## (Article-1): Explanation of the origin of the name Banga or Bangla; A historical review

**Introduction:** There are many differences of opinion about the origin of the name Banga or Bangla. According to some, the name Bengal and later Bangala originated from the name Banga. Some believe that a group of people called Bong in the past lived in the region and after them the region came to be known as Banga. Many people think that the submerged damp region is called Banga or Bengal.

**The origin of the name Banga or Bangla:** The origin of the name Banga or Bangla is discussed below:

- **1. Bengali in Travelers' Writings:** Bengal was known as 'Bengal' during the British rule. In the 16th and 17th centuries European writings mention the country called 'Bengal'. Marca Polo is referring to the city of Bengal. Gastoldi in his map shows Bengal to be west of Chattigram.
- **2.** According to Ahmad Rafiq: Ahmad Rafiq said in the book 'Bengali's Independence War', '........ However, the independent Bengali-land called Gangaashtra or Gangahridi is recognized as the most ancient state.
- **3.** According to Ajay Roy: Ajay Roy says in the article 'Bengali Janm', the first mention of 'Beng' people and townships can be seen in Aitareya Aranya.
- **4. According to Abul Fazl:** The poet Abul Fazl in Ain-e-Akbari says about the origin of the name 'Bangla' in Emperor Akbar's meeting: "The ancient name of this country was Banga. In ancient times its kings used to build 'Al', a tower 10 yards high and 20 yards wide; Bengal and the origin of the name Bangla." So Bengal+Al = Bengal > Bengal > Bangla.
- **5.** According to Sukumar Sen: Sukumar Sen has expressed the view that those who live in the watery country in the east are 'Banga' and their home-land is 'Banga-desh'.
- **6.** According to Rameshchandra Majumdar: Rameshchandra Majumdar thinks that 'Beng' and 'Bengal' were two separate countries from ancient times. From the name of the country 'Bengal' the whole country has been named 'Bangla' over time. The name 'Bengal' which is called 'Bengal' by the present day people of Bangladesh, carries the memory of that ancient 'Bengal' country.
- **7.** According to Niharranjan Roy: Niharranjan Roy, along with Abul Fazal, said that the construction of small and large dams (al) to prevent floods and tidal currents in riverine countries was inevitable for agriculture and habitats. And 'Banga' was joined with 'Al' and it was named 'Bangala'.

Conclusion: Finally, it can be said that from the ancient township 'Bengal' to 'Bangalah' or 'Bangala' in the Middle Ages, 'Bengal' of the Portuguese during the British rule, 'Bengal' of the English, 'East Bengal' during the Pakistan rule (1947-1955), East After gaining independence from Pakistan (1955), and the Great War of Liberation, the name 'Bangladesh' became well established. So, this is how Bengal > Bengal > Bangala > Suba-i-Bangala > East Bengal > East Pakistan > Bengal originated.

### The origin of the name and the ethnographic identity of Bengalis.

Through a long struggle, independent Bangladesh was established in 1971. The word Bangla has undergone various changes. I will briefly discuss the origin of this Bengali name. We all know that this region was divided into different towns from ancient times. Among them,

Gaur and Banga. From this Banga, the word Bengali was gradually changed to Bengali. But there are many doctrines, disagreements and there are many in this matter.

#### **Different Doctrines:**

Abul Fazal in his famous book 'Ain-i-Akbari' said about the origin of the name 'Bangala' --- Bengal. The name Bangal or Bangala originated by adding 'Al' to this Bengal.

Many people have thought that 'Banga' is a Chinese and Tibetan word. They may think that because the name of Bengal is similar to the name of rivers like Ganges, Huangho, Yangsiqiang etc.

Ramesh Chandra Majumdar thinks that 'Bengal' is the name of the country. During the reign of Ilyas Shah, his title was 'Shah-i-Bangala'. Also, in the 16th century, the Portuguese referred to Bengal as 'Bangala'.

Although historians differ about the origin of the name Bengali, it is emphatically ancient

## (Article-2): Origin of the name Banga or Bangla; A historical review

The word "Bangla" has come from the Sanskrit word "Banga". History tells us that the Aryans called this region "Banga". But the Muslims living in Bengal added the Persian suffix "al" to this word "Banga". The name stands for "Bengal" or "Bangalah".

"Al" meant division of land or damming of rivers. Citing historian Abul Fazal, Syed Anwar Hussain said, "During the Muslim rule, especially during the Sultanate period from 1336 to 1576 and after the conquest of Bengal by the Mughals in 1576, the region came to be known as Bengal or Bangalah."

But Bangla, Bangal or Desh - all these three words come from Persian language. Neither is a Bengali word. After that, different kings gave different names to this Bengal during their occupation. The last independent Nawab Sirajuddaula also named "Banga" with several presidencies like Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam.

During British rule, this region was called Bengal Presidency. Then in 1905, during the partition of Bengal, there was an administrative division in the whole of Bengal. The western part of Bengal became West Bengal and the eastern part became East Bengal. After the end of British colonial rule, Bengal was divided into India and Pakistan in 1947. At that time, Pakistanis wanted to name East Bengal as East Pakistan.

But the controversy started from that time. Bengali was recognized as the mother tongue of East Pakistan in 1952 as a result of the movement. Then in 1957 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a young member of Pakistan's Constituent Assembly, protested against the name "East Pakistan" in Karachi and said that the name East Bengal has a history and tradition. "And if the name East Pakistan is to be retained, then the public opinion of the people of Bengal should be verified. Whether they will accept this change of name - that is why a referendum should be held."

Then in 1962, under the leadership of Sirajul Alam Khan, a secret organization of Chhatra League called Nucleus was established. Those who thought in favor of independence. They called this region independent East Bengal.

Then came the year 1969. The movement to overthrow Ayub began. At that time, the slogan of the mass uprising was "Bear Bengalis take up arms, make Bangladesh independent." According to history, that first East Bengal was called as "Bangladesh". Later, on 5th December 1969, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared, "The name of our independent country will be Bangladesh" in a discussion meeting organized on the occasion of the 6th death anniversary of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy.

In that meeting, Awami League leaders proposed different names. Later, when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proposed the name "Bangladesh", everyone unanimously agreed.

As the reason for giving this name, he said, "Bangla" from the Bengali language acquired through the struggle in 1952, then "Desh" from the independent country movement. These two histories and struggles are collectively named "Bangladesh". Even though East Pakistan was written in the documents, no one spoke East Pakistan. Everyone said Bangladesh. Since then no one called this country East Pakistan. Dr. said that everyone recognized it as Bangladesh wholeheartedly. Syed Anwar Hossain.

Then the Mujibnagar government announced the declaration of independence - it also said that the country was called "Bangladesh". Then on November 4, 1972, when the first constitution was drafted and adopted, the constitutional name of the country was given as "Bangladesh". Besides, undivided Bengal was called "Bangdesh" or Bangladesh" in 19th century literature. The word "Bangladesh" is mentioned in the literature of Bankimchandra. Kazi Nazrul Islam used the name "Bangladesh" in his poetry in the thirties. Again the name "Bangladesh" is pronounced in Satyajit's film.

On the other hand, Rabindranath Tagore called Bengal "Golden Bengal" and Jibananda Das called it "Rupsi Bengal".

### (Article-3): Origin of the name Banga or Bangla; A historical review

We are Bangladeshis. Our language is Bengali. Bangladesh has a very ancient history. Our Bangladesh has a documented history of thousands of years. No other country seems to have such an ancient and clear history. "History of Bengali" Dr. Mohammad Hannan analyzed the origin of the name 'Benga' from Ghulam Hossain Salim Zaid Puri's book 'Riyaz-us-Salatin'.

From 1200-600 BC, Aryan civilization clashed with Bengal's own civilization. So maybe in the war of Mahabharata, Bangaraja Chitrasena, Punduraja-Vasudeva, Prakjyotisha-Puradhikanaraka, Magadharaja-Jarasanda fought against Sri Krishna at Kurukshetra. This is the proud history of our ancient times. Vikrampur, Gaur, Mahasthangarh, Paharpur, Mainamati, Sonragaon, Pandua are still the evidence of our ancient civilization.

But Mahamati Alexander did not come to Bengal and returned to Babylon from the banks of Bipasha river. Alexander met a Bengali named Chandragupta in Punjab. 'Paleolithic and

Microlithic' weapons dating back to 10,000 years ago have been found in West Bengal. There is no doubt about how strong Bangladesh was in ancient times.

Evidence of this is also found in Greek history. Greek historians describe the Bengalis as a warrior race. When Alexander invaded India, Gangaridi Raja resisted with his huge army to protect Bengal. Alexander invaded India for a total of 19 months in 325-326 BC. Gangaridi was waiting with 80,000 cavalry, 2 lakh infantry, 8,000 chariots, 6,000 war elephants to stop King Alexander.

An inscription dated to the reign of Govinda Keshav Dev has been discovered at Bhatera village in Sylhet district. Nihar Ranjan Roy mentions this script as one of the written evidences of ancient Bengal. A cave inscription found at Pavesa near Kaushambi in Uttar Pradesh, India mentions the king of Adhichhatra as "Bangapala". Bangapala's son Asarasena made this cave inscription in the first century. The people of ancient Bengal were also very strong militarily.

This civilization appeared before 2000 BC. From the inscriptions found in Noakhali district, it is assumed that in the second century BC, the people of Bangladesh were studying in 'Prakrit' and 'Bra²i' scripts. Historian Ramsharan Sharma mentions several examples of writing systems from Bogra district in his book "Prachi Bharat". All these writing methods date back to Ashoka's reign.

There may have been gold mines somewhere in Bengal in ancient times. The history of our civilization is ancient and exciting. RC Majumdar in his Ancient History of India mentions that excavations of the Pandu Bazar Mound near Bolpur on the banks of the Ajay River in Burdwan district of West Bengal have yielded traces of the ancient civilization of Bengal. In those ancient times Bengalis knew the use of iron and copper. It has also been discovered from the mounds that Bengalis could write in those ancient times. Paved roads were also found after excavating the mounds.

There are no gold mines in ancient Bengal or present day Bangladesh. But Sonarang, Swarna Gram, Sonargaon, Sonakand still exist in Bikrampur of ancient Bengal. Maharaja Chaitanya Gupta (507-508 AD) ruled the East Bengal region. He introduced gold coins in Bengal. Besides, another king of Bengal named Samachar Dev introduced gold coins. If there were no gold mines in Bangladesh, how would so many gold coins have been produced?

The current Sundarbans deer gorge is thought to be the Ganges. In Greek history, the beginning of Bengali civilization is said to be 'Ganges'. The map of Vikrampur shows the location of an ancient city called 'Ganganagar' on the west bank of the river Kaliganga and on the east bank of the river Padma or Ganga, the capital of ancient Bengal, Bikrampur, by Surveyor General F.R.S. The city was destroyed by the changing direction of the Padma. Greek history also mentions that there were gold mines in ancient Bengal.

This civilization started on the banks of river Padma or Ganges. Greek historians refer to Bengal as Gangaridaya or Gangaridi. Historians Ptolemy and Periplus mentioned in the Greek history that the residence of the Ganga Ridi king was 'on the Ganges' but the Greek writers did not mention where the Gangaridi king's capital was located on the Ganges. However, historians of Bangladesh believe that the 'Ganges' or Gangaridi kings lived on the banks of the Kumar river in Khulna.

There is no possibility of Bengal unification in future. The western part of Bengal now (since 1947) belongs to India. The eastern part of Bengal is known all over the world as the independent 'Bangladesh' since 1971. It is difficult to say when the history, culture and civilization of this ancient Bengal nation began. However, archaeologists and historians believe that civilization began in Bangladesh 10,000 years ago. The name of this civilization of Bengal is 'Ganga Ridi Civilization'.

Many people think that it is necessary to reveal the history of 'Banshi' and 'Bengali River' in the origin of the name Bengal. In ancient times, Bengal was basically divided into two parts. After the fall of the Gupta rule in 551 AD, Bengal-Samatat kingdom was formed with East Bengal area and a separate kingdom named Gaud with western Bengal area. The fact that in 551 AD, the kingdom of Bengal was divided into two parts, Bengal could not be united even after a long 1500 years.

Hindustan after Ham's son "Hind", "Hindusthan" or "Sindu" after Sind and Bangdesh after Hind's son "Banga". The children of Bangladesh are known as Bengalis or Bangladeshis in the world. Then there is no obstacle to say Bengal or Bangladesh according to the name of Noah's grandson or grandson. The inhabitants of this province are Bangladeshi or Bengalis.

The Riaz-us-Salatin Library was composed (1768-1788 AD). The book records the Muslim thought and consciousness of Bengal and the ancient history of Bengali Muslims. After the flood, 80 men and women including Prophet Noah (a.s.), his wife, and children were engaged in procreating in different parts of the world by God's command. The descendants of Nuh (a.s.) arranged the world anew. Ham, one of the sons of Nuh (a.s.) focused on raising the family in the Asiatic region.

In 1947, Bengal was officially divided into two parts. The Hindu Special Region of West Bengal went with India. And the Muslim majority area of East Bengal joined Pakistan. Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan in 1971. Dhaka is the capital of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

### (Article-4): Origin of the name Banga or Bangla; A historical review

Bangladesh is a small country in the continent of Asia. This country has been ruled and ruled by different rulers at different times. Finally, in 1971, the country gained independence after a ninemonth bloody war at the cost of 3 million lives. A country with a red-green flag is placed on the world map. However, the current state called Bangladesh is Bengali speaking

The population is only a part of the wider population. Outside of Bangladesh, Bengali-speaking people live in all of India's West Bengal, Cachar and Gyalpara in Assam, parts of Purnia, Singhbhum and Santal in Bihar, parts of Orissa and Tripura states, and Arakan in Myanmar. In ancient times there was no specific name for this region. The large Bengali speaking region was variously known as Banga, Pundra, Radha, Suksha, Harikela, Samatat, Chandradwip, Tamralipti, Kamrup, Varendra etc. In the seventh century, King Shashank, the first independent sovereign of Bengal, united these towns under the name of Gaur. After that, Bangladesh was divided into three names: Puvra, Gaur and Banga. During the Muslim period, these towns were collectively known as Bengal or Bangala.

## Origin of the name Bengal

There is much disagreement about the origin of the name Banga or Bangla. According to some, the name Bengal and later Bengal came from the name Banga. Some believe that a group called Bong lived in the region in the past and the region came to be known as Banga after their name. Again, many think that the submerged damp region was called Banga or Vansa. Hence, the river clouded and waterlogged southern region has come to be known as Bengal. Many Hindu historians on the basis of scriptures like Mahabharata, Puranas, Harivamsha etc. mention that King Bali had 5 children. Who are named: (1) organs (2) Bengal (3) Kalinga (4) Pundra and (5) Suhma.

Boliraj gave them 5 kingdoms and the kingdom was named after the one who ascended the throne. Among them, the country belonging to Bengal is known as Bengal. Muhammad Habibur Rahman said "It is an impressive brahminical campaign to denigrate the character of bratyajan". On the other hand, according to Muslim mythology, one of the sons of Prophet Noah (pbuh) was named Ham, his son Hind,

And the name of Hind's second son was Bong." The region colonized by Bong and his descendants eventually came to be known as Banga. Moreover, some historians think that the name of a deity of Santals, Kols and Mundas, the most primitive people of Bangladesh, is 'Benga'. The name Banga may also be derived from this Banga.

The word 'Banga' is not mentioned in the Rigveda before three thousand BC. However, the first mention of the name Banga is found in the book 'Aitareya Aranyaka' written by Muni in the 5th century BC. About the limits of this ancient country of Bengal. Niharranjan Roy wrote in his Bengali history book, the Himalayas in the north and the states of Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan from the Himalayas, the Brahmaputra valley in the north-east, the plains north parallel to Bhagirathi up to Dwarbhanga in the north-west, the Garo Khasia Jaintia, Tripura, Chittagong Range in the east and the South Sea. until; Rajmahal Santal Pargana in the west, Chhatnagpur, Manbhum Dhalbhum, Keyanjar, rocky forested plateau of Mayurbhanj, Bay of Bengal in the south within this natural rocky terrain, Gaud-Pundra-Barendriya-Radha-Suhma-Tamralipti-Banga-Bengal-Harikel etc. townships of ancient Bengal.

In the seventh century, the first independent and sovereign king of Bengal, Shashank, united these towns under the name of Gaur. After that, Bangladesh was divided into three districts: Pundra, Gaur and Banga. The Muslim historian Minhaj-i-Siraj in his book 'History of the Muslim Conquest of Bengal' gave an idea of the different regions of Bengal called Barendra-Radha and Banga. In his writings, Lakhnauti and Bengal are found as separate regions. Samatat is also mentioned in his writings along with Banga. Historian Shams-e-Siraj Afif's Tarikh-e-Firazshahi mentions Bengal and Bengal as separate regions. Shams-i-Siraj Sultan Shams-ud-Din Ilyas Shah is styled as Shah-i-Bangala. He was the first Muslim ruler in history to rule the entire territory of Bengal for a long time.

During the reign of Emperor Akbar, the whole of Bangladesh came to be known as 'Subah-i-Bangalah'. The name Bengali was created by Muslim rulers.

Hence the Portuguese Bengala and the English Bengal are derived from the Persian word Bangalah. Later, Bengali or Bangla which the British rulers called Bengal (Bengal) in English and the language as Bengali (Bengali) continued for almost two hundred years.

# (Article-5): History of Bangladesh from Bengal; A historical review

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It has also been discovered from the mounds that Bengalis could write in those ancient times. Paved roads were also found after excavating the mounds. This civilization appeared before 2000 BC. From the inscriptions found in Noakhali district, it is assumed that in the second century BC, the people of Bangladesh practiced learning in 'Prakrit' and 'Bra²i' scripts. Historian Ramsharan Sharma mentions several examples of writing systems from Bogra district in his book "Prachi Bharat". All these writing methods date back to Ashoka's reign. An inscription dated to the reign of Govinda Keshav Dev has been discovered at Bhatera village in Sylhet district. Nihar Ranjan Roy mentions this script as one of the written evidences of ancient Bengal. A cave inscription found at Pavesa near Kaushambi in Uttar Pradesh, India mentions the king of Adhichhatra as "Bangapala". Bangapala's son Asarasena made this cave inscription in the first century. The people of ancient Bengal are also military was very strong. Evidence of this is also found in Greek history. Greek historians describe the Bengalis as a warrior race. When Alexander invaded India, Gangaridi Raja resisted with his huge army to protect Bengal.

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