

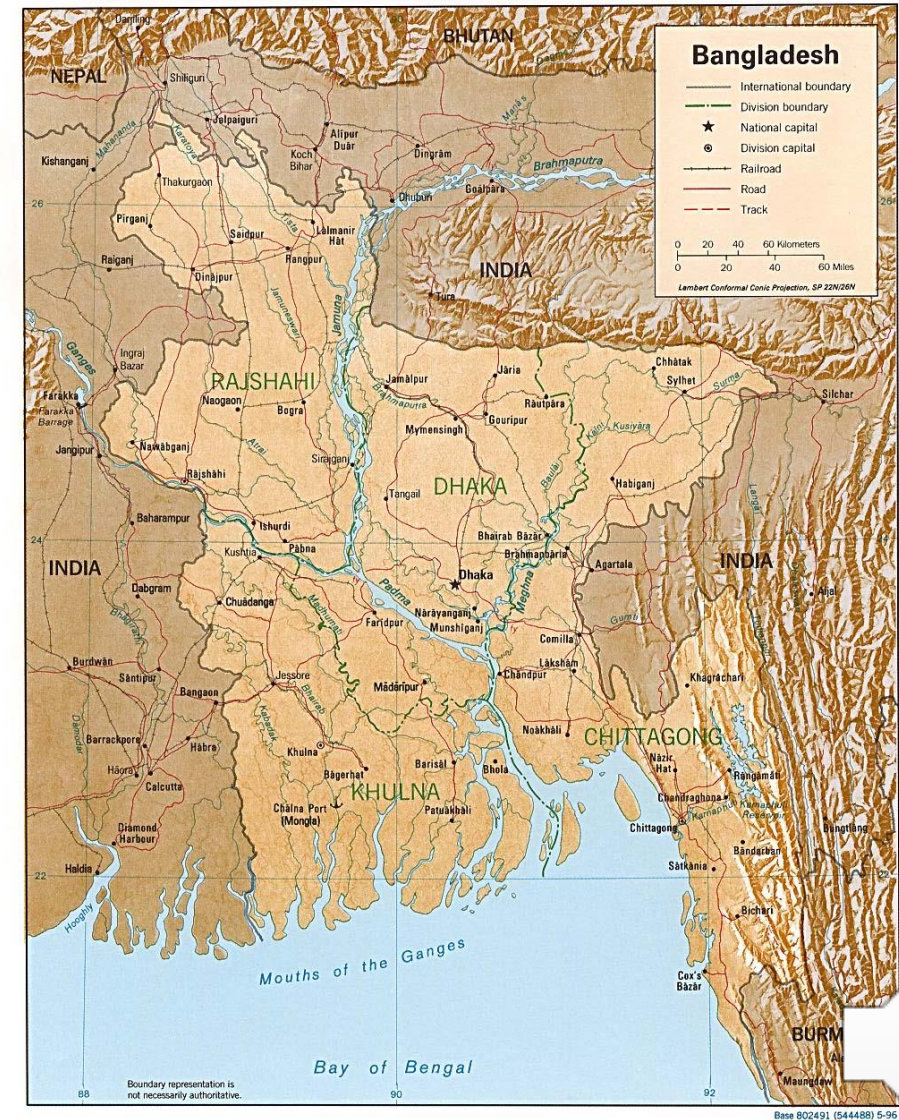
MY CULTURE

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History

- Bangladesh, a colonized country marked by independence in 1971, is a region of South Asia bordered by India from 3 sides, Bay of Bengal from the South side and Burma from the Southeast territory.
- Only country to have fought for its mother tongue ~ Bangla.
- Despite known as one of the poorest countries, few decades has witnessed a blooming increase in economic prosperity.
- History is mainly influenced by Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim heritages. Main religion is Islam: 90%, Hinduism: 8.54%, rest of the % belongs to minority groups of Buddhist, Roman Catholics, and Animists.
- Known for its lush green landscape & natural beauty beside its fights for mother tongue. (Pics included in next slide!!)

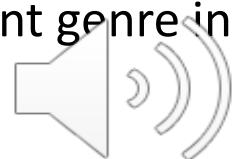




Cultural Heritage, Festivals & Music



- As Bangladesh is Islam majority country, most of the heritage festivals are defined by Islam influences although Durga Puja and Holi are celebrated with same enthusiasm as well.
- Ramadan is highly celebrated during August.
- Other celebrations are also carried out by rural tribal groups including 'chakmas'.
- These diversities in both religions brings people together and they participate in one another ceremonies with big heart.
- 'Pohela Boishak' is the Bengali New Year celebrated on 14th April. Other festivals such as 'Ekushey February', 'Pohela falgun', 'Shadhinota dibosh', etc are celebrated.
- Music is an integral part of the cultured lives. Traditional music includes folks, bauls, saint genre in various festive.



Celebrations



Food

- The national food is 'Ilish macher paturi' usually eaten on the Independence day and 'Ekushey February'.
- 'Panta bhat' is served during Pohela Boishak festival.
- Bangladesh is also famous for its street foods such as 'belpuri', 'fuchka', 'chotpoti', 'beguni', etc.
- No food is finished without sweets like chomchom, jilapi, etc.
- On daily basis roti, dal, rice, lentil, curry is consumed.
- High-end restaurants offers every types of regional cuisine.
- Pork is rarely eaten because of the majority religion Islam.



**Ekushey February- 21st February, Language Movement day*



Dress Codes

- The traditional wear of women is 'saree'. However, many women prefer to wear 'salwar-kameez'.
- During celebrations they like to wear lehengas too.
- Western cloths such as jeans, crops tops, blouse, dress are also worn.
- At home men wears a sort of cloth called 'lungi' and outside they wear trousers, shirts, or suit, tie, etc.
- In events men usually wear 'dhoti', 'kameez'.





Marriages

- Predominantly 'arranged'. Love marriages are negatively viewed.
- Dowries are given along with the daughters. Elders follows the myth in order to be 'happy' one must marry.
- Hindu Marriages are portrayed as an act of discriminatory towards women and are considered as such by both religious and gender-wise perspectives.
- Dowries is a must, which becomes difficult to accomplished if family belongs to lower-middle class. Thus, many children and teen girls are forced to drop out of school by their parents to work in agricultural farming, mines, garments industry, house-keeper/maids in rich families.
- Girls are mostly forced into marriage as they step into their eighteens because they do not get to say or decide anything for their lives.





Norms, Values & Beliefs

- Books is greatly seen as a sacred object by both Hindus and Muslims.
- If mistakenly your feet touches someone who is elder to you, you touch their feet as a sign to seek forgiveness.
- Younger are taught to give respect to every people despite their class, however elders do not follow the same.
- Perseverance of the natural beauty and heritage.
- Everyone is family orientated and thus, is called 'collectivistic' society.



Cultural/ National Symbols



*Pics of National flower, fruit,
coat of arms, sport, and tree
provided!*



Hierarchy & Socialization n

- Bangladesh is a hierarchical society consisting of upper class, middle class, lower middle class and lower class.
- Religions such as Hindu and Islam also has minority and caste level system of their own among the hierarchical structure.
- Most of the power lies in the hands of rich influencers and are highly respected for their status, whereas, no respect is given to someone below them.
- Business, familial decisions are carried by males, despite if the bread earner is both male and female or female only in some circumstances.
- Single mothers are viewed as shame in the society and not enough respected.



Language (Verbal & Non-Verbal)

- The mother tongue, the first language, is Bangla is spoken by everyone. Each 16 districts owns their unique dialect.
- 2nd language is English as it evaluates how educate a person is.
- Communications are indirectly done as directly communicated may seem as rude and demeaning.
- While speaking, soften the tone if spoken to someone from another district.
- Bangla is also voted as the 'most-sweetest' language by UNESCO.
- Personal space is underrated. While speaking people stand close.
- Touch is used as non-verbal cues in conversation to comprehend in same gender.
- Prolonged eye-contact and touch is not suggested in opposite sex.
- Hindu greetings are greeted with 'Namashkar' with folded hands and head bow down to elders, while Muslim greetings are greeted with 'Salaam aleykum' with hugs on both left and right sides.
- Compare to United States, in BD if one sneezes automatically someone else responds 'alhamdulillah' which means praise be to Allah.



Etiquettes

- Greetings usually occur between member of same sex – males.
- Unless business professionals, handshakes is not a good idea and not usually offered.
- Naming conventions are based on how older the person is. If interacted, elder sister and brother is called upon as 'apu' and 'bhaiya' respectively even if they are not related to you.
- Calling an elder person by their first name is taken as disrespect.
- Age dictates how someone is addressed unless one belongs to the same group.
- Money is not given as a gift as they are taken as offensive.
- When receiving or giving money always use right hand because left hand is considered unclean and seen as a disrespect.
- Gifts are open only in private.



Social Taboos

- Never interact with someone older than you by their first name.
- Avoid giving white flowers as it is reserved for funerals.
- Never start eating before the eldest begins in the family.
- Mostly, pork is forbidden to consume.
- Whatever you do, pass or take never use your left hand.
- Never smoke cigarette, drink alcohol in front of elders.
- Do not yawn with mouth open, rather cover them by hands.
- Desk job in offices is prestige and labor work is for working class.
- Dark skinned complexion, overweight people is shamed upon.
- Revealing cloths are inconsiderable.
- Same-sex couple is not accepted by society and shams them by pinning them into 'mental-illness'.



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THANK YOU!

THE END.

