

BANGLADESH

Country name in English (PCGN recommended name)	Bangladesh
Country name in Bengali (romanization in brackets)¹	বাংলাদেশ (Banladesh)
State title in English (PCGN recommended name)	People's Republic of Bangladesh
State title in Bengali (romanization in brackets)¹	গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ (Ganaprajatantri Banladesh)
Name of citizen	Bangladeshi
Official languages	Bengali (Bangla) (ben) ^{2 3}
Script	Bengali (Bangla) (ben)
ISO-3166 country code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	BD/BGD
Capital	Dhaka
Population	162.7 million ⁴

Introduction

The area now Bangladesh emerged in 1947 as part of the partition of India, which divided the British Indian province of Bengal between India and Pakistan. West Bengal became a province of India, and East Bengal became a province of Pakistan, separated from West Pakistan by around 1000 miles of Indian territory. East Bengal was renamed East Pakistan in 1955, and in December 1971 declared independence from Pakistan and became the independent nation of Bangladesh.

Geographical names policy

Most Bangladeshi toponyms are usually written in the Bengali script but Survey of Bangladesh (SoB) also produces Roman-script maps. Please note that SoB's Roman-script mapping may not be totally consistent in the spelling of names, therefore it is PCGN policy to use the spellings as found on the most recent SoB Roman-script sources. Names may also be taken from the NGA GEOnet Names Server (GNS)⁵.

The Hunterian System was used by the Survey of India to romanize the geographical names of present-day India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh continues to use the Hunterian System, although the macron (long bar), that was utilised to indicate vowel length, has not been used since the 1980s by SoB and PCGN follows this practice.

Languages

The official language of Bangladesh is Bengali (called Bangla by its speakers). 98% of Bangladeshis are fluent in Bengali. English is widely spoken and is taught in all schools but its use in government has diminished. Around 38 regional languages are spoken in Bangladesh, including Chittagonian, Sylheti and

¹ Romanization shown according to the Hunterian system (simplified, not showing diacritics denoting retroflex or nasal consonants or long vowels). The strict romanizations according to the Hunterian system would be Bāñlādesh and Ganaprajātantrī Bāñlādesh. This strict romanization is for information only, as the PCGN policy for geographical names in Bangladesh is to use a simplified version of this system, unlikely to use diacritics.

² Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367.html>

³ ISO 639-2 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

⁴ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics estimate as of 1 July, 2017:

http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b2db8758_8497_412c_a9ec_6bb299f8b3ab/SYB-2018.pdf

⁵ <http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>

Rangpuri⁶. The Bengali alphabet is a syllabic alphabet in which all consonants have an inherent vowel (sometimes termed an ‘abugida’ writing system).

Bangladesh Enclaves

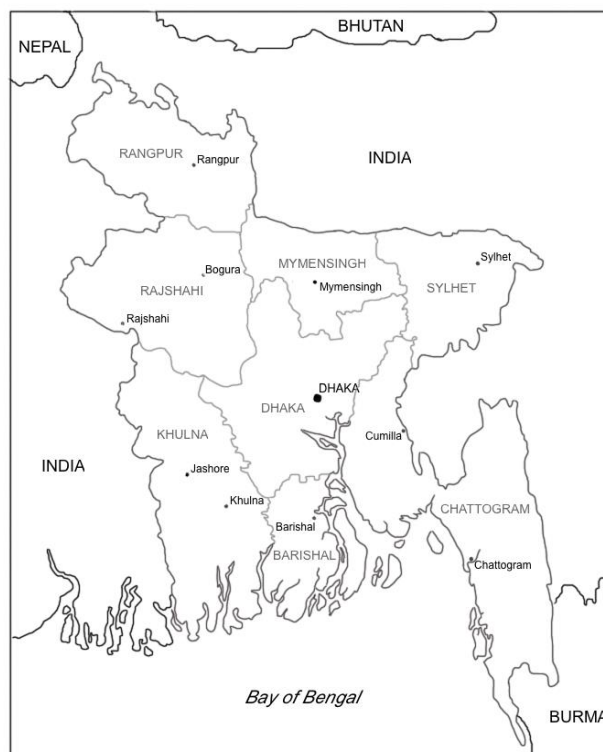
On August 1st 2015, India and Bangladesh exchanged control of 162 small pockets of land on each other's territory (111 in Bangladesh and 51 in India)⁷. The enclaves, home to some 50,000 people, had been created through local peace treaties in the 18th century. Following the exchange, residents chose where they wanted to live and which nationality they would prefer with most of the people living in the enclaves opting to stay where they were, but to change nationality.

Administrative structure

The administrative structure of Bangladesh currently comprises eight divisions (Bengali: *bibhag*) at first-order administrative level (ADM1)⁸: Barishal, Chattogram, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet. Each division is named after the major city within its jurisdiction that serves as the administrative capital of that division. The divisions are subdivided into 64 districts (Bengali: *zila*) at second-order administrative level (ADM2), then into approximately 500 sub-districts (Bengali: *thana* or *upazila*), and finally into unions.

A new division, Cumilla, has been proposed, comprising Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Cumilla, Feni, Lakshmipur and Noakhali (currently the north-western districts of Chattogram division)⁹.

On 2nd April 2018, the government of Bangladesh changed the English spellings of two divisions, three districts (and their centres), to reflect their Bengali pronunciation: Chittagong to Chattogram, Barisal to Barishal, Comilla to Cumilla, Jessore to Jashore and Bogra to Bogura¹⁰.



Note: this map is for illustrative purposes. It is not to be taken as necessarily representing the view of the UK Government on boundaries or political status.

⁶ <https://www.bangladesh.com/culture/languages/>

⁷ India and Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement:

http://www.mea.gov.in/Uploads/PublicationDocs/24529_LBA_MEA_Booklet_final.pdf

⁸ <http://www.bangladesh.gov.bd/site/view/division-list/List-of-Divisions>

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comilla_Division

¹⁰ <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2018/04/02/bangladesh-changes-english-spellings-of-five-districts>

Administrative divisions

1. Barishal¹¹

Location: 22° 30' 00" N 90° 20' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-A
Centre: Barishal (22° 42' 18" N, 090° 22' 12" E)
ADM2s: Barguna, Barishal, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur
Website: http://www.barisal.gov.bd/

2. Chattogram¹²

Location: 22° 55' 00" N 91° 30' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-B
Centre: Chattogram (22° 20' 18" N, 091° 49' 54" E)
ADM2s: Bandarban, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chattogram, Cumilla ¹³ , Cox's Bazar ¹⁴ , Feni, Khagrachhari, Lakshmipur, Noakhali, Rangamati
Website: http://www.chittagong.gov.bd/

3. Dhaka

Location: 23° 50' 00" N, 090° 15' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-C
Centre: Dhaka (23° 43' 23" N, 090° 24' 31" E)
ADM2s: Dhaka, Faridpur, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, Madaripur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Rajbari, Shariatpur ¹⁵ , Tangail
Website: http://www.dhaka.gov.bd/

4. Khulna

Location: 22° 55' 00" N 89° 20' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-D
Centre: Khulna (22° 48' 35" N, 089° 33' 52" E)
ADM2s: Bagerhat, Chuadanga, Jashore ¹⁶ , Jhenaidah, Khulna, Kushtia, Magura, Meherpur, Narail, Satkhira
Website: http://www.khulna.gov.bd/

5. Rajshahi

Location: 24° 38' 00" N 89° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-E
Centre: Rajshahi (24° 22' 26" N, 088° 36' 04" E)
ADM2s: Bogura ¹⁷ , Chapai Nawabganj ¹⁸ , Joypurhat, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Rajshahi, Sirajganj
Website: http://www.rajshahi.gov.bd/

¹¹ The division, district, and the division centre were previously called Barisal.

¹² The division, district, and the division centre were previously called Chittagong.

¹³ The district was previously called Comilla.

¹⁴ Sometimes seen as Coxsbazar.

¹⁵ Sometimes seen as Shariatpur.

¹⁶ The district was previously called Jessore.

¹⁷ The district was previously called Bogra.

¹⁸ Sometimes seen as Chapainawabganj.

6. Rangpur

Location: 25° 50' 00" N 89° 00' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-F
Centre: Rangpur (25° 44' 48" N, 089° 15' 06" E)
ADM2s: Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Thakurgaon
Website: http://www.rangpur.gov.bd/

7. Mymensingh¹⁹

Location: 24° 50' 00" N 90° 25' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-H
Centre: Mymensingh (24° 45' 23" N, 090° 24' 23" E)
ADM2s: Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Netrakona ²⁰ , Sherpur
Website: http://www.mymensingh.gov.bd

8. Sylhet

Location: 24° 40' 00" N 91° 40' 00" E
ISO 3166-2 code: BD-G
Centre: Sylhet (24° 53' 57" N, 091° 52' 19" E)
ADM2s: Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, Sylhet
Website: http://www.sylhet.gov.bd/

Useful references

US Board on Geographic Names GONet Names Server: <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>
 BBC country profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12650940>
 FCDO travel advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/bangladesh>
 CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bg.html>
 Omniglot: <https://www.omniglot.com/writing/bengali.htm>
 Bangladesh national portal: <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367.html>
 Bangladeshi Constitution: <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367.html>
 Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics: <http://www.bbs.gov.bd/site/page/29855dc1-f2b4-4dc0-9073-f692361112da/>
 ISO country codes: <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:code:3166:BD>
 Unicode Standard: www.unicode.org

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 October 2020

¹⁹ Mymensingh division was created in 2015. All districts in Mymensingh division were previously in Dhaka division.
²⁰ Sometimes seen as Netrokona.