

# EDITORIAL

I normally try hard to avoid paying attention to Dhaka University (DU), where I had the [mis]fortune to study for five years, let alone ask other people to pay attention to it. But recent developments compel me to break my personal rule. Rabindranath Tagore came to my campus and he is in distress.

The entire situation is steeped in thick layers of irony. A sculpture of the great poet was erected as a statement for freedom of speech, with his mouth taped off and a bleeding nail hammered through a copy of the *Geetanjali* in his hands. However, university authorities dismantled the sculpture overnight, and parts of it were strewn throughout campus. The latest news when this piece was being written is that some students recovered the damaged head and other parts to erect the sculpture again, with Tagore's head inclined to the left this time, in supposed protest.

Understanding Bangladesh's politics, and how students constantly shape it with their voice and activism is a difficult prospect. The recent events at DU does a good job encapsulating it all. The fact that it's happening in February just adds to the irony.

– Azmin Azran, Editor, SHOUT



## TITLE OF YOUR MIXTAPE



**A**

Love To Lose  
Sandro Cavazza

Bésame Mucho  
Andrea Bocelli

mother tongue  
Bring Me The Horizon

Rirongsha  
Karnival

**B**

Speak In Tongues  
machineheart

We Don't Talk Anymore  
Charlie Puth ft. Selena Gomez

Agust D'  
Agust D'

Serotonin  
Mansieve ft. Namira Z & Faizan Ahmed

Email us at [shoutds@gmail.com](mailto:shoutds@gmail.com)  
with feedback, comments, and reader  
submissions within 500 words.

## PLAYWATCH

### BOOKS



DESIGN: ABIR HOSSAIN

## Five books to help you delve into the world of Bangla literature

### ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

We grew up speaking and hearing Bangla and yet, we sometimes find it difficult to get past some of our renowned literary works, having to resort to the *Bangla Ovidhan* on nearly every word.

Exaggerated as this scenario might be, giving up on classic Bangla books because of the dated lexicon is a fairly common phenomenon. However, Bangla works from the 19th and 20th centuries are some of the best bodies of writings in world literature. Therefore, missing out on such gems due to the intricate nature of its language would mean doing yourself a great injustice.

Having established that, here are five books you can try if you're relatively new to Bangla literature.

#### *Putulnacher Itikotha* by Manik Bandyopadhyay

This is arguably one of Manik Bandyopadhyay's best works. *Putulnacher Itikotha* is the perfect place to start if your end goal is reading classics with relative ease. The magic of this book is the author's writing style, which uses the formal *Shadhu Bhasha* in verbs and the colloquial Bangla in pronouns. This feature lends his writing gracefulness while providing the comfort of reading.

The novel revolves around a village doctor and expands on the characters around him as well as the complex social relations among them.

#### *Professor Shonku* by Satyajit Ray

When we say Satyajit Ray, we think about his amazing films and the widely admired detective Feluda. However, *Professor Shonku* offers humour, comfort, and sci-fi-laced adventure within the diary entries of a brilliant scientist discussing his inventions and his connections with his neighbours, friends, and his feline companion Newton.

*Professor Shonku* serves well as a light-hearted read, and I highly recommend you get the entire collection.

#### *Srikanta* by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay

The premise of Sarat Chandra's works is simple, yet they're capable of invoking powerful emotions within the readers. *Srikanta*, Sarat Chandra's masterpiece, is a partially autobiographical tale of a man living the life of a wanderer. The plot follows his life starting from adolescence, telling tales of his voyages, encounters, and romances.

Sarat Chandra describes *Srikanta* as "a collection of scattered memories, nothing else". This may explain why *Srikanta* feels so close to life.

#### *Golpo Guccho* by Rabindranath Tagore

Rabindranath Tagore has many monumental works, but *Golpo Guccho* may be the most beginner-friendly start. It's a collection of Tagore's short stories, a few of which are included in the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Bangla books. They're generally straightforward and hard-hitting, not to mention the fact that reading short stories is much easier than novels.

The poetic nature of Tagore's writing is sure to win your heart.

#### *Padmarag* by Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain

If you're entirely new to Bangla literature, *Padmarag* might be slightly challenging to read. This is the author's only piece long enough to be recognised as a novel and has utopian essences similar to her widely regarded work *Sultana's Dream*.

Set in the British colonial period, *Padmarag* speaks of several women from diverse backgrounds and religions, who find refuge and purpose in a school and female welfare institution known as *Tarini Bhavan*. *Padmarag* is definitely an essential read if you're into feminist literature and worth a try even if you're not.

Zabin Tazrin Nashita has a pile of unfinished books, yet continues to buy more. Tell her to cut it out at [zabintn@gmail.com](mailto:zabintn@gmail.com)