

2005

Asian Festival



Ancient Traditions... New Generations

ALBURUS - Bengali Folk Dance

FREE ADMISSION, SHUTTLE & PARKING

Saturday, May 28 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Sunday, May 29 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Franklin Park

1777 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43203



www.asian-festival.org

BANGLADESH

by Shankar Sankarappa

Bangladesh, a land of rivers, lays in the eastern-most part of the Indian subcontinent.

The tropical climate and heavy rainfall ensure thick jungle vegetation. The central and western parts of the country are alluvial plains with the major rivers being the Ganges and Brahmaputra. Both rivers have thousands of branches, which feed into the southern delta. The rivers are full of fish, a choice item in Bengali the diet. Jute, a material used to make burlap and twine, is also grown in abundance on the plains. In the eastern part of the nation, the land rises with the Chittagong hill tracts. Here the jungle shelters elephants, tigers and snakes of various kinds, as well as spotted deer and wild fowl. Tea is grown in the eastern region which forms a source of foreign exchange beyond that of the export income from jute.

One of the most populated countries in the world, Bangladesh is primarily a Muslim country, but a large number of Hindus and Buddhists still live in the secular country.

Apart from religion, the Bangladesh people share a common cultural heritage with the neighboring Bengal state of India. Both speak the same Bengali language and share in its rich literary tradition of more than a thousand years.

Muslim rulers controlled Bengal from the 12th century until the British victory in 1757. During this time many Hindus were converted into Muslims.

In 1947, when the British gave India its independence, there were borders drawn. The larger concentration of Muslims in the eastern part of Bengal made it possible to create Pakistan, a nation for Muslims. At the time of independence, this newly created country—, Pakistan, had two parts: – West Pakistan with Punjab, Sind and Baluchistan provinces and East Pakistan from the eastern half of Bengal province. After an uprising and a civil war in 1971, the East Pakistan section seceded from the other part of Pakistan, and became known as Bangladesh.

The government of Bangladesh is a secular parliamentary democracy and is secular in its intents. Sheik Mujibur Rahman became the leader of the newly formed nation and took the office of Presidency in 1975. After his assassination the country has seen several leaders ruling the country. At this time in 2005, the titular head of Bangladesh as the President of Bangladesh is Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmad. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, who holds the executive power of the government, is Begum Khaleda Zia.

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