

THE PEOPLE:

Estimated population

- Population is approximately 130 million.
- Dhaka is the capital city and its population is about 10 million.
- Other major cities are Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Rajshahi.

Urban Population

- Approximately 20 % of the total population are concentrated in the urban areas.

Population Age Breakdown

- According to the 1996 census, 40.6 % of the population is between the ages 0-14, 51 % is between 15-59 and 8.4 % is above 60 .

Language

- The national and official language in Bangladesh is Bangla, however English is widely spoken. It is used in banking and in the commercial sector.

- The language of instruction in government institutions is Bangla with English being taught as a second language.
- English is the language of instruction for private English medium schools which follow the British general certificate of education (GCE, Ordinary and Advance level).
- Bangla is the medium of instruction at all levels of education in public schools but English is compulsory up to higher secondary level and for Bachelor of Arts courses.
- English is widely used at the higher education level. The private universities teach exclusively in English.

Ethnicity and Religion

- 87% of the population is Muslim. The remainder are Hindu, Buddhist and Christian.

