



DHAKA ART SUMMIT

Books on first Bangla Grammar and master artist Zainul Abedin launched

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The turnout of art lovers is on the rise at Dhaka Art Summit 2018. Apart from 10 rich curated exhibits showcasing both classical and contemporary arts and architectural designs including drawings, paintings, photographs, prints, sculptures, videos, installations, performance arts and text-based sound works inside the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, the grandest art fiesta has many other aspects as well. Artists' interactive talks, symposiums, workshops, guided tours, performing arts- especially renditions of folk songs at Nandanmancha- and launching of books at the BMW lounge of the summit venue are underway.

The fourth day (February 5) of the nine-day extravaganza launched two important books at the lounge- the first ever volume on Bangla grammar with thesaurus and one on master artist Zainul Abedin.

The Portuguese influence on the Bengali language is immense and particularly significant. Fr. Manoel da Assamcão, a Portuguese missionary, who wrote the first book on Bangla Grammar titled "Vocabulario em idioma Bengala e Portuguez" in 1743. He also initiated the prose style in Bengali. Fr. Manoel was born in Evora that is now considered as a world heritage by The UNESCO (1983) in Portugal. He came to this part of the world in Nagori-Bhawali estate of the then East Bengal at the end of the 17th century.

The 592-page book was unveiled by Emeritus

Professor Anisuzzaman as chief guest. Hon. Consul of Portugal in Dhaka arranged the launching ceremony.

"Fr. Manoel da Assamcão's famous book on Bangla Grammar and Bangla Portuguese dictionary is, I think, a researched based work through which he got ideas and found the Portuguese and Bangla words arranged in it. This is more or less vocabulary. Fr. Manoel was also the second Portuguese missionary, who wrote prose in Bengali. Almost a century ago Dom Antonio D'Rozario wrote 'Brahmin Roman Catholic Sangbad' illustrating a dialogue between a Brahmin and a Roman Catholic priest, in which he tried to enunciate the basic principles of Christianity and in comparison with those of Hinduism and naturally the greatness of Christianity was advocated in it," said Professor Anisuzzaman.

Shakhawat Hossain, Hon. Consul of Portugal, presided over the programme while the first Bangali Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario attended the event as guest of honour. Fabianne Brant Silva, wife of the Charge d'affaires of Brazilian Embassy in Dhaka, introduced the book while an expert of Portuguese language Air Vice-Marshal Sanaul Haque elaborated on the book.

Chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair; Pro Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Nasreen Ahmad; Anita Haque Shantia, wife of Hon. Consul of Portugal; Cosmos Gallery Chairman Enayetullah Khan and the organisers of the summit Nadia and Rajeeb Samdani were present at the launching ceremony.

The first forty pages of the book contain the grammar and the rest is the thesaurus. Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee reprinted the book in 1931 with Bengali translation. Dr. Chatterjee, whom Tagore has honoured with the title of Bhashacharya (Master of Languages), frankly admitted that he was unable to copy the entire Vocabulario. It is heard that he had copied this huge volume via his own hand during 1922 from the British Museum (now the British Library) and published it from the University of Calcutta.

A short film featuring the shared history of Portugal and Bangladesh was screened at the end.

Prior to the launching ceremony, renowned artist Hashem Khan unveiled a book titled "Master Artist of Bangladesh: Zainul Abedin". The book features a selection of 100 paintings' images from Bangladesh National Museum's (BNM) vast collection of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's paintings. Faizul Latif Chowdhury, Director General of BNM, presided over the programme while eminent artist Syed Jahangir and noted art critic Mustafa Zaman were present at the ceremony.

In another discussion session at the BMW lounge, Abul Khair, Enayetullah Khan and Faizul Latif Chowdhury shared their experiences on Public-Private Partnership on Art and Culture. "The Government should allocate a monetary budget to build a proper forum so that the precise form of art and culture is benefitted. We are grateful to have received much help from the Government on our different initiatives," said Abul Khair.

On reading traditions

In conversation with Anisul Hoque

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bangla Academy Award winning writer Anisul Hoque is a much sought after name every year by readers during the Ekushey Boi Mela. To everyone's delight, the author has published more new titles this year, and in a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Anisul Hoque shares his aspirations for this year's Boi Mela, and more.



What are your hopes regarding this year's Ekushey Boi Mela?

AH: My hopes are very high. The Mela is bigger and better than ever, with more pavilions. I am very happy to see such enhancements.

What do you desire to see among your readers?

AH: I would like all able families out there to give their children books, especially the classics. Only through reading can their minds open, and learn about a great variety of issues. Aside from Tagore, Nazrul, Manik Bandyopadhyay, Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyay, Tara Shankar and more, children should get to know other writers as well. I believe that a Bengali household is incomplete without volumes of Tagore and Nazrul.

What books by you have been published this year?

AH: While some have been released and available in stalls now, there are more on the way. My most significant work this year is *Alo Haatey Eshechilo Aadarher Jatri*, which is available from February 6. This is the third novel on Bangabandhu and Tajuddin, and I plan to write two more. I wrote another book on the oxen cart pullers, or *gaariyals* in Rangpur titled *O Bondho Kajolbhromora*, which has been published by Shomoy Prokashon. From Pearl Publications is *Ghum O Ghumer Golpo*. From Kotha Prokash is a collection of poems old and new, and I've written a few children's books as well.

How does it feel to be surrounded for autographs and book signings?

AH: I quite enjoy it, because it shows I am doing something right with my writings, and I only write for my readers. However, I do get tired of taking selfies, but I appreciate the gesture.

Noomi Rapace to star in "ANGEL OF MINE"

Noomi Rapace will star in Australian psychological thriller "Angel of Mine," to be directed by Kim Farrant. Fortitude International will begin pre-selling the picture at the European Film Market in Berlin later this month.

The movie is a Melbourne-set remake of 2008 French film "L'Empreinte de L'Ange." It charts a woman's brush with madness after she loses her daughter and becomes convinced that another woman's child is in fact her own.

Farrant, whose first film was the Nicole Kidman-starring "Strangerland" in 2015 will direct from a script by Luke Davies ("Lion," "Candy") and David Regal. Production is scheduled to begin in April this year.

The film is to be a SixtyFourSixty and Garlin Pictures feature with principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Film Victoria. It was developed by Garlin Pictures with the assistance of Screen Australia and SixtyFourSixty. Production is by Brian Etting and Josh Etting of Garlin, and Su Armstrong of SixtyFourSixty. Executive production is by Nadine de Barros and Robert Ogden Barnum of Fortitude and Luke Davies. Distribution in Australia and New Zealand is by Becker Films.

Source: Variety



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer Liza is at the peak of her career, and the artiste is about to add a new recognition to her achievements. For the first time, Rtv has made room for music videos in their airing schedule, and the first music video featured was by Liza. Shortly after the completion of filming, the music video was aired two days ago on the channel.

Liza was seen to star in the video alongside popular small screen actor Tawsif Mahbub. The song, titled

"Asmaani", has been composed and directed by Shafique Tuhin with Rafi behind the musical arrangements and Asad Khan as choreographer. The music video's cinematography has been done by Bidrohi Dipon.

"A very high budget went into the making of the video, and I am very happy with the quality of the work," stated Liza.

On her experiences working alongside Tawsif Mahbub, the singer added, "This is my first time working with him, and he has been extremely helpful during

filming. It is no wonder he is one of the most popular TV actors today; his talent speaks for his reputation."

The video was filmed over the course of two days and two nights, in scenic locations including Sreemongal, Bichnakandi and Lawachara Tea Resort. The video was directed by Rana Bidyut and produced by Bengal Multimedia.

Aside from her numerous achievements, the singer has been quite busy performing on stage. "There's always a stage show going on every day, and on February 20, I will be flying to perform in Australia."

Liza hits another mark

KACHHE ASHAR GOLPO on Banglavision

A CORRESPONDENT

Closeup's "Kachhe Ashar Golpo" is making a return this year with three new plays by three emerging directors. This highly popular initiative by Closeup will be aired on Valentine's Day this month on Banglavision, at 8:45pm.

Director Rubayet Mahmud's "Tobouo Bhalobashi" was adapted from a script written by AKM Mahfuzul Alam Anik. Popular actors Safa and Siam Ahmed will appear in starring roles of the play, whose title music has been composed by music director and singer Adit.

Mabru Rashed Bannah directed "Ami Tomar Golpo Hobo", scripted by Md. Khairul Hasan. Cast members include popular actors Tawsif Mahbub and Toya. Music director and singer Minar composed the title song of the play.

"Shohore Notun Gaan" has been directed by Shafayet Mansur Rana and scripted by Md. Rafiqul Islam. Actors Monoj and Sabila will play lead roles in the venture, whose musical score was composed by Rafa.

