

COUNTRY BANGLADESH



COUNTRY:	PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH, "BANGLADESH"
CAPITAL:	DHAKA
LAND AREA:	147,570 SQ. KM
POPULATION:	155 MILLION (2012)
FORM OF STATE:	BANGLADESH HAS BEEN A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY SINCE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN 1991
LEGISLATURE:	A UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENT CONSISTING OF 300 SEATS OCCUPIED BY MEMBERS DIRECTLY ELECTED FROM GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR FIVE-YEAR TERMS, PLUS 45 SEATS RESERVED FOR WOMEN ELECT
CURRENCY:	TAKA (TK)
GDP:	US\$ 112 BILLION (2012)
REAL GDP GROWTH:	6.3% (2012)
GDP PER CAPITA:	NOMINAL - US\$ 700/-; PPP - US\$ 1,900/-
ORIGIN OF GDP:	1 - READY MADE GARMENTS 2 - REMITTANCES (FROM BANGLADESHI DIASPORA) 3 - FISHERIES 4 - FOREIGN DONORS
FOREIGN RESERVES:	US\$ 10.2 BILLION
COUNTRY RATING:	AA (MOODY'S) 2013

POLITICAL & ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Under the present government Bangladesh is enjoying a relative political stability, however this may not last with the decision of the Supreme Court to abrogate the “Caretaker Government” which should monitor forthcoming election, therefore there are some clouds of future political instability.

Strong economic growth is expected to be maintained for the next four to five years. However a recent major accident in the collapse of a building housing a number of factories of ready made garments may affect export of these products, which is in fact the main engine of the Bangladesh economy.

Bangladesh foreign policy will remain focused on improving relation with two main partners i.e. China and India. Worth mentioning is the fact that China has become the largest trading partners of Bangladesh, followed by India.

Consumer price inflation is estimated to moderate to 8.9% in 2012 from 10.7% in 2011. Assuming that rainfall remains close to historical levels, annual consumer price inflation could be reduced to an average 6.7% over the next four to five years.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITALIAN COMPANIES

There are opportunities for Italian companies such as:

- Equipment and machinery related to ready made garments;
- Steel and steel products;
- Compressed natural gas equipment;
- Transportation equipment (reconditioned vehicles);
- Commodities (wheat, sugar etc);
- As well as usual traditional Italian products: men fashion, food and agricultural products.

Corporate taxes are high for the area and may reach as much as 35%. Legal system is based on the British Legal system, however as far as family matters are concerned reference law is based on Sharia Law. In addition financial contracts may specify “reference law” as is the case in most banking syndicated loans.

Usually British or American Law.

PRINCIPAL BANKS WE WORK WITH/PARTNER BANK

- 1 - A B BANK, DHAKA
- 2 - BRAC BANK, DHAKA
- 3- EASTERN BANK, DHAKA
- 4 - ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH, DHAKA
- 5 - PUBALI BANK, DHAKA

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (2014)

01ST January, 2014	New Year's Day
13TH January, 2014	Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad
21ST February, 2014	International Mother Language
26TH March, 2014	Independence Day
13TH April, 2014	Bangla New Year
30TH April, 2014	Labour Day
05TH May, 2014	Buddha Purmina
26TH May, 2014	Shab-e-Miraj (Night of Ascension)
23RD July, 2014	Shab-e-Qadr (Night of Power)
27TH July, 2014	Eid al-Fitr (three days)
02ND October, 2014	Durga Puja
03RD October, 2014	Eid al-Adha (four days)
24TH October, 2014	Al Hijra (Islamic New Year)
07TH November, 2014	National Revolution and Solidarity Day
16TH November, 2014	Victory Day

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE COUNTRY

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LOCAL LEGAL FIRMS

Details provided upon request