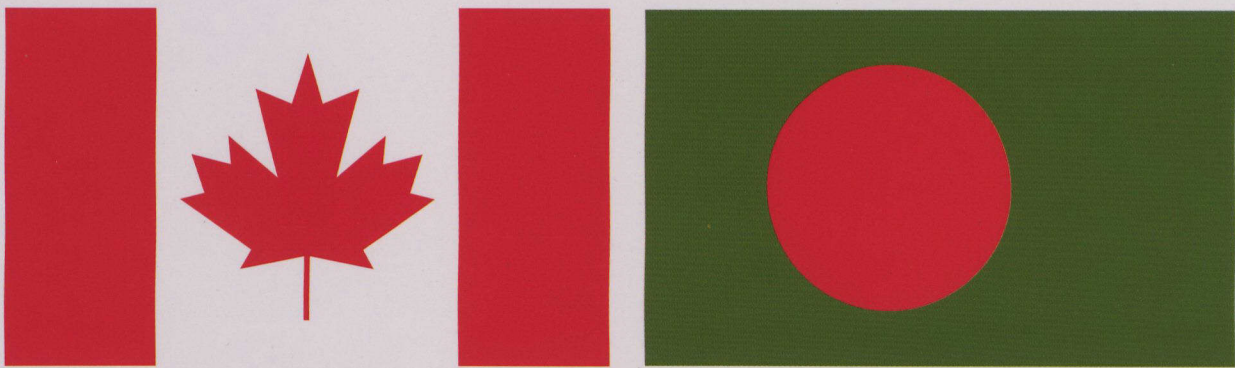


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CANADA-BANGLADESH



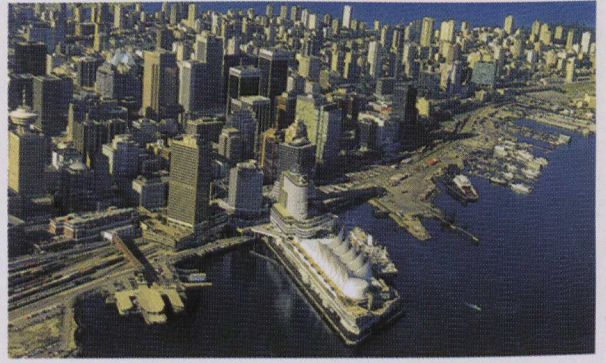
AN INNOVATIVE FUTURE



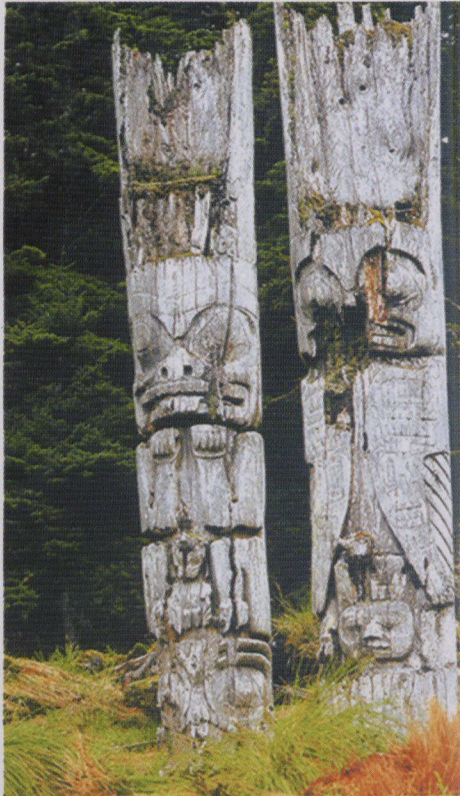
Bear



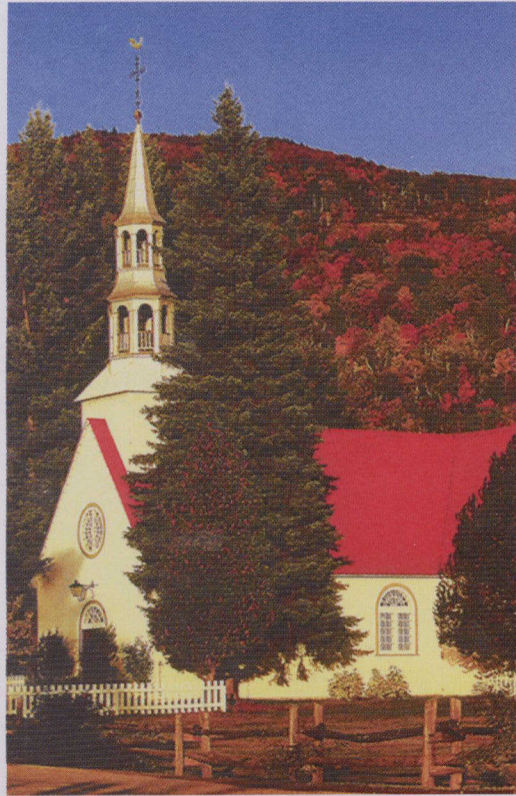
Toronto, Ontario



Vancouver, British Columbia



Haida totem poles

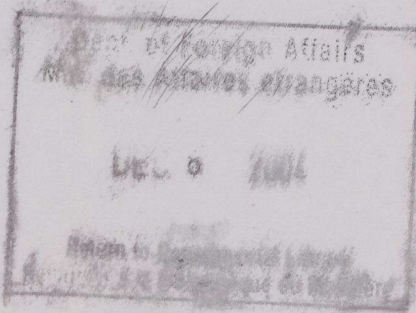


Chapelle St. Bernard, Quebec



Maple leaf tree

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 Canada-Bangladesh an innovative
 future. --
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- Development Co-operation
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16723154

February, 2003

CANADA-BANGLADESH

TOWARDS AN INNOVATIVE FUTURE

Canada established relations with Bangladesh after independence in 1971. Bangladesh and Canada celebrated 30 years of relations in the year 2002.

Relations between Canada and Bangladesh are excellent. Over the past three decades Canada has focussed on development cooperation, trade and investment and most recently on educational links. The Bangladesh business community is well disposed toward Canada, and business opportunities with Canadian firms will expand as the economy grows.

CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

The three pillars of Canadian foreign policy outlined in the 1995 policy paper 'Canada In The World' are:

- Promotion of prosperity and employment
- Protection of our security, within a stable global framework
- Projection of Canadian values and culture

This foreign policy is reflected in the relations between the two countries.



Routine de-worming programme for under five children



Immunization against tetanus protects the mother and her new born

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
Canada began with an aid program in 1972.

Canada's aid program in Bangladesh is our largest bilateral Overseas Development Assistance program in the world, amounting to more than CDN \$ 50 million annually and more than CDN \$2.5 billion since Bangladesh's independence in 1971. Over the past thirty years, Canadian development funding has been invested in the rail, energy, rural power and telecommunications sectors. The focus of the program in Bangladesh is on basic human needs and governance. Canada's priorities are health and education. Gender equity and environment is incorporated in all the programming. The current program comprises food aid (25%), support for line ministries (50%) and support to civil society (25%).

CIDA PROJECTS:

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS PROGRAMMING

HEALTH

- Multi donor Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP).
- Non-government organisation (NGO) adolescent reproductive health education project
- Verification of technology options for filtering, arsenic from drinking water.



Honorable Susan Whelan Visiting BRAC School-Jan 2003

AGRICULTURE AND WATER

- TA to private sector and the Department of Livestock Services for improvement of poultry feed.
- An NGO initiative to promote eco-friendly and sustainable agriculture.
- Embankment projects for flood protection in the northeast region.

EDUCATION

- BRAC's Non-formal Primary Education Program.
- Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology's (BUET)'s faculty of Petroleum and Mineral Resource Engineering.

FOOD AID

- Canadian wheat is monetized for the Rural Maintenance Program which provides paid employment and income generation training for destitute, rural women.
- Wheat is also monetized for Government of Bangladesh's National Nutrition Project.

MICRO-FINANCE

- Palli Daridro Bimochan Foundation (Elimination of Rural Poverty)-PDBF and Proshika for micro-credit and training in income generating activities.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Food and material support in response to natural disasters.

CANADA FUND

- Support to Local NGOs.



Election 2001



Capacity development of locally elected women representative



Election observers monitoring election 2001

GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

PLANNING AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- Legal Reform Project with Ministry of Law and civil society
- Modernization of the Bangladesh Water Development Board's Accounting system.
- Piloting satellite images for planning in the water and agriculture sectors.
- Strengthening of the Department of Environment , Bangladesh Environment Management Project (BEMP).

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

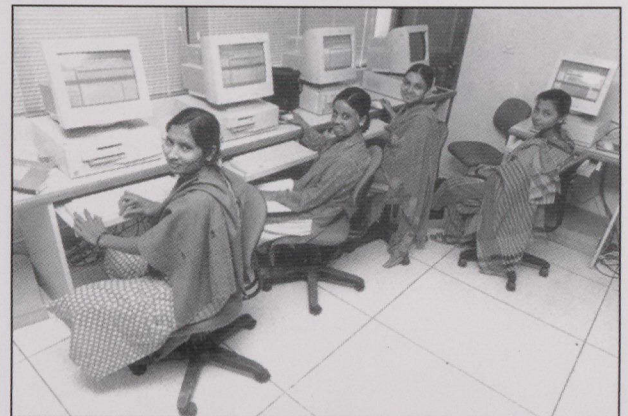
- The Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC) for feasibility studies in power, telecommunications, ports and gas sector.
- Advisory services by the Centre for Policy Dialogue for the Ministry of Commerce and the private sector on strategic responses to globalization.
- Policy and catalytic initiatives in support of the private sector, Policy Reform Implementation Support Mechanism Project (PRISM).



Skill training provided to enable them to initiate micro enterprises by utilising their own resources



'The Miracle Grass'
Viviver grass planted on the embankment to protect from erosion by rain and flood



Rehabilitation service to assist acid survivors

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Gender equality and environment are integrated into all projects and are also addressed through specific initiatives

GENDER EQUALITY

- Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality (PLAGE) helps the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs to promote gender equality in policy planning within Government of Bangladesh.
- A local NGO initiative in support of women garment workers.
- Acid Survivors' Foundation.
- A responsive gender fund for local NGOs.

ENVIRONMENT

- CIDA manages a responsive local fund for environment issues.
- Support through CARE (The Co- operation for American Relief Everywhere) for reducing vulnerability to climate change.



Honourable David Kilgour visits software manufacturer in Dhaka-March 2002

Bilateral trade in goods and services between Canada and Bangladesh has steadily increased and totalled \$320 million in 2001, an increase of 4 percent from 2000. Canadian exports to Bangladesh were valued at \$130 million in 2001 while Canadian imports reached \$189 million, an increase by more than 6% from 2000.

The main Canadian exports to Bangladesh are vegetables, cereals, grain, oil seeds, iron and steel, artificial and synthetic fibers, and wood pulp.

The main items imported from Bangladesh include clothing, textile articles, seafood, machinery and athletic and sporting goods.

The Canadian presence in Bangladesh, although small, is growing, as more and more Canadian companies realize the potential opportunities that exist in Bangladesh. Canadian companies have already made their mark in the management and consultancy field, telecommunication sector and food grain sector. For example, on January 24, 2002, Nortel Networks, through its Turkish joint-venture Netas, signed a contract valued at US\$15.5 million for 116,000 switching lines (the original tender was issued for 50,000 line exchange in 1998). Companies are also showing interest in the growing software and IT sectors of Bangladesh as well as in the oil and gas sector, hydro-electricity, transportation, and education and training.

In line with the Prime Minister's announcement of June 2002 at the time of the G8 Kananaskis Summit, Canada lifted tariff and quota restrictions on LDCs as of January 1, 2003. Bangladesh is positioned to benefit more than any other LDC as the leading LDC exporter of textiles and apparel. Clothing is Canada's main import from LDCs, and Bangladesh is the most important LDC exporter. In 2001, Bangladesh was Canada's 9th largest supplier of apparel in terms of value (\$142 million). Canadian imports from Bangladesh from 1994 to 2001 grew by a robust 156%.

Bangladesh's overall policy of trade liberalization and open market economy should offer opportunities for increased Canadian exports. Bangladesh, a pre-dominantly import dependent country, represents a good potential for Canadian exporters.



Canadian made Dash-8 aircraft in Bangladesh

Canada's International Market Access Priorities- 2002

Canada and 141 other World Trade Organization members launched a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, known as the Doha Development Agenda, in Doha, Qatar. The Doha Development Agenda offers the promise of further trade liberalization and strengthened trade rules that will benefit all WTO members. More information can be found on www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/trade

MARKET ACCESS FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Government of Canada extended free and quota free access to imports from 48 of the world's least developed countries (LDCs), with the exception of supply-managed agricultural products (dairy, poultry and eggs), effective January 1, 2003. This means that all eligible imports from these countries would be assessed a tariff rate of zero, and all quotas on their eligible products would be eliminated.

Prior to this initiative, approximately half of our imports from LDCs faced tariffs averaging 19 percent. Essentially all their agriculture imports (more than 99 percent), already entered duty free.

What Canada imports from the Least Developed Countries?

- While the Canadian imports from LDCs can vary from year to year, the major imports are apparel, food and crude oil.
- 75 percent of LDC apparel imports in 2000 came from Bangladesh. Apparel imports from Bangladesh grew at an average rate of 23 percent per year over the last eight years.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- We made our technological start generations ago, back in the days when Alexander Graham Bell and Guglielmo Marconi—names you may not have associated with Canada—were conducting early work in telephone and radio technology. Today we have many other names you will be hearing from very soon in the areas of biotechnology, the Internet, telecommunications, aerospace and software.
- Canadian telecommunications company Nortel installing 116,000 telephone lines in Bangladesh.



Bata in Bangladesh

TRANSPORTATION

We have developed road, rail and air networks to span Canada's vast distances.

- Our national railroad has spanned our country from East to West for over 120 years: a distance of 8, 000 KMS.
- As a nation of exporters we have developed our ports to serve as our economic lifeline to the world.
- Our aircraft industry is 70 years old. Our aircraft fly all over the world
- Under our 1995 open skies agreement with the US, our airlines are also able to fly freely to airports throughout the United States as well as Canada.

We have expertise to share with other countries, for instance:

- We have provided \$ 92 million in support for Bangladesh Railways. A major portion went to the maintenance depot in Chittagong.
- We are providing advice on investment in Chittagong Port through an investment facilitation project funded by CIDA.
- GMG Airlines flies Canadian made Dash-8 aircraft to all airports in Bangladesh.

OIL AND GAS

We have natural gas and abundant hydro-power resources and experience in exploiting them.

- A Canadian company is negotiating a joint venture to develop marginal gas fields using technology that has been proven in Canada and around the world.
- When the gas sector begins new development, more Canadian companies may become engaged.



Knitwear exported to Canada

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Canada is the most wired country in the world.

- We are first in internet use (428 internet users per 1000 people).
- We have the world's longest fibre optics network.
- Every one of our class rooms is hooked up to the Internet, even in the remotest regions of the snow-bound north.
- We have world class IT companies with branch plants in the United States, Europe and Asia.
- We have supplied a simulator to the navy in Chittagong.
- Our Information Technology companies are taking a growing interest in joint ventures in Bangladesh.

More background and sector information can be found at www.infoexport.gc.ca

We owe our place at the forefront of the knowledge economy to the extraordinary advances being made by skilled Canadians in science and technology.

- Canada is first in use of telephones per household (at least one in 98% of all households).
- We have the greatest use of cable TV of any country on earth.
- We have the lowest cost telephone system for consumers

AGRICULTURE

We are a major producer of agricultural producers.

- Canada supplies wheat and pulses (chick peas) to Bangladesh.



'Education Fair 2002'

First of its Kind organised by the Canadian High Commission, Dhaka

Canada's universities and colleges are well known for their high standards and educational excellence. This high level of quality is consistent across Canada.

The educational system is publicly funded. In Canada, universities receive about two-thirds of their operating funds from government donations and tuition fees make up the rest. The higher education system is also decentralized. Education is the responsibility of the 10 provinces and 3 territories.

In Canada, post-secondary institutions are divided into two major types. Universities provide academic and professional training, and research leading to under graduate and graduate degrees. Community colleges offer certificate and diploma programs in career and vocational training. College-level institutions may also be known as colleges of applied arts and technology or technology institutes. Academic transfers from community colleges to universities are also possible.



Seminar on 'Higher Education in Canada' at Bangladesh University

There are also several university colleges, which straddle the line between universities and colleges. They offer selected undergraduate (Bachelor's) programs.

There are 93 degree granting institutions in Canada which are members of Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). There are 175 colleges and institutes in Canada. They are member institutions of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC).

Canada has an advanced system of higher education that welcomes international students. Many provide special services for international students, designed to assist them to integrate into the academic community and to help them throughout their stay.

Over 130,000 international students are enrolled in undergraduate programs in Canada's universities. Canadian education is, relatively speaking, a bargain. The costs of foreign study in Canada are the lowest compared with other major host countries. Canada also offers a safe and clean environment and ranks amongst the best places in the world to live, work and study.



Bangladeshi student at Canadian university



Canadian headmaster from Alberta in-charge of a school in Sylhet

In the year 2002 the Education Fair, first of its kind organised by the Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh was held as one of the special events in celebration of Bangladesh-Canada relations.

- *The number of Bangladeshi students going to Canada for higher education is increasing at the rate of about 30% each year since 2000.*
- *Several Bangladeshi educational institutions have signed memorandum of understanding with Canadian institutions.*

University addresses and information-

Excellent sources of information on university addresses, web sites, programs are the web sites of:

- The Canadian High Commission, Dhaka- Academics: www.chcdhaka.org
- The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada's (AUCC): www.aucc.ca
- The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC): www.accc.ca
- CEC Network's : www.cecnetwork.ca

February, 2003

CANADA**Area** : 9,984,670 sq km**Population** : 31,413,990 (July 2002).**Population Growth Rate** : 0.8 %**Density per square km** : 3.1 residents per square km.**Capital** : Ottawa. Population 1,128,900**Government system** : Federal Parliamentary Democracy
and Constitutional Monarchy.**Language** : English and French.**Religions** : All religions.**Work week** : Monday to Friday**Currency** : Dollar (Cdn \$)**GDP** : \$ 893.2 billion US (2001)**GDP growth rate** : 1.5 % (2000-2001)**Current GDP per capita** : US \$ 28,800 (2001)**Inflation** : 2.6 % (2001)**BANGLADESH****Area** : 147,570 sq km (approximately twice the
size of New Brunswick.**Population** : 129.8 million (2001)**Population Growth Rate** : 1.59 % (2000)**Density per square km** : 891 residents per square km.**Capital** : Dhaka. Population 10 million.**Government system** : Republic**Language** : Bangla (Bengali), English**Religions** : Muslim (88%); Hindu (11%),
Buddhist, Christian and other (1%)**Work week** : Saturday to Thursday**Currency** : Taka (TK). 1 Cdn \$= Tk 36 (12/2002)**GDP** : \$ 47.1 billion US (2000) ***GDP growth rate** : 6.0 % (2001) ***Current GDP per capita** : US \$ 359 (2001) ***Inflation** : 2.45 % (2001- 02). Base year 1985-96 *

* Source : Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

February, 2003

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS (2000)**ImportsExports**

United States	US \$145,261,000,000	US \$ 227,313,000,000
Japan	10,508,000,000	5,746,000,000
United Kingdom	8,225,000,000	3,627,000,000
Mexico	7,656,000,000	1,286,000,000
China	7,139,000,000	2,299,000,000

Source: Industry Canada

Canadian Trade With Bangladesh (2001)

Canadian exports to Bangladesh:	Cdn \$ 130,000,000
Canada imports from Bangladesh:	Cdn \$ 189,000,000

MAJOR CANADIAN EXPORTS TO BANGLADESH

Vegetables, cereals, grain, oil seeds, iron and steel, artificial and synthetic fibres, and wood pulp.

MAJOR ITEMS IMPORTED FROM BANGLADESH

Clothing, textile articles, seafood, machinery and athletic and sporting goods.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

South Asia Division (PSA)
 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2. Canada.
 Tel: (613) 996-5945; Fax: (613) 996-5897
 Email: psa@dfait-maeci.gc.ca
 Web Site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVE IN CANADA**Bangladesh High Commission**

275 Bank Street. Suite 302. Ottawa K2P 2L6. Canada
 Tel: (613) 236-0138 to 0139. Fax: (613) 567-3213

DOING BUSINESS IN CANADA

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE REGULATIONS

The currency system in Canada uses dollars and cents similar to the US system.

It is always best to change your money at a recognized financial institution, bank, trust company or currency exchange. Stores, hotels and restaurants will also exchange currency but the rate will not be as good as a financial institution.

CREDIT CARDS/ BANK MACHINES

Major cards such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in Canada. Keep in mind your financial institution at home will automatically make the currency exchange before you receive your monthly statement.

You can use any bank card for the Interac system on most automatic banking machines in Canada, conveniently located at banks and other locations throughout most cities and at airports.

GRATUITIES

Tips or service charges are not usually added to restaurant bills in Canada.

If you are satisfied with the service received, a tip of 15 percent is customary. Some restaurants will place a mandatory service charge on a bill for a large party.

Barbers, hairdressers and taxi drivers are also usually tipped 15 percent of the bill.

Bellhops, doormen, redcaps (porters) and similar staff at hotels, airports and railway stations are generally paid C\$ 1 per item of luggage carried.

ELECTRICITY

Canadian appliances operate on 110 voltage.

TRANSPORTATION:

From international cities direct flights connect the major cities of the globe with the larger Canadian airports.

BY AIR:

Cities and towns across Canada are linked by Air Canada and its affiliates, as well as by other carriers such as Air Transat and Westjet. Air Canada also operates Tango, a no-frills service offering low fares on domestic flights and on travel to selected US destinations. Fares on most routes are more than 80 percent off Air Canada's full economy fares.

BY BUS:

Economical and comfortable, you can travel across Canada by bus.

BY CAR:

An International Driving Permit from your country of origin will allow you to drive in Canada and rent a car. Canadians drive on the right side of the road.

TRAVEL UPDATES

Some useful travel web sites for latest information about the status of travel in Canada:

www.tc.gc.ca

www.dfait.gc.ca Department of Foreign Affairs and International trade.

www.cic.gc.ca provides updated information on the status of travel, weather etc in Canada.

LODGING:

Canada has a full range of accommodation choices, ranging from first-class luxury hotels to rustic family camping, exclusive golf resort vacation packages to bed-and -breakfast with a family home atmosphere.

Wherever and whenever you travel, especially during peak seasons, it's best to book in advance. Contact the various provincial tourism offices for more information.

February, 2003

Canada



Canada is the world's second-largest country in area. Comprising 10 provinces and three territories. Canada has a population of about 31 million people. Canada's capital is Ottawa.

HISTORY

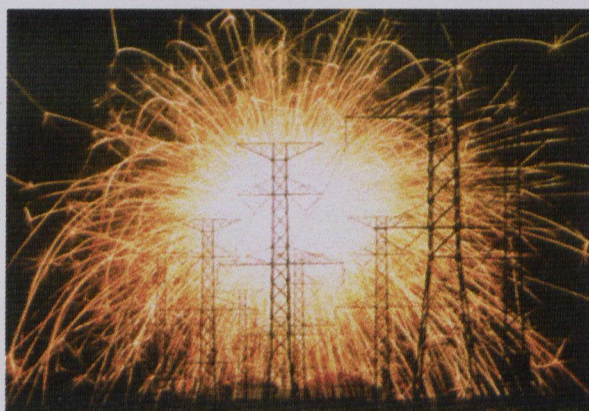
The first inhabitants of Canada were aboriginal peoples, believed to have arrived from Asia thousands of years ago by way of a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Four hundred years ago, travellers from France and Great Britain began to explore the country in earnest. Permanent settlement by these two nations began in the early 1600s.

Up until World War II, most immigrants came from the British Isles or Eastern Europe. Since 1945, however, Canada's cultural make-up has been enhanced by increasing numbers of South Europeans, Asians, South Americans and people from the Caribbean Islands, with the greatest numbers of immigrants arriving from countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Today, the country is made up of 10 provinces (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan) and three territories (Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut), most of which are populated by Canadians who can trace their ancestry from virtually everywhere in the world.



Aerospace



ECONOMY

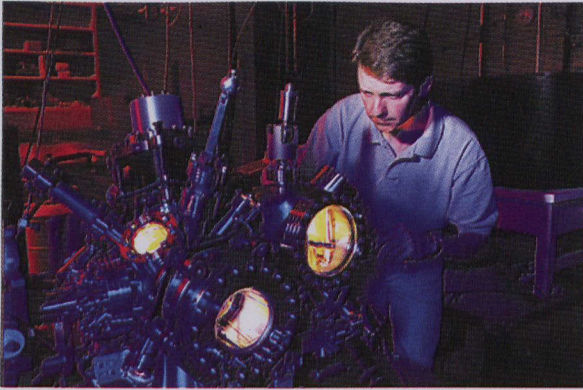
Canada is one of the world's foremost economic powers and a member of the Group of Eight, the world's top industrial nations. Much of its wealth is based on a massive natural resource base, which includes timber, hydroelectric power, oil and gas, gold, silver, copper, zinc and lead. Canada is one of the world's top grain producers. The nation has an advanced manufacturing sector that produces such varied products as motor vehicles and aircraft, paper, chemicals, metals, and electronics.

Major Exports: automobile vehicles and parts, machinery and equipment, high-technology products, oil, natural gas, metals and forest and farm products.

Major imports: machinery and industrial equipment including communications and electronic equipment, vehicles, and automobile parts, industrial materials (metal ores, iron and steel) precious metals, chemicals, plastics, cotton, wool and other textiles, along with manufactured products and food.

Canada ranks among the ten leading manufacturing nations, and has also experienced tremendous growth in the high technology and services industries.

For more information about Canada please see www.canada.gc.ca



Research and Development



Latest medical devices

CANADA IS:

COMPETITIVE

With the right economic fundamentals

CIVIL

Among the best places in the world to live

CAPTIVATING

A must-see destination



Plastic Factory



Agri-food

IMPORTANT WEB SITES:

Canadian High Commission, Dhaka : www.chcdhaka.org

CIDA : www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

Trade : www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/trade

www.infoexport.gc.ca

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada : www.aucc.ca

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges : www.accc.ca

Canadian Education Centre Network : www.cecnetwork.ca

For travel updates : www.dfait.gc.ca

For information, travel , weather etc updates : www.cic.gc.ca

February, 2003.

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

Export partners (2001)

United States	US \$ 2,500,418,000
Germany	789,880,000
United Kingdom	594,184,000
France	365,990,000
Netherlands	327,961,000

Import partners (2001)

India	US \$ 1,059,600,000
Singapore	744,200,000
China	599,100,000
Hongkong	435,000,000
Taiwan	374,900,000

Source: Export Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Commerce and Bangladesh Bank.

MAIN SECTORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CANADIAN BUSINESS

- Information and communications technology and services
- Transportation equipment and services
- Agri-food products and services
- Power, oil and gas equipment and services
- Environmental equipment and services
- Education and training
- Consultancy

CONSULAR GUIDANCE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact the High Commission, Dhaka for any inquiry while in Bangladesh.

BEFORE YOU GO

For Canadian citizens, a visa is a requirement to visit Bangladesh, and must be issued prior to arrival in Bangladesh. Contact the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa.

Bangladesh High Commission
275 Bank Street. Suite 302. Ottawa K2P 2L6. Canada.
Tel: (613) 236-0138 to 0139. Fax: (613) 567-3213

Travel Information Reports on all countries are available from the Consular Affairs Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade through the following:

Telephone: 1-800-267-6788 (toll free) or 613-944-6788
Fax Call: 1-800-575-2500 (toll free) or 613-944-2500
email: voyage@dfait-maeci.gc.ca
Web: www.voyage.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

LOST PASSPORTS

Lost or stolen passports must be reported immediately to the local police station and a report retained. For details of replacing a passport, please contact the Consular Section at the High Commission, Dhaka.

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGLADESH

Canadian High Commission

House No 16/A. Road 48
Gulshan 2. Dhaka 1212
Bangladesh. GPO 569
Tel: (88-02) 988-7091 to 97
Fax: (88-02) 882-3043
www.chcdhaka.org

HIGH COMMISSION HOURS

The Canadian High Commission is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday to Thursday.

CIDA/ Program Support Unit

House D-2. Road 95
Gulshan 2. Dhaka 1212
Bangladesh
Tel: (88-02) 882-4740 to 44

DOING BUSINESS IN BANGLADESH

BUSINESS CUSTOMS

Bangladeshi business executives are usually very courteous, and try to make their foreign guests feel at ease. Business visitors should be aware that in Bangladesh, men and women do not usually shake hands with each other, and may avoid doing so with a visitor of the opposite sex. Foreign visitors often find that hosting meals for their Bangladeshi agents or business contacts helps to smooth business negotiations. Visitors may also be invited to share meals as guests of their Bangladeshi hosts.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE REGULATIONS

Visitors should only make financial transactions through authorized channels. Commercial exchange facilities are available through both domestic and foreign commercial banks or through local hotel cashiers. The banking sector can carry out most international transactions, but service efficiency varies greatly among banks and individual branches.

GRATUITIES

Tipping in Bangladesh is common. Some restaurants include a service charge. Check the bill. Tip taxi drivers. Restaurant servers are appreciative of tips.

ELECTRICITY

Bangladeshi appliances operate on 220 voltage. Power fluctuations are common. Surge protectors should be used with sensitive equipment.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone, fax, Internet, email, Telex and airmail postal services are available in Bangladesh for business correspondence. International direct dial telephones and fax machines are increasingly available in major cities. Collect telephone calls or toll-free calls cannot be made from Bangladesh and phone cards are also not available. Cellular phone service is available in most areas of the country. Airmail post takes about two weeks to arrive from Canada. Registration of all letters sent by international mail is recommended. Express mail service is available to the major international cities. International courier services, including Airborne, DHL, Federal Express, TNT Skypack, and United Parcel Service, operate to and from Bangladesh.

TRANSPORTATION

Zia International Airport is located at Kurmitola, about 12 kilometres north of Dhaka city. The national air carrier, Biman Airlines, is the major domestic air travel provider. Private GMG Airlines has flights from Dhaka to Chittagong, Barisal, Jessore, Rajshahi and Sylhet. International connections with direct flights to Dhaka includes British Airways, Thai Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Dragon Air and Malaysian Airlines.

LODGING

Two international class hotels- The Dhaka Sheraton and the Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel are located in Dhaka. In Chittagong, business visitors usually stay at the Hotel Agrabad. For longer stays, guesthouse accommodation is available in upper-class neighbourhoods in Dhaka and Chittagong.

HEALTH

Intestinal problems are common in Dhaka. Visitors must exercise care in what they eat and drink; food-related diseases are common. Even in hotels, presume all tap water is contaminated. Travellers are advised to drink bottled/boiled water and eat only fruits and vegetables that have been cooked or peeled. Undercooked meat should be avoided. Travellers should also avoid eating uncooked dairy products and food sold on the streets. Outbreaks of dengue fever are common during the rainy season. Visitors who take medication on a regular basis should bring enough for the duration of their visit. It is not always possible to find equivalents for North American prescriptions on the local market. In general, local medical facilities are substandard, except for a few outpatient clinics. Travellers are advised to obtain international medical insurance and establish contact with a doctor upon arrival. The following physicians/ facilities are present in Dhaka:

Dr M.A.Wahab, Dr Wahab's Clinic, House 3, Road 12, Baridhara, Dhaka. Tel: 882-1454, wahab@dhaka.agni.com
Sikdar Hospital. Road 104, Gulshan. Dhaka. Tel: 881-5363; 988-7458

FOOD:

Restaurants in Dhaka and Chittagong serve mainly local (Bengali), Indian, Chinese and other Asian cuisine. Continental food is available at Dhaka's internationally operated hotels. The main local foods are boiled rice and fish, or curries with mutton, beef or chicken. Vegetables and lentils are also popular. There is no effective system of health inspection of restaurants. A number of restaurants popular with expatriates have opened in the last several years.

February, 2003

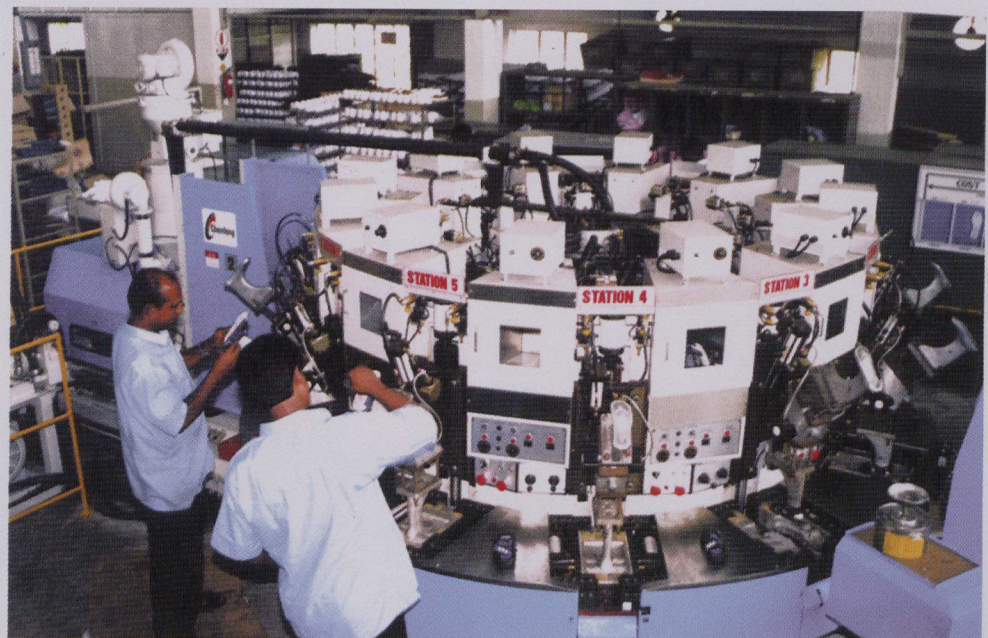


The country is officially known as the People's Republic of Bangladesh. With 130 million people living in an area not quite twice the size of New Brunswick, Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world- and a sizable market. While still an LDC, relatively high growth rates in recent years have created a growing middle class with increased purchasing power and demand for various products and services. Basic food items, such as wheat and pulses, remain in demand.

Since the early 1990s, Bangladesh has adopted a number of policies to facilitate the expansion of the private sector, recognized as the engine of growth, and increase the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI). Although the transition process from agrarian to an industrial economy has only recently begun, there is agreement among the political parties on the need for a market oriented economic policy and foreign companies are welcome. The Bangladesh economy is in need of major investment to upgrade its infrastructure and the size of the investments needed are beyond the capacity of the public sector. Investment opportunities exist in power generation, telecommunications, transportation and a wide range of related and complementary services. To encourage these investments, Bangladesh offers one of the most liberal FDI regimes in South Asia, with no prior approval requirements, no limits to equity participation, and no restrictions on repatriation of profits and income.



Export processing zone-Chittagong



Shoe Factory

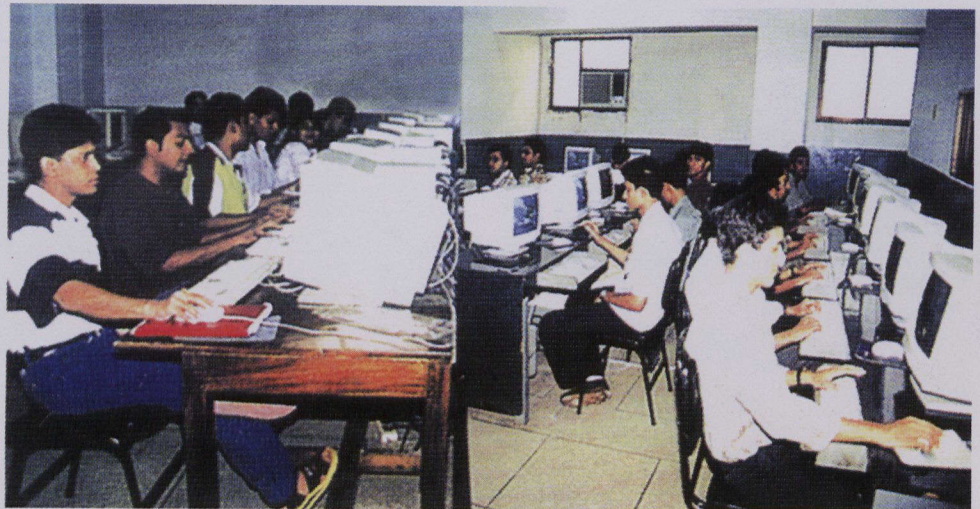
In addition to offering opportunities for investment and sales in infrastructure areas, Bangladesh offers major reserves of natural resources, in particular natural gas. These resources have attracted the attention of major corporations such as Shell, Unocal and Cairn Energy.

A market of 130 million in itself, the country also offers access to neighbouring regions of South Asia (Bhutan, parts of India) and can serve as a base for labour-intensive manufacturing operations.

In the last 30 years, Bangladesh has succeeded in establishing: a hi-tech garment industry; a micro-credit system to alleviate poverty; and the largest Non Government Organisation in the world.



University campus



Computer Training

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Bangladesh is a semitropical riverine nation with fertile soil and a high vulnerability to flooding and cyclones. Most Bangladeshis live in rural areas and make their living from agriculture, although in recent years there has been heavy migration to the cities, primarily to Dhaka, the capital. Though agricultural output has increased steadily since independence, the country has only recently become self-sufficient in food production.

Bangladesh has experienced fairly robust economic growth during the last decade, which saw the restoration of a democratically elected government and a steady, albeit slow, liberalization of the economy. The average annual growth of GDP in the ten-year period from FY 1991-2000 was 4.8%; the estimated rate for FY2001 was 5.2% and the projected rate for FY2002 is 4.2%. These growth rates fall short of the estimated 7.0% growth rate needed to significantly reduce the poverty that afflicts one in three Bangladeshis. Relative political stability and record back-to-back agricultural harvests have allowed Bangladesh to post healthy economic growth since the devastating flood of 1998. Aided by good harvests and modest industrial activity, inflation rates have also remained stable. After peaking at 13% in 1998, the inflation rate from May 2000-2001 was 3.4% , down from the previous rate of 4.5%. The FY2002 projected inflation rate is 3.0%

Despite a relatively good performance in the last decade, the economy is beset with many structural weaknesses. Chief among these weaknesses is the undercapitalized financial sector, poor infrastructure, lack of export diversification, and pervasive corruption.



Bridge over the river Meghna on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway



Ready made garments factory



Pharmaceutical Company

The opening up of the oil and gas, power, and telecommunications (cellular and rural areas) portfolios to the private sector is another positive step that promises good results if the pace of such reform accelerates.

The Bangladesh Government unveiled its FY2003 budget in June 2002. The Government projects the anticipated budget deficit to be 4.8% of GDP (or 118 billion Taka), down from 5.3% projected for FY2002. BDG borrowing from the banking system, is expected to be 6.0% of total domestic financing in FY2003, down 28% from FY2002 and 38% from FY2001. The FY2003 budget also includes incentives for the textile and ready-made garment sectors, and proposals to expand agricultural processing and software development.

FY2003 budget projects revenues of Taka 331 billion (about \$5.7 billion), 20% higher than FY2002 estimates, and expenditures to rise 5.6% from FY2002, with the largest allocations for education (Taka 67 billion) and improved delivery of health service (Taka 30.0 billion). The Government anticipates reaching its revenue targets by improving collection and expanding the tax base.

IMPORTANT WEB SITES:

Bangladeshi Search Engine : www.webbangladesh.com
Bangladeshinfo.com : www.bangladeshinfo.com
Bangladesh Government : www.bangladeshgov.org
Bangla 2000 : www.bangla2000.com
Bangladesh.Net : www.Bangladesh.net
Bangladesh International Community : www.bicn.com
Dhaka Stock Exchange : www.dsebd.org
Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association : www.bgmea.com
International Chamber of Commerce and Industry : www.iccwbo.org
Bangladesh Computer Council : www.bccbd.org
Export Promotion Bureau : www.epbbd.com
In2Yellowpages.com : www.in2yellowpages.com

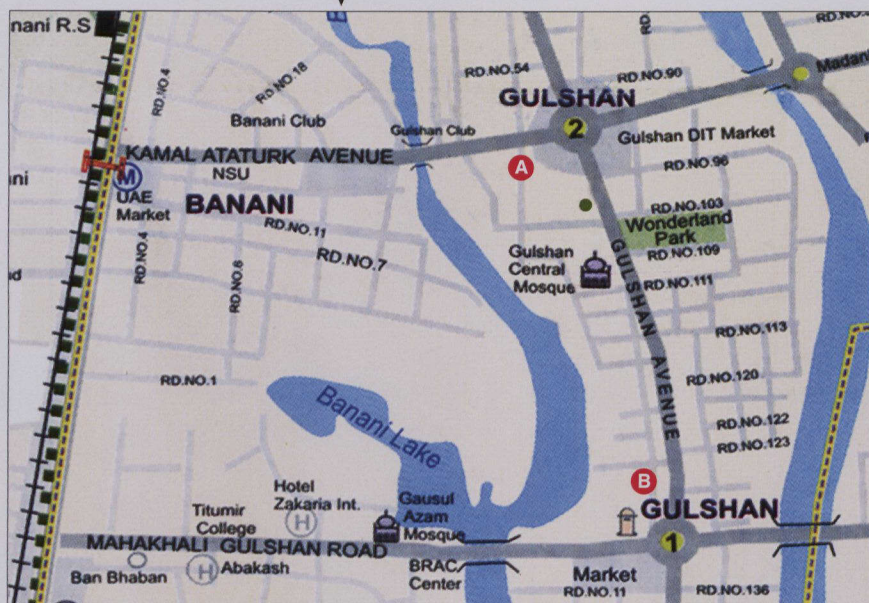
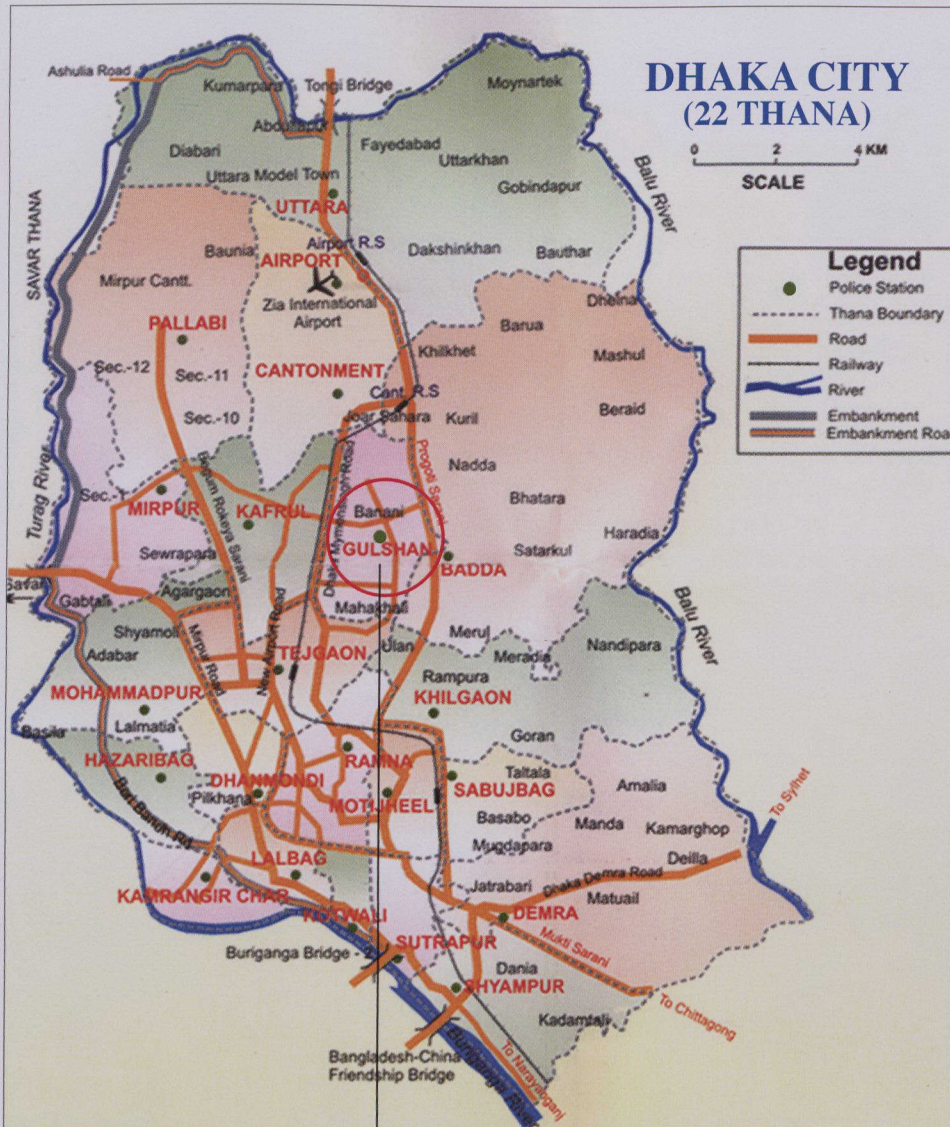


National Parliament, Dhaka

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Awami League (AL) government stepped down on July 13, 2001, on completion of its five-year term. Elections were held on October 1 and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won a majority of seats in Parliament. The new government has committed itself to implementing business and law and order reform. To a large extent, all major political parties publicly support pro-private sector economic reforms.

There are no major bilateral or international political issues that affect the business climate in BGD. On the domestic political landscape, political demonstrations and general strikes (hartals) have regularly disrupted business operations over the past few years. There were 27 days of nationwide general strikes in 1999, and 13 full or part days of general strikes in 2000. In 2001, there were 22 days of nationwide strikes during the build-up to the October parliamentary elections. While business has partially adjusted to the hartal culture prevalent in the country, the disruptions inflict a severe cost on the economy and on individual businesses.

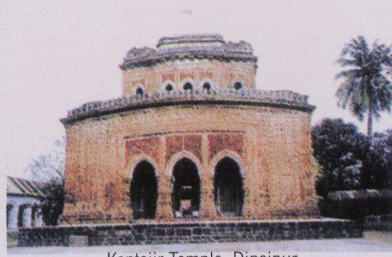


GULSHAN

- A** CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION
- B** CANADIAN CLUB



Baitul Mukaram Mosque, Dhaka



Kantajir Temple, Dinajpur



Royal Bengal Tiger



Oxford Missionary Church, Barisal



Buddhist monks Pharpur Monastery



Spotted reindeer, Sundarban



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