

We recently lost Mr. M. R. Chowdhury the most benevolent among us; he was the burning example of Bangladeshi Culture and the brightest star in the horizon for us, but we remember him as a very ordinary man with extra ordinary love and passion. He taught us how to keep our heads up and promote the Bangladeshi tradition and culture in the whole North America.

M. R. Chowdhury, known as Nantu Bhai in the community, was a rare breed. He is an ideal example of volunteerism and kindness. He loved people and he loved his heritage. He was a people's person. He was a good friend and a great source of inspiration to the Bangladeshi-American community. He has been with the Bangladesh Association, Houston since 1985 and served constantly with or without holding a position. He has been the Director of Cultural Affairs 1997-1998, 2007-2008. Nantu Bhai also served as Chairman of the Cultural Committee of the 10th North American Bangla Literature & Cultural Convention 2005 and Co-Chair of Cultural Committee for FOBANA 2009. He and his team represented the Association in almost every FOBANA since 1997. His cultural team won 1st prize as the best performances in Boston, won the 1st prize for best performance in Dallas and then 2nd prize in Chicago and then again in Los Angeles. Nantu Bhai has also staged many Dance Dramas and won the heart and soul of everyone who met him.. The Bijoyer Avahon, Dewan Gazir Kitsa, Nakhshi Kathar Maath, Shomorpon etc. are few of his memorable accomplishment in promoting our rich culture and diversity in the city of Houston.

Nantu Bhai pledged to be a founding member of the Bangladesh-American Center and was going to pay the remaining of his pledge during this Groundbreaking Ceremony, but suddenly Nantu Bhai felt ill and he was rushed to the hospital. Nantu Bhai insisted to perform during this groundbreaking ceremony to share his determination and spirit of building the Center. He wanted A Center for everyone to bring peace and harmony. He lived with dignity and touched hundreds of people by giving his gift of talent.

Bangladeshi community was very fortunate to have a talented person and well-wisher who dedicated his life in advancing and promoting the culture to our youngsters. Nevertheless, we will also remember him as a very ordinary

man with Extra Ordinary love and heart. Nantu Bhai single handedly carried the torch of Bangladeshi culture in Houston for over 30 years. He died at the age of 67.

Nantu Bhai is one of the longest serving community activist and Association Director who has given everything that humanly possible to the cause of Bangladesh and upholding her traditions. He has given a shining beacon to every child that grew up in Houston in the last 30 years - to promote Bangladeshi culture and heritage in North America, the touch of a Little Bangladesh away from home. He will be amongst us for years to come through his teachings of multi-cultural diversity to our children over the past 30 years.

নান্টু

“আমাদের জ্যোতির্ময়”

কিষ্কায় তুমি ছড়িয়ে ছিলে
মবার মামে
যখন এমে নাচতে
তুমি রাজার মাজে।

কখনো বা কবিতার আবৃত্তি
কখনো বা নুপুরের বিনিমিনি,
তখন কি বুঝতে পেরেছি
তোমাকে আমরা কতটুকু চিনি ?

তোমাকে দেখেছি মুমজিত
রইতে মবার মামে
যাবার সময় তাইতো গেলে
রাজার দুলাল মাজে।

দয়ার হাত বাড়িয়েছো
দুপ্পের কথা ডেবে,
গানের সুর ছড়িয়েছো
মানবতার কাজে।

মবার মাথে চলেছো তুমি
বেশেছো সময়,

ছোট বড় মবার চোখ
তাইতো আজ অক্ষয়ময়।

তোমাকে হস্তো বিনি কখনো
ডানোবাতি চিরতরে -
আজ ডাবি ডাই - তুমি কি তাই
চলে গেলে অভিমানে করে ?

মনে রেখো তুমি মবার কাছে
ছিলে পরিচিত “আদরের নান্টু ডাই”,
হাজার মেহ, ডানোবামার অক্ষপাত
ফাঙ্কছে আজ অবিরত তাই।

দিন নাই রাত নাই - উৎসর্গ করে ছিলে
নিজের মকাম সময়,
তাইতো তুমি আজ বেঁচে রইলে মবার মামে
তুমিই আমাদের জ্যোতির্ময়।

অধ্যাপিকা ডঃ মেদিনা আহমেদ
হিউস্টন, টেক্সাস, ০৩-২১-২০১২

We Remember You, Nantu Bhai

In recognition of Mr. M. R. Chowdhury (Nantu)'s decades-long contribution as one of the finest volunteers, Bangladesh Association, Houston (BAH) has been orchestrating various activities for the community to collectively mourn his sudden departure. Please visit BAHouston.com for fresh updates on how the community is commemorating Mr. Chowdhury's life full of contributions.

You can also watch M.R. Nantu's last performance.

Bangladesh Association, Houston will publish a Nantu Memorial issue of newsletter within the next 15 days in honor of our dearest Nantu Bhai. We earnestly request you to submit your thoughts, prayers, reactions to obituary@bangladesh-association.com before March 30, 2012. We will accommodate all contents to the best way possible. This is the first of our efforts to honor our beloved brother, friend and lifelong community volunteer.

Please send this e-mail to your friends who maybe interested to write a line or two about him. Please limit your response to no more than 50 words if possible. However, we will consider larger write up about his life, achievements or personal stories.

For your information, we are asking his friends who are BASGH members to contribute to this issue also, therefore this newsletter will be a combined effort of the Bangladeshi community. All along his life Nantu Bhai wanted a united community.
This is the least we can we do to honor his wish.



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M. R. Chowdhury (Nantu)
(1944-2012)



“Surely we belong to God and to Him
shall we return”

- Surah Al Baqara, Verse 156