

Ekushe February: An ode to an unforgettable event

The book is titled: Ekushe February. The title gives away the theme of the book undoubtedly. What's so special about it? What's special is the fact that this is the first ever compilation in Bangla literature on the events of the language movement of 1952.

Famous poet, journalist and critic Hasan Hafizur Rahman first edited the book in 1953. As a compilation, the book is divided into several parts such as Ekusher Kobita (poems), Ekusher Golpo (story), Ekusher Gaan (song) etc. In total, there are 21 literary pieces in the book, symbolic of the momentous date. Each piece is glorious and touching in their own right.

Prominent writers such as Showkat Osman, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Shamsur Rahman and even Hasan Hafizur Rahman himself have contributed with their powerful strokes of pen in this book.

In addition to the 21 literary pieces, the book starts with a very robust discussion by Ali Ashraf, titled, "Equal recognition for all languages" where he reminded us that the language movement was not only for the Bangla language but also for every other language in the world that are oppressed and all of them deserve equal recognition and respect.

The book ends with a factual writeup by Kabiruddin Ahmed called "Ekusher Etihash" (History of the 21st) which is a very thorough and detailed discussion about the events that transpired from 26th January to 25th February (1952), encompassing the events of the language movement.



One can find day to day discussions of these events in the last pages, rich with facts and history. History that every Bangladeshi citizen should learn in order to realise how much this nation has sacrificed for our beloved Bangla language, how this language movement later inspired us to fight for our freedom and how lucky we are to be a free nation.

The book goes highly recommended for anyone who wishes to look through the literature focusing on the language movement as well as those who wish to know the history and backgrounds of this movement that our national heroes undertook, risking and sacrificing their lives in the process.

Hasan Hafizur Rahman does an amazing job as an editor, putting these emotionally relatable and rich pieces of writings together in one book that is Ekushe February.

By Ashif Ahmed Rudro



NEWS FLASH

Guba Publishing at Ekushey Boi Mela

Guba Publishing, an independent publishing house from Oakland, California, has a stall at the Ekushey Boi Mela for the first time ever. The opening ceremony of the stall took place on 3 February, 2020, at the Bangla Academy premises and was inaugurated by renowned designer Bibi Russell.



The publication house is the brainchild of two childhood friends, Raya Rahman and Inshra Sakhawat Russell, who aimed to produce illustrations and narrations focusing on themes of culture, languages, and justice. Guba Publishing was launched in November, 2017, with a small line of Bengali inspired illustrated books, flashcards, and posters.

Guba Publishing strives to create a catalogue of stories, with artwork that engages, enlightens and entertains young readers and listeners. In Inshra S Russell's words, "We endeavour to create meaningful

children's contents for the age group between 0 to 10 years old. We produce board books, illustrated books, learning tools and teaching aids. We aspire to draw on fun learning rather than academics possessing serious tones. Our titles are in English, Bengali, or easy bilingual."

Guba Publishing is a platform for advocating social causes through children's story telling. It creates children's picture books in collaboration with cause driven non-profit organisations to raise both awareness of, and funds for, specific causes. For instance, one of their publications includes a book titled "The Unexpected Friend: A Rohingya Children's Story," which is the first ever picture book about the children of Rohingya. Moreover, profits from the book sales will be donated to Save the Children's Rohingya Relief Fund.

Mustafa Monwar, creative advisor and an Ekushey Padak recipient, quoting Rabindranath Tagore, said, "World's oldest religion is the religion of a child." In addition, admiring the illustrations, the eminent puppeteer added, "It will work as a great boon in shaping a child's mind creatively."

Do pay a visit to The Guba Publishing (Stall No. 13) at Ekushey Boi Mela, Bangla Academy.

By Tahmid Azad Sohan

us on /Sandalina

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