POET'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Nazrul study in neglect at DU centre

TAMANNA KHAN

Although many seminars and discussions are going to be held to mark the 117th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam today, only a handful of research has been done on the poet in the last few decades.

Other than the studies done by some individuals, the amount of research conducted on Nazrul by the Dhaka University's Nazrul Gobeshona Kendra (Nazrul Research Centre) is negligible.

The rebel poet of Bangla literature was born at Churulia in Burdwan district of West Bengal on this day in 1899 (the 11th of Jaishtha). In 1972, Nazrul was brought to Bangladesh by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and was honoured as the national poet of the country.

Research activities of the Nazrul Gobeshona Kendra have been negligible since its inception in 1989. Even the research centre, located on the first floor of Arts Building (Kala Bhaban), itself is in a sorry state, and one would have to make some efforts to find it even.

Director of the centre, Soumitra Sekhar, professor of Bangla department at Dhaka University, said the centre was established by Nazrul-lovers with a vision to initiate research on Nazrul through which people could learn more

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Old bird droppings on the bust of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

Mangoes, litchis for Japanese leaders

PM flies to Tokyo tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would offer "mangoes and litchis" to entertain Japanese dignitaries following Bangladeshi tradition during her four-day visit to Japan beginning tomorrow.

The fabled "mango and litchi diplomacy" is purely to make the existing excellent relations sweeten further, diplomatic sources say.

Besides, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam is personally sending mangoes from his hometown Rajshahi to Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso. Shahriar has a special rapport with the former prime minister of Japan.

Special mangoes and litchis from Rajshahi have been added to the menu for the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Punjab wants award for executed Jamaat leaders

STAR REPORT

The provincial assembly of Punjab has approved a resolution seeking conferment of Nishan-e-Pakistan, the highest civil award in Pakistan, on Bangladeshi leaders who were executed "for siding with Pakistan during 1971 Indo-Pak war", reports dunyanews.tv of Pakistan.

A condemn resolution had also been moved in the provincial assembly after war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh chief Motiur Rehman Nizami was executed.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

UP polls violence claims 4 more lives

Death toll rises to 80

STAR REPORT

Four more people were killed in the last two days, raising the death toll to around 80 in violence over union parishad polls.

The pre-polls violence continued in different districts, panicking voters ahead of the fifth phase of the elections scheduled for May 28.

Around 6,000 people were also injured in the polls-related violence after the UP polls schedule was announced in February, according to media reports.

In Chittagong, criminals killed a man while he was pasting posters of Awami League's rebel chairman candidate in Islampur in Rangunia upazila early yesterday.

The victim Mohammad Mohsin, 40, was of Khatibnagar of the union.

Claiming Mohsin as his supporter, the rebel candidate, Sirajuddaullah Dulal, alleged that followers of AL chairman candidate Ikbal Hossain Chowdhury killed Mohsin.

Ikbal denied the allegation.

Mohammad Humayun, officer-in-charge of Rangunia Police Station, said the killing could have been due to a feud over the ownership of a tea stall.

In Narsingdi, the body of a man was found with his throat slit on the bank of a river in Baduarchar yesterday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

'Chained' killer jumps off train, runs away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A "handcuffed and chained" convict in police custody jumped off a train heading for Mymensingh at Trishal Monday night.

Faruq Elahi Khorshed, 40, is convicted of murder and was serving life term imprisonment. He is also an accused in another murder case.

Sources said a four-member police team led by nayek Shah Alam of Razarbagh Police Lines were on their way to Mymensingh from Dhaka Central Jail with Faruq and Shaheen, 30, a suspect of another case.

Both of them were scheduled to appear before Mymensingh courts yesterday, police said.

Around 7:30pm, when the train was between Dhala and Balipara railway

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Cameron buys £1,500 used car for wife

BBC ONLINE

British Prime Minister David Cameron has bought a £1,500 used car as a "cheap run-around" for his wife, according to the salesman he bought it from.

Showroom owner Iain Harris, 44, said he thought a call from the PM's security team saying

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 25

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
JAMAAT	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

They had to return to the shore from the Bay without catching fish due to cyclone Roanu. But now the fishermen are mending their nets and restocking their boats to head out again. The photos were taken at Firingibazar of Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

TK 2.22CR EMBEZZLEMENT

3 Sonali, Hall-Mark officials get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a former official of Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla hotel branch and two officials of Hall-Mark Group to life in a case filed for misappropriating Tk 2.22 crore.

They are Saiful Hassan, former assistant general manager of the Ruposhi Bangla branch, Saiful Islam Raj, managing director of Paragon Knit Composite Ltd, a sister concern of Hall-Mark Group, and its director Abdullah Al Mamun.

Judge Akhtaruzzaman of the Special Judge Court-5 of Dhaka passed the order in absence of the convicts.

The court also fined the three Tk 74 lakh each. In case of failure to comply with the order, they will have to suffer seven years

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

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