

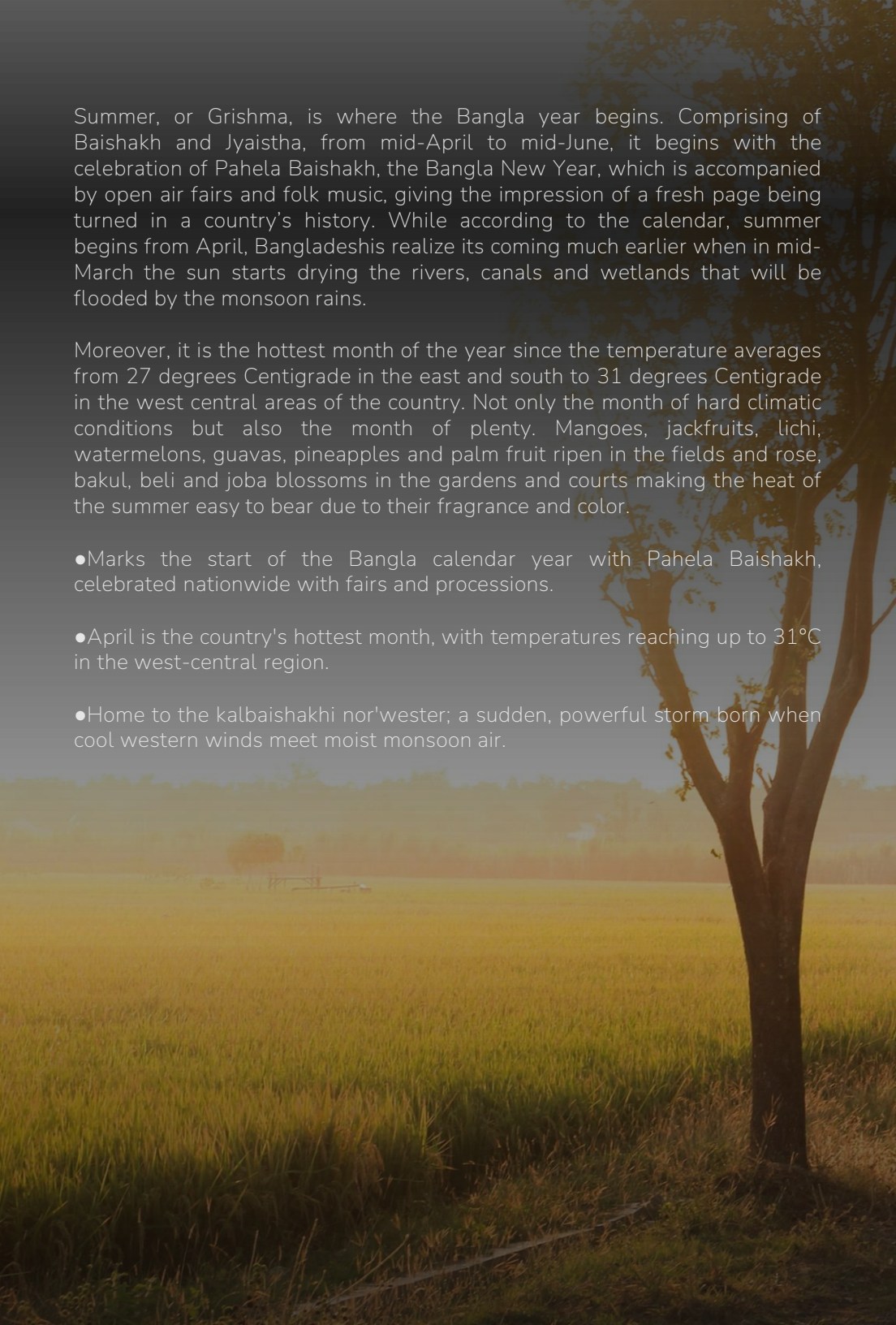


Seasonal Diversity in Bangladesh



Summer

The fiery herald of the Bangla New Year



Summer, or Grishma, is where the Bangla year begins. Comprising of Baishakh and Jyaistha, from mid-April to mid-June, it begins with the celebration of Pahela Baishakh, the Bangla New Year, which is accompanied by open air fairs and folk music, giving the impression of a fresh page being turned in a country's history. While according to the calendar, summer begins from April, Bangladeshis realize its coming much earlier when in mid-March the sun starts drying the rivers, canals and wetlands that will be flooded by the monsoon rains.

Moreover, it is the hottest month of the year since the temperature averages from 27 degrees Centigrade in the east and south to 31 degrees Centigrade in the west central areas of the country. Not only the month of hard climatic conditions but also the month of plenty. Mangoes, jackfruits, lichi, watermelons, guavas, pineapples and palm fruit ripen in the fields and rose, bakul, bel and joba blossoms in the gardens and courts making the heat of the summer easy to bear due to their fragrance and color.

- Marks the start of the Bangla calendar year with Pahela Baishakh, celebrated nationwide with fairs and processions.
- April is the country's hottest month, with temperatures reaching up to 31°C in the west-central region.
- Home to the kalbaishakhi nor'wester; a sudden, powerful storm born when cool western winds meet moist monsoon air.

Monsoon

When the delta remembers it is a delta



No season defines Bangladesh's identity as a river delta quite like Barsha. Classically held during Asadh and Shraban, mid June to mid August, but in reality lasting even longer, starting from the latter half of Baishakh to the early half of Kartik (mid May to late October), the monsoon season receives the southwest monsoon winds blowing from the Bay of Bengal bringing 70% to 85% of the total rainfall received by the whole country throughout the year, and rains pour in unceasingly for days together.

Farmers toil in the flood free and flood prone areas to prepare paddy seedbeds, while jute crops are reaped. The flooded area turns into a vast breeding ground for aquatic creatures, and hilsa, the favorite fish of Bangladesh, swarms through the river water. National flowers such as the lotus blossom in wetlands along with other flowers like keya, kadam, kamini, jui, and gandharaj amid pouring rains.

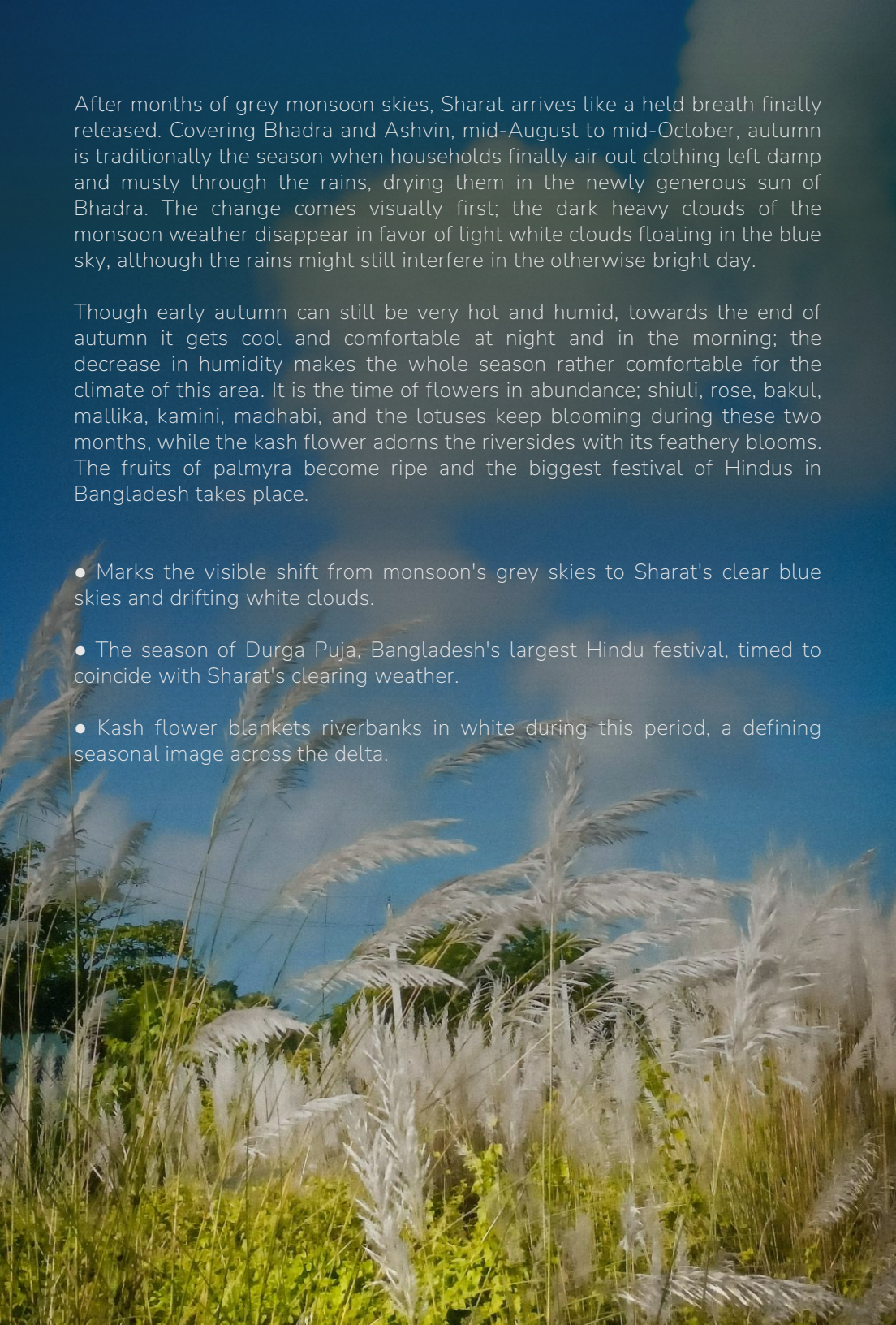
- Delivers 70–85% of Bangladesh's total annual rainfall, driven by southwest monsoon winds off the Bay of Bengal.
- Sylhet's haor wetlands can stay flooded for over six months, turning entire districts into boat-only territory.
- The season of hilsa fish and the national flower, the lotus, both at their seasonal peak.





Autumn

Blue skies return to Bengal



After months of grey monsoon skies, Sharat arrives like a held breath finally released. Covering Bhadra and Ashvin, mid-August to mid-October, autumn is traditionally the season when households finally air out clothing left damp and musty through the rains, drying them in the newly generous sun of Bhadra. The change comes visually first; the dark heavy clouds of the monsoon weather disappear in favor of light white clouds floating in the blue sky, although the rains might still interfere in the otherwise bright day.

Though early autumn can still be very hot and humid, towards the end of autumn it gets cool and comfortable at night and in the morning; the decrease in humidity makes the whole season rather comfortable for the climate of this area. It is the time of flowers in abundance; shiuli, rose, bakul, mallika, kamini, madhabi, and the lotuses keep blooming during these two months, while the kash flower adorns the riversides with its feathery blooms. The fruits of palmyra become ripe and the biggest festival of Hindus in Bangladesh takes place.

- Marks the visible shift from monsoon's grey skies to Sharat's clear blue skies and drifting white clouds.
- The season of Durga Puja, Bangladesh's largest Hindu festival, timed to coincide with Sharat's clearing weather.
- Kash flower blankets riverbanks in white during this period, a defining seasonal image across the delta.



Late Autumn

The quiet season of dew and new rice

Hemanta is the shortest season of Bangladesh and is a transition season between the clear weather of Autumn and the cold weather of Winter. Kartik and Agrahayan include the period from mid-October till mid-December and Hemanta is more of a transition stage than a distinct season. By mid-November, the evenings begin to become cool. The difference between the hot daytime and the cool nighttime gives rise to the dew every morning on the roofs and in the fields. For this reason, Hemanta is also called the season of cold, cough, and seasonal fever.

Where Hemanta lacks excitement, it gains importance for the rural population. The month of harvesting of paddy where the farmers work day and night to harvest their crops. Nabanna, the festival of new rice, comes in Hemanta celebrating the harvest with feasts.

- Bangladesh's shortest, most transitional season, a bridge between autumn's clear skies and winter's chill.
- Produces the country's heaviest dew, caused by the widening gap between day and night temperatures.
- Culminates in Nabanna, the traditional festival celebrating the year's new rice harvest.



Winter

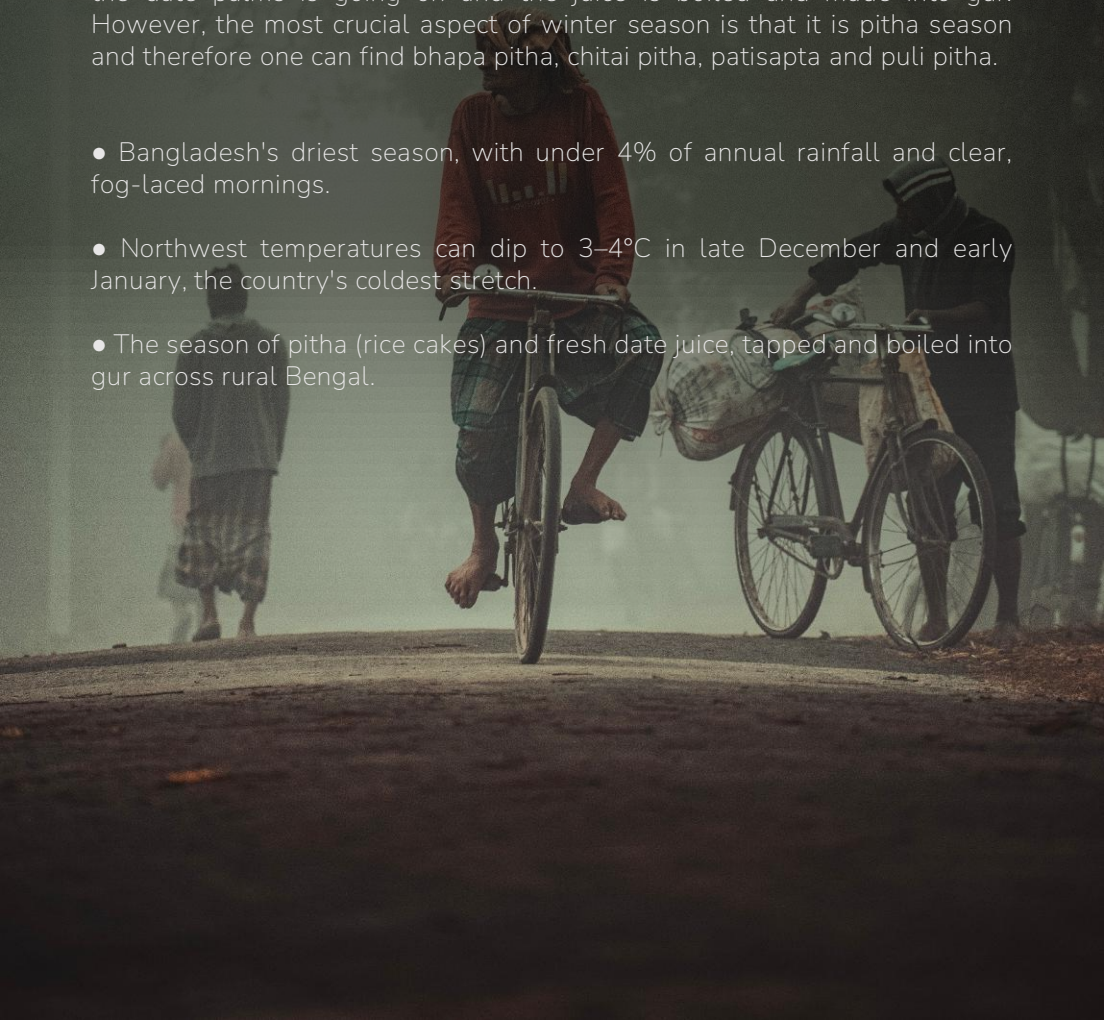
Bangladesh's coolest, clearest,
most celebrated season



Where summer is defined by heat, winter is its cold-season counterpart—the fifth season on the Bangla calendar, spanning Paus and Magh, though its effects are felt from November right through February. January temperatures average somewhere between 11°C in the extreme northwest and northeast and a somewhat higher 20–21°C in the coastal region, with the extreme northwest going as low as 3–4°C in late December and early January. It is easily Bangladesh's driest season, when only about 4 percent of yearly rain falls, with plenty of sunny days, clear sky, dry atmosphere, fog in the morning and very long nights due to the short days.

Winter is generally agreed to be the most delightful season in Bangladesh, and this can be clearly seen in markets, where an incredible array of vegetables and much appreciated fresh water fish koi, magur and shing are sold. The fields have marigold (ganda), sunflowers (suryamukhi), boroi (jujube) and orange trees with ripe fruits while the harvest of the juice from the date palms is going on and the juice is boiled and made into gur. However, the most crucial aspect of winter season is that it is pitha season and therefore one can find bhapa pitha, chitai pitha, patisapta and puli pitha.

- Bangladesh's driest season, with under 4% of annual rainfall and clear, fog-laced mornings.
- Northwest temperatures can dip to 3–4°C in late December and early January, the country's coldest stretch.
- The season of pitha (rice cakes) and fresh date juice, tapped and boiled into gur across rural Bengal.



A vertical photograph of a field of yellow mustard flowers. The foreground shows several thin green stems with clusters of bright yellow flowers and buds. The background is a soft-focus expanse of more yellow flowers, with a hazy mountain range visible in the distance under a pale sky.

Spring

The king of seasons, brief and brilliant



Basanta, being the last season of six, lies between the seasons of winter and summer, falling on Phalgun and Chaitra months on the Bangla calendar. Spring, in effect, is brief in Bangladesh, lasting hardly a month in March when winds move from their northern cold to the southern warm of summer. What it lacks in length, it makes up for in reputation: Basanta is traditionally called the king of seasons, prized for weather so pleasant, 20–25 percent cloud cover, temperatures between 22°C and 25°C, and comfortable humidity, that it all but invites people outdoors for morning and evening walks.

The season announces itself in colour and sound. Trees like the flame-colored shimul, palash, and krishnachura, along with the yellow radhachura and purple jarul come into flower, with mango and jackfruit trees flowering before summer produces its fruit. Cuckoos, which have a traditional call during the Basanta festival of Bengali, chirp among the green leaves and the bees go about collecting nectar from mustard, wheat, and oats flowers. During the period, Hindus celebrate Basanti Puja and Dol Jatra when the festival of colors known as Dol Jatra in Bengal ends the Bangla year with colors before the start of the Grishma season cycle.

- Bangladesh's briefest season, truly felt for roughly one month, yet traditionally called "the king of seasons."
- Marked by the bloom of shimul, palash, krishnachura, and jarul, some of Bengal's most vividly coloured flowering trees.
- The season of Dol Jatra, Bengal's spring festival of colour, and the return of the cuckoo's call in Bengali folk tradition.



Bangladesh Tourism Board

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