



TAGORE'S 162ND BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Tagore's legacy fading away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Around a century ago, Rabindranath Tagore visited Mymensingh. Despite such historical significance, his memories are yet to be preserved.

It's also astonishing that no programmes are held to commemorate the bard's legacy, said locals.

Tagore is a part of Mymensingh's history and culture. His memories should be preserved for the generations to come and for the sake of the country's history, said Mamunul Islam, ex-secretary of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Mymensingh.

"The government should take immediate steps in this regard," said Dr Monjurul Alam, current president of the same organisation.

The places of Tagore's visit include Alexander Castle, also popularly known as "Luhar Kuthir" or "Rang Mohol"; "Shashi Lodge"; Bidhyamoyee Girls School; Mohakali Girls School, City College School in Mymensingh city and Atharabari zaminder palace in Ishwarganj.

Tagore arrived in Mymensingh by train from Dhaka on February 15, 1926, on a four-day visit. The then zaminders of Muktagacha arranged special programmes under a banyan tree on the castle premises, now known as "Rabindra Batamul" to welcome the poet.

The poet was accorded several receptions during his stay by Mymensingh Municipality, Mymensingh Sarswato Samity, Mymensingh Nagorik Samaj, Bidhyamoyee Girls' School, City Collegiate School and Mahila Samity.

Archeological department officials contacted the college authorities with a proposal to renovate Alexander Castle a few years ago but there was no follow up.

On invitation of Promod Chandra Roy Chowdhury, the then zaminder of Atharabari and also a student of Shantiniketan, Tagore visited Roy's palace on February 19 in 1926.

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Amidst the vibrant celebrations at Shahzadpur Kacharibari in Sirajganj, where joyous festivities illuminate the air, a sombre scene unfolds in Mymensingh's Kacharabari where Tagore had visited a century ago. While the region boasts a wealth of Rabindranath Tagore's historical significance, locals anxiously await the much-needed restoration of this cultural gem.

PHOTO: STAR

The bard's love for Shahzadpur Kacharibari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shahzadpur Kacharibari in Sirajganj is bustling with activity as the Rabindra festival, commemorating the fond memory of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, is set to kick off on May 8, marking his 162nd birth anniversary.

The three-day festival is being organised by the Sirajganj district administration and will be inaugurated by Deputy Speaker Advocate Samsul Haque Tuku, with national and local artists set to perform.

Tagore had a deep connection with Shahzadpur Kacharibari, making the Rabindra festival a traditional festivity in this region, says Abu Sayeed Enam Tanvirul, the custodian of Shahzadpur Rabindra Kacharibari.

Tagore's grandfather, Prince Dwarkanath, had purchased the estate in Shahzadpur from Zaminder Rani Bhabani of Nature in 1840, and the poet took on the responsibility of maintaining the estate, making frequent visits to the region between 1890 to 1897.

The natural beauty, purity, simplicity, and innocence of the people in this region had a profound impact on Tagore, which is widely reflected in his writings.

Prof Abdul Alim, a teacher of Bangla department at Pabna University of Science and Technology and Tagore researcher, said Tagore was particularly inspired by the natural beauty of the region and mentioned that in one of his books. The characters of many of his works, such as "Postmaster" and "Sonar Tori", were inspired by his experiences in Shahzadpur, he added.

Tagore's love for Shahzadpur is evident in his letters, where he states that he found more inspiration for his writing in Shahzadpur than in any other area.

Today, the historic Shahzadpur Kacharibari has been preserved as an archaeological site, and the museum on the premises holds 331 artefacts, including 148 items used by the poet, such as a couch, chairs, tables, a mirror, a piano, and a palanquin. The museum also houses 20 rare paintings of Tagore, including depictions of trees, nature, and women, and over 3,000 precious books.

RAJSHAHI CITY POLLS

Smooth sailing for Liton?

Collects nomination paper amid BNP boycotting polls; no rebel candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The upcoming mayoral election in Rajshahi City Corporation is likely to be a smooth sailing for the incumbent mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton. This is due to the fact that the opposition party BNP has announced a boycott of the polls and no rebel candidates of the ruling Awami League are expected to participate.

Liton collected nomination papers from the returning office yesterday as the lone candidate from the Awami League for the mayoral elections. He is also a presidium member of the party.

The election is scheduled to take place on June 21. Electioneering will begin from June 2. According to the election schedule, possible candidates would have to collect and submit the nomination documents within May 21.

The AL leaders of the city expressed their support for Liton by being present when the city AL acting president Mohammad Ali Kamal collected the nomination paper on behalf of the incumbent mayor.

Local voters believe that Liton's electoral race might be smooth, although a former joint secretary of Rajshahi city BNP, Sayeed Hasan, has expressed his intention to participate as an independent candidate.

"I am considering the possibilities, but I am yet to take any final decision (regarding contesting)," Sayeed Hasan, who currently doesn't have any party portfolio, told The Daily Star.

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Tk 2.5cr bridge remains useless for 2 years

Locals suffer due to absence of approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A road without approach roads is like a book without pages – utterly useless. Yet, that's exactly what has happened with the bridge over Dwipasha Khal in Patuakhali's Bauphal, built at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore by the Local Government Engineering Department.

For two long years, the bridge has remained unused as the approach roads were never built, causing immense suffering to locals who risk their lives daily by using a wooden ladder to cross the canal.

It is a clear case of wastage of public money, and the authorities concerned must take immediate action to resolve the issue, demand locals.

The status quo has been causing great inconvenience to students and many others who have to cross the canal regularly.

Over 500 students of nearby educational institutions such as Sonamuddin Mridha Secondary School, Dwipasha Government Primary School, Konakdia SS School, and College are facing difficulties to cross the canal due to the absence of an approach road.

Kalam Khan, a local resident, said they had made wooden ladders on both ends of the bridge to help people get in and out of the bridge.



The absence of an approach road to the bridge over Dwipasha Khal in Patuakhali has forced locals to use makeshift bamboo ladders to cross the canal, risking their lives. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Another resident named Tahmina Begum said that they had to use the bridge every day to go to the other side of the canal to do agricultural work, and climbing up the bridge with ladders is risky.

Asma Akhter, a 10th-grader of Sonamuddin Mridha Secondary School, said she had faced several accidents during the process. A few people were also injured as they fell off the stairs while climbing down through the ladder.

Despite repeated complaints, officials concerned have not taken any action to resolve the issue, alleged locals.

Golam Mostafa, chairman of

Madanpura Union Parishad, said the issue of public suffering regarding the bridge was raised several times at meetings in the presence of officials concerned, but to no avail.

Contacted, Gias Uddin, the project's contractor, admitted that the delay in constructing the approach roads.

He said the road would be constructed very soon, and he hoped that they would be able to start the work within a day or two.

Upazila LGED Engineer Sultan Hossain said, "After discussing the issue with the contractor, arrangements would be made for the construction of an approach road."

ACC sues ex-cop, wife for corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued a former police official of Chattogram Metropolitan Police and his wife for accumulating huge amount of wealth illegally beyond his known source of income and concealing information in the wealth statement.

The accused – ABM Shahadat Hossain – was assistant superintendent of police (ASP) and also served as petrol inspector of CMP at the city's Alankar Police Traffic Box. He and his wife Razia Sultana Chowdhury live in the port city's Halishahar Chuna Factory area in their own building, according to the case.

Md Enamul Haque, assistant director of ACC integrated office-1, Chattogram filed two separate

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Dyeing factory depot gutted in Gazipur fire

UNB, Gazipur

A warehouse of a dyeing factory was gutted in a fire at Pagar in Tongi area of Gazipur district yesterday.

The fire broke out at the warehouse of Hossain Dyeing and Printing Mills Ltd around 1:30pm and spread soon, said senior officer of Tongi fire service Iqbal Hasan.

On information, five firefighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after one and a half hours of frantic effort.

However, reason behind the fire could not be known immediately.



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