

# August, the cruellest month

Dear Readers

August is the cruellest month for many of us. There could be nothing more befitting than the following extract from *Nuroldin's Shara-jiban* by the celebrated playwright, Syed Shamsul Haq as the tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I have translated the playtext in the late 1990s.

Dr Khairul Chowdhury

(Sutradar)

The blue sky, thousands of stars in that sky and

Under the sky, there are huts, bazaars and seventy-nine thousand habitations.

The shine is falling from the full moon like white milk.

The field is rotten, the river is dry, the seed is rotten, and most spoiled of all is human family.

Then, all of a sudden, why does such a big moon appear in the blue sky?

All of a sudden,

What utterance breaks the body of silence? What sound is that?

Please make a circle, you all,

Come closer, all of you,

I ask you, please sit still

In this bright moon light

Nuroldin comes to the memory,

When ominous sleep appears in Bengal,

With his long figure Nuroldin appears in the dead yard of Bengal.

With his long figure Nuroldin appears in the dead yard of Bengal.

Nuroldin's home was in Rangpur

In 1189 [1783 in Christian calendar]

*Again Bengal seems to remember Nuroldin*

*Seems to remember Nuroldin*

*When vultures come down to golden Bengal*

*Nuroldin comes to memory*

*When my dreams are stolen,*

*Nuroldin comes to memory,*

*When in my own country blood flows down to earth from my body*

*In history's every page.*

Come, please come to the wide yard tonight.

When the milk of memory flows down with the moonshine.

Then, who can sleep? Who can keep inside the door?

Who sits alone and sheds tears?

The tears of all rivers are lost in the Brahmaputra

The tale of Nuroldin is the whole country's

Like the hilly rivulet floods everything

The wretched rise with the hope  
That again Nuroldin will come back to Bengal.  
Again Nuroldin one day in black full moon  
Will call, "Rise, everyone, where are you everyone?"



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