

Country Name
Bangladesh

Capital
Dhaka



Land and Climate

Bangladesh has the eighth largest population in the world, but is only 92nd in the world in size. It is a low-lying country through which many rivers flow, including the Padma (Ganges), which empties into the Bay of Bengal. The Sundarban, one of the largest mangrove forests in the world, is located on the southwest coast. The monsoon season lasts from June to October, followed by a cool, dry winter from October to March, and a hot, humid summer from March to June. The land, while fertile, is subject to regular flooding due to cyclones (hurricanes), monsoon rains and tidal waves.

Education

Primary school (through grade 5) is compulsory; education is free through 8th grade. Many students drop out after completing primary school in order to work or comply with family wishes. Educational consistency is difficult to maintain, given that half of schools are independently run, leaving little room for government oversight. Few students attend university. Men have a higher literacy rate than women.

Typical Food

Rice and lentils are major parts of the Bangladeshi diet. Fish is popular, but too expensive for the poor. Vegetables are usually fried, with the exception of carrots and cucumbers. A common breakfast is panta vat (rice that was soaked overnight and is seasoned with salt and onions or chili). Bangladeshi food is generally quite spicy, made with cumin, ginger, coriander, turmeric and pepper, as well as onions and chilies.

People and Pastimes

The most popular sports in Bangladesh are cricket and soccer, along with kabaddi (or "ha-du-du"), a complex version of tag played with teams. Young women are discouraged from playing sports, although girls enjoy playing handball. Other forms of entertainment include picnicking and boat racing. Urban children enjoy watching TV and going to movies, as well as shopping with friends and reading books and magazines.

Source: Bangladesh (2020). CultureGrams Online Edition

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