

Second Revised Edition
1991

GEOGRAPHY
OF
BANGLADESH

Hosrun Kabir

University Press Limited

About the Book

This revised, updated and enlarged version covers all the facets of the geography of Bangladesh. It provides more details on the physiography, hydrography, climate, soil conditions and land utilizations, agriculture, natural resources and industries, trade and commerce, history and economic development aspects than any other book on this country and region. It also includes a new chapter on "Environmental Issues."

This book is essential, both for serious students of this subject - as a text book there is perhaps no comparable publication - and for those who wish to acquaint themselves with the diverse and fascinating character of flora and fauna of the region. Many who are not familiar with the Bengali language, will find that the author has provided them with the English transliteration of the local names of most products (underlined in the text) so that they may use it as a reference book.

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About the Author

Haroun Er Rashid, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS) of the U.K., was educated at Karachi Grammar School, Aitchison Chiefs College and Government College in Lahore, Pakistan. He took his Tripos (B.A Honours) and M.A. in Geography from Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, U.K. in 1957 and later did another M.A., in Development Economics, from Williams College (Mass) U.S.A.

After a brief period as Lecturer at the Dacca University, he was selected to join the elite administrative group - the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1959. At the district level he worked in Mymensingh, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and at the Secretariat he was with the Planning Department. During his tenure in the districts he prepared and published his first book : East Pakistan; A Systematic Regional Geography and its Development Planning Aspects. Later while posted as Joint Secretary in the Agriculture Department, in 1967, he was deputed as Project Economist, to the World Bank in Washington DC, where he was the first civil servant to defect and join the Government of Bangladesh and also to actively organize the Liberation War efforts in the U.S.A. from March 1971 onwards.

Soon after Liberation, he went on to work for the World Bank and FAO on different projects in South-East Asia and South America. In 1978 the Government of Bangladesh again deputed him to the FAO. He worked in many countries of Asia and Africa and resided in Tanzania for two years. Since returning to Bangladesh in 1983, he has worked in various projects for the Government and for CIDA, Asian Development Bank, and UNDP on Agriculture, Food and Environmental issues. Currently he is The Team Leader, in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, for preparing 'The National Environment Management Action Programme' and is also the Resident Senior Advisor for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN - Switzerland).

Mr. Rashid is a highly regarded ornithologist and his publication titled : "Systematic List of the Birds of East Pakistan" (Asiatic Society of East Pakistan - 1967) is still the only one on this subject. He is now increasingly involved, as President, in managing POUISH - a private voluntary organization or NGO in local parlance - which is executing social forestry, coastal afforestation and fisheries projects with special emphasis on women's participation in these efforts.

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Before concluding I would like to acknowledge my debt to Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed of University Press Limited, for encouraging me to undertake this revision.

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To my parents

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The external boundaries of Bangladesh are according to the best information available and their alignment on these maps is not authoritative.