



## BANGLA SUMMER INSTITUTE 2008 LOGISTICAL NUTS AND BOLTS

Welcome to the Bangla Summer Institute 2008! This little guide provides some useful information:

- some background about Bangladesh
- tips about inoculations and healthy living in Dhaka,
- key telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, and
- a few suggestions what to pack as you prepare for the summer program in Dhaka.

**Some Facts about Bangladesh:** For a comprehensive overview of Bangladeshi history, society, economy, politics, international relations, see <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3452.htm>

Official Name:	The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Area:	144,000 square kilometers (of which 10,000 sq km are rivers and lakes) = 51,000 square miles: roughly the area of Louisiana.
Population:	147,365,352; 9 <sup>th</sup> most populous (and most densely populated) in the world.
People:	Banglas 98%, Biharis 1%, "tribals" 1%.
Languages:	Bangla, English widely spoken among educated elites, Arabic used in many Muslim homes.
Major Urban Centers:	Dhaka (8,950,000 city), Chittagong (2,600,000), Khulna (1,215,000).
Monetary Unit	Taka (abbreviated BDT); On April 12, 2006, US\$1 = BDT 69.
Religions:	Islam (83%), Hinduism (16%), Buddhism, Christianity, and other (1%).
Products:	jute, rice, wheat, tea, forestry products.
Industries:	textiles, garments, jute products.
Climate:	subtropical monsoon; wide seasonal variations in rainfall; generally warm and quite humid; climate uniform throughout country.
Geography:	deltaic plain. Chittagong Hills in Southeast, low hills in northeast, modest elevations in north and northwest highlands.

**Air Travel:** Now that we have received final confirmation of your participation in BSI 2008, we will begin to arrange air travel from your designated starting place on 05 June to Washington, DC, for orientation on 06 June. You will depart for London 07 June on 08 June and on to Dhaka

on 08 June, arriving early morning 09 June. At present we plan to use United Airlines from Washington and British Airways from London to Dhaka. We will meet you at the airport in Dhaka, then transport you to your accommodations on the campus of International University, Bangladesh, get you fed and rested, and then later that afternoon, introduce you to your faculty and begin your first Bangla lessons.

**Post-Program Travel:** You will have the opportunity to travel after the program if you so desire, but your departure point will remain Dhaka. More information about the travel arrangements will be forthcoming, but we will use the CAORC-designated agent.

**Orientation:** Orientation will be conducted in Washington, DC, on Friday 06 June, with a special evening meal. The US Department of State will conduct much of the session, but the BSI will likewise offer small group sessions targeted to our group exclusively. Saturday 07 June will be free for last minute shopping, sightseeing, and relaxing, with a late afternoon departure from Dulles International Airport. The host hotel for the orientation will be indicated with your travel information, but most likely the L'Enfant Plaza which is close by the CAORC operations center.

**In Country Orientation:** We will begin our in-country orientation with your first class on Monday afternoon 09 June. For the next three days (Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday), we will conduct a crash course in “instant” or “survival” Bangla for all students, giving new students basic language expressions to get around Dhaka right away; for intermediate students it will serve as a quick review. We will also address basic topics, such as dress, discerning safe food on the streets, and gender issues, especially deportment. Director Tony K Stewart will handle the introductory orientation, then turn the matters over to former BSI graduate and now Fulbright Fellow Jennifer McFadden and BSI Head Instructor Ms Farrah Naz Sattar. During the period Ms Sattar and other faculty will conduct placement testing to determine more precisely the accomplishments and needs of all students in the language, from those who have no prior knowledge (a very short test indeed!) to those who have studied more extensively. As part of the orientation the Regional Security Officer from the US Embassy will talk to the group about the political situation in Dhaka and issues of safety and security (all students will register at the Embassy, which is only a few blocks away). BSI Resident Director Stewart will arrange lectures on significant issues of Bangladeshi religion and culture during the first two weeks to better prepare you for local outings and site visits.

**Classrooms:** Our classes will be held in BSI-dedicated classroom space at 66 Park Road, Flat 4-A, in Baridhara on the campus of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). The fully air-conditioned space contains two fully equipped small classrooms, a listening lab, offices and lounge space. The classrooms are very close by the residences, which are 3-bedroom flats scattered in apartment buildings nearby.

**Classes:** Classes will meet daily Sunday-Thursday (being a country of predominately Muslim population, Friday is rest day and Saturday is your day off). Classes start at 9:00 a.m. sharp (please allow time to reach your classrooms before the beginning of class); afternoons will be given over to drills, outings, and lectures. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken regularly—this is part of your contract agreement by accepting the grant (in this sense it is unlike university where you can skip); absence for cause, such as illness, is not problematic, but unexcused

absences may result in the forfeiture of your fellowship and return to the US. Clearly, given your level of interest and prior performance we do not anticipate the latter. The general syllabus will outline the summer's expectation with detailed syllabi and outing schedules provided at the beginning of each week. The first class period every Sunday morning will be given over to examination. Grades will be awarded for the course (the equivalent of one academic year's study). The US State Department does not issue credit, since the programs are so diverse and they are not an accredited educational agency. You will however be provided with a transcript that will allow you to seek credit in your home institution on a case-by-case basis, which we have done successfully in the past for those who have requested it.

**Outings and Lectures:** In addition to language instruction, you will be treated to a rich schedule of cultural performances and lectures on various aspects of Bangladesh life and culture. Subject to prevailing conditions (it will be the monsoon, after all), we are planning two substantial field trips outside Dhaka to introduce you to some of the variety of Bangladesh's natural and cultural landscape: possible destinations (yet to be determined) are Chittagong, Sylhet, and Bogra/Paharpur. These are subject to revision depending on weather and other conditions.

**Textbooks: Beginning Students.** We will be using *Teach Yourself Bengali* by William Radice of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, with supplemental materials developed by our staff and by Radice's primary lector, Dr. Hanne Ruth Thompson, including her *Essential Everyday Bengali* text published in Dhaka at the Bangla Academy. YOU MUST PURCHASE YOUR OWN TYB TEXTBOOK PRIOR TO DEPARTURE AND TEACH YOURSELF THE SCRIPT AS FAR AS YOU CAN. This will hasten your entry into the active use of the language. This constitutes the first 13 chapters of TYB; we will review those when you arrive, but failure to learn the basics of the script will hold back you and the rest of the class. PLEASE NOTE THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE YOU NEED TO PURCHASE THE SECOND EDITION OF TYB (due to be released in the US in early May 2008). This version has emendations and additional vocabulary provided by Hanne Ruth Thompson. All editions come with two CDs as well, which you should also bring with you. We will supply each of you a copy of Thompson's *Essential Everyday Bengali*.

**Textbooks: Intermediate Students.** The BSI will supply all materials you need.

**Guides and other information:** We do NOT recommend *The Lonely Planet Guidebook to Bangladesh*; it is of limited value for our purposes and unfortunately fairly out of date (unless a new edition has just miraculously appeared). It is useful for getting a vague sense of the country, especially where historical monuments are involved. But overall, you will be far better served to spend time on the web looking at maps, etc. Remember that the audience for *The Lonely Planet* tends to be backpackers who, in this part of the world, tend (at the risk of stereotyping) to be extremely insensitive to local cultural norms. For instance, suggestions on how and where to buy drugs, etc., hardly constitute the kind of information the BSI and US State Department find appropriate for students who are visiting Bangladesh to study—you are guests of the country and cultural ambassadors in addition to being students. Unfortunately other guides tend to be aimed at the rich, but there are increasing numbers of on-line resources, most recently the very important and highly recommended *BANGLAPEDIA*, which was a collaboration of the Asiatic

Society of Bangladesh and *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

**Preparatory Reading:** We will be sending you a list of articles and topics to read prior to orientation in Washington, but encourage you to start browsing Banglapedia on-line. You will also be expected to read material in English and Bangla from time to time in order to prepare yourself for the outings and to develop a sense of Bangladeshi literary and cultural history. These will be required readings.

**Meals:** While you are in Dhaka, the staff of IUB will provide breakfast and dinner Saturday through Thursday; on Friday you will be on your own. You will be responsible for lunch each day. There are numerous restaurants, everything from fast food to elegant dining with easy distance of your accommodations. There are numerous supermarkets (replete with bar code scanners, etc.) and smaller grocery stores, sweet shops, etc. We will provide you with a guide.

**Housing:** Students will be distributed among four separate lodgings that are in close proximity within the Baridhara Residential Area. All are adjacent to Independent University, Bangladesh, where we will hold our classes. Your housing will also include regular laundry service (special handling items you must do yourself or take to a dry cleaner), all linens and towels, and regular cleaning.

**Living space:** Our dormitory residences are converted air conditioned flats with single and double bedrooms, common space with couches, chairs, and tables, and a working kitchen for the occasional snack or breakfast you may want to prepare, including a dispenser for potable water (never drink from the tap, please! In the event a dispense is not available, bottled water will be). Each common area will be equipped with a television and DVD player, a desktop computer with broadband connection, and you will have access to a common printer. We will have reliable wireless connections in each living space, so those of you with laptops should not hesitate to bring them along.

**Technology and support:** While the level of technology and technology support in our facilities on the IUB campus is extremely good (for some of you, better accommodations than you will have had on your own campus), do not assume that things will work as flawlessly as they do in the US. Every resource in Bangladesh is strained to the limit and that includes the available technologies. Cell phones will work—but occasionally the network will be jammed from too many calls. Internet will work—but often during the day the volume of traffic exceeds the bandwidth, even for a resource-rich environment such as IUB, slowing to a crawl or even stopping altogether such routine activities as email. The electricity will stay on most of the time—but even though we are in the diplomatic enclave of Baridhara in posh north Dhaka, the electricity will go out from time to time, especially during the hot season (May-June) and monsoon (June-September). We have emergency battery supply to ensure that one fan and one light runs for every room during power outages (called “load shedding”), but even those are not fool proof. We will have a mechanism in place for reporting maintenance and technology problems, which will then be vetted each day. Generally we expect smooth sailing and have experience very few glitches during our stays, but do remember where you are.

**Weekly stipend:** You will receive a weekly stipend in the amount of Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)

6000/week (approx. \$85). US \$1.00 = approx. 69 BDT. This amount is more than sufficient to cover lunches, local transport, clothing, incidentals, meals out, and can probably cover a number of souvenirs and gifts as well.

**Cell phones:** Each student will be issued a cell phone for use while in the program; the cell phone must be returned at the end of the program (you may keep the sim card). The phones are set up for international calling (dialing and receiving), as well as local calling. Topping up the sim card will be the responsibility of each individual student. The cell phone is a very practical instrument for coordination and safety—you must keep it with you at all times. Lost cell phones will be subject to a replacement fee.

**Skype:** A number of students have discovered that Skype works very well through the IUB campus network. You might want to consider bringing along a set of headphones and downloading the software (and making sure you know how to use it before coming).

**Banking:** If you wish to have additional cash available, there are any number of places that will exchange cash (\$100 bills are best) and traveler's checks (American Express is recognized everywhere). HSBC Bank and Standard-Chartered Bank will work with international ATM cards of the usual varieties (e.g., Plus, Star, Interlink, Cirrus, etc.); other ATMs are for local bank accounts only and will not work for foreign accounts. Just as you have in the US, there are minor restrictions on the amounts you can withdraw in a single transaction and in any 24-hour period. But the limits are generous, so you will probably never test them. You are only allowed to bring the equivalent of \$10,000 or £5000 currency into the country without declaring it: I strongly recommend that you avoid this approach. We have, in the last two years several students managed the entire program without spending their own money; most others found it was gift-buying where they needed the extra cash. The Director recommends the ATM card as the best way to go; you get the best exchange rates and it is easy and safe.

**Shopping:** Dhaka shopping will afford you most anything you want: abundant high quality textiles, including outlets carrying clothing destined for the European and American markets but at substantially reduced rates, leather goods, eyeglasses, and a variety of handicrafts. Manufactured goods are readily available (DVDs, etc.) and supermarkets with imported food stuffs to cater to your whims are likewise now widespread. Head Instructor Farrah Sattar and her staff will take students shopping as part of the language-training during the first few days, but in addition we will provide a guide book prepared by the Dhaka American Women's Club, a kind of "yellow pages" with extensive and up-to-date information for just about anything you might want or need to purchase or find in Dhaka. We will also provide maps of the city.

**Transport:** You will be transported by bus or microbus (=minivan) to and from all group events. When you are on your own, you can call upon cycle rickshaws for short excursions, CNG three-wheelers which are open taxis which can hold 2-3 people for short and medium excursions, public buses of various sizes, and regular taxis. We will give you an orientation for transport and what to watch for as you get used to the city. The good news is that pollution from vehicles has dropped dramatically as a result of conversion to natural gas for all public vehicles. This is a welcome relief from days past.

**Passport and other valuables:** Because cleaning crews will be routinely entering your living spaces, we will provide a proper safe for the (voluntary) storage of your passports, which you will seldom need after your arrival. We do not recommend that you bring any other portable valuables, save cameras and computers, which are easily and safely stored in your rooms in locked cabinets. Expensive jewelry is not appropriate; but you will discover that jewelry of all sorts is easily available in the markets and as a rule much more appropriate to the local clothing styles for women (salwar chemise), which most of you will be encouraged to adopt.

**Snail Mail:** Should anyone need an address to receive snail mail, please use the following:

Student name  
Bangla Summer Institute  
Independent University, Bangladesh  
58, Park Road  
Baridhara Residential Area  
Dhaka 1212  
Bangladesh.

We do not recommend that parents or friends send anything other than letters via the mail. If you must have something imported (special medication, etc.) please consult with the Director first to see if the item is available locally. FedEx, UPS, and other courier services are available—but importing any item (e.g., a power supply for a MacBook) may cost you duty, which is often highly variable according to the individual who happens to process your delivery. But for most items, count on being able to procure them locally.

**Medical Insurance:** As you already know, you are strongly encouraged to have primary health coverage. The US Department of State augments your insurance with a supplemental medical and medivac policy. Finally, we at BSI have opted for an additional backup medivac and major medical coverage for each student through specialty risk International travel insurance. You will receive follow-up information on this policy during the orientation in Washington. I might also reiterate that in Dhaka we are fortunate to have the Apollo Hospital in nearby Bashundhara City, a state-of-the-art facility for any illness that might be considered major; see website <http://www.apollodhaka.com/>. For minor ailments, immunizations, etc., we utilize local physician, Dr. M. A. Wahab, an established doctor with full labs, etc., just down the street from your classroom on Road 12. Director Stewart or other designated individual will be on call 24 hours per day with those phone numbers pre-programmed into your cell phones.

**Immunizations:** Because we are not an authorized health agency, we cannot advise you strictly on what immunizations you should have. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offer extensive and up-to-date health information for travel to Bangladesh at the following website; <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/regionSouthAsia.aspx>. However, our experience has shown that basic immunizations for traveling anywhere in Asia are applicable for Bangladesh. There is a very informative website called MDTravelHealth.com with recommended immunizations listed: <http://www.mdtravelhealth.com/destinations/asia/bangladesh.html>. Please note that bird flu has

been found in remote areas of Bangladesh last year, but no new cases of recent origin; all regular precautions regarding consumption of poultry will be followed. Common sense here is the rule.

**Malaria Prophylaxis:** Please note that the MDTravelHealth website recommends, as does our own Dr. Wahab and other local doctors, that you do not take the anti-malaria prophylaxis (of any sort) when you are in Dhaka because malaria is not endemic to Dhaka. For this reason, we also recommend that you do not spend the money on anti-malarial drugs in the US because of the exorbitant expense; all useable and safe drugs for resisting malaria are available very inexpensively in Dhaka—and we monitor the need closely. Because our trips outside of Dhaka are very short, it is unlikely you will need the protection at all. If we feel you do, we will advise and make proper arrangements on site.

### **While in Bangladesh**

#### **Do:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or, if hands are not visibly soiled, use a waterless, alcohol-based hand rub to remove potentially infectious materials from your skin and to help prevent disease transmission.
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles; hot tea and hot coffee are generally fine because of the boiled water and the acid in the drink.
- Eat fruits that have skins intact; never eat on the street fruits that have already been sliced because they are generally sprinkled with water to keep them fresh.
- Keep your feet clean and dry to prevent fungal and parasitic infections; and don't go barefoot even on beaches (which we may do if we visit Cox's Bazaar).
- Protect yourself from mosquito and other insect bites (in apartment protection will be available).

#### **Never:**

- Drink tap water, fountain drinks, ice cubes unless you are confident of the source.
- Eat food purchased from street vendors or food that is not well/fully cooked.
- Drink beverages with ice.
- Eat or drink dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Swim in fresh water to avoid exposure to certain serious water-borne diseases.
- Handle or play with animals – especially monkeys, dogs, and cats – to avoid serious diseases (including rabies).
- Share needles for tattoos, body piercing or injections.

All of these items, as well as additional information regarding personal dress, public and private decorum, interaction between the sexes, crowds, etc., will be addressed in the orientation upon your arrival in Dhaka as well as periodically.

**Packing tips:** Take only what you absolutely need; pack only what you can carry. Consider packing in a large, sturdy backpack. Carry valuables, prescription medicines, etc. on your person/in your carry-on bag. Do not put them in checked luggage. Do not bring expensive/irreplaceable jewelry.

**Baggage restrictions:** As many of you know, baggage restrictions have changed (and continue to change regularly) on domestic and international flights. But do be aware that the privileges to which you are accustomed on American flights do not extend internationally. In a nutshell, here is what to consider:

- *Number of bags.* If you are flying directly from the US to another country, or directly to the US from another country, airlines acknowledge the US policy of two checked bags. If you break your journey, however, you will be subject to the international standard, which is one checked bag in coach class. For additional bags, the fees vary from airline to airline, but expect at least \$200-250 per extra bag if you break your flight. You will also discover that there is no negotiation on this issue.
- *Weight restrictions.* Almost everyone worldwide has now adopted at 50 lb or the slightly less 22 kg limit per bag. Again, overweight is subject to hefty penalties and you should not expect leniency.
- *Carry-on bag.* The smart thing to do is carry a single bag on board. Your purse counts as a single bag, your computer bag counts as a single bag. At present United allows two carry-ons (one personal, one business, such as a computer bag). BA has not allowed this until a few weeks ago, but this is subject to change—the easiest way is to consolidate into a single small bag. Please check the appropriate airlines immediately before departing to see if these restrictions have changed. You do not want to reach London and discover that you will have to check that second carry-on.

**Prescription Medicines:** Take your necessary medications, especially if they are recently developed pharmaceuticals. Bring a copy of your prescription with you for easier replacement by local doctors; pharmaceuticals are relatively inexpensive.

**Prescription glasses:** Best to bring a copy of your prescription if it is easily available. But replacement glasses are quick and easy and very professionally done. If you don't have your prescription, we can get an eye test in Dhaka or take the prescription from your existing pair, even if damaged.

**Other medications and personal products:** If you have special soaps and cleansers, or special shampoos, you might consider bringing enough for the entire time, but all standard manufactured brands found in Europe and Asia, as well as many in America, are easily available. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, skin soaps, shampoos in a myriad of combinations are available. So we do not recommend that you burden your packing with such items. Women should please note, however, that while feminine hygiene pads are easily and widely available at every corner market as well as grocery store, tampons are harder to come by, though available from different sources occasionally.

**Clothing:** Dress comfortably and modestly in Bangladesh. What passes for standard dress on most US university campuses is a little too casual for Bangladesh.

- **Modesty:** Women should wear long, loose skirts or slacks, and blouses should not be tight, clingy, or revealing. Because you are from America, you can wear jeans or slacks, but again modesty is order.
- Men and women should not wear shorts in public, though you can in Baridhara, the area of our housing and classes, largely because there are other foreigners present.

- Take wash-and-wear clothing; all cotton or blends that are mostly cotton are more comfortable than synthetics.
- Take clothing that fits well and that you like; but don't take too much. A tailor can use an item of your clothing as a pattern, and sew a new garment in a fabric of your choice.
- Ready-made local clothing is easily available and inexpensive. Please note that shopping for proper clothing is part of the language instruction; your teachers will take you at first.
- You may want to buy some traditional clothing, esp. salwar-chemise for women.
- T-shirts for women are not advised, though loose fitting T-tops are acceptable.
- Sandals in more varieties than you can imagine are easily available and inexpensive—but women, do take note that it is difficult to find a woman's sandal much larger than US size 7.

**For travel:** Keep valuables in a neck bag or other bag that can be secured in your carryon.

- Passport, Plane Tickets, Traveler's Cheques, Extra Cash, Yellow Health Card, Health Insurance Cards; just remember that you will need easy access to your passport and itinerary in airports.
- Any special Emergency medical information (e.g., allergies to medications)
- Copies of prescriptions from your US doctor.
- We do not recommend money belts because they are too cumbersome.

**Other travel precautions:** In another safe place (separate from your money belt/neck bag), keep:

- Extra Passport Photos (though we can get those made quickly in Dhaka)
- Photocopies of your Passport and visa (also leave one set at home)
- Photocopies of your air itinerary (also leave a copy at home)
- Traveler's Check receipts/numbers

**Electronics:** Just about everyone you can want is available, though Macs are not as well serviced. Cameras, flashlights, plus adaptors (each bedroom is equipped with adaptor power strips), and all other small appliances are available and inexpensive (so buy a hair dryer in Dhaka).

**Program Course Advisor:** Dr. Rebecca Manring, Associate Professor of India Studies at Indiana University will be resident for the month of July to work with the faculty and students of BSI. Prof. Manring, who is a specialist in language pedagogy, will also participate in many of the activities of the group. She teaches Sanskrit and formerly taught Hindi at IU, but Bangla is her special research interest. She knows Russian, French, German, and has formally studied Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Old Church Slavic, Latin, Spanish, Urdu, Cornish, Colville. In her Bangla-based research, she has worked on the Gaudiya Vaisnava traditions, her recent book titled *Reconstructing Tradition: Advaitacarya and Gaudiya Vaisnavism at the Cusp of the Twentieth Century* (New York: Columbia, 2005), which is a study of the biographical corpus of sixteenth century *guru* Advaitacarya and the impact this has had on the community. She has also worked extensively with Bangla and Sanskrit manuscripts. She has lived and worked in Kolkata and Dhaka for a number of years doing research and we are very pleased to have her expertise available. She will be staying at TeeKaySadon on Road 11 in Baridhara. Rebecca's phone number in Dhaka is +880 172 010 6508. This will be programmed into your Dhaka cell phone.

**Director:** Your BSI 2008 Resident Director is Dr. Tony K Stewart, Professor of South Asian Religions and Literatures at North Carolina State University. Stewart is a Bangla language-area specialist trained at the University of Chicago (PhD 1986) and has worked in the Bangla-speaking world for more than thirty years, both in Kolkata and Dhaka. He is the founder of the Bangla Summer Institute, founder and former Chair of the Board of the South Asia Summer Language Institute held at the University of Wisconsin each year, and founder and seventeen-year Director of the North Carolina Center for South Asia Studies (NCSU, UNC-CH, and Duke). He has spent most of his professional life exploring the nature of religion and literature in Hindu and Islamic communities of Bengal, most recently looking at the way the two communities share linguistic, social, and physical space. His most recent book is titled *Fabulous Females and Peerless Pirs: Tales of Mad Adventure in Old Bengal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), translations of stories of women who find themselves totally compromised by the stupid decisions made by the men around them and how they must, in turn, set the world straight. Some of you interested in the linguistic dimension of religious syncretism might enjoy looking at his essay titled "In Search of Equivalence: Conceiving Hindu-Muslim Encounter through Translation Theory," *History of Religions* 40, no. 3 (Winter 2001): 261-88, anthologized in *India's Islamic Traditions: 711-1750*, edited by Richard Eaton (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003), 363-92. He is currently working on a volume of connected essays tentatively titled *Narrativizing Encounter: Muslims and Hindus in Premodern Bengal*. For those inclined, the Director will be available to share these and other works on medieval Bangla texts and communities, including translations of significant Hindu and Islamic works (e.g., editing of Edward C. Dimock's translation of *Caitanya Caritamrta of Krsnadasa Kaviraja*, Harvard Oriental Series no. 56 [Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1999]), and a bilingual edition and translation of Rabindranath Tagore (*The Lover of God*, with Chase Twichell [Port Townsend: Copper Canyon Press, 2003]). But your job this summer is to learn Bangla and his to ensure that you are able to do so, to oversee the program, and guarantee that everything runs smoothly. While he will lecture occasionally on topics germane to religion and literature, coordinate the outings, and handle logistical details, do not expect him to be present in your classroom or necessarily accompany you on the short trips around town-that is the domain and responsibility of our head teacher Farrah Sattar and her staff. However invisible he may be, do remember that he is always available and expects to get to know each of you during the summer.

**Contact:** If you have questions prior to departure, Director Stewart will be happy to try to answer them. His US-based contact information is:

Tony K Stewart  
Professor of South Asian Religions & Literatures  
North Carolina State University  
ph. 919.515.6335 (o)  
alternate email: [tony\\_stewart@ncsu.edu](mailto:tony_stewart@ncsu.edu) (but probably better to use the one below)

*in Dhaka it is:*

Tony K. Stewart, BSI Director  
*TeeKaySadan*  
House 23, House 11, Flat 3-B

Baridhara, Dhaka 1212

Dhaka cell number: +880 171 433 9473 [also programmed into each student Dhaka cell phone]

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