

2010

ASIAN FESTIVAL

Memorial Weekend

May 29 10am-9pm

May 30 11am-7pm

Franklin Park St

Franklin Park

Conservatory



Columbus

No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive



Sixteenth Annual Festival

Bangladesh Today

BACO Essay Competition, 2010

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11th Grade | age 16 | The Metro High School | Columbus, Ohio



Education in Bangladesh is an area the government considers very important to improve. There are many schools that are not well suited or built well enough for students to learn properly. A lot of progress has been made in the last twenty years. The most stress for improvement is for primary school, which only 76% of the students finish. The ratio of students to teachers is 60 to 1, meaning there are many students possibly eager to learn with too few teachers to teach. Also, students on average have school for only about 2.5 hours, which is a very small amount of time compared to the average school day around the world. However, there is also a fast growing number of universities to accommodate large number of students.

Today Bangladesh is better known as a country; more people are able to recognize it. Over the last few years, the number of tourists in Bangladesh has increased. The government runs a program, Parjatan, on tourism. Tourists are coming not only to visit relatives and friends, but also to take vacations/breaks. The country is covered with lots of farm land and the village side is beautiful. A great attraction in Bangladesh for Muslims all over the world is the religious Toblig event of Bishwa Estima. After performing Hajj, millions of people from many countries gather for the Estima every year in Tongi by the river Turag.

Transportation in Bangladesh is developing well. Bangladesh is constantly constructing new roads and bridges

where it is needed, instead of using boats for traveling over water for fast and easy transportation. In fact, Bangladesh can take pride in having one of the longest bridges in the world, the Jamuna Bridge. This bridge is over 3 miles and is the 5th longest in South Asia. It is built over the Jamuna River and on the Asian Highway. The bridge allows trade through Bangladesh.

Communication and technology is growing rapidly as well. Most of the people carry mobile phones with them because it is cost-effective. Latest music, movies, and software are available in open stores across the cities. The Internet is becoming increasingly more available in the cities and many people in Bangladesh now communicate through social networking websites.

One unfortunate aspect of Bangladesh is that it is suffering yearly due to natural floods, climate, and sanitation. Every year, the water level rises overall and the land of Bangladesh is slowly going under water. Although there are still many beautiful sights to see, these could be gone if water levels do not decrease. There is a major concern for the presence of poisonous arsenic in the water. Arsenic is causing many deaths through drinking water and crops grown using arsenic water. Now, the government has put red flags in those areas. Scientists are doing research to clean this poisonous water.

The popular foods in Bangladesh have not changed. Western food is offered at certain places, but rice,

curry, biryani, and parata are most common. There is also a great selection of sweets to choose from, all of which Bengalis cherish.

The art and culture are expanding with higher standard. Bangladesh holds one of the most popular Book Fairs for the month of February where many new books on various subjects are available. National and international poets gather during Book Fair. It also holds many events of singing, traditional dancing, and art exhibits. Although traditional dresses are popular with creative designs, the youth, these days, are much more concerned about their outer appearance and are adopting Western-styled clothes. There are still a great diversity in the different cultures reside in the country. Bangladesh cherishes all religions and still observes all religious holidays.

In conclusion, Bangladesh has had great changes over the years. There were great advances in civilian life and great innovations. Bangladesh is rising as a nation, boosting the economy, technology, education, sports, and government standards. Soon, it will be able to compete on the same level as the top countries in the world.

Some Sources:

1. <http://www.theodora.com>
2. <http://www.usaid.gov>
3. <http://www.wikipedia.com>
4. <http://www.virtualbangladesh.com>
5. <http://news.bbc.co.uk>