

# Lecture 1

## Ethnological Origin;

## Orientation

***Identification:*** "Bangladesh" is a combination of the Bengali words, *Bangla* and *Desh*, meaning the country or land where the Bangla language is spoken. The country formerly was known as East Pakistan.

# *Location and Geography*

- Bangladesh straddles the Bay of Bengal in south Asia.
- To the west and north it is bounded by India;
- To the southeast, it borders Myanmar.
- The capital city, Dhaka, is near the point where those river systems meet. The land is suitable for rice cultivation.
- In the north and the southeast the land is more hilly and dry, and tea is grown.
- The [Chittagong Hill Tracts](#) have extensive hardwood forests.
- The hilly areas of the northeast and southeast are occupied by much smaller tribal groups.
- In 1998 an accord was reached between the armed tribal group Shanti Bahini and the government.

# Demography

- ❑ Bangladesh is the most densely populated non island nation in the world.
- ❑ With approximately 180 million inhabitants living in an area of 55,813 square miles, there are about 2,240 persons per square mile.
- ❑ The majority of the population (98 percent) is Bengali, with 2 percent belonging to tribal or other non-Bengali groups.
- ❑ Approximately 87 percent of the population is Muslim, 12 percent is Hindu, and 1 percent is Buddhist, Christian, or other. Annual population growth rate is at about 2 percent.
- ❑ In the early 1980s the annual rate of population increase was above 2.5 percent, but in the late 1990s it decreased to 1.9 percent.
- ❑ The success of population control may be due to the demographic transition (decreasing birth and death rates), decreasing farm sizes, increasing urbanization, and national campaigns to control fertility (funded largely by other nations).

# *Linguistic Affiliation*

- The primary language is Bangla, called Bengali by most non natives, an Indo-European language spoken not just by Bangladeshis, but also by people who are culturally Bengali. This includes about 300 million people **from Bangladesh, West Bengal, and Bihar, as well as Bengali speakers in other Indian states.**
- The language dates from well before the birth of Christ. Bangla varies by region, and people may not understand the language of a person from another district.
- Language differences mirror social and religious divisions.
- Bangla is divided into two fairly distinct forms: *sadhu basha*, learned or formal language, and *cholit basha*, common language.
- Sadhu basha is the language of the literate tradition, formal essays and poetry, and the well educated. Cholit basha is the spoken vernacular, the language of the great majority of Bengalis.

# *Symbolism*

- The most important symbol of national identity is the Bangla language.
- The flag is a dark green rectangle with a red circle just left of center. Green symbolizes the trees and fields of the countryside; red represents the rising sun and the blood spilled in the 1971 war for liberation.
- The national anthem was taken from a poem by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and links a love of the natural realm and land with the national identity.
- Islamic religious identity has become an increasingly important element in the national dialogue. Many Islamic holy days are nationally celebrated.

# History of Ethnological Origin

## *Emergence of the Nation*

- The creation of the independent nation represents the triumph of ethnic and cultural politics.
- The region that is now Bangladesh has been part of a number of important political entities, including Indian empires, Buddhist kingdoms, the Moghul empire, the British empire and the Pakistani nation.
- Until 1947 Bangladesh was known as East Bengal province and had been part of Great Britain's India holding since the 1700s.
- The ethnic groups of Pakistan and the Indian Muslims who left India after partition were greatly different in language and way of life from the former East Bengalis: West Pakistan was more oriented toward the Middle East and Arab Islamic influence than was East Pakistan, which contained Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic, and British influences?

# History of Ethnological Origin

## *Emergence of the Nation (Cont..)*

- From the beginning of Pakistan's creation, the Bengali population in the east was more numerous than the Pakistani population in the western wing, yet West Pakistan became the seat of government and controlled nearly all national resources.
- West Pakistanis generally viewed Bengalis as inferior, weak, and less Islamic.
- From 1947 to 1970, West Pakistan reluctantly gave in to Bengali calls for power within the government, armed forces, and civil service, but increasing social unrest in the east led to a perception among government officials that the people of Bengal were unruly and untrustworthy "Hinduized" citizens.
- This was evident in Prime Minister Nazimuddin's attempt in 1952 to make Urdu, the predominant language of West Pakistan, the state language.



# History of Ethnological Origin

## *Emergence of the Nation (Cont..)*

- Through the 1960s, the Bengali public welcomed a message that stressed the uniqueness of Bengali culture, and this formed the basis for calls for self-determination or autonomy.
- The Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was largely a Bengali party which called for autonomy for the east. Sheikh Mujib wanted to reconfigure Pakistan as a confederation of two equal partners.
- His party won one of 162 seats in the East Pakistan provincial assembly and 160 of the three hundred seats in the National Assembly. The Awami League would control national politics and have the ability to name the prime minister.
- West Pakistan began to move more troops into the east, and on 25 March 1971, the Pakistani army carried out a systematic execution of several hundred people, arrested Mujib, and transported him to the west. On 26 March the Awami League declared East Pakistan an independent nation, and by April the Bengalis were in open conflict with the Pakistani military.

# History of Ethnological Origin

## *Emergence of the Nation (Cont..)*

- In a 10-month war of liberation, Bangladeshi units called *Mukhti Bahini* (freedom fighters), largely trained and armed by Indian forces, battled Pakistani troops throughout the country in guerrilla skirmishes.
- In early December 1971, the Indian army entered Bangladesh, engaged Pakistani military forces with the help of the Mukhti Bahini, and in a ten-day period subdued the Pakistani forces.
- On 16 December the Pakistani military surrendered.
- In January 1972, Mujib was released from confinement and became the prime minister of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh was founded as a "democratic, secular, socialist state," but the new state represented the triumph of a Bangladeshi Muslim culture and language.
- The administration degenerated into corruption, and Mujib attempted to create a one-party state. On 15 August 1975 he was assassinated, along with much of his family, by army officers.

# History of Ethnological Origin

## *Emergence of the Nation (Cont..)*

- General Ziaur Rahman became martial law administrator in December 1976 and president in 1977.
- On 30 May 1981, Zia was assassinated by army officers. His rule had been violent and repressive, but he had improved national economy.
- After a short-lived civilian government, a bloodless coup placed Army chief of staff General Mohammed Ershad in office as martial law administrator; he later became president.
- Civilian opposition increased, and the Awami League, the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), and the religious fundamentalist party Jamaat-i-Islami united in a seven-year series of crippling strikes. In December 1990, Ershad was forced to resign.
- A caretaker government held national elections early in 1991. The BNP, headed by Khaleda Zia, widow of former President Zia, formed a government in an alliance with the Jamaat-i-Islami.
- Political factionalism intensified over the next five years, and on 23 June 1996, the Awami League took control of Parliament. At its head was Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the daughter of Sheikh Mujib.

# *National Identity of Bengal*

- Bangladeshi national identity is rooted in a Bengali culture that transcends international borders and includes the area of Bangladesh itself and West Bengal, India.
- Symbolically, Bangladeshi identity is centered on the 1971 struggle for independence from Pakistan. During that struggle, the key elements of Bangladeshi identity coalesced around the importance of the Bengali mother tongue and the distinctiveness of a culture or way of life connected to the floodplains of the region.
- Being Bangladeshi in some sense means feeling connected to the natural land–water systems of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and other rivers that drain into the Bay of Bengal.
- The great poets of the region, [Rabindranath Tagore](#) and Kazi Nurul Islam have enshrined the Bengali sense of the beauty and power of the region's nature.

# *Ethnic Relations in Bangladesh*

- The most significant social divide is between **Muslims and Hindus**. In 1947 millions of Hindus moved west into West Bengal, while millions of Muslims moved east into the newly created East Pakistan.
- Violence occurred as the columns of people moved past each other. Today, in most sections of the country, Hindus and Muslims live peacefully.
- Both groups view themselves as members of the same culture.
- From 1976 to 1998 there was sustained cultural conflict over the control of the southeastern **Chittagong Hill Tracts**. In 1998, a peace accord granted those groups a degree of autonomy and self-governance. These tribal groups still do not identify themselves with the national culture.

# Urbanism, Architecture, and the Use of Space

- Bangladesh is still primarily a rural culture, and the *gram* or village is an important spatial and cultural concept even for residents of the major cities. Most people identify with a natal or ancestral village in the countryside.
- Houses in villages are commonly rectangular, and are dried mud, bamboo, or red brick structures with thatch roofs.
- Houses have little interior decoration, and wall space is reserved for storage. Furniture is minimal, often consisting only of low stools.
- People sleep on thin bamboo mats. Houses have verandas in the front, and much of daily life takes place under their eaves rather than indoors. A separate smaller mud or bamboo structure serves as a kitchen ( *ranna ghor* ), but during the dry season many women construct hearths and cook in the household courtyard.

• **Thank You**

# Lecture 2

- Culture and Language



# Culture and Language of Bangladesh

- The Culture of Bangladesh is intertwined with the culture of the Bengal region.
- It has evolved over the centuries encompasses the cultural diversity of several social groups of Bangladesh.
- The Bengal Renaissance of the 18th early 19th centuries..noted Bengali writers, saints, authors, scientists, researchers, thinkers, music composers, painters, film-makers have played a significant role in the development of Bengali culture.

# Music, Dance, Drama

- The music dance styles of Bangladesh may be divided into three categories: **classical**, folk, modern.
- The classical style has been influenced by other prevalent classical forms of music dances of the Indian subcontinent.
- Several dancing styles in vogue in the northeastern part of the Indian subcontinent, like Manipuri Santhali dances, are practiced, but Bangladesh has developed its own distinct dancing styles.
- Bangladesh has a rich tradition of folk songs, with lyrics rooted in vibrant tradition spirituality, mysticism, devotion. Such folk songs revolve around other themes, including love. The most prevalent folk songs music traditions include Bhatiali, Baul, Marfati, Murshidi, Bhawaiya.
- Lyricists like Lalon Shah, Hason Raja, Kangal Harinath, Abbas Uddin, many unknown anonymous lyricists have enriched the tradition of folk songs of Bangladesh.

# Media and cinema

- The Bangladeshi press is diverse, outspoken and privately owned.
- Over 200 newspapers are published in the country.
- Bangladesh Betar is the state-run radio service.
- The British Broadcasting Corporation operates the popular BBC Bangla news and current affairs service.
- Bengali broadcasts from Voice of America are also very popular.
- Bangladesh Television (BTV) is the state-owned television network. There more than 40 privately owned television networks, including several news channels.
- Freedom of the media remains a major concern, due to government attempts at censorship and harassment of journalists.
- The cinema of Bangladesh dates back to 1898 when films began screening at the Crown Theatre in Dhaka.
- The first bioscope in the subcontinent was established in Dhaka that year. The Dhaka Nawab Family patronized the production of several silent films in the 1920s and 30s. In 1931, the East Bengal Cinematograph Society released the first full-length feature film in Bangladesh, titled the *Last Kiss*.
- The first feature film in East Pakistan, *Mukh O Mukhosh*, was released in 1956.

# Festivals and celebrations

- Eid ul-Fitr

- As the most important religious festival for the majority of Muslims, the celebration of Eid ul-Fitr has become a part of the culture of Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh declares the holiday for three days on Eid-ul Fitr. But practically, all schools, colleges, and offices remain closed for a week. This is the happiest time of the year for most of the people in Bangladesh.

- Eid ul-Azha

- Eid ul-Azha or Bakri Id is the second most important religious festival. The celebration of this festival similar to Eid ul-Fitr in many ways. The only big difference is the *Kurbani* or sacrifice of domestic animals. Numerous temporary marketplaces of different sizes called *hat* operate in the big cities for sale of Qurbani animals (usually cows, goats, and sheep). In the morning on the Eid day, immediately after the prayer, affluent people thank God for the animal and then sacrifice it.

# Festivals and celebrations(Cont.)

- **Pohela Boishakh**

- Pohela Boishakh, which is also pronounced as *Poyla Boishakh*, is the first day of the Bengali calendar. It is usually celebrated on 14 April. Poyla Boishakh marks the start day of the crop season. Usually, on Poyla Boishakh, the home is thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned; people bathe early in the morning and dress in fine clothes. They spend much of the day visiting relatives, friends, and neighbors and going to the fair. Fairs are arranged in many parts of the country where various agricultural products, traditional handicrafts, toys, cosmetics, as well as various kinds of food and sweets are sold.

- **Nobanno**

- The harvest festival is called the Nobanno. It is usually celebrated on the first day of Awgrohayon (Bengali Month) the first day of harvesting. The main festival is organizing by Jatio Nobanno Utshob Udjapan Porishod at Charukola (Fine Arts) in University of Dhaka with songs, dance, cakes, sweets, colorful procession and many traditional presentations. Once upon a time (from the very beginning), the first day of Awgrohayon was the first day of Bengali calendar.

# Festivals and celebrations(Cont.)

- Language day

- In 1952, the emerging middle classes of East Bengal underwent an uprising known later as the Bangla Language Movement. Bangladeshis (then East Pakistanis) were initially agitated by a decision by the Central Pakistan Government to establish Urdu, a minority language spoken only by the supposed elite class of West Pakistan, as the sole national language for all of Pakistan. The situation was worsened by an open declaration that "Urdu and only Urdu will be the national language of Pakistan" by the governor, Khawaja Nazimuddin. Police declared Section 144 which banned any sort of meeting. Defying this, the students of the University of Dhaka and Dhaka Medical College and other political activists started a procession on 21 February 1952. Near the current Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police fired on the protesters and numerous people, including Abdus Salam, Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, Sofiur Rahman, Abul Barkat, and Abdul Jabbar died. The movement spread to the whole of East Pakistan and the whole province came to a standstill. Afterward, the Government of Pakistan relented and gave Bengali equal status as a national language. This movement is thought to have sown the seeds for the independence movement which resulted in the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. To commemorate this movement, Shaheed Minar, a solemn and symbolic sculpture, was erected in the place of the massacre. The day is revered in Bangladesh and, to a somewhat lesser extent, in West Bengal as the Martyrs' Day. This day is the public holiday in Bangladesh.
- UNESCO decided to observe 21 February as International Mother Language Day. The UNESCO General Conference took a decision that took effect on 17 November 1999 when it unanimously adopted a draft resolution submitted by Bangladesh and co-sponsored and supported by 28 other countries.

# Festivals and Celebrations(Cont.)

- Durga Puja

- Durga Puja, the largest religious festival for Hindus, is celebrated widely across Bangladesh. Thousands of pandals (mandaps) are set up in various villages, towns, and cities. Durga Puja is a grand cultural celebration in the capital city of Dhaka.
- Major pujas of Dhaka are held in numerous pandals, but the biggest celebration takes place at Dhakeshwari Temple where several thousand devotees and onlookers stream through the premises for four days. Special boat race on Buriganga river is arranged and it attracts a large crowd. A five-day holiday is observed by all educational institutions, while Bijoya Dashami is a public holiday. On Bijoya Dashami, effigies are paraded through the streets of Shankhari Bazaar in Old Dhaka in loud, colorful processions before being immersed into the rivers. Thousands of Muslims take part in the secular part of festivities in celebration of Bengali solidarity and culture.

# Festivals and celebrations(Cont.)

- **Weddings**

- Bengali weddings are traditionally in five parts: first, it is the bride and groom's *Mehendi Shondha* (also called *Pan Chini*), the bride's *Gaye Holud*, the groom's *Gaye Holud*, the *Biye*, and the *Bou Bhaat*. These often take place on separate days. The first event in a wedding is an informal one: the groom presents the bride with a ring marking the "engagement" which is gaining popularity. For the *mehendi shondha* the bride's side apply henna to each other as well as the bride for the bride's Gaye Holud, the groom's family – except the groom himself – go in procession to the bride's home. Bride's friends and family apply turmeric paste to her body as a part of Gaye Hoof bride, and they are traditionally all in matching clothes, mostly orange.



# Festivals and celebrations(Cont.)

- Sports

- Cricket is the most popular sport in Bangladesh, followed by football. Kabaddi is the national sport in Bangladesh. Cricket is a game which has a massive and passionate following in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has joined the elite group of countries eligible to play Test cricket since 2000. The Bangladesh national cricket team goes by the nickname of the *Tigers* – after the royal Bengal tiger. The people of Bangladesh enjoy watching live sports. Whenever there is a cricket or football match between popular local teams or international teams in any local stadium significant number of spectators gather to watch the match live.

# Festivals and celebrations(Cont.)

## • Clothes

- Bangladesh is home to a diverse range of traditional clothing which is still worn by people in their everyday life. Bangladeshi people have unique dress preferences.
- Bangladeshi men traditionally wear Panjabi, which is structurally similar to the Kurta but very unique in design, on religious and cultural occasions.
- Women are using shari, blouse and petticoat.

# Language of Bangladesh

- The national language and official language of Bangladesh is Bengali according to the third article of the Constitution of Bangladesh.
- With 98% of Bangladeshis fluent in Bengali (including dialects) as their first language, Bangladesh is the only monolingual country in South Asia.
- Bengali Language Implementation Act, 1987 made it mandatory to use Bengali in all government affairs except in the cases of foreign relations.
- According to 2011 census, Bengali is predominantly spoken by 98% of the country's population and it also serves as the national language of the nation.
- The indigenous people of northern and southeastern Bangladesh speak a variety of native languages.

# Indo-Aryan languages

- The lowlands of Bangladesh form the eastern half of the [ethno-linguistic](#) region of [Bengal](#) and the [Bengali language](#) is spoken by the majority of the country's inhabitants.
- **Bengali branch:**
  - [Bengali proper](#): spoken all over the country.
  - [Chittagonian](#): Spoken in the South–East region of [Chittagong](#), it is often considered to be a dialect of Bengali, but both languages are largely mutually unintelligible.
  - [Sylheti](#): Spoken by [Sylhetis](#) in the North–East region of [Sylhet](#), generally considered as a dialect of Bengali but is sometimes viewed as a separate language
- **Non-Bengali Languages:**
  - [Chakma](#): Spoken in the [Chittagong Hill Tract Region](#). Unrelated to the [Tibeto-Burman languages](#) commonly found in the region.
  - [Hajong](#): Originally a Tibeto-Burman language that has shifted over time to an Indic language.
  - [Marma](#): Originated from Tibeto-Burman language and mother tongue of [Marma](#) ethnic people.
  - [Rohingya](#): Spoken in [Arakan State](#), [Burma](#) and by refugees from that region, currently living in Bangladesh's Chittagong Division. It is also often called Arkani by native speakers.
- [Bihari](#): Spoken primarily by the refugees from [Bihar State](#), India.

# Non-Indo-Aryan languages

- **Austroasiatic languages**
- While the more widely spoken and better-known Austroasiatic languages are spoken in Southeast Asia (e.g. Khmer and Vietnamese), smaller languages of that family are spoken by indigenous communities of northern and eastern Bangladesh.
- Khasi: also a major language of Meghalaya State, India
- Koda
- Mundari
- Pnar
- Santali
- War-Jaintia
- **Dravidian languages**
- Two Dravidian languages are spoken by indigenous communities of western Bangladesh.
- Kurukh
- Sauria Paharia
- .

# Tibeto-Burman languages

- The mountainous areas along the northern and eastern edges of the [Indian Subcontinent](#) are inhabited primarily by speakers of [Tibeto-Burman languages](#). Indigenous Tibeto-Burman-speaking communities are found through the northern, eastern, and especially the southeastern parts of Bangladesh.
- [Chin languages](#):
  - [Asho](#)
  - [Khumi](#)
- [Koch](#)
- [Garo](#): also a major language of [Meghalaya](#) State, India
- [Meitei Manipuri](#): also a major language of [Manipur](#) State, [India](#)
- [Mizo](#): also a major language of [Mizoram](#) State, India
- [Rakhine/Marma](#): also a major language of [Arakan](#) State, [Burma](#)
- [Tripuri](#) languages: a major language group of [Tripura](#) State, India

# Other Languages

- **English**

- English is used marginally in the judiciary.<sup>[6]</sup> Before the commencement of the Bengali Language Implementation Act, 1987, English had a considerable presence in official affairs, but since 1987 the usage of English has waned significantly in government. Due to the British colonization of the country, English is still a widely spoken and commonly understood language in Bangladesh.

- **Arabic**

- Arabic (عربي) was an official language ever since the territory of the modern state People's Republic of Bangladesh became a part of the Bengal Sultanate. However some disagree and believe the presence of Arabic came before during the Delhi Sultanate.

- **Urdu**

- Urdu (اردو) was an official language in post-partition 1947 to 1971. It is still spoken by some refugees from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (most are now Bangla speakers), and in Old Dhaka. They are also living in other parts of Bangladesh.

Thank You



# Lecture 3

## Religion and Occupation

# Religion in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is constitutionally a secular state and secularism is one of the four fundamental principles of the Constitution of Bangladesh.
- Despite having Islam as the state religion, Bangladesh is mostly governed by secular laws set up during the times when the country was ruled by the British Crown.
- The constitution also states that "the State shall ensure equal status and equal right in the practice of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other religions".
- "Freedom of religion" is its basic structure guaranteed by Bangladeshi constitution in which it call for equal rights to all its citizens irrespective of their religious differences and it also ban discrimination on the grounds of religion in various platforms.
- As per 2011 census Muslims constitute over 90% of the population, while Hindus constitute 8.5% and remaining rest constitute 1% ..
- The Constitution denominates Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, and Buddhism.

# Islam

- The Muslim population in Bangladesh was over 146 million in 2011, which makes up 90% percent of the population in the country. The Constitution of Bangladesh declares Islam as the state religion.
- Bangladesh is the fourth-largest Muslim-populated country. Muslims are the predominant community of the country and they form the majority of the population in all eight divisions of Bangladesh.
- Overwhelming majority of Muslims in Bangladesh are Bengali Muslims at 88%, but a small segment about 2% of them are Bihari Muslims.
- Most Muslims in Bangladesh are Sunnis, but there is a small Shia community. Most of those who are Shia reside in urban areas. Although these Shias are few in number, Shia observance commemorating the martyrdom of Muhammad's grandson, Husain ibn Ali, is widely observed by the nation's Sunnis.
- Muslims celebrate Eid ul-Fitr, Eid ul-Adha, Muharram, Milad un Nabi, Shab-e-Barat and Chand Raat all across the country with much fanfare and grandeur.

# Hinduism

- [Hinduism](#) is the second largest religious affiliation in [Bangladesh](#), with around 14 million people identifying themselves as Hindus and making up about 8.5% of the total population according to the 2011 census, down from 9.2 per cent as of the 2001 census. According to a random sampling from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), there were 17 million Hindus in Bangladesh as of 2015, out of a total 158.9 million population. In terms of population, Bangladesh is the third largest Hindu populated country of the world, just after [India](#) and [Nepal](#).
- Bangladeshi Hindus are predominantly [Bengali Hindus](#), but a distinct Hindu population also exists among the indigenous tribes like [Garo](#), [Khasi](#), [Jaintia](#), [Santhal](#), [Bishnupriya Manipuri](#), [Tripuri](#), [Munda](#), [Oraon](#), [Dhanuk](#) etc.
- In nature, Bangladeshi Hinduism closely resembles the rituals and customs of Hinduism practised in the neighbouring Indian state of [West Bengal](#), with which Bangladesh (at one time known as [East Bengal](#)) was united until the partition of India in 1947.
- Hindu festivals of [Durga Puja](#), [Rath Yatra](#) and [Janmashtami](#) witness jubilant celebrations across various cities, towns and villages of Bangladesh.

# Buddhism

- About 1,000,000 people in Bangladesh adhere to the Theravada school of Buddhism. Buddhists form about 0.6% of the population of Bangladesh.
- In antiquity, the region of present-day Bangladesh was a center of Buddhism in Asia. Buddhist civilisation, including philosophies and architecture, traveled to Tibet, Southeast Asia and Indonesia from Bengal. The Buddhist architecture of Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand, including the Angkor Wat Temple and the Borobudur vihara, are believed to have been inspired by the ancient monasteries of Bangladesh such as the Somapura Mahavihara.
- Most of the followers of Buddhism in Bangladesh live in the Chittagong division. Here, Buddhism is practised by the Bengali-speaking Baruas, who are almost exclusively Buddhist and are concentrated heavily in the Chittagong area as well as few of the Barua Buddhists live in other parts of Bangladesh, such as Comilla, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Sylhet districts.
- Most of the followers of Buddhism in Bangladesh live in southeastern region, especially in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Chittagong and Comilla district. Most of the Buddhists of Chittagong Hill Tracts belong to the Chakma, Marma, Mru, Khumi, Bawm, Chak, Kuki, Murang, Tanchangya and Khiang tribes, who since time immemorial have practised Buddhism.
- Buddha Purnima is the most widely observed festival among both Bengali Buddhists and Buddhist tribes.

# Christianity

- Christianity arrived in what is now Bangladesh during the late sixteenth to early seventeenth centuries AD, through the Portuguese traders and missionaries.
- Christians account for approximately 0.4% of the total population and they are mostly urban community.
- Roman Catholicism is predominant among the Bengali Christians, while the remaining are mostly Baptist and others.
- Few followers of Christianity are also present among certain indigenous tribal communities such as Garo, Santal, Orao, Chakma, khasi, Lushei, Bawm etc.

# Other Religions

## Sikhism

- There are approximately 100,000 people adhering to the religion of [Sikhism](#). The presence of this religion goes back to the visitation of [Guru Nanak](#) in 1506–07 with some of his followers to spread Sikhism in the region of the present-day Bangladesh. When some [Bengali people](#) accepted this faith, a [Sikh](#) community was born. This community became bigger when almost 10,000 Sikhs came from India during the [Bangladesh Liberation War](#). This community has made great progress in the country. Today there are almost 10 [gurdwaras](#) in Bangladesh. Among them only 7 are well-known, especially the [Gurdwara Nanak Shahi](#) beside the [University of Dhaka](#) in Dhaka, which was built in 1830, the oldest gurdwara in Bangladesh.

## Atheism

[Atheism](#) is not common in Bangladesh. According to a 2014 [WIN/GIA](#) survey, 5% of respondents from Bangladesh identified as "not religious", while less than 1% reported being a "convinced atheist"

# Occupation in Bangladesh

- About 180 Million people living in Bangladesh. They are very poor. They got different occupation also. Some occupations are as follows
  - ▶ Accountants
- ▶ Actors
- ▶ Architects
- ▶ Art directors
- ▶ Artists
- ▶ Arts occupations
- ▶ **Business**
- **Carpenters**
- ▶ Computer programmers
- ▶ Costume designers
- ▶ Medical researchers
- ▶ Health professions- Doctor, Nurse, physiotherapist Etc.



# Occupation in Bangladesh(Cont..)

- Barber
- ► [Business people](#)
- ► [Chefs](#)
- ► [Civil servants](#) - Dc, SP, Bureaucrats
- ► [Comedians](#)
- ► [Dancers](#)
- ► [Diplomats](#)
- ► [Educators](#)
- ► [Engineers](#)
- ► [Folklorists](#)
- Fishermen
- ► [Judges](#)
- ► [Jurists](#)
- ► [Lawyers](#)
- Milkmen

# Occupation in Bangladesh(Cont..)

- ▶ Librarians
- ▶ Magicians
- ▶ Mass media people
- ▶ Military personnel
- ▶ Mimes
- ▶ Models
- ▶ Musicians
- **Painter**
- ▶ Philosophers
- ▶ Police officers
- ▶ Politicians

# Occupation in Bangladesh(Cont..)

- ▶ Producers
- ▶ Religious leaders
- ▶ Scholars
- ▶ Scientists
- Social workers
- ▶ Sports Industry worker
- ▶ Sports people
- ▶ Theatre people
- ▶ Writers
- Fishermen
- Farmer

Thank you

# Lecture 4

- History of Bengali Region

# History of Bengali Region

- The **history of Bengal** is intertwined with the history of the broader Indian subcontinent and the surrounding regions of South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- It includes modern-day Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam's Karimganj district, located in the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent.
- The Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers act as a geographic marker of the region, but also connects the region to the broader Indian subcontinent.
- Ancient Bengal was the site of several major Janapadas (kingdoms), while the earliest cities date back to the Vedic period.
- Ancient Bengal established colonies on Indian Ocean islands and in Southeast Asia;
- The region was part of several ancient pan-Indian empires, including the Maurians and Guptas.
- It was also a bastion of regional kingdom. The citadel of Gauda served as capital of the Gauda Kingdom, the Buddhist Pala Empire (eighth to 11th century) and Sen Empire (11th–12th century).

# Muslim Conquest of the Indian subcontinent

- The Muslim conquest of the Indian subcontinent absorbed Bengal into the medieval Islamic and Persianate worlds.
- Between the 1204 and 1352, Bengal was a province of the Delhi Sultanate.
- This era saw the introduction of the taka as monetary currency, which has endured into the modern era.
- An independent Bengal Sultanate was formed in 1352 and ruled the region for two centuries.
- Hindus served in the royal administration as prime ministers and poets.
- Bengali literature began replacing the strong influence of Sanskrit in the region.
- In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, Isa Khan, a Muslim Rajput chief, who led the Baro Bhuiyans (twelve landlords), dominated the Bengal delta.

# Mughal Empire

- Following the decline of the sultanate, Bengal came under the suzerainty of the Mughal Empire, as its wealthiest province. Under the Mughals, Bengal Subah generated almost 50% of the empire's gross domestic product (GDP) and 12% of the world's GDP.
- The region was globally prominent in industries such as textile manufacturing and shipbuilding, with the capital Dhaka.
- The gradual decline of the Mughal Empire led to quasi-independent states under the Nawabs of Bengal, and finally the conquest by the British East India Company.
- The British took control of the region from the late 18th century. The company consolidated their hold on the region following the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and Battle of Buxar in 1764 and by 1793 took complete control of the region.
- A hotbed of the Indian independence movement through the early 20th century, Bengal was divided during India's independence in 1947 along religious lines into two separate entities: West Bengal—a state of India—and East Bengal—a part of the newly created Dominion of Pakistan that later became the independent nation of Bangladesh in 1971.



# Ancient and classical Bengal

## • Prehistory to Iron Age

- Remnants of the city wall in [Mahasthangarh](#), one of the oldest urban settlements in Bengal
- [Stone Age](#) tools found in the region indicate human habitation for over 20,000 years. Remnants of [Copper Age](#) settlements, including pit dwellings, date back 4,000 years.
- [Archaeological evidence](#) confirms that by the second millennium BCE, the Bengal delta was inhabited by rice-cultivating communities.
- Rivers such as the [Ganges](#) and [Brahmaputra](#) were used for transport while maritime trade flourished in the Bay of Bengal.

# Indian Empires

- **Mauryan Empire**

- The Mauryan Empire unified most of the Indian subcontinent into one state for the first time and was one of the largest empires in subcontinental history.
- The empire was established by Chandragupta Maurya. Under Mauryan rule, the economic system benefited from the creation of a single efficient system of finance, administration, and security.

- **Gupta Empire**

- The Gupta Empire is regarded as a golden age in sub continental history.
- It was marked by extensive scientific and cultural advancements that crystallized the elements of what is generally known as Hindu culture.

# Local Dynasties

- **Pala Empire**
- The ruins of the [Somapura Mahavihara](#), once the largest monastery in the Indian subcontinent and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The [Pala Empire](#) (750–1120) was a Bengali empire and the last Buddhist imperial power the Indian subcontinent. The name *Pala* ([Bengali](#): পাল) means *protector* and was used as an ending to the names of all Pala monarchs.
- **Chandra dynasty**
- **Sen dynasty**
- **Dev dynasty**

# Medieval and Early Modern Bengal

- **Delhi Sultanate (1204–1352)**

- The Islamic conquest of Bengal began with the capture of Gauda from the Sen dynasty in 1204. Led by Bakhtiar Khilji, an army of several thousand horsemen from the Ghurids overwhelmed Bengali Hindu forces during a blitzkrieg campaign.

- **Bengal Sultanate (1352–1576)**

- Ilyas Shahi dynasty (1342–1414)
- Hussain Shahi dynasty (1494–1538)

# Baro-Bhuyans (1576–1610)

- A confederation of twelve [zamindar](#) families resisted the expansion of the Mughal Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries. The zamindars included Muslims and Hindus. They were led by the [Muslim Rajput](#) chief [Isa Khan](#).

- **Mughal Period (1529–1857)**

- A Mughal miniature showing emperor Akbar rejoicing upon the Mughal conquest of Bengal
- The Mughal absorption of Bengal began with the [Battle of Ghaghra](#) in 1529, in which the Mughal army was led by the first Mughal emperor [Babur](#).
- The second Mughal emperor [Humayun](#) occupied the Bengali capital [Gaur](#) for six months.
- **Subedar period (1574–1727)**
- **Nawabs of Bengal (1717–1757)**

# Colonial Bengal

- **Portuguese Chittagong (1528–1666)**

- The first European colonial settlement in Bengal was the Portuguese settlement in Chittagong. The settlement was established after the Bengal Sultanate granted permission to embassies from Portuguese India for the creation of a trading post. The Portuguese settlers in Chittagong included bureaucrats, merchants, soldiers, sailors, missionaries, slave traders and pirates

- **Dutch settlements (1610–1824)**

- The Dutch East India Company operated a directorate in Bengal for nearly two centuries. The directorate later became a colony of the Dutch Empire in 1725. Dutch territories in Bengal were ceded to Britain by the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824.

- **Early English settlements (1600s)**

- The East India Company established its first settlements in Bengal around Hooghly during the 1630s. It received an official permission to trade from Mughal viceroy Shah Shuja in 1651.

- **French settlements (1692–1952)**
- The [French establishments in India](#) included colonies and factories in Bengal. After permission from Mughal viceroy [Shaista Khan](#) in 1692, the French set up a settlement in [Chandernagore](#).
  - **Danish settlements (1625–1845)**
- The first settlement of the [Danish East India Company](#) in Bengal was established in Pipli in 1625. The Danish company later gained permission from Nawab [Alivardi Khan](#) to establish a trading post in [Serampore](#) in 1755. The first representative of the Danish crown was appointed in 1770.
  - **Austrian settlement (1700s)**
- The [Ostend Company](#) of the [Austrian Empire](#) operated a settlement in [Bankipur](#), Bengal during the 18th century.
  - **British East India Company (1757–1858)**
- [Robert Clive](#) conferring with [Mir Jafar](#), the Bengali traitor who betrayed the last independent Nawab
- When the [East India Company](#) began strengthening the defences at Fort William (Calcutta), the Nawab, [Siraj Ud Daulah](#), at the encouragement of the French, attacked. Under the leadership of [Robert Clive](#), British troops and their local allies captured Chandernagore in March 1757 and seriously defeated the Nawab on 23 June 1757 at the [Battle of Plassey](#), when the Nawab's soldiers betrayed him.

# British Crown Rule (1858–1947)

- The Victoria Memorial flanked by St. Paul's Cathedral in Kolkata, India. The city was the former British capital of India
- The Indian Rebellion of 1857 replaced rule by the Company with the direct control of Bengal by the British Crown. Fort William continued to be the capital of British-held territories in India. The Governor of Bengal was concurrently the Governor-General of India for many years.
- Bengal renaissance
- Rebel activities
- Bengal Legislative Assembly (1937–1947)
- Second World War (1939-1945)
- Partition of Bengal (1947)



# Post-Partition and Contemporary Era

- Indian Bengal
- The **history of West Bengal** began in 1947, when the Hindu-dominated western part of British Bengal Province became the Indian state of West Bengal.
- East Pakistan
- When India gained independence in 1947, Bengal was partitioned along religious lines. The western part went to India (and was named West Bengal) while the eastern part joined Pakistan as a province called East Bengal (later renamed East Pakistan, giving rise to independent Bangladesh in 1971).

## Bangladesh

The borders of modern Bangladesh were established with the separation of Bengal and India in August 1947, when the region became East Pakistan as a part of the newly formed State of Pakistan following the end of British rule in the region. Proclamation of Bangladeshi Independence in March 1971 led to the nine-month long Bangladesh Liberation War, that culminated with East Pakistan emerging as the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Thank you