

day 03

BANGLADESH



FAQS

SIZE

State of Wisconsin

POPULATION

150,448,339

CAPITAL

Dhaka

LANGUAGE

Bangla or Bengali

RELIGION

Muslim, Hindi

UPG'S

340



POP. IN CHICAGO

4,000

LOCATION

Rogers Park,
West Ridge



VISIT

Sonargaon
2306 W Devon Ave
Chicago, IL
773.262.8008

When British India was partitioned to be India and Pakistan in 1947, the region of Bengal was divided along religious lines. The Muslim eastern half was called East Pakistan, while the predominantly Hindu western part became the Indian state of West Bengal. Tensions rose between East and West because of linguistic, cultural, and ethnic differences. After the Pakistani Army killed many Bengali's in 1971, the Bengali nationalists declared an Independent People's Republic of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is one of the few democracies in the Muslim world.

Bangladeshi's starting coming to Chicago in the late 1960's. They were graduate students or young professionals who were faced with the challenges of finding a place to live, securing employment, obtaining health care, and assimilating into American society.

Every March 26, the Chicago Bangladeshi community celebrates the national independence of Bangladesh with a city-wide, day-long cultural festival. Since 1994, the day has been recognized by the state of Illinois and the city of Chicago as Bangladesh Day. The ceremonies begin with an assembly near Devon Avenue and continue with a parade, dinner, and cultural show.

Chicago's Bangladeshi population is almost 100% Muslim. Among the ministries doing outreach in this community, there is only one known family who are Christians. **Pray that God would provide a key convert like the Apostle Paul who could bring a strong Christian witness. Pray that churches would be raised up within the Bangladeshi community that would demonstrate God's love and acceptance.**

ACTS 13:47

"I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth."

