

Bangladesh History

The People's Republic of Bangladesh, located in South Asia, is the eighth-most populous and one of the most densely-populated countries in the world. Bangladesh shares land borders with India to the west, north, and east, Myanmar to the southeast, and the Bay of Bengal to the south. It is narrowly separated from Nepal and Bhutan by the Siliguri Corridor; and from China by the Indian state of Sikkim in the north. Dhaka, the capital and largest city, is the nation's economic, political, and cultural hub. Chittagong, the largest seaport, is the second-largest city.

Bangladesh forms the larger and eastern part of the Bengal region. In the ancient and classical periods of the Indian subcontinent, the territory was home to many principalities, including the Pundra, Gangaridai, Gauda, Samatata, and Harikela. It was also a Mauryan province under the reign of Ashoka. The principalities were notable for their overseas trade, contacts with the Roman world, the export of fine muslin and silk to the Middle East, and spreading of philosophy and art to Southeast Asia.

Islam was introduced during the Pala Empire through trade with the Abbāsīd Caliphate. In 1576, the wealthy Bengal Sultanate was absorbed into the Mughal Empire. Following the death of Emperor Aurangzēb Ālamgir and Governor Shāista Khān in the early 1700s, the region became a semi-independent state under the Nawabs of Bengal.

In 1793, the last Nawab of Bengal was defeated by the British East India Company and the whole region fell under Company rule. After the decline of the British Bengal Presidency, the borders of modern Bangladesh were established with the partition of Bengal in August 1947; the region became East Bengal, and subsequently, East Pakistan, as a part of the newly formed Dominion of Pakistan. Later the rise of a pro-democracy movement led to the Liberation War and eventually resulted in the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent nation in 1971.



Bangladesh is a unitary parliamentary democracy and constitutional republic following the Westminster system of governance. Bengalis make up 98% of the total population of Bangladesh, and the large Muslim population of Bangladesh makes it the third-largest Muslim-majority country. The country is divided into eight administrative divisions and 64 districts. The constitution declares Bangladesh a secular state, while establishing Islam as a state religion.

A middle power with growing influence in world politics, Bangladesh is one of the emerging and growth-leading economies of the world, having Asia's fastest real GDP growth rate. The Bangladeshi economy is the 33rd-largest in the world by nominal GDP. However, the country continues to face issues with illiteracy, the Rohingya refugee crisis, and adverse effects of climate change.

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