



style icon, Runa Laila hit the then conservative mindsets of the TV show organizers hard with her fashion and on-stage appearance. The bold diva in her twenties did not hesitate to show up on her own show titled *Bazm E Laila* wearing shirt-pants or maxis. For her, it was only a part of being her true self. And no wonder her confidence won over all the criticism and broke the walls of cultural conservatism. Till this day Runa Laila often designs her own clothes. Fashion designing has somewhat been like a hobby for her. Credit to her dauntless attitude, Runa Laila's name has been written on the *Guinness Book* for recording 30 songs within 3 days. In fact, this is not the only record she holds. In 1982, Runa Laila won *Golden Disk Award* as her album *Superuna* composed by Bappy Lahiri was sold over 1 lakh copies on the very first day of its release.

With her brilliant display of combining hard work with natural talent, Runa has taught herself to sing in over 15 different languages. So far the songster has sung in Arabic, Japanese, Spanish, French and many other languages. For her inborn charm and innate charisma, Runa Laila has received numerous offers for acting as well. From both India and Pakistan, directors, including the noted Indian actor, producer, director Raj Kapoor, approached the talented diva to grace their scripts. However, Runa has always kept her priorities straight. She has appeared in only one film, the 1995 smash hit *Shilpi*, that

too because it had connections and resemblances to her real life.

### HOLDING ON TO HER ROOTS

In her decorated career, Runa Laila has achieved such height of fame and recognition that most artists can only

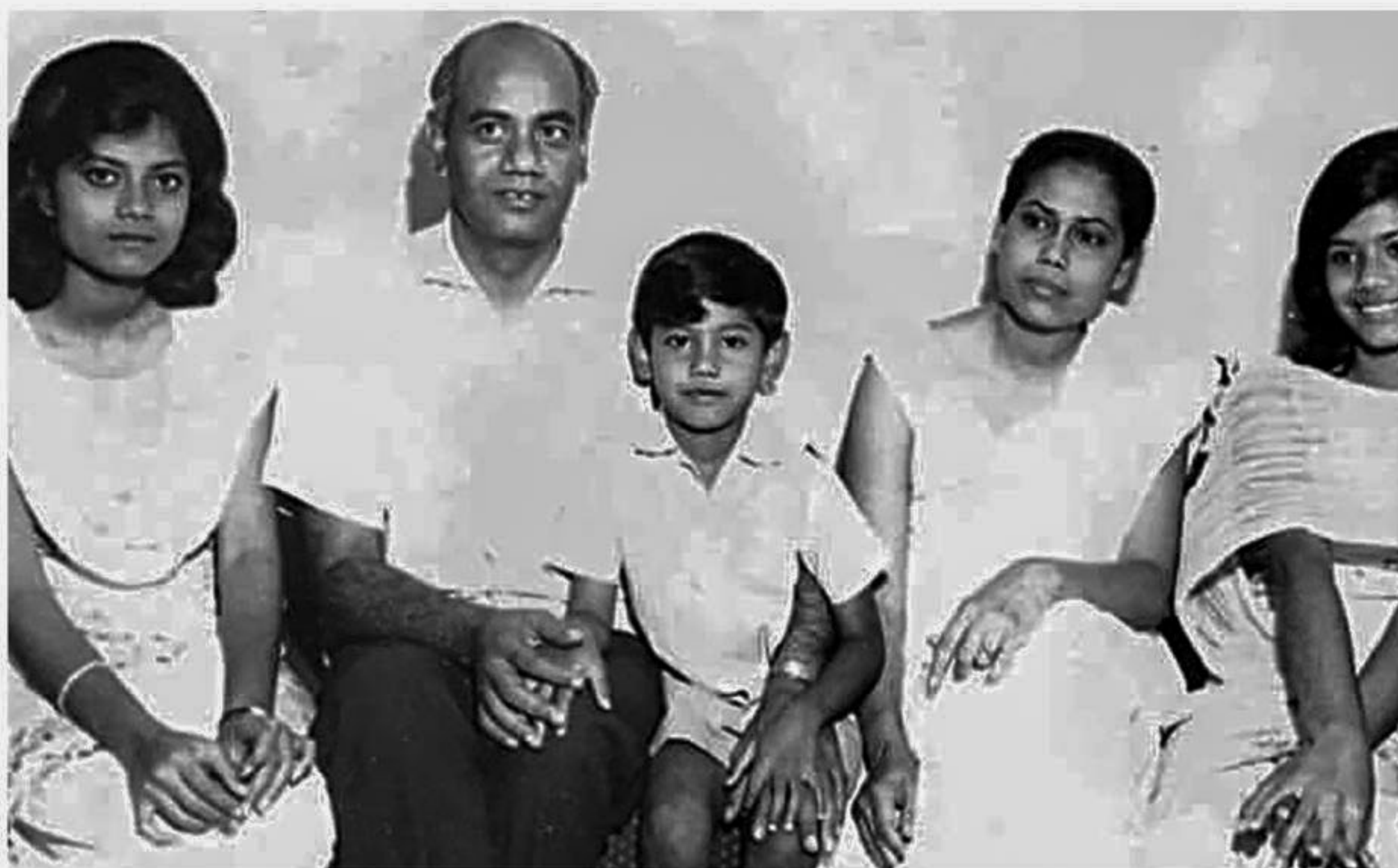
Imtiaz Bulbul, Alauddin Ali, Subol Das, Bappa Mazumdar, Emon Saha have adorned the career of Runa with their magnificent creations. Runa Laila had had the privilege of sitting in the chair of Main Judge in *Zee TV*'s time winning talent show *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*. She also appeared as one of the judges in *Zee Bangla*'s

modesty, sincerity and dedication can help any true devotee to exceed their limitations, if only pride is denied with a gentle smile in every step. Runa Laila thinks, for the new generation of singers, consistency has to be attained along with vocal techniques. And the newcomers have to have a learner's attitude all the time, ready to accept their faults and rectify those at any cost.

### FLYING HIGH

The colorful journey of her career has taken her all over the world. From Madison Square Garden to Sydney Opera House, from Europe to Africa – the veteran has stepped on proudly carrying the legacy of Bangladesh, and mesmerized her audience like a routine work. But the height of popularity never got Runa Laila over the clouds, for her attention has only and only revolved around her love for music. The benevolent artiste has taken part in countless charity programs, has worked as an ambassador for SAARC and UNAIDS to create awareness against mortal diseases. She has also funded to establish a children's ward in Dhaka Children's Hospital for children with cancer. The songbird plans to continue her phenomenal playing with notes and beats as long as she sounds in proper tune to her own self. Only if one morning she realizes her keys are not hitting straight and bold, she will then consider resting her voice.

By Tasbir Iftekhar



dream of. She has voiced the magical lyrics of some of the globally renowned lyricists and performed duet with singers at the similar altitudes of success. Her list of favorite co-artists includes Subir Nandi, Andrew Kishore, Kumar Shanu and few more. Composers and lyricists like Ahmed

singing talent show. In Bangladesh, she performed the solemn duty of mentorship and judgment in Channel i's *Sherakantho* and Channel 9's *Power Voice* talent hunt programs. The winner of such achievements and recognition still has her feet firmly on the ground, as she believes

