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My Bangladesh

Welcome to My Bangladesh. This note will give you the background information about the presentation on Bangladesh delivered at Valley View Elementary School's first-ever multicultural event.

I have added additional information to provide more details that couldn't be shared due to the scope and audience. I hope this will help teachers and parents gain some insights into the state of modern Bangladesh.

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AI REVIEW PASSED.

Video Presentation

Here is the video presentation shown in the Bangladesh booth hosted by multiple families from Bangladesh. The video was shown in a portrait mode monitor, but YouTube shows it in landscape mode due to the length of the video exceeding their short video limit.

You can download a highly compressed PDF version of this video presentation by clicking the download icon below.

429 days 10 hrs ago

\$20 Dr. Yunus Coin

This bronze coin, a duplicate of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Professor Muhammad Yunus, recognizes and honors his extraordinary contributions to fighting global poverty. Congress authorized the medal on October 5, 2010. It was presented to him on April 17, 2013.

The reverse side of the coin depicts a water Lily open in full bloom, rising above the water and cradling the world in its petals, symbolizing Professor Yunus' dream to end world poverty.

The design is partially framed by the inscription "BANKER TO THE POOR," a common reference to Yunus. The Bengali translation for "Let us send poverty to the museum" is inscribed on the globe.

PS: the coin we displayed was donated to the school library.

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The Little Girl with the Flowers

This little girl with the flower represents the poorest class of Bangladeshis who are forced to work in childhood due to extreme poverty. Little girls like her sell flowers, newspapers, books, and snacks to people in cars when stopped at traffic lights or traffic jams.

Amidst their poverty-stricken lives, these children exhibit a resilience that is both admirable and heart-wrenching. Like any other child's, their minds are filled with beauty and potential. When a stranger extends a kind gesture, their smiles light up, often accompanied by tears of joy or sadness.

I have personally seen these little girls and boys in the streets of Dhaka where they try to make a living by selling something to the people who can afford to own private cars, which cost an arm and a leg, as the country places an extreme tax on the ownership of private vehicles. So the rich in the car pass by these children daily. They live to live another day. You will surely encounter this heartbreaking scene in Dhaka if you keep your eyes open and look around. Most people have a way to ignore them.

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The Little Boy with the Flowers

This little boy represents the innocent children in the villages of Bangladesh who grow up with uncertain futures and still have wide eyes and dream of a better life. Their ability to get a quality education, gainful employment, or an opportunity to be a micro-entrepreneur is minimal. Yet, the dream is like any other child anywhere in the world.

While it's difficult to pinpoint an exact percentage, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, an estimated 3.4 million Bangladeshi children between the ages of 5 and 17 are engaged in various forms of child labor. This number represents around 12% of the total population of children in that age range.

These children often work in hazardous conditions, such as factories, workshops, agriculture, and domestic labor, which impacts their health, education, and overall well-being. The Bangladeshi government, NGOs, and international organizations are trying to address this issue and provide better access to education and social protection services for vulnerable children.

435 days 2 hrs ago

Dr. Yunus vs. Bangladesh Government

Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, is facing numerous legal challenges under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's administration in Bangladesh. He has been convicted of labor law violations and is dealing with many other charges, including money laundering and corruption.

Supporters claim these actions are politically motivated, meant to discredit him due to his past political ambitions and criticisms of the government. Prominent international figures have called for an end to what they see as judicial harassment.

The government, however, insists the charges are valid and that Yunus has violated labor laws, while critics argue that the judiciary is being used to target him unfairly.

Read News Articles

[Muhammad Yunus: Nobel laureate sentenced to jail in Bangladesh](#)

[PBS: Nobel Peace Prize winner defends reputation against corruption charges in Bangladesh](#)

[Why is Nobel Laureate Mohammad Yunus Alone and Alienated in Bangladesh?](#)

Dr. Yunus's Letters

These letters were written to the newspaper by Dr. Yunus and are likely to have gotten him into the crosshairs of the current administration.

[Nagorik Shakti \(First Letter\)](#)

[Nagorik Shakti \(Second Letter\)](#)

435 days 9 hrs ago

GDP Breakdown

Here is a breakdown of the major sectors contributing to Bangladesh's GDP, along with their approximate percentages:

- **Ready-made garments (RMG) and Textiles account** ~ for 11% of GDP. This sector is the largest contributor to Bangladesh's GDP and exports, accounting for over 80% of total export earnings.
- **Agriculture:** ~12.92% of GDP. Agriculture remains vital, employing 40% of the labor force and contributing through crops, horticulture, and fisheries.
- **Manufacturing and Industry (excluding RMG):** ~32.67% of GDP. This includes various manufacturing activities such as leather, pharmaceuticals, cement, etc.
- **Fisheries:** ~3.52% of GDP. The fisheries sector is essential for both GDP contribution and employment.
- **Pharmaceuticals:** ~1% of GDP. The pharmaceutical industry proliferates and meets 98% of local demand while exporting to over 150 countries.
- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT):** ~0.76% of GDP. The ICT sector is expanding, contributing to GDP through software exports and IT services.

Foreign Remittances: ~6-7% of GDP. Remittances are a crucial source of foreign exchange and support household incomes.

These percentages provide an overview of the key contributors to Bangladesh's GDP, reflecting its diverse and dynamic economy.

435 days 14 hrs ago

Ready-made garments - 12% of GDP

The ready-made garments (RMG) industry plays a pivotal role in Bangladesh's economy, significantly contributing to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Here are some key impacts of the garments industry on Bangladesh's GDP:

- **Contribution to GDP:** The RMG sector accounts for around 11.2% of Bangladesh's GDP, making it a major driving force behind the country's economic growth. In 2021, Bangladesh's GDP was approximately \$368 billion, with the RMG industry contributing \$41.3 billion in export earnings.
- **Job Creation:** The garments industry employs over 4 million people in Bangladesh, with around 60% of them being women. This employment contributes to increased consumer spending and economic activity, further boosting GDP.
- **Foreign Exchange Earnings:** The RMG sector is responsible for the majority of Bangladesh's export earnings, with 82% of the country's exports being attributed to this industry. These foreign exchange earnings help stabilize the economy and foster growth.
- **Economic Diversification:** While Bangladesh's economy remains heavily reliant on the garments industry, the sector has paved the way for the development of related industries such as textiles, accessories, and packaging, encouraging economic diversification and contributing to GDP growth.
- **Empowerment and Poverty Reduction:** The RMG industry has played a crucial role in empowering women and reducing poverty in Bangladesh. As more women join the workforce, household incomes increase, positively affecting GDP through higher consumption and investment.

Despite its significant contribution to Bangladesh's GDP, the industry faces challenges such as infrastructure bottlenecks, labor issues, and the need for more sustainable practices. Addressing these issues will be key to ensuring the continued growth of the sector and its positive impact on the country's economy.

436 days 2 hrs ago

Remittances – 6% of GDP

According to the World Bank, remittances accounted for approximately 6% of Bangladesh's GDP in 2021. The majority of these remittances come from Bangladeshis living and working abroad, primarily in the following countries:

- **Saudi Arabia:** About 23% of remittances to Bangladesh comes from migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, where many Bangladeshis are employed in the construction, service, and domestic work sectors.
- **United Arab Emirates:** The UAE hosts a large number of Bangladeshi migrant workers, who are primarily employed in construction, manufacturing, and service industries. Approximately 18% of total remittances originate from UAE.
- **United States:** Bangladeshi migrants in the US work in various fields, such as IT, engineering, healthcare, and academia. They contribute about 10% Bangladesh's remittance inflows.
- **Malaysia:** Many Bangladeshi workers are employed in Malaysia's manufacturing, construction, and service sectors. Around 8% of the total remittances come from Malaysia.
- **Kuwait:** Bangladeshi migrants in Kuwait are mainly employed in low-skilled and semi-skilled jobs, such as construction, domestic work, and service industries. Approximately 7% of the total remittances to Bangladesh come from Kuwait.

These countries account for a substantial portion of the remittances flowing into Bangladesh. Remittances play a vital role in supporting households, reducing poverty, and boosting economic growth in Bangladesh.

436 days 2 hrs ago

Peace Keeping Business

Bangladesh has a long history of participating in peacekeeping operations at the United Nations (UN). Over the past three decades, Bangladesh has emerged as the top contributor of troops to UN peacekeeping efforts, earning a reputation for professionalism, commitment, and adherence to the UN chain of command.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers, including women, serve in various roles, such as helicopter pilots, administrators, economists, police officers, and humanitarian workers.

Bangladesh benefits financially from its participation in UN peacekeeping operations. It receives approximately \$300 million annually, half of which goes directly to the soldiers. This income significantly contributes to the country's economy and supports the livelihoods of many families.

435 days 2 hrs ago

Songs Created for the Video Presentation

I created two songs for the presentation:

- Song 1: Bangladesh Bound
- Song 2: Shades of Bangladesh

428 days 4 hrs ago