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From the Editor's Desk

Covid 19 has completely changed man's perspective of life. Did we ever imagine a life of almost complete confinement? Did we ever think that even the essential services would one day come to a standstill? Did it ever occur to us that the things, once considered indispensable, would now seem no more than mere luxuries? Did we have enough time to bother about the lot of our poor fellow brethren of the society? Did we regularly keep in touch with our friends and relatives? Let alone friends and relatives, did we spend quality time with those with whom we live under the same roof? Ironically, all these have been made possible by this fatal disease.

Covid 19 has taken toll of millions of lives across the world and inflicted a heavy financial loss upon all countries. But it is equally true that the disease has taught us some great lessons. The life of most sensible people today has come down to certain basic things sans luxury and superfluity. Rising to the occasion, people are coming up in thousands with all sorts of help and assistance for those affected directly or indirectly by this killer disease. Today, a family looks more like a family than a mere group of people living at a particular place. We now feel equally concerned about the wellbeing of our relations as we feel for ourselves.

A day will certainly come when the sun will shine upon a corona-free world. Time, the greatest healer, will blur many memories of this pandemic. But the one thing that we must retain and improve upon to make this world a better place is this spirit of togetherness and brotherhood.



Kazi Nazrul Islam: Not Just A 'Bidrohi Kabi'.

Anushree Chattaraj, English Honours, Semester IV

Kazi Nazrul Islam's contribution to Bengali literature is immense. He has written many songs, stories and poems in Bengali but we the people of Bengal only refer to Nazrul as the “rebel poet”.

He was born on 24th May 1899, in Churulia, which is located in the district of Paschim Burdwan. Kazi Nazrul was born in a Muslim talukdar family to Zahira Khatun and Kazi Faqeer Ahamed, who worked as an ‘Imam’ and caretaker at a local mosque. After his father’s untimely death, he was nicknamed 'Dukhu Mia' by the villagers because of the hardships he faced in his early life. He attended the Searsole Raj High School in Raniganj in 1910 and then the Mathrun High English School. But due to financial crisis he dropped out from school and started working as a cook. He joined the Indian army as a

soldier in 1917. He published his first piece, *The Autobiography of a Delinquent* or *Saogat* in 1919. He left army in 1920.

He has composed near about 4000 songs and wrote poems like *Dolan Chapa* (name of a faintly fragrant monsoon flower), 1923; *Bisher Bashi* (The Poison Flute), 1924; *Bhangar Gan* (The Song of Destruction), 1924 (proscribed immediately after publication); *Chhayanat* (The Raga of Chhayanat), 1925; *Chittnamah* (On Chittaranjan), 1925; *Samyabadi* (The Socialist), 1926; *Puber Hawa* (The Eastern Wind), 1926; *Sarbahara* (The Proletariat), 1926; *Sindhu Hindol* (The Undulation of the Sea), 1927; *Jinjir* (Chain), 1928; *Pralaya Shikha* (Doomsday Flame), 1930, banned in the same year, *Shesh Saogat* (The Last Offerings), 1958.

He has written many short stories in his life like *Rikter Bedan* (The Sorrows of Destitute), 1925; *Shiulimala* (Garland of Shiuli), 1931; *Byathar Dan* (Offering of Pain), 1922, along with some classic novels like *Bandhan Hara* (Free from

Bonds), 1927; *Mrityukshuda* (Hunger for Death), 1930; *Kubelika* (Mystery).

Nazrul has composed plays like *Jhilimili* (Window Shutters), plays, 1930; *Aleya* (Mirage), song drama, 1931; *Putuler Biye* (Doll's Marriage), children's play, 1933; *Madhumala* (Garland of Honeysuckle) a musical play, 1960; *Jhar* (Storm), juvenile poems and play, 1960; *Pile Patka Putuler Biye* (Doll's Marriage), juvenile poems and play, 1964; *Shilpi* (Artist).

Some of the essays written by Nazrul include *Joog Bani* (The Message of the Age), 1926; *Jhinge Phul* (The Cucurbitaccus Flower), 1926; *Durdiner Jatri* (The Traveller through Rough Times), 1926; *Rudra Mangal* (The Violent Good), 1927; *Dhumketu* (The Comet), 1961.

We all know that the poem "Bidrohi" written by Nazrul is a very important and popular poem. It is undeniable that he has written many rebellious poems and songs for us. But he has also gifted us with different types of poetry besides rebellious poetry. He did not limit himself to writing poetry or short stories or novels, he has also

composed more than four thousand songs. He delved deep in both Hindu and Islamic practices and extensively composed several devotional songs. He has composed a variety of Kali, Shiva, Krishna, Shakti and Brahma devotional songs like: *Mor priya hobe eso rani* (Kabyageeti), *Tui Ulta bujbli ram* (Hasyageeti), *Oi ranga matir pothe lo* (Jhumur), *Dur azaner* (Islami), *Arun Ranga Golap koli* (Dadra Anga), *Alga korogo khopar Bandhon* (gazal), *Debjanir Mone* (devyani/ Nabanandan), *jago orun bhairav* (orun bhairav), *Chaitali Chandni rate* (madhumadhavi sarang), *alo oi bonante* (poroj bosonto), *Mor ghumo ghore* (vajan), *sukh sari sono* (kirton), *Ami vai kbapa baul* (baul), *shyma name laglo agun* (shymasangeet), *na mitite sadh Mor* (Thumri), *He partha sarathi* (desatobodhok), *Abar vlobasar sadh jage* (Ragpradhan), *Dola lagilo* (Chayanot), *Asibe tumi jani priya* (patamangjari), *piu piu birahi papiya* (lalit), *Aso kahyani* (patdip), etc.

Bangladesh has given him the title of the National Poet but the people from West Bengal usually refer to him as the “rebel poet”. Is it justified to

refer to Kabi Nazrul as just a ‘Bidrohi kobi’ when he has gifted us with such a variety of literary outpourings? He has introduced us to a whole new world of folk and classical theatre, music and Bengali and as well as Sanskrit literatures. For me, Kabi Nazrul is not just a ‘Bidrohi Kobi’.



That Time of the Month

Sohini Nandy, English Honours, Semester II

What are you talking about? Don't you feel ashamed discussing this topic in front of everyone? Are you insane? What will people think about you?

Yes, these are the things we have to hear if we want to talk about periods.

Oh sorry! It is shameful to name it directly. We will be considered shameless. But why? Isn't it a natural process?

Every girl from their teenage starts experiencing a menstruation cycle

every month and menstruation is a sign of fertility too.

But even today the idea of menstruation is clubbed with many superstitions affecting the self-confidence of women during the time of their periods. Girls and women are asked to isolate themselves and are also prohibited from serving food and entering religious places. They are bound to think that they are weak during their periods and hence should keep themselves away from participating in any sort of social activities. Some girls are even asked to stop going to school when they are menstruating. Buying sanitary napkins from chemist shops is another arduous task Whenever anyone buys a packet of sanitary napkin from a shop, it is first wrapped in a newspaper and then put in a black plastic bag and then handed over. The whole process seems as if some illegal stuff has been bought from the shop.

I can still remember one incident from my school days. One of my friends suddenly started to have her periods while in school and she got a

red stain on her skirt. That day she became an object of ridicule for all the boys and girls in our class. She was also shamed by our Class Teacher and she came back home that day in tears. Then for almost one month, she didn't come to school because she felt that it was her fault that she had her periods while in school.

I want to know if women don't bleed every month, then from where the people who are shaming us today would have taken birth from?

A woman has to go through a lot of physical and mental turmoil during her periods. We never demand any special attention but only want people to understand that this is a natural and normal biological process. It is as normal as birth and death. It is a biological process and women are not in any way impure or dirty while she is on her periods.

These prejudiced, stereotypical thinking can be changed by educating people about the concept of menstruation. Skilfully skipping the topic in the biology class will only keep people believing the myths and

taboos associated with menstruation going on for generations. Women should take a stand for themselves and should not feel ashamed about discussing this topic. Women should feel proud and should never entertain those who try to make them feel ashamed while discussing about menstruation.

WE ARE WOMEN AND WE ARE PROUD THAT WE MENSTRUATE.



Twin N' Twain

Shaffaf Tarab, English Honours, Semester VI

Ambience of my grief
I'll explain in brief.
Brief it paints the happiness
And leaves me crying in sappiness.
Sappiness so strong that I become
numb
And in this numbness, I feel so dumb.

Dumb and tired I get washed away in
dalliance

For this pain circles continuously in the same ambience.



Books - The Treasure House of Knowledge

Barsha Karmakar, English Honours, Semester IV

The earth is the habitat of millions of lives. Among these, human beings have adapted themselves to the earth and developed it in the right direction. Two epoch-making inventions mark human history - one is fire and the other is writing. These two inventions have changed human civilization in different ways. While the former has mostly catered to the needs of man's body, the latter is more concerned with the nourishment of his mind and soul. Man's ability to write ultimately gave birth to books. In ancient times the scholars started to vent their feelings, experiences and knowledge writing on palm leaves. These handwritten valuable treasures known

to us as 'PUNTHIES' were the first books. To spread education these 'punthies' played an extraordinarily important role. Human beings started to store knowledge, and books ultimately became the storehouse of knowledge, basis of feelings and the jewel of the mind. The invention of the printing machine brought about the renaissance for books. Now books have become a part of our life. Nothing can give us the happiness and pleasure which are gained from reading a book. A reader does not feel any lowliness and sorrow as he gains heavenly wealth and pleasure. There are not many things which cannot be obtained through books. The Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Gita, the Bible, the Quran etc. are shelter, base and answer to all universal phenomena. The valuable creations of scholars, teachers, spiritual personalities and authors touch our hearts and minds and ennoble our life.



An Unforgettable Trip to Mukutmanipur

Ayushi Padha, English Honours, Semester IV

Traveling is a part of education. Traveling is like knowledge, because the more you see, the more you know. Traveling makes you realise that there is always a lot more to know. Most often travelling leaves you speechless and eventually it turns you into a storyteller.

Mukutmanipur is famous for its natural beauty and peaceful environment surrounded by the Kangsabati Dam, forest and hill. On the 3rd January 2021, I took a short trip to Mukutmanipur. My purpose was not only to travel but also to develop an artistic understanding of nature and also to have some peace of mind. I started my journey early in the morning with my family to Mukutmanipur. It was a long journey but the greenery on the way to Mukutmanipur and the joy of going out after so many days took away all

my fatigue. We reached Mukutmanipur at around 11 am. After reaching there we started walking on the decorated road which was flanked by numerous shops. I was amazed by the beauty of that road, which was filled with countless beautiful hand-made decorations. The shops situated by the street were exhibiting unique handcrafted products. I was mesmerized by the beauty of the mandala designs on the road and as well as by handicrafts made by the local artisans. Each and every artefact grabbed my attention. The beautiful dolls made of discarded bags looked very impressive and the colourful handbags were also attractive. I couldn't resist the urge to buy some products and ended up buying a few beautiful handcrafted items. Then we reached the bank of Kangsabati river. After arriving there, I saw the boats floating on the blue waters of the Kangsabati River. The movement of the boats on the serene water of the Kangsabati as constantly stirring my heart with joy. After a short wait, I was lucky enough to



manage a boat ride with my family. The small waves of the Kangsabati were very pleasant during the boat ride. After finishing our boat ride, we proceeded to have our lunch and then we went for a walk towards the Deer Park. At the Deer Park some villagers were selling different kinds of leaves and cucumber to feed the deer. I bought some foods from them and fed the deer. The villagers in this locality try to balance their financial insecurity by selling these farms grown cucumber seeds to feed the deer along with selling the handcraft items.

To me these villagers are artists. The decorated roads of Mukutmanipur, the painted walls and, their skill of

preparing handicrafts are proofs of that. I will request everyone to visit Mukutmanipur at least once to spend some quality time both with nature and the art works available here.



A Lower Middle-Class Girl

Nandita Kumari, English Honours,
Semester VI

A lower middle-class girl,
With facial hair
Does not ignore her folks,
Elder daughter of the family,
Cannot make a mistake even by
mistake.
Wants to support family like a son.
No, you cannot, you are a girl!
Go and study,
Do what you want but do not cross
your lines.
Be a fair daughter,
Be fair with in-laws too.
Want some space and independence?
Do whatever you want after
marriage.

After marriage,
They say, 'keep your dreams in the
locker,
You are here to take care of us.'
After kids,
You are a mother; you have to make
sacrifices for them.



Arpita Ghosh
English Honours
4th Semester



Gargi Pal
English Honours
Semester II



Ayushi
Padha
English
Honours
4th Semester

