

BANGLADESH: GEOGRAPHY, DEMOGRAPHY & CULTURAL TRAITS

Pre-Historic Bengali People

- 'Mahasthangarh' is the oldest archaeological site in Bangladesh.
- It was ancient capital of Pundra Kingdom.
- Bangladesh was divided among the Janapads:
 - Vanga (southern bengal)
 - Pundra (northern bengal)
 - Suhma (western bengal)

Demographics of Bengal

- About 252 million people live in Bengal.
- The population density is more than 900/square kilometer.
- Of total Bengali population, 69.6% is Muslim and 28.5% is Hindu.
- Life expectancy is almost 64 years.
- Literacy rate is approximately 54%.
- There are 45 tribal groups in this region.

Physical Geography of Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is located in South Asia.
- It is virtually surrounded by India and the Bay of Bengal.
- The country has an area of 1,47,570 square kilometers.
- It is bordered by 4144 kilometer with India and
- 283 kilometer with Myammar.

Physical Geography of Bangladesh

- The territorial waters of Bangladesh extend 12 nautical miles.
- The exclusive economic zone of the country is 200 nautical miles.
- About 1000 square kilometers of the total area (of Bangladesh) is covered with water.
- The total bordered districts in BD is 32 of which 30 with India and 3 with Myanmar.

Climate of Bangladesh

- Bangladesh has a tropical monsoon climate characterized by:
 - Wide seasonal variations in rainfall
 - High temperatures, and
 - High humidity
- April is the hottest month in most part of the country and
- January is the coolest month.

Ancient Period

(Pre-Historic Bengal)

- Many of archeological excavations in Bangladesh emerged from 16 great states or [mahajanapadas](#) in Northern India.
- The eastern part of ancient India, covering much of current days Bangladesh was part of one of such [mahajanapadas](#).
- Linguistically, the oldest population of this land may have been speakers of [Dravidian languages](#).

Ancient Period

(Overseas Colonization)

- The [Vanga Kingdom](#) was a powerful seafaring nation of [Ancient India](#).
- They had overseas trade relations with [Java](#), [Sumatra](#) and [Siam](#) (modern day [Thailand](#)).
- Bengali people migrated to the [Maritime Southeast Asia](#) and [Siam](#) (in modern Thailand), establishing their own colonies there.

Ancient Period

(Gangaridai Empire)

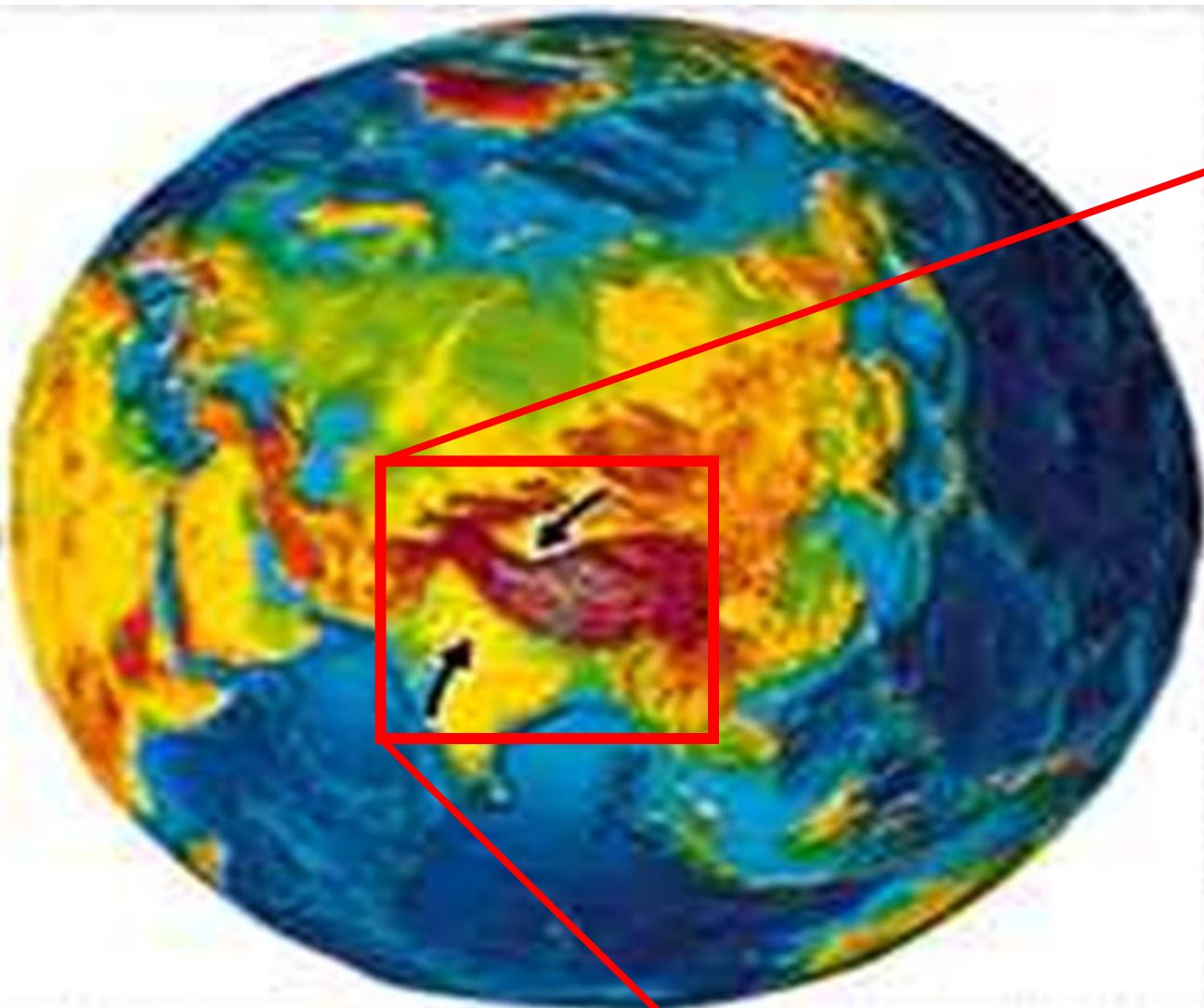
- Though north and west Bengal were part of the Magadhan empire, southern Bengal thrived and became powerful with her overseas trades.
- In 326 BCE, with the invasion of [Alexander the Great](#) the region again came to prominence.
- Alexander the Great withdrew from India anticipating the valiant counterattack of the mighty [Gangaridai](#) empire.
- Alexander, after the meeting with his officer, [Coenus](#), was convinced that it was better to return.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS CLASS

- **Perceive Bangladesh through a brief analysis**
- **Know the Prime Geographical Features of Bangladesh**
- **Understand about key demographical features of Bangladesh.**
- **Analyze the crucial socio-cultural spectrums or indicators of Bangladesh**
- **Explore about the organs of the government**
- **Discuss the culture of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Facts and Figures

Official name	: People's Republic of Bangladesh
Location	: South Asia
Capital city	: Dhaka
Nationality	: Bangladeshi
Name of currency	: Taka
Area	: 1,47,570 sq.km
State language	: Bangla
Date of Independence	: March 26, 1971
Bangladesh Anthem	: Amar Shonar Bangla
National Animal	: Royal Bengal Tiger
National Bird	: Oriental Magpie Robin
National Fish	: Hilsa
National Flower	: White Water Lily
National Fruit	: Jackfruit
National Tree	: Mango Tree



Position of Bangladesh

Geography of Bangladesh

LOCATION

Bangladesh is a South-Asian small country. It's total Area is about 147,570 square km.

It is situated from 20°34" north latitude to 26°38" north latitude and from 88°01" east longitude to 92°41" east longitude .

International Boundary	: 5138 km
Border with India	: 4156 km
Border with Myanmar	: 271 km
Coastline	: 711 km



Geography of Bangladesh

BOUNDARY & BORDER

Total boundary or international border line of Bangladesh is about 5138 km.

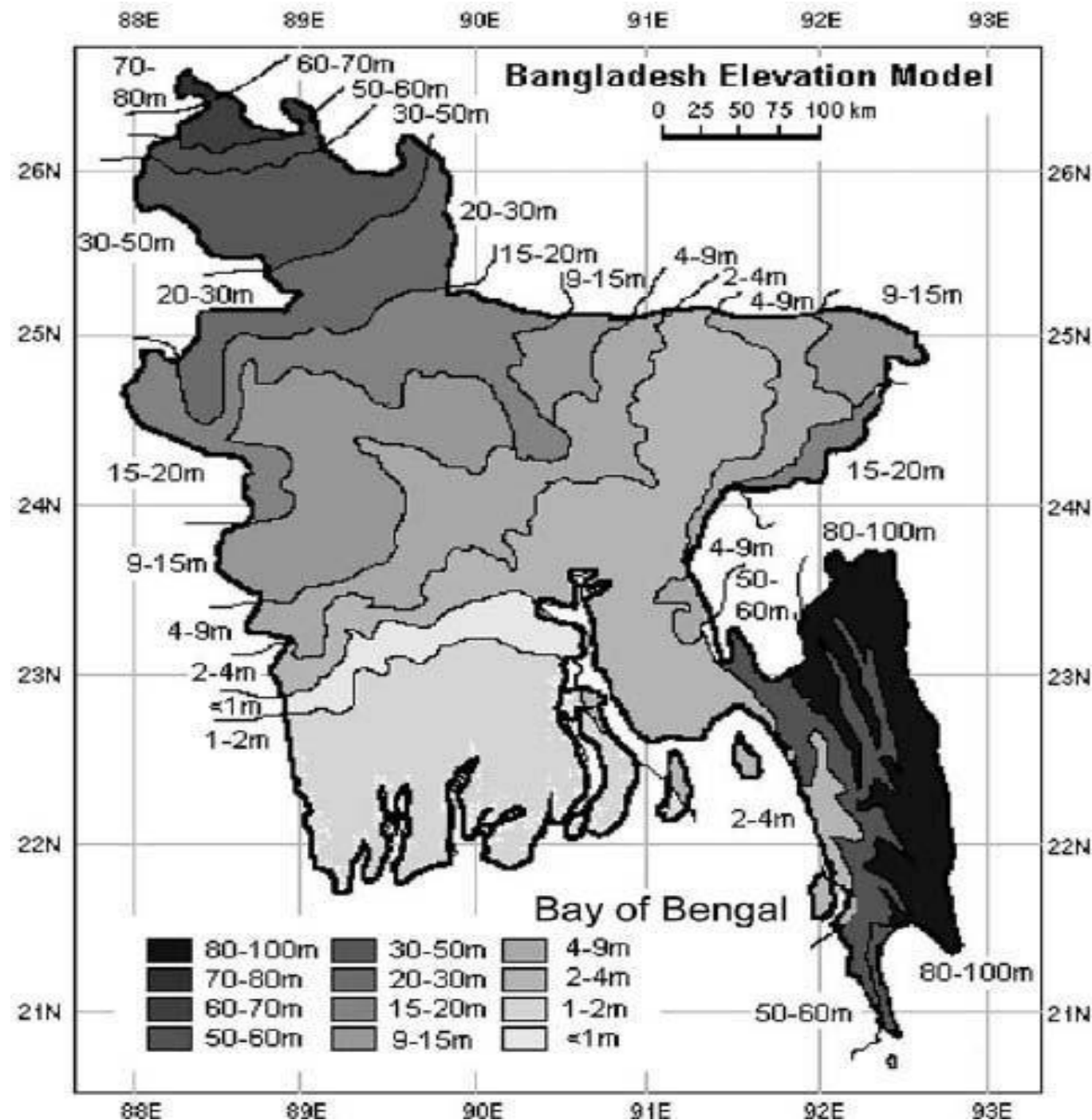
Border: West Bengal (India) on the west; West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya (all the Indian states) on the north; Indian states of Assam, Tripura and Mizoram together with Myanmar on the east; and Bay of Bengal on the south.

Maritime boundary: The political Sea line of Bangladesh is about 12 nautical miles and the exclusive economic zone of the country is 200 nautical miles.



Geography of Bangladesh

TOPOGRAPHY



Topography is a configuration of a land surface. There are three typical natural features in Bangladesh.

- A broad deltaic plain subject to frequent flooding.
- A slightly elevated relatively older plain
- A small hill region specially in Chittagong hills in southeast and low hills in northeast. Tajingdong or Bijoy' is the highest peak.

Bangladesh is also the largest delta of the world. The delta plain of the Ganges (Padma), Brahmaputra (Jamuna), and Meghna Rivers and their tributaries occupy 79 percent of the country.

Geography of Bangladesh

MINERAL RESOURCES

Bangladesh is not so rich in mineral resources. The principal energy resources are:

Natural gas: It is found in several small fields in the northeastern part. There are 24 discovered gas fields in Bangladesh.

Coal: There are five coalfields in Bangladesh.

Limestone, pottery clays, Hard Rock, Construction sand, Glass sand are also found in Bangladesh.



Geography of Bangladesh

BANGLADESH



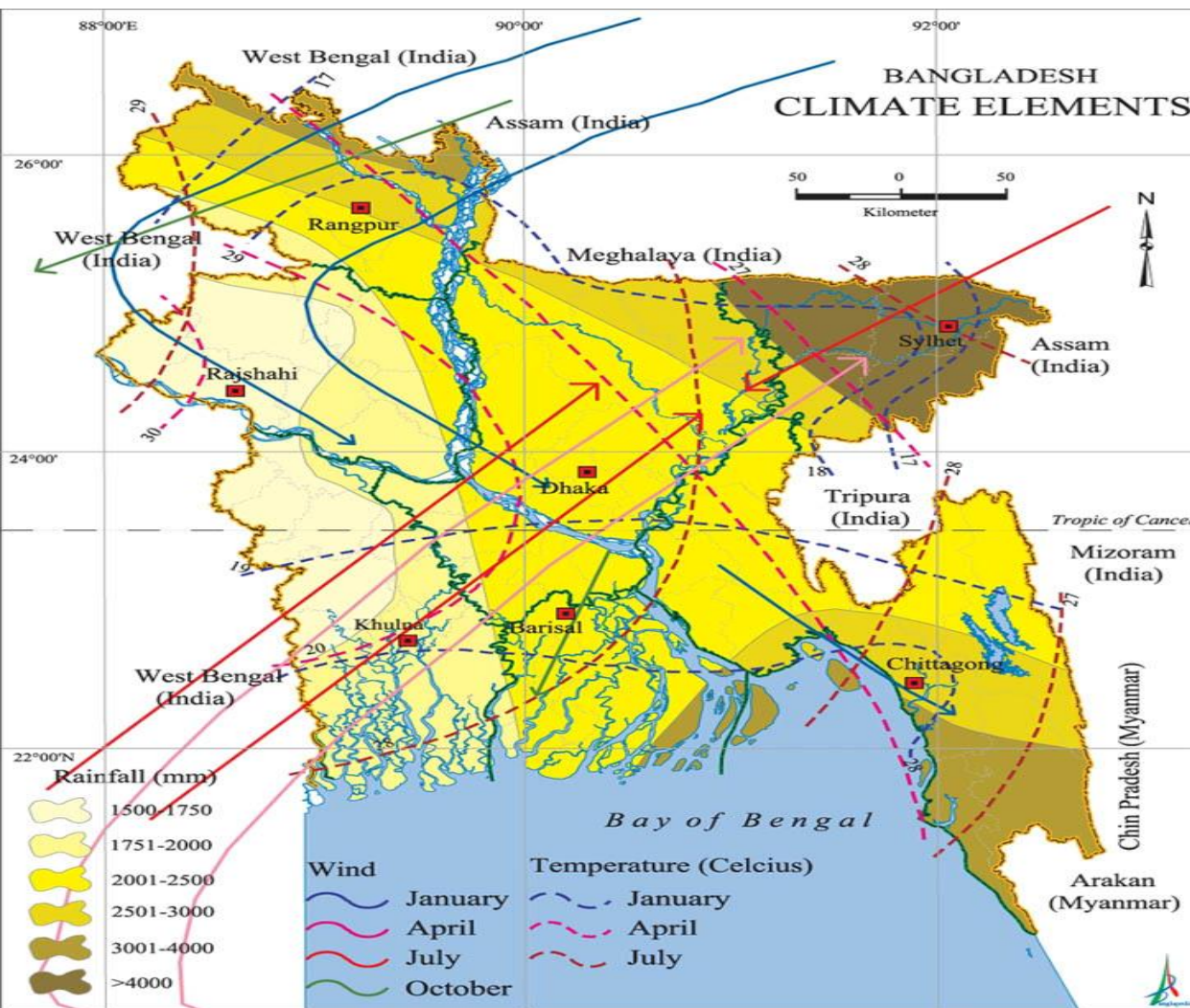
Bangladesh is a riverine country. About 700 rivers flow through the country. Most of the country's land is formed through mud brought by the rivers. These rivers play a significant role in the economic growth of the country.

The system of rivers can be divided into five major networks as follows :

- ☐ Brahmaputra-Jamuna river system
- ☐ Ganges-Padma river system
- ☐ Surma-Meghna river system
- ☐ Tista river System
- ☐ Karnafuli river system

Geography of Bangladesh

CLIMATE



Bangladesh is subject to devastating cyclones, originating over the Bay of Bengal, in the periods of April to May and September to November. Floods also occur in rainy season.

Straddling the Tropic of Cancer, Bangladesh has a tropical monsoon climate characterized by heavy seasonal rainfall, high temperatures, and high humidity.

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).

In general, highest summer temperatures range between 30° to 40°C and April is the warmest month. January is the coldest month, when average temperature is about 10°C.

There are six seasons:

summer, rainy, autumn, late autumn, winter and spring. For practical purposes, three seasons are distinguishable: summer, rainy, and winter.

Demography of Bangladesh

Total Population: 14.97 Crore (2011 census)
16.17 (2016-17)

Population Growth Rate: 1.37% (2016)

Ethnic Group: Highly homogenous as the vast majority (about 98.5%) of Bangladeshis are of the Bengali ethno-linguistic group. Bengalis are an Indo-Aryan ethnic group native to the region of Bengal.

Languages: Over 98% people speak the Bengali language. Bangla is the official and state language of the country. English widely used by educated elite. Arabic used in many Muslim homes. Various tribal languages and regional languages used in local level.

Health: Life expectancy almost equal for male and female, average 71.6 years (male-70.3 & female 72.9).

Religions: The main religion is **Islam** (89.7%), but a significant percentage of the population adheres to **Hinduism** (9.2%). **Buddhists** (0.7%), **Christians** (0.3%), and Animists (0.1%).

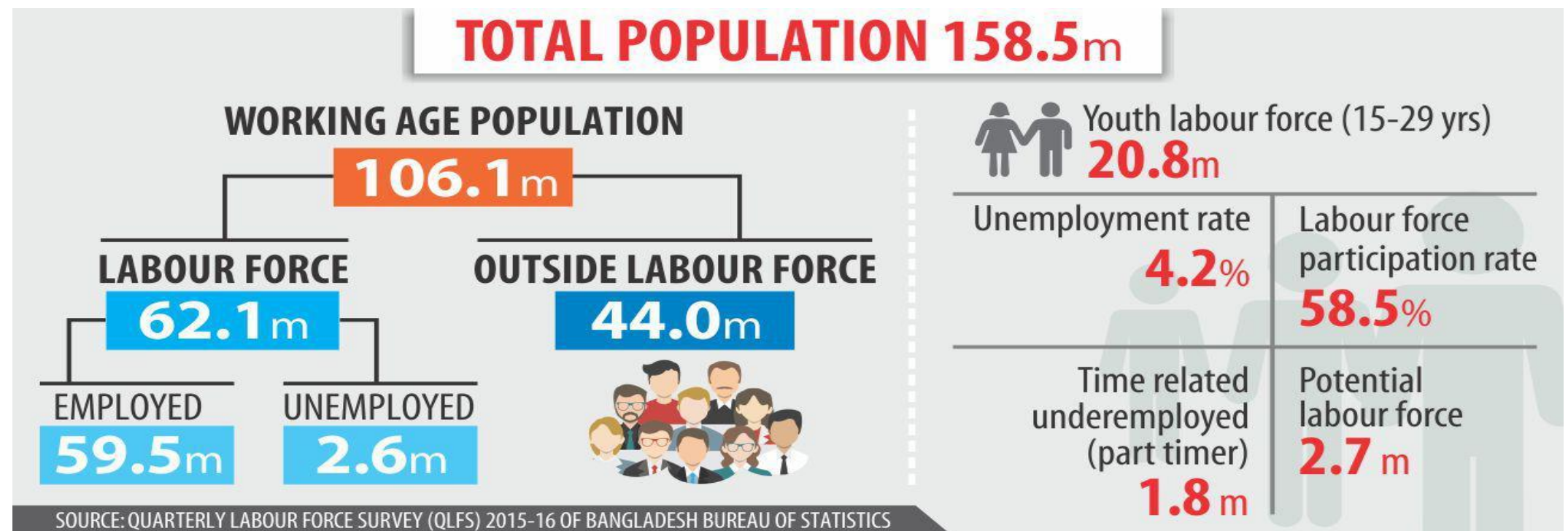
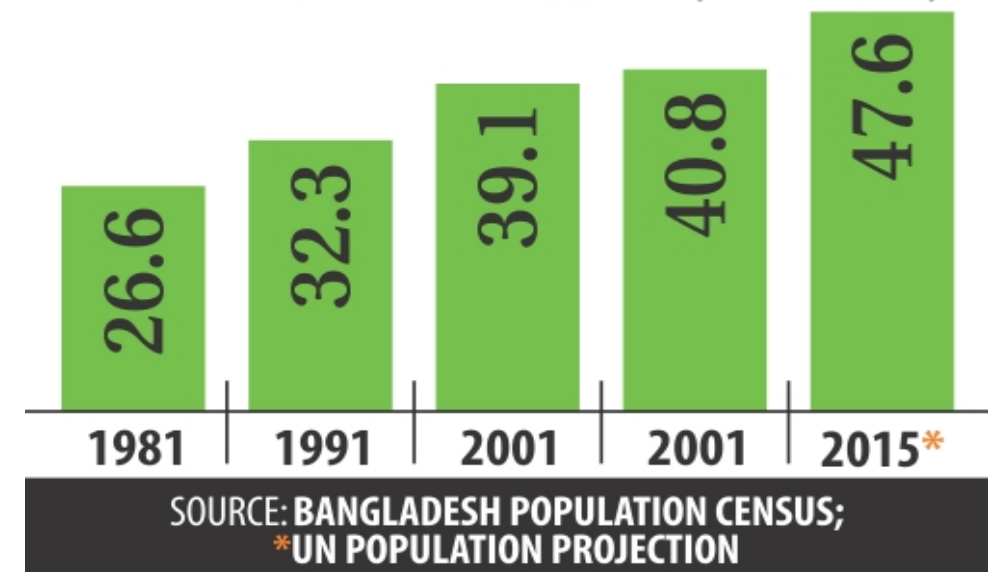
BANGLADESH POPULATION	
1950	3,78,95,000
2017	16,46,70,000
2030	18,55,85,000
2050	20,19,27,000
2100	17,35,49,000
GLOBAL RANK	
1950	12
2017	8
2050	8
2100	14
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH	
1990-95	60
2005-10	69
2010-15	71.2
2015-20	72.9
2025-30	75.7
2045-50	79.9
2095-2100	87.5
SOURCE: "WORLD POPULATION PROSPECTS: THE 2017 REVISION", UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS	

Demography of Bangladesh

Age Structure & Labor force: Since 2007 Bangladesh has had more people of working age than non-working, known as demographic dividend. Bangladesh got the window of demographic dividend but we have to transform it into economic dividend. Demographic dividend usually continues for 30 to 35 years. The dividend usually comes once for a country. The total labor force of Bangladesh is 62.1 million (2015).

YOUNG PEOPLE (10-24 YEARS) IN BANGLADESH

NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE (IN MILLION)



Government of Bangladesh

Government is one of most essential attributes of the state. It works as the agent of the state. The word government is derived from the Latin infinitive '*gubernare*', meaning "to govern". **Govern men t** consists of three words:

“Govern” means to handle, to manage, to execute

“Men”, the plural form of ‘man’ which means people

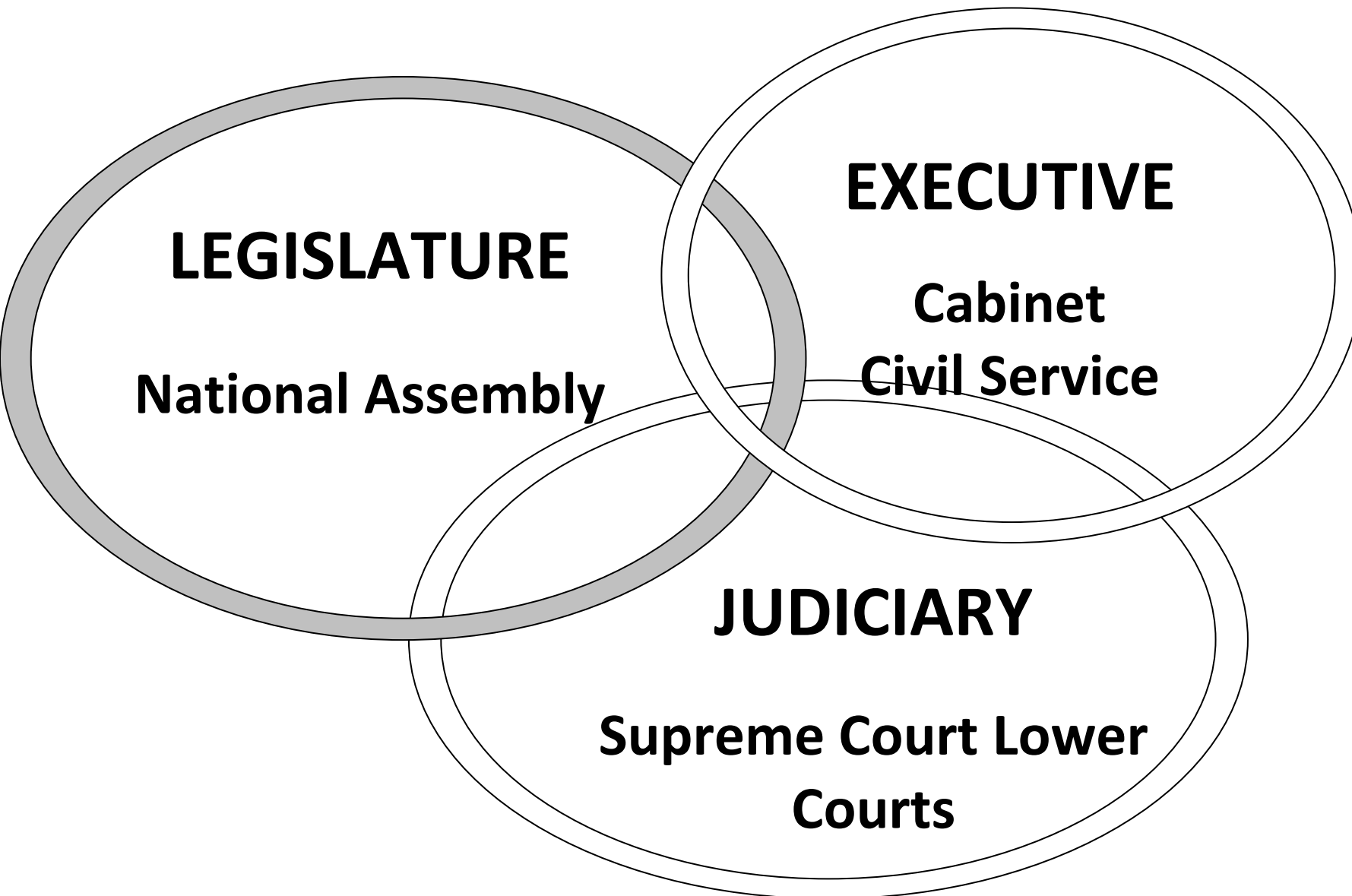
“T” for tactfully; artfully, innovatively or, effectively.

Government of Bangladesh

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 Jatiya Sangshad. Currently it has 350 members elected from single-member constituencies.

Government of Bangladesh

Organs of the Government



Administrative Structure



Social Stratification in Bangladesh

Social stratification is a system in which groups of people are divided into layer according to their relative property, identity, power and prestige. It is also the division of society into categories, ranks, or classes. These divisions lead to social inequality- the unequal sharing of resources and social rewards.



Social Stratification in Bangladesh

Social Stratification in Present Society

On the basis of income and wealth we can divide the society of Bangladesh into three broad categories though there are different sub groups.

UPPER CLASS

Industrialist, Businessman and Top Professionals etc.

MIDDLE CLASS

Professionals, Bureaucrats and Skilled Workers etc

LOWER CLASS

Rickshaw puller, Labor, Poor farmer and Fisher man etc.

Social Stratification In Hindu Society

In the Hindu society in Bengal we got two caste division which are:

Brahmans

Upper class people

Non-Brahmans

Kayastha Baidya, Tanti, Swarnakar and Chamar etc.

Social stratification In Colonial Period

We noticed another different type of social stratification in the colonial period which was centered ownership of land. Like as:

Zamindars

The most powerful class in the agrarian structure.

Rich Peasant Class

During the colonial time we witnessed the emergence of a rich peasant class who occupied an important position.

Poor peasants

working class coming from the landless and marginal peasants.

Culture & Traditions-Norms & Values

- **Culture** is “the expression of our nature in our modes of living and our thinking, intercourse, in our literature, in religion, in recreation and enjoyment.”
- **Tradition** is a belief or behavior passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past.
- **Social norms** are informal understandings that govern the behavior of members of a society.
- **Values** are assumption, largely unconscious, of what is right and important.



Culture of Bangladesh

The cultural background of Bangladesh is diverse. The original inhabitants of this area were pre-Aryan. After words, they were influenced by Aryan thoughts. Again this culture is influenced by the ingredients of Muslim culture of Turkey, Arab, Iran and Middle-Asia. Lastly, with the arrival of the Europeans especially the British, A different cultural trend was set. In this way, in course of time, our culture gradually developed with the essence of different cultures.

Our culture is manifested in various forms, including music, dance, and drama; art and craft; folklore ; languages and literature; philosophy and religion; festivals and celebrations; as well as in a distinct cuisine



Festivals of Bangladesh

Cultural Festivals



Festivals and celebrations are an integral part of the culture of Bangladesh. 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 etc and Christmas or Baradin 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

Cultural Challenges

- ❑ Advancement of satellite channels
- ❑ Lack of knowledge & respect to own culture
- ❑ Degrading value structure
- ❑ Irregular arrangement of cultural program
- ❑ Lack of cultural organization
- ❑ Tendency to imitate foreign culture
- ❑ Identity crisis
- ❑ Cultural conflicts
- ❑ Impact of globalization

GLOBALIZATIONAL IMPACT ON BENGALI CULTURE

- **Music:** switching to western & Indian pop rock songs
- **Dance:** Hiphop, salsa are getting more popular than traditional dances
- **Movies:** new movies have Bollywood, Hollywood touch. Theatre dramas are getting rare.
- **Festivals:** Valentines' day, friendship day, father's day etc western festivals are also now celebrating.
- **Dresses:** western dresses become more popular.

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Thank you all.