

We shouldn't let anyone distort Nazrul's legacy

KHAIRUL ANAM SHAKIL

“During his lifetime, Kazi Nazrul Islam expressed grief over the modification of his music to modern tunes, in his own words,” addressed renowned Nazrul Sangeet exponent Khairul Anam Shakil, who is the Chairman of Nazrul Institute and General Secretary of Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha.



I understand that Coke Studio Bangla's intention is positive. They want to spread Nazrul's artistry to the younger generation—but in a modern manner. However, changing the original form and distorting his works is disrespectful.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHARMIN JOYA

It has been 47 years, since our National Poet left us for good. Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha intends to preserve the heritage of Nazrul and promote awareness about the depth of his work. The organisation aims to inspire the younger generation of artists to carry Nazrul's legacy forward.

Observing the Poet's death anniversary (August 27), The Daily Star spoke to Khairul Anam Shakil, to know more about their works and arrangements commemorating the rebel poet.

Could you share about the arrangements which will take place on the National Poet's death anniversary, today?

Nazrul was known for his portrayal of love, freedom and revolution. He opposed religious bigotry through his works.

Every year, Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha chooses new themes to observe this day. Since it is his death anniversary, we always try to keep the solemnity, thus selecting to perform Nazrul's devotional songs, that speak about solidarity amongst all religions.

The event will take place at Chhayanaut's auditorium in the evening, at 7pm today.

Can you please highlight the preservation process that the institute has initiated?

It is a lengthy process, yet we have already archived 250 songs under strict supervision of Nazrul Institute, which is being performed under exact accordance with authentic lyrics and compositions. These are performed by seasoned veterans and emerging artists from Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Besides, we have been holding

workshops quarterly in a year, where we discover young talents from all over the country. These talents are primarily students, who are quite eager to learn accurate lyrics, notations and compositions of Nazrul Sangeet.

Furthermore, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has accommodated all the logistic aid and the Cultural Ministry has been a great support for us in this project. We have covered 40 districts already and continue to cover more.

During this process, what seemed to be the biggest challenge?

Although we are trying, people still

that goes beyond this instruction, we send them an official notice.

Recently Coke Studio Bangla has released two of Nazrul's songs—'Bagichay Bulbuli Tui' in the first season and 'Darale Duare Mor Ke Tumi' in the second. These compositions and arrangements were entirely designed in a modern way. Did Nazrul Institute take any step against this?

We have sent an official letter to Coke Studio Bangla, objecting to the matter. We have requested them to discuss with us before doing anything similar

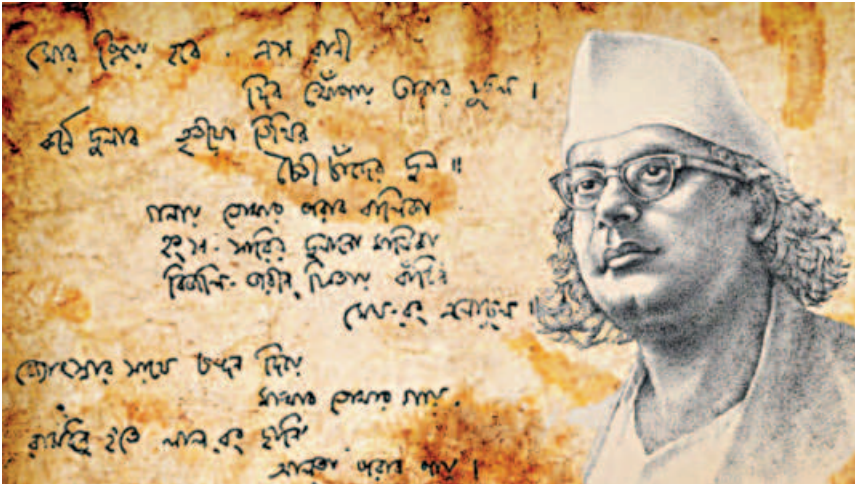


ILLUSTRATION DESIGN: ANTARA RAISA

perform Nazrul's songs in modified forms. The Nazrul Institute is being strict about upholding the correct form now. An official government notice has been imposed which ordered that no one can distort the original form of Nazrul Sangeet, and the lyrics have to be authentic. At the same time, the notice also mentioned that we cannot use Nazrul Geeti anymore, it should be Nazrul Sangeet.

Whenever we encounter anything

in the future, I am not sure if they will follow this, but we are following the rules strictly.

I understand that their intention is positive. They want to spread Nazrul's artistry to the younger generation—but in a modern manner. However, changing the original form and distorting his works is disrespectful. These songs were popular on the internet as well. Anything that is popular is not necessarily of a high standard.

COUNTRYWIDE

MANGO EXPORT

Growers innovate farming practices

ANWAR ALLI, Rajshahi

The rising quantity of mango exports has been changing the farming practices of the fruit in Rajshahi region as farmers are now opting for more chemical-free mango production, agriculturists say.

Farmers are now gradually adopting organic farming method as they intend to meet the high standards, required by the international markets.

This year, a total of 92,913 hectares of land has been brought under mango cultivation in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon and Natore, said Md Shamsul Wadud, regional additional director at Rajshahi Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

But, safe or chemical-free mangoes were grown on only 630 hectares of land this year, which was around 500 hectares last year, said the DAE official.

They have a plan to extend the area to 728 hectares next year, he said.

“As the areas are gradually increasing, incidents of pest attacks are also increasing, he said, adding that but farmers are eager to get better prices of their produces from the buyers.

Instead of any harmful chemicals,

farmers are using pheromone traps and adopting fruit-bagging method to protect the fruit from hopper pests, untimely rains and hail storms, said Anwarul Haque, president of Rajshahi Agro Food Producers' Association.

“We use pesticides on three to four occasions before applying the bagging method,” Haque said.

Farmers stop use of chemicals 45 days before the fruits arrive at the market for sale, he said.

“Growers are now opting for quality mango production, targeting the international markets,” Soheli Rana, one of the mango growers from Naogaon, said.

Another mango producer Shafiqul Islam of Rajshahi's Bagha upazila said apart from the pheromone traps and fruit-bagging, a few farmers also use bio-pesticides, which is quite costlier.

Such methods attract the buyers, he said, adding that exporters contact the farmers before the season starts, while local DAE officials examine the farming processes.

According to the DAE, this year around 2,700 tonnes of mangoes were exported to some 34 countries across the world, compared to 1,757 tonnes last year.



PHOTO: STAR

Grower Anwarul Haque tends his mango orchard at Terokhadia in Rajshahi city.

Ex-husband

FROM PAGE 12

Hafiz was informed about Masuma's location from her present driver, whom he had known from before.

On August 17, the group took position on Bailey Road, and as the victim reached there in a microbus around 8:15pm, Masum and the others intercepted the vehicle using a motorcycle and a rickshaw.

When the microbus driver got down to see what was going on, the group attacked him. Masum then took control of the microbus and sped towards Hatirjheel, Moin quoted the prime accused as saying.

“When they reached Harun's rented house, they found the main gate locked. So, they took her to a garage in Kanchpur area, tortured her and demanded Tk 50 lakh.”

They took her to Madartek area the next morning, and Harun, the ex-husband, told Masum to take her back to the Hatirjheel house after Jum'a prayers.

“When Masum, Raju and Sabbir went out to get food, she managed to escape,” Moin added.

On August 19, Masuma filed a case against seven people for abduction, torture and ransom, but her ex-husband was not included as an accused, according to police.

Asked whether the law enforcers will arrest Harun, the Rab official said the case is being investigated by Ramna police and the investigation officer may quiz or arrest him.

Abducted

FROM PAGE 12

Police are trying to arrest the abductors, said Inspector Aktaruzzaman.

Mafizul Islam, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, said police started investigation into the incident after the general diary was filed and suspects a neighbour of the victim might be involved with the abduction.

Dhaka, Tokyo in talks

FROM PAGE 2

Japan - Bangladesh bilateral trade is close to \$4 billion, and the East Asian country has provided the largest amount of overseas development assistance, \$24.72 billion, to Bangladesh since 1971. It is developing some of the major infrastructure, including Matarbari, metro rail, and the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

With Bangladesh coming out of LDC status and the era of a duty-free regime gone by 2026, Dhaka and Tokyo are studying the prospects of signing an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to promote trade and investments.

Iwama Kiminori said the Japan-Bangladesh Joint Study Group, which has already held two meetings on EPA, is preparing for the third round. It aims to start the negotiation process before signing the EPA at an early stage.

Japan is also supporting

Bangladesh in establishing an industrial belt surrounding Cox's Bazar, with Matarbari Deep Sea Port at the helm, and connecting Northeast India in the process.

A trilateral discussion among Bangladesh, Japan, and India is also underway on exploring ways of improving connectivity and industries in the region, Kiminori said.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said Japan is Bangladesh's all-weather friend, and the two need to grow together.

With an ageing population, Japan will need a huge workforce, and Bangladesh can offer such human resources. Japan is Bangladesh's fastest growing market for IT and can be a major destination for Bangladeshi skilled workers, he said.

Shahriar Alam said that while Japan is working for regional peace and stability, it can step up efforts to address the Rohingya crisis.

Speakers from both

countries said Japan can do a lot in terms of capacity building for youths in Bangladesh, which will help Bangladesh become a developed country by 2041.

They said improving the business environment in Bangladesh, easing traffic congestion, and making climate change-resilient infrastructure are some of the essentials that Bangladesh needs to focus on.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmed; JICA Bangladesh Senior Representative Eiji Yamada; Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Mahbubul Alam; Japanese Commerce and Industry Association in Dhaka President Etsuro Kano; Foreign Ministry Director (East Asia and Pacific wing) Sayem Ahmed; PARI President Yuji Ando and Executive Director Dr Abdullah-Al-Mamun also spoke at the roundtable.

Diarrhoea now a key symptom

FROM PAGE 12

He also advised going to the hospital as the patient will show severe signs of dengue.

Blood in vomit or stool, extreme thirst, and pale and cold skin constitute some other symptoms of severe dengue infection, according to the World Health Organisation.

According to virologists, the observed symptoms such as diarrhoea could potentially be linked to DEN-2 (Dengue serotype-2), which is considered the most severe among all the dengue virus types.

This year, DEN-2 has

become the most prevalent serotype, marking a shift from the previous four years when DENV-3 was predominant.

Last week, a government study on 200 patients revealed that three in every four dengue patients were infected with DENV-2.

WHO earlier warned that the DENV-2 predominance may result in higher numbers of severe cases as a result of a second infection with a different serotype.

In the 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, the health directorate reported another nine deaths from

dengue. Of the deceased, five were in Dhaka city.

In the same 24-hour period, at least 1,960 dengue patients were hospitalised, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services.

Dengue has so far claimed at least 537 lives this year and nearly 112,184 were hospitalised, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to DGHS figures, a total of 8,236 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

Nazrul's 47th death anniv

FROM PAGE 12

lyricist, musician and philosopher.

Different political parties, socio-cultural and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to pay respect to the national poet.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the grave of the poet, discussions, and poetry recitation sessions and staging of plays from the creative literary works of the poet.

Besides, Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television, and other private television channels and radio stations will air special programmes.

Kazi Nazrul was born on 11 Joishutha, 1306 Bonggabdo in the village Churulia, West Bengal of India's Bardhaman district. His father's name was Kazi Faqeer Ahmed and mother was Zahida Khatun. His nickname was 'Dukhu Mia'.

The nation got inspirations from Nazrul's poems and songs during the great Liberation War in 1971 and all other democratic movements and struggles.

Nazrul wrote nearly 3,000 songs and composed many of them which are known as Nazrul-Geeti or Nazrul Sangeet.

After the independence of Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman brought poet Nazrul Islam to Dhaka from Kolkata along with his family and made arrangements for them to live with state honour.

Bangabandhu also provided a residence for the family of the poet in the city's Dhanmondi.