কমন দাজিলং আিম মাবারক খলনা সুন্দরবন, বানর বন, ম্যাগনা, বাংলা নদী, আপনি কেমন আছেন? আমি ভাল দাজিলিং, পশ্চিম বঙ্গ, ইদ মোবারক, ক্রিকেট, মাছ, নদী, চা, সিলেট, কক্কাবাজার, খুলনা, সুন্দরবন, বানর বন, ম্যাগনা, ভাই আপনি কেমন আছেন? আমি ভাল আছি, চা, নদী, ধন্যবাদ.ভাই, বোন, পরি বৈচিত্র্য, হিন্দু, মুসলিম, ইসলাম, ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, নদী, কলকাতা, দাজিলিং, পশ্চিম বঙ্গ, ইদ মোবারক, ক্রিকেট, মাছ, নদী, চা, সিলেট, কক্কাবাজার, খুলনা, সুন্দরবন, বানর বন, ম্যাগনা, ভাই আপনি কেমন আছেন? আমি ভাল দাজিলিং, পশ্চিম বঙ্গ, ইদ মোবারক, ক্রিকেট, মাছ, নদী, চা, সিলেট, কক্কাবাজার, খুলনা, সুন্দরবন, বানর বন, ম্যাগনা, ভাই আপনি কেমন আছেন? আমি ভাল আছি ধন্যবাদ.ভাই, বোন, পরি বৈচিত্র্য, হিন্দু, মুসলিম, ইসলাম, ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, নদী, কলকাতা, দাজিলিং, পশ্চিম বঙ্গ, ইদ মোবারক, ক্রিকেট, মাছ, নদী, চা, সিলেট, কক্কাবাজার, খুলনা, সুন্দরবন, বানর বন, ম্যাগনা, ভাই আপনি কেমন আছেন? আমি ভাল আছি, ধন্যবাদ.ভাই, বোন, পরি বৈচিত্র্য, হিন্দু, মুসলিম, ইসলাম, ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, নদী, কলকাতা, দাজিলিং, পশ্চিম বঙ্গ, ইদ মোবারক, ক্রিকেট, মাছ, সিলেট, কক্কাবাজার, খুলনা, সুন্দরবন, বানর বন, ম্যাগনা, পরি আপনি কেমন আছেন? আমি ভাল আছি ধন্যবাদ.ভাই, বোন, পরি, বৈচিত্র্য,
A table of contents... The Global Forum on Migration and Development was held in Dhaka in 2016 - one of the few truly international events to be held in the city
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The A sounds

There are two a-sounds in Bangla: one long and one short. In Bangla, there are also two ways to represent a vowel: a standalone version, and a version that connects to a consonant.

The short a-sound is the default sound or the inherent vowel to a consonant. That means if there is no vowel noted for a consonant, you take this sound by default. It sounds like the a in alive, apply, or alert.

Here it is ...

1) full vowel sign অ short vowel sign = ্

The long a-sound is very similar but slightly longer like the a in father.

2) full vowel sign আ = a short vowel sign = আ
Examples of the short a-sound:
অনেক = onek = much/many
নামস্তে = namaste = Hindu greeting (the short a is unmarked, but attached to the m (ঘ) = ma )

The long a-sound in Bangla is আ which makes a sounds like the a in father.

Here are some words that use this sound...
আম = aam = mango
আছা = accha = okay/good.
আজ = aaj = today
আবার = abar = again
আমি = ami = I (first person pronoun)
আছে = ashey/achey = to be/to have

Here is a sentence using some of the words we just learned...
আজ, আমি এক আম চাই। এটা ঠিক আছে। আচ্ছা! অনেক ধন্যবাদ। আবার দেখা হবে
Today, I one mango want. This good has. OK. Many thanks. Again to see will (Literally)
The i/ee sounds

The basic i sound is ই or ি. Like English, most often the i is pronounced like the i in Islam, pit or hit, but other times it is pronounced like an ee sound. This is officially the short i, but the lines between the two are blurry. The short i sound is much more common than the long i sound.

ঈসলাম = Ishlam = Islam
ঈংরেজি = ingrejii = English
কি = ki = what?

The other, long i sound is pronounced much more clearly like an English ee like in see or feet. It looks like this ঈ or ী.

ঈদ = Eid = Eid (Eid is an Islamic holiday that happens twice a year; one of them marks the end of Ramadan)

The word Delhi has both a short and a long i/ee = দিল্লী
The u/ew sounds

The basic u sound is উ or ু like in the word June. Again, there are two variations, one short and one long. The short u-sound (উ) is more common, but the longer u-sound ঊ or ৊ is also used and is similar to sound in the English word soon.

Some words with the short u-sound

উপজেলা = upojela/upazila = a sub-district (there are 490 upazilas in Bangladesh)
উদার = udar = generous / liberal
উদ্দাম = uddam = violent / reckless / uncontrollable
কুকুর = kukor = dog
দুধ = doodh = milk
Here we have the e-sounds; these ones have quite distinct short and long sounds. The first, short sound is much more common. It makes the "ae" or "eh" sound like in pen, or the é in café but also like the a in ban or bat. There are many Bangla words with this sound:

একটু = ektu = a little  
এক = eek = one  
এবার = eekbar = once / one time  
এক দিন = eekdin = one day  
এখন = aekhon = now  
এখানে = ekhanei = here (compare with okhanei --> )  
এই দিক = ey-dike = this side / in this direction ( compare with ohdike --> )  
এবং = ebom = and  
কেন = kaeno = why  
দেশ = desh = country / land  
কে = ke = who

The longer sound এ / ে is much less common. Also note that this sound is ় + ে together

Examples....
Here we have the o-sounds; again, these ones have quite distinct short and long sounds. The first, short sound is much more common. It makes the "oh" or "aw/au" sound like in *all, caught,* or *law.* Note that these are only approximations! Actual pronunciation varies. In my experience in Dhaka, this sound is more oh-like. This relates to the inherent vowel problem. For example, while the short a-sound is most often used in transliteration, it is often pronounced as an o. The word Bangladesh (spelt with a) is often pronounced as Bongladesh in Bangla.

ওখানে = okhanei = there
ওদিকে = owideke = in that direction
ওপারে = opare = on that side

The longer sound Ṽ/ৠ is much less common. Note this sound is Ṽ + Ṽ pronounced together.

Examples...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ব</th>
<th>স</th>
<th>ম</th>
<th>ন</th>
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<th>ব</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>স</td>
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<td>ঝ</td>
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<td>O</td>
<td>P</td>
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</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>চ</th>
<th>ch</th>
<th>ক্ষ</th>
<th>ks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>জ</td>
<td>cchh</td>
<td>শ্র</td>
<td>shr</td>
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<tr>
<td>ঝ</td>
<td>yae</td>
<td>ঙ্গ</td>
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<td>Y</td>
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<td>r</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ত্র</td>
<td>kh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
র = B as in Bangla / Bangladesh = বাংলা / বাংলাদেশ
স = S as in suprabhat (good morning) = সুপ্রভাত
দ = D as in din (day) = দিন
ড = D as in dan (right) = ডান
ফ = F as in phol (flower) = ফুল
ঙ = G as in Bengali = বাঙালি
গ = G as in gan (song) = গান
ह = H as in Halal = हलाल

ज = J as in ji/jee (polite yes) = जी or German = जर्मन

झ = Jh as in jhor (storm) = झड़

क = K as in Canada = कानाडा

ख = Kh as in khabar (food)

ल = L as in lal (red) = लाल

म = M as in moja (fun/joke) = मजा
ন = N as in nach/nachte (to dance) = নাচ / নাচতে
প = P as in pani (water) = পানি
ক = Q/K as in kay-no (why) = কেন
র = R as in rickshaw = রিকশা
স = S as in suhbuuj (green) = সবুজ
শ = Sh as in shanti (peace) = শান্তি
ষ = Ss as in soryontro (conspiracy) = ষড়যন্ত্র
ট = Th as in taka = টাকা

t = T as in towel = তৌরালে

চ = Dh/Th as in Dhaka = ঢাকা

de = Bh/V as in bhai (brother) = ভাই

জ = Z as in cheese pizza = চিজ পিজা
চ = ch as in cha (tea) = চা

ছ = cch as in accha (okay) = আচ্ছা

য = j as in jan (go) = যান!

য় = y as in yuddha (war) = যুদ্ধ

ঘ = gh as in ghor (house) = ঘর

ধ = dh as in dhonoyobad (thank you) = ধন্যবাদ
ঝ = r as in rtu (season) = ঝতু

থ = th as in thani (police station) = থানা

ঠ = th as in thik ache (alright) = ঠিক হ্যায়
Learning the numbers and being able to use them quickly is vital for survival in Bangladesh and India. Numbers are sometimes written with the same characters as English and other European languages (1,2,3), but there is also another way of writing these characters.

1 = ১ = ek = এক
2 = ২ = dui = দুই
3 = ৩ = teen = তিন
4 = ৪ = char = চার
5 = ৫ = patch = পাঁচ
6 = ৬ = choy = ছয়
7 = ৭ = saat = সাত
8 = ৮ = aat = আট
9 = ৯ = noy = নয়
10 = ১০ = dosh = দশ
10, 20, 30... ১০, ২০, ৩০...

10 = ১০ = dosh = দশ
copy

20 = ২০ = bish = বিশ
copy

30 = ৩০ = teerish = ত্রিশ
copy

40 = ৪০ = choolish = চলিশ
copy

50 = ৫০ = ponschash = পঞ্চাশ
copy

60 = ৬০ = saat = ষাট
copy

70 = ৭০ = showtor = সূতর
copy

80 = ৮০ = aashi = আশি
copy

90 = ৯০ = no-boy = নবুই
copy

100 = ১০০ = ek sho = একশত
Bhai, __________hobe?

"Hobe" is one of my favourite Bangla phrases. It literally means "will be" but it is used much more broadly. For example, it is often used to ask if something is available. If you want to know if there is milk at the grocery store, you'd say "dhood hobe?" or if you were at the mall and you wanted to know if the shirt was available in green you'd ask, "subuuj hobe?"

Koto taka?  How much does it cost?
Eta ki ?     What's this?
Ota ki ?     What's that?
Aro ekbar bolben ? Can you say that again?
Eta onek dam / taka This is too much money
Eta ki bole?  What is this called?
In Bangladesh and India, you generally select your greeting based on the religion of the person to whom you are speaking. In Bangladesh, the default is a Muslim greeting and in India, it is a Hindu greeting. However, both Muslims in India and Hindus in Bangladesh will appreciate your effort if you greet them according to their religion and not that of the general populace.

Salaam alykuum = আসসালামু আলাইকুম = Peace be upon you  
Wally kuma salaam = XXX = And upon you peace (response)  
Nomuskar/namaskar = নমস্কার = Salutations / Literally: a bow  
Namaste = নমস্তে = Salutations / Literally: bow to you
Shubo shakal শুভ সকাল
Shuprabhat / Shewpravbhat সুপ্রভাত

Shubo shawnda শুভ সন্ধ্যা

Shubo ratree শুভ রাত্রি
BHALO ACCHO??

Tumi bhalo accho? = Are you good?
Tumi kemon accho? = How are you?
Bhalo accho? = Are you good?

Apni kemon acchen? = How are you?
Bhalo achen? = Are you good?

Bhalo acchi = Well / Good !
Ami bhalo acchi  = I'm well

The use of the pronouns (ami, tumi, apni) is not mandatory because of the different verb endings (acchi, accho, achen), but are sometimes added for emphasis or clarity.
**Bhalo** = good, fine, nice
**Ami** = 1st person pronoun, *I* in English or *je* in French
**Tumi** = 2nd person subject pronoun, singular and informal, *you* in English
**Apni** = 2nd person subject pronoun, singular and formal, *you* in English
**Kemon** = how

**achi, accho, ache, achen** = this verb is so important and will help you form a lot of sentence and phrases. It is used like *to be* (is, am, are) and *to have* (has, have).

Apni kemon achen? Ami bhalo acchi! = You, how, to have? I, good, to have!
Baba ki bari achen? = Dad, what (question marker), home, is) Is Father home?
Okhani onek lok ache = There, a lot, people, to be / There are a lot of people there

The questions are often formed using the possessive. Instead of saying, "You have a bicycle," one would say "Yours, a bicycle (it) is" = Apnar saikel achen. Just like in English you can make this into a question just by changing your voice.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English (W)</th>
<th>Bangla (K)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ke</td>
<td>কে</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ki</td>
<td>কি</td>
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<tr>
<td>kokhon</td>
<td>কখন</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kothai</td>
<td>কোথায়</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keno</td>
<td>কেন</td>
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<tr>
<td>kaemon</td>
<td>কেমন</td>
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<tr>
<td>koto</td>
<td>কত</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notice all the W-words in English are K-words in Bangla.
Notice all the W-words in English are K-words in Bangla.

- ভাল (bhalo) → কামন (kaemon)
- খারাপ (kharap) → কন (keno)
- কী (ki) → কখন (kokhon)
- কী (key) → কাথায় (kothai)
- কথা (koto) → কত (koto)
- যাচাই (aorup) → শুন্দর (shundar)
- পছন্দ (boro) → বড় (bora)
Hey, Rickshaw!

1. Jabey?
Will you go?

2. Kothai jaben?
Where are you going?

3. Ami (Gulshan Ek) jabo.
I am going to (Gulshan 1).

Okay, I will go.

5. Koto taka?
How much/many taka?

6. Patch sho taka.
Five hundred taka.

5. Koto taka?
How much/many taka?

7. Patch sho! Bhai! Teen sho taka debo.
Five hundred! Brother! I will give three hundred.

8. Char sho taka tik ache
Four hundred is alright.

9. Char sho? Accha, chollo!
Four hundred? Okay, let's go!
**Ekhani** = এখানে = Here
**Eta** = এটা = This
**Egulo** = এগুলো = এগুলো

**Okhani** = ওখানেই = There
**Ota** = ওটা = That
**Ogulo** = ওগুলো = Those

**Jan!** = যান! = Go!
Pareebar - পরিবার

মা ma
বাবা baba

পুত্র putra
কন্যা konya

ভাই bhai
বোন bone
ঘোড়া  ghora
ছাগল  chagala
গাভী  gabvhi
কুকুর  kukur
বিড়াল  biral
গণ্ডার  ghondar
হাতি  hati
Khabar

Cha (tea) is a vital component of Bangla culture. Throughout Bangladesh and India, you can almost always spot a group of friends drinking tea. It is most often drunk on the street in very small cups.
Ami kaj kori...

Office culture in Bangladesh is very different in Bangladesh than other so-called "Western" settings. More emphasis is set on relationship building and deadlines and schedules are a less of a concern. Office culture is, however, still quite hierarchical and gendered. Bangladeshis often forgo regular small talk in the office and will sometimes leave without saying goodbye or enter without saying good morning.

apni ki beshto ashen? Are you busy?
ami beshto ashi! I am busy!
apni ki korichen? What are you doing?
ami kichu-ey korchi na! I am doing nothing!
apni eta kaj korte parbe? Can you do this job?
ami janni na! I don't know!
ami jete hobe! I have to go
ami agamikal ashbo I will come tomorrow
kotoshomoy How much time?
protek-ke Everyone
protek-din Everyday

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As-salaam alykuum
Peace be with you

Bhalo acchi. Apni Bangla bolte paren!?
I'm well. You speak Bangla!? 

Ki shundar! Apni kothai theke asshe
Wow! Where are you from?

Canada onek sundar, di na?
Canada is very beautiful, isn't it?

Apnar naam ki?
What is your name?

Wallykum-as-salaam, bhalo accho?
And with you peace. How are you?

Na, ami bangla schkitchee
No, I am learning Bangla!

Ami Canada theke asche
I come from Canada.

Heh, onek shundar. Bangladesh o onek shundar.
Yes, very beautiful. Bangladesh is also beautiful.

Amar naam John.
My name is John.