connected by the gas network.

### ***Coal***

There are about a billion tons of bituminous coal in the northwestern part of the country. A mining scheme for exploitation of coal by the state owned Petrobangla is being drawn up.

### ***Electricity***

The present generation capacity of all power plants stands at 2179 MW of which 1864 MW is in the East Zone and 315 MW in the West Zone. About 96 percent of the electricity in the East Zone is generated by natural gas. The peak demand is about 1600 MW. Additional electricity from the East to the West Zone is transferred through a 230 KV interconnector over the Jamuna river.

Power Development Board is the agency for power generation. The Rural Electrification Board supplies electricity to villages not covered by the PDB. The REB has about 500,000 consumers who are supplied electricity over 35,000 km of distribution lines from 90 power substations. A specialized body, the Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority, has been formed to manage more efficiently the increasing demand of electricity in Dhaka metropolis and its surrounding areas. The DESA buys power from the PDB and distributes it among the consumers.

## ***Petroleum Products***

About 1.5 million tons of crude oil is imported by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation annually which is refined in the only refinery in Chittagong. Some refined petroleum products like diesel and kerosine are also directly imported. Marketing companies distribute the refined petroleum products.

The country's only oilfield under Petrobangla produces about 300 bbls of oil per day while about 500 bbls of condensate per day come from the gas fields.

## **Art and Culture**

Bangladesh has a rich tradition of modern painting which was pioneered by Zainul Abedin, Kamrul Hassan, Anwarul Haque, Shafiuddin Ahmed and S. M. Sultan. Zainul Abedin earned international fame for his sketches on the Bengal famine of 1943. Bangladesh also excels in performing arts like music, dance, drama and cinema. Classical, folk, tribal and Middle-Eastern traits are the prominent forms of dances in Bangladesh. Shilpakala Academy, Music College and Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts are playing an important role in the promotion of dance in the country. Many other cultural organizations are also popularising this art.

The country produces about sixty feature films a year. Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Film Archive and the of Department of Films and Publications are helping the development of the film industry.



Drama in Bangladesh has an old tradition and is very popular. In Dhaka about half a dozen theatre groups have been regularly staging locally-written plays as well as those adapted from famous writers mainly of European origin. In Chittagong, too, a number of such groups stage dramas. The total number of such groups in the country exceeds 50. Jatra depicting mythological episodes, love lores, legendary acts of heroism are also popular.

The country can take pride in the profusion with which poems, essays, dramas, fictions and other forms of literary works are being produced. The Bangla Academy, Nazrul Institute, Shilpakala Academy and other institutions are doing a commendable job extending help and encouragement in this respect. The publishing industry is also getting a fillip from the increase in the demand for books and journals.

## Youth and Sports

Thirtythree percent of the population in the country are youths. The age-group of 15-30 years is the most potential productive force contributing its part to nation building.

A separate Ministry of Youth and Sports has been created to develop skill and impart training to the youth in various trades.

November 1 has been designated as the National Youth Day. Youth organizations participate in the observance of the day. Seminars, exhibitions and sports are some of the important events which highlight youth activities and involvement of youths in different spheres of national life.

The people of Bangladesh are sports loving and the government also puts due importance on development of sports and games. Football, volleyball, kabadi, cricket, badminton, hockey, basketball, lawn tennis, swimming and rowing are popular games in the country.

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan has been established at Savar to help raise the standard of games and sports in the country. Foreign coaches are occasionally invited to the country while promising sportsmen are sent for higher training abroad.

Bangladesh hosted and participated in many international sports competitions. These include the Olympic Games in Los Angeles and Seoul, successive South Asia Federation Games and Will's Asia Cup cricket in Dhaka.

A national trust works for the welfare of distressed sportsmen.

## Media

The total number of newspapers and periodicals in Bangladesh is about 900 including over 76 dailies. Most of the newspapers are in Bangla. The mass circulation Bangla dailes are Ittefaq, Inquilab, Banglar Bani, Sangbad, Dainik Bangla, Ajker Kagoz, Sangram Millat and Khabar. The Bangladesh Observer is the highest circulated English daily followed by the Bangladesh Times, Morning Sun, Daily Star the Telgraph and New Nation. Bichitra, Kagaz, Jai Jai Din are some of the leading Bangla weeklies. The major English weeklies are Holiday, Dialogure, Dhaka Courier and Friday. These newspapers are all published in

Dhaka and circulate across the country. The districts also publish their own newspapers. The industry is undergoing rapid modernisation with adoption of advanced printing technology. Its sources of income are sale proceeds and advertisements. As industrial growth in the private sector is in the formative stage, the government contributes the lion's share of advertisements.

There is complete press freedom in the country under a democratic government.

There are three news agencies in the country Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Eastern News Agency (ENA) and the United News of Bangladesh (UNB). BSS is a government-run news agency while ENA and UNB are private enterprises. International news agencies like Reuter, Associated press (AP), Agence France Presse (AFP), Tass and Xinhua have offices in Dhaka. Radio Bangladesh has six regional stations in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet. It also runs an External Service beamed towards Europe, Middle East, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The daily combined broadcasts of all the six stations of Radio Bangladesh total 92 hours. Dhaka alone transmits 18 hours of broadcasts. Thirty-nine news bulletins and seven news commentaries are put on the air every day.

Television was first introduced in this region in 1964. Since then it has undergone rapid expansion with the setting up of ten relay stations at Chittagong, Natore, Khulna, Sylhet, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Noakhali, Satkhira, Cox's Bazar and

Rangamati. Bangladesh Television transmits about 52 hours and 35 minutes of programmes every week. The percentage of local programmes is 71 and that of imported programmes 29. The daily transmission time is generally more than 6 hours in a single channel which is extended when necessary. On Fridays there is an extended transmission.

## Flora and Fauna

Forests cover about 14 percent of the land area. The country produces quality timber, bamboo and cane. Villages are mostly located amidst groves of bamboo and every house is surrounded by mango, banana, jackfruit, coconut and other trees. Rubber plantations are spreading in the hilly areas.

Varieties of wild animals are found in the forest. Sunderbans is the home of the Royal Bengal Tiger while other animals are cheetah, elephant, bear, deer, monkey, boar and leopard. There are a few hundred species of birds including seasonal and migratory, variety of reptiles including crocodiles and snakes and a wide range of fishes.

## Festivals

The biggest religious festivals of the country is Eid-ul-Fitr. Other Muslim festivals are Eid-ul-Azha, Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi and Shab-e-Barat. Widely celebrated festivals of other communities are Durga Puja of the Hindus, Christmas of the Christians and Buddha Purnima of the Buddhists. Non-religious festivals are Bengali New Year's Day, Independence Day and Victory Day.

## Tourism

Bangladesh offers ample tourist attractions. For management of tourism there is an autonomous body under the government known as Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC). BPC has information centres in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Bogra, Cox's Bazar and Rangamati.

Five Package tours ranging from 4 to 5 days are arranged by Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) from Dhaka.

Sightseeing and excursions are arranged by Parjatan offices at Dhaka, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

**Wearing Apparel :** Tropical in summer and light woollen in winter. All towns and cities including big hotels offer cheap laundering facilities. Twentyfour hour service is available in big hotels and cities and big towns.

## Places of interest

### *Dhaka*

Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh. The city was founded in 1608 AD in the days of Mughal greatness. There are plenty of evidence of the past. The association of Dhaka with the Mughals is one of the city's greatest distinctions and accounts for the very large number of mosques many of them possessing great architectural merit.

### *Sylhet*

Sylhet lies in a serene valley at the foot of the Khasi Hills and is adjacent to the Indian state of Assam. Its gentle slopes, rich light soil, congenial climate

and abundant rainfall have made it one of the richest producers of tea in the world, These also provide Sylhet with rich tropical forests where big game— tiger, panthers and boars abound. Apart from tea plantations, Sylhet is rich in natural beauty and folk culture. The famous Monipuri dance of this area has already attracted world interest.

### ***Paharpur***

The Somapuri Vihara at Paharpur is the biggest Buddhist monastery South of the Himalayas and dates from the Eighth century. It was declared a protected archaeological site in 1919 although the scholar-traveller Dr. Buckman Hamilton had shown interest in it as far back as 1807-12. There is a museum which contains an array of interesting objects found here during excavation.

### ***Mainamati***

Five miles to the West of Comilla lies a range of low hills known as the Mainamati-Lalmai ridge famous for having been an important centre of Buddhist culture. Large-scale excavations disclosed valuable information concerning Buddhist rulers who flourished here as independent kings during the seventh and Eighth centuries AD.

### ***Sundarbans***

The Sundarbans is a fascinating tropical forest with deltaic swamps along the coastal fringe of the southernmost part of Bangladesh. The entire area abounds in sundari trees and is known for honey and wildlife including the formidable Royal Bengal Tiger.

### ***Chittagong***

Chittagong is a large and thriving city set amidst

lovely natural surroundings studded with green-clad knolls, coconut palms, mosques and minarets against the background of the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal. It is an ancient place and centuries ago merchants from China visited it. They were followed by the Arabs, the Persians and the Portuguese. The celebrated Muslim geographer Ibn-I-Batuta described Chittagong as Madina-tul-Akahzar, meaning the green city.

#### ***Cox's Bazar***

The town of Cox's Bazar, founded in 1798 by Captain Hiram Cox of the East India Company, is well protected by green-clad jungle slopes on one side and the seashore on the other. The entire hilly region of the town was once occupied by Arakanese Buddhist immigrants from Myanmar (Burma). Today Cox's Bazar has a mixed population speaking Bangla and Burmese. The settlers from Arakan have established flourishing cottage industries where they weave colourful silk and cotton materials and make cigars. Cox's Bazar is particularly proud of its fine sea beach, the longest unbroken stretch of sand in the world. It is about 75 miles (120 km) long and at low tide the distance can be covered in about two hours in a motor car.

#### ***Rangamati***

Rangamati is the headquarters of one of the Chittagong Hill Tracts districts. About 50 miles from Chittagong and connected by good metalled road, Rangamati is a favourite holiday resort with beautiful lakes, hilly landscape and tribal handicraft.

# **Foreign Missions in Bangladesh**

## **AFGHANISTAN**

The Embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan  
House No. CWN (C)-2A  
Road No. 24, Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 603232

## **AUSTRALIA**

Australian High Commission  
184 Gulshan Avenue  
Gulshan, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 600091-5 PABX  
Fax : 883794 Telex : 642317

## **BELGIUM**

Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium  
22 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : PABX : 600138, 604678  
Consular/Administration Section : 604249  
Telex : 642304 (BEL BJ)  
Fax : 883151

## **BHUTAN**

The Royal Bhutanese Embassy  
House No. 58, Road No. 3-A  
Dhanmondi Residential Area  
Dhaka  
Tel : 605839-40



**BRAZIL**

Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil  
House No. 23 Road No. 5  
Baridhara, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : PABX : 605390, 606911, 604528  
Telex : 642334 BRADAC BJ  
Fax : 883330

**BULGARIA**

Embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria  
House No. 12, Road No. 127  
Gulshan Model Town  
Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 607103, 602344

**CANADA**

The Canadian High Commission  
House No. 16A, Road 48  
Gulshan, Dhaka-1212  
GPO Box 569  
Tel : 607071-7  
Telex : 642328 BMCN BJ

**CHINA**

Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
NE (L) 6, Road No. 83  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 884862, 883004

**CZECH AND SLOVAK**

Embassy of the Czech and Slovak Republic  
House NE (O) 3-A, Road 90  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 610041, 610392

**DENMARK**

Royal Danish Embassy  
House No. NW (H)1  
Road No. 51  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 881799, 882499, 882599  
Telex No : 642320 AMBA BJ  
Fax : 883638

**EGYPT**

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
House No. NE (N)-9, Road No. 90  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : 882766-67  
Telex : 632308 BSTN BJ  
Fax : 884883

**FRANCE**

Embassy of the Republic of France  
Road No. 108 House No. 18  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 607083, 607084, 605890, 610432  
Telex : 642300 AMFR BJ  
Fax : 883612

**GERMANY**

Embassy of Germany  
178 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 884735-7  
Telex : 642331 AADC BJ  
Fax : 883141

**HOLY SEE**

Embassy of the Holy See (Vatican)

United Nations Road-2

Diplomatic Enclave

Baridhara Model Town

Dhaka

Tel : 882018, 882143

Fax : 883574

**HUNGARY**

Embassy of the Republic of Hungary

80 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka

Tel : 608101-2

Telex : 642314 HUNG BJ

Fax : 883117

**INDIA**

High Commission of India

House No. 120, Road No. 2

Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka

Tel : 503606, 504166, 503247, 507670

Telex : 642336 HCIDA BJ

Office Hours : Sunday to Thursday

8-00 am to 4-30 pm

**INDONESIA**

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

75 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka

Tel : 600131, 600132, 883561

Telex : 675639 RIDA BJ

## **IRAN**

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
House No NE (A) 9/B, Road No. 71  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 607095-6, 601096, 883194

## **IRAQ**

Embassy of the Republic of Iraq  
112 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 600298, 600299  
Telex : 642307 IRAQ BJ  
Fax : 883277

## **ITALY**

Embassy of the Republic of Italy  
House No. NWD (4), Road No. 58/62  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 603161, 604201, 602157  
Telex : 642313 ITDIP BJ

## **JAPAN**

Embassy of Japan  
Plot No. 110 Road 27 Block-A  
Banani Model Town, Dhaka  
(b) Consular & Information:  
Plot No. CEN (A)-10,  
Road No. 96  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : (a) Chancery:  
PABX No. 608191-95, 608103-05  
(b) Consular & Information:  
PABX No. 610045-49  
Telex No : 642330  
Fax : 883297

**KOREA (South)**

Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
House No. NW (E)-17 Road No. 55  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : PABX 604847, 604781, 883237 (Direct)

**KOREA (North)**

Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of  
Korea  
House No. 6 Road No. 7  
Baridhara Model Town, Dhaka  
Commercial Section : House No. 21  
Road No. 10, Banani  
Tel : 601250, 606358  
Commercial Section-603150

**KUWAIT**

Embassy of the State of Kuwait  
SE (D)5, 26 South Link Road  
Gulshan, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 882700-3  
Telex : 675600 KTDA BJ  
Fax : 883753

**LIBYA**

The People's Bureau of the Socialist  
People's Libyan Arab Jamhuriya  
NED-3/A Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka  
Tel : 600141-2, 600148-9  
Fax : 883417  
Telex : 642311 LIPB BJ

**MALAYSIA**

Malaysian High Commission  
House No. 4, Road No. 118  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : 600291-2, 604362  
Telex : 642309 MAL BJ  
Fax : 883115

**MOROCCO**

Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco  
Road No. 1/1 House No. 62  
Banani Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : 610329, 883176

**MYANMAR**

The Embassy of the Union of Myanmar  
House No. 89 (B) Road No. 4  
Banani Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : 601915, 601461  
Working Days & Office Hours :  
Sunday to Thursday : 8-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.  
and 1-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.

**NEPAL**

Royal Nepalese Embassy  
United Nations Road No. 2  
Baridhara Diplomatic Enclave, Dhaka  
Telex : 675643 NEPEM BJ  
Tel : 601890, 602091, 601790

**NETHERLANDS**

Royal Netherlands Embassy  
House No. 49 Road No. 90 Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 882715-17  
Telex : 642324 NID BJ

**NORWAY**

Royal Norwegian Embassy

House No. 9 Road No. 111

Gulshan, Dhaka.

Tel : 602304, 603091, 606048, 883065, 883880

Telex : 64-2325 NORA BJ

Fax : 883661

**PAKISTAN**

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

House No. NE C-2 Road No. 71

Gulshan, Dhaka

Tel : 600276 , 600277

Telex No : 642335 PAREP BJ

**PALESTINE**

Embassy of the State of Palestine

House No. CES (C) 4, Road No. 118

Gulshan, Dhaka

Tel : 603016, 603308 , 601416

**PHILIPPINES**

Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines

House No. NE (L) 5, Road No. 83

Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka

Tel : 600077, 605945

Telex : 642671 HBP BJ

Fax : 883416

Office Hours : 8-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m.

**POLAND**

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
53 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan Model Town  
Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 606098, 608503  
Telex : 632301 POL BJ

**QATAR**

Embassy of the State of Qatar  
House No. 23 Road No. 108  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : 604477, 604478, 600389  
Telex : 642315 QATARI BJ  
Working Days and Office Hours :  
Saturday to Wednesday : 8-00 a.m. to  
2-00 p.m.  
Thursday : 8-00 a.m. to 12-00 noon  
Friday : Holiday

**ROMANIA**

The Embassy of the Republic of Romania  
House No. 33 Road No. 74  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : 600128, 882502  
Telex : 642327 ROMC BJ  
Working Days and Office hours :  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
from Saturday to Thursday, Friday-Closed



### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

The Embassy of the Russian Federation  
NE (J) 9 Road 79, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 601050, 602969, 602104 (Ambassador  
Office)

Cultural Section : House 510, Road 7  
Dhanmondi R A, Dhaka-1205  
Tel : 312319

Press & Information Section :  
House 11 Road 3  
Dhanmondi R A, Dhaka  
Tel : 501581

### **SAUDI ARABIA**

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia  
House No. 12 NE (N), Road No. 92  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : PABX 600221-2, 600143-5, 602045  
Telex : 642305 NJDH BJ , 600144 - ( )  
Fax : 411006

### **SRI LANKA**

The High Commission of the Democratic  
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
House No. 22 Road No. 56  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel : 601057, 603048  
Telex : 642321 LANKA BJ

### **SWEDEN**

Swedish Embassy  
73 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 600278, 884761-4  
Telex : 642303 SVEN BJ

### **SWITZERLAND**

Embassy of Switzerland  
House 5, Road 104, Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 600181-2  
Telex : 642308 AMSWI BJ

### **THAILAND**

Royal Thai Embassy  
21 Block-B, Road No. 16  
Banani R A, Dhaka  
Tel : 601475, 601634  
Office Hours : Sunday through Thursday  
8-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday-Closed

### **TURKEY**

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey  
House No 7, Road No 62, Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 882198, 883536  
Working Days and Office Hours :  
Sunday to Thursday : 8-30 a.m. to 1-30 p.m.

### **UAE**

The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates  
House No. CEN (H) 41, Road No. 113  
Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka-1212  
Tel : 604775, 604892 . 604996  
Telex : 642301 UAE BJ  
Working days and Office Hours :  
Saturday-Wednesday : 8-00 a.m. to 2-00 p.m.  
Thursday : 8-00 a.m. to 12-00 Noon  
Friday Closed

**UK**

British High Commission  
United Nations Road  
Baridhara, Dhaka  
P O Box 6079  
Tel : 882705, 601079  
Fax : 883437

**USA**

Embassy of the United States of America  
Madani Avenue, Baridhara  
G P O Box No. 323, Ramna, Dhaka  
Tel : 884700-22  
Telex : 642319 AEDKA  
Office hours : 8-00 a. m. to 4-30 p.m.  
(Sunday through Thursday)

**YUGOSLAVIA**

Embassy of the Socialist Federal Republic of  
Yugoslavia  
House No. 10 Road No. 62  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 600782 , 601505  
Working days and Office Hours Saturday to  
Thursday : 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Offices of International Organizations

1. Asian Development Bank  
Steel House  
Kawran Bazar (7th Floor) Dhaka  
Tel : 814380-85
2. Centre for Integrated Rural  
Development for Asia and the Pacific,  
Dhaka (CIRDAP)  
Chameli House  
17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka  
Tel : 238751, 244776, 864624
3. Delegation of the Commission of  
European Communities, Dhaka, (EEC)  
CES (E)-19, Road 128  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Tel : 607016, 884730-2
4. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
House No. 37 Road No. 8  
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka  
Tel : 310311-4  
Telex : 64297 FAO BJ  
Fax : 813446
5. International Jute Organisation  
House No. 95 A, Road No. 4  
Banani, Dhaka  
Tel : 603745, 602127, 605259, 883605

6. International Labour Organization (ILO)  
House No. 79, Road No. 12A  
Dhanmondi Res. Area, Dhaka  
Tel : 312836, 312907, 312876
7. International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
Bangladesh Bank Building (4th Floor)  
Motijheel, Dhaka  
Tel : 257222, 256857
8. Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational  
Training and Research (ICTVTR)  
K B Bazar, Gazipur  
Tel : 892366, 892396
9. United Nations Development Programme  
(UNDP)  
House No. 60, Road No. 11A  
Dhanmondi Res. Area  
Dhaka  
Tel : 310370, 310381-9
10. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
House No. 73, Road No. 5A  
Dhanmondi Res. Area  
Dhaka  
Tel : 500181-6
11. World Bank Resident Mission  
3-A, Paribagh, Dhaka  
Tel : 861056-9

12. World Health Organization  
House No. 12, Road No. 7  
Dhanmondi Res. Area  
Dhaka  
Tel : 864653-5
13. International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease  
Research (ICDDR, B) Mohakhali, Dhaka  
Tel : 600171-8
14. United Nations High  
Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)  
House No. 664, Road 33 (Old)  
Dhanmondi Res, Area  
Dhaka  
Tel : 815121, 811453, 811002
15. World Food Programme (WFP)  
House No. 69, Road No. 11A  
Dhanmondi Res. Area  
Dhaka  
Tel : 813320
16. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
House No. 45 Road 3A  
Dhanmondi Res. Area, Dhaka  
Tel : 509315, 509360, 509870
17. United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)  
House No. 25, Road 11  
Dhanmondi Res. Area  
Dhaka  
Tel : 319469, 317104, 323491

## Nationwide Dialing Codes

Barisal	0431
Bagerhat	0401
Bogra	051
Brahman Baria	0851
Bhola	0491
Bandarban	0361
Barguna	0446
Chandpur	0841
Chittagong	031
Cox's Bazar	0341
Choumohani	0321
Chuadanga	0761
Chapainawabganj	0781
Comilla	081
Dhaka	02
Dinajpur	0531
Feni	0331
Faridpur	0631
Gopalganj	0423
Gazipur	0681
Gaibandha	0541
Habiganj	0831
Iswardi	0732
Jessore	0421
Jhenaidah	0451
Jhalokathi	0611
Jamalpur	0981
Joypurhat	0571
Khulna	041
Kurigram	0581
Kushtia	071
Khagrachari	0371

Lalmonirhat	0591
Moulavi Bazar	0861
Munshiganj	0691
Mymensingh	091
Madaripur	0661
Magura	0611
Mongla	0402
Manikganj	0651
Meherpur	0791
Noakhali	0321
Natore	0771
Narail	0481
Netrakona	0951
Naogaon	0741
Narayanganj	0671
Narshingdi	0621
Nilphamari	0551
Pabna	0731
Patuakhali	0441
Pirojpur	0461
Panchagar	0562
Rangamati	0351
Rajshahi	0721
Rajbari	0641
Rangpur	0521
Sirajganj	0751
Shantahar	0741
Sylhet	0821
Satkhira	0471
Saidpur	0552
Sherpur	0951
Tangail	0921
Thakurgaon	0561



# Important Telephones

## Ministry of Information

Secretary	244222
Joint Secretary (Administration)	831218
Joint Secretary (Development)	831527
Joint Secretary (Press)	244226

## External Publicity Wing

Director General	234029
	833569
	(R) 503630
	863769
Director-1	238083
	(R) 508083
Director-2	237859
	(R) 411385
Deputy Director-1	233304
	(R) 419934
Deputy Director-2	233216
	(R) 417067
Asstt Director-1	256035
	(R) 403700
Asstt Director-2	256035
	(R) 383036
Asstt Director-3	251602

## **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Foreign Secretary	832490
Addl Foreign Secretary (M)	831154
Addl Foreign Secretary (B)	831103
Chief of Protocol	831194
Duty Room	861555

## **Prime Minister's Office (Press Wing)**

Press Secretary	811309
Deputy Press Secretary	811311
Deputy Press Secretary	811312
Deputy Press Secretary	814433

## **Press Information Department (PID)**

Principal Information Officer (PIO)	400958 861180
Addl Principal Information Officer	244521
Sr. Deputy Principal Information Officer (Press)	240614
Sr. Deputy Principal Information Officer (Protocol)	242886
Newsroom	861051-3
Darkroom	280502

### Regional Information Offices

Chittagong	505531
	503617
	502758
	504113
Khulna	20853
	20749
	20870
Rajshahi	4504
	4365

### Bangladesh Television (BTV)

Director General	410010
Deputy Director General (News)	861780
Deputy Director General (Programme)	400250
Chief Engineer	864462
Addl Chief Engineer	862062

### Radio Bangladesh

Director General	865294
Deputy Director General (Programme)	864941
Deputy Director General (News)	864943
Director (News)	815036
Radio News and Duty Room	815079
	312227
	312263
	813356

### **Department of Films & Publications**

Director General	831679
	402263
Director (Pub)	414423
Director (Film)	401571

### **National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMCO) PABX 325051-5**

Director General	811668
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### **Department of Mass Communication**

Director General	408150
	406563

### **Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB)**

Director General	412130
	400081-5

### **Press Council**

Chairman	500363
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### **National Press Club**

864611-2
864660

### News Agencies

BSS	235036-9, 235030
UNB	834105, 400859 404464
ENA	234206
REUTERS	864088 863188 506363
AFP	833185
AP	401411
DPA	831997
PTI	235036-9
TASS	316315
IRAN	605922
XINHUA	403167 402311

### National Dailies in Dhaka

Bangladesh Observer	235105-9
Bangladesh Times	258840, 233195
New Nation	245011-9
Morning Sun	831694, 831618
Daily Star	863035-6
Telegraph	240147-9, 242281-2
Newsday	245457, 256238
Ittefaq	245010-19
Dainik Bangla	864748, 234304 R. 232113
Sangbad	238147, 833596 238160

Banglar Bani	237548, 233599 231173-4
Khabar	882720-3
Inqilab	242281-2 240147-9
Ajker Kagoj	862968, 861443
Janata	604096, 602782
Sangram	414450, 407874-9
Dinkal	865191
Rupali	232875, 235542
Meillat	242351, 240026
Azad	502403, 500679
Al-Ameen	815705-6
Bhor	814468
Kalbela	237142, 237442
Shakti	405535, 411941
Desh Bangla	262637
Bhorer Kagoj	861145-6, 864438

### Regional Dailies

<b>Chittagong</b>	
Azadi	224341
Purbabarta	226356
Naya Bangla	225122
<b>Sylhet</b>	
Sylhet Bani	3665
Jaianty Barta	8934
<b>Comilla</b>	
Rupashi	6689
<b>Rangamati</b>	
Girdarpan	2011

<b>Mymensingh</b>	
Jahan	5677
<b>Rangpur</b>	
Dabanol	3766
<b>Dinajpur</b>	
Uttar Bangla	4010
Pratidin	4113
Uttara	4326
<b>Bogra</b>	
Karotoa	5866
<b>Jessore</b>	
Sfulinga	7401
Runner	6943
<b>Khulna</b>	
Janmabhumi	21965
<b>Barisal</b>	
Dhakkinanchal	3230

#### Hotels and Restaurants

<b>Sonargaon</b>	315001-9
	315071-85
<b>Dhaka Sheraton</b>	863391-7
	861191-7
<b>Purbani International</b>	256081-9
	864926-30
<b>Abakash</b>	607085-9
<b>Sunderban</b>	505055-9
	503614

Zakaria	608189
	608507
	608012-3
Panda Garden	608458
	608469
Grill House	884015
Royal Orchid	605373
Swasdee	607571

#### Rent-a-Car

Dhaka Sheraton	505061
Max Taxi	238594
	258581
	326408
Tokyo Car Centre	415800
	403555

#### Airlines

Biman (City)	240151-9
Biman (Airport)	894771-79
	894730-34
Biman (Flt enquiry)	894350
	894870
Saudia	318139
	311969
	326093
	318149
Kuwait Airlines	328509
	328229
	314513



PIA	502668
	501112
Indian Airlines	256533
	231687
Air India	505367
	500070-71
Thai	834711-20
British-Airways	864484-5
Air France	500991
Aeroflot	503056
KLM	324103
Lufthansa	502856
Pan Am	258128
	236815
	259455
Zia International Airport	894870-5
Airport Manager (Zia)	894480

#### Hospitals

Dhaka Medical College	500121-6
	505025-32
Sir Salimullah Medical College	240061-4
	239002-6
Suhrawardy Hospital	325150-4
(Cardiovascular)	328014
PG Hospital	505194-8
Holy Family Hospital	831724
	831725

Other Services

Ambulance Service	233333
	254613
Red Crescent Ambulance	408897
Inspector General of	404003
Police (IGP)	
Metropolitan Police	410061-9
Police Control	509215
	500142
	509922

T & T

Director (Internatioanl)	832266
Telephone Enquiry	17 or 254222
Trunk Booking	152/162
(Overseas)	501777
	832359
	419313
	608080
	319226
	383016
Trunk Booking (Inland)	109
Trunk Enquiry	103
Phonogram	16
Telephone Complain	254132/233897 18
Time	14

No

Test Room -

2546

58

14091

### Tourist Offices

<b>Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation</b>	<b>325155-59</b>
<b>State Guest Houses</b>	
<b>Karatoa</b>	<b>329422</b>
<b>Padma &amp; Meghna</b>	<b>407932</b>
	<b>405963</b>
	<b>407919</b>
<b>Sugandha</b>	<b>409984</b>

### Tourist Information Centres

<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>509479</b>
<b>Hotel Sheraton</b>	<b>863391-7</b>
<b>Airport</b>	<b>894771-79</b>

### Chittagong

<b>Hotel Shaikat</b>	<b>209514</b>
<b>Station Road</b>	<b>204650</b>

### Cox's Bazar

<b>Motel Upal</b>	<b>3274</b>
	<b>3275</b>

### Rangamati

<b>Parjatan Motel</b>	<b>3122</b>
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### Rajshahi

<b>Parjatan Motel</b>	<b>2392</b>
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## Bogra

Parjatan Motel 5044

## Transport

Railway Enquiry 409686  
Railway Booking 409341-9/268  
BRTC Coach Services 403803  
Steamer Service 251706  
Rocket Reservation 235031-5/259  
Bangladesh Biman 240151-9  
Airport 894771-79  
894730-34

## Trade and Commerce

Export Promotion Bureau 232245-9  
Trading Corporation 325030-39  
of Bangladesh  
Tariff Commission 403132  
Metropolitan Chamber of 235168-69  
Commerce and Industry, Dhaka  
Tea Board 231655  
258029  
251754

## Banks

<b>Bangladesh Bank</b>	252927-59 235000-19
<b>Sonali</b>	252990-98
<b>Janata</b>	240042-5 240027-9
<b>Pubali</b>	251781-85
<b>Agrani</b>	257051-52 232982-87
<b>Rupali</b>	251827-28
<b>Uttara</b>	255094-6 255262
<b>National</b>	243081-5 255961-5
<b>Islami</b>	243046-9 252921-5
<b>Arab-Bangladesh</b>	240312-6 235097-98 325066-67
<b>Chartered</b>	236372 231046
<b>Grindlays</b>	235024-28
<b>American Express</b>	238351-54
<b>Indosuez</b>	238285-9
<b>City Bank</b>	243001-4
<b>Al-Baraka</b>	410050-54
<b>IFIC</b>	243020-9 833945 833094

### **Fax**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(880-02) 411281
External Publicity Wing	(880-02) 833569

### **Telex**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs	642200
Ministry of Information	672813
BSS	642202
PID	675619
UNB	642499
Radio Bangladesh	642221
BTV	675624
Bangladesh Biman	642649 65758

# International Travel and Tourist Information

## I. Passport and Visa Requirements

Valid passport is required for nationals of all countries to visit Bangladesh. Passports are not required for the holders of identity certificate, laissez passer issued by United Nations and its affiliated bodies, continuous discharge certificate/Nullies/Seaman Book (travelling on duty to join or repatriate from ship) issued by any country recognised by Bangladesh.

(a) Visa is required for all except the nationals of the following countries :

Bhutan, Barbados, Bahamas, Botswana, Cyprus, Fiji, Grenada, Ghana, Gambia, Guyana, Gabon, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malta, Mauritius, Malawi, New Zealand, Nigeria, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa (Western), Somalia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Vatican and Zambia.

(b) No entry permit/visa will be required for up to 15 days by foreign tourists from the following countries arriving in or transiting through Bangladesh, provided they hold return or onward air ticket.

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Luxemburg, the Maldives, Norway,

Netherlands, Nepal, the Philippines, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and USA. Foreigners will be required to obtain visa from Director General, Immigration and Passport, or nearest regional passport office in Bangladesh if duration of stay exceeds 15 days.

Visas are issued by Bangladesh diplomatic missions abroad and the trade commissions where there is no embassy or consulate.

## **II. Airport Embarkation Fees**

Tk. 200 per person per journey abroad is the airport embarkation fee. Children under 2 years and passengers in transit the same day by the first available aircraft are exempted. (For domestic flights the rate of airport tax is Tk. 20.) In addition Bangladesh nationals travelling abroad are required to pay Travel Tax @ 12.5% of fare subject to minimum of Tk. 200 and maximum of Tk. 2000. However, rate of air travel tax for SAARC countries is Tk. 500 per ticket. Air travel tax is Tk. 50 for domestic journey.

## **III. Health Regulations**

Foreigners coming into Bangladesh should take anti-cholera inoculation before entering Bangladesh for their personal safety. Yellow Fever vaccination is required if coming from Yellow Fever infected areas.

## **IV. Currency Regulations**

A tourist may bring any amount of foreign exchange in the form of traveller cheques, foreign currency notes or other foreign currency instruments provided a written declaration is



made at the time of entry into the country in the currency declaration form (Form F.M.J.) obtainable from the customs at the port of entry. However, no declarations is required for import of foreign exchange up to \$1000 by foreign tourists. While leaving Bangladesh a tourist can reconvert at the airport up to 25% of the foreign exchange encashed.

#### **V. Denominations of currency**

Notes : Taka 500, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, 1

Coins : 50, 25, 10, 5, 1 poisha

#### **VI. Driving Rules**

Driving to the left is the rule.

#### **VII. Airport Facilities**

For quick immigration check of the tourists at Dhaka Zia international airport, a separate Tourists' Reporting Centre exists at the immigration area. Clearance of tourists at the Health, Immigration and Customs counter is also done expeditiously.

Currency conversion facilities exist at Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank and Pubali Bank located on the ground floor lounge of the airport terminal building.

#### **VIII. Export of Souvenirs**

A foreign tourist is allowed to take out of the country local handicrafts and souvenirs for noncommercial purpose, excepting prohibited items, up to the value of Tk. 3000/- free of tax.

#### **IX. Information regarding use of Red and Green Channels at Zia International airport.**

Passengers intending to use the Green Channel

should note the following:

Passengers arriving from abroad at the Zia International Airport carrying the following items only and who have not brought any other goods may pass through the Green Channel :

- ★ Wearing apparel and clothing accessories in use;
- ★ A handbag or a briefcase and toilet requisites in reasonable quantity;
- ★ One watch on person and a traveller's clock;
- ★ A set of pens, one cigarette lighter and similar other objects of personal use;
- ★ Jewellery, including imitation jewellery, on person not exceeding the value of Tk. 5000 i.e. approximately US\$ 150 or such jewellery as had previously been taken out of Bangladesh under an export certificate issued by Bangladesh Bank or under declaration to Customs;
- ★ One invalid chair and other physical aids in use;
- ★ Prizes, medals and trophies earned abroad for distinction in sports, arts and culture, literature and science;
- ★ One electric smoothing iron, one micro cassette recorder and one walkman in use;
- ★ One electric hair dryer;
- ★ One portable camera for still photography and 12 plates or 5 rolls of films;
- ★ 200 sticks of cigarettes (applicable to a foreigner only);
- ★ 50 cigars, or 250 grams of manufactured tobacco or an assortment of manufactured tobacco and cigars not exceeding 250 grams

in weight;

- ★ Foodstuff of value not exceeding Tk. 500 i.e. approximately US\$ 15;
- ★ One bottle or up to one sixth gallon of spirituous beverages, i.e. spirits, wines, and beer (applicable to a foreign non-Muslim national);
- ★ Games and sports requisites in use, including an airgun but excluding firearms and ammunitions;
- ★ Any used article previously taken out of Bangladesh under declaration to Customs;
- ★ A passenger arriving at the Zia International airport from abroad after a continuous stay outside Bangladesh for a period of 30 days or less is entitled to bring in miscellaneous articles of personal/domestic use not more than six in number of each article other than cotton sarees, for the purpose of making gift to the members of his family or friends. The aggregate value of such articles must not, however, exceed Tk. 2000, that is US\$ 60 on the first visit during a calendar year. On the second visit in the same calendar year the concession will be halved, that is, the value of the articles must not exceed Tk. 1000 or US\$ 30. No such concession is available on the third or subsequent visits in the same calendar year.
- ★ A passenger arriving at the Zia International airport after a continuous stay abroad for a period exceeding 30 days is entitled to bring in miscellaneous articles of personal/domestic use, not more than six in

number of each article other than cotton sarees, for making gift to the members of his family or friends. The total value of such articles must not, however, exceed Tk. 5000, that is, US\$ 150 on the first visit during a calendar year. On the second visit in the same calendar year this concession will be halved that is, the value of the articles must not exceed Tk. 2500 or US\$ 75. No such concession is available on third or subsequent visits in the same calendar year.

- ★ Any adult Bangladesh passenger coming from abroad after a continuous stay of not less than six months shall be allowed to import ornaments of gold weighing not exceeding 100 grams without payment of duty and taxes.

#### **Guidelines for Passengers Required to use the Red Channel.**

A passenger carrying anything beyond the articles enumerated above must necessarily pass through the Red Channel and get his or her baggage examined by an officer of Customs on duty at any of the counters of the Red Channel area. A passenger carrying any of the following articles must use Red Channel and must get his or her baggage examined and cleared on making payments of appropriate customs duties and other applicable charges as assessed by the Customs Officer in any of the bank counters located within the customs barrier:

- (1) Television
- (2) Refrigerator
- (3) Deep freezer

- (4) Domestic cooker and oven
- (5) Vacuum cleaner and floor polisher
- (6) Washing machine
- (7) Dryer
- (8) Dish washer
- (9) Cassette or tape recorder
- (10) Two-in-one
- (11) Three-in-one
- (12) Sewing machine
- (13) Knitting machine
- (14) Table or pedestal fan
- (15) Typewriter (Bangla typewriter exempted from duty and tax)
- (16) Dictaphone
- (17) Radio with turntable, radio with cassette deck, cassette deck with turntable, cassette deck, amplifier, tuner, speaker, equaliser, turntable, cabinet
- (18) Radiogram and compact disc player
- (19) Movie camera (8 millimetre only)
- (20) Video camera
- (21) Slide projector
- (22) Movie projector (8 millimetre only)
- (23) Telephone set subject to clearance by Telegraph and Telephone Board
- (24) Video cassette player
- (25) Video cassette recorder
- (26) Blank or recorded video cassette (not exceeding six in number)
- (27) Video game player for children (not parlour video games) and cassettes thereof,
- (28) Micro computer with maximum 1 mega byte initial random access memory
- (29) Crockery
- (30) Cutlery

- (31) Utensils
- (32) Drapery linen (up to 50 metres)
- (33) Wall paper (up to 50 sq. metres)
- (34) Other household articles each exceeding Tk. 1000

Baggage concessions are available depending on the duration of stay abroad of a passenger at the following scales:

Duration of Stay abroad	Aggregate value of dutiable articles to be assessed at concessionary rates
1. Exceeding fifteen days but not exceeding three months	Tk. 10,000
2. Exceeding three months but not exceeding six months	Tk. 15,000
3. Exceeding six months but not exceeding one year	Tk. 25,000
4. Exceeding one year	Tk. 50,000

Passengers are, therefore, requested to purchase goods abroad bearing in mind the duration of their actual stay abroad including the dates of departure from and arrival in Bangladesh so that their purchase remains within the limit of their entitlement. A passenger returning after a continuous stay abroad of more than fifteen days is entitled, once in a year, to a further concession of bringing in a microcomputer of maximum one mega byte initial random access memory of a value not exceeding Taka one lakh, US\$ 3,125 on payment of leviable customs duty and when

returning after a continuous stay abroad of over three months, he may in addition bring, in a year, a video camera (non-professional) or a video cassette recorder on payment of applicable customs duty. None of the above listed articles may, however, be brought more than one in number.

**Passengers may please note :**

If any passenger passing through the Green Channel is found to possess any article beyond those enumerated for users of Green Channel, the offending goods shall be liable to outright confiscation and the appropriate adjudicating officer may in addition impose on the passenger a penalty not exceeding three times the value of the goods. Besides, in the event of detection of smuggling or importation of contraband goods, legal action as per provisions of relevant laws may be initiated against the passenger concerned.

**X) Electricity 220 volts A/C, 50 cycle**

**XI) Telephone Charges**

Local	Tk. 1.70	Per call
NWD		
Chittagong	Tk. 29.00	(Per minute)
Khulna	Tk. 20.40	(Per minute)
Foreign call (Selected)		
U.K.	Tk. 65.00	(Per minute)
U.S.A.	Tk. 80.00	(Per minute)
Japan	Tk. 60.00	(Per minute)

**XII) Water Supply**

Chlorinated piped water in main cities.

### **XIII) Taxi Fare**

Private Taxi : no fixed rate (negotiable). Taxi of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Car: Per hour Tk. 65, per km Tk. 7 and 10 % service charge on total amount; Microbus: Per hour Tk. 90, per km Tk. 12 and 10% service charge on total amount.

### **XIV) Main Shopping Centres**

**Dhaka :** Baitul Mukarram, Stadium Market, Bangabandhu Aveneu, Gulshan Market No. 1 & 2, New Market, Green Super Market, DIT Super Market, Hotel Sheraton and Sonargaon Arcade.

**Chittagong :** Biponi Bitan, Karnafuli Market.

**Khulna :** KDA New Market

**Rajshahi :** New Market

### **XV) Handicrafts**

The handicrafts and cottage industries products of Bangladesh as available in Dhaka are handloom fabrics, including silk, Jamdani and printed sarees, pink pearls, jute products, wood and cane products, coconut masks, bamboo products, jewellery, folk dolls, horn products, conch-shell products and brasswares of different description, sizes and colours.

A few notable handicrafts shops are :

- Duty Free Shop (Dhaka Airport)
- Kanak, Vogue, Champak, Joya (Dhaka Sheraton Hotel)
- Shetuli (Mahakhali, Hotel Sonargaon. Green Road)
- Moloos's, Karika, Chandan (DIT Super Market, Mymensingh Road).
- Ideas (Gulshan)
- Charuta (Road No. 5, Dhanmondi)



- Aarong (Asad Gate, Magh Bazar & Banani)
- Upahar (New Elephant Road)
- Karupanya (112, Airport Road)
- Kumudini (Gulshan and Hotel Sonargaon)

**XVI) Working Hours**

Banks 9 am to 1 pm (Saturday to Wednesday and 9 am to 11 am on Thursday).

Government office : 8.00 am to 2.30 pm (Saturday to Thursday).

Friday is closed holiday for offices and banks and most shops and businesses.

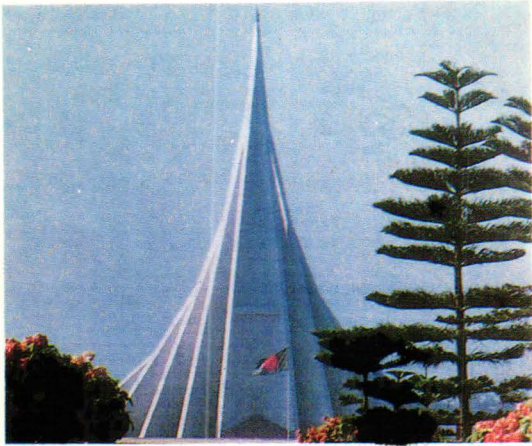
Shopping time 10 am to 8.30 pm

## **Declaration in form 'A' with regard to unaccompanied baggage**

Some passengers do not take care of declaring in Form 'A' their unaccompanied goods already shipped or airfreighted before their departure from abroad and face legal problems when the goods subsequently arrive by sea, land or air. A passenger who had shipped or airfreighted unaccompanied goods and passing through Red or Green Channel, have to declare in form 'A' before an Officer of Customs on duty at the airport and carefully retain a copy of the same duly endorsed by the Customs Officer before entering the respected channels of exit.

### **Passengers may please note :**

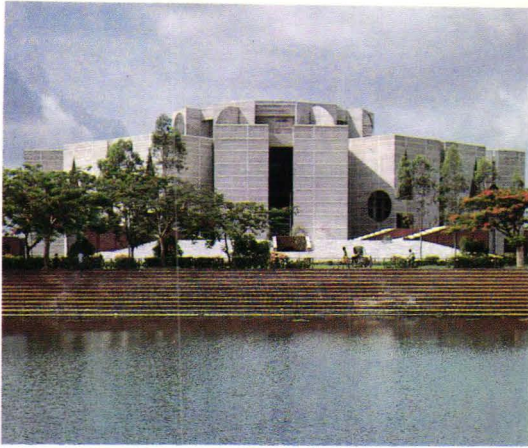
If there is any problem with regard to the payment of duty or if the passenger requires to know any provisions of law he or she may ask any officer on duty about it and may even meet the Assistant/ Deputy/ Additional Collector of Customs if he or she is not satisfied. In this regard, the passengers are requested to please note the counter number and the name of the Inspector of Customs on duty. A Customs Inspector on duty is in uniform and he has a name tag on the flap of his pocket and customs insignia on shoulder badges.



*The National Memorial at Savar on the outskirts of Dhaka.*



*Shapla- the National flower.*



*The Parliament House— one of the most impressive buildings in Dhaka.*



*Spotted deers abound in the Sundarbans.*



*Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology*



*Shrimps— an export item from Bangladesh.*



*An oil of canvas titled 'Naiyor' by Kamrul Hassan.*



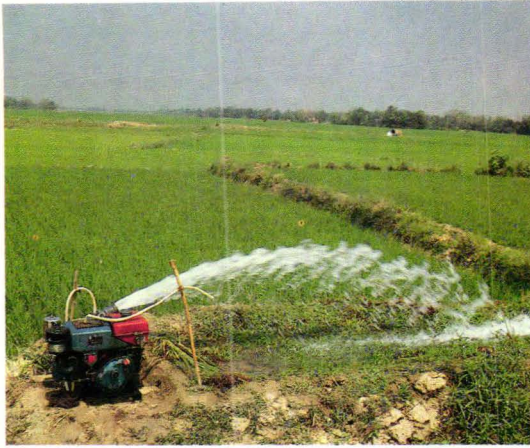


*The Royal Bengal Tiger is a protected species in Bangladesh.*

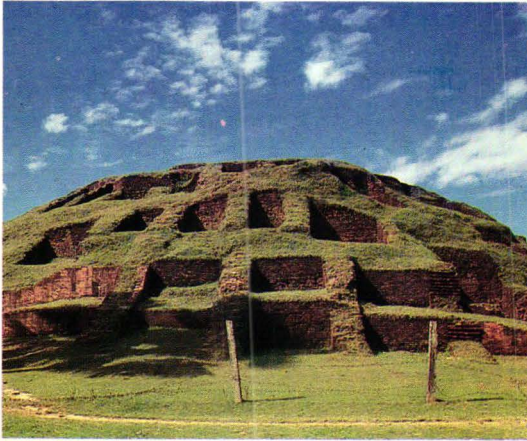


*The beach on the Bay of Bengal at Cox's Bazar.*





*Bangladesh is modernising its agriculture.*



*The Eighth Century Buddhist monastery at Paharpur.*



*Bakhrabad Gas field at Brahmanbaria.*

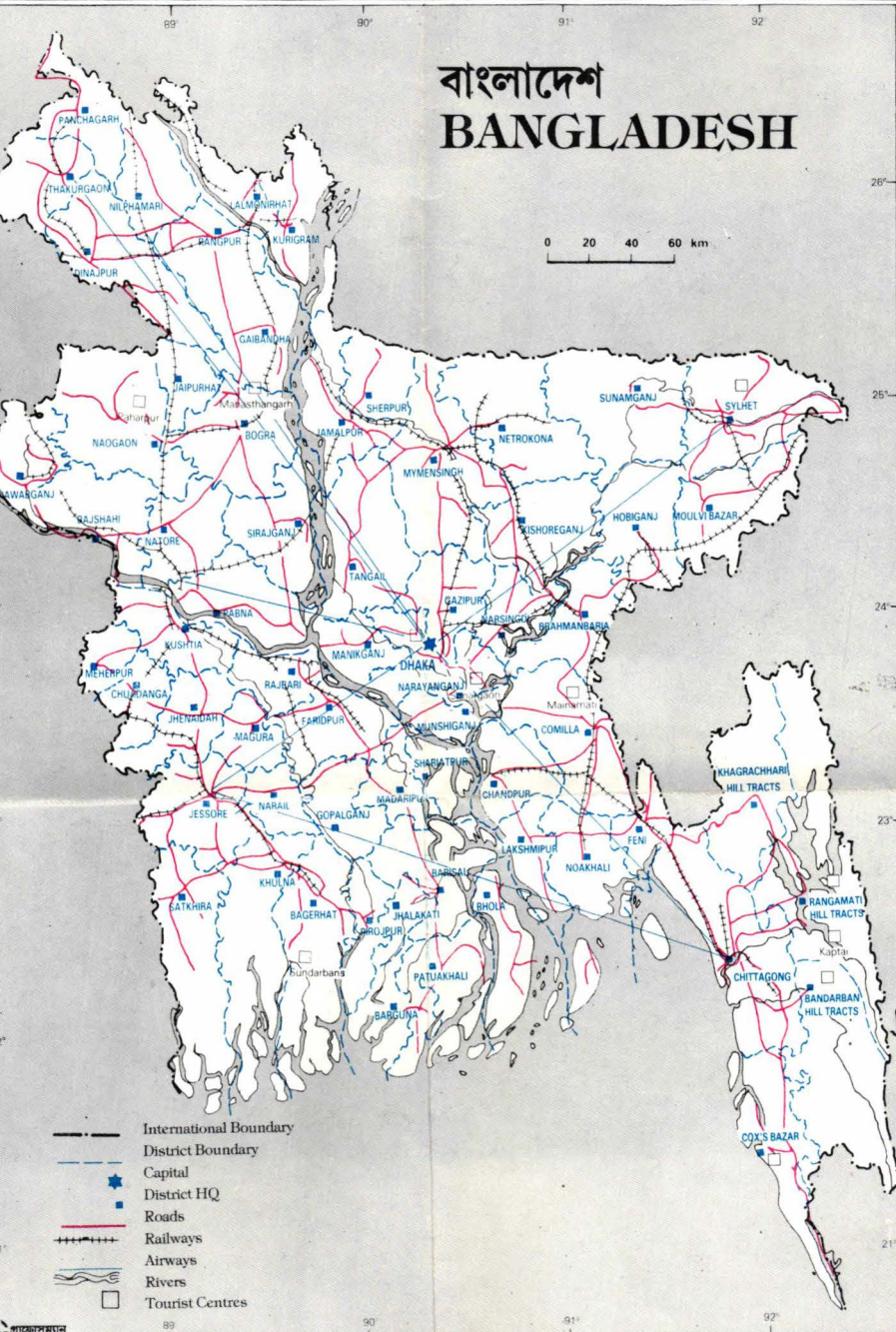


*Boat race— a popular sport.*



g in riverine Bangladesh.

# বাংলাদেশ BANGLADESH



- International Boundary
- - - District Boundary
- ★ Capital
- District HQ
- Roads
- +— Railways
- Airways
- Rivers
- Tourist Centres