

MEDIUM OF LOVE



TELEVISION
OF A LIFETIME



Bijori Barkatullah's husband Shawkat Ali Imon is highly involved with the music industry.

Producer Mustafizur Rahman got married to artist Rowshon Ara Mustafiz. The couple had two sons, Ovik and Rana. Both of them are also closely involved with television.

Rehnuma Kamal is a regular news reader in television. She is the daughter of Mustafa Kamal Sayeed and voice artist Zeenat Rehana. Apart from producer-artist relationship, the audiences have created lots of pairs in their dreams. They don't even know whether this relationship truly exists or not but they still dream to see them as pair.

During the beginning of television, the first pair that become famous among the audience and is still able to gift us many such wonderful drama is none other than the popular pair: Abdullah Al Mamun and Ferdousi Mujumder.

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The author is Managing Director,
Channel i
Translated by Imtiaz Salim

FARIDUR REZA SAGOR

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Ali Imam is known for acting as a host in various programs apart from children's show. People in the television institute used to say that he could do anything. One only needs to brief him about the content and then he would be able to perform a perfect shot in front of the camera. Ali Imam could talk about any topic in front of the camera. In the history of television, there are instances where documentaries were made on a topic but the script was not written well. In those instances Ali Imam would watch the documentary and make out his own speech from it.

From the beginning Television was introduced in our country to bring families together. There was a deep connection between family and the television. Whenever television artists had to go outside for various programs, they would encounter their fans. And through such meetings they were able to realize the love and support the audience hold in their heart for them.

Whenever a normal audience encounters a television artist, they usually ask the general questions such as: How are you, How is everything going, what drama are you doing right now? Etc.

The reason behind people love for television could be the love, respect and adoration between the television artists.

People who used to watch television regularly could easily recognize the producers of the movie by seeing the actors in the film or they could easily recognize the artists in the program by seeing the producer's name.

Due to love, care and wonderful teamwork between artists and producer, the audience were gifted with amazing programs.

In terms of movies, there is a saying that whenever a celebrity gets married their popularity decreases among the audience. This saying falls flat for television. Rather it can be said that in the 50 years history of television no massive scandal has been exposed like as we see in our film industry people

Most of the producers in television

established an amazing bonding with artists. With the production of a program, they were able to create wonderful understanding between them. This understanding and warmth endured the perils of time as they were able to create a superb connection between the television and its audience. This connection enamoured the audience and captured their attention for a longer period of time.

In terms of television producers, the first name that comes to mind is that of Barkatullah. He was a dance artist who turned into a TV producer. Later on he resigned from television after being a higher official. He fell in love and got married to Zeenat Barkatullah. Zeenat Barkatullah was another well-known artist of Bangladesh.

The couple Zeenat and Barkatullah had two daughters who were involved in television programs. Bijori Barkatullah is not only a renowned dance artist but also a famous artist in drama. And their other daughter Kajori Barkatullah, apart from answering mails in Ityadi, is also famous for being a producer and a host.

SINGING FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

LIFE'S
LYRICS



NASHID KAMAL

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When we were small children, we both performed on BTV shows. Our mothers sat around as our chaperons (more her mother Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Shuja, as she loved music and is a great singer herself). We learnt all the songs and even performed on Eid day. My friend Milia Islam Sabed and I were never introduced to each other; our fathers were friends and so were we.

Milia grew into a fine young lady, a singer of repute, especially for her song 'Angulo katiya kolomo banaiyya' and earned fame in her teens on the programme titled 'Anondomela'. Other shows during that time include 'Maloncho' and 'Pashapashi'. Tall, beautiful, vivacious, brilliant and pitch-perfect Milia left for her major in 'Fine Arts' from California State University, Bakersfield, USA. In between, she got married to Captain S.M. Sabed and completed her degree in 1981.

On completion of her bachelors (one of the few singers who did her concentration in voice), she had worked for almost eight years in a private school in Dhaka and continued her singing career rising to be a 'special grade artist' on BTV. Shortly after that, in 1992, she left for Singapore to join her husband.

A new life started for Milia in Singapore. When I called her there in 2001 mentioning our plan to visit her, she said; "Nashid please don't mind that my living room is a mess. My husband's cousin is battling with kidney disease and he is staying with us. The



flat is small and he is staying next to the living room. He could stay in a hotel, but that would be so lonely. In any case, what would I do with a nice living room, if it is of no use to this troubled soul?"

I felt like hugging her over the phone. My good wishes could only be blessings for someone so pure, noble and full of empathy. I learnt from her about her care for all her relatives, friends and even unknown people who go to Singapore to seek medical treatment.

On one occasion, she told me about

composer Robin Ghosh's brother Badal Ghosh who breathed his last in Singapore. Milia said; "Nashid, uncle had lost his memory but when I sang some old songs, he was able to revive, connect and sing the next lines!"

When my husband Dr. Anis Waiz fell ill, I found Milia running to the grocery store, buying food and cooking everything that he would like. When she visited the hospital with the food, it seemed as if an angel had entered. As angelic as Milia is, so is her husband Sabed. He is an excellent soul (one in a million). Not only do they offer their

home to people from their 'own walk of life', their offerings are the same for other people who spend nights in anticipation, or do not carry enough cash for treatment, or even friends from Bangladesh who do not know which doctor to approach and how to get a quick appointment.

In the meantime, she has performed in numerous occasions in the High Commission of Bangladesh (Singapore) as well as other programmes. To date, she has five compact discs to her credit. One of them, titled 'Tumi baisakh hoye eshecho' was released from India. Specializing in modern songs, Milia's other CD's have songs tuned by maestros such as Alauddin Ali, Lucky Akhand, Fuad Naser Babu, Bappa Mazumder and the songs exemplify her versatility. She has sung in several BTV special shows and those on private channels 'Bhalobasho More Gaan', Sinhalese song in the SAARC festival. Some of her songs are available on YouTube.

She is the Principal of Bangladesh Language and Cultural Foundation (BLCF) Bangla School. It has two branches in Singapore. Only recently, on 23rd February, The Daily Star covered the news of their observance of the Language Day (i.e. 21st February).

How else can one make her life worthy? Congratulations to 'Singing Florence Nightingale', Milia Islam Sabed, you make us all so proud!

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The author is an academic,
Nazrul exponent and writer.