

Bangladesh,^[a] officially the **People's Republic of Bangladesh**,^[b] is a country in [South Asia](#). It is the [eighth-most populous country](#) in the world and among the [most densely populated](#) with a population of over 171 million within an area of 148,460 square kilometres (57,320 sq mi). Bangladesh shares land borders with [India](#) to the north, west, and east, and [Myanmar](#) to the southeast. It has a coastline along the [Bay of Bengal](#) to its south and is separated from [Bhutan](#) and [Nepal](#) by the [Siliguri Corridor](#), and from China by the [Indian state](#) of [Sikkim](#) to its north. [Dhaka](#), the capital and [largest city](#), is the nation's political, financial, and cultural centre. [Chittagong](#) is the second-largest city and the busiest port of the country.

The territory of modern Bangladesh was a stronghold of many [Buddhist](#) and [Hindu dynasties](#) in ancient history. Following the [Muslim conquest](#) in 1204, the region saw [Sultanate](#) and [Mughal](#) rule. During the [Mughal](#) period, particularly under the [Bengal Subah](#), the region emerged as one of the most prosperous and commercially active parts of the empire, known for its thriving textile industry and agricultural productivity. The [Battle of Plassey](#) in 1757 marked the beginning of British colonial rule for the following two centuries. In the aftermath of the [Partition of British India](#) in 1947, [East Bengal](#) became the eastern and most populous wing of the newly formed [Dominion of Pakistan](#) and was later renamed to [East Pakistan](#).

Following over two decades of political repression and [systemic racism](#) from the [West Pakistan](#)-based government, [East Pakistan](#) experienced a [civil war](#) in 1971; ultimately leading to a [war for independence](#). The [Mukti Bahini](#), with [assistance from Indian forces](#), waged a successful [armed revolution](#); and despite [a genocide](#) perpetrated by Pakistan, Bangladesh became a [sovereign nation](#) on 16 December 1971. Post-Independence, [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](#) led the country until his [assassination in 1975](#). Presidency was later transferred to [Ziaur Rahman](#), who himself was [assassinated](#) in 1981. The 1980s was dominated by the dictatorship of [Hussain Muhammad Ershad](#), who was overthrown in a [mass uprising](#) in 1990. Following the democratisation in 1991, the "Battle of the [Begums](#)" between [Khaleda Zia](#) and [Sheikh Hasina](#) defined the country's politics for the next three decades. Hasina was overthrown in a [student-led mass uprising](#) in August 2024, and an [interim government](#) led by Nobel laureate [Muhammad Yunus](#) was formed.

Bangladesh is a [unitary parliamentary republic](#) based on the [Westminster system](#). It is a [middle power](#) with the [second-largest economy](#) in South Asia. Bangladesh is home to the [third-largest Muslim population](#) in the world. It maintains the [third-largest military](#) in South Asia and is the largest contributor to the [peacekeeping](#) operations of the United Nations. It consists of [eight divisions](#), [64 districts](#), and [495 sub-districts](#), and is home to the [largest mangrove forest](#) in the world. However, Bangladesh has one of the largest [refugee populations](#) in the world and continues to face challenges such as endemic [corruption](#), lack of [human rights](#), [political instability](#), [overpopulation](#), and adverse [effects of climate change](#). It has twice chaired the [Climate Vulnerable Forum](#) and is a member of [BIMSTEC](#), [SAARC](#), [OIC](#) and the [Commonwealth of Nations](#).

Etymology

Main article: [Names of Bengal](#)

The etymology of *Bangladesh* ("Bengali country") can be traced to the early 20th century, when Bengali patriotic songs, such as *Aaji Bangladesh Hridoy* by [Rabindranath Tagore](#) and *Namo Namô Bangladesh Momo* by [Kazi Nazrul Islam](#), used the term in 1905 and 1932 respectively.^[15] Starting in the 1950s, Bengali nationalists used the term in political rallies in [East Pakistan](#).

The term *Bangla* is a major name for both the [Bengal](#) region and the [Bengali language](#). The origins of the term *Bangla* are unclear, with theories pointing to a [Bronze Age proto-Dravidian](#) tribe,^[16] and the Iron Age [Vanga Kingdom](#).^[17] The earliest known usage of the term is the [Nesari plate](#) in 805 AD. The term *Vangala Desa* is found in 11th-century South Indian records.^{[18][19]} The term gained official status during the [Sultanate of Bengal](#) in the 14th century.^{[20][21]} [Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah](#) proclaimed himself as the first "[Shah](#) of Bangala" in 1342.^[20] The word *Bangāl* became the most common name for the region during the Islamic period.^[22] 16th-century historian [Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak](#) mentions in his *Ain-i-Akbari* that the addition of the suffix "*al*" came from the fact that the ancient rajahs of the land raised mounds of earth in lowlands at the foot of the hills which were called "*al*".^[23] This is also mentioned in [Ghulam Husain Salim](#)'s *Riyaz-us-Salatin*.^[24]

The Indo-Aryan suffix [Desh](#) is derived from the Sanskrit word *deśha*, which means "land" or "country". Hence, the name *Bangladesh* means "Land of Bengal" or "Country of Bengal".^[19]

History

Main article: [History of Bangladesh](#)

Early history

The first great indigenous empire to cover the territory was the [Maurya Empire](#) (320–185 BC). Following its decline, the kingdom of [Samatata](#) arose, which was a tributary state of the [Gupta Empire](#) (ca. 319-ca. 540 AD). [Harsha](#) (606–47 AD) drew Samatata into its loosely administered political structure. The Buddhist [Pala Empire](#) ruled the region from 750 to 1150 AD. It was overthrown by the Hindu [Sena dynasty](#), which ruled the territory until the [Muslim conquests](#) led by [Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji](#) of the [Ghurid dynasty](#) in 1204.^[25]

Medieval period

Main articles: [Bengal Sultanate](#) and [Bengal Subah](#)



[Murshid Quli Khan](#), the first independent [Nawab of Bengal](#)



[Siraj ud-Daulah](#), the last independent [Nawab of Bengal](#)

Bengal was then incorporated into the [Delhi Sultanate](#) (1206–1526 AD).^[26] In 1341, the independent [Bengal Sultanate](#) was established by [Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah](#).^[26] Amidst geographic expansion and economic prosperity, it was regarded by European and Chinese visitors as the "richest country to trade with".^{[27]: 10} The [Mughal Empire](#) conquered Bengal in 1576.^{[26][28]} By the 18th century, the [Bengal Subah](#) emerged as the wealthiest province of the empire and was described as the "Paradise of Countries" and the "breadbasket of India".^[26] Its citizens enjoyed some of the best [standards of living](#) in the world, as the region was a major global exporter and producer of cotton textiles ([muslin](#) in particular), silk and [shipbuilding](#).^{[29]: 174} Following the decline of the Mughal Empire in the early 1700s, the region became a semi-independent state under the [Nawabs of Bengal](#), founded by [Murshid Quli Khan](#) in 1717.

British colonial rule

Main article: [Bengal Presidency](#)

In 1757, the state led by [Siraj-ud-Daulah](#) was defeated by the British [East India Company](#) in the [Battle of Plassey](#)—which was key in establishing colonial [British rule](#) over Bengal and the wider Indian subcontinent. Bengal played a crucial role in the [Industrial Revolution](#) at the expense of an extraordinary [capital flight](#) and deindustrialisation following British colonial loot and the collapse of the Bengali textile industry.^{[30][29]: 7–10} The catastrophic [Great Bengal famine of 1770](#) caused over ten million deaths,^[31] killing one-third of the total population of the Bengal Presidency,^{[32]: 47} and remains one of the [deadliest man-made famines](#) in history.

As part of Pakistan

Main articles: [Dominion of Pakistan](#), [East Bengal](#), and [East Pakistan](#)

Further information: [West Pakistan](#), [Partition of Bengal \(1947\)](#), and [Partition of India](#)

In the aftermath of [direct British rule](#) for nearly two centuries, the borders of modern Bangladesh were established with the [partition of Bengal](#) between India and Pakistan by the [Radcliffe Line](#)^[33] during the [partition of India](#) on 15 August 1947, when the region became [East Bengal](#) as the eastern and most populous wing of the newly formed [Dominion of Pakistan](#)—alongside [West Pakistan](#).^[34] The western and eastern wings of the newly formed Pakistan were geographically separated by a distance of over 1,000 miles, which became the root cause of deep [economic inequality](#).^[35] Khawaja Nazimuddin was East Bengal's first [chief minister](#) with [Frederick Chalmers Bourne](#) its governor. The [All Pakistan Awami Muslim League](#) was formed in 1949. In 1950, the [East Bengal Legislative Assembly](#) enacted [land reform](#), abolishing the Permanent Settlement and the zamindari system.^[36] The Awami Muslim League was renamed as a more "secular" [Awami League](#) in 1953.^[37] The first constituent assembly was dissolved in 1954. The [United Front](#) coalition swept aside the Muslim League in a landslide victory in the [1954 East Bengali legislative election](#). The following year, East Bengal was renamed [East Pakistan](#) as part of the [One Unit](#) programme, and the province became a vital part of the [Southeast Asia Treaty Organization](#).

Amidst rising cultural and societal differences—the brutal government crackdown on the 1952 [Bengali language movement](#) to establish [Bengali](#) as the official language of Pakistan spurred [Bengali nationalism](#) and [pro-democracy](#) movements. Pakistan adopted a new constitution in 1956.^[38] The [Pakistan Armed Forces](#) imposed [martial law](#) in 1958, following a [coup d'état](#), with [Ayub Khan](#) establishing a dictatorship for over a decade. A new constitution was introduced in 1962, replacing the [parliamentary system](#) with a presidential and gubernatorial system (based on [electoral college](#) selection) known as "Basic Democracy".^[39] In 1962, Dhaka became the seat of the [National Assembly of Pakistan](#), a move seen as appeasing increased Bengali nationalism.^[40] In 1966, Awami League leader [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](#) announced a [six-point movement](#) for a federal parliamentary democracy.

Ethnic, linguistic, and cultural discrimination was common in Pakistan's civil and military services, in which Bengalis were under-represented;^[41] leading to East Pakistan forging a distinct political identity.^[42] Authorities banned Bengali literature and music in the state media.^[43] The Pakistani government practised extensive [economic discrimination](#) against East Pakistan, including the refusal for foreign aid allocation.^[44] Despite generating 70% of Pakistan's export revenue with jute and tea, East Pakistan received much less government spending. Notable economists from East Pakistan, including [Rehman Sobhan](#) and [Nurul Islam](#) demanded a separate foreign exchange account for the eastern wing, also pointing to the existence of two different economies within Pakistan itself, dubbed the Two-Economies Theory.^{[45][46]} The populist leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested for treason in the [Agartala Conspiracy Case](#) and was released during the [1969 uprising in East Pakistan](#) which resulted in Ayub Khan's resignation. General [Yahya Khan](#) assumed power, reintroducing martial law.

A [cyclone](#) devastated the coast of East Pakistan in 1970, killing an estimated 500,000 people,[\[47\]](#) and the central government was criticised for its poor response.[\[48\]](#) After the December 1970 elections, the Bengali-nationalist Awami League won 167 of 169 East Pakistani seats in the National Assembly. The League claimed the right to form a government and develop a new constitution but was strongly opposed by the Pakistani military and the [Pakistan Peoples Party](#) (led by [Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](#)).

The [7 March Speech](#) of Mujib led to a [non-cooperation movement](#). The autocratic Pakistani government then initiated [Operation Searchlight](#) on 25 March 1971 in response.[\[49\]](#) Mujib signed the [Proclamation of Independence](#) on 26 March 1971, leading to the nine-month-long bloody [liberation war](#), which led to [a genocide](#),[\[50\]](#) and the culmination of Bangladesh as a sovereign nation following [Pakistani surrender](#) on 16 December 1971.

Independent Bangladesh

The [Constitution of Bangladesh](#) was enacted on 4 November 1972.[\[51\]](#) Following independence, the Mujib-led government engaged in large-scale corruption and mismanagement, leading to nationwide lawlessness and economic devastation. Efforts to establish [one-party socialism](#) and a [large famine in 1974](#) led to [Mujib's assassination](#) in 1975 following a significant decline in his popularity.[\[52\]\[53\]](#): 131 The presidency was then transferred to [Ziaur Rahman](#), who re-established public order, industrialised agriculture, founded the [Bangladesh Nationalist Party](#) (BNP) and initiated the creation of the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation](#).[\[54\]](#) Following [Rahman's assassination](#) in 1981, the ensuing decade was a [military dictatorship](#) under [Hussain Muhammad Ershad](#) that saw infrastructural development, [devolution](#) reforms, privatisation of nationalised industries and the declaration of Islam as the [state religion](#) in 1988.[\[55\]\[56\]\[57\]\[58\]](#)

After the restoration of [parliamentary democracy](#) in 1991, power alternated between [Khaleda Zia](#) of the BNP and [Sheikh Hasina](#) of the Awami League, an era dubbed the "Battle of the [Begums](#)"—which defined Bangladesh's politics and history for next 34 years.[\[59\]\[53\]](#): 130 The return of the Awami League to power following a [landslide victory](#) in the [2008 general election](#)[\[60\]](#) under [Sheikh Hasina's](#) leadership saw unprecedented economic progress alongside [democratic backsliding](#), increasing authoritarianism, endemic [corruption](#), and widespread [human rights abuses](#).[\[61\]](#) Hasina won her second, third and fourth consecutive terms in the [2014](#), [2018](#) and the [2024 general elections](#)—all of which were shams and neither [free nor fair](#).[\[62\]\[63\]\[64\]](#) Following a [student-led mass uprising](#) against the authoritarian government, Hasina was [forced to resign and flee](#) to India on 5 August 2024.[\[65\]](#) An [interim government](#) was formed on 8 August 2024, with Nobel laureate [Muhammad Yunus](#) as the [Chief Adviser](#).[\[66\]](#)

Since the 1980s, driven by [free market](#) policies and [economic liberalisation](#) measures, Bangladesh has achieved significant economic growth—emerging as one of the [fastest-growing economies in the world](#), driven by its large [textile industry](#), which is the second-largest in the world.[\[67\]](#) It has emerged as the [second-largest economy in South Asia](#), achieving comparable nominal GDP per capita to that of neighbouring India.[\[68\]\[69\]](#) Bangladesh has achieved remarkable feats in reducing its [poverty rate](#), which has gone down from 80% in 1971,[\[70\]](#) to 44.2% in 1991,[\[71\]](#) and all the way down to 18.7% in 2022.[\[72\]](#) Its [Human Development Index](#) growth during the 21st century was surpassed only by China.[\[73\]](#) As part of the [green transition](#), Bangladesh's industrial sector emerged as a leader in building [green](#)

[factories](#), with the country having the largest number of certified green factories in the world.^[74] It has also given shelter to [over a million Rohingya refugees](#) fleeing the [Rohingya genocide](#) since 2017, which has strained its resources and highlighted its humanitarian commitments.^[75]

Geography

Main article: [Geography of Bangladesh](#)



Bangladesh is in South Asia on the [Bay of Bengal](#). It is surrounded almost entirely by neighbouring India, and shares a small border with [Myanmar](#) to its southeast, though it lies very close to [Nepal](#), [Bhutan](#), and China. The country is divided into three regions. Most of the country is dominated by the fertile [Ganges Delta](#), the largest river delta in the world.^[76] The northwest and central parts of the country are formed by the [Madhupur](#) and the [Barind](#) plateaus. The northeast and southeast are home to [evergreen](#) hill ranges.

The Ganges delta is formed by the confluence of the Ganges (local name [Padma](#) or *Pôdda*), [Brahmaputra](#) ([Jamuna](#) or *Jomuna*), and [Meghna](#) rivers and their tributaries. The Ganges unites with the Jamuna (main channel of the Brahmaputra) and later joins the Meghna, finally flowing into the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh is called the "Land of Rivers",^[77] as it is home to over 57 [trans-boundary rivers](#), the most of any nation-state. Water issues are politically complicated since Bangladesh is downstream of India.^[78]

Bangladesh is predominantly rich fertile flat land. Most of it is less than 12 m (39 ft) above sea level, and it is estimated that about 10% of its land would be flooded if the sea level were to rise by 1 m (3.3 ft).^[79] 12% of the country is covered by hill systems. The country's [haor](#) wetlands are of significance to global environmental science. The [highest point in Bangladesh](#) is the [Saka Haphong](#), located near the border with Myanmar, with an elevation of 1,064 m (3,491 ft).^[80] Previously, either [Keokradong](#) or [Tazing Dong](#) were considered the highest.

In Bangladesh [forest cover](#) is around 14% of the total land area, equivalent to 1,883,400 hectares (ha) of forest in 2020, down from 1,920,330 hectares (ha) in 1990. In 2020, naturally regenerating forest covered 1,725,330 hectares (ha) and planted forest covered 158,070 hectares (ha). Of the naturally regenerating forest 0% was reported to be [primary forest](#) (consisting of native tree species with no clearly visible indications of human activity) and around 33% of the forest area was found within protected areas. For the year 2015, 100% of the forest area was reported to be under [public ownership](#).
[\[81\]\[82\]](#)

Climate

Main articles: [Geography of Bangladesh § Climate](#), and [Climate change in Bangladesh](#)



Straddling the [Tropic of Cancer](#), Bangladesh's climate is tropical, with a mild winter from October to March and a hot, humid summer from March to June. The country has never recorded an air temperature below 0 °C (32 °F), with a record low of 1.1 °C (34.0 °F) in the northwest city of [Dinajpur](#) on 3 February 1905.[\[83\]](#) A warm and humid [monsoon](#) season lasts from June to October and supplies most of the country's rainfall. Natural calamities, such as [floods](#), [tropical cyclones](#), [tornadoes](#), and [tidal bores](#) occur almost every year,[\[84\]](#) combined with the effects of [deforestation](#), [soil degradation](#) and [erosion](#). The [cyclones](#) of 1970 and 1991 were particularly devastating, the [latter](#) killing approximately 140,000 people.[\[85\]](#)

In September 1998, Bangladesh saw the [most severe flooding](#) in modern history, after which two-thirds of the country went underwater, along with a death toll of 1,000.[\[86\]](#) As a result of various international and national level initiatives in disaster risk reduction, the human toll and economic damage from floods and cyclones have come down over the years.[\[87\]](#) The [2007 South Asian floods](#) ravaged areas across the country, leaving five million people displaced, with a death toll around 500.[\[88\]](#)



[1991 Bangladesh cyclone](#), which killed around 140,000 people

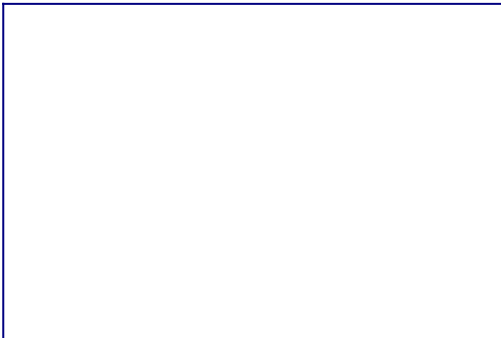
Climate change

Main article: [Climate change in Bangladesh](#)

Bangladesh is recognised to be one of the countries most [vulnerable to climate change](#).^{[89][90]} Over the course of a century, 508 cyclones have affected the Bay of Bengal region, 17 per cent of which are believed to have made landfall in Bangladesh.^[91] [Natural hazards](#) that come from increased rainfall, rising sea levels, and tropical cyclones are expected to increase as the climate changes, each seriously affecting agriculture, water and food security, human health, and shelter.^[92] It is estimated that by 2050, a three-foot rise in sea levels will inundate some 20 per cent of the land and displace more than 30 million people.^[93] To address the [sea level rise](#) threat in Bangladesh, the [Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100](#) has been launched.^{[94][95]}

Biodiversity

Main article: [Fauna of Bangladesh](#)



[Bengal tiger](#), the national animal, in the Sundarbans

Bangladesh is located in the [Indomalayan realm](#), and lies within four terrestrial ecoregions: [Lower Gangetic Plains moist deciduous forests](#), [Mizoram–Manipur–Kachin rain forests](#), [Sundarbans freshwater swamp forests](#), and [Sundarbans mangroves](#).^[96] Its ecology includes a long sea coastline, numerous [rivers and tributaries](#), lakes, [wetlands](#), evergreen forests, semi evergreen forests, hill forests, moist [deciduous forests](#), freshwater swamp forests and flat land with tall grass. The Bangladesh Plain is famous for its fertile [alluvial](#) soil which supports extensive cultivation. The country is dominated by lush vegetation, with villages often buried in groves of [mango](#), [jackfruit](#), [bamboo](#), [betel nut](#), [coconut](#), and [date palm](#).^[97] The country has up to 6000 species of plant life, including 5000 flowering plants.^[98] Water bodies and wetland systems provide a habitat for many aquatic plants. [Water lilies](#) and [lotuses](#) grow vividly during the monsoon season. The country has [50 wildlife sanctuaries](#).

Bangladesh is home to most of the [Sundarbans](#), the world's largest [mangrove forest](#), covering an area of 6,000 square kilometres (2,300 sq mi) in the southwest littoral region. It is divided into three protected

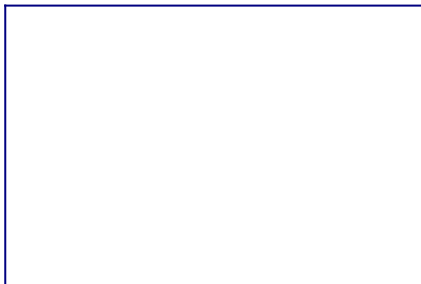
sanctuaries: the [South](#), [East](#), and [West](#) zones. The forest is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The northeastern Sylhet region is home to haor wetlands, a unique ecosystem. It also includes [tropical and subtropical coniferous forests](#), a [freshwater swamp forest](#), and mixed deciduous forests. The southeastern Chittagong region covers evergreen and semi-evergreen hilly jungles. Central Bangladesh includes the plainland Sal forest running along with the districts of Gazipur, [Tangail](#), and [Mymensingh](#). [St. Martin's Island](#) is the only [coral reef](#) in the country.

Bangladesh has an abundance of [wildlife](#) in its forests, marshes, woodlands, and hills.^[97] The vast majority of animals dwell within a habitat of 150,000 square kilometres (58,000 sq mi).^[99] The [Bengal tiger](#), [clouded leopard](#), [saltwater crocodile](#), [black panther](#) and [fishing cat](#) are among the chief predators in the Sundarbans.^[100] Northern and eastern Bangladesh is home to the [Asian elephant](#), [hoolock gibbon](#), [Asian black bear](#) and [oriental pied hornbill](#).^[101] The [chital](#) deer are widely seen in southwestern woodlands. Other animals include the [black giant squirrel](#), [capped langur](#), [Bengal fox](#), [sambar deer](#), [jungle cat](#), [king cobra](#), [wild boar](#), [mongooses](#), [pangolins](#), [pythons](#) and [water monitors](#). Bangladesh has one of the largest populations of [Irrawaddy](#) and [Ganges dolphins](#).^[102] The country has numerous species of [amphibians](#) (53), reptiles (139), [marine reptiles](#) (19) and [marine mammals](#) (5). It also has [628 species of birds](#).^[103]

Several animals became extinct in Bangladesh during the last century, including the one-horned and two-horned [rhinoceros](#) and common [peafowl](#). The human population is concentrated in urban areas, limiting deforestation to a certain extent. Rapid urban growth has threatened natural habitats. The country has widespread environmental issues; pollution of the [Dhaleshwari River](#) by the textile industry and shrimp cultivation in Chakaria Sundarbans have both been described by academics as [ecocides](#).^{[104][105]} Although many areas are protected under law, some Bangladeshi wildlife is threatened by this growth. The [Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act](#) was enacted in 1995. The government has designated several regions as [Ecologically Critical Areas](#), including wetlands, forests, and rivers. The [Sundarbans tiger project](#) and the Bangladesh Bear Project are among the key initiatives to strengthen conservation.^[101] It ratified the Rio [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) on 3 May 1994.^[106] As of 2014, the country was set to revise its [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan](#).^[106]

Government and politics

Main articles: [Government of Bangladesh](#) and [Politics of Bangladesh](#)



The [National Parliament](#) building in [Sher-e-Bangla Nagar](#), a neighbourhood named after the first [Prime Minister of Bengal](#).



[Bangabhaban](#) (Translation: *Bengal House*) is the [presidential palace](#) of Bangladesh. It was originally a house for the [Viceroy of India](#) and the [Governor of Bengal](#).

Bangladesh, by [constitution](#), is a [unitary state](#)^[107] and a [de jure representative democracy](#) with a [Westminster-style parliamentary system](#)^[53] that has [universal suffrage](#).^[108] The [government](#) can be divided into three pillars: the executive, the legislative and the [judiciary](#)—all function to ensure accountability, transparency and checks and balances of the government.^[107] Since its independence, the [Awami League](#) (AL) and the [Bangladesh Nationalist Party](#) (BNP) have remained two of the most powerful [political parties in Bangladesh](#).^[53]

- The first pillar of the government is the executive organ, which is entrusted with the total administration of the country.^[107] Executive powers are largely vested in the Prime Minister, who is the [head of government](#), and oversees the [cabinet](#).^[107] The tenure of a parliamentary government is five years. Various ministers form the bulk of the executive organ, overseeing government departments and forming policies.^[107] The [Civil Service](#) assists the ministers in implementing the policies.^[107] All authorities unite to formulate policies, manage public services, and implement national development plans.^[107] The [President](#) is the ceremonial [head of state](#), whose powers include signing bills passed by parliament into law and maintaining the government's stability and continuity;^[107] as well as fulfilling their duties as the commander-in-chief of the [Armed Forces](#)^[109] and the [chancellor](#) of all universities.^[110]
- The second pillar of the government is the legislative organ, also known as the [Jatiya Sangsad](#) (House of the Nation).^[111] Citizens across the country vote to elect the members of parliament (MPs).^[107] The [unicameral](#) parliament has 350 MPs, including 300 elected on the [first past the post](#) system and 50 appointed to reserved seats for [women's empowerment](#).^{[111][112]} [Article 70 of the Constitution of Bangladesh](#) forbids MPs from voting against their party.^[113] The parliament is presided over by the [Speaker](#), who is second in line to the president as per the constitution.^[114]
- The third pillar of the government is the judiciary organ, which is in charge of interpreting the law, resolving conflicts, and maintaining justice across the nation.^[107] The [Supreme Court](#) is the highest court, separated into the [Appellate Division](#) and the [High Court Division](#).^{[115][107]} It is led by the [Chief Justice](#) with the assistance of other justices.^[115] The judiciary has the power to assess a law's constitutionality and offer legal remedies. Protecting citizens' rights, making sure the law is applied fairly, and preserving the balance of power within the government are all made possible by the court.^[107] The courts have wide latitude in [judicial review](#), and judicial [precedent](#) is supported by Article 111 of the constitution.^[116] The judiciary includes district and metropolitan courts divided into civil and criminal courts. Due to a shortage of judges, the judiciary has a large backlog.^[117]

According to [International IDEA](#)'s Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Indices and Democracy Tracker, Bangladesh performs in the low range on overall democratic measures, with particular weaknesses in political representation, including credible elections, inclusive suffrage and elected government.[\[118\]](#)[\[119\]](#)[\[120\]](#)