

EDITOR'S NOTE

HAY Festival is coming to Bangladesh for the third time and The Daily Star is privileged to be the title sponsor of this important literary event for the second time. It is also wonderful to see Bangla Academy hosting the festival and British Council partnering with Hay along with the support of many more literary and cultural groups. In the past few years, there has been significant growth in our literature and journalism scenes and with literary festivals like Hay we hope the growth continues exponentially. It is extraordinary to be a part of the exchange of ideas and work between the international literary scene and our home-grown talents. More Bangladeshi writers are writing in English and translating notable Bengali works. And we are proud to contribute to such a platform. We look forward to another year of Hay and The Daily Star working together to bring our literature to the world and experience the unique mix of personalities and energy Hay will bring this year.

Mahfuz Anam
Editor-Publisher
The Daily Star

Three Years of Hay

HAY Festival Dhaka, now in its third year, is fast building a reputation as a fresh energetic new festival, and the consistent mid-November dates are making it a steady fixture on the global literary map. The festival gives a chance for our enthusiastic, argumentative and political savvy audiences to interact with top literary names like Tariq Ali, Ahdaf Soueif and Pankaj Mishra. It has already given rare exposure to the international scene for our readers and writers of both Bangla and English literature, as well as catalyzing the English reading scene here.

We have grown from a one-day event to a full three day programme spanning four locations. Our total partici-

pants have increased by five fold since the first year, and visitors from abroad by ten fold. This year four Bangladeshi publishing houses are launching English fiction and translations, and we have seen the emergence of two English literary journals.

Global publishing companies are signing up and publishing Bangladeshi authors, and we are making unprecedented links with the literary scene abroad, from interest by UK agents to links with a range of other international festivals and

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renowned literary journals. We also see the launch of the first centre for translation in Bangladesh, and a focus on Bangla and other languages for an international audience.

Over 230 thinkers, writers, filmmakers, poets, artists and dancers will come together in the next few days, to dare to dream and re-imagine the world, and reflect on that which connects us all as readers, writers and global citizens. With more than 75 sessions this year, Hay Festival Dhaka is really an event on the literary calendar of Dhaka that you should not miss. Do come and join us for this three-day literary extravaganza.

-- Sadaf Saaz Siddiqi and Tahmima Anam



Writer Vikram Seth signing books at Hay Festival Dhaka 2012

PHOTOS: HAY FESTIVAL, DHAKA

MESSAGE FROM BRITISH COUNCIL

The Hay Dhaka started its journey from the British Council grounds in Fuller Road, November 2011. A pilot that was so successful that it took Peter Florence, Director of Hay by surprise. But it was no surprise to me. As the

love of good literature is something that has deep roots in Bangladeshi culture, equal to none other than the English! In P.G. Wodehouse's words "There is no surer foundation for a beautiful friendship than a

mutual taste in literature."

It gives me enormous pride and pleasure to support the third Hay Festival in Dhaka. There is so much that our two countries can learn from each other and share more widely

onto the world from this platform – the Hay Festival.

Rosemary Arnott
Director
British Council

WELCOME TO BANGLA ACADEMY

HAY Festival Dhaka will help introduce our world acclaimed Bangla literature to a new generation of audiences around the globe. This is also a unique opportunity for contemporary Bangladeshi writers, poets and critics to exchange views and opinions with their global counterparts. Keeping in mind the spirit of two language movements, the arrangement of Hay Festival Dhaka will add a new dimension. This international literary festival will also provide an opportunity for our talented young writers to expose their potentialities in such a grand extravaganza. Bangla Academy welcomes the world-renowned writers and Bangladeshi writers to Hay Festival Dhaka. I wish this festival a success.

Shamsuzzaman Khan
Director General
Bangla Academy

PANELS NOT TO BE MISSED

Egypt and Beyond:

Ahdaf Soueif - renowned Egyptian writer, as well as, social and political commentator for the Guardian and William Sieghart - British philanthropist, publisher and the founder of the Forward Prizes for Poetry will be discussing politics in a session moderated by Zafar Sobhan on Friday November 15th at 4:00 pm

Endless Revolutions:

Tariq Ali - eminent British Pakistani writer and journalist, Pankaj Mishra - noted Indian writer and essayist, Eliot Weinberger - contemporary American writer, essayist, editor, and translator who has been published in around thirty languages will be discussing current state of world politics and its influence on literature with Ahdaf Soueif on Thursday the 14th at 5:30 pm.

Commonwealth Writers Conversation:

The Untold Story, with Razia Iqbal. This session will explore how creative expressions can help women speak out about difficult topics with BBC News Journalist Razia Iqbal on Saturday the 16th at 3:30 pm.

Granta Session

Granta celebrates new and young British writers by creating a list of 20 people each decade called 'Granta: Best of Young British Novelists'. On the 2013 list are Ned Beaman and Tahmina Anam who will be conducting a very special session at this year's Hay festival.

Syed Shamsul Haque and Hasan Azizul Haque Session

Two distinguished authors of the country will come under the umbrella of the Hay festival this year. Renowned poet and novelist Syed Shamsul Haque, also famous for his play "Payer Awaj Pawa Jae" will meet Hasan Azizul Haque, the most revered fiction writer of the country, for a session of open discussion on the evolution of literature from their time till now and beyond.

A life in Letters

Eminent British Pakistani journalist, activist and historian Tariq Ali is undoubtedly one of the biggest highlights of this year's Hay. Tariq Ali will be in conversation with Khademul Islam on Friday the 15th discussing politics and proses.

Beyond Hay

13th November
Children's Workshop: by Jerry Pinto

17th November
Commonwealth Writers Short Story Workshop conducted by Ellah Allfrey, Chair of Commonwealth Writers Short Story competition 2014, with Arunava Sinha and Farah Ghuznavi.

17th November
Tariq Ali's talk at Independent University Bangladesh at 4:30 pm