

MESSAGES THROUGH THE MEDIA

LIFE'S LYRICS
NASHID KAMAL



I have always been a fan of TV drama, especially serials. As a young girl, I used to escape to my grandmother's room at night when my parents had gone to bed. My aunt had bought a TV for my Dadi, who would sit up late and watch TV. So, I would creep in to her room, always afraid that my father would find out and ear wringing would follow. The drama that attracted me most was the serial Shahidullah Kaiser's *Shong Shoptok*, every week I watched film actress Rosy playing *Hurmoti* and the village life became evident to me, through the fine acting of A. T. M. Shamsuzzaman and others.

There is no ear wringing for me anymore, the TV is right in front of me, I do not have to sneak outside or worry about locked doors. The serials do not attract me anymore, unless one of my friends specifically requested me to watch, I am usually on some other mission. Few years back, I used to watch *Subornolata*, an adaptation from Asha Purna Debi's very famous novel, aired on Zee Bangla and

happened to fall in love with the lady playing the protagonist, Anannya. Anannya is beautiful and her acting is superb.

She suddenly appeared in another serial titled *Jay Kali Kalkattawali*, aired on Star Jalsa, and once again I found myself attracted to the serial. Initially, it was because of her that I started watching, and found myself seriously engaged. This play was not about joint families and their dos and don'ts imposed on the bride, her jealousies with the other sister-in-law, or fights about property with some family member! This serial is dealing with serious social problems and bringing them to the forefront and even suggesting ways for us to address them.

For example, I watched an episode where there was a gang selling chocolates in front of children's school. The chocolates were filled with drugs and were being sold to the children during tiffin period; there was a conspiracy to make the children drug-dependant, which

Obhoya Mukherjee (played by Anannya) reveals to the police. In another episode, there was a religious Guru, who was actually a rapist and usurper. Women flocked in from various areas because they were barren and the Guru would violate them, against their will and bring heirs to the sons. The whole nasty business was unearthed by the protagonist. The mentality of middle class families who adhere to the age old conviction of bringing a wife for their son, just to produce an heir, the helplessness of the women are all evident in the sequences. Abhoya raises her voice through the serial. She addresses the problems, speaks about this social injustice. In another series, women above 30 open accounts in www.dreams.com to help them with finding a match. This series shows how desperate are the lives of young women who are in perfect health, but unable to face society as they are still not married. Their looks, age or qualifications has not gotten them a "suitable boy". They open accounts and

fall prey to one cheat who uses different names and follows these desperate girls. The girls die as a result of the plan set by the cheater, but before they die they bring lump sum money from their natal homes. That failure to "be married" at a suitable age causes agony to the woman is still so rampant in society, it drives the woman to a corner, even forces her to steal from her own family! What a desperate situation women are in, is portrayed in the serial and matter is addressed. As violence against women is becoming more rampant than before, we need serials which address these issues: Serials which point out right from wrong and that which gives women the impetus to march forward. Men have to remember that it is through the security of wife, daughter, sister and mother will be safe.

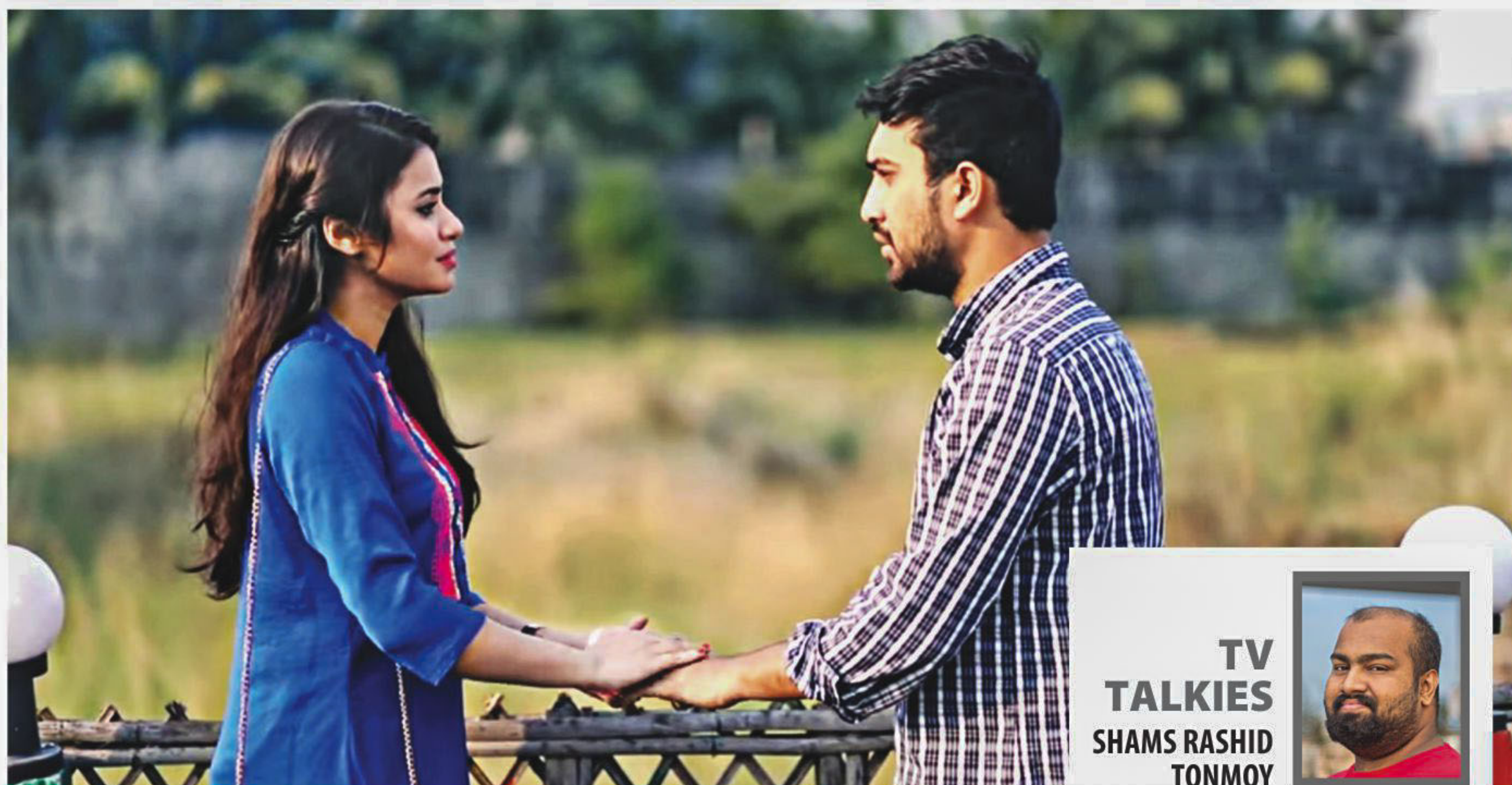
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Nashid Kamal is an Academic, Nazrul exponent and translator

DEKHA

Channel: Maasranga TV
Script and Director: Mohon Ahmed
Cast: Farhan Ahmed Jovan, Tasnuva Tisha, Sk Rayhan Abdullah

Romantic stories are dime a dozen in Bangla dramas and the desire for an exception constantly arises in regular viewers. While modern tales attempt to break the mold through unconventional plot twists and over-the-top story progressions, this serial in particular managed to be... Just about the same. The name of this telefilm has about nothing to do with the overall story, as viewers would fail to see how the concept of "sight" has anything relevant to do with what is going on. The story in itself is very simple and needs only a few sentences to fully explain. Shovon (played by Jovan) is a young man from the village looking to build a life in the city, who falls in love with the girl he had a crush on. Out of the blue, he is diagnosed with kidney failure and being unable to cope with the newfound disease, he pushes his beloved aside. However, his girlfriend (played by Tasnuva Tisha) refuses to back down and decides to stay with him as he fights the deadly ailment.

Despite being a typical story with an emotional yet not too impressive plot twist, *Dekha* had its own charm that kept me going. Jovan's portrayal as a struggling country boy trying to make it into the city was done quite well, and Tasnuva Tisha also managed to play the



role of a loyal girlfriend quite successfully. But at the end of the day, I wish I could say there was something especially unique about this telefilm. While the simple yet entertaining approach in storytelling was enjoyable, the buildup of the romance felt sudden and forced, which is a shame since that was a central element in the overall story. A bit more screentime could have been used to develop the relationship between the two main characters, because they seemed to have good chemistry with each other. A runtime of 39 minutes definitely didn't do justice

in fleshing out the character development segments.

The small runtime was also ineffective in truly showing Shovon's feeling as he was struggling with the revelation of his kidney failure; we only get a glimpse of his inability to deal with the news and his sudden decision of not wanting to involve his girlfriend in his own pain. Again, that's a shame because the telefilm could have been a lot better if such crucial aspects received more attention. However, one character that deserves mention was Shovon's friend

and dormmate (played by Sk Rayhan Abdullah), who was a constant support of Shovon through thick and thin. If there's any truly positive element in this story, it was definitely this guy. Nonetheless, at the end of the day, *Dekha* was a run-of-the-mill romantic Bangla drama that we are all used to, even though it did try to be a bit different by incorporating a good balance of emotion and entertainment into the mix.

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Recommend the writer something to review at tonmoygonewrong@gmail.com

TV TALKIES
SHAMS RASHID
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