

Hay to feature 60 foreign writers, thinkers this year

Three-day festival kicks off at Bangla Academy tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With more than 80 sessions on subjects ranging from literature to mathematics, the three-day Hay Festival Dhaka kicks off tomorrow on the capital's Bangla Academy premises, opening up a world of thoughts and joy, organisers said yesterday.

"Sixty thinkers and writers from 13 foreign countries will participate in the festival this year along with more than 200 Bangladeshi litterateurs," said Festival Director Sadaf Saz Siddiqui at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Starting in 1988, the original Hay Festival of Literature & Arts is held every year for 10 days in May-June at Hay-on-Wye in Wales, from which it derives its name. Now, the literature festival is hosted in over 10 countries in Asia, Africa, Americas and Europe.

In 2010, Hay Festival was first organised on the British Council premises in Dhaka, with The Daily Star as the title sponsor. The response received from litterateurs and

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Increase reserved seats for women in JS

Rights activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights campaigners yesterday once again called for increasing the reserved seats in parliament for women to 150 from existing 50 and introducing direct election to these seats for their political empowerment.

Suggesting one woman lawmaker for every two parliamentary seats, they also demanded re-demarcation of constituencies so that the female MPs elected to the reserved seats could serve their own areas.

The activists were addressing a views exchange meeting on "Introducing Direct Election System in Reserved Seats, Increase the Number by One-Third and Nominate 33% Women of a Political Party to Contest in Election", organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) in Cirdap auditorium of the capital.

The current parliament consists of 350 seats, including 50 reserved for women, which are apportioned to elected parties based on their representation in parliament.

BMP, a longtime advocate of increased representation of women in parliament, held a rally on February 10 last year making the same call.

"The way the whole parliamentary system is working, it seems women are marginalised," BMP President Ayesha Khanam said yesterday.

"We cannot expect positive changes in the women's rights movement if a female MP of one constituency is assigned to a completely different constituency, of which she has no knowledge," she said. As a result they cannot contribute much to society, she added.

Ayesha Khanam blamed a lack of political as a hindrance to women's empowerment.

Rakhi Dash Purkayastha, acting general secretary of BMP, said the number of female voters had increased significantly over the years but women's participation in policy-making and political empowerment remained insignificant.

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HT Imam blowing the gaffe

People rejected his explanation: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the people had rejected the explanation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser HT Imam that media had reported a "partial and distorted" version of what he said regarding the January 5 national election.

"HT Imam has proved how the Election Commission changed the result of the January 5 polls... How their [government's] appointed officers set up mobile courts to hold the one-sided poll," he told a discussion marking the 50th birth anniversary of Tarique Rahman, senior vice chairman of the party, at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Referring to former minister Abdul Latif Siddique and Imam's comments, he said this was a sign of the fall of the government.

Quoting Latif, Fakhrul said Sajib Wazed Joy, the PM's son and adviser, was taking Tk1.6 crore as salary. BNP has urged the government to reveal the actual amount of his salary, but to no avail, he said.

The BNP spokesperson also accused the government of trying to stop anti-government agitation by filing false cases against party chief Khaleda Zia and Tarique.

'Fake Freedom Fighters'
The pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal yesterday alleged that the government was including false freedom

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President for immediate arrest of RU teacher's killers

Joins Ruet convocation

RU CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday called for immediate arrest and exemplary punishment for the killers of Rajshahi University teacher AKM Shafiqul Islam.

"Along with the whole nation, I have been saddened by the incident," Hamid said while addressing the 4th convocation of the Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) on the campus.

Expressing deep concern over the killing of the sociology professor, he prayed for the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family.

Earlier, Hamid, also chancellor of Ruet, inaugu

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HAY FESTIVAL
DHAKA
Press Conference
Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Round Table Auditorium, Ground Floor
Date: 18 November 2014

From left, Kazi Anis Ahmed, festival adviser of Hay Festival Dhaka, Sadaf Saz Siddiqui, the festival director, and Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, managing editor of The Daily Star, at a press conference on the literary festival at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. The three-day festival will kick off at Bangla Academy of the capital tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR

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GRAFT CASE
SC continues hearing Khaleda's appeal

RTI act hinges on use by journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday continued hearing for the second day an appeal filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia regarding the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

The appeal was filed in 2012 against a High Court verdict that rejected a petition of Khaleda challenging a lower court order, which accepted charges against her in the case.

The SC fixed today for further hearing on the appeal. It also fixed today for hearing two other appeals filed by the BNP chief over the Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia

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'ASSAULT ON COPS' Court takes cognisance of charges against Fakhrul

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took cognisance of the charges against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 24 others in a case regarding an assault on police.

Kalabagan police filed the case for assaulting police and preventing them from discharging their duties before Padma General Hospital on Sonargaon Road in the capital during the country-wide road blockade enforced by the then BNP-led 18-party alliance on December 9, 2012.

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Day 1: Thursday 27 November, 6.30 pm till 5 am the next day
Group Performance ~Vocal
Vidushi Malavika Sarukkai ~Bharatnatyam . Ajinkya Joshi ~Tabla
Rajrupa Chowdhury ~Sarod . Vidushi Girija Devi ~Vocal
Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan ~Sitar . Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty & Debashish Bhattacharya ~Vocal & Slide guitar

Day 2: Friday 28 November, 6 pm till 5 am the next day
Tabla Quartet . Supriya Das ~Vocal . Abir Hossain ~Sarod
Ruchira Kedar ~Vocal . Rahul Sharma ~Santoor
Pandit Umakant Gundecha & Pandit Ramakant Gundecha ~Vocal
Guru Karakudi Mani ~Carnatic Percussion
Pandit Rajan Misra & Pandit Sajjan Misra ~Vocal

Day 3: Saturday 29 November, 6 pm till 5 am the next day
Group Performance ~Vocal . Nishit Dey ~Sitar
Manjusha Patil ~Vocal . Pandit Shivkumar Sharma ~Santoor
Asit Roy ~Vocal . Vidushi Aruna Sairam ~Vocal
Pandit Kushal Das ~Sitar . Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar ~Vocal

Day 4: Sunday 30 November, 6.30 pm till 5 am the next day
Amit Chowdhury ~Bharatnatyam . Swarup Hossain ~Tabla
Amaan Ali Khan & Ayaan Ali Khan ~Sarod
Sameehan Kashalkar ~Vocal . Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar & Ganesh Rajagopalan ~Sarod & Carnatic Violin
Kaushiki Chakraborty ~Vocal . Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia ~Flute

Day 5: Monday 1 December, 6.30 pm till 5 am the next day
Group Performance ~Vocal . Vishal Krishna ~Kathak
Ashwini Bhide Deshpande ~Vocal . Moniruzzaman ~Flute
Vidushi Kishori Amonkar ~Vocal . Pandit Uday Bhawalkar ~Vocal
Ustad Amjad Ali Khan ~Sarod

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POLITICAL VIOLENCE LAST YEAR German embassy recalls Monir's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Do you remember Monir Hossain, the 14-year-old boy from Gazipur? Or the nerve-racking picture of the boy published in this newspaper just a year back?

The innocent boy is perhaps the worst reminder of the political violence that raged through the country in the run-up to the January 5 parliamentary election.

In this month last year, he died a horrific death after pickets set the vehicle he was in on fire during a BNP-led 18-party hartal. His whole body was burnt. The shocking death drew serious criticism over the way the then opposition waged its movement.

To remember the premature death, the German Embassy in Dhaka has launched a project for improving the facilities of the school the boy used to attend. A new classroom has been built in memory of Monir and is to be named after him, says a press release of the embassy.

The teenager was burnt on November 4, 2013 at Gazipur Chowrastra during hartal enforced by the then BNP-led 18-party alliance. He died three days later.

Charge d' Affaires of German Embassy Ferdinand von Weyhe yesterday visited Ganakchala Primary School in Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur, where Monir was a fifth grader.

Currently the school has almost 200 students who are being taught in four classrooms. The fifth classroom has been constructed with necessary equipment with the embassy fund.

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20 - 22 NOVEMBER 2014

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DHAKA

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FREE ENTRY REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED **Venue: Bangla Academy | Time: 8 am – 8 pm**