

TELEVISION OF SOFTNESS

TELEVISION OF A LIFETIME 

FARIDUR REZA SAGOR

Television is around our life as a friend. Many things can be said from that television history. The name of the artist of the first television drama is Ferdousi Mojumdar. And the name of the first singer was Ferdousi Rahman. Both of their names are Ferdousi. But we have taken almost 30 years to speak out these words together in television screen.

The one who has taken the initiative to compile these things is Mostofa Kamal Syed. As I have said about Abdullah Al Mamun, he was the first star producer to the audiences. And Mostofa Kamal Syed is a star to the people who are behind the camera. Mostofa Kamal Syed was the only person after Khaleda Fahmi who has become the centered person whatever his designation was. He was really faithful to his position and was honest wherever he worked at. When Mostofa Kamal Syed was the head of the anchoring department, he had to stay at the station in most of the day. He has been seated in many positions



Abdullah Al Mamun



Ferdousi Mojumdar



Ferdousi Rahman



Runa Laila

and he took all his responsibilities with full priority and honesty. Mostofa Kamal Syed deserves the credit of taking television as a government representative to the people. He has one of the persons who have taken this responsibility with full of honesty and dedication.

Mostofa Kamal Syed even could memorize which tape in the archive carries which program. When it needs any filler Mostofa Kamal Syed could easily tell sitting in his 212 No room that which rack contains the tape of the Runa Laila's song. He could even tell the number of the track that had to be chosen for the filler.

Mostofa Kamal Syed has given his 100 percent for a modernized presentation of drama and musical program in television.

He has played an important role in bringing foreign programs for television. In his time the audiences of Bangladesh could watch best foreign movies and other LIVE programs. It has to be mentioned that the time when Mostofa Kamal Syed brought the best movies from abroad it was even harder to do a phone call to abroad from Bangladesh. But Mr. Kamal has showed that if you have the dedication and strength then you can make any impossible work possible. Because it was

really difficult to send letters, deciding which Hollywood movie is good bringing the brochure. But, the movies the television has shown in the late 70s and early 80s blew the audiences minds away. Mr. Kamal has shown modern lifestyle movie like Dynasty. Though one more person also deserves the credit who was behind bringing these foreign movies is A.K. Qurayeshi. His lifestyle is very strange. Even currently in his leisure time he is doing a lot of works. He is involved in many social welfare activities of Anjuman Mofidul. Earlier he used to be a pilot. Then he became a renowned sound engineer. Before and after joining television he has acted in many dramas and cinemas. He might have acted in the role of a judge in most cinemas. A.K. Qurayeshi and Mostofa Kamal Syed have jointly worked and presented drama serials, foreign movies and musical programs to the audiences.

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LIFE'S LYRICS

LEENA ALAM

NASHID KAMAL

Every time I hear the name Hemayetpur, it reminds me of a village where people send patients for mental health treatment. This time the name was mentioned to me in a different context. She sat in her beautiful home in London, a home she had with her late husband accountant Alam. The camellia flowers in bright red colours created a wonderful ambience and we sat in the shades of her self-landscaped garden. Every sentence that came out of her mouth made me gape. The fragrance from her magnolia tree wanted to enter my trachea. The picture of Venice and its water boats hung on the side of the living room. From the garden I had a clear view of that. My mind raced through the stories of her many travels and sojourns. She had travelled with her husband and collected many artefacts all laid so tastefully in every corner of the room. She has donated this beautiful



house to a few charities. "What charities Auntie?" I asked. She replied, "I have bought six bighas of land in Hemayetpur. The land is near the waters where a floating school will be built for the locals. I looked at this picture of Venice and the floating school came to my mind. I am building strong pillars so that the rainy season cannot drown the school. I sold my Gulshan flat, my car and other belongings and injected the funds into my project. It is in the name of my mother-in-law Mrs. Maleka. The trust is named after her." She had started this project five years back. Prior to that, she was working for the Centre for Paralyzed (CRP). Valerie Taylor and her daughters used to come to London and spend some time in her beautiful home. Leena Auntie told me "Like everyone else in CRP, Valerie gets a salary. As the month ends, her food budget gets low and she eats rice and daal until the next cash flow arrives." I had learnt something from there. It was home

to me too as I had lived there many times since Leena Auntie was our family friend. Her theme is to not only develop a school but also to have some accommodations for single mothers. Moreover, she is building old homes there, so that people can go and spend their old ages there. Her seventy plus face beamed with the joy of new creation, green and shiny as ever. Leena Auntie had come to London as a young bride at eighteen. She worked in schools there. She did landscaping for others to earn money for charity. Often she brought Bangladeshi saris and other wares to sell in her wonderful garden. She organized lunch for her Bangladeshi and British friends and managed to sell all her stuff. She got her British friends over to CRP in Bangladesh and got them to sponsor various events. She used them for charity work. In this world of greed, power, money, there are the likes of Rana (of Rana plaza) or the forest officer who had pillow covers filled with cash money, whose mission in

life is to amass immense wealth, no matter how many lives it costs. Thankfully there are Leena Alams whose mission in life is not to waste a single penny, not to leave behind hordes of wealth as inheritance, but to sell all and leave behind everything for those who don't have any. It is for people like them that this country lives, breathes and continues to be so. I am reminded of the tea seller in some remote part in Bangladesh. He sells his tea and from this humble income gives free lessons to local children. This young man from Rangpur could not finish school due to poverty, but helped form a squad and resist child marriage. Now his village is free of child marriages. They are our leaders, they are our celebrities, and we need to honour them.

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