

Shahabuddin M. Hossain - In Remembrance  
1959-2007

Dr. Shahabuddin M. Hossain (Munir) passed away in the early hours of November 11, 2007 after a long and brave struggle with cancer. He leaves behind his wife, a daughter, mother, other loved ones and legions of friends and well wishers.

S. M. Hossain was born in Bangladesh. His family is originally from Noakhali. His early schooling was in Dhaka - where he later attended Notre Dame College. He lost his father early in his life, but by dint of hard work and a sharp mind, he continued to excel in his studies. He studied economics in Dhaka University (1976-1982) earning a first class in the Masters degree. During his Dhaka University days, he was active in student political circles given his concern for the society and the plight of the common people. Some of his friends and students from the University days remember his keen interest in Marxist political economy. Mosharraf (Munir) joined Dhaka University as a lecturer in economics and was also a visiting researcher at the BIDS. Later he was awarded Commonwealth Scholarship to study economics at the University of Cambridge. He completed his thesis under Professor David Newbery who is well known for his work in public finance in developing countries. In 1991, Munir joined the International Monetary Fund in the Economist program, a laudable achievement. In October 1993 he was transferred to the African Department where he steadily rose in rank eventually becoming a Senior Economist with the IMF. During his career, his wider interest in development economics, especially in Bangladesh, continued. He was an active member of the Association for Economic and Development Studies on Bangladesh (AEDSB). AEDSB is dedicated to the study of development problems relating to Bangladesh; he served on the executive committee, taking an active role as General Secretary and later as vice president. His organizational skills were evident when in December 2006, when despite his cancer, he worked to organize an event to honor Dr. Yunus in Washington DC.

In 2004 S. M. Hossain was excited to have the opportunity to go back to Bangladesh as an Advisor to Bangladesh Bank on loan from the IMF for two years (later extended by a year). It was a dream assignment, since he was interested in working on Bangladesh, and this allowed him to spend time with his extended family. After spending two years on the assignment during which he made major contributions to the financial sector of Bangladesh, in early 2006 he started feeling unwell. After initial visits to the doctors in Dhaka were not productive, he went to Singapore for a medical check up where he was diagnosed with cancer. The family quickly returned to Washington DC for his treatment. Eventually he was admitted to the Mayo clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. The initial treatment at Mayo enabled him to return to work for several months. Unfortunately, the cancer returned, and he was admitted again to Mayo in late summer 2007.

Dr. S. M. Hossain leaves behind a rich legacy of service to helping nations alleviate poverty as an international civil servant, and especially a love for Bangladesh, his motherland. Overcoming adversities in early life, he went on to earn a doctorate in economics from a premier university, and became a highly successful professional with many contributions. On behalf of the general membership, the Executive Committee of the AEDSB wishes to recognize his many contributions to this organization and to Bangladesh. We offer our

deepest condolences to his wife, Shaan Noman, their 13 year old daughter, Nabihah Hossain, and the extended family.