A Rich Revelation

Even if you're not necessarily in the privileged group labelled litterateurs but have a weakness for literature anyway, the World Literature Today is something you should get your hands on. The latest issue of this elegant literary journal, published bimonthly at the University of Oaklahoma, Norman, is particularly exciting as it has for the first time, devoted its cover story to seven Bangladeshi writers. The cover itself tells it all, featuring Tahmima Anam who has earned much international attention from her two award winning novels *The Golden Age* and *The Good Muslim*.

This is no small feat as this remarkable journal has literally travelled all over the globe, digging out literary gems from the most remotest corners showcasing minority languages and literatures like Ainu, Kurdish and Zapotec; this May-June issue has translations of two Chakma poems. According to Daniel Simon's editor's note, in 2012 more than fifty countries were represented in the journal and 40 percent of the content consisted of translations. This one has more than 40 authors featured.

The aim of the journal is simple – to challenge the conventional path of staying within one's tiny domain, in this case the western world and instead, exploring the huge treasure of literature in other places, waiting to be discovered.



World Literature Today
Published by University of Oaklahoma, Norman
Pages:80

Coming back to the cover feature, it includes a detailed conversation with four contemporary English-language Bangladeshi writers who have been making ripples not only in their motherland but getting people around the globe to sit up and take notice. David Shook, an American poet and editor met them while attending the Dhaka 2012 Hay Festival. They talk, among other things, about the reasons behind Bangladeshi writers' sluggish entrance into the English-language world literature scene compared to their counterparts in India and Pakistan and the enormous challenge of translating Bengali literature which has been flourishing for decades but has remained quite insular in terms of international exposure.

Interestingly, all four of these writers, have drawn quite a lot of attention relatively early in their careers. Tahmima Anam's first novel *The Golden Age*, won the 2008 Commonwealth Writer's Prize while the second book *The Good Muslim* was a New Yorker Book of the year and nominated for the 2011 Man Asian Literary Prize. Farah Ghuznavi won the 2010 Commonwealth Short Story Competition and has also been published in many foreign journals and anthologies. She has also edited *Lifelines*, an anthology of short stories by Bangladeshi women. Mahmud