



TELEVISION OF A LIFETIME

SONGS OF YESTERYEAR

FARIDUR REZA SAGOR

The song was first aired in the show "Soptoborna". One can even say that, after the introduction of pop songs, the program "Soptoborna" was able to reach the pinnacle of success. Popular artists such as Ferdous Wahid, Firoz Shai, Fakir Alamgir, Pilu Momtaz were frequent in the show Soptoborna. Apart from these artists, there were also presence of Rabindranath Rai, Mala Khan, Shompa Reza. Surprisingly! The one whom we know as the king of pop in Bangladesh, Azam Khan came at the last episode of Soptoborna.

Pop songs become a raving hit after they were showcased in the program Soptoborna. Its popularity spread rapidly among the mass, just like the hot molten lava. Before that the popularity of pop concerts was fairly limited to school-colleges areas. The songs had no whatsoever connection with the common people. But interestingly! After the showcasing of a pop song in the Soptoborna program, it became a general hit among the common mass who greatly



started to love it. This popularity of pop song lead to the formation of lots of bands. The first band to perform pop songs in television was called "Jinga Band". The band which was led by Shafayat Ali performed in lots of television to perform Bangla pop songs. The main two singers of the band were 2 sisters, Nazma Zaman and Samia Zaman.

The drummer of this band was also another popular artist Linu Billah. Another band called "Souls" used to come from Chittagong to perform songs in television.

In the world of pop music, we got many artists who rose to fame with pop songs, but as time went by they faded away from the world of music.

The song "Emon Ekta Ma De Na" which was sung by Wahid, composed and written by Opu, was the only song that was done by him. After that he went onto become a doctor in Los Angeles. Abdullah Abu Sayed was able to showcase lots of talented artists with his various magazine programs. If these artists were given the opportunity to stay in the music world then they would have surely done a lot for the television. Abdullah Shibli, who was a custom officer, sang a song with the words "Ghiye Bhaja Porota". This song is surely intact in the memories of those people who were present during that time. After that, the name that comes to in our mind is that of the comedian actor, Hitlu. Hitlu many jokes are still afresh in his audience mind.

In the television world, many artists come and disappear. Now the only thing that remains still is the love of audience and the fond memories.

The writer is Managing Director, Channel i

Translated by Imtiaz Salim

Spreading the fervour of
KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM



LIFE'S LYRICS

NASHID KAMAL

I borrow the word 'fervour' from Nazrul Islam himself, as he wrote in the song 'Srijono chonde anonde nacho Nataraj' which, when translated, reads like this:

Oh Nataraj!
Dance to the joy of creation
Bury your fervour of destruction

But very few have been familiar with the details of the words coined and used by National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. During his birthday and death anniversary programs, a few songs and poems are recited in the media. The lion share of his works remains undiscovered.

This was the crux of my conversation with Mr. Ekram Ahmed, the current Executive Director of the Nazrul Institute, in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. In an attempt to rouse consciousness on Nazrul, the Institute has taken up elaborate programmes this winter. The National Conference started in Teota of Comilla. Teota (4-6 Dec, 2015) is the original abode of Mrs. Promila Nazrul, the wife of Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam who frequented these places during his lifetime. The occasion was inaugurated by the state Minister for Cultural Affairs, Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor with a befitting inaugural speech. Students of Nazrul Institute and Rebeka Sultana performed there. The main paper was read by Professor Mohitul Islam. Promila was born in Teota but due to early loss of her father, she was raised by her maternal Uncle in Comilla.

The conference started with a rally walking all around the city roads and the three day festival was made remarkable with both academic discussions and cultural rendition by local artists and those from Dhaka.

I happened to be one from Dhaka on the second day of the second conference held in Faridpur. This was from 22-24th January, 2016. Mr Habibullah Seraji read the main paper. Other discussants included Mr. Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director of Bangla Academy and Professor Nironjan Adhikari of Dhaka University. Faridpur was mainly chosen for poet Nazrul Islam's



closeness with poet Jasimuddin Ahmed who hailed from there. Set against a beautiful stretch of open land, the house of Jasimuddin has been preserved with due honour. Portraits of the poet and Jasimuddin have been enlarged and set up there on the wall.

Nazrul had visited Faridpur 7/8 times and had written poems there. A couple of lines from the poem that Jasimuddin could remember were written there

*'Akashete ekla dole Ekadoshi chand
Nodir teere dingi dhora pothik dhora phad'*

The main programme was held in the *Ambika Maidan* where Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam had recited his poems and songs. It was a great moment for all of us, artists Fatema Tuz Zohra, Salauddin Ahmed, Yeakub Ali Khan, Shaheed Kabir Polash, Leena Taposhi Khan, K.A. Shakil, Babul Hossain new artists both from Nazrul Institute and Faridpur enthralled the audience. The next conference is to be held in Chuadanga from 11-13th March. The poet used to visit a village there named 'Karpashdanga'. The house still remains and may become a Nazrul heritage soon. Nazrul even brought his family from Krishno nagar and stayed in this house for a few weeks. After visiting East Bengal the poet had written in his poem "*Tumi more bhuliacho*" (Chokrobak)

Your voice rising from the heart of the night
Your face, your sad eyes I still seek
On the banks of the Padma river
I address you by so many names
Mahashweta, Shireen, Laili, Bakauli, Taj, Devi,
Woman, Lover!
Do not get any response
The waves of Meghna hiss and swirl
Sometimes breaking the banks, sometimes all

We are so very fortunate to celebrate the life and works of Nazrul Islam.

The writer is an academician, Nazrul exponent and writer.