



"Moribar Holo Taar Shwaad"



"Jhora Palok"



"Goynar Baksho"

## The timeless allure of Jibanananda Das on screen

**Jibanananda's literary contributions hold immense potential for further cinematic exploration, especially within his prose.**

DOWEL BISWAS

Jibanananda Das, the purest poet of Bengal, is also revered as the poet of silent despair. He captured profound internal conflicts in his works in a way that feels deeply personal and universally relatable. His poetry is a reflection of his own desultory journeys through a solitary and stoic existence.

Celebrated as the preeminent voice of post-Tagore Bengali literature, Das's relevance continues to grow, resonating with new generations even 70 years after his mysterious death—when a tram struck him in Kolkata's Deshapriya Park in 1954.

Known by various titles—"The Poet of Love" and "Poet of Ruposhi Bangla"—Jibanananda's metaphysical and magically realist verses have enchanted countless readers and audiences. His influence spills over from literature into cinema, inspiring iconic works from the 90s rock band Moheener Ghoraguli to films like Sayantan Mukherjee's *Jhora Palok* and Robiul Alam Robi's *Moribar Holo Taar Shwaad*.

One of the most beloved references to Jibanananda's poetry is in his poem *Banalata Sen*. The song *O Anupoma O Nirupoma* from the film *Jighansa*, beautifully performed by Khurshid Alam and Runa Laila, transforms *Banalata Sen* from mere words into a cultural emblem woven into the fabric of Bengali identity. The film's stars, Wasim and Jaba Chowdhury, breathe life into

Jibanananda's verses, capturing their essence on screen.

Cinematic adaptations continue to explore the pioneer of poetic purism Jibanananda's impact. In Humayun Ahmed's *Daruchini Dwip*, the film's title is taken from his poetry, capturing the spirit of his lines about a cinnamon island in a vibrant landscape. Asaduzzaman Noor, portraying a sailor, delivers a heartfelt recitation of Jibanananda's verses, further intertwining literature and cinema.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

In *Poddo Patar Jol*, directed by Tonmoy Tansen, Jibanananda's poem *Tomay Ami* finds new life as a song. The lines "I saw you, and you became my lotus leaf" are set against a backdrop of enchanting piano melodies, enriching the cinematic atmosphere and inviting audiences into the poem's emotional depths.

Similarly, Moushumi starrer *Ekjon Shonghe Chilo* features recitation from Das's *Fosoler Din*, creating a visually stunning moment filled with fragrant flowers that amplify the romantic essence of the poetry.

Tollywood film *Goynar Baksho* features a moving recitation of Jibanananda's *Abar Ashibo Phire*, showcasing how his work

continues to captivate audiences. Known as the perilous poet, Das's poetry has also inspired several Bangladeshi dramas, including Mahfuz Ahmed's *Kuashar Bhetor Mrityur Somoy*, *Banalata Sen* and Ashutosh Sujon's *Nagar Dhakai Joineiko Jibanananda*, which bring the poet's legacy to life on screen. Another film titled *Bok*, directed by Masud Pathik, based on Jibanananda Das's poem *Att Bochor Ager Ekdin*, was released in 2022.

The prominent musical band Meghdol draws deep inspiration from Jibanananda Das's poetry, particularly in their song *Nirbaan*. The lyrics, including lines like "Alo Nei Rod Nei, Kichhu Biponno Bishmoy," echo the same melancholic beauty and existential reflection found in Das's works. Much like the legendary Moheener Ghoraguli, Meghdol's music and lyricism are profoundly shaped by Das's stoic worldview, blending his introspective themes with a modern musical landscape.

Jibanananda's literary contributions hold immense potential for further cinematic exploration, especially within his prose. While critics often debate the success of his novels, his stories—rich in psychological and emotional depth—delve into the complexities of human relationships. They highlight struggles and failures that resonate strongly today.

Jibanananda Das's poetry delves into themes of love, nature, and existential despair, inviting readers to explore the complexities of human experience in a deeply resonant manner. For instance, *Banalata Sen* captures the essence of timeless love and longing, providing a rich foundation for romantic narratives that probe the intricacies of relationships. The lyrical quality of his work also lends itself to visual storytelling, making it a compelling source of inspiration for filmmakers.

## Farzana Chobi begins new role as radio news presenter

Farzana Chobi, a renowned actress with a long-standing association with Bangladesh Betar, has officially embarked on a new journey as a news presenter.

Speaking about her new role, Chobi shared, "As an actress, I have been involved with Bangladesh Betar for many years. I've acted in radio dramas, recited poems, and even worked as a presenter from time to time. Now, I've taken on the role of a newsreader, which I'm thoroughly enjoying."

"Voice performance has always been something I relish, and I've been mindful of my pronunciation since childhood. It's rewarding to see that skill being put to good use on the radio," she added.



## 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' to premiere in Bangladesh alongside Bollywood release

Kartik Aaryan's much-anticipated *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* will hit theatres in Bangladesh on the same day as its Bollywood release, under the South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta) agreement.

Alongside Kartik Aaryan, the film also stars Vidya Balan, Madhuri Dixit, and Triptii Dimri, among others.

Zahid Hasan Abhi of Abhi Kathachitra confirmed to The Daily Star that the film will arrive in Bangladesh through a trade exchange for the local film *Raat Jaga Phool*.

Abhi also noted that the import process is in full compliance with government regulations, with approval from the ministry expected by the end of the week.

## NEWS

### BR's filling up of waterbody makes

FROM PAGE 12

drizzle was causing waterlogging due to the waterbody being filled up.

Speaking to The Daily Star recently, DNCC Chief Executive Officer Mir Khairul Alam said, "After the railway authorities filled up the waterbody, we wrote to them asking them to restore the reservoir to its original state.

"We also requested the railway to make the box culvert at least three meters wide so that water can flow properly and meet future needs."

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that the railway project officials had fenced off the area and were using excavators to level the land, which had been entirely filled with dirt.

Several trees have also been felled.

Contacted, Nazneen Ara Keya, the project director, said blaming only the railway authorities for the waterlogging was not acceptable.

"To reduce waterlogging, the DNCC's drainage pipe is supposed

to connect to a nearby canal via a culvert. However, the construction of the drainage pipes is not yet complete."

Work on both projects—the city corporation's drain construction and the railway's culvert construction—are yet to be finished, she added.

"There was a small ditch here that railway authorities filled for the project work. Once completed, it will benefit the public. No buildings or railway offices are being constructed here."

Speaking to this correspondent recently, she further said that a meeting was held in which the city corporation requested them to make the culvert wider, increasing its width to three meters. The rail authorities agreed to this request.

"The contractors working on the project are currently in India, and once they come back, a new design will be made. If the box culvert is made wider, it will help prevent

waterlogging."

In an interview with this newspaper in July, recently appointed Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan highlighted the crucial role of waterbodies in retaining water during the monsoon.

She called upon the railway authorities to restore the waterbody.

Even if the railways owned the waterbody, they should not have filled it up without proper authorisation, she said.

"In metropolitan areas, the environment department and national housing authorities oversee such actions under the Environment Conservation Acts. However, as this area is filled up under the Detailed Area Plan, the city authorities are not supposed to approve such action.

"The railway authorities are engaging in illegal activity and sending a very bad message to society."

### Three of a Rohingya

FROM PAGE 12

4:00am and opened fire at the family.

The father and the son died on the spot and the daughter received bullet wounds. She was rushed to a nearby NGO-run hospital and later transferred to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital. She died on the way to the hospital, APBn unit commander Iqbal said.

Citing a preliminary investigation, Iqbal said police learned that Syedul was involved with the armed group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army in the camps and his rival group carried out the attack, Iqbal said.

After the attack, they fled towards the Lalpaha area, he said.

The family moved to Camp 20 extension from Camp 17 possibly because of safety issues, he said.

The refugees of the camp said members of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation might have conducted the attack.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas from Myanmar live in 34 refugee camps in Bangladesh. Most of them fled Myanmar's Rakhine state during a brutal military campaign targeting the ethnic minority group in 2017.

### Taijul saves the day

FROM PAGE 12

became the fastest and the second Bangladesh bowler, after Shakib, to take 200 Test wickets, achieving the milestone in 48 outings compared to Shakib's 54.

Bangladesh were without their biggest star in the contest, and in the post-day press conference, several questions were directed at Taijul regarding Shakib. He, however, provided some emotion-charged witty replies, thoroughly amusing the reporters there.

Asked about the experience of playing without Shakib, Taijul said, "It's not like I never played without Shakib bhai. We played matches without him when he was here. Even when we won a Test in New Zealand, he didn't play. When we beat New Zealand at home, he wasn't there."

"Actually, you can't have a player for 50 years. Players will come and go. One can play for 10-15 or at most 20 years. [On playing without Shakib] We have to accept it. No doubt he was a very good player, but let's pray we get someone like him or someone from the current crop to perform well," added the 32-year-old.

By the time Taijul came to bowl

in South Africa's innings, Tony de Zorzi and Tristan Stubbs appeared comfortable at the crease, and the duo welcomed the left-armer by hitting three boundaries in his first eight balls.

The 32-year-old, however, made his impact in the second over, dismissing Stubbs for 23 to give Bangladesh their second breakthrough in the innings, ending a day-high 41-run partnership.

Taijul went on to scalp four more in the last session, including the wicket of debutant Matthew Breetzke, who was out for a duck after he misjudged a leave, allowing the ball to crash into the off-stump. In the process, Taijul joined the club of 200 Test wickets.

A few overs later, tail up Taijul removed Ryan Rickelton for 27 to complete his second five-wicket haul against South Africa, following his 6-135 in Gqeberha in 2022—again, a feat where he has Shakib for company. "[On picking 200 wickets] Definitely, it is something to feel happy about... We, Bangladesh players, haven't played Test for so long that many of us would reach the milestone," Taijul said.

### Travel ban

FROM PAGE 12

The ACC application said that an inquiry is underway into the graft allegations against Shah Alam, Afroza, Sadat, Anvir, Sanvir, Safwan, Sonia and Sabrina. So, the travel ban is needed to prevent them from leaving the country.

The judge also sent a copy of the order to the special superintendent of police (immigration) of the Special Branch for the next course of action.

### Israeli strikes

FROM PAGE 12

AFP footage showed a column of smoke rising near one of the airports runways, as well as over nearby areas in Beirut's southern suburbs, hit hard by the nearly month-long war.

In the suburb of Chiyah, the strikes flattened an entire building, AFP footage showed. Excavators worked to clear the rubble as rescuers scoured for survivors.

The building housed a branch of Al-Qard Al-Hassan, according to an AFP correspondent.

NNA also reported strikes targeting the association in Hermel, Riyah and Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley region in Lebanon's east.

The strike on Baalbek hit a commercial market housing a building formerly used by Al-Qard Al-Hassan, NNA said. An AFP correspondent said residents quickly evacuated the area after the Israeli army issued a warning.

In south Lebanon, Israeli strikes hit branches near the cities of Sidon and Nabatieh, according to NNA.

PANIC, EVACUATIONS

The strikes came after the Israeli army said it would attack the association's branches in Beirut, the Bekaa and southern Lebanon, issuing evacuation warnings for more than a dozen buildings in the capital Beirut alone.

An AFP correspondent in Lebanon's coastal city of Sidon said the Israeli announcement triggered panic among displaced people sheltering near a branch of Al-Qard Al-Hassan.

Many rushed out of the school-turned shelter, heading on foot towards the seafront or other areas of the city, the correspondent said.

Sidon's mayor ordered the evacuation of the city's municipality and two shelters housing the displaced, according to NNA.

### Around 1,400 sued

FROM PAGE 12

is why we've filed the complaint against those who carried out the attack, and those who gave instructions to do so."

He said the complaint should have been filed earlier but there was a delay as it took time to gather evidence.

According to the case, the former roads and highways minister Obaidul Quader, who incited the attack, was made the second accused, while former education minister Mohibul Islam Nowfel and former state minister for information Mohammad Arafat were listed as third and fourth accused.

Speaking at the press conference, Abdulkader, another key coordinator of the students' platform, announced that similar cases will be filed across the country.

He also demanded swift justice and called for Chhatra League to be banned as a "terrorist organisation."

Echoing him, Abdul Hannan

Masud, another coordinator, said such legal actions would continue throughout the country, targeting Chhatra League operatives at universities, colleges, and other institutions.

Leaders of the students' platform also announced plans to draft a new constitution to replace what they referred to as the "fascist 1972 constitution."

They also outlined a broader vision for political reforms, calling for the resignation of the current "fascist president" and the establishment of a new political framework.

Asked why the movement has not called for the banning of the Awami League, Mahin clarified that their primary focus as a student movement is taking out a ban on the Chhatra League. The demand to ban the Awami League is a separate issue at the national political level.

He emphasised that their goal is to ensure that no group uses the country's soil for terrorist activities.

### Pakistan MPs get more power

FROM PAGE 12

across the country to weigh exclusively on constitutional issues, at the core of disputes between the government and PTI in the Supreme Court.

"This was a deliberate attempt to undermine the independence of the judiciary," said Sardar Shahbaz Ali Khan Khosa, a senior member of the Supreme Court Bar Association. "They attempted to strip away the core fundamental principles of Pakistan's constitution. We reject this and will fight it at every bar association," he told AFP.

But as the bill passed, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it was "a historic day... affirming the supremacy of Parliament".

"PLIANT JUDICIARY" PTI's Omar Ayub Khan, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, told the session that "these amendments are akin to suffocating a free judiciary".

"A government formed through rigging cannot amend the constitution," he said.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party scraped together a two-thirds majority with the backing

of its long-time rival turned supply and demand partner, the Pakistan People's Party.

The government clinched 225 votes of the required 224 with the crucial support of a handful of rebel MPs from PTI, state media broadcasting the session showed.

PTI, the largest bloc in parliament, had refused to back the package despite offers to water down the amendments and settle a consensus deal, analysts said.

Analyst Bilal Gilani, who heads Pakistan's leading polling agency, said the amendments have some wins—including bringing balance to activism by the judiciary.

"A more sinister side of this amendment creates a judiciary that is more pliant with the concerns of the government," he added.

On Monday, the English-language newspaper Dawn predicted the law could heighten the confrontation between branches of state.

"Given the long-running feuds and divisions... the changes being made could trigger a new stand-off between the legal fraternity and the government," read an editorial.