

# BANGLADESH

## Country Profile

### General Info

<b>Flag</b>	
<b>Independence</b>	December 16, 1971 (from West Pakistan)
<b>President</b>	Iajuddin Ahmed
<b>Prime Minister</b>	Khaleda Zia
<b>Capital</b>	Dhaka
<b>Major Cities</b>	Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi
<b>Country Code</b>	880
<b>Internet Code</b>	.bd

### Geography

<b>Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total: 144,000 sq km</li> <li>Land: 133,910 sq km</li> <li>Water: 10,090 sq km</li> </ul>
<b>Geographic Coordinates</b>	24 00 N, 90 00 E
<b>Location</b>	Southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal between Burma and India
<b>Territories</b>	Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet
<b>Population</b>	147,365,352 (mid-2006 est.)
<b>Climate</b>	Tropical, mild winter (October to March) Hot, humid summer (March to June) Warm rainy monsoon (June to October)
<b>Terrain</b>	Mostly flat alluvial plain. Hilly in the Southeast.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Natural gas, arable land, timber, and coal
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	Droughts, cyclones. Heavy monsoon season typical inundates the country.
<b>Time Zone</b>	Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) + 6:0 hours

### Economy

<b>Currency</b>	Taka (BDT)
<b>Exchange Rate</b>	Taka per US dollar – 64.328 (2005)
<b>GDP Growth</b>	5.4% (2005 est.)
<b>GDP/Capita</b>	US\$2,100 (2005 est.)
<b>Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest nations with nearly half of its 140 million population earning less than a dollar a day.</li> <li>Its booming mobile phone industry is helping the nation's economy, which has created nearly 245,000 jobs and adds in over 650 million dollars annually to the gross domestic product (GDP).</li> </ul>
<b>Major industries</b>	Cotton textiles, jute, garments, tea processing, paper newsprint, cement, chemical fertilizer, light engineering, and sugar
<b>Exports</b>	Garments, jute and jute goods, leather, frozen fish, and other seafood
<b>Major Export Partners</b>	US 22.4%, Germany 14.5%, UK 11.2%, France 6.9%, Italy 4%
<b>Imports</b>	Machinery and equipment, chemicals, iron and steel, textiles, foodstuffs, petroleum products, and cement
<b>Major Import Partners</b>	India 15.1%, China 12.5%, Singapore 7.5%, Kuwait 5.5%, Japan 5.3%, Hong Kong 4.5%

### Socio-Politics

<b>Literacy rate</b>	43%
<b>Languages</b>	Bangla (official, also known as Bengali), English

	<b>Ethnicity Religions</b>	Bengali 98%, Tribal groups, Non-Bengali Muslims Muslim 83%, Hindu 16%, Other 1%
Communication	<b>Infrastructure</b>	<p>Bangladesh's telecom infrastructure is relatively weak, with majority of fixed-line connectivity available only to less than 25% of the population.</p> <p>Bangladesh's fixed-line teledensity is considered to be the lowest in South Asia, with more than 90% of the population still lacking a telephone. The overall situation, however, has been improved by the mobile market. But after a number of years of strong growth, mobile penetration was still only a little over 5% at end-2005.</p> <p>To support the growing demand and consumption of IT, the country needs to invest heavily in cheaper, broadband technologies.</p>
	<b>Fixed lines users</b>	Over 1 million (2006)
	<b>Mobile users</b>	14 million (mid-2006)
	<b>Radio broadcast stations</b> <b>TV broadcast stations</b> <b>Internet providers</b> <b>Internet users</b> <b>Mobile Penetration</b>	AM 12, FM 12, shortwave 2 15 (1999) 266 (2005) 300,000 (2006) 10% (mid-2006)
Regulatory Environment	<b>Technologies Deployed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GSM 900</li> <li>▪ Warid Telecom has chosen Motorola to deploy a new 2.5G GSM network in the Northeastern region of the country by the end of 2006.</li> <li>▪ CDMA 800</li> <li>▪ WiMAX potential has yet not been fully realized, despite the need for connectivity, and given a large and dense population.</li> </ul>
		<p>Bangladesh is the only south Asian country, which did not have a telecom regulatory body until 2001.</p> <p>The country has yet to fully exploit its large telecom market potential, for which improved regulatory policies need to be created. The main barriers restricting telecom growth in the county include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High taxes on new mobile sets and connections, as they continue to be considered as "luxury items"</li> <li>• Subsidized usage of fixed-line telephony</li> <li>• Lack of interconnection facilities available to different operators (the government hopes to resolve this problem by 2009)</li> <li>• Restriction on mobile operators handling international calls</li> </ul>