



A Celebration of the Life and Work of

*Humayun
Rasheed Choudhury*

Friday, 27 July 2001, 1:00 pm
Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium
United Nations

*Humayun
Rasheed Choudhury*

**President of the 41st Session of the
United Nations General Assembly
Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament**

**Moment of silence led by Sri Chinmoy
Leader of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations**

Musical dedication
Songs composed by Sri Chinmoy
in honour of Humayun Rasheed Choudhury
and performed by the Peace Meditation Choir

Tributes

Video presentation

Bangladesh National Anthem

*Programme offered by
Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations
and the UNSRC Society of Writers*

*A Very Special Message from the Beloved Daughter
of the Speaker, Humayun Rasheed Choudhury*

Ms. Nasrine R. Karim, Director General, Earth Identity Project, United Nations NGO

Leading is more than just vision alone, it is also about dedication and absolute belief that change is necessary. My beloved father, the late Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, Speaker of the Bangladesh National Assembly, spent an entire lifetime serving his country. His vision was to implement true democratic ideals in Bangladesh – to change the existing social order and to bring peace to those most in need. He was the voice for millions of Bangladeshis, and his concern for those that bear the brunt of decisions made by policy-makers made him one of the most respected, enlightened and formidable figures in Bangladesh history.

A distinguished career diplomat, his exposure to the world afforded him key opportunities. My father was instrumental in freeing his country and was actively involved in the stages leading up to the Liberation War in 1971, where Bangladesh gained its independence. A remarkable man, my father's life was filled with many firsts. He was the first Ambassador of the new Bangladesh to Germany and also Saudi Arabia, where he was instrumental in engendering the warm relations that these two countries share today. On the home front, he served as both Foreign Secretary and Foreign Minister.

The world too recognized his merits. His cosmopolitan view and vast experience in politics, human rights and security issues led to his election as the 41st President of the UN General Assembly in 1986. Subsequent key international appointments would follow, such as becoming a founding member of the World Council of UNGA Presidents as well as a member of the World Council of Foreign Ministers and Representative for Asia of the Steering Committee of the Millennium meeting of the International Parliamentary Union. He masterminded the formation of the Asian Parliament for Peace and brought together the Asian parliamentarians to debate about Peace for Development in the region.

But in spite of his professional achievements, Mr. Choudhury was a highly spiritual man. In his lifetime, he helped many to realize their dreams. A devout Muslim, his willingness to aid and listen to others was relentless. Within his own home, he was a pillar of incredible strength, inspiration and love for his family. The zenith of my father's philosophical outlook came to fruition when he became Speaker of the National Parliament. In the last five years alone, he was able to fully endorse his deep convictions that justice, freedom and peace should prevail in society, if a true democracy is to follow. He cared passionately about the rights of the common man and made sure

that the most affected and underprivileged sectors of society were given a say. He wanted badly to alleviate poverty in his country and left no stone unturned to find the solution.

His legacy will remain in the many forms of legislation that have helped strengthen parliamentary processes and build Bangladesh into the democracy it is today. His avid interest in the digital age led him to encourage all technological advancements in his country. By bringing the world closer at hand, he hoped to lead a modernized Bangladesh into the future.

Another one of his final projects was addressing the issue of arsenic poisoning through contaminated groundwater in Bangladesh, which has currently affected 57 million people in the country. The work will be continued today by his family, several NGOs and the UN.

Humayun Rasheed Choudhury knew how to inspire and encourage. He loved his country and his family with a passion. His keen intelligence and focused approach won him admiration, goodwill and respect amongst everyone that knew him. The people of Bangladesh have lost not only their role model, but a true international Statesman and a national hero.

As for his family, he shall continue to live within their memories, imbued with the happiness and love that he so effortlessly gave to them throughout his life. He will never be forgotten, for them it was a privilege to have had him as a parent, guide and a true friend. Every day we think of him and pray for his departed soul to have the same honour that his country and people have shown him in the glorious Heaven created by Allah.

I, on behalf of my mother and my family, thank H.E. Sri Chinmoy and his friends for the honour, respect and love shown to my beloved departed father. We hope that one day he will come to Bangladesh so that we are able to reciprocate a little of what he has shown our family.



Nasrine R. Karim
The unfortunate daughter

Humayun Rasheed Choudhury

Words and music
By Sri Chinmoy
November 4, 1986

$\text{♩} = 120$ Moderate fine

Hu-ma-yun Ra---sheed Chou--dhu---ry

Pre-si-dent of Ge-ne-ral As---sem---bly.

Bang-la-de-sheer a-shar sa-gar

Bang-la-de-sheer ja-sheer bhu-dhar

To-mar hi---yai ma---nab ja-----tir

Dhri---ra pre---ma ban-----dhan


He---thai U. N. e ja---nai to---mai sa-----dar

sam-----bha-----shan D.C. al fine


Humayun Rasheed Choudhury
President of General Assembly.
Bangladesher ashar sagar
Bangladesher jasher bhudhar
Tomar hiyai manab jatir
Dhira prema bandhan
Hethai U.N. e janai tomai
Sadar sambhashan

I Cannot Contemplate a World Without the United Nations

Words by Humayun Choudhury
Music by Sri Chinmoy
April 29, 2000



" I can-not con-tem-plate a world with-out



the U--ni-----ted Na-----tions. It__ must be saved."

**"I cannot contemplate a world
without the United Nations.
It must be saved."**

—Humayun Rasheed Choudhury

A Very Special Message from the Beloved Daughter of the Speaker, Humayun Rasheed Choudhury

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