

Life Chronology of Kazi Nazrul Islam

Compiled By: Muhammad Anwar Hossain

1899	May 24, Kazi Nazrul Islam was born at the village of Churulia in the district of Bardwan, West Bengal, India. Father: Kazi Fakir Ahmed, mother: Zaheda Khatun. Brothers: Kazi Shahebjan and Kazi Ali Hossain, sister: Umme Kulsum.
1908	March 20, Nazrul's father died at the age of 60 when Nazrul was at the age of 8.
1909	Completed his lower primary education from a Maktab (A Muslim Primary School).
1910	Discontinued his study due to financial crisis and got involved in a profession as a Muazzin (A caller for prayer) in a Maktab.
1911	Joined a folk musical group LETO. His uncle Kazi Bazle Karim, he himself a leader of a LETO group and excelled in composing songs in Urdu and Farsi language apart from Bengali, encouraged him to join LETO group. Later Nazrul succeeded him as a leader of a LETO group. Studied at Mathrun Nabinchandra Institution in class VI
1912	Worked in the household of a railway guard, in a bakery shop, etc.
1913-14	Got opportunities of studying at free of cost at Darirampur High School in Mymensingh with help of Kazi Rafizullah, a police Sub-Inspector. Completed class VII and returned to Churulia.
1914-15	Took admission in class VIII at Seasol Raj High School, Raniganj, Bardwan. A distant relative of Nazrul, Kazi Rafijullah arranged free schooling and accommodation for him and he studied up to X. Met Satish Kanjilal, a teacher of Seasol School, having some mastery over classical music. He was encouraged and influenced by this teacher and developed his musical talent. Meeting with Nabinchandra Ghatak, another teacher of Seasol School, was notable in Nazrul's life. Apart from being a teacher, Nabinchandra was an active member of a secret revolutionary group aiming at carrying on armed struggle against the British Colonial Government. Led by the thought of utilizing training later for the movement of freedom, Nazrul and his schoolmate Shailajananda Mukhopadhyaya (The latter day renowned litterateur) decided to join Army. Nazrul passed the recruitment examination and joined the Army in the 49th Bengali Regiment. He was trained in Nawshera and later stationed in Karachi, the capital of Pakistan.
1919	First publication, BAUNDELER ATMAKAHINI (The Autobiography of a Vagabond), a short story, in SAOGAT (The Gift) magazine (Report on Nazrul's proximate relation with Nasiruddin; listen to MP3), 1st year, 2nd issue, in Calcutta, Mohammad Nasiruddin, editor. The first article titled TURKIN NARIR GHUMTA KHULA (The unveiled face of a Turkish woman) was published in Saogat, 1st year, 12th issue. First poem MUKTI (Emancipation) was published in the BANGIYA MUSLIM

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	<p>SAHITYA PATRIKA (The Bengali Muslim Literary Magazine) Raised to the rank Havildar (commissioned officer) in the Army in Karachi.</p>
1920	<p>Returned to Calcutta and stayed in the same Hostel with Shailajananda Mukhopadhyaya, then in a rented apartment with Comrade Muzaffar Ahmed. First song, UDBODHAN (Inauguration) was published in Saogat, 2nd year, 6th issue. April, a novel, BANDANHARA (Free from Bonds), began its serialized publication in Muslim Bharat (Muslim India). July, appointed a joint-editor with Muzaffar Ahmed of the Daily Navayug (The Daily New Age) founded by Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, a veteran political leader of Bangladesh.</p>
1921	<p>Went to Daulatpur in Comilla with Ali Akber Khan, a children text book editor and writer. June 18, Got Married to Syeda Nargis Asar Khanam, a niece of Mr. Khan. Disagreement between Nazrul and Nargis family in the night of wedding. Nazrul left the Nargis in the very night of wedding and never met her again. October, visited Santiniketan with Mohammad Shahidullah and met Rabindranath Tagore for the first time. December, composed historical poem BIDRHOHI (The Rebel).</p>
1922	<p>January, BIDROHI was published in SAPTAHIK BIZLI (Weekly Lightening, 6th issue and also published in MUSLEM BHARAT (Muslim India). March, his first book BYATHAR DAAN (Offerings of Pain), a collection of short stories, was published in Calcutta. August 11, A bi-weekly DHUMKETU (The Comet) was launched; he was the editor. September 26, a poem ANANDAMOYEER AGOMONEY (Coming of Goddess Durga) was published in Dhumketu. October 13, AGNIBEENA (The Fiery Lute), a collection of poems, was published in Calcutta and proscribed by the government. October 25, YUGABANI (The Message of the Age), a collection of essays, was published and also proscribed by the government. November 8, a warrant for arrest was issued against Nazrul on the charge of sedition. November 23, arrested in Calcutta.</p>

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1923	<p>January 16, delivered RAJBANDIR JABANBANDI (Deposition of a political prisoner) before the court of a Chief Presidency Magistrate, Swindo, Calcutta and was sentenced to one year imprisonment with hard labor.</p> <p>January 27, Rajbandir Jabanbandi was published in Dhumketu, final issue, in Calcutta.</p> <p>February 22, Rabindranath Tagore dedicated his song-drama BASANTA (The Spring) to Nazrul.</p> <p>DOLAN CHAMPA (Name of a faintly fragrant monsoon flower), a collection of poems and songs, was published in Calcutta</p> <p>April-May, protested the mistreatment with the political prisoners by the jail authority, going on hunger strike. Revolutionary, popular novelist and short story writer, Sharath Chandra Chattopadhyaya visited Nazrul in the jail and requested him to end the strike. Similar requests were sent to him from many others including the liberationist political leader Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das. Rabindranath Tagore sent him a telegram from Shilong, writing, "Give up hunger strike, our literature claims you". He stayed on hunger strike for 40 days.</p> <p>December, Nazrul was released from jail.</p>
1924	<p>Got married to Pramila (Duli), the only daughter of Giribala Sengupta.</p> <p>First son of Nazrul, Azad Kamal (also named Krishna Muhammad), was born and died in the same year.</p> <p>BISHER BANSHI (The flute of poison) and BANGAR GAAN (The song of destruction), both collection of songs and poems, were published in Calcutta. Proscribed in the same year.</p>
1925	<p>May, met Mahatma Gandhi in the Faridpur Congress.</p> <p>November 10, 'The Labor Swaraj Party of Indian National Congress' was formed. Nazrul announced and published the party pamphlet.</p> <p>December 16, the premier issue of LANGAL (The Plough), the party magazine, contained his set of poems on equality.</p>
1926	<p>His family moved to Krishnanagar. The name of Langal was changed to GONOBANI (The voice of the masses).</p> <p>May, wrote and sung KANDARI HUSHIAR (Helmsman Be Aware) for the inaugural song of the Krishnanagar Congress.</p> <p>His second child Arindam Khalid (Bulbul) was born.</p> <p>Composed his first Ghazal "Bulbuli Tui Phool Shakhate Dis Ne Aji Dol"</p>
1927	<p>February, came to Dhaka to attend and speak at the annual conference of the MUSLIM SAHITYA SAMAJ (Muslim Literary Society).</p> <p>March, Saogat sponsored a 'Variety performances' to benefit Nazrul and his family, held at Albert Hall in Calcutta. Nazrul attended the conference.</p> <p>July, Sufia N. Hossain (Later Sufia Kamal), a young poet of 16, appealed "as his (Nazrul's mother, his sister" in a letter to Saogat editor Mohammad Nasiruddin to rescue Nazrul and his family from his continual financial hardship, and harassment by the government. Nazrul accepted Nasiruddin's offer to join the salaried staff of Saogat, communicating from Krishnanagar.</p>

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1928	<p>His mother died.</p> <p>Two separate edition of SANCHITA were published.</p> <p>November, got honoured by the HARAGACHA TARUN SANGHA (Haragacha Youth Organization) in Rangpur, a district of Bangladesh now.</p> <p>Because of both health and financially worsened plight, his friends, well-wishers associated with Saogat helped his family moved to Calcutta. On behalf of the family, Saogat rented a apartment until the family moved to PAN BAGAN a few months later.</p> <p>December, got honoured by the RAJSHAHI MUSLIM CLUB in Rajshahi, a district of Bangladesh.</p> <p>Attended the NIKHIL BHARAT KRISHOK O SRAMIK DAL (All India Farmers and Labours Party) and sung the inaugural song.</p> <p>Sung the inaugural song at the meeting of the All India Socialist Youth Congress in Calcutta presided by Pt. Jawaherlal Nehru.</p>
1929	<p>Son, Kazi Sabyasach, was born.</p> <p>January, attended the inaugural ceremony of the MUSLIM SHIKSHA SAMITY (Muslim Education Association) in Chittagong. He was honoured by several organizations in Chittagong the same year, including the BULBUL Society. Honoured by the BOGRA AKKELPUR YOUNGMEN'S MUSLIM ASSOCIATION at the annual conference.</p> <p>December 15, a grand National Civic Reception for Nazrul was held at Albert Hall in Calcutta, arranged by the Saogat Sahitya Majlish (Saogat Literary Society). Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, an eminent Bengali Scientist, presided over the function and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the celebrated political leader and freedom fighter, was the chief guest.</p>
1930	<p>Son, Kazi Aniruddha, was born.</p> <p>PRALAYSHIKHA (The Doomsday Flame), a collection of poems and songs, and CHANDRABINDU (The Nasal Mark), a collection of songs, were published in Calcutta and both were proscribed.</p> <p>May 7, Bulbul died for smallpox.</p> <p>For a period lasting several years in the 30s, Nazrul's career flourished with a variety of roles, including as a recording artist with gramophone companies, a composer, music director, singer, song and story writer, actor, etc in films, plays, and radio programme. His association with gramophone companies brought him a few years of financial success. It was difficult for Nazrul to get a recording contract because of the British authority who would not allow the recording of his songs on political grounds. Even the Admirers of Nazrul were subject to scrutiny. Harendra Dutta sand and recorded a song of Nazrul but kept Nazrul's name out of the label fearing that the British authority of the recording company [His Master's Voice (HMV)] would not permit the recording. But the recording companies finally gave into the immense popularity of Nazrul and, sensing profit in it, started offering him contracts.</p> <p>Nazrul's association with recording companies possibly began during 1928, flourishing during the 30s. Over the years, the recording companies with which Nazrul associated included Megaphone, Hindustan, Senola and HMV. The chief trainer of HMV was Ustad Jamiruddin Khan, a</p>

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	reputed master of Hindustani classical and semi-classical music. Nazrul was trained under him, and upon Ustad Jamiruddin Khan's death in 1932 he succeeded him as the chief trainer, in addition to his current position as the chief composer. Nazrul also associated himself closely with many other eminent musicians, including Ustad Kader Bux, Manju Saheb, Dabir Khan, Mastan Gama, Pt. Jnanendraprashad Goswami and Suresh Chakrawarty.
1931	June, accompanied by Jahanara Chowdhury, editor of Barhsabani (Messages of year), he went to Darjiling and met Rabindranath Tagore.
1932	Presided over the Shirajganj Bongiya Muslim Tarun Sammelon (Shirajganj Bengali Muslim Youth Conference).
1936	Presided over the Faridpur Muslim Students Conference.
1938	Presided over the Bangiyo Muslim Sahitya Sammelan (Bengali Muslim Literary Conference) in Calcutta. Pramila Nazrul was afflicted with paralysis and lower half of her body was paralyzed. His financial crisis was re-emerged, compounded by Pramila's medical expenses. Nazrul resorted to mortgaging the royalties of his gramophone records and literary works for mere sum of 4000 rupees.
1940	Assumed the chief editorship of the republished Nabayug (The New Age). Attended the year-end celebration programme of Dhaka Radio.
1941	March, presided over the annual conference of Bangaon Sahitya Sabha (Bangaon Literary Society) April 5 & 6, presided over the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Bangiya Mussalman Sahitya Samiti (Bengali Muslim Literary Society), delivered his final address "Jodi Ar Bansi Na Baje (If the flute doesn't play again) May 25, his 43 birthday was celebrated in Calcutta and poet Jatindra Mohan Bagchi presided over the celebration function. August 7, Rabindranath Tagore died in Calcutta. Soon afterwards he recited his poem Rabihara (Loss of Rabi) on All India Radio in Calcutta.
1942	July 10, while participating a children's programme ion All India Radio, Calcutta, he was struck by the loss of his power of speech. His mental capacity affected. July 19, taken to health retreat Madhupur for a change.
1943	NAZRUL NIRAMAY SAMITI, a committee to care for Nazrul was formed; Shyamaprasad Mukhopadhyaya was president.
1945	Calcutta University awarded him "Jagattarini Gold Medel"
1947	August, British rule in India ended. India divided into India and Pakistan.

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1952	July, the Nazrul Niramay Samiti sent Nazrul and Pramila to an asylum in Rachi for treatment for four months but no improvement.
1953	May, the Samati sent them to London, then to Vienna for treatment. No improvements. December 15, returned to Calcutta.
1960	awarded " Padmabhushan " title by the Government of India.
1962	June 30, Pramila died. Buried in Churulia.
1971	March 25, Liberation war of Bangladesh commenced. December 16, Bangladesh became independent.
1972	May 27, Nazrul was brought to Bangladesh under a state arrangement, accompanied by Uma Kazi, the wife of his son Sabyasachi.
1974	Son Kazi Aniruddha died.
1975	Dhaka University conferred an Honorary D. Lit. on Nazrul.
1976	Bangladesh citizenship conferred on Nazrul. Awarded " Ekushey Padak " By the Government of Bangladesh.
August 29, Sunday, 10:00 AM, Kazi Nazrul Islam died in P.G. Hospital in Dhaka and he was buried near the mosque of Dhaka University.	