

# Are we doing enough to preserve Nazrul's legacy?

**Today marks the 123rd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, a pioneering figure in Bangla literature.**

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Be it the courageous roar of rebellion or the face of undaunted faith, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's ideology, philosophy, and his expression has never failed to speak for the common masses. The legendary author was ahead of his time, and presented stories that treasure self-identity, ecocriticism, and most importantly, humanism.

Today marks the 123rd birth anniversary of this pioneering figure in Bangla literature. What should be a nationwide celebration of our National Poet, however, is now

organisations going through the motions.

"We only come across performances featuring Nazrul's songs or poems on his birth or death anniversary. Other than that, we seldom come across cultural programmes that are based on Nazrul, despite him being our National Poet," asserts Khilkhil Kazi, a renowned Nazrul Sangeet artiste and the poet's granddaughter.

While cultural programmes are evident in schools and colleges, there is limited integration of Nazrul's artistic creations and his ideology in universities, according to Nazrul exponent and cultural researcher Sujit Mustafa. "Nazrul is not present in our higher education system, and neither are we concerned about introducing his mature ideology to our youth." Sujit has received the Nazrul Padak, given by the Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Mymensingh.

While a few institutions have decided to include certain courses featuring Nazrul's literature, it is still not a compulsory course in most universities in Bangladesh. "Rarely do we see Nazrul being represented in the syllabus or curriculum in Bangladeshi institutes, unless the course is Bangla Literature," says Khalequezzaman, an avid Nazrul researcher and the founder of Bashori: Ekti Nazrul Charcha Kendra. "Along with my foundation, we have gone to every district to visit schools, and dissipate the knowledge of Nazrul - we are trying to make children recite 'Bidrohi'. However, how much can we, a single institution, do?"

Nazrul also seems to be absent from the mainstream mediums of entertainment. "I feel there is a lapse when it comes to the planning

structure of Nazrul Institute", asserts Sujit Mustafa. "This gap results in the reluctance when it comes to adapting and integrating Nazrul in our visual media, which seems to be the most preferred form of entertainment these days," he says.

"There is a lot that can be done to encourage our prominent and promising filmmakers to make Nazrul a part of their creation," he adds. "If the new makers are unaware of Nazrul's creations, it is the authorities who should step up and equip them with the knowledge they need in this regard."

Side-lining the odds, there are some Nazrul lovers who seem to keep coming up with productions based on Nazrul's songs, despite the challenges they face. "The Gems of Nazrul family has been trying to release renditions of Nazrul's songs for a while now," shares celebrated Nazrul singer Sadya Afreen Mallick, the founder of this organisation.

"The masses' understanding of our National Poet's works is tragically limited. Most people know only a handful of Nazrul songs. We intend to keep releasing music videos on days of national importance so that the songs can reach the mass and most importantly our youth," she adds.

The lack of funding research and translation is a major barrier in bringing Nazrul to a global audience.

"Other than 'Bidrohi', very few of his work has been translated multilingually. If the government sets out to produce a proper biography with a talented director, it can seriously help our cause," shares Khilkhil Kazi, who insists that modern representation for Nazrul is badly needed.

Our National Poet dedicated his entire life fighting tyranny, social imbalance, and inequality with his words, which have the power to greatly affect the mind of the youth. Hence, the responsibility of dispersing his message falls not only on the government or an institution, but every one of us.



ILLUSTRATION: SANJAY DEY RIPON



## Gems of Nazrul's 'Oi Agoto Jago' releases today

Gems of Nazrul is set to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam with the release of their 21st music video, "Oi Agoto Jago".

Nazrul's words, based on patriotic sentiments, are at the core of our rich cultural identity.

"Oi Agoto Jago" features performances by leading and upcoming Bangladeshi vocalists of Nazrul.

Gems of Nazrul is a platform for Nazrul artistes established by Sadya A Mallick in 2016 to promote the life and work of the National Poet.

The programme, featuring "Oi Agoto Jago", will be aired across social media, on major television channels, and on YouTube today.

## Kriti Sanon launches fitness brand 'The Tribe'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon has hopped on the startup bandwagon with the launch of her fitness brand 'The Tribe', which offers virtual and 'in-studio' products, including training workshops and tailor-made nutrition plans.

The website of the platform is still under construction, while its Instagram page has been operational for almost two years now.

Kriti discovered her passion for fitness during the filming of her movie, "Mimi", where she had to undergo a physical transformation in order to look the part of a pregnant woman.

"The Tribe" app will be launched later this year, according to the "Bareilly Ki Barfi" actress.

# NEWS

## EC yet to earn confidence

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day, the CEC added.

His comments came against the backdrop of allegations by many political parties, including the BNP, that ballot stuffing took place the night before the polling day.

Habibul said no election commissioner or EC official has announced a reward of \$10 million for detecting any glitch in the EVMs.

He said a commissioner

might have uttered these words at a programme "misquoting someone due to slight memory loss", but it was not the commission's decision.

Addressing a programme in Madaripur on Saturday, EC Anisur Rahman said, "Every political party in Bangladesh has IT experts. We will show them our machines also. We will give them EVMs and ask them to show if there were

any glitches... Our chief election commissioner has also announced a reward of \$10 million for anyone finding any glitches in the EVM."

The CEC yesterday said it was not the commissioner's own comment, rather he tried to quote someone and that created confusion. "Confusion has spread. The chief election commissioner cannot make such a bizarre

comment," Habibul said. The former bureaucrat said the EC doesn't want to turn an election into a farce. "As citizens [of the country], we want to strengthen democracy and make the political situation healthy by holding a fair and participatory election," the CEC said.

Four other election commissioners, including Anisur, were present at the press briefing.

## BCL swoops on Chhatra Dal

FROM PAGE 1

The incident left around 80 JCD leaders and activists wounded, claimed Saif Mahmud Jewel, general secretary of JCD Central Committee. Many of them took treatment at two city hospitals, he said.

However, talking to campus sources and central JCD insiders, this newspaper learnt the number of people injured could be around 30.

DU BCL General Secretary Saddam Hussain, however, said it was the "general students of the university" who protested against "criminal activities" of JCD.

According to campus sources, members of BCL, a pro-ruling AL student organisation, were furious at a remark made by Saif on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina four days ago.

They had been bringing out processions since then and vowed to "resist" JCD, a pro-BNP student body, whenever its activists would be seen on the campus. Two days ago, the BCL men beat up JCD leaders in the TSC area, leaving three wounded.

Yesterday, over a hundred JCD leaders and activists were on their way to the campus to hold a pre-

announced press briefing at Dhaka University Journalists' Association to clarify Saif's comment on the prime minister.

The BCL men had taken positions in different areas, including at TSC, Madhur Canteen and Shaheed Minar, since the morning. "As we reached near the Central Shaheed Minar area along with our activists, BCL men all of a sudden launched the attack in a planned way," said Saif.

Protesting the attack, JCD men led by Senior Joint Secretary General Rakibul Islam, DU unit JCD Convener Aktar Hossain and Member Secretary Amanullah brought out a protest procession from the emergency gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 11:30am.

Witnesses said when the JCD procession reached near Shahidullah Hall, BCL activists started throwing brick chips from inside and adjacent areas of the hall.

In the face of the attack, JCD men backtracked and within a few minutes they regrouped carrying sticks, and then began a chase and counter-chase.

Amid the running battle, one of the BCL men tried to beat up Tanni Mallick but

she fended off with a stick. Soon, a few more joined and started beating her up -- they pushed her to the ground and even kicked her. She was let go at one stage, added witnesses.

The BCL men then took position in front of the Physical Exercise Centre while JCD activists at Dowel Chatter.

DU JCD Convener Akhter Hossain said Vice President of Central Committee Rashed Iqbal Khan, Joint Secretary Rakibul Islam Rakib, Organising Secretary Abu Afsan Mohammad Yahya, joint secretaries Anamul Haque, Ezazul Kabir and Hasan Al Arif and members Mansura Alam and Nahiduzzaman Shipon were injured among others.

He alleged that the university administration failed to ensure co-existence of all student organisations on the campus.

Contacted, DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani said, "We have informed law enforcers and they took proper steps against those who had broken discipline of the campus."

Moudud Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said they detained three,

including two JCD leaders, and interrogated them. They have yet to make a decision to file a case against them, he said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir condemned the incident and demanded the arrest of the attackers. He also visited the two hospitals to see the injured JCD members.

The central JCD at a press conference last night announced the organisation would stage processions at all the educational institutions across the country tomorrow and in upazilas, districts and metropolitan cities the following day.

## UAE firm inks airport deal as Afghanistan eyes int'l flights

AFP, Kabul

A United Arab Emirates company signed a contract with the Taliban authorities yesterday to provide ground handling services at Afghanistan's three airports, officials said, as the country seeks to resume international transit.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Director Chattogram Medical College Hospital. www.cmch.gov.bd

Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2021-2022/MSR/6728

Date: 24-05-2022.

#### : INVITATION FOR TENDER :

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced Importers / Contractors / Suppliers / Distributors to supply MSR goods for CMCH in the fiscal year 2021-2022. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (Including all corrigendum); Terms and conditions are as follow(s):

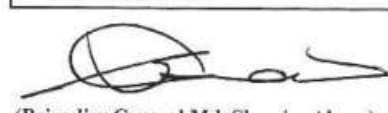
KEY INFORMATION	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2 Agency	Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Chattogram.
3 Procuring Entity Name, Designation & Contact details	Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan; Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Telephone: +88031630179, Fax No.: 88-031-610022, e-mail address: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
4 Procuring Entity Code	GOB & RPA (GOB).
5 Invitation for	Procurement of MSR Goods for CMCH in the fiscal year 2021-2022.
6 Tender Ref. No & Date	CMCH/ CMCH/Tender/2021-2022/MSR/6728, Date: 24-05-2022.
7 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National). Item-by-item.
8 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB, Economic code:3252105 & GOB, RPA (GOB), Economic Code: 3252109.
9 Tender Notice Publication Date	24-05-2022.
10 Tender Schedule Selling Starting Date and Time	25-05-2022, During office hours.
11 Pre-Tender Meeting	30-05-2022, 11: 00 A. M.
12 Tender Last Selling Date and Time	07-06-2022, 12: 00 P. M.
13 Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	Dropping date: 08-06-2022, Dropping time: from 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Closing time: 12:01 P. M.
14 Tender Opening Date and Time	08-06-2022 at 01: 00 P. M.
Name and address of the Office's	
(a) Selling Tender Documents	1. Cashier, Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2. Cashier, Office of the Civil Surgeon, Chattogram District.
(b) Receiving Tender Documents	1. Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2. Officer in charge, Panchlaish Model Thana, Chattogram Metropolitan Police.
(c) Tender Documents Opening Place	Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

#### INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

16 Bidders Eligibility	Details in Tender Booklet
17 Description of Groups, Price of Tender Document, Tender Security etc.	Details in Tender Booklet
18 Description of Price of Tender Documents, Tender Security, Related Services etc.	Details in Tender Booklet

#### Note:

- (a) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- (b) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

  
(Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan)  
Director  
Chattogram Medical College Hospital.  
Telephone: 880-31-630179, Email: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd