

**STATISTICAL POCKET BOOK  
BANGLADESH - 2007**

## AN OVERVIEW

### General

Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country in 1971 following a nine-month war of liberation. It is one of the largest deltas in the world with a total area of 147,570 sq. km. With a unique communal harmony, Bangladesh has a population of about 140 million, making it one of the densely populated countries of the world. The majority (about 88%) of the people are Muslim. Over 98% of the people speak in Bangla. English, however, is widely spoken. The country is covered with a network of rivers and canals forming a maze of interconnecting channels.

Being an active partner, Bangladesh plays vital role in the international and regional forum, particularly in the UN, Commonwealth and South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

### History

Bangladesh has a glorious history and rich heritage. Once it was known as 'Sonar Bangla' or the Golden Bengal. The territory now constituting Bangladesh was under the Muslim rule for over five and a half centuries from 1201 to 1757 AD. Subsequently, it came under the British rule following the defeat of the sovereign ruler, Nawab Sirajuddaula, at the battle of Palassey on 23 June, 1757. The British ruled over the Indian sub-continent including this territory for nearly 190 years from 1757 to 1947. During that period, Bangladesh was a part of the British Indian provinces of Bengal and Assam. With the termination of British rule in August 1947, the sub-continent was partitioned into India and Pakistan.

Bangladesh formed a part of Pakistan and was called 'East Pakistan'. It remained so for about 24 years from August 14, 1947 to March 25, 1971.

Bangladesh liberated on December 16, 1971 following the victory of the War of Liberation and appeared on the world map as an independent and sovereign country.

In Bangladesh there is an elected single-house Parliament, known as the House of the Nation (Bangladesh Jatiya Sangshad), in which the legislative powers of the Republic vested in. The Speaker presides over the Parliament. The Prime Minister is the leader of the House, who is also the Head of the Government, while the President is the Head of the State. Bangladesh has a general election every five years under Non-Party Care-taker Government.

Foreign affairs policy of the country has been marked by participation in multilateral interventions and peacekeeping missions, particularly as part of UN forces.

The country is the pioneer in micro-credit concept for poverty reduction, which brought the Nobel Prize in Peace for the country in 2006. The founder of world reputed Grameen Bank Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus is the Nobel laureate.

### **Culture**

Bangladesh is heir to a rich cultural legacy. In two thousand or more years of its chequered history, many illustrious dynasties of kings and Sultans ruled the country and have left their mark in the shape of magnificent cities and monuments. Apart from this, the century old cultural traditions can be viewed in innumerable tangible and intangible heritages -in archaeological sites, in sculptures, in stones and terracotta, in architectures, museums, archives, libraries, classical music, songs and dance, paintings, dramas, folk arts, festivals, games as well as ethnic cultural activities.

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The people of Bangladesh are very simple and friendly. A beautiful communal harmony among the different religions has ensured a very congenial atmosphere. More than 75% of the population lives in rural areas. Urbanisation has, however, been rapid in the last few decades.

### **Economy**

Bangladesh has an agrarian economy, although the share of agriculture to GDP has been decreasing over the last few years. Yet it dominates the economy accommodating major rural labour force. From marketing point of view, Bangladesh has been following a mixed economy that operates on free market principles.

### SELECTED BASIC FACTS ABOUT BANGLADESH

1. Official Name: The People's Republic of Bangladesh
2. State Religion: Islam but other religions may be practiced in peace and harmony.
3. State Language: Bangla
4. National Anthem: The first ten lines of "Amar Sonar Bangla".
5. National Flag: Consists of a circle coloured red throughout its area, resting on a green rectangular background. The length to width ratio of the rectangle is 10:6 and the circle has a radius of one fifth of the length.
6. National Emblem: The national flower "*Shapla*" (nymphaea-nouchali) resting on water, having on each side an ear of paddy and being surmounted by three connected leaves of jute with two stars on each side of the leaves.
7. Capital: Dhaka
8. Nationality: Bangladeshi
9. Name of Currency: Taka (TK),  
Denominations:  
Notes: Taka 500, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 & 1  
Coins: Taka 5, 2, 1 and Paisa 50, 25, 10, 5, 2 & 1
10. Geographical Location: Between 20° 34' and 26° 38' north latitude and between 88° 01' and 92° 41' east longitude.
11. Boundary: North: India  
West: India  
South: Bay of Bengal  
East: India and Myanmar
12. Area: 56977 sq. miles or 147570 sq. km.
13. Territorial Water: 12 nautical miles.

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## 14. (a) Administrative and other Units:

Units	Number	Average Population, 2001 In thousand (Enumerated)
Division	6	20,725.9
Zila	64	1,943.0
Thana/Upazila	508	244.8
Union	4,466	27.8
Mouza	59,229	2.1
Household	2,54,90,822	4.9(nos.)
	(Unadjusted)	

(b) Administrative Units as on 31<sup>st</sup> December' 2007\*

Units	Number
Division	6
Zila	64
City Corporation	6
Municipalities	308
Upazila	481
Thana	599
Union	4,498

\*Source: LGRD Ministry and Police Headquarters.

## 15. (a) Population data as per SVRS Report (million)

	1 <sup>st</sup> July, 04	1 <sup>st</sup> July, 05	1 <sup>st</sup> July, 06
Total	136.7	138.6	140.6
Male	70.1	71.0	72.0
Female	66.6	67.6	68.6
Urban	32.4	33.5	34.6
Rural	104.3	105.1	106.0
Annual growth rate	1.42%	1.42%	1.41
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	105.2	105.0	105.0
Density (per sq. km)	926.0	939.0	953
Life expectancy at birth:			
Both sex	65.1	65.1	65.4
Male	64.4	64.4	64.4
Female	65.7	65.8	66.0

## (b) Projected Population (million)

	July, 2006	July, 2007	July, 2011
Total	141.8	143.91	151.41
Male	73.03	74.09	77.85
Female	68.77	69.81	73.56
Sex ratio: (males per 100 females)	106.00	106.00	106.00

## 16 (a) Population of Statistical Metropolitan Areas (SMA):

	2001	2006 (Estimated)	2007 (Estimated)
Dhaka	9672763	11813728	12295728
Chittagong	2991723	3587692	3720437
Khulna	1172831	1323071	1355354
Rajshahi	651062	737336	756359

## (b) Population of City Corporations:

	2001	2006 (Estimated)	2007 (Estimated)
Dhaka	5333571	6479751	6737774
Chittagong	2023489	2438403	2532421
Khulna	770498	830454	842995
Rajshahi	388811	447031	459682
Barisal	192810	205166	195955
Sylhet	263197	394119	445798

17. Main Seasons : Summer (March-May), Rainy Season (June-September)  
and Winter (December-February)

## 18. Climatic Variations (Average):

Season	Temperature		Rainfall	Relative Humidity
	maximum	minimum		
Pre Monsoon	32.6°C	22.4°C	453 mm	74%
Monsoon	31.5°C	25.5°C	1733 mm	86%
Post Monsoon	30.5°C	21.4°C	210 mm	80%
Winter	26.5°C	13.9°C	44 mm	73%
Annual	30.4°C	21.2°C	2442 mm	78%

19. Standard Time : GMT+6 hours
20. Principal Rivers : Padma, Meghna, Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Teesta, Surma and Karnaphuli  
(Total 230 rivers including tributaries)
21. Principal Seasonal Crops and Fruits : Paddy, Jute, Wheat, Tobacco, Pulses, Oil seeds, Spices, Vegetables, Jack-fruit, Banana Mango, Coconut.

22. Principal Industries: Readymade garments, Textiles, Chemical fertilizers, Pharmaceuticals, Tea processing, Paper & newsprint, Cement, Light engineering, Sugar, Leather goods.
23. Principal Minerals: Natural gas, Coal, Lime, White clay, Glass sand.
24. Principal Exports: Readymade garments & knitwear, Frozen fish, Jute & jute goods, Pharmaceutical products, Tea, Leather products, Handicrafts, Chemicals.
25. Ports: Sea ports: Chittagong and Mongla  
Inland river ports: Dhaka, Chandpur, Barisal, Khulna, Baghabari, Narayanganj, Bhairab Bazar, Ashuganj.
26. Airports: International: Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet.  
Domestic: Dhaka, Chittagong, Jessore, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Sayedpur, Rajshahi and Barisal.
27. Landports: Benapole, Teknaf, Banglabandha, Sonamasjid, Hilli, Darshana, Birol, Burimari, Tamabil, Haluaghat, Akhaura, Bibirbazar & Bhomra.
- Source: Bangladesh Land Port Authority*
28. Radio Stations: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Rangamati, Comilla and Thakurgaon.  
Broadcasting Programmes (languages): Bangla, English, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and Nepali.
29. Television Stations: Dhaka, Chittagong  
Relay Station : Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Natore, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Noakhali, Satkhira, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati and Thakurgaon.
30. Television Channels: Terrestrial: BTV.  
Satellite: BTV-World, Channel-i, NTV, ATN Bangla, RTV, Channel 1, Bangla Vision, Boishaki TV, Islamic TV, Desh TV & ETV.

*Source: Ministry of Information*

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31.	Educational institutions:	2003	2005
	Public Universities	21	24
	Private Universities	52	54
	Govt. Medical colleges	13	15
	Private Medical college	14	27
	General Colleges	2794	3150
	Govt. Polytechnic institutes	20	37
	Private Polytechnic Institutes	87	97
	Secondary schools	17386	18500
	Govt. Secondary Schools	317	317
	Primary schools	79833	80397

Source: University Grants Commission & BANBEIS.

31. A	Educational Enrollments:	2003	2005
	Public University enrollment	104736	115929
	College enrollment	1449229	161222
	Secondary school enrollment	8.13 million	7.40 million
	Primary school enrollment	17.46 million	16.23 million

Source: BANBEIS.

32.	Health Facilities :	2005	2006
	Hospitals *	1676	1683
	Hospital beds	50827	51044
	Persons per Hospital bed	2736	2732
	Registered Physician	41933	44632
	Person per Physician	3317	3125
	Households per Physician	691	655

Note: \*(Including 402 Upazila Health Complex and Rural Health Complex)

Source: DG Health.

Note: Latest data are not available from respective Sources.

33. Gross Domestic Product (GDP )	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
at 1995-96 constant price (billion taka )	2669.74	2846.73	3032.07	
at current price (billion taka)	3707.07	4157.28	4674.97	
Per capita GDP				
at 1995-96 constant price (in taka)	19489	20512	21567	
(in US \$)	317	306	312	
at current price (in taka)	27061	29955	33253	
(in US \$)	441	447	482	
Per capita income (in Taka)	28443	31915	35904	
(in US \$)	463	476	520	
Implicit GDP deflator	138.86	146.04	154.18	
Real GDP growth (%)	5.96	6.63	6.51	
34. Electricity	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
Per capita Generation (KWh)	160.13	169.93	168.08	
Per capita Consumption (KWh)	139.68	150.22	149.97	
35. Energy production index (Base: 1988-89=100)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
Electricity	297	317	320	
Natural gas	308	337	361	
36. Industrial production index (manufacturing) (Base: 1988-89=100)	295	327	360	
37. Consumer Price Indices (Base: 1995-96=100)				
National	153	164	176	
All Urban	151	161	173	
All Rural	154	165	177	
38. Money and Credit (billion Taka)	2004	2005	2006	2007
Money supply (Narrow)	305.00	355.46	431.34	506.50
Money supply (Broad)	1297.74	1515.88	1811.56	2119.86
Scheduled banks time deposits	992.73	1160.42	1380.22	1613.36

39.	Govt. finance (billion Taka)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	Revenue receipt	392.0	449.0	494.7
	Revenue expenditure	328.0	352.0	-
	Public sector development expenditure	187.0	195.0	-
	Foreign exchange reserve (million US \$)	3023.6	3483.8	5077.0
40.	<b>Foreign aid (billion Taka)</b>		<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>
	Gross Disbursement Debt repayment		88.95	109.26
	Total		38.00	47.26
	Principal		26.64	34.98
	Interest		11.36	12.26
41.	<b>Foreign trade</b>		<b>(billion Taka)</b>	<b>(billion US \$)</b>
	2004-05	Export (fob)	532.83	8.36
		Import (cif)	769.95	12.54
	2005-06	Export (fob)	691.95	10.3
		Import (cif)	962.34	14.3
	2006-07	Export (fob)	850.31	12.3
		Import (cif)	1118.66	16.2

\*Source: Bangladesh Bank & National Board of Revenue.

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

The principles of absolute trust and faith in the Almighty Allah, nationalism, democracy and socialism meaning economic and social justice constitute the fundamental principles of state policy.

These principles are expressed as follows :

- Absolute trust and faith in the Almighty Allah is the basis of all actions.
- Promotion of local government institutions.
- Participation of women in national life.
- Democracy and human rights.
- Principles of state, co-operative and private ownership.
- Emancipation of peasants and workers and backward sections of the people from all forms of exploitation.
- Provision of basic necessities of life.
- Rural development and agricultural revolution.
- Free and compulsory education and removing illiteracy.
- Improvement of public health and morality.
- Ensuring equality of opportunity.
- Work as a right and duty for every able citizen.
- Duties of the citizens to observe the Constitution and the laws and of the public servants to serve the people.
- Separation of the judiciary from the executive.
- Enrichment of the national culture.
- Protection of national monuments, objects or places of special artistic or historic importance or interest.
- Promotion of international peace, security and solidarity and consolidation, preservation and strengthening fraternal relations among Muslim countries.

### **FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AS PROVIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION**

- Equality of all citizens before law
- No discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, sex or place of birth.
- Equal rights of women with men.
  - Equality of opportunity in public employment.
  - Prohibition of foreign titles etc.
- Right to protection of law.
- Protection of right to life and personal liberty.
- Prohibition of forced labour.
- Safeguards as to arrest and detention.
- Protection in respect of trial and punishment.
- Freedom of movement, assembly, association, thought and con-science and of speech, profession or occupation, lawful trade or business and religion.
- Rights to property.
- Protection of the privacy of home and correspondence.
- Enforcement of fundamental rights through courts of law.
- Laws and enactments inconsistent with fundamental rights are void

### **FUNDAMENTAL FOREIGN POLICY OF BANGLADESH**

1) The State shall base its international relations on the principles of respect for national sovereignty and equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, peaceful settlements of international disputes, and respect for international law and the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter, and on the basis of those principles shall-

- a) Strive for the renunciation of the use of force in international relations and for general and complete disarmament;
- b) Uphold the right of every people freely to determine and build up its own social, economic and political system by ways and means of its own free choice; and
- c) Support oppressed peoples throughout the world waging a just struggle against imperialism colonialism or racialism.

2) The State shall endeavor to consolidate, preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic solidarity.

## ORGANS OF THE STATE

The Republic comprises of three basic organs: (1) The legislature, (2) The judiciary and (3) The Executive.

The President of Bangladesh is elected by members of Parliament in accordance with law. The President, as Head of State, takes precedence over all other persons in the State, and exercises the powers and performs the duties conferred and imposed on him by the constitution and by any other law. The President acts in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, save only that of appointing the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice. The supreme command of the defence services vests in the President.

The President holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. No person can hold office as President for more than two terms, whether or not the terms are consecutive.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President or if the President is unable to discharge the functions of his office on account of absence, illness or any other cause the Speaker of the Parliament discharges those functions until a President is elected or until the President resumes the functions of his office.

There shall be a Cabinet for Bangladesh having the Prime Minister at its head and comprising also such other Ministers as the Prime Minister may from time to time designate. The executive power of the Republic is exercised by or on the authority of the Prime Minister.

The President appoints as Prime Minister the member of Parliament who appears to him to command the support of the majority of the members of parliament. The appointment of Prime Minister and other Ministers and of the Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers is made by the President provided that not less than nine-tenths of their number are appointed from among members of parliament and not more than one-tenth of their number may be chosen from among persons qualified for election as members of Parliament.

The legislative powers of the Republic vest in the Parliament, which consists of three hundred members, designated as members of parliament, elected by direct election. However, presently there are forty five reserved seats exclusively for women members to be elected by the aforesaid members on the basis of procedure of proportional representation in the Parliament.

No War can be declared and the Republic can not participate in any war except with the assent of Parliament.

**THE EXECUTIVE**

**Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed**  
President  
The People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Council of Advisers**  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Sl.	Name	Portfolio
1.	Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed Chief Adviser	Cabinet Division Ministry of Establishment Election Commission Secretariat Ministry of Information
2.	Dr. A.B. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam Adviser	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Planning
3.	Major General. M. A Matin, BP (Retd.) Adviser	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Shipping Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
4.	Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury Adviser	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
5.	Mr. Mohammed Anwarul Iqbal Adviser	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives Ministry of Textiles and Jute Ministry of Labour and Employment
6.	Dr. C. S Karim Adviser	Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Water Resources
7.	Dr A M M Shawkat Ali Adviser	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
8.	Mr. A. F Hassan Ariff Adviser	Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliament Affairs Ministry of Religious Affairs Ministry of Land

Contd.

Sl.	Name	Portfolio
9.	Major General. Ghulam Quader (Retd) Adviser	Ministry of Communications Ministry of Housing and Public Works
10.	Begum Rasheda K. Choudhury Adviser	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Ministry of Cultural Affairs
11.	Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman Adviser	Ministry of Commerce Ministry of Education

**Special Assistants to Chief Adviser**

Sl.	Name	Portfolio
1.	Raja Debasis Roy	Ministry of Chittagonj Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry of Environment and Forest
2.	Brigadier General MA Malek (Retd.)	Ministry of Post and Telecommunication Ministry of Social Welfare
3.	Professor M. Tamim	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.
4.	Mr. Mahbub Zamil	Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism Ministry of Industries Ministry of Youth and Sports.
5.	Mr. Manik Lal Samaddar	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology.

*Note: Ministry of Defence is under the President*

*Note: As on: 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2008*



## **THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

The Supreme Court of Bangladesh is the highest Judicial organ in the country which comprises of the Appellate Division and the High Court Division. The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and a number of other judges. The Chief Justice and the Judges appointed to the Appellate Division sit only in that Division and other judges sit in the High Court Division.

The Chief Justice and other Judges are appointed by the President. A Judge holds office until he attains the age of sixty seven years.

The Appellate Division hears and determines appeals from judgments, decrees, orders or sentences of the High Court Division.

The High Court Division has superintendence and control over all subordinate courts and functions as the Appellate Court.

Administrative tribunals exercise jurisdiction in respect of matters as specified in the constitution. There are currently two administrative tribunals.

At the district level, the district court is headed by the District and Sessions Judge who is assisted by Additional District Judges, Chief Judicial Magistrate and Other Judicial Magistrates, Joint District Judges and Assistant Judges.

## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Bangladesh has a unitary form of government. The President is the Head of State and the Prime Minister is the Head of Government. The Prime Minister is assisted by a Council of Ministers. The permanent officer-in-charge of the Ministries/Divisions is designated as Secretary who belongs to the Civil Service. A list of the Ministries/Divisions is given at next page.

For administrative purposes, the country is divided into six divisions, each headed by a Divisional Commissioner. There are 64 Districts under the 6 Divisions. The district is administered by a Deputy Commissioner who is assisted by Additional Deputy Commissioners. The Districts are divided into Upazilas headed by a Upazila Nirbahi Officer. Currently, there are 481 Upazilas.

The head of the police administration is the Inspector-General of Police (IGP). The divisional police administration is headed by the Deputy Inspector General of Police and the district police-administration by the Superintendent of Police and there is an Inspector of Police in each Thana. The Superintendents of Police and the Inspectors of Police work in close co-operation with the Deputy Commissioners and Upazila Nirbahi Officers for maintenance of law and order under their respective jurisdictions. The chief police officers in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet city are designated as Metropolitan Police Commissioner.