

Bangladesh Studies

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Salient Features

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- Geography
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- Education
- Economy
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Country Profile

- **Formal Name:** People's Republic of Bangladesh
- **Short Form:** Bangladesh
- **Term for Citizens:** Bangladeshi(s)
- **Father of the Nation:** Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- **Capital:** Dhaka
- **Currency:** Taka
- **Date of Independence:** March 26, 1971
- **8th largest populous country in the world**
- **Small country with huge HR: More than 61 million labor force**

People's Republic of Bangladesh



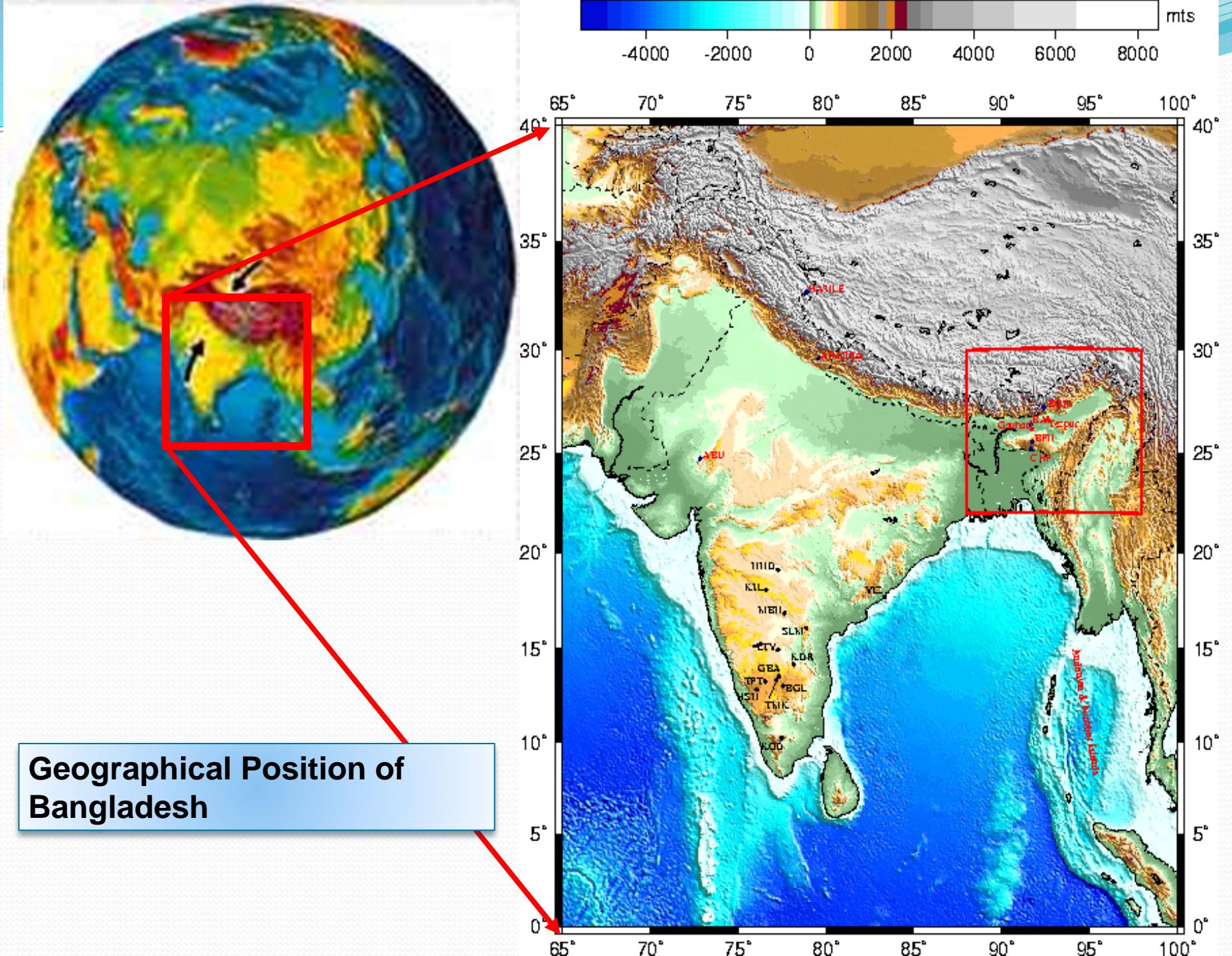
Geography

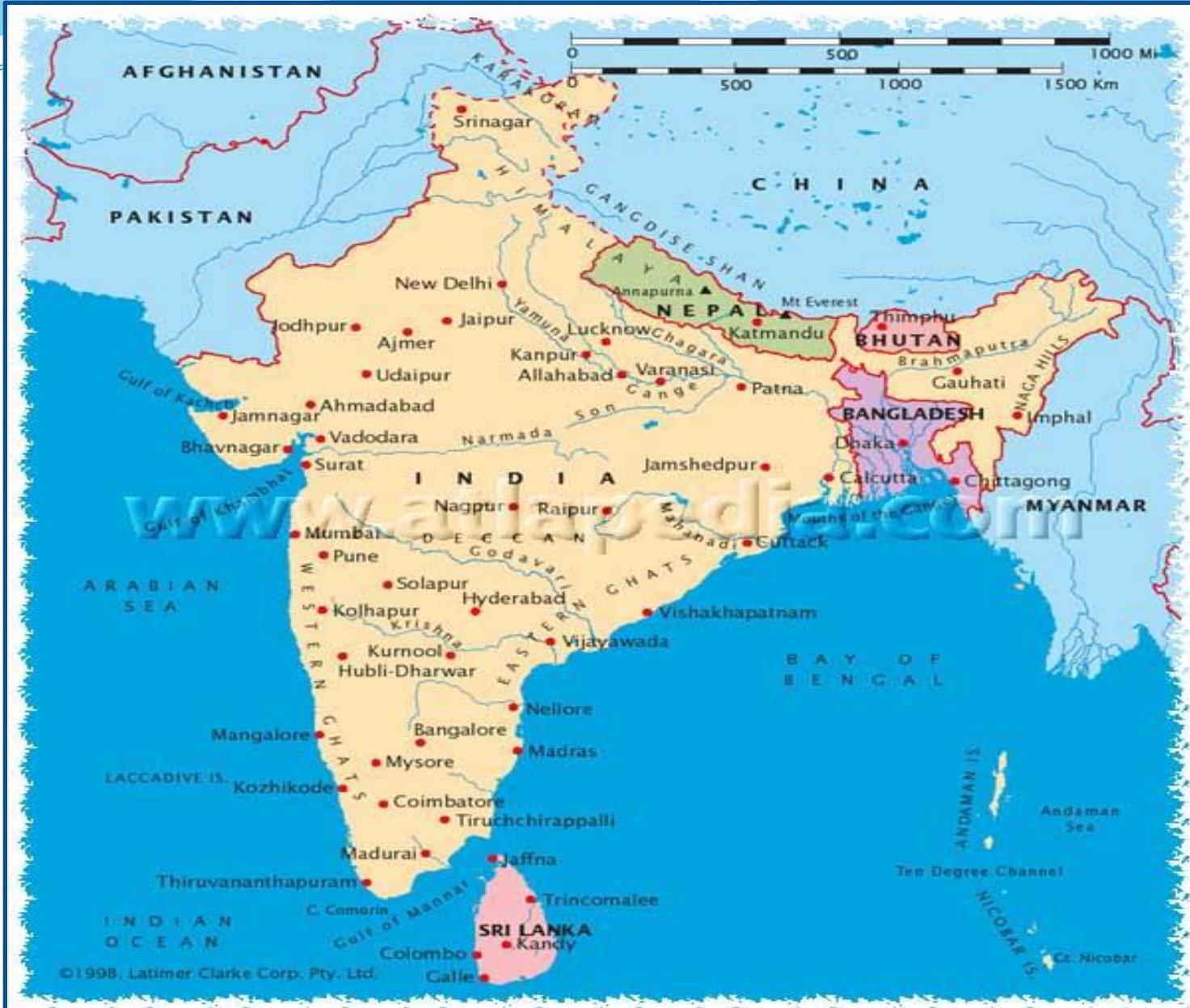


- **Area:** 1,47,570 sq. km.
 - **Boundary:** West Bengal (India) on the west; West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya (all the Indian states) on the north; Indian states of Assam, Tripura and Mizoram together with Myanmar on the east; and Bay of Bengal on the south.
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total International Border: | 4,246 km |
| Border countries: | India 4,053 km,
Myanmar 193 km |
| Coastline: | 580 km |
- **Territorial water:** 12 + 200 nautical miles (From March 2012)
Bangladesh reclaimed 19,467 square kilometres out of 25,602 sq km disputed area in the Bay of Bengal. (March 2012)
 - **Topography:** Broad deltaic plain. Chittagong Hills in southeast, Low Hills in northeast and modest-elevation highlands in north and northwest. 'Tajingdong' is the highest peak and called as *Bijoy*.
 - **Climate:** It is the area of Sub-tropical monsoon. Mild winter (October to March); hot, humid & summer (March to June); humid, warm rainy monsoon (June to October).

Source: (i) Banglapedia, National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh.

(ii) BBS.. *Statistical Pocket Book*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh.





Society

The establishment of Bangladesh, at 1971, implied the formation of both a new nation and a new social order.

Total Population: 161,356,039 (2018)

Population Growth Rate: 1.37%

Population density: 1,035 persons per sq km (2015)

Ethnic Group: Over 98% Bengalis.

Languages: Bangla (official language); English widely used by educated elite. Arabic used in many Muslim homes. Various tribal languages.

Religion: More than 89.7% Muslim, 9.2% Hindu, less than 1 percent Buddhist, Christian, and tribal religions.

Health: Life expectancy almost equal for males and females, averaging 70.7 years in 2015 (male-69.9 & female 71.5). For every 2129 people there is one doctor.

Labor Force: Total labor force (15 years+): 61 million (Male:43m, Female: 18m)

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS),
Bangladesh Economic Review Report-2016

Education

• Total literacy rate (7 years+)	57.9 percent
• Female	54.8 percent
• Male	61.1 percent
• Total primary school enrollment rate:	97.9% (49.14% male & 50.86% female)
• Primary school dropout rate:	20.4%
• Number of years of compulsory schooling:	5 years
• Number of students per teacher, primary school:	56 student per teacher
• Primary Schools	1,22,176
• Public Universities	38
• Private Universities	91
• Govt. Medical colleges	36
• Private Medical & Dental colleges	68
• General Colleges	3197

Economy

- The economy of Bangladesh is a **developing market** economy. It's the 39th largest in the world in nominal terms, and 29th largest by purchasing power parity; it is classified among the Next Eleven **emerging market** middle income economies and a **frontier market**.
- Trade organizations:
SAFTA(South Asian Free Trade Area), SAARC(South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), BIMSTEC(Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), WTO, AIIB(Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) , IMF, Commonwealth of Nations, World Bank, ADB, Developing-8

Economy

- GDP per capita:\$1,888 (nominal, 2019 est.) ; \$4,992 (PPP, 2019 est.)
GDP Growth rate: 8.13% (2018-19)
[Base year: 2005-06]
- Inflation(CPI):5.564% (2018 est.)
- Population below poverty line:52.9% on less than \$3.20/day (2016); 7.1% living in extreme poverty(2019)
- GDP by sector : agriculture: 14.23%,industry: 33.66%,services: 52.11%(FY18)
- **Agriculture:** Large-scale subsistence farming, labor intensive, heavily dependent on monsoon rains. Main crops rice, jute, wheat, tea, and forestry products. Fisheries of increasing importance.
- **Industry:** Jute manufactures, ready-made garments, ship-building, cotton textiles, seafood processing, and pharmaceuticals.
- **Services:** Substantial exported labor, primarily to Persian Gulf nations. As many as 6.8 millions Bangladeshis abroad in 2012; important source of foreign currency remittances.

Resources: Sufficient natural gas for country's nitrogenous fertilizer needs. Abundant proven coal reserves. Offshore and onshore reserves of petroleum. Hydroelectric power and thermal power sources. Bio-fuels widely used in rural areas.

- **Exchange Rate:** 84 taka=US \$1
- **Fiscal Year:** July 1 to June 30.

- Gini coefficient: 32.4 medium (2016, World Bank)
- Human Development Index: 0.608 medium (2017)(136th)
- Ease-of-doing-business rank: 176th (2019)

- Labor force by occupation: agriculture: 40.6%, industry: 20.4%, services: 9.6% (2017 est.)
- Budget: Tk 5,23,190cr
- “Bangladesh on a Pathway to Prosperity: Time is Ours, Time for Bangladesh.”**
- Public debt: 33.1% of GDP (2017 est.);
- Budget balance: -3.2% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

GDP growth rate at Bangladesh



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | BANGLADESH BANK

Bangladesh a leader in South Asian GDP growth (in percent)

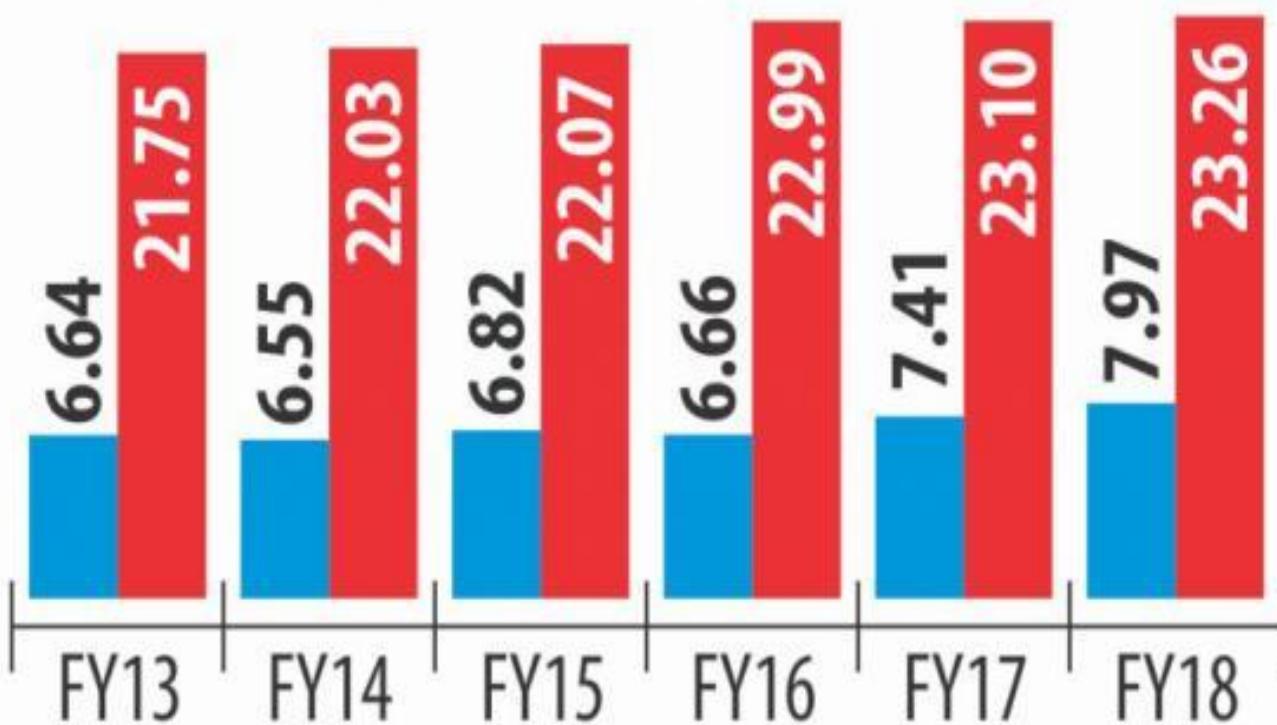


*Forecast

Source: ADB

INVESTMENT TO GDP RATIO figures in %

PUBLIC PRIVATE





Export -Import Scenario

Bangladesh is exporting 705 products to the global market. Share of major export products are -

01	RMG and knit wear	81.4%	7 Items
02	Jute goods	2.3%	
03	Frozen Foods	2.3%	
04	Footwear	1.9%	
05	Leather & Leather Products	1.7%	
06	Engineering goods	1.2	
07	Agricultural goods	1.1	
Total		90.70%	

❖ Only 7 commodities are contributing 90.70% to our total export earning where as 698 items have share of 9.30% in our total export.

Source: Economic Review Report

Exports \$40.53 billion (July 2018- June 2019)
Imports \$55.44 billion (July 2018- June 2019)

Import goods

Textiles and Textile Articles,
Machinery and Mechanical
Appliances, Electrical Equipment,
Mineral Products, Vegetable
Products, Metal & metal products,
Chemicals & Allied Products,
Vehicles & Aircraft

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT ON EXPORT OF RMG AND TOTAL EXPORT OF BANGLADESH

% OF RMG'S TO TOTAL EXPORT

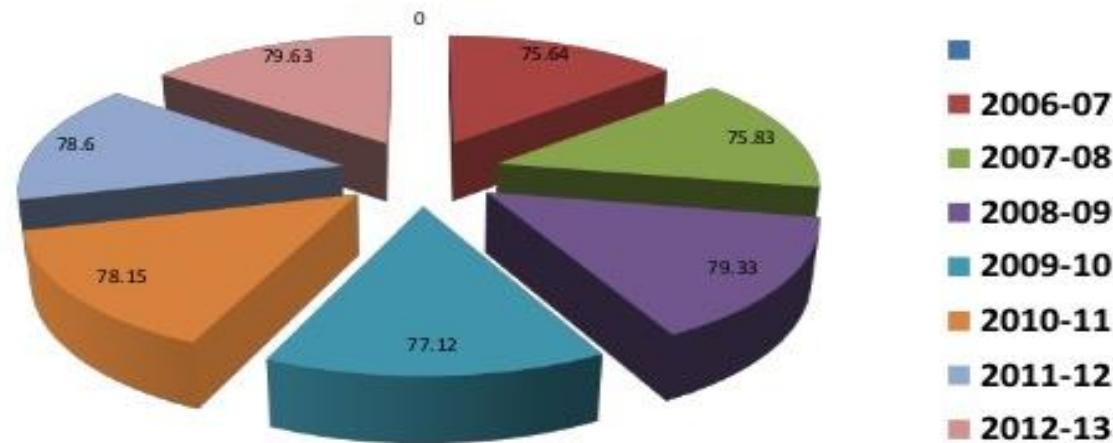


Figure : Comparative Statement on
Export Growth Of RMG In Bangladesh

Export -Import Partners

Main
export
partners

- European Union 58.2%
- United States 16.3%
- Japan 3.1%
- Canada 3.0%
- India 2.4%
- Australia 1.9%
- China 1.9%
- Southeast Asia 1.6%
- Others 11.6%

Main
import
partners

- China 21.5%
- India 12.2%
- Singapore 9.2%
- European Union 6.2%
- Hong Kong 5.5%
- Other 45.3%

Government & Politics

- **Government:** Bangladesh is a unitary state and parliamentary democracy. Direct elections in which all citizens, aged 18 or over, can vote are held every five years for the unicameral parliament known as the Jatiyo Sangshad. Currently it has 350 members (including 50 reserved seats for women) elected from single-member constituencies.
- **Justice:** Supreme Court headed by chief justice. Two Supreme Court divisions: High Court Division with seven regional benches, and Appellate Division in Dhaka. Grass-roots judicial system at village level. British-style criminal codes, amended in Pakistan and Bangladesh eras.
- **Administrative Divisions:** Divided into seven administration divisions headed by commissioners. Divisions further subdivided into sixty-four districts (*zillas*).



Division

District

Upazila

Union

Cultural Festivals



- **Festivals** have always played a significant role in the life of the people of Bangladesh. Muslim peoples are observed Eid-e-Miladunnabi, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Muharram etc. Hindus observe Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja, Kali Puja and many other pujas. Christmas (popularly called *Baradin* in Bangla) is observed by Christians.



- There are some common festivities, which are observed countrywide by people like **Pahela Baisakh** (the first day of Bangla year), **Independence Day** (26th March), **21st February** (the National Mourning Day and World Mother Language Day), **The Victory Day** (16th December), **Rabindra & Nazrul Jayanti** etc.

Source: (i) <http://www.google.com.bd/imgres?imgur>
(ii) Banglapedia 2003, National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh

Clothing and Painting

- Bangladeshi women habitually wear Sarees. **Jamdani** was once world famous for it's most artistic and expensive ornamental fabric. **Moslin**, a fine and artistic type of cloth was well-known worldwide. **Naksi Kantha**, produced by the village women, is still familiar in villages and towns simultaneously. Traditionally males wear Panjabis, Fatuas and Pajamas. Hindus wear Dhuty for religious purposes. Now-a-days common dresses of males are shirts, t-shirts and pants.



Naksi Kantha



Moslin Fabric



Famine 1943, sketch by Zainul Abedin

- There is 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 famine of 1943 in Bangladesh.

Source: (i) <http://www.google.com.bd/imgres?imgur>
(ii) Banglapedia 2003, National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh

Music

- The traditional music in Bangladesh shares the perspectives of that of the Indian sub-continent. Music in Bangladesh can be divided into three distinct categories -**classical, folk and modern**.
- ***Ustad Alauddin Khan and Ustad Ayet Ali Khan*** are two names in classical instrumental music who are internationally known.
- The store of folk song abounds in spiritual lyrics of ***Lalan Shah, Hasan Raja, and Romesh Shill***. Bangla music arena is enriched with ***Jari, Shari, Bhatiali, Murshidi*** and other types of folk songs. ***Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Sangeet*** are Bangalees' precious heritage. Pop song and band groups are also practiced widely in Bangladesh as modern music.



- Bangladesh has a good number of musical instruments originally of her own like ***Banshi*** (bamboo flute), ***Dhole*** (wooden drums), ***Ektara*** (a single stringed instrument), ***Dotara*** (a four stringed instrument), ***Mandira*** (a pair of metal bawls used as rhythm instrument), ***Khanjani***, ***Sharinda*** etc.

Source: (i) <https://www.google.com.bd>

(ii) Banglapedia 2003, National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh

Dance and Drama



Monipuri and Santal

- Classical forms of the sub-continent predominate in Bangladeshi dance. The folk, tribal and Middle Eastern traits are also common. Among the tribal dances, particularly popular are **Monipuri** and **Santal**. Rural girls are in the habit of dancing that does not require any grammar or regulations. Bangla songs like *jari* and *shari* are presented accompanied with dance of both male and female performers.



Dhaka Theatre

- Drama in Bangladesh has an old tradition and is very popular. Theatre groups are **Dhaka Theatre**, **Nagarik Nattyam Sampraday and Theatre**. In Dhaka, Baily Road area is known as '**Natak Para**' where drama shows are regularly held. **Public Library Auditorium and Museum Auditorium** are famous for holding cultural shows. Dhaka University area is a pivotal part of cultural activities.

Source: (i) <http://www.google.com.bd/imgres?imgur>
(ii) <https://www.google.com.bd/search?>
(ii) Banglapedia 2003, National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh

Archaeological & Tourist Sites



- **Paharpur** (Naogaon district) and **Halud Vihara** (about 14.5 km west-south-west of Paharpur), **Bhasu Vihara** & **Mahasthangarh** (Bogra district), **Mainamoti**, **Lalmai Pahar**, and **Ananda Vihara** (Comilla district), **Sitakot Vihara** and **Kantaji Temple** (Dinajpur district), **Wari-Bateshwar** (Narsingdi).



- **Cox's Bazar** (The 120-km long sea beach is considered to be the longest in the world), **Sylhet**, **Sreemangal** (Maulvibazar) **Rangamati**, **Chittagong**, **Kuakata** (It is a unique beach for viewing sunrise as well as sun-setting), **Sundarbans** (Khulna).

Source: (i) <http://www.google.com.bd/imgres?imgur>
(ii) Banglapedia 2003, National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh

- On an average, 15 lakh tourists go out of the country each year and only one to two lakh tourists visit Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh has world's longest sea beach **Cox's Bazar** and world's biggest mangrove forest Sundorbon. Ratargul swamp forest, Saintmartin island, Kaptai lake, Nligiri hill are the most attractive tourist spots in Bangladesh.
- Historical places of Bangladesh. **Ahsan Manzil:** Known as the Pink Palace, Ahsan Manzil is situated in the midst of old town, just beside the bank of Buriganga River.

Bangladesh in Global Arena

- Bangla is among the top 10 most spoken languages in the world.
- Celebrating 21st February as “International Mother Language Day” declared by UNESCO on 17 November 1999
- The Nobel Peace Prize 2006 was awarded jointly to Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank *“for their efforts to create economic and social development from below”*. Grameen Bank's objective since its establishment in 1983 has been to grant poor people small loans on easy terms - so-called **micro-credit** - and Yunus was the bank's founder.
- Achievement of Millennium Development Goals: Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health (Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio). Bangladesh and Cambodia performed best among the 49 LDCs in achieving Millennium Developed Goals.

It made outstanding progress in the areas of poverty alleviation, ensuring food security, primary school enrollment, and gender parity in primary and secondary level education, lowering infant and under-five mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, improving immunization coverage, and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases.

Source: (i) http://www.21stfebruary.org/un_declaration.htm

(ii) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Development_Goals

(iii) <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2013/jun/01/4-bangladeshi-peacekeepers-awarded>

(iv) <http://archive.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/bangladesh-top-achiever-along-with-cambodia/>



Millennium
Development
Goals



BANGLADESH

Progress Report 2015

STATUS OF BANGLADESH AGAINST MDG TARGET



4 Reduce Child Mortality

Target: Under-five mortality rate 48 (per 1,000 live births)
Status: ACHIEVED 44 (2011 est)



7 Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

Target: Forest coverage 20% (TD>70%)
Status: NEEDS ATTENTION 13.20% (TD>30%)



1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target: 29% of people living below poverty line
Status: ACHIEVED 26.2% (2013 est)



2 Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target: Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) 100%
Status: ON TRACK 97.3% (2013)



3 Promoting Gender Equity and Empowering Women

Target: Gender parity in primary education 1.0
Status: ON TRACK 1.00 (2013)



5 Improve Maternal Health

Target: Maternal mortality 143 (per 100,000 live births)
Status: ON TRACK 194 (2010)



6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

Target: HIV prevalence halting
Status: WELL ACHIEVED HIV 0.1

Challenges

- Limited land for food production
- High population density
- Growing population
- Just 1 in 6 women employed in non-agricultural sector
- Protein and micronutrient deficiencies cause maternal and child malnutrition



8 Developing a Global Partnership for Development

Target: Develop further an open, rule based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading & financial system.
Status: Needs attention
Net ODA received US\$ 2,871m (2013)
Debt Service 8.58%

Major misses

- Literacy
- Employment
- Environment

Bangladesh & SDGs

- Bangladesh had been an active participant in the global process leading to the preparation of the post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The Government has been following “**whole of society**” approach in carrying out the task of SDGs implementation by involving various stakeholders.

- Bangladesh's contribution to UN peacekeeping mission is the largest in the world with over 10,000 peacekeepers now engaged in the missions.
- **Rajshahi** has outperformed every other city in the world in reducing air pollution (WHO, 2016).
- Bangladesh has outperformed its neighboring countries in social development e.g. reducing child maternal mortality, ensuring safe water, better sanitation, higher primary school enrolment etc.
- Bangladesh has been ranked the third most peaceful country in South Asia, faring better than India and Pakistan (Global Peace Index, 2015)



Thank You