

Sarat Barua (Mejhda)

Sarat Barua passed away on December 12, 2002 at Riverside Hospital. He fought a courageous battle against prostate cancer for five years. Mr. Barua was born on January 17, 1947 in Chittagong, Bangladesh. He completed Higher Secondary from Chittagong Collegiate High School and received an associate degree in Civil Engineering from Mirpur Technical Institute, Dhaka. Mr. Barua worked for various international consulting engineers for over 20 years; the majority of those years were with Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, California and Camp, Dresser and McKee of Boston, Massachusetts in their Dhaka and Chittagong Offices. He came to United States in 1988 and since then he was a resident of Columbus, Ohio. From 1988-1997 he worked for three different consulting engineers here. For the last five years he was working for Medco Health in their Columbus Operation facilities.



Mr. Barua was actively involved with several social and cultural organizations in Bangladesh as well as in Columbus. He was the President of Bangladesh Boudha Juba Parishad and attended as a delegate the World Buddhist Conference held in Los Angeles, California, 1988.

Mr. Barua is survived by his wife Nandita Barua, son Avijit Barua, Daughters Sharmistha married to Partha Nath and Simly Barua married to Shankar Barua and a ten months old grandson. Sharmistha, Simly and Avijit all graduated from the Ohio State University and are working for Chase Bank in their corporate office at Easton. He is also survived by one elder brother, one younger brother and five younger sisters with their families.

Syedun Nessa

Mrs.Syedun Nessa, a long time resident of Columbus, passed away in the night of December 27, 2002 in Scotland. She went to Scotland to visit her son. She was 80 years of old. In Columbus, Ohio, she is survived by two daughters Afifa Halim and Fahmida married to Ekram Hyder, three grandsons Imran, Yaseen Hyder and Imtiaz, one granddaughter Shafika Halim.



বাংলাদেশ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন অব সেন্ট্রাল ওহায়ো
Bangladesh Association of Central Ohio

Victory Day Celebration & BACO Annual Dinner

Today's program is dedicated to the Memories of:

Late Shamsun Nahar
Late Sarat Barua
&
Late Syedun Nessa

The Bangladeshi Community of Central Ohio is a family in itself. This past year, we have lost three members of this great family. We are honored to have had the privilege of their contributions and companionship. Our sincere condolences go out to their bereaved relatives. May the departed souls rest in peace.

Shamsun Nahar (A mother, a sister, and a Dadu)

Alhaj Shamsun Nahar (mother of Keya, Nippon, Sheuli), who took Columbus as her home with many children, grandchildren and brothers-sisters since 1991, passed away on the 11th Ramadan (Nov 16, 2002) at OSU hospital. She has been buried at the Islamic Cemetery on Sunbury Road (behind Easton Center). She was about 66. She was loved by the people of Columbus and Central Ohio as their popular "Khalamma", "Ma", "Mashima", "Apa", and "Dadu" and was showered by their prayers from the heart. They organized and performed the Islamic rituals of the funeral, janaza, burial, Kulkhani, and Cheh'lum on their own, and along with her own children. Those included not only the Muslims, but also Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians. She always found something special in each person and touched everyone with her love, regardless of his/her origin, race or gender. As Dr. Sayeed said "All you need is to meet her once, then you know you have a special relation with her." She had many undeclared daughters and sons whom she cared for individually. She knew who was sick, who was doing excellent, who had lot of knowledge and who needed some attention and affection regardless of age. Faruqi remarked "One special nature of Khalamma was that she could make relations with everyone, child, adult or elderly." Sometime she would praise others so much that I would be jealous and wondering about us.



She was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh in the family of the historical Bengali ruler, Isha Khan - a family that maintained a culture rich in literature and Islamic values. She had enormous respect and interest for education and knowledge. She completed her Primary School

certificate of Class V, but had to stop going to the higher school because of her beauty (often compared with a Hindu Goddess) as men would discuss about her in the bazaar, unacceptable by a Muslim conservative family. Three years later, she was married to Abdur Razzaq, a poor Masters student of Dhaka University who later became a lawyer at the Dhaka Supreme Court. While she spent a year and a half in Calcutta, she was exposed to Indian culture and World War II events. Abdur Razzaq supported and tutored her to go to school. She started school after her sixth child was born. Her initial lessons were given by the late Tajuddin Ahmed, the first Prime minister of Bangladesh. As her cousin and daily visitor, he built the foundation of politics in her and opened the door of the outside world by sharing all his experiences of world tours. She continued her education up to a Masters in Political Science. While doing her Masters, she started taking classes at Dhaka Law College for an LLB degree and studied for three years. She also went to Arcadia ESL School in Columbus up to the 4th Level. She continued reading public library books on biographies, people, and culture until the last Friday before she became sick. Her most favorite programs were nature and animal shows on PBS. She would watch them with full content saying "Allah has shown me His Dunya!" She had the "Green Thumb" for plants, with whom she spoke, and a dying plant would come to life in her care. She was used to birds, which she fed everyday. Many people on Riverview Drive asked what happened to the lady doing the gardening and feeding the birds. She also loved music. She performed her Hajj in 1993 and established a fund with her own savings to send economically disadvantaged relatives to perform Hajj (4 Hajjis' so far and more to go). She prayed continuously for baksha on departed souls, and each of her handbags carried a tasbeeh.

She would greet the scientists, whom she met at Universities and conferences, with a smile and small conversation, and always made a lasting impression. Dr. Hussain said that "One of her most impressive qualities was that she could communicate with anyone, at any place and at any time." She was called mom, a sister or a friend by people from US, China, Ghana, Korea, India, Indonesia, Europe, Pakistan, Eritrea and other countries. Dr. Bautista in Venezuela wrote "I remember her as a smiling, kind, sweet, wise lady... She was loved and respected, true feelings that extended throughout many countries in this world and are not to go away."