Bangladesh

**Full name:** People's Republic of Bangladesh  
**Government:** Parliamentary Democracy

**Location:** Southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and India  
**Capital:** Dhaka  
**Area:** 144,000 sq km (55,598 sq miles); slightly smaller than Iowa

**Climate:** tropical; mild winter (October to March); hot, humid summer (March to June); humid, warm rainy monsoon (June to October)  
**Terrain:** mostly flat alluvial plain; hilly in southeast  
**Natural Hazards:** droughts, cyclones; much of the country routinely inundated during the summer monsoon season  
**Natural Resources:** natural gas, arable land, timber, coal

**Population:** 153,546,896 (July 2008 est.)  
**Ethnic groups:** Bengali 98%, other 2% (includes tribal groups) (1998)  
**Major Languages:** Bangla (official, also known as Bengali), English  
**Religions:** Muslim 83%, Hindu 16%, other 1% (1998)  
**Life expectancy:** 63 years (men), 63 years (women) (2008 est.)  
**Currency:** taka (BDT)