

Television of Innovation

TELEVISION
OF A LIFETIME



FARIDUR REZA SAGOR

[Continued from Last Issue]

The production of education based programs came into limelight worldwide among the audience in the 60's. In 1964 during the starting of test transmission programs in our country, a professor Arthur Hungerford and a team of specialists from Pennsylvania State University came to Dhaka with the help of Ford Foundation to implement educational based program. Despite the fact that there had already been education based programs in BTV. In the history of television, the first ever education based program in our country was produced in 1966.

The participants in this program were Professor Munir Chowdhury, Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid and Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin. The theme of the program was the conflict between humanity and scientific cultural differences. The program was a live show so before the airing of the program, there used to be a rehearsal consisting of both the producer and participants at Munir Chowdhury's house.

On 21st July, 1969 when man first landed on the Moon, television programs were trying to introduce the idea of the moon landing through some films in discussion to the audience. In this discussion the people who participated were: Dr. Kudrut-E-Khuda and Dr. Abdullah Al Muti. This kind of almost live programs bought a sense of excitement to the audience.



Muhammad Zafar Iqbal

Nowadays whenever an important event occurs, people invite over a specialist of the field in the news. This trend is said to have started by Ekushey Television. Even though bringing specialists into the news was something that was introduced in Bangladesh Television at its earlier times. At that time specialists were not brought forward because of political reasons, they were brought forward for scientific related reasons. And the topic was Solar Eclipse.

The reporting that we see nowadays in the news was not present in news chan-

nels before but this kind of reporting was showcased in a program in Bangladesh Television. The name of the program was called "Jodi Kichhu Mone Na Koren". The host of the program was Fazle Lohani. Although he is well known among the youth as a host, he started his career in the newspapers. In the 50's he used to be an editor of a wonderful newspaper called "Ogotta". This may be the reason why he could not forget about journalism while hosting magazine programs in television. This is the reason why he used to add documentaries in his programs. And

surprisingly, these documentaries were not only restricted to our country's Gas or Electricity problem, he also reported on international zones. Many might remember about the superb report on the landless Palestine's, this report was called "Birds Have Nests but They Don't Have Any Nests". He has also done reports outside of our country- he has done reports on our neighboring areas as well.

Science based educational programs have been produced in television a lot. The names of the program that come instantly to our mind are "Biggyan Bichitra", "Onnesha", "Onu Poromanu", "Notun Diganta", "Bindu Theke Shindhu" etc. But science related programs became a huge hit in television due to Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. The name of the show was "Kintu Keno?" In this program, apart from Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, there were also other educationalists, Dr. Abdul Aziz Muntakim and Mosaluddin. Mosaluddin is working as a scientist in "Bell," a telephone company in the United States of America. So it can be said that people who participated in television programs at that time have become quite well-known even if they didn't participate in television programs much. They have participated in well-known works. One of the episodes of "Kintu Keno" revolved around the theme of science and magic.

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Tangerine sunlight and

SAMIRA ABBASI



LIFE'S
LYRICS

NASHID KAMAL

'Of moon and sixpence' is one of my favourite books by Somerset Maugham. The protagonist of the book, originally a middle aged stockbroker, left his home and disappeared. He had gone off to Tahiti and had become a painter!

Samira Abbasi studied civil engineering as a student of BUET and then left for John Hopkins University where she earned her Master's in Environmental Engineering. She learnt music from her early childhood and also performed in BTV, took part in debates and dramas, stood second in the combined merit list in SSC and HSC and has always been considered a 'child prodigy' of the times when she lived in Bangladesh.

Her husband Professor Khaled Sobhan had just completed his PhD and Samira was a new mother. Samira described her long journey and experiences with her Guru Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty to me. She had travelled with him in USA, she learnt, she practiced with table accompaniment (hard to find in USA) and kept up her musical pursuit.

I expected that of her, music has

always been running through her veins. She taught music in Chicago and other places where she lived. She also started an Abbasuddin Shongheet Academy in USA, all in the same breath, as an inheritor of the Abbasuddin legacy, it was nothing unusual. She had learnt Urdu ghazals and carved a niche amongst music lovers in USA, performing on various occasions. Then she published her first Bangla book 'America kache theke dure' and next one (a collection of short stories) 'Golpogulo bhalobashar'.

In 2013 she started a quarterly Bengali life-style titled 'Pakhi' which she edits from her home town in Florida.

I met one of her friends from School, Dr. Shikha Chokroborty. She said, 'Nashid apa, Samira wrote so well. We

could beat her in every subject but not in Bangla, when she wrote essays and her literary mind took off with wings, we were all left behind in the race.'

But she never took part in any race. Her class fellows became foreign ministers, ambassadors, business magnates. She left her job as an engineer and home-making took priority but her musical pursuits continued. She did not complain. First she gave us a CD of Urdu ghazals and then another one of Nazrul songs and then innumerable performances

for various TV channels which are available on YouTube. The more challenges came her way, the more productive she became.

Then came the era of Facebook, and often I spotted very sweet poems, full of

passion, love, new analogies, mixed with the touch of Nazrul, which has been an inherent legacy from the Abbasuddin family.

In 2011 she published a book of English poems, and some of them were written in joint collaboration with a German born US friend of hers, Demetrius Branca. They met during a web based course. The product of their friendship is published in the book titled 'The Veil', carrying other poems by Samira alone.

Samira writes:

Does the thought of death scare you? Or are you scared of life?

Do you want to live your life, or just watch it go by?

Demetrius replies:

I am the Phoenix

I am rising from my ashes

I am blazing a fiery path into the sky

When I finished the book, I imagined a house with poems written all over the place. Just as the paintings of Strickland in Maugham's book, adorned the villa in Tahiti, no one knew!

The author is an academic, Nazrul exponent & writer.

