

BANGLADESH : FLOODING

USE **P** TO INDICATE A
PHYSICAL CAUSE

CAUSES

USE **H** TO INDICATE A
HUMAN CAUSE

HIMALAYAS

Spring / summer snow
/ ice melt increases
the river discharge

DEFORESTATION

In northern
Bangladesh and Nepal.
Causes less
interception and more
overland flow

EROSION

Of bare surfaces adds silt
and sediment to rivers.
Making inefficient channel
forms

MONSOON CLIMATE

Heavy annual total
rainfall of 2000 – 5000
mm. 80-90% falls in the
summer months.
Saturated soils / rocks
give more overland
flow

3 RIVERS

Converge on the Delta. Ganges,
Brahmaputra and Meghna

RIVER REGIMES

All 3 rivers have a
variable regime with
a summer / late
summer peak

LOW LYING

Bangladesh is flat and
low lying. 70% is below
1 m in height. 80% is
flood plain. In normal
years 25% of the land
is flooded



URBANISATION

Bangladesh is a very
densely populated country
and is particularly urbanised
around the capital city
Dhaka. This covers the
surfaces and gives more
overland flow

HYDRO-POLITICS

Dams and schemes in
other countries eg Farakka
Dam / Barrage in India
may cause downstream
problems

TROPICAL CYCLONES (COASTAL FLOODS)

Very low pressure and
strong winds cause a
storm surge and very
high tides (+7m)
Heavy rainfall (summer /
autumn is the cyclone
season) coincides with
river floods
Bay of Bengal is funnel
shaped and concentrates
water to the north

DELTA

The country is mostly the
flat delta of 3 rivers. 10% of
the country is rivers, lakes
and swamp
Distributaries, braided and
meandering streams are
inefficient channels,
unstable and ever changing

WATER CONTROL

Embankment and dam
failures may make
downstream problems
worse

GLOBAL WARMING

Emissions of CO₂ and other
gases increases the
Greenhouse effect, leads to
Global Warming and sea
level rises