

Published September 21, 2013, 09:32 PM

## Brothers come from Bangladesh to NDSU for snow

FARGO - While residents may gripe about North Dakota's subzero winters, the state's annual snowfall was one reason two brothers from Bangladesh decided to pursue their doctorates in agriculture at North Dakota State University.

By: [Maureen McMullen](#), INFORUM

---

FARGO – Abdullah Al Bari and his brother, Hisam Al Rabbi, had never seen snow before they moved here from Bangladesh.

"When we first experienced snowfall in Fargo, it was like a real dream," said Bari, who moved to the area with his wife in 2009.

While residents may gripe about North Dakota's subzero winters, the state's annual snowfall was one reason the brothers decided to pursue their doctorates in agriculture at North Dakota State University.

The brothers were first introduced to North Dakota through the book "Hotel Graver Inn," by Ahmed Humayun, a celebrated author and director in Bangladesh who earned his Ph.D. in quantum chemistry at NDSU.

Though the brothers had never been to North Dakota, they felt a connection to the area through Humayun's books.

"When I was a kid, I knew Fargo, the Memorial Union, about Montana, about camping," said Rabbi, who joined his brother in Fargo in 2012. "It was something that I could imagine how it could be."

Inspired by Humayun's fond recollections of North Dakota, the brothers became determined to study at NDSU.

"When we were in eighth or ninth grade, we read those books. There were so many thrilling stories about the cold and snow," Bari said. "So, we thought if we get the opportunity, we should go there for our studies."

Bari witnessed his first flakes of snow while he and his wife were out for a walk. They first assumed the snowflakes were tiny tufts of cotton, like those that fall from cotton trees in Bangladesh.

"The heavy snow was a white color that was so sacred," Bari said of the freshly fallen snow. "It was an amazing feeling."

Rabbi shares his brother's admiration for the snow, but he's been caught in a blizzard more than once while walking home from NDSU, braving tumultuous winds and knee-deep snowdrifts during the half-hour treks.

"The snow was pushing into my eyes; it was like I was blind," Rabbi said. "But it was still a good experience, I can say. I can share this experience with my buddies in my country, so I like it."

Both Bari and Rabbi plan to return to Bangladesh once they've completed their degrees, but say they will leave with good memories of the area.

"I like this place. I'll go home with a good experience and a very good impression of people here," Rabbi said.

---

Readers can reach Forum reporter Maureen McMullen at (701) 235-7311

**Tags:** [news](#), [updates](#), [ndsu](#)