

# Moving to Bangladesh: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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TELEPHONE:	Country Code 880 + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT + 6 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220 volts 50 hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Yellow Fever, Malaria, Rabies
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Feb 21, Mar 17, 26, Apr 14, May 1, 10, 12 Jun 22, 23, 26, 27, Aug 14, 15 Sept 1, 2, 3, 30 Dec 16, 25
OFFICE HOURS:	9.00am – 4.00pm Sunday – Thursday
BANK HOURS:	9.00am – 4.00pm Sunday – Thursday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Ambulance 199 Fire 9 555 555 Police 866551 3
HIGH COMMISSION UK:	High Commission for the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, London 28 Queen’s Gate, London SW7 5JA, U.K Tel : 020 7584 0081 Fax: 020 7581 7477 Email: info@bhclondon.org.uk
HIGH COMMISSION BANGLADESH:	British High Commission United Nations Road Baridhara P O Box 6079 Dhaka 1212 Tel: + (88) (02) 882 2705-9 Fax: + (88) (02) 882 3666 Web: <a href="http://ukinbangladesh.fco.gov.uk/en">http://ukinbangladesh.fco.gov.uk/en</a>
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Bangladesh Parjatan Corporatio (National Tourism Organization) 83-88, Mohakhali Commercial Area Dhaka - 1212. Tel: +880-2-8833229 Fax: +880-2-8833900 Email: info@bangladeshtourism.gov.bd Web: <a href="http://www.parjatan.gov.bd/">www.parjatan.gov.bd/</a>

## Moving to Bangladesh from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide

### Customs

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Bangladesh. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.**

#### Household Goods

Airway bill / ocean bill of lading must show owner's name in the consignee's column. This is required by customs as proof of ownership. If Airway bill / Ocean bill of lading does not show owner's name as consignee, it will lead to delay in clearance. The owner must arrive in Bangladesh before customs clearance can be effected. The shipment must be booked within sixty days of arrival of consignee in Bangladesh.

LCL shipments often take up to two weeks from arrival before they are made available for clearance by the port authority. Please plan accordingly for this delay.

#### Diplomatic Shipments

Documents Required:

- Exemption certificate issued by Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh

For issuance of exemption certificate Ministry needs:

- Airway Bill
- Original Bill of Lading
- List of items with value (invoice), Inventory list, name of vessel with bill of lading number and date, flight details with airway bill number and date

Duty free import is permitted.

Regarding alcohol import for diplomats: Diplomats can bring alcohol with HHGDS for personal consumption with the exemption certification from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- For import alcohol by Diplomatic Mission: Diplomatic mission can bring alcohol any quantity subject to exemption certification from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Applicable to the Diplomatic Mission.

Non-Diplomatic Member of the Diplomatic Mission.

High Commission, High Commissioners.

Resident Representative of the Privileged Organisation, who enjoy diplomatic status.

The household goods should not arrive prior to your arrival date.

#### Privileged Shipments

Documents Required:

- Original Passport
- Original Bill of Lading / Airway Bill

- List of contents with itemised value (invoice)
- Inventory
- Privileged Person Customs Passbook
- Baggage declaration form

Duty free import is permitted against customs passbook.

The National Board of Revenue and Customs authorities issues the passbook to the privileged persons after arrival in Bangladesh.

Applicable to expatriate employees of all UN Agencies and foreign aided projects development partners in Bangladesh.

Development partners in Bangladesh.

Consignee should complete import of personal and household goods within six months from the date of your first arrival in Bangladesh.

Applicable to the expatriate/employees of all UN Agencies and foreign aided projects.

Development partners of Bangladesh.

Consignee should complete import of personal and household goods within 6 (six) months from the date of his/ her first arrival in Bangladesh.

The household goods should not arrive prior to your arrival date.

Airway bills / Bills of Lading must show owner's name in the consignee's column. This is required by customs as proof of ownership. If Airway bills / Bills of Lading do not show owner's name as consignee, there will delays in clearance.

The owner must arrive in Bangladesh before customs clearance.

The shipment must be booked within shortest possible time after arrival of the consignee in Bangladesh.

Baggage declaration must be endorsed by the customs within seven days from the date of arrival of the consignee in Bangladesh (copy of Airway bills / Bills of Lading & Packing List must be available with passengers). If not, then a subsequent baggage declaration must have to endorse from the customs once Airway bills / Bills of Lading & packing list is available. (Customs may impose nominal fine for subsequent baggage declaration).

#### Non-Privileged Shipments

Documents Required:

- Original Airway Bill / Bill of Lading
- Original Passport of consignee
- List of items (Invoice)
- Baggage declaration Form "A"
- Transfer of residence form to be endorsed by the customs authorities. Such forms will allow non-privileged Bangladeshi nationals to get maximum tax benefit



Non privileged foreigners are not entitled to get Transfer of Residence Benefits. Bangladeshi (those who are holding dual citizen ship) are entitled to get Transfer of Residence Benefits.

Customs duty and taxes imposed on all items.

Transfer of Residence Benefits / Tax Benefits only applicable for the reasonable quantity of old and used household goods.

Allowed to import any type of household goods subject to payment of customs duties and taxes.

In order to get maximum tax benefit, Bangladeshi nationals need a transfer of residence certificate from the Bangladesh High Commission abroad.

Baggage declaration form "A" is available at Dhaka customs airfreight unit. You would have to obtain the same after arrival at Dhaka airport and hold the copy duly signed and sealed by the customs officials.

For foreign nationals a work permit from the Board of Investment and other relevant ministry to prove themselves as assigned in Bangladesh.

The household goods should not arrive prior to your arrival date.

### Automobiles

Same documents required as for personal effects, except that in place of list of contents you must provide an invoice, or, in the case of a used automobile a previous registration paper or ownership certificate a certificate of de-registration required to attaché with all shipping documents in order to determine the age of the vehicle.

Customs duty and taxes including advance trade VAT will be charged on the assessable value of the vehicle.

Customs duty and taxes exempted if the vehicle imported by the privileged person or diplomatic person.

Automobiles over five years old will not be allowed to be imported.

Non privileged person ( Foreigner) are allowed to import vehicle subject to import permission from the Chief Controller of Import & Export on payment of applicable customs duty and taxes.

Vehicles more than five years old cannot be imported into Bangladesh as per Import Policy Order 2015-2018.

Vehicle will not enjoy any transfer of residence benefits rather than benefits stated in the recondition car import rules.

### Domestic Pets

Documents Required:

- Veterinary / Health Certificate
- Rabies vaccination certificate

- Prior permission from the Director of livestock, Government of Bangladesh

Importation of domestic pets like dogs and cats are allowed. Duty applicable or not applicable depending on the consignee status.

Health certificate and rabies vaccination certificates from its origin required to obtain "No objection Certificate" from the Department of Livestock in Bangladesh prior to arrival of pets.

LAR (Live Animal Regulations) has to be maintained.

### Prohibited Items

- Drugs, narcotics
- Gold Bullion
- Obscene and subversive literature
- Firearms, ammunitions
- Sanitary fittings and other construction materials in commercial quantity
- Gambling instruments

### Restricted Items

Office furniture, stationery and machinery are considered commercial cargo and should never be mixed with household goods. The importation of commercial cargo is very complex and will delay the import of house hold effects.

### Food

We strongly recommend that shippers be advised not to ship any commercially prepared and purchased food product with your unaccompanied personal goods.

This includes: wines, spirits, beer, cider, spices, herbs, canned packed or wrapped foods, pet food, pastas, rice, food supplements, vitamins, fruit juices, carbonated / non carbonated drinks, milk, perishable foods, dry foods and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

If the shipper insists on shipping food items, the specified information below must be gathered and provided for each food item imported. If the information is not provided, the food items may face refusal of entry, requiring segregation / manipulation of the shipment under customs supervision at a bonded facility, at substantial additional cost. Costs could be in the thousands of dollars and can not be anticipated. These costs will be the responsibility of the client.

- Product brand name
- Product classification
- Country of production
- Country of packaging
- Type of product (canned, bottled, packaged)
- Quantity

Ask for **Abels form QF565** for completing.



## General Information on People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Background

Muslim conversions and settlement in the region now referred to as Bangladesh began in the 10th century, primarily from Arab and Persian traders and preachers. Europeans established trading posts in the area in the 16th century. Eventually the area known as Bengal, primarily Hindu in the western section and mostly Muslim in the eastern half, became part of British India. Partition in 1947 resulted in an eastern wing of Pakistan in the Muslim-majority area, which became East Pakistan. Calls for greater autonomy and animosity between the eastern and western wings of Pakistan led to a Bengali independence movement. That movement, led by the Awami League (AL) and supported by India, won the independence war for Bangladesh in 1971, during which at least 300,000 civilians died.

The post-independence AL government faced daunting challenges and in 1975 was overthrown by the military, triggering a series of military coups that resulted in a military-backed government and subsequent creation of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in 1978. That government also ended in a coup in 1981, followed by military-backed rule until democratic elections occurred in 1991. The BNP and AL alternated in power between 1991 and 2013, with the exception of a military-backed, emergency caretaker regime that suspended parliamentary elections planned for January 2007 in an effort to reform the political system and root out corruption. That government returned the country to fully democratic rule in December 2008 with the election of the AL and Prime Minister Sheikh HASINA. In January 2014, the incumbent AL won the national election by an overwhelming majority after the BNP boycotted, extending HASINA's term as prime minister. With the help of international development assistance, Bangladesh has reduced the poverty rate from over half of the population to less than a third, achieved Millennium Development Goals for maternal and child health, and made great progress in food security since independence. The economy has grown at an annual average of about 6% over the last two decades and the country reached World Bank lower-middle income status in 2015.

### Geography

Bangladesh is located in Southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and India.

Most of the country is situated on deltas of large rivers flowing from the Himalayas. The Ganges unites with the Jamuna (main channel of the Brahmaputra) and later joins the Meghna to eventually empty into the Bay of Bengal.

### Climate

Tropical. Mild winter (October to March), hot humid summer (March to June). Humid warm rainy monsoon (June to October).

### Population

Estimated at 147,365,000.

### Environmental Issues

Many people are landless and forced to live on and cultivate flood-prone land. Water borne diseases are prevalent in surface water. Water pollution exists especially in fishing areas, results from the use of commercial pesticides. Ground water is contaminated by naturally occurring arsenic. Intermittent water shortages because of falling water tables in the northern and central parts of the country. There is soil degradation and erosion, deforestation and severe overpopulation.

### Currency

The currency is called Taka (BDT) In 2011, Bangladesh Bank began issuing a new series of banknotes denominated in 2, 5, 100, 500, and 1000-taka. All are dated 2011 and feature a portrait and watermark of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along the National Martyr's Monument in Savar at center front.

### Economy

Bangladesh's economy has grown roughly 6% per year since 1996 despite political instability, poor infrastructure, corruption, insufficient power supplies, slow implementation of economic reforms, and the 2008-09 global financial crisis and recession. Although more than half of GDP is generated through the services sector, almost half of Bangladeshis are employed in the agriculture sector, with rice as the single-most-important product.

Garment exports, the backbone of Bangladesh's industrial sector, accounted for more than 80% of total exports and surpassed \$25 billion in 2015. The sector continues to grow, despite a series of factory accidents that have killed more than 1,000 workers, and crippling strikes, including a nationwide transportation blockade implemented by the political opposition during the first several months of 2015. Steady garment export growth combined with remittances from overseas Bangladeshis - which totaled about \$15 billion and 8% of GDP in 2015 - are the largest contributors to Bangladesh's sustained economic growth and rising foreign exchange reserves.

### Education

The education system is divided into 4 levels: Primary (from ages 1 to 5), Secondary (from ages 6 to 10), Higher Secondary (from ages 11 to 12), and tertiary. Alongside national educating system, English medium education is also provided by some private enterprises. They offer 'A' level and 'O' level courses. There is also Madrasa system which emphasizes on Arabic medium Islam-based education. This system is supervised by the lone Madrasa Board of the country.

### Religion

Muslim 83%, Hindu 16% other 1%.

## Health

Health facilities are not the best in the world in Bangladesh and it is recommended that you take all common sense precautions whilst in the country.

It is recommended to take a good comprehensive medical insurance. Bangladesh may not have the best medical facilities but they do have some very talented and highly qualified physicians.

A yellow fever certificate is required of ALL persons (including infants) arriving by air or sea within six days of departure from an infected area, or a country with infection in any part, or a country where the WHO judges yellow fever to be endemic or present, or has been in such an area in transit or has come by an aircraft which has come from such an area and has not been properly disinfected. Those arriving without a required certificate will be detained in quarantine for six days.

Following WHO guidelines issued in 1973 a cholera vaccination certificate is no longer a condition of entry to Bangladesh. However, cholera is a serious risk in this country and precautions are essential. Up to date advice should be sought before deciding whether these precautions should include vaccination as medical opinion is divided over its effectiveness.

Malaria risks exist throughout the year in the whole country with the exception of Dhaka City. The malignant falciparum form is reported to be highly resistant to Chloroquine and resistant to sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine. Seek advice on recommended prophylaxis at least one month before travelling.

All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated. Water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should have first been boiled or otherwise sterilized. Milk is unpasturised and should be boiled. Powdered or tinned milk is available and is advised, but make sure that it is reconstituted with pure water. Avoid all dairy products. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*