

In the memory of our dearest friend Shafiq Ahmed

In the month of June, I was visiting Karachi to attend an event upcountry. As the visit was short (3 weeks), I had purposely kept this visit low profile so as not to attract too many visitors that could be a bit of distraction. Hence a very few friends knew about this visit. Muslim & Shujaat knew about it as I told Shujaat based here in Canada earlier but the friends they are, everything Shujaat knows, Muslim knows it too.

Normally when I would land in Karachi, I would call Muslim who in turn would gather other friends and arrange a visit. But this time I refrained from doing so because of my crammed commitments, however Muslim and Jamal did visit me and whatever the situation it is absolutely pleasure when such dear old friends visit me at home.

Usually the trio, Muslim, Jamal and Shafiq would come all together, but this time Shafiq was missing. The exact date skips my memory but it was in the last week of June when I had a surprise visitor, our dearest Shafiq Ahmed.

Normally he would call but this time there was no prior announcement. He just rang the bell and walked in. I was a bit surprised, but guests are guests, especially a very old friend like him, it is always sheer pleasure.

At that particular instant in time I was having Lunch and invited him to join me which he politely declined but settled for a cup of tea without sugar as he was diabetic. We talked a while, the usual social chit chat, family, DCET Scholarship and a bit of business as well. He asked me to look for certain products in Canada and get a quote etc. I told him that I was a bit handicapped not carrying my laptop but would send him the requisite info when I returned to Toronto by late July. He looked weak and frail and I had noted this earlier as well, just a few months back. I asked him about his health to which he in his usual cheerful style replied fine, all well. To my knowledge he was diabetic and had some blood pressure issues but never a heart patient! When he departed, seeing his frail appearance. I asked him to walk down the stairs with hands on the rails. I was worried, he had come driving alone and did not look well.

I hugged him at the doorsteps when he departed and kissed his cheeks, not knowing that this was the last time I would embrace this gentle soul.

The kind of person he was he never said “NO” always willing, smiling, obliging and taking time out from his family, business and personal commitments in meeting old friends. An ardent supporter of DCET Scholarship scheme, a true committed friend, friend of friends.

Always smiling, cheerful, listening to others worries & woes, trying to help, find a solution, bonding with the group. He along with Muslim and Jamal is the only person who attended all the Scholarships events in the past 10 yrs.

I wrote earlier “an Ode to a friend” with his picture in mind and complimented him for his eternal bond that he epitomized. Our dearest friend was a real jewel in the crown

and I am certain that all of us deeply lament this colossal loss and no words can do justice to the jewel we have lost. He left an indelible mark on all of us. May Allah (SWT) bless his soul, grant him Maghfirat from HIS Grace and place him in the highest echelon of garden of bliss. May the angels look after him as an esteemed guest and may he drink from the fountain of Kauser from the cup of our great prophet (pbuh).

Below, I have summed up some of the attributes narrated by other friends.

Extremely nice person, very polite, humble, Always in good sprit, looked so young, always obliging, a teacher, best of friend, man of qualities, Shafiq (also his name) true to his name, very easy company, a trustworthy wonderful sales man, truly an admirable person, very dedicated to the country (he never left for overseas job, truly a remarkable, memorable character devoted to friends especially to E3 friends.

I lost a great friend and no words won't justify the loss, not only to myself but the entire group.

I would like to share a quote from Hazrat Ali RA.

“You should live in the world in such a way, that people crave for your company, and weep over you when you are dead”

He left us all crying.

May Allah Taa'la grant him mugfirat and place him in highest echelons of Jannat Ul Firdous.

May Allah Taa'la bless the entire family, give solace to the family and friends.

Ameen suma Ameen to all supplications.

Final Comment from our dear friend Ballal copied below:

I am devastated. Can't see a world in which Chacha is longer there. A larger than life person with a heart of gold. Yaroan ka yaar and an affectionate and loving family man. They don't make people like him anymore. A giant of a man. He will be missed. Lots and lots...

Asif Ahmed
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