



## Bangladesh

On May 25, Arin Mazumdar, a foreign exchange student from Bangladesh, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club. Bangladesh is located between India and Burma. Arin has been in the United States since August. She was in Nishna Botna schools until March when she came to Treynor. She will leave for home in June.

Bangladesh is called the

Golden Country. The present-day borders of Bangladesh were established during the partition of the British Indian Empire in 1947, when eastern Bengal became part of the newly formed State of Pakistan. It was separated from West Pakistan by nearly 1,500 km (about 900 mi) of Indian territory. Due to political, economic, linguistic and ethnic discrimination by the Pakistani state; popular agitation, cultural nationalism and civil disobedience led to the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. After independence, the new state endured

widespread poverty, famine, political turmoil and military coups. The restoration of democracy in 1991 has been followed by relative calm and economic progress, although the political scene remains turbulent.

The country of Bangladesh is slightly larger than Iowa. It has 150 million people. Dhaka is the capital, with six million people.

According to Arin, there is a 68% literacy in the country. Teachers change rooms, not the students. They have tests every 1 – 1½ months, half year exams, and yearly exams. The school year is August to June.

Arin's school has 3000 students. There are 36 students in a class. For sports, the classes compete with each other, not against other schools. The main sports are cricket, hockey, soccer (called football), and shooting.

Students in school choose at an early age whether they will go to an English or a Bangla school. Arin chose English.

Bangladesh has six seasons: late autumn, monsoon, summer, autumn, winter, and spring. They eat rice at least twice a day. They eat a lot of mango and jackfruit. Jackfruit is the largest tree-grown fruit, weighing up to 80 pounds.

There are a variety of religions in Bangladesh. Each religion has their own festivals and everyone can participate.