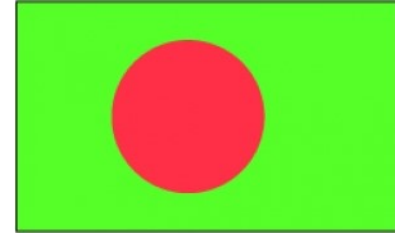




Bangladesh

Joined the Commonwealth 1972 - visited by the Queen in 1983



Bangladesh is an Asiatic nation facing the Bay of Bengal

Pop: (2012) 154,695,000 Capital: Dhaka Area: 143,998 sq km

Bangladesh is a densely populated delta country in south Asia. Apart from the south-eastern hills, Bangladesh is a mainly flat alluvial plain crossed by the navigable waterways of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. The deltaic area, known as the Sundarbans, is the largest single block of tidal mangrove forest in the world. Due to both its tropical monsoon climate and its position at the mouths of these rivers which drain the southern slopes of the Himalayas, flooding can be frequent and disastrous. Flood relief measures have proved to be costly and often ineffective.

The soil is extremely rich and farmers can often reap three crops in a year mainly, rice, palm, bamboo and mango. Many of its people are poor subsistence farmers though some farm for cash. Despite there being limited natural resources industrialisation has been rapid, particularly the production of textiles for export.

Although Bangladesh has a varied wildlife, the Bengal tiger, now largely confined to the Sundarbans, is endangered with only a few hundred animals remaining

