In 1947, British rule over India came to an end. As a result of the ensuing partition, two independent countries were born: India and Pakistan, the latter made up two territorial entities, namely West and East Pakistan. Dominated by the former, East Pakistan soon became a hot bed for autonomist movement.

In 1959 the government of Pakistan, then centralised in the western wing of the country, decided to establish a second capital in east Pakistan, with the aim of bridging the gap between the two provinces. Each of the two capitals was invested with responsibilities of its own, which were nevertheless interrelate. The secretariat was set up in Islamabad, in West Pakistan, and the assembly building was designated to be in Dhaka, in East Pakistan.

In 1970, due to socio-economic factors and devastating floods, the movements were seeking independence for East Pakistan gained momentum. The ensuing repression imposed by Islamabad sparked off the civil war of 1971. Thanks to Indian support, East Pakistan achieved independence adopting the name of Bangladesh, and Dhaka became its capital. In 1971, the assembly building designed for East Pakistan became the main Assembly Hall of the new nation of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh constitutes a vast plain in the delta of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers and their numerous affluents. The livelihood of its huge population (over 100 million inhabitants) depends on the regularity of the monsoons and the level of the waters. The climate is warm and humid, characterised by high temperatures (around 40°C) in summer, high humidity, and heavy rainfall during the monsoon. The National Assembly Building sits as a massive entity in the Bengal desert.