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Currency

The official unit of currency is the taka, consisting of 100 poisha.

Firing Areas

Military firing practice takes place regularly off the coast of Bangladesh. Notice of firing exercises and the areas involved are promulgated through coastal warnings and by local notices to mariners. Vessels should navigate with caution.

General

Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, lies in southern Asia and borders the Bay of Bengal. It is bounded on the W, N, and NE by India; on the S by the Bay of Bengal; and on the SE by Burma. In 1992, India granted Bangladesh a 999-year lease of the Tin Bigha corridor linking the enclaves of Angarpota and Dahagram.

The terrain consists mostly of a flat alluvial plain, with some hills in the SE part.

The climate is tropical monsoon with heavy rains, heat, and extreme humidity. Rain falls heavily during the monsoon season from June to October.

The short winter season, from October to March, is dry and cool.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Government



Flag of Bangladesh

Bangladesh, which gained independence from Pakistan after a civil war in 1971, is a republic.

The President is elected for a 5-year term by a 300-member directly elected National Parliament. There are an additional 30 seats in the Parliament reserved for women members. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President. An Advisory

Council of ministers is appointed by the President. The country is divided into five divisions, each headed by a Commissioner, and subdivided into 64 districts.

The legal system is based on English common law.

The capital is Dhaka (Dacca).

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Shahid Day (Martyr's Day)	February 21
May Day	May 1
National Revolution and Solidarity Day	November 7
Christmas Day	December 25

Other holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Buddha Purnima, Shab-e-Barat, Eid-Al-Fitr, Eid-Al-Adha, Durga Puja (Dashami), Ashoora, and the Prophet's Birthday.

The following additional holidays may be observed at Chalna:

Independence Day	March 26
Bengali New Year's Day	April 15
Victory Day	December 16

Industries

The major industries include jute manufacturing, cotton textiles, food processing, steel, aluminum, paper, newsprint, cement, fertilizer, fishing, light engineering, and livestock raising.

The main agricultural crops are jute, rice, sugarcane, wheat, tobacco, tea, and potatoes.

Languages

The official language is Bengali. English is also used.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is FOXTROT (-6). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at the Diplomatic Enclave, Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka.

The mailing address is G.P.O. Box 323, Dhaka 1212.

U. S. Embassy Bangladesh Home Page

<http://www.usembassy-dhaka.org>