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bangladesh,[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh#cite_note-19) officially the people's republic of bangladesh,[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh#cite_note-20) is a country in [south asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia). it is the [eighth-most populous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) country in the world and seventh [most densely populated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population_density) with a population of 173,562,364 in an area of 148,460 square kilometres (57,320 sq mi). bangladesh shares land borders

with [india](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India" \o "India) to the north, west, and east, and [myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar" \o "Myanmar) to the southeast. to the south, it has a coastline

along the [bay of bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Bengal). to the north, it is separated from [bhutan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhutan" \o "Bhutan) and [nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal" \o "Nepal) by the [siliguri corridor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siliguri_Corridor" \o "Siliguri Corridor), and from [china](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China" \o "China) by the mountainous indian state of [sikkim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikkim" \o "Sikkim). [dhaka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhaka" \o "Dhaka), the capital and [largest city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_and_towns_in_Bangladesh), is the nation's political, financial, and cultural centre. [chittagong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chittagong" \o "Chittagong) is the second-largest city and the busiest port. the official language is [bengali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language" \o "Bengali language), with [bangladeshi english](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladeshi_English" \o "Bangladeshi English) also used in government.

bangladesh is part of the historic and [ethnolinguistic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnolinguistic) region of [bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengal" \o "Bengal), which was divided during the [partition of british india](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_India) in 1947 as the [eastern exclave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Bengal) of the [dominion of pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_of_Pakistan).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh#cite_note-EyetsemitanGire2003-21) the country came into existence in 1971 after declaring independence from [pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan" \o "Pakistan) at the start of [bangladesh liberation war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh_Liberation_War).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh#cite_note-EyetsemitanGire2003-21) the country has a [bengali muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_Muslim" \o "Bengali Muslim) majority. ancient bengal was known as [gangaridai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gangaridai" \o "Gangaridai) and was a stronghold of pre-islamic kingdoms. the [muslim conquest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquests_in_the_Indian_subcontinent" \o "Muslim conquests in the Indian subcontinent) after 1204 led to the sultanate and [mughal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Empire" \o "Mughal Empire) periods,

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