

Civil society climate movements in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is largely part of the past and present global **climate movement**. Bangladeshi civil society is taking to the streets for more environmental protection and climate justice. Large and small NGOs and individuals are making an important impact. Especially in Bangladesh, a strong and widespread environmental movement is needed to be able to mitigate the consequences of climate change.



The climate movement started in Bangladesh in the 1980s

The environmental movement in Bangladesh began in the 1980s and grew in popularity in the 1990s. Many Bangladeshi environmental pioneers came together under the organisation Paribash Rakkha Shopoth (PRS). Bangladeshi people living abroad also united. In 1998, they formed an organisation called Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN). In January 2000, an International Conference on Bangladesh Environment (ICBEN) was organised on the initiative of PRS, BEN and other environmental organisations. The aim of this conference was to unite all organisations working in the field of environment. The Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) and the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) are now the two leading organisations working to improve environmental standards.

The achievements of the Bangladeshi climate movement

Slogans like "Save Environment", "Save Rivers" and "Work for Better Bangladesh" led the movement. They used them to achieve, for example, the introduction of unleaded petrol, the banning of two-stroke vehicles and polythene products, the passing of the Water Reservoir Protection Act and the Brick Kiln Construction Act, and they also formed a commission for rivers. To reach out to more people, various political parties, professionals, social, cultural and sports organisations were called to join the movement as well. At the moment various environmental groups like the National Oil, Gas and Electricity Conservation Committee or the National Sundarbans Conservation Committee are trying to oppose the construction of the coal-fired power plant at Rampal near the Sundarbans. They are trying to get the government to change its decision on the construction.

Additional information for your short presentation

To give you an idea of the diversity of Bangladeshi climate activists, we have brought you some Twitter profiles of Bangladeshi activists. You can also find the profile of Fridays for Future Bangladesh. Have a look at the profiles and read the most interesting posts. Afterwards, you can share in plenary what you find most interesting. Pay special attention to what seems familiar to you from activists in Germany and what is completely new to you.

1. Twitter of Ruhul Amin Rabby: <https://twitter.com/ruhulaminrabby>
2. Twitter of Maanvinder Pilia: <https://twitter.com/MaanvinderP>
3. Twitter of Abhishek Pandey: <https://twitter.com/realabhipandey1>
4. Twitter of Alifa Zibrani: <https://twitter.com/AlifaZibrani>
5. Twitter of Knachi Kohli: <https://twitter.com/kanchikohli>
6. Twitter of FFF Bangladesh: <https://twitter.com/FFFInBD>

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