



TELEVISION
OF A
LIFETIME

MAN OF MANY TALENTS



FARIDUR REZA SAGOR

[Continued from last issue]

On that night of 1966 at the newsroom of Shongbad office Zaman Ali Khan was appreciating Abdullah Al Mamun's ideology and the style of story writing through his words. Zaman Ali Khan took Abdullah Al Mamun to his home on that night. There, Farid Ali was working with the script of a television drama. The rehearsal of that drama will kick off from the next day. Abdullah Al Mamun has been involved in working with the script. That was the start. The first touch of Abdullah Al Mamun's pen for any script of television program has been happened. Since then Abdullah Al Mamun has produced many television dramas.

Besides producing dramas Abdullah Al Mamun has acted in the lead role in many plays. He has played the opposite role of Bobita in the film "Ekhone Shomoy". Once upon a time there used to be a program in television for letters and feedback. He had anchored the program for a long time. Due to all these things Abdullah Al Mamun has become the star producer. But from the administrative side of television Abdullah Al Mamun didn't get sufficient appreciation. The designation of commissioner of Dhaka center is an essential post for the television officers. Abdullah Al Mamun has worked in this post for 13 times. But every time he worked as acting commissioner due to which he couldn't get his name in the board of the commissioners' name.

On the other hand after being appointed in Television Abdullah Al Mamun was able to bring and combine lots of intellectuals from Newspapers, theater and films into the television industry. From Nurul Momen, Ashker Ibne Shayek, Shayed Ahmed, Obaydul Haque, Anis Chowdhury, Sayed Shamshul Haque, Zahir Raihan to Nilima Ibrahim he has written serials for such Talented Individuals and has also even produced it. He was able to bring high class actor like Fateh Lohani to the mini screen. Written by Anish Chodhury and acted by Faten Lohani and Razzak the serial "Karigor" was of such high quality that after seeing it the then former Television workers

brought the series to the Pakistani Television Networks and since then the telecasting of programs was started under the Transmission act of Television network. Moreover for the first time in Pakistan decision to make a high quality serial was ensured. The serial was named "Nawab Siraj-Ud-Doula". These two hours long serial was the first ever biggest serial made in the history of television. It is better to say, the main producer of the serial was Abdullah Al Mamun. It was a great pride to see a young Bengali guy is being given the responsibility among the entire Pakistan. On top of that he had the biggest challenge to produce the series successfully. With Regular rehearsals on each day different scenes would be recorded. As per as like the movies the telecast date of the serial was also fixed. But moments before that day during the recording period of the serial a severe accident happens. That was the day when the DIDR floor was used for all night long recording. A really crucial scene was enacted at that time. At that Abdullah Al Mamun gets a call from the house saying that his pregnant wife is at a critical stage. Abdullah Al Mamun heard the news but he did not left the panel after hearing that. If he would leave the panel then the entire serial would be at greater risk. In order to telecast the serial on its specified date it would have to be finished by today.

The next day when he goes back to the house he finds that the entire house is grieve stricken. At night Abdullah Al Mamun's wife do give birth to a child but the child doesn't survive. Abdullah Al Mamun's friend Television director Keramot Mawla's performed all the duties at the house at that time. From calling the doctor to burying the child in the graveyard he did the entire thing with the help of others. It is really devastating to see in order to produce a serial one had to go through such cruel hardships. Before the Independence the serials Abdullah Al Mamun produced was not only tested but it also presented the audience with different aspects.

*The writer is Managing Director, Channell i
Translated by Imtiaz Salim*



LIFE'S LYRICS

G.P. MITRA

NASHID KAMAL

I still remember his youthful face. He taught us Physics and Mathematics in Holy Cross School. He warned us that the 'Notredame students' were working harder than us. Later on, I heard that he warned them that WE were doing better! His face was fair, he was so enthusiastic while teaching, and when the teenagers from Holy Cross School played pranks on him, he went beetroot red.

Mathematics was my favourite subject; Sir Gouranga Prasad Mitra was our teacher in Holy Cross School. I was introduced to him in 1972, after he came back from the liberation war. I did not realize then that Sir Mitra would be a lifelong inspiration to me and many others. When he taught in class, he singled me out, asked me for solutions, and asked me to demonstrate the solved problems to the rest of the class. I am sure he repeatedly boosted the morale, uplifted the solving power, and elevated the confidence of students every single year and even when he retired, his active interest in our career paths made him our 'Dhruvotara'.

Sir Mitra left this mortal world on 1st March 2015. I read the tributes on social media and our discussions elsewhere when even in death he thought of contributing to this society by leaving the body for the 'Mitford hospital'.

Sir Mitra came to visit me in my Purana Paltan house back in 1974 when I was a student of class eleven. He spoke to my mother about how I should perform even better. We formed a group of ten high performers; we took private lessons from him in my grandfather's house in Eskaton. What an epitome of patience he was, he solved each and every problem, especially in statistics and dynamics, his



brilliance guided us. Thanks to him, we all excelled, I took statistics as my honours subject. Sir Mitra was delighted!

A few years down the road, I met him again in a train ticketing booth. I was leaving for my fieldwork in Demography (PhD). He stood in line and asked about all my sisters, my cousins, my friends and their careers. Amazing, I thought. How could he even remember who my friends were, this must have been twenty years back? I was amazed with his memory! It wasn't the end. He stood there and asked me about the exact nature of my research, what I trained in etc. He introduced his son and daughter. He beamed when he said 'Nashid is my student', wherever I go, Suhrawardy hospital, BMC, CMH, all are my students'

Today I take up my pen in glowing tribute to this man whose life needs to be celebrated. He not only taught us mathematics and physics but through his own life he showed us how to live a life of dignity. I had seen Sir Mitra with his two arms. Eighteen days into his marriage though, he lost his left arm in a road accident in 1973. He continued teaching with one arm; he taught us, collected his books singlehandedly, corrected them and became an exemplary warrior. By his side was his non-compromising comrade, his wife Mrs Mitra, who has been a pillar of strength, making sure that 'defeat' was a word long obsolete from their dictionaries. If anyone deserves an award 'Ekusher Padak' or 'Shadhinota Padak', it is G.P.Mitra.

*The writer is an
academic, Nazrul exponent and writer.*