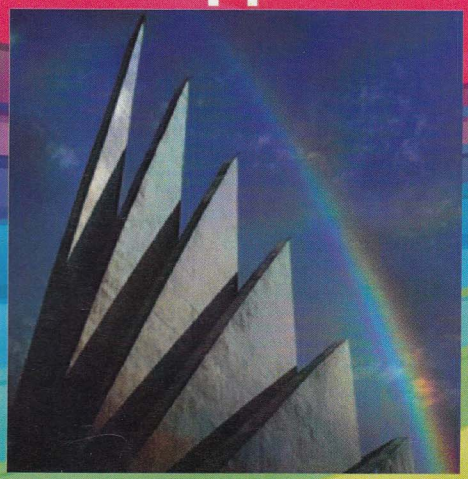
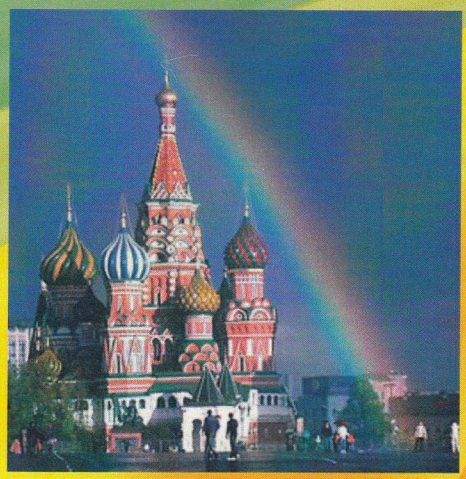
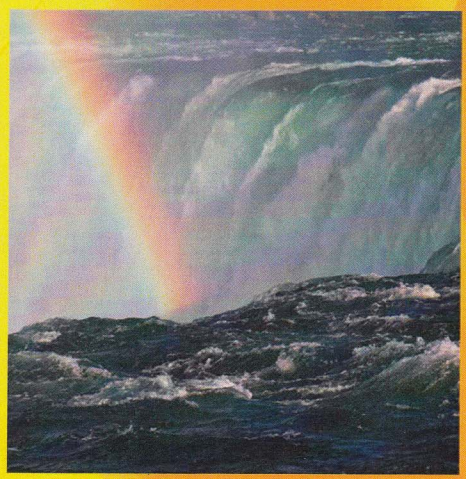
রংধনু

RONGDHONU

РОНГДХОНУ







SAABNA 2011

FLASHBACK 2007 SAABNA SUMMER PICNIC













রংধনু

RONGDHONU
РОНГДХОНУ

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Cover Page Design

Hasan Mahmud

EDITORIAL



রংধনু প্রকাশিত হোল একটি প্রত্যাশা নিয়ে। রংধনুর রং গুলোর মতো সবাই সবার পাশাপাশি অবস্থান করে আমরা যে বন্ধুত্বের সৃষ্টি করেছিলাম প্রাক্তন সোভিয়েত ইউনিয়নে, সেই রংধনুটি আরো উজ্জ্বল হোক কানাডার আকাশে। এ স্মরণিকাতে যারা বিজ্ঞাপন এবং অন্যান্য সহযোগিতা দিয়ে সাহায্য করেছেন, "সাবনা" তাদের কাছে কৃতজ্ঞ। আমাদের প্রথম প্রকাশনীর ভুলত্রুটির জন্য আমরা ক্ষমাপ্রার্থী।

Продолжать студенческую дружбу, которая связывала нас во время учёбы в разных городах бывшего Советского Союза, -это и есть главная цель издания журнала «РОНГДХОНУ». Это бенгальское слово по-русски означает «радуга». Все мы получили различные специальности, по разному сложилась наша жизнь, тем не менее наши пути сошлись в Канаде. В связи с этим хочется пожелать нашим выпускникам беречь нашу радугу дружбы, сделать её ещё ярче на фоне многокультурного общества Канады. Мы в первый раз публикуем список выпускников советских ВУЗов, находящихся в Канаде. Поэтому надеемся на Ваше понимание в случае недостатка информации в первом номере нашего журнала. Мы надеемся продолжать эту традицию с Вашей поддержкой. Позвольте мне также поблагодарить всех рекламадателей и всех, кто помог нам осуществить этот проект.

Published By

Soviet Alumni Association of Bangladeshis in North America (SAABNA), Toronto

www.saabna.org

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SAABNA FAMILY REUNION-2011

February 20, 2011

5:30pm	-	6:30pm	:	Registration
6:30pm	-	8:00pm	:	Cultural Program (Part 1)
8:00pm	-	8:45pm	:	Dinner Break
8:45pm	-	9:00pm	:	President Speech, Committee Introduction, and General Secretary Speech
9:00pm	-	10:00pm	:	Magic and Circus Show
10:00pm	-	10:30pm	:	Cultural Program (Part 2)
10:30pm	-	11:30pm	:	Alex Maslov's Band (Russian and English Music)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

You are holding a copy of the journal published by SAABNA. This year, for the first time, we have published all the members' names and the institutions they graduated from. I hope this will help our members to find their batch mates and friends to re-establish lost contact. We will try to continue this endeavour in the future.

Many of our members' families don't know much about the country where we spent a good many years as students, and met people from different cultures from around the world. I personally think that we are really lucky, and we should be proud of having had the opportunity to live in and explore different cultures in our lifetime.

Of course, we shouldn't forget our roots. The great Bangla culture that gave birth to poets like Rabindranath Tagore, Nazrul Islam, and Zibonananda Das will be always with us. We are grateful to Russia for the higher education we received and the hospitality we experienced in the great country of Tolstoy, Chekhov, Dostoyevsky, and Pushkin. Now we are in Canada, where you can find people of almost every color and race in the world living in peace and harmony. All of us are carrying that multicultural spirit in our heart and should take the best of both worlds, I would say the best of *all* of the worlds into our families, as Tagore puts it « আপন হতে বাহির হয়ে বাইরে দাঁড়া, বুকের মাঝে বিশ্বলোকের পাবি সাড়া। »

Many of us are professionals or own businesses, and have demonstrated excellence in the workplace. Therefore, I think that we have a lot to share with our newcomer friends and must help them, by all means, so that they can be integrated in Canadian life as soon and as easily as possible. I believe Canada is a great country to live and work in. We should take this opportunity to build a better life for our families by building a career for ourselves and our children, and thus contribute our knowledge and labour to this great country in return.

On behalf of our executive committee, I want to thank everyone for your co-operation in publishing this journal. It is far from being perfect, but we tried our best to make it happen with a limited budget in a short time. I apologize for the errors we may have made. I would also like to thank our sponsors who helped us a lot to publish this journal and to arrange this wonderful get-together.

Dr. Moustafa Makhmoud

President, SAABNA

20th February, 2011

Toronto

GENERAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

In the summer of 2005, three enthusiastic soviet graduates, Anwar Shah, Reza Sattar, and myself, Mohsin Ali, took the initiative to reunite all Bangladeshi graduates from the former Soviet Union who live in Toronto. Quickly, the word spread by mouth and many excited people gathered on December 4, 2005 to form an organization named "SAABNA", the Soviet Alumni Association of Bangladeshis in North America.

Since its inception, we have organized three summer picnics, in 2006, 2007, and 2010 as well as a family reunion in February 2010. Among those events, the most remarkable was the family reunion where around three hundred people gathered, including the alumni and their family members. Along with fun activities, SAABNA has also facilitated quite a few charity fundraising events to help some of our alumni friends and their families in need, and people affected by Cyclone SIDR in Bangladesh. All of these events were planned and accomplished purely on a voluntary basis and attended by many of our enthusiastic volunteers.

The primary intention of forming SAABNA was to have some social gathering among the Bangladeshi Soviet alumni and to keep in touch with each other. For such reasons, the majority of members consented to the management and organization of SAABNA by rotational voluntary committee members. Within last few years, many new graduates in Toronto have joined, and the situation has changed accordingly. Due to popular demand, we had an open meeting on November 7, 2010 and following a long discussion, a formal seven-member Executive Committee was formed. Thus, a new chapter started for our dear organization, SAABNA. Today, we are very delighted to publish our first issue of SAABNA's magazine "Rongdhonu" on the eve of our second annual reunion-2011.

The success of any organization depends on the efficiency of teamwork. All the events were possible because of our volunteer members' dedication. I am very grateful and on behalf of our executive committee, I would like to thank all of our volunteer members through whom all these events were made possible. Many thanks to all of our general members for their active participation and kind cooperation. I hope with everyone's kind participation and enthusiasm, we will make all future events even more interesting and enjoyable.

Mohsin Ali

General Secretary, SAABNA
Toronto, Canada.
February 20, 2011

SOVIET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, BANGLADESH
АССОЦИАЦИЯ СОВЕТСКИХ ВЫПУСКНИКОВ, БАНГЛАДЕЩ
1/14 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka 1207
Tel: 8122533, Mobile : 01711687000
Email: saabangladesh@gmail.com

Message
from Soviet Alumni Association, Bangladesh

Нам очень прятно что Ассоциация Российских/Советских Выпускников в Канаде устрайвает Годовую Встречу/Культурную Программу в Торонте в 20 февраля 2011г. Мы от всей души желаем чтобы это программа была выпольнена успешно. Мы глубоко верим что это укрепит отношение между Советскими/Российмки выпускниками в канаде и в других странах мира. Большое спасибо организаторам этой программы. Мы, выпускники Российских/Советских Вузов должны остаться искренными друзями во всю жизню и помогать друг другу где мы бы не были. Так что Ассоциация Российских/Советских Выпускников, Бангладеш будет делать всё чтобы расширять и укреплять эти отношения. Ещё раз вам спасибо, желаю всем самого хорошего.

(Dr Anisur R. Mallick Murad)
General Secretary 07.02.11
Soviet Alumni Association, Bangladesh

07.02.11
(Dr. Gholam Mostofa)
President
Soviet Alumni Association, Bangladesh

Association of Bangladeshi Engineers of 0ntario (ABEO), Canada
3018 Danforth Ave., Unit 201 Toronto, ON M4C 1M7
Tel: 416-520-9585/647-273-6554/647-208-7761

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESHI ENGINEERS OF ONTARIO

On behalf of the Association of Bangladeshi Engineers of Ontario, I am delighted to convey warmest greetings to all the members of SAABNA and their families attending the family reunion on February 20, 2011 and for the first publication of its souvenir Rongdhanu.

SAABNA has undertaken a wonderful task of reuniting all the Bangladeshis who have studied in various Educational Institutions of the former Soviet Union. This commendable task has generated the closeness of all coming together to an extended family and, it's my hope, it will create a cohesive bonding of social well-being all Bangladeshis in Canada.

Please accept my best wishes for ongoing success of SAABNA.

Muhammed Rezaur Rahman
President, ABEO, Canada
905-273-5009; 647-273-6554

SAABNA FOUNDING MEMBERS

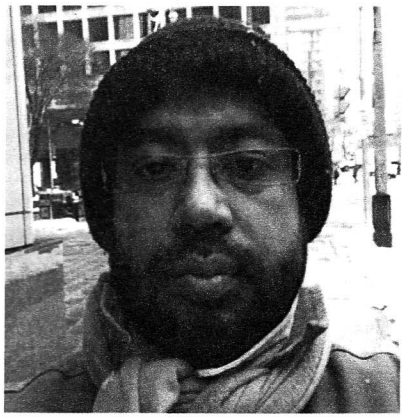
(SAABNA was founded in 2005)



Anwar Shah



Mohsin Ali



Reza Sattar

WE REALLY APPRECIATED YOUR EFFORTS.

SAABNA

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2006-2010

2006 -Picnic:

1. **Volunteer Picnic Committee Members (2006):** Mohsin Ali, Anwar Shah, Reza Sattar (Shamim), Keshab Datta, Naeem Billah, Md. Hanif, Tariqul Haque Tito, Kanchan Sutar , Mohammad Gulam Nabi and Mahboob Muqtadir (Atal)

2007-Picnic:

2. **Volunteer Picnic Committee Members (2007):** Mohsin Ali, Anwar Shah, Reza Sattar (Shamim), Keshab Datta, Tariqul Haque Tito, Kanchan Sutar, Rahul Saha, Sanaul Haque (Tony), Mohammad Gulam Nabi and Mahboob Muqtadir (Atal)

2008 (Picnic – canceled due to bad weather):

3. **Volunteer Picnic Committee Members (2008-Canceled):** Azizul Haque (Lead coordinator), Anwar Shah, Reza Sattar (Shamim), Keshab Datta, Tariqul Haque Tito, Kanchan Sutar, Rahul Saha, Mohammad Gulam Nabi, Mahboob Muqtadir (Atal) and Mohsin Ali

2010 (Family Reunion)

4. **Volunteer Committee Members, Family Reunion (2010):** Azizul Haque (Lead coordinator), Moustafa Makhmoud, Atiqur Rahman, Rahul Saha, Habibur Rahman, Eqbal Zahid, Abdul Hakim Sarker, Nawshad Mohsin, Rahmatullah Khandaker (Tito-Sabina), Saiful Chowdhury & Kumu, Reza Sattar (Shamim), Keshab Datta, Kanchan Sutar and Mohsin Ali

2010 (Picnic)

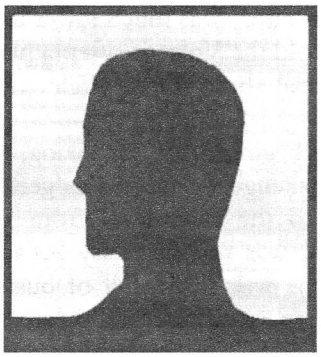
5. **Volunteer Picnic Committee Members (2010):** Moustafa Makhmoud(Convener), Eqbal Zahid, Habibur Rahman, Hakim Sarker, Atiqur Rahman, Rahul Saha, Nawshad Mohsin, Tito Khandaker, Saiful Chowdhury, Kanchan Sutar, Rabiul Kabir (Rezvi), Abu Zahid (Babu), Anwar Shah, Sirajul Islam, Azizul Haque and Mohsin Ali

SOVIET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESHIS IN NORTH AMERICA (SAABNA)

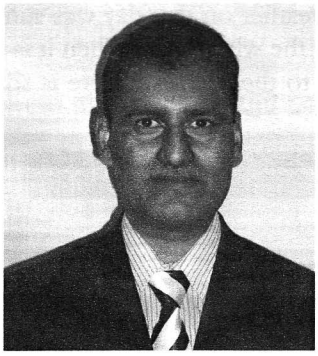
CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2010-2011)



Moustafa Makhmoud
(President)



Ashraf Iqbal
(Vice President)



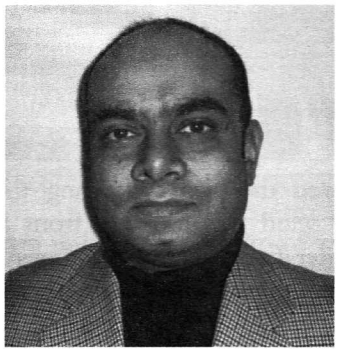
Eqbal Zahid
(Vice President)



Mohsin Ali
(General Secretary)



Saiful Chowdhury
(Cultural Secretary)



Nawshad Mohsin
(Financial Secretary)



Abu Zahid
(Information Secretary)

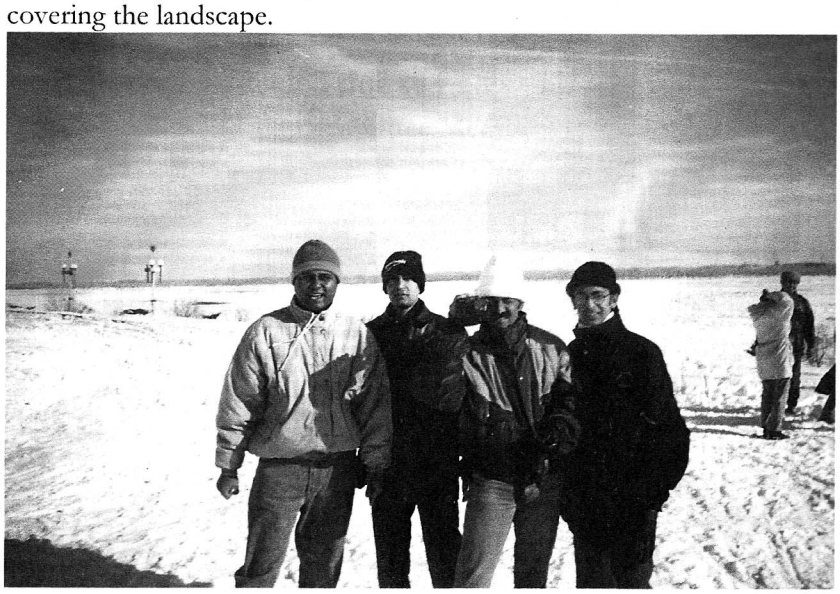
HIKING ON THE FROZEN VOLGA

Hasan Raihan

It has been 14 years since I left Volga and Volgograd, but I still remember those places, I see them when I close my eyes, as if I am walking along the bank of the Volga, taking a deep breath with its refreshing breeze.

The Volga is the longest river in Europe. It flows over 2,200 miles from its source in the Valdai Hills, northwest of Moscow, to where it flows into the Caspian Sea. By the time it passes through the city of Volgograd it is about 200 meters in width and gets much wider on its long route to the Caspian Sea. Before coming to Russia (the former USSR) I heard and read about the Volga river so often in Russian literature and the famous song of Bhupen Hazarika (*Ami ek Jajabor...*). Therefore, when I got the chance to be a part of Volgograd, the city that takes pride in being named for the Volga, to do my undergraduate and graduate degrees, it really made me happy.

On a chilly day during the 1995-96 winter, we, a group of Bangladeshi and Indian students decided to go for an "adventure" of crossing the Volga. In the winter, the river freezes to a depth of about six feet. The ice does not freeze smoothly, so the surface was pretty rough. During the winter, people commute across the river on foot to work or to shop in the city. The weather on that day was sunny, the temperature was much lower than the freezing point, and iced snow covered the whole city. When it is snowy and cold the Volga is often a place for those who want to experience nature to themselves. There is something special about seeing virgin snow covering the landscape.



At the beginning of our hiking, the first challenge we faced was getting down to the river level from the bank. It was not that easy because the slope was steep, full of bushes and slippery. Therefore, what we did was to let our bodies slide down the slippery slope covered by snow. We started sliding one after another, like kids with lots of laughter and screams. It was great fun. The first few steps on the river were very scary, as we were not that used to it. We headed towards the opposite side of the river with great caution. Since people commute across the river regularly there was a safe walking and trail indication. We followed the signs, enjoying the beauty of the freezing winter. The environment smelled different. A chilly wind was blowing from time to time; we were amazed by the surrounding natural beauty. Dripping water from big rocks, stones and trees created long icicles along the trails. We saw some holes in the ice and a couple of amateur fishermen were wandering around those holes with fishing rods.

Our "adventure" was half done on that day; we got back home after an hour without "accomplishment". We put off the next half for the near future, but that day has not come yet. I still look forward to seeing that beauty, and to touching the great Volga again.

পোর্ট্রেট

মুস্তাফা মাহমুদ

(বিডিআর বিদ্রোহে নিহত আমার ভাই লে.ক. শামসুল আজম স্মরণে)



(৭ই জানুয়ারী, ১৯৬০ - ২৫শে ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০০৯)

আমি তো চাইনি হতে পোর্ট্রেট কোনদিন,
জীবন নামের পাগলা ঘোড়াটাকে বাগ মানাতেই ছিল আমার আনন্দ
আমি তো চাইনি নির্বাক শুয়ে থাকতে
এক সারি কবরের মাঝে,
আমি চেয়েছি এই প্রাণের মেলার নাগরদোলায় দোল খেতে!

আমি তো নেইনি কোনো মায়ের কোল থেকে তার সন্তানকে কেড়ে
তবে কেন আমি দেয়ালে ঝুলবো স্মৃতি হয়ে?
তবে কেন আমাকে দেখবে সবাই দুঃখ আর করুণা ভরে

আমি চেয়েছি যেন সবাই হাসে আমার চৌপাশে
আর আমি হব সেই আনন্দের ঝরণা

হে উর্বর জন্মভূমি মোর!
আর কত ষড়যন্ত্রের বীজ বোনা তোমার মাটিতে?
সুবুদ্ধির মহীরুহটির কি কোনকালেই গজাবেনা অংকুর?

BEHIND THE SCENES: MY DREAM JOURNEY TO RUSSIA

Mohsin Ali

It is hard to find a person who has not heard the names Thomas A. Edison, Albert Einstein, Benjamin Franklin, Alfred Nobel, Leo Tolstoy, Abraham Lincoln, and Madam Curie. How many of you have been inspired by these famous men and women's lives and have wanted to follow in their footsteps? I certainly have been.

I was born in a rural village in Bangladesh where there was no electricity and no paved streets. I completed my 5th grade education at a local primary school, but I had to travel 12 km every day to attend a secondary school, which meant walking 6 km each way since there was no public transportation. It was especially difficult during the rainy season as I could not wear my shoes and had to walk barefoot because of the muddy, slippery, and watery roads. In summer, it was very uncomfortable when the temperature rose above 40°C, and we did not have electricity for air conditioning. We used kerosene lanterns for studying at night as electric light bulbs were far out of our reach. This was the environment I was living in during the mid '70s.

When I was in the 8th grade, I stopped reading fictional novels and started reading travel books and biographies by famous people like Edison, Nobel, Einstein, and Curie. I became very inspired and thrilled to know how much they struggled and suffered in their early life and how they succeeded later on. They went through various obstacles in their life in order to become very successful in their fields of interest. When I read the stories of the famous scientists, I was so inspired that I began to write notes on every piece of information that moved me. Soon science became my major interest, and I wanted to be a scientist. I wish I had access to those notes now to see my earlier inspiration. I still remember that although Thomas A. Edison did not have the chance to go to school during the day when he was young, he developed a huge interest in reading. He used to read everything that came his way, which later helped develop his interest in science. Every one of these people had their unique hardships, but they all overcame those obstacles and became extremely successful later.

These inspirations were seeds that rooted deeply inside my mind. I never felt that any obstacle could stop me from going forward. Like the lives of those famous people, my life was not easy. However, after reading their biographies, I felt that anything was possible if I had a strong desire and conviction. The word "impossible" vanished from my vocabulary during that early stage of my life.

Later, when I was in the 10th grade, one of my teachers recommended that I read "How to Win Friends & Influence People" by Dale Carnegie, which was first published in 1936. In my opinion, this is the best book on human relations, and it inspired me in another aspect of my life. During that time, I did not know anyone who lived abroad from whom I could get advice. But the inspirations I received from biographies lead me to dream of going to the United States. Somehow, it came to this rural boy's mind at an early age that America was the land of opportunities and that I could fulfill my dream of becoming a scientist if I could go there. I wanted to pursue higher studies in the United States and perform creative and innovative works like Thomas A. Edison.

A few years later, in 1980, I finished my Secondary School Certificate examination (10th grade) and received top marks, which would now be considered in the A+ range. I was then looking for college admission for my 11-12th grade study when someone pointed out to me that the Dhaka and Comilla residential model schools (which were considered top institutions) were

schools (which were considered top institutions) were giving full scholarships to those who received high grades in secondary school. At that time, one of my well-wishers from our area suggested that I go to Dhaka for the admission test and offered me the chance to stay at his house, which was close to one of the schools. This opportunity was another turning point in my life. Once I arrived there, I met his son, Bahar Bhai, who had graduated from a university in Kiev, Ukraine in 1979. During my stay, he described his exciting student life and experience in Russia. All the stories he told me made it seem like Russia would be the best place for my higher education. From that moment, my desire changed to going to Russia instead of to the United States.

Later, I was accepted and began studying at Comilla Residential Model School (which is now Comilla Cadet College) with a full scholarship that included tuition, food, and accommodation. In 1982, I completed my Higher Secondary School Certificate and began to prepare for my higher education at university. That year, I missed the deadline for the Soviet Scholarship, and in the interim I was accepted and got admission to Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh. My original dream of going to Russia was still very much alive, and I started putting my full effort into obtaining a scholarship. One of my best friends and college classmates, Mahmudul Hasan Shamim, who had gone to Moscow in 1983, provided numerous tips on the scholarship. It was not easy for me to compete with so many candidates, but I never gave up. My friends in Bangladesh were witness to how persistent I was and the effort I put into achieving my goal.

Just when my enthusiasm began to fade away, I was suddenly offered the golden ticket of a scholarship by the Soviet Union government. Finally, all my hard work was rewarded, and preparation started for the next steps. As part of my preparation, I went to the Bangladesh-Russian friendship society office a few times and met some friends there. (One of them was Mizanur Rahman, who passed away in Houston, U.S.A, in September 2009 due to liver cancer. May Allah give his soul eternal peace. Later, we became very close friends, and his death saddened me very much). I still vividly remember that August in 1984 when I left Dhaka for the Soviet Union with Mizan, Shahid, Monir and a few others. This was one of the most important days in my life, and it will remain as a sweet memory forever. Some of my close friends and family members came to the airport to bid us farewell. When I left Dhaka, a lot of tears came to my eyes, but it was for joy that my longing had been fulfilled and finally I was going to Russia for higher studies. I felt like I had conquered the world.

When we landed at Moscow International Airport, a whole new experience was waiting for me. Our senior students gave a reception for the new students and provided guidance for the next steps. This was a very festive event and my first experience in Moscow. Within the next few days, there was another move; everyone had to go on to their destination city for the preparatory course for their higher study. I was assigned to the city of Rostov-On-Don in Russia, where we arrived after a few days travel by train and where we were greeted with another reception hosted by our senior students. One of the best experiences we had was that almost one week later we were able to eat our national food, fish and rice, prepared by our hosts. We got our accommodation but still had to wait a few more days before starting our classes. This was just beginning of my new life in Russia, where many adventures would come my way.

I would like to conclude by saying that my deeply rooted inspiration came from famous people. I then created an optimistic but realistic goal, never gave up, and directed my efforts accordingly. I strongly believe that if someone has a realistic goal and a positive and confident attitude, then the goal will be achieved. You will not have to worry about how—the road will unfold as you move forward.

A B E O

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বার্ষিক পুনর্মিলনী ও রংধনুর প্রথম সংখ্যা প্রকাশ উপলক্ষ্যে
আমার প্রাণঢালা শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন



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President, Dinco Holdings Inc.

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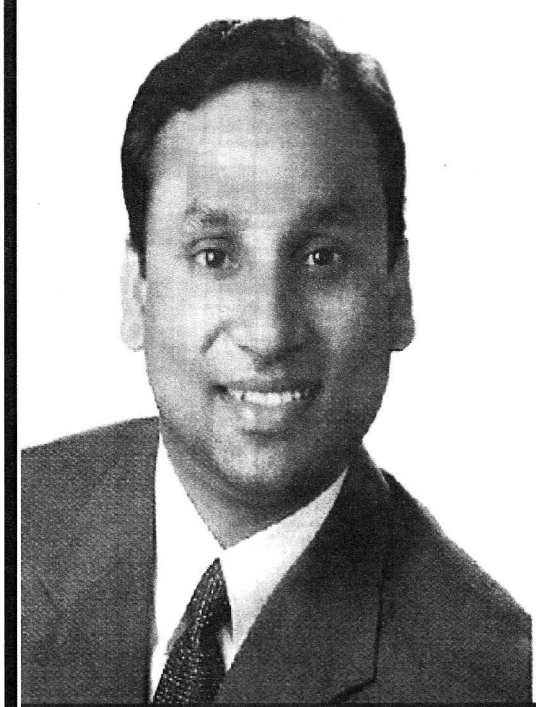
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11	Anwar Shah	St.Petersburg University of Architecture & Civil Engineering	St. Petersburg	1983-89	(905) 235-2966	anwarshaht@gmail.com
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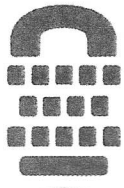
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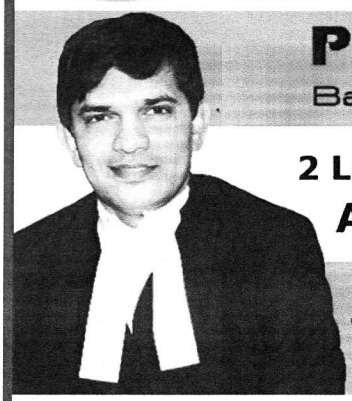
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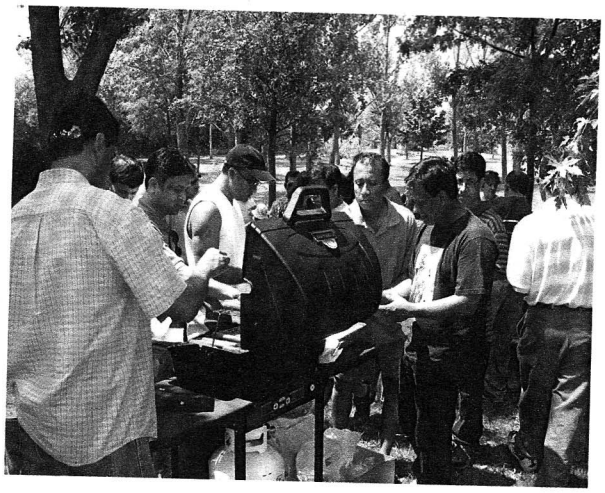
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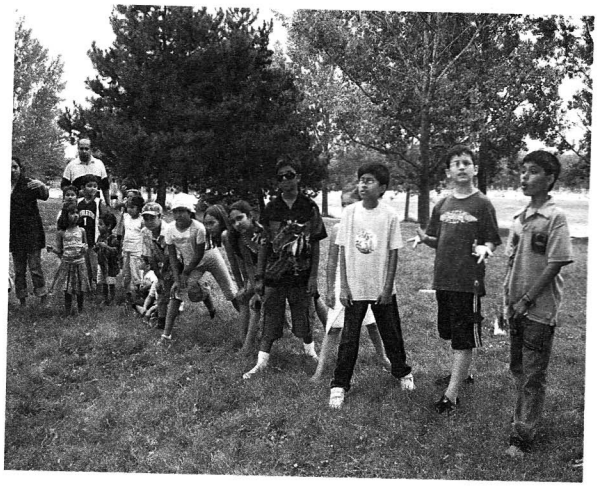
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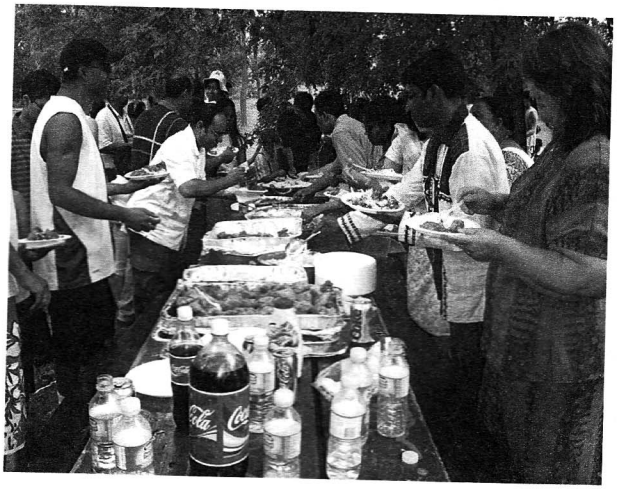
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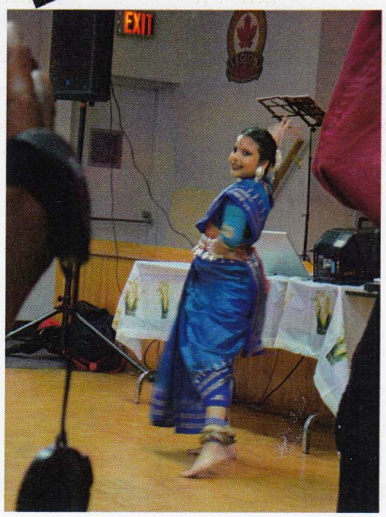






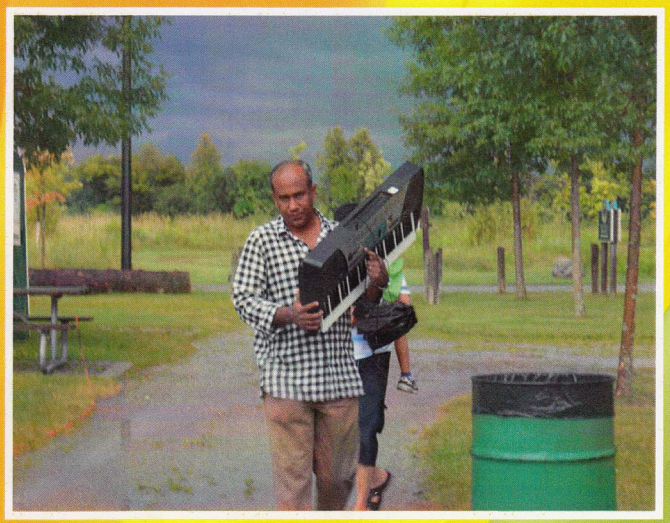


















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