

Day 1

Programme

Thursday 17.11.2016

BOTTOLA

[101] 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM | INAUGURAL CEREMONY | Main Stage

Tagore Songs by Rezwana Choudhury Bannya and Shurer Dhara. Remarks by DLF directors; director general of Bangla Academy, Shamsuzzaman Khan; special guest, the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs, Asaduzzaman Noor; and chief guest, the Honourable Minister of Finance Abul Maal Abdul Muhith.

Opening of the festival by VS Naipaul.

COSMIC
TENT

[102] 12:30 – 1:00 PM | MUSIC: MEHEDI HASAN NIL AND FRIENDS | Lawn

Mehedi Hasan Nil and friends perform a medley of modern Bangla songs.

BRAC

[103] 12:30 – 2:00 PM | FILM SCREENING: BHALOBASHAR SHOHOR | Cosmic Tent

A non-linear film on the modern dilemmas that are faced by young couples in this war torn and unforgiving world. Filmmaker Indranil Roychowdhury and Jaya Ahsan discuss the trials and tribulations of contemporary life with writer Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay, after the screening, in conversation with Syeda Sadia Mehjabin.

LAWN

KK TEA
STAGE

[104] 1:00 – 2:00 PM | WORLD FICTION: HIDDEN REALITIES | Main Stage

Daniel Hahn with Nicholas Lezard, Anjum Hasan, Marcia Lynx Qualey, Nael Eltoukhy and Amy Sackville

Authors, reviewers and translators from West and East discuss the latest trends in global fiction.

A year that has seen a small novel from South Korea take the Man Booker International Prize is definitely a year to take stock of how we listen to stories from other cultures and other languages.

MAIN
STAGE

[105] 1:00 – 2:00 PM | IMAGINING HISTORY | KK Tea Stage

Shazia Omar and Bappaditya Chakravarty with Saad Z Hossain

Historical novels about two fascinating figures of sub-continental history: Samudragupta, the ancient emperor, and Shaista Khan, the Mughal plenipotentiary of Bengal. Saad Z Hossain, internationally published novelist, will ask his peers why they turned to the historical, and why those particular periods? The panel will explore how Chakravarty and Omar handled the eternal contest of facts and fantasy in any fiction, but especially in the historical form.

Marking the launch of Shazia's book, *Dark Diamond*.

[106] 1:00 – 2:00 PM | ENGLISH POETRY RECITATIONS | Lawn

Steven Fowler, Maqsoodul Haque and Carles Torner with Nirupama Subramanian

The three poets discuss poetry as a means of protest and the use of language as its symbol. The panel explores the relevance of poets in today's age—even as Bob Dylan wins the Nobel Prize in Literature, poetry as an art form finds few takers among the general public. The poets also read select pieces from their work.

[107] 2:15 – 3:15 PM | AMERICA: EXCEPTIONAL NO MORE | Main Stage

Barkha Dutt, Jeffrey Yang, Ben Judah, Marcia Lynx Qualey and Kazi Nabil Ahmed with Sriram Karri

BOTTOLA

Dutt and Judah have just come from covering the recent US elections. Yang is an American poet and Lynx Qualey is a leading curator of Arabic writing. Ahmed is a Bangladeshi politician and keen observer of American and global politics. Karri, an Indian writer and journalist, will engage this motley crew in spirited speculations of the world in the Age of Trump.

COSMIC TENT

[108] 2:15 – 3:15 PM | AN INTIMATE ARCHITECTURE: THE NEUROSCIENCE OF AESTHETICS | KK Tea Stage

Juhani Pallasmaa and Abed Chaudhury with Kazi K Ashraf

Considering that the ‘the world is wholly inside, and I am wholly outside myself,’ renowned Finnish architect and architectural thinker Juhani Pallasmaa discusses how architecture is a mediation between the world and ourselves. This task of mediation, Pallasmaa claims, is nothing short of a poetic calling that can re-mythicize, re-sensualize and re-eroticize our relationship with the world. How can we understand the process of artistic and architectural production from this fundamentally embodied condition? Pallasmaa will be in a conversation with Abed Chaudhury, a well-known agricultural scientist who also works on aesthetics, neuroscience and science education. Moderated by architectural historian, Kazi K Ashraf.

BRAC

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

[109] 2:15 – 3:15 PM | সাম্প্রদায়িকতার এ পাড় ও পাড়: COMMUNALISM ACROSS THE BORDER | Lawn

Jahar Sen Majumdar, Masudul Haque, Masuduzzaman and Semanti Ghosh with Ahmed Reza

সাম্প্রদায়িকতার আঙনে জ্বালানি যোগ করেছেন দেশ বিভাগ পূর্ব তৎকালীন শিক্ষিত রাজনীতিবিদগণ। হিন্দু-মুসলিম বিভেদে প্রত্যক্ষ মদদ ছিল ইংরেজদের। কিন্তু স্বাধীন দেশেই বা আজ মানবিক সৌহার্দ্যের দৃশ্য বাংলাদেশ-পশ্চিম বাংলায় তথা সর্বভারতে কোন পর্যায়ে? ধর্মীয় রাজনীতির ব্যবহার পৃথিবীময় সর্বত্রাসী আকার ধারণ করেছে। সাম্প্রদায়িকতার বিষয়ক রোপিত হচ্ছে দেশে দেশে। মুক্তির পথ কী? সাংস্কৃতিক বিপ্লব অনিবার্য...

The flame of communalism was stoked by educated politicians before the partition of India. The British government, too, was evidently involved in segregating Hindus from Muslims. But where does humanity stand in independent Bangladesh, or India, for that matter. Using religion for political gain has assumed an aggressive role the world over. The poison of communalism is taking roots from one country to another. What is the way out? Cultural revolution is inevitable...

MAIN STAGE

[110] 1:45 – 2:45 PM | CRIME PAYS: THE ART OF SUSPENSE | BRAC Stage

Anthony McGowan, Leonora Christina Skov and Richard Beard with Kelly Falconer

The thrill of thrillers is undeniable. What are the essential ingredients of the near perfect crime? What is it that captures the imagination about ‘whodunnits’—making us come back for more? Crime novels and political thrillers take us to the dark side of ourselves and humanity—the day of reckoning for our humiliations and obsessions. They can shed light on complex structures of power, and human ingenuity and fallibilities. Anthony McGowan, the writer of two literary thrillers, Leonora Christina Skov, a Danish contemporary thriller writer, and Richard Beard, author of *Acts of the Assassins*, talk to literary agent Kelly Falconer about what draws them to this genre.

[111] 3:30 – 4:30 PM | বিষাদ সিন্ধু (AN OCEAN OF SORROW) | Main Stage

Fakrul Alam and Syed Manzoorul Islam with MK Aaref

Fakrul Alam’s translation of the epic *Bishad Shindhu* (An Ocean of Sorrow), is the first English translation of this late nineteenth century novel by Bengali novelist Mir Mosharrar Hossain (1847-1912). *Bishad Shindhu* is widely acknowledged as one of the earliest classics of Bengali literature, and the first substantial work of fiction by a Bengali Muslim writer. It is part historical fiction, and part epic narrative, and was inspired by the story of the travails of the prophet’s grandsons Hasan and Husayn, and their unnatural deaths at the hands of their enemies. The work is remarkable because of its enduring popularity as a novel, and also as part of rural performances, particularly in the month of Muharram. The session marks the publication of this translation, and will include renditions of folk performance, followed by a short film, and a discussion with Fakrul Alam, writer Syed Manzoorul Islam and director of the EMK Center, MK Aaref. Marking the publication of *An Ocean of Sorrow* by Fakrul Alam. পুরাকাল থেকে পুরাণের বা মিথের আশ্রয়ে মানুষ বেঁচে থাকতো। ‘বিষাদসিন্ধু’ ষষ্ঠ শতকে পারস্যের হাসান হোসনের ট্রাজিক মৃত্যু নিয়ে লিখিত ঊনবিংশ শতকের মীর মশাররফ হোসনের অনন্য আখ্যান।

BOTTOLA

[112] 3:30 – 4:30 PM | GRANTA | TRUTH AND LIES | KK Tea Stage*Amy Sackville and Evie Wyld with Karthika VK*

Every one of us has lied at some point in our lives, and it is often the case that we were compelled to lie to avoid a sticky situation. But why do we lie to ourselves? Possibly for the very simple reason to feel better about ourselves. But sometimes the truth hurts, and in the short term, a lie may work better—if for nothing else, for the sake of self-preservation. Using that rationale, does lying to oneself mitigate the immediate crisis; and moreover, can it actually facilitate one's long-term growth?

COSMIC TENT

[113] 3:30 – 4:30 PM | সময়ের কবিতা সময়াস্তরের কবিতা | Lawn*Shihab Shahrar, Pablo Shahi, Quazi Rosy, Jharna Rahman, Obayed Akash, Habibullah Sirajee, Asad Mannan and Kumar Chakraborti with Asad Chowdhury*

সময়কে উপলব্ধি করার জন্য অর্থাৎ বর্তমানকে অনুভব ও ভবিষ্যৎকে অনুধাবন করার জন্যই অতীতকে বিশ্লেষণ করতে হয়। কবিতা হল মানুষের কাছে জীবনের মুখোমুখি হবার অন্যতম উপায়।

We delve into the past in order to feel the present and see the future. Poetry is that vehicle through which we confront life in its entirety.

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

[114] 3:30 – 4:30 PM | TANYA TANIA | BRAC Stage*Antara Ganguli with Iresh Zaker*

Using the instrument of letters between two protagonists—Tania Ghosh in Bombay and Tanya Talati in Karachi—Antara Ganguli's debut novel narrates the highs and lows, and the joys and pains of growing up as a girl in the subcontinent. The themes of love, suspense and power are brought alive through their correspondence. At a time when political tension between India and Pakistan is at its highest in decades, this is an important debut work that celebrates a commonality and need for empathy between the citizens of the two countries. Antara speaks with Iresh Zaker, the actor, producer and television personality. Marking the launch of *Tanya Tania*.

MAIN STAGE

[115] 3:30 – 4:30 PM | FILM SCREENING: THE STRANGE LUCK OF VS NAIPAUL | Cosmic Tent

This rare BBC documentary on one of the greatest living writers, Nobel Prize-winning VS Naipaul, follows his exceptional journey from Trinidad to his ultimate home in Wiltshire. This documentary, available neither on DVD nor on the Internet, has been specially available for DLF 2016 and offers an exceptional insight into a figure who has by turns been opaque and controversial, but never less than fascinating. It is sure to enthrall the most ardent fans of Sir Vidia as much as his detractors, and certainly be a great introduction for anyone discovering this 'master' of the novel for the first time.

[116] 3:30 – 4:30 PM | আবুত্বি পরিষদ: FOUR POETS REMEMBERED | Bottola*Vaswar Bannerji, Ashrafal Alam, Laila Afroz, Dalia Ahmed, Naila Kakoly, Mahidul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Md. Ahkam Ullah, Rupa Chatterji, Golam Sarwar, moderated by Bilkeis Rahman*
Recitations in memory of Syed Shamsul Haq, Shahid Qadri, Rafiq Azad and Omar Ali, who we lost this year.

প্রয়াত চার খ্যাতমান কবির কবিতা নিয়ে আবুত্বি। সমকালীন বাংলা কবিতার চার খ্যাতিমান কবি হলেন সব্যসাচী সৈয়দ শামসুল হক, শহীদ কাদরী, রফিক আজাদ ও ওমর আলী। সম্প্রতি এরা প্রয়াত হয়েছেন। বাংলা কবিতায় এদের অবদান অনস্বীকার্য। এই চারজন কবির কবিতা নিয়ে আবুত্বি পড়বার আয়োজন।

[117] 4:45 – 5:45 PM | THIS UNQUIET LAND | Main Stage*Barkha Dutt with Sadaf Saaz*

Barkha Dutt is one of India's most prominent and fearless journalists and television anchors, reporting from the field on war and conflict, and almost every important national story in India—politics, insurgencies, social upheavals, floods and famine. She talks with DLF director Sadaf Saaz about the passion for her work, the stories that have left an indelible mark on her, and the challenges and triumphs she has faced along the way—both professionally and personally.

BOTTOLA

[118] 4:45 – 5:45 PM | JOURNEYS AND QUESTS IN TRUTH | KK Tea Stage*Tim Cope, Sadia Dehlvi and Simon Broughton with Tshering Tashi*

Explorers and travellers have sought new experiences and knowledge for centuries. This inherent need for us to discover the unknown is no different today. Tim Cope has a special interest in traditional cultures, Sadia Dehlvi seeks to find spiritual truth while researching inclusive plurative narratives, and Simon Broughton explores history and culture of nations around the world through their music. These modern day adventurers discuss their passions with Tshering Tashi, who himself is from a country which is discovering its way in the world.

COSMIC TENT

BRAC

LAWN

[119] 4:45 – 5:45 PM | BRAC POPULAR THEATRE | Lawn

Traditional folk music merges with powerful narratives of tolerance, humanism and grassroots empowerment in the play *Bondhon*, by Onirban Gononatok Dol from Gazipur. The play takes a stand against hate and prejudice. It is a celebration of cultural and religious freedom, a call to come together and a reminder that our strength comes in unity. The performance, like all of BRAC's popular theatres, uses the third theatre approach, where the performer relies on direct communication with the audience.

KK TEA STAGE

[120] 4:45 – 5:45 PM | AMERICANA | BRAC Stage

In the tumultuous age of Trump, two American poets, Vijay Seshadri and Jeffrey Yang, discuss their changing homeland. What is a citizen—and an artist—to do when the very idea of ourselves becomes a matter of bitter conflict? In discussion with Kaiser Haq.

MAIN STAGE

[121] 4:45 – 5:45 PM | RICHARD BEARD'S EDITING WORKSHOP | Cosmic Tent

Bring your pen and pad for this interactive session! Everyone attending this event may submit a text of up to 2,000 words, in any genre of fiction or narrative non-fiction. Two texts will be chosen at random and distributed to the audience in advance. Novelist, non-fiction writer and National Academy of Writing director Richard Beard will then publicly edit these texts, working on the principle that writers face similar challenges and an edit for one is an edit for all. Send your submissions to info@dhakalifest.com; deadline for submitting: 12 November 2016.

[122] 6:15 – 7:30 PM | SYED SHAMSUL HAQ: A LIFE REMEMBERED | Main Stage

This staged enactment of Haq's short novel *Neel Dongshon*, one of the great classics of modern Bangladeshi literature, pays tribute to the great writer who passed away in September of this year. The novel, republished last year in a smart new translation from the Dhaka Translation Center, hinges mainly around the interrogation of a young man during the Liberation War of 1971, who is mistaken by his Pakistani captors to be the great poet Nazrul. The contest between brute power and the word—by turns innocent, absurd, sly and treacherous—holds as much power today in a time of shrinking freedoms, as it did when first released in the 1970s. *Directed by Naila Azad, featuring, Aref Syed and Ariq Anam Khan.*

Ditio Syed-Haq and Sajjad Sharif with Parvez Hossain

A discussion to remember and honour the revered poet and writer who passed away so recently. His son reflects on him as he knew him, at the most personal level, while the younger colleague and admirer also reflects on Haq, whose work spanned six decades, and is among the most versatile since Tagore. One of his publishers, Parvez Hossain, moderates.

[123] 6:15 – 7:30 PM | BAULIANA CARAVAN | Bottola

A snapshot of the 'original culture' of Bangladesh. For 300 years or more Bauls, wandering minstrels of Bangladesh, have spoken for and about humanity. Their songs, many of which have become familiar anthems popular throughout Bangladesh, are believed to contain ready answers for the root cause of many of our 21st century ailments. Baul practitioners of different generations, both male and female, will sing songs based on their egalitarian philosophies. Musician Maqsoodul Haque will talk us through the Baul tradition, conveying the mystery of their practices for an urban sensibility.

Day 2

Event Program

Friday 18.11.2016

BOTTOLA

[201] 9:00 – 10:00 AM | MARFOTI SONGS | Lawn

Afsaruddin Ali Chisti with songs from the Marfoti tradition, a set of rural Sufi practices that is prevalent all over Bangladesh. The songs are expressions of yearning for the Doyal, or beloved, which represents God, the creator or higher being.

COSMIC
TENT

[202] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | SHADHONA | Main Stage

Dance performance by Shadhona of the folk dance drama of Padmar Nachon, the epic story of the Goddess Manasha and folk hero Behula. The performance showcases the region's pluralism, with a coming together of classical, folk, and other forms.

BRAC

[203] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | IN OTHER WORDS: LIBRARY OF BANGLADESH | KK Tea Stage

Deborah Smith, Arunava Sinha, Carles Torner and Kaiser Haq with Daniel Hahn

From ancient times to the very present, translations have remained a vital aspect not only of literature but indeed all learning. There is now a unique urgency of translations in a globalized era as we are forced to contend with other cultures at an increasing frequency. This panel brings the winner of the Man Booker International 2016 and publisher at Tilted Axis Press, Deborah Smith; PEN's translation and linguistic rights director, Carles Torner; Dhaka Translation Center's director, Kaiser Haq; and series editor of the Library of Bangladesh, Arunava Sinha. The four will celebrate the unveiling of new titles from the Dhaka Translation Center while discussing—with Daniel Hahn, major Spanish-to-English translator—the issues of cross-border communication.

LAWN

KK TEA
STAGE

MAIN
STAGE

[204] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | ENGLISH RECITATIONS 2 | Lawn

English Recitations by Shehzar Doja, Syeda Ahmad, Fatema Hassan and Jeffrey Yang

Marking the launch of Shehzar Doja's book, *Drifting*, and Fatema Hassan's translation.

[205] 10:00 – 11:00 PM | CAN INDIA SPEAK? | Main Stage

Naresh Fernandes, Manjula Narayan and Sriram Karri with Max Rodenbeck

Intolerance is on the rise and pluralism in retreat in India, the world's largest democracy, with freedom of speech and space for dissent casualties from Jawaharlal Nehru University to Kashmir. Leading journalists from three streams of media—Barkha Dutt of NDTV, Naresh Fernandes of Scroll.in and Manjula Narayan of Hindustan Times—along with writer Sriram Karri discuss reasons behind the worsening trends. Max Rodenbeck, South Asia bureau chief of the Economist, asks how things have come to such a pass, how much worse things could get, and what has to happen for them to get better.

BOTTOLA

[206] 10:00 – 12:15 AM | FILM SCREENING: BLOCKADE | Cosmic Tent

The documentary, *Blockade*, highlights how communities outside Bangladesh stood up against the Pakistani military's brutal oppression in 1971. When two Pakistani military ships were coming to the Eastern Seaboard of the US to load up arms supplied by the US government (without Congressional approval and despite an official ban), peace activists and Bengali expatriates in Philadelphia eventually forced some of those ships to return empty. Tshering Tashi, Director of Bhutan Literary Festival, Mountain Echoes, adds how Bhutan was an early supporter of Bangladesh, and one of the first to recognize the newly independent state in 1971.

After the screening filmmaker Dina Hossain talks to director Arif Yousuf and Mountain Echoes Literary Festival director Tshering Tashi.

COSMIC TENT

BRAC

[207] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | HASHER PAYE GHURI | Bottola

None of the family members believed that little Minu could fly the kite as she was a special-needs child. As the proverb goes, 'if there's a will, there's a way.' Minu is about to surprise everyone with sheer force of effort. A story-telling session by Nazia Jabeen under the banyan tree for children of all ages.

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

[208] 11:15 AM– 12:15 PM | THE NEW WORLD DISORDER | Main Stage

Max Rodenbeck, Ben Judah, Rosamund Urwin and Zafar Sobhan with Justin Rowlett

Ever since 9/11, the world has appeared more full of conflict and instability. In addition to America's 'war on terror,' countries have erupted into protests leading to civil wars, and tensions are rising between America and its rivals—old and new. The financial implosion of 2008 continues to haunt the global economy. Leading journalists discuss with Dhaka Tribune editor Zafar Sobhan how this tumultuous new world can settle, and how much more trouble it might see before it does.

MAIN STAGE

[209] 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM | নারী ও নারীত্ব (WOMEN: SHAPING THEIR OWN SELVES) | KK Tea Stage

Nasima Anis, Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay, Papree Rahman, Sadia Mahjabin Imam, with Udisa Islam

জগতের মহাসত্য পুরুষ শাসিত সমাজে নারীকে সৌম্য-সুন্দর মূর্তিতে রাজী জনোচিত মহিমায় গৃহে আবদ্ধ করে নন্দনকাননের শোভা বর্নন ও সন্তান উৎপাদনে ব্যবহার করাই যেন একমাত্র কাজ। সময়-সমাজ-সংস্কৃতি পাঁচটেছে নিয়ত; নারী ও নারীত্ব পুরুষের ঐ সকল বানানো স্বর্ণ থেকে বেরিয়ে এসে, পুরুষের পাশাপাশি চলাছে।

In this male-dominated society, it is the norm to depict women as the delicate goddess, to worship them as paragons of beauty, but to actually only entrust them with the responsibility to remain at home and reproduce and raise children. Society, however, goes through constant changes; women, too, have gradually broken apart the walls of that heaven constructed by men, and learnt to match their steps with men in every sphere of life.

[210] 11:15 AM– 12:15 PM | 3 SECTIONS | Lawn

Vijay Seshadri in conversation with Karthika VK

'I would say that when I write prose I'm a more socially responsible person. I'm much more a citizen of the world. But the instability of the poetry, the emotional jaggedness, is also me'—Vijay Seshadri.

Born in Bangalore, Vijay Seshadri moved to the US at the age of five. He won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his collection *3 Sections*. One of the leading poets of our times, Seshadri is also known for his essays and literary criticism. He is currently based in New York and an editor at *The New Yorker*. Hear what Seshadri has to say to one of the leading editors from India, VK Karthika, about being a citizen of the world, the creative process of writing poetry, his influences, and the strangeness of growing up in Columbus, Ohio in the 1960s.

BOTTOLA

[211] 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM | SUFI SOUL | BRAC Stage*Sadia Dehlvi and Salimullah Khan with Amina Yaqin*

South Asia has a rich history of Sufi and indigenous spiritual Muslim traditions. Sadia Dehlvi, author of *Sufism: The Heart of Islam* and *The Sufi Courtyard: Dargahs of Delhi*, discusses the enlightened, inclusive and pluralistic narratives of Islam, with academic Salimullah Khan, and researcher Amina Yaqin.

COSMIC TENT

[212] 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM | DISCUSSION ON FILM: BLOCKADE | Cosmic Tent (Continued)

BRAC

[213] 11:15 – 12:15 PM | CHILDREN'S PLAYS: BIDDYABHUBAN | Bottola

Biddyabhuban is probably the first self-awareness based school in Bangladesh. Students learn their lessons through theatrical performances. A group of 10 students of Biddyabhuban give presentations based on a wide range of subjects.

LAWN

[214] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | NASTY WOMEN | Main Stage*Lady Nadira Naipaul, Rosamund Urwin, Evie Wyld and Deborah Smith with Bee Rowlatt*

The now-infamous pejorative used by US presidential candidate Donald Trump has been embraced by feminists worldwide as a badge of honour. Journalists Lady Nadira Naipaul and Rosamund Urwin, writer Evie Wyld and publisher Deborah Smith, will be in conversation with writer and journalist Bee Rowlatt, delving into cultural prejudices that make it easy to denigrate strong, accomplished women. The panel will explore how they are carving out their destinies despite what 'society' thinks, says, enables, or doesn't.

KK TEA STAGE

[215] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | ON RECORD | KK Tea Stage*Vidya Shah in conversation with Simon Broughton*

Music traditions of the world are getting global exposure, while others remain within their own communities and cultures. Which direction is music going – and can music play a role in helping us connect in this brave new world? Vidya Shah, a prolific performer and composer trained in Carnatic and North Indian classical music, is in conversation with journalist and film-maker Simon Broughton, the chief world music critic for the London Evening Standard.

MAIN STAGE

[216] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | BENEATH THE SURFACE | Lawn*Amy Sackville, Dilruba Z Ara, and Leonora Christina Skov with Nirupama Subramanian*

Strong emotions simmering below the façade of modern life often come up in unexpected ways and situations. With beautiful prose and acute observations, writers Amy Sackville, Dilruba Z Ara and Leonora Christina Skov, talk to Nirupama Subramanian about how, as women, they bring out these realities through their writing.

[217] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | THE SEASON AFTER SPRING | BRAC Stage*Nael Eltoukhy and Marcia Lynx Qualey with Max Rodenbeck*

The Arab Spring created great expectations; but besides Tunisia, the uprisings only led to brutal crackdowns. People who know the region well discuss what comes after a season of such brutally dashed hopes. Egyptian writer Nael Eltoukhy and Arabic translator Lynx Qualey are joined by the Economist's Rodenbeck.

[218] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | ARTFULLY INARTICULATE | Cosmic Tent*Nuhash Humayun, Kazi Istela and Mahenaz Chowdhury with Prabda Yoon*

Bring your family, friends or lovers and rejoice in the confessional power of art. Humayun, Istela and Chowdhury traverse love, family and dysfunctional relationships through graphic storytelling. With sweeping visuals, comic strips and deeply intimate illustrations, the artists muse on relationships strained by our failure to communicate as young adults.

[219] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | STORY TELLING | Bottola

Chador Wangmo with stories from our neighbor Bhutan, drawing from a tradition of folk storytelling, tries to understand why things are the way they are.

BOTTOLA

[220] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | সাহিত্য যখন সবার (WHEN LITERATURE BELONGS TO EVERYONE) | Main Stage

Imdadul Haq Milon, Moinul Ahsan Saber, Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay and Imtiaz Shamim with Andalib Rashdi

শিল্পী মাত্রই স্বপ্নদ্রষ্টা এবং স্বপ্নস্রষ্টা। শিল্পের অন্যতম মাধ্যম সাহিত্য। সাহিত্য কী সবার জন্য প্রয়োজ্য নাকি সাধারণের কাছে সাহিত্য অন্যভাবে পৌঁছে? মূলধারা ও জনপ্রিয়ধারা এমন বিভাজন কেন?

Every artist is a dreamer; s/he creates a dream world for us. Literature is one of the main mediums of art. Is literature esoteric, not accessible to all? Does literature reach the masses differently than it does the intellectually privileged few? Why does this division exist between the highly artistic and the popular strains?

COSMIC TENT

BRAC

[221] 2:00 – 3:00 PM | PAVING THE WAY | KK Tea Stage

Bee Rowlett with Firdous Azim

Paying homage to her childhood idol Mary Wollstonecraft, Bee Rowlett embarked on a journey around the globe tracing the footsteps of the great feminist, except Bee takes her baby boy Will with her. Travelling with an infant can be both challenging and joyous, and much of it depends on the nation and the attitude of its people—some are more welcoming than others. Bee Rowlett's book *In Search of Mary* seeks to answer as well as raise some important questions on motherhood and emancipation, whilst paying a fitting tribute to Wollstonecraft, whose writings are just as relevant today.

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

MAIN STAGE

[222] 2:00 – 3:00 PM | মঞ্চ যখন আমার (WHEN THE STAGE IS MINE) | Lawn

Discussion by Sara Zaker, Mita Rahman and Sharmimala with Bonna Mirza

মঞ্চের সার্থক কাজ হল জীবন সম্পর্কে ও মঞ্চ সম্পর্কে আমাদের আবনাগুলোকে প্রকাশ করা। তাৎক্ষণিক ও চিরন্তন অনুভূতিগুলোকে সুন্দর ও বিন্যস্ত করে দর্শক হৃদয়ে ছড়িয়ে দেয়া।

Theatre is a medium that reflects our notions and thoughts about life, that arouses in us the strong emotions felt either universally or specifically in a culture or time or person.

[223] 2:00 – 3:00 PM | PUBLISHING PAINS | BRAC Stage

Prabda Yoon, Mahrugh Mohiuddin and Karthika VK with Shehza Doja

We are entering an era when publishing may no longer be the exclusive provenance of substantial institutions. Two leading publishers of the region, Karthika VK, who headed Harper Collins till very recently, and Mahrugh Mohiuddin of University Press Limited in Bangladesh are joined by two multi-media mavens from ASEAN. Young Bangladeshi poet Shehza Doja leads the discussion.

[224] 2:00 – 3:00 PM | ON THE TRAIL OF GENGHIS KHAN | Cosmic Tent

Tim Cope with Vivek Menezes

For five years Tim Cope took to the life of a nomad, travelling over 6,000 miles on horseback across the Eurasian steppe from Mongolia, through Kazakhstan, Russia, and the Ukraine, to Hungary retracing the trail of the founder of the Mongol Empire, Genghis Khan. Join Tim Cope's unmissable session to hear a very personal story of extreme adventure and endurance. There is action, drama, romance, history, and the expression of ultimate freedom in the nomadic way of life, all of which Cope encompasses in his award-winning bestseller.

[225] 2:00 – 3:00 PM | THE GOETHE INSTITUT: RECITATIONS | Bottola

Sajjad Sharif and Shahnaz Munni with Masuduzzaman

Bangladeshi poets Shahnaz Munni and Sajjad Sharif met German poet Hendrik Jackson in a week-long session in early September 2015, part of a programme by Goethe Institute, which brings together poets from Germany and South Asia in order to stimulate new literary networks and open new avenues for transcultural understanding. The participants of the program talk about their experiences and recite some of their works.

[226] 3:15 – 4:15 PM | LITERATURE: ALWAYS POLITICAL | Main Stage

Nael Eltoukhy, Evie Wyld, Ben Judah, K Anis Ahmed with Nicholas Lezard

The four authors on this panel represent four different continents—Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia—and vastly different thematic preoccupations. Yet, they have all addressed politics in their writing. Can literature ever be anything but political? In a post-Marxist and increasingly

BOTTOLA

post-capitalist era, can it even afford to be apolitical? Is literature about the political even when it is most intensely personal? With Nicholas Lezard, described as the ‘most influential’ reviewer in Britain, and a regular at Guardian Books.

[227] 3:15 – 4:15 PM | বাংলার টিকে থাকা আজ কাল পরন্ত (SURVIVAL THROUGH THE AGES) | KK Tea Stage

Firoz Ahmed, Indranil Roychowdhury, Ahmad Mostofa Kamal, Manosh Chowdhury with Garga Chatterjee

সংবেদনশীলতা ও কল্পনা শক্তি না থাকলে সহজেই মানুষ অত্যাচারি হয়ে ওঠে। এটা অতি আধুনিক এক প্রবণতা। টিকে থাকার লড়াইয়ে প্রতিদিন নিজের সঙ্গে নিজের যুদ্ধ চলে। মোকাবেলা করতে হয় অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত কত শত যুদ্ধের।

Lack of sensitivity and imagination often makes monsters out of human beings. It is comparatively an ultra-modern tendency in society. For the sake of survival we confront ourselves every day, and fight battles that are quite undesired.

COSMIC TENT

BRAC

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

MAIN STAGE

[228] 3:15 – 4:15 PM | কবি জীবনঃ জীবনের কবিতা (A POET'S LIFE: THE POETRY OF LIFE) | Lawn Nirmalendu Goon with Shamim Reza

কবির বুদ্ধি ও কল্পনাকে উসকে দেন। বোধকে জাগিয়ে দেন কল্পনাতীতভাবে কেননা তাঁরা জীবন ও সমাজের প্রতি সংবেদনশীল। নির্মলেন্দু গুণ বাংলা কবিতার ষাটের দশকের ‘বিপ্লব ও প্রেমের কবি’ হিসেবে খ্যাত। কামাল চৌধুরী মুক্তিযুদ্ধের উত্তাল সত্তরের ‘মিছিলের সমান বয়সী’ কবিতার জনক। সাম্প্রতিক বাংলা কবিতায় এঁদের অবদান অনস্বীকার্য।

Poets spark imagination and intellect. They awaken our conscience with their sensitivity towards life and society. Nirmalendu Goon is noted as a poet of love and revolution of the 1960s.

[229] 3:15 – 4:15 PM | BIRANGONA: SURVIVING WAR, SURVIVING PEACE | BRAC Stage

Nayanika Mookherjee, Firdous Azim and Shireen Huq with Sadaf Saaz

During the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, Pakistani soldiers and their collaborators carried out a brutal campaign of rape as a strategy of war. The title *Birangona*, given to the rape survivors, was intended to signify a Brave Woman, but subsequently became a pejorative label associated with the shame of rape. Marking the publication of the South Asian edition of *The Spectral Wound: Sexual Violence, Public Memories and the Bangladesh war of 1971*, social anthropologist Nayanika Mookherjee, along with Bangladeshi women's rights activist Shireen Huq, and feminist activist and academic Firdous Azim, probe into the contemporary reality of *Birangonas* within the historical and cultural contexts. In conversation with the Bangladesh producer of Komola Collective's *Birangona: Woman of War*, Sadaf Saaz.

[230] 3:15 – 4:15 PM | JALSA | Cosmic Tent

Many of the early recordings of music in India were women performers who had built up a reputation of excellence. This fascinating presentation chronicles their journey from the salon to the studio.

[231] 3:15 – 4:15 PM | AMPERSAND | Bottola

Bangladesh's first spoken word poetry group perform a range of pieces illustrating the transformative power of performance to build confidence and critical thinking skills, as well as being a tool for both expression and empowerment.

[232] 4:30 – 5:30 PM | BREXIT BLUES | Main Stage

Ben Judah, Alex Preston and Rosamund Urwin with Justin Rowlatt

London Bridge is not falling down, but the Pound Sterling has taken a nosedive since the seminal referendum that cost David Cameron his job as Britain's prime minister, only months after winning a landslide election. Is it all doom and gloom from here? Was this a victory for the UK's far-right? Contrary to what a lot of experts may have predicted, post-Brexit, the British economy has been buoyant, and maybe this is the beginning of the end for the grand European project. The three writers on this panel—Ben Judah, Alex Preston and Rosamund Urwin—have strong opinions on Brexit and they will be responding to curious questions from BBC's South Asia bureau chief Justin Rowlatt.

BOTTOLA

[233] 4:30 – 5:30 PM | DEATH OF LITERATURE | KK Tea Stage*Karthika VK, Arunava Sinha, Nicholas Lezard with Charlie Campbell*

The general consensus seems to suggest that in this day and age of fast-paced technology and social media hype, the death of literary fiction, and literature, is inevitable. On one hand, we have independent publishers being squeezed out of the market, and on the other, becoming a writer today seems analogous to having a life devoted to impoverishment. However, literary fiction and the occasional poetry collection still hit various bestsellers' lists, and give fifty or more shades a run for their money. Bookshops, too, have seen a surge in their sales after the initial dip caused by electronic reading devices. For as long as civilisation exists, literature will too, but how, why and who are poised to kill it, inadvertently or not?

COSMIC TENT

BRAC

[234] 4:30 – 5:30 PM | SOCIAL CLIMBERS | BRAC Stage*Naila Kabeer, Riti Ahsan, Hossain Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Farisa Kabir with Naresh Fernandes*

Bangladesh leads South Asia in gender equity, according to the recently published Global Gender Gap Report from the World Economic Forum. Social economists Naila Kabeer and Hossain Zillur Rahman discuss the achievements, complexities and challenges of trying to reduce the equity gap with Riti Ahsan, ex-secretary of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, BRAC's Legal and Human Rights Head Sajeda Farisa Kabir, and Naresh Fernandes of Scroll, India.

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

[235] 4:30 – 5:30 PM | LAUNCHING LOCATIONS | Cosmic Tent*Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Nayanika Mookherjee, Saif UI Haque, and MK Aaref*

What seems obvious for a building—*location*—is at the core of a perennial architectural anxiety that could be both projective and productive. What Milan Kundera writes about the tension of writing between the obligation to the 'smaller context', the nation, and the desire to be recognized in the 'a supranational history' of a world theater, is also evident in architecture. Such an oscillation continues to affect the production of architecture especially in many Asian contexts. Marking the Bangladesh launch of *Locations*, an international anthology of architecture and urbanism, architect and architectural historian Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, social anthropologist Nayanika Mookherjee, architect and architectural activist Saif UI Haque and MK Aaref, architect and EMK director, explore the horizon of locations.

MAIN STAGE

[236] 4:30 – 5:30 PM | পালা গান (PALA GAAN) | Bottola*Boyoti Shah Alam and team*

In the tradition of pala gaan, a Bangladeshi folk style of storytelling through song, this performance deals with the current situation linked with conflicting ideologies within Islam. The performance is structured as an argument in song between a mystic and cleric.

[237] 5:45 – 6:45 PM | THE WRITER AND THE WORLD: VS NAIPAUL | Main Stage*One of the greatest living writers, Nobel Prize-winning VS Naipaul, in conversation with DLF director Ahsan Akbar about his literary work. Joined by Lady Nadira Naipaul.*

Fifty five years ago, *A House for Mr Biswas* placed Sir Vidya as one of the youngest fellows of the Royal Society of Literature. Described by TIME magazine as 'a master of the modern novel,' he produced literary masterpieces such as *In a Free State*, *Guerrillas*, *An Area of Darkness*, *The Mimic Men*, *The Enigma of Arrival*, *A Bend in the River*, *Among the Believers* and many other modern classics in both fiction and nonfiction. This is Sir Vidya's first ever trip to Bangladesh and he comes as a guest of honour of Dhaka Lit Fest.

[238] 6.45 – 7.30 PM | TRIBUTE TO BOB DYLAN BY STONE FREE | Bottola

The Swedish Academy awarded Bob Dylan the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature 'for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.' Known for their uniquely blended acoustic and electric rendition of covers, Stone Free will be paying tribute to the lyrics and music of Dylan.

Day 3

Event Program

Saturday 19.11.2016

BOTTOLA

[301] 9:00 – 10:00 AM | SPIRITUAL SONGS | Lawn

Neda Shakiba will chant and recite, in the tradition of the Bahá'í community of Bangladesh, the words of God prescribed onto mankind in five languages including Bengali, English, Farsi, Arabic and Hindi.

COSMIC
TENT

[302] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | POISONED WELLS | KK Tea Stage

Hilary Standing with Antara Ganguli

The Inheritance Powder Book by Hilary Standing, set in Bangladesh, is not only the story of mass arsenic poisoning, but also of well-meaning misguided endeavours and development agencies, haunted by scandal and corruption. Development specialist and author Hilary Standing discusses how the novel addresses the world of international aid, the passions and dilemmas of those working to help those more unfortunate—and the resultant convictions or compromises, with author and development practitioner Antara Ganguli.

BRAC

[303] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | RECITATIONS 3 | Lawn

Jeffrey Yang, Kaiser Haq, Khademul Islam, and Amina Yaqin

LAWN

[304] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | MUSLIN'S MYSTIQUE | BRAC Stage

Saiful Islam, Ruby Ghuznavi, Fakrul Alam and Shahidul Alam with Faisal Ahmed

Myths and tales still swirl around muslin—of a cloth so translucent that yards of it effortlessly passed through a ring; its superfine threads spun by mermaids on misty mornings, something so sheer that it became one with the falling dew. Saiful Islam's book is a multi-layered narrative that combines a personal quest to recreate the fabric with the objective art of its manufacture. Join celebrated crafts personality Ruby Ghuznavi, author and academic Fakrul Alam and Drik's founder Shahidul Alam in conversation with economist and history buff Faisal Ahmed, as they bring to life the story of our unique fabric, its cultural history and legacy, and its place in our nation's future.

KK TEA
STAGE

MAIN
STAGE

[305] 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM | FILM SCREENING: THE SAINTS OF SIN | Cosmic Tent

The Saints of Sin is a lyrical journey of eight Bengali women. In intimate conversations recorded over three years, the women acknowledge their propensity towards a sin and their negotiations with it. They discuss their struggles against entrenched patriarchal notions, family expectations and the pressures of their own conscience. The conversations are interlaced with songs by popular Bangladeshi women singers Anusheh Anadil, Armeen Musa, Nashid Kamal and Aanon Siddiqua, and the all-women Ghaashphoring Choir.

[306] 10:00 – 11:00 AM | GIRL POWER | Bottola

Salma Khatun, Rumana Ahmed and Shymoli Basak with Rashida Parveen.

Women's sports is going from strength to strength in Bangladesh. Bangladeshi cricketer Salma Khatun topped the world rankings in 2015, while the women's youth team beat peer-level countries recently to go on to the next level of Asian football. Captains of the winning teams

BOTTOLA

are joined by up and coming footballer Shymoli Basak. They will discuss both their personal challenges and triumphs and shed light on how women's sports can reach still newer heights in the days ahead, with the head of BRAC Adolescent Development Program, Rashida Parveen.

COSMIC TENT

[307] 11:15 – 12:15PM | WHAT NOT TO WEAR | Main Stage

Samia Haq, Amina Yaqin, Tasaffy Hossain and Hantium Maria Chowdhury with Sadia Dehlvi
From the burkini ban in France, to Iran's hijab-only imposition on female players at the World Chess Championships, to even the case of the Hijarbie doll—what women can or cannot wear always seems everybody's business. Anthropologist Samia Haq, post-colonial researcher Amina Yaqin, women's rights activist Tasaffy Hossain and entrepreneur Hantium Maria Chowdhury discuss why women's—not men's—bodies, movements, and now even their choice of clothing is so often an inter/cultural flash-point and a matter of control.

BRAC

LAWN

[308] 11:15 – 12:15PM | পর্দার গল্প, পাতার গল্প (THE STORY OF CELLULOID) | KK Tea Stage

Md. Shaker with Md. Sajjad Hossain

চলচ্চিত্র শিল্পীর সৃষ্টি তো আক্ষরিক অর্থেই বর্ণময় নিগূঢ় স্বপ্নময়তার। সারাজীবন ধরে তিনি স্বপ্ন দেখে চলেণ ও একটা স্বপ্নকে সেলুলোয়েটে রূপ দান করেন।

The story of celluloid is indeed the story of a filmmaker. He dreams a dream throughout his life and captures it on celluloid.

KK TEA STAGE

MAIN STAGE

[309] 11:15 – 12:15 PM | ARAB FICTION | Lawn

Nael Eltoukhy and Marcia Lynx Qualey with Kelly Falconer

The rich tradition of Arab fiction, as we know, dates back to *A Thousand and One Nights*. Stories in the epic volume cover everything from romance to science fiction. It was, however, in 1988 when Naguib Mahfouz won the Nobel Prize for his *Cairo Trilogy*, that Arab fiction was put in the pantheon of contemporary literature. Aside from Mahfouz, there have been several masters of the modern Arab novel, most notably Abdel Rahman Munif, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Sonallah Ibrahim, and so on. But how does their collective legacy stand up to a generation of new writers in the region? Celebrated Egyptian writer Nael Eltoukhy and founder-editor of Arablit.org Marcia Lynx Qualey talk to Kelly Falconer of Asia Literary Agency.

[310] 11:15 – 12:15 PM | MONSTERS AND SUPERHEROES | BRAC Stage

Chador Wangmo, Samir Asran Rahman, Anthony McGowan with Shakil Ahmed

Marking the launch of his book *The Monster Murder Mysteries: Zak and Zara*, from Bengal Lights books, Samir Asran Rahman, creator of the comic book *Shabash* series, in conversation with Bhutanese children's writer Chador Wangmo, working on her first superhero book, along with children and young adult author Anthony McGowan, in conversation with educator Shakil Ahmed, reflect on storytelling and the power of imagination.

[311] 11:15 – 12:15 PM | FILM SCREENING: THE SAINTS OF SIN | Cosmic Tent (continued)

[312] 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM | ASHA AND THE MAGIC MOSHARI | Bottola

QP Alam

Little Asha learns that even the scariest, most unfamiliar journeys can lead to wonderful, magical adventures if you keep an open mind! A storytelling session under the banyan tree for children, ages five to seven years.

[313] 12:30 - 1:30 PM | যুদ্ধ শেষের যুদ্ধ (WAR AFTER THE WAR) | Main Stage

Ahsan Akbar, Akimun Rahman, Faruk Wasif, Mahub Aziz with Nobonita Chowdhury

মানবিক চেতনার অপমৃত্যু ঘটেছে তখনই যখন দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধের উপনিবেশের শাসকদের বিদায় পরবর্তী দ্বিজাতি তত্ত্বের ভিত্তিতে গঠিত হলো ভারত ভেঙ্গে দুটি রাষ্ট্র। চাপিয়ে দেওয়া ভাষার বিরুদ্ধে প্রথম বাঙালি যুদ্ধের বীজ বোপান করলো মুসলিম সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ পূর্ব বাংলায়। এরপর '৬৯ গণঅভ্যুত্থান', '৭১ মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধ ও স্বাধীনতা, আশির দশকে সামরিক শাসন, নব্বইয়ে গণঅভ্যুত্থান, অতপর আজকের নতুন যুদ্ধ ধর্মের নামে অমানবিকতা, সম্প্রদায়বাদী রাজনীতির প্রশ্রয়; কোথায় যাচ্ছে দেশ, কোথায় যাচ্ছে পৃথিবী।

BOTTOLA

In South Asia, values of humanity were under threat soon after India had been partitioned into two countries (India and Pakistan) based on the two-nation theory. The Bengali people first revolted against the imposition of a foreign language on them in erstwhile East Pakistan where the Muslims were and still are the majority. Then came the mass people's movement in 1969, the Liberation War in 1971 through which Bangladesh became an independent country, the military rule in the 1980s, the movement in 1990 through which democracy was restored. Even so, we find ourselves entangled in a new war where religion is being used to further communalism. Where is the country headed?

COSMIC TENT

[314] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PUTIN | KK Tea Stage

Ben Judah with Rosamund Urwin

He thinks highly of Donald Trump; enough said. But how much do we really know about the ex-KGB operative Vladimir Putin and his policies that keep him in power? What are his chess moves on the world stage, what are his ulterior motives for going into the warzone of Syria, and curiously, does he have a real life version of Dr. Strangelove advising him? Join Ben Judah who spent several years in Russia researching his first book on Putin, as he talks to London Evening Standard's lead columnist Rosamund Urwin.

BRAC

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

[315] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | OF GOOGLIES AND CHINAMAN | Lawn

Charlie Campbell, Richard Beard, Anthony McGowan, Alex Preston with Khademul Islam

Writing books and playing cricket since 1891, The Authors are one of the world's oldest wandering cricket teams, boasting past members such as PG Wodehouse, Arthur Conan Doyle and JM Barrie. Dhaka Lit Fest welcomes the captain of the current eleven Charlie Campbell and his teammates Alex Preston, Richard Beard and Anthony McGowan to engage in a scintillating conversation with Khademul Islam. Expect to takeoff on an unorthodox trajectory where googlies and chinaman meet similes and metaphors.

MAIN STAGE

[319] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | HINDI HEGEMONY | BRAC Stage

Garga Chatterjee, Indranil Roychowdhury and Vivek Menezes with Manjula Narayan

A panel of cultural dialogues, assaults and resistances. Why are users of many other Indian languages worried that Hindi hegemony is real and increasing? Three strong proponents of local languages and pluralism—Chatterjee, Roychowdhury, Menezes—discuss the fragile framework of diversity in India and the costs of cultural homogenization.

[317] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | মিহি সুতার কাব্য (THE STORY OF MUSLIN) | Cosmic Tent

A multimedia performance using live performance and animation, about the history of Muslin. For children seven years and older.

[318] 12:30 – 1:30 PM | সত্যের সন্ধানে | Bottola

Mehedi Hasan Nil and Baul Shofi Mondol with Arup Rahee

[320] 1:45 – 2:45 PM | GENETICS: LIFE HACKED | KK Tea Stage

Sanjeev Jain, Abed Chaudhury with Garga Chatterjee

Within the last decade we have witnessed the genetic modification of yeast to generate morphine from sugar water and have discovered human DNA mutations underlying everything from schizophrenia and bowel cancer, to smoking behavior and violent criminality. Advances in genetics are leading us to a future where we can manipulate hereditary traits with the same ease with which we currently mold plastic or transmit electric current. We are truly on the brink of a revolutionary moment. Join Sanjeev Jain and Abed Chaudhury with Garga Chatterjee, for a wide ranging discussion on the long term ethical implications of biotechnology and genetic modification.

[321] 1:45 – 2:45 PM | আদি কথা ও নৃ (ORIGINS AND DESTINIES: TALES FROM SMALL ETHNIC CULTURES OF BANGLADESH) | Lawn

Muktasree Chakma Sathi, Mithun Raksham and Zafir Setu with Akbar Ahmed

প্রতিটি নৃ-জাতি গোষ্ঠীর আছে নিজস্ব সাহিত্য, সংস্কৃতি ও রাজনীতি। সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ নৃ-জাতি গোষ্ঠী, ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-জাতি গোষ্ঠীর নিজস্বতাকে গ্রাস করতে চায়, তাদের আধিপত্যবাদী রাজনীতি দিয়ে। পুরুষতান্ত্রিক সমাজ ব্যবস্থায় নারীর প্রতি চলে অসমতা। ভিন্ন ভিন্ন জাতি গোষ্ঠীর শিল্পিত জীবনের ইতিহাস শুনবো তাদের প্রতিনিধিদের কাছ থেকে।

BOTTOLA

Each ethnic group has its own literature, culture and political ideologies. The predominant ethnic groups, with their supremacist politics, seek to subdue the minorities. Women are subjected to inequality in this male-dominated society. We will hear these different histories from the representatives of different ethnic groups.

COSMIC TENT

[316] 1:45 – 2:45 PM | HIMAL: THE LAST STAND | BRAC Stage

Launch of Himal Southasian's final edition.

Kanak Dixit with Parsa Sanjana Sajid

BRAC

[322] 1:45 – 2:45 PM | STORY TELLING PERFORMANCE: VUYELWA MALULEKE | Cosmic Tent

Long and short poems curating the experience of black womanhood from varying points, interspersed with the stories that each poem is based on. The poems pose questions of language, identity, race, country, mental illness and self love. They seek to resist ideas of 'beauty' and 'womanness' formed in relation to whiteness. They seek to show this black woman body as she is, flesh, and person pushing against ideas of 'the strong black woman.' With the aid of multimedia and music, the narrators of the poems search for someplace to belong, sometimes that place is silence, or death, or country.

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

[323] 3:00 – 4:00 PM | POETRY: STILL HERE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS | Main Stage
Vijay Seshadri, Khademul Islam, and Jeffrey Yang with Amina Yaqin

'There's no money in poetry, but there's no poetry in money, either,' quipped Robert Graves. Publishers may be less and less keen to publish poetry and one would be hard pressed to find a literary agent specialising in representing poets. The paradox, however, lies with the number of poets emerging with every passing year and the undying love for recitations. One of Bangladesh's leading editors and a self-professed poetry lover, Khademul Islam, joins two of New York City's leading poets, Vijay Seshadri and Jeffrey Yang, in a conversation moderated by Amina Yaqin, who teaches contemporary poetry as part of postcolonial studies at SOAS, University of London.

MAIN STAGE

[324] 3:00 – 4:00 PM | WORDS UNDER SIEGE | KK Tea Stage

Shapan Adnan, Hamid Ismailov, Kanak Dixit and Prabda Yoon with Romana Cacchioli

Dixit has been forced to shut down his celebrated news magazine, Ismailov is in exile and Prabda Yoon is a prominent publisher in Thailand. Why are wielders of brute power so sensitive to works that often reach very few people? Are words and ideas really that frightening to the powerful? PEN International director Cacchioli leads the discussion

[325] 3:00 – 5:15 PM | সময়ের কবিতা সময়াস্তরের কবিতা-২ (POETRY OF TRANSITION-2) | Lawn

Muhammed Sadique, Jahar Sen Majumdar, Tarik Sujat, Kabir Humayun, Shanaz Nasrin, Sakira Parvin, Altaf Shahnewaz and Muhammad Nurul Huda

কবিতা হলো সত্য সম্পর্কে কবির নিজস্ব ধারণার এক অন্তরঙ্গ প্রকাশ। কবিরা স্বপ্নদ্রষ্টা। তাই সময় থেকে সময়াস্তরের অনুভূতি বুনে তাদের নিজস্ব ভাষায় কবিতার মাধ্যমে।

Poetry is an intimate articulation of the poet's own ideas about truth. Poets are the weavers of dreams. So they weave time and its transition in their distinct language through poetry.

[326] 3:00 – 4:00 PM | HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE | BRAC Stage

Daniel Hahn and Anthony McGowan with Mahrukh Mohiuddin

The last three decades have seen a blossoming of children's books, which include illustrative writing, the Harry Potter phenomenon, graphic and young adult fiction. Daniel Hahn has recently revised and updated *The Oxford Companion to Children's Literature*, featuring a whole new generation of authors and illustrators in over 3,500 entries covering everything from fairy tales to science fiction, chapbooks to comics, school stories to hymns. He, along with children and young adult author Anthony McGowan, explore the wide range of stimulating books for children, with University Press Limited publisher Mahrukh Mohiuddin.

BOTTOLA

[332] 3:00 – 4:00 PM | MONIRUL ISLAM: 1966-2016, A SURVEY | Cosmic Tent
Focusing on the unique and significant aspects of the oeuvre of Bangladeshi-Spanish artist Monirul Islam, this session marks the launch of this English-language volume which is an invaluable introductory reference for students of art and art history and curators of South Asian Modern Art as well as for general readers wishing to gain insight into the essential features of this notable artist's work. Commissioned by Zareen Mahmud Hosein and Javed Hosein, this 150-page illustrated monograph is the first publication dedicated to looking at all periods and aspects of Monirul Islam's practice. Artist Monirul Islam, and veteran actor and Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor will be in conversation with Depart's editor Mustafa Zaman, to discuss Monirul Islam's life as an artist.
Marking the launch of *Monir: Selected Works 1961-2016*

COSMIC TENT

BRAC

[327] 3:00 – 4:00 PM | BEHULA LOKKHINDOR | Bottola

Monosha Mongol Shomprodoy from Barisal have been enacting the epic of Behula Lokkhindor for decades. Unlike most others, where the performers are exclusively men, their performances feature women. This is especially important given that the story is an ode to the Goddess Manasha, and a celebration of the power of women, through Behula's heroic and defiant journey to bring her husband back to life.

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

[328] 4:15 – 5:15 PM | রুদ্ধ স্বর : বলতে কেন মানা (REPRESSED VOICES) | Main Stage

Prohash Amin, Syeda Aireen Jaman, Rasheda Rawnak Khan, Arif Jehtik with Harun Ur Rashid
স্বীকারোক্তি আর অনুশোচনার কতটুকু সুযোগ পায় শিল্পী তার শিল্পকর্মে? যেখানে ধর্মীয় ও সামাজিক পোড়ামীর কারণে কথা বলতেই বারণ। কষ্টরোধ করে দাবিয়ে রাখা যায় কি সত্যকে?

MAIN STAGE

How much space can an artist create for confession and lament in his/her own creations, especially when it is almost a taboo to express thoughts freely? Can truth, however, be repressed by silencing liberal voices?

[329] 4:15 – 5:15 PM | THE BOOK OF DHAKA | KK Tea Stage

Arunava Sinha, Kaiser Haq, QP Alam, and Syed Manzoorul Islam with Daniel Hahn
Ten stories in translation that create a literary map of Dhaka, from the torturous days of the independence war to the chaotic splendour of its expanding presence. The stories also represent ten of the strongest voices from the country, in marvellous new renditions. A collaboration of the ULAB Dhaka Translation Center, Comma Press of UK, along with Commonwealth Writers, English PEN and the British Centre for Literary Translation.

[330] 4:15 – 5:15 PM | সময়ের কবিতা সময়ান্তরের কবিতা-২ (POETRY OF TRANSITION-2) | Lawn (continued)

[331] 4:15 – 5:15 PM | POP GEN AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE: THE INVISIBLE HISTORY OF DNA | BRAC Stage

Sanjeev Jain and Zain Ali

Our bodies contain genes, biological instructions written in a molecular language we call DNA. The entire story of life on Earth is contained within our collective DNA sequences—like texts written not by conscious minds, but by the unconscious and inescapable logic of evolution. For most of our history human beings have had no way to access these texts. Recent advances in DNA sequencing technology have however led to an explosion of novel findings about the history of human societies. Sanjeev Jain, Professor at the National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences in India and Zain Omar Ali, Life Sciences lecturer at Independent University Bangladesh, discuss surprising connections between population genetics, psychiatric disease, human history and the British Empire.

BOTTOLA

[333] 4:15 – 5:15 PM | কিশোর কবিতা ও প্রবৃত্তি (TEENAGE POETRY AND RECITATION) | Bottola

Rafiqul Haque Dadu Bhai, Faruk Nawaz, Anjir Liton, Quazi Rosy and Jahanara Jaani with Aslam Sani
আগামী দিনের কিশোর, ভবিষ্যতের স্বপ্নজয়ী বীর। তার নিজস্ব মনন ও সৃজন গঠনে কিশোর সাহিত্য অত্যন্ত তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ। Today's teenagers will carve the future for us. The contribution of literature for young adults to the formation of their imaginative faculties cannot be overemphasized.

COSMIC TENT

[334] 5:30 – 6:30 PM | GEMCON AWARDS | Main Stage

জেমকন সাহিত্য পুরস্কার বাংলাদেশের একজন মননশীল লেখককে দেওয়া হয়, যার অর্থমূল্য ৮ লাখ টাকা; এবং জেমকন তরুণ কথা সাহিত্য পুরস্কার দেওয়া হয় একজন নবীন লেখককে, যার অর্থমূল্য ২ লাখ টাকা।

BRAC

[335] 5:30 – 6:30 PM | অনুবাদে পূর্ব পশ্চিম (THE EAST AND THE WEST IN TRANSLATION) | KK Tea Stage

Masud Ahmed and Hamim Kamrul Haq with Shamsad Mortuza

গভীরতম অভিজ্ঞতা ভাষায় প্রকাশ করা যায় না। এক ভাষায় প্রকাশিত বিবৃতি, অনুভূতি বা উপলব্ধি কীভাবে অন্য ভাষায় সঞ্চারণ করা সম্ভব? অনুবাদ ছাড়া শত শত ভাষার সাহিত্যের সঙ্গে সংযোগ স্থাপন অসম্ভব। তাহলে মূল থেকে হারানো সুখমা ছাড়াই অনুবাদের দ্বারস্থ হতে হবে আমাদের?

LAWN

KK TEA STAGE

The deepest of our feelings cannot be expressed in words. Then how can we render in a different language what is expressed in the original? But without translation it is impossible to connect with the literatures written in foreign languages. Are we then to resort to translation, even though it is devoid of the essence of the original language?

MAIN STAGE

[336] 5:30 – 6:30 PM | FIGHTING WORDS: POETRY THROUGH DISSENT | Lawn

Steven Fowler, Maqsoodul Haque, and Vuyelwa Maluleke with Anjum Hasan

Poetry is arguably the most complex, independent, romantic and most definitely, powerful form of literature. It is the art of compression of raw, unfiltered emotions that gives it such potency. When this art is applied to dissent, it can cause revolutions in the heart and on the streets. From John Milton to Emily Dickinson, from Bangladeshi National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam to American jazz poet Gil Scott-Heron, they have all used the formation of words in poetic forms to protest injustice and the ills of our society. Join three poets whose words light fire on the pages in discussion with one of India's leading literary editors.

[337] 5:30 – 6:30 PM | THE ETERNAL FOLK | BRAC Stage

Simon Broughton with Vivek Menezes

Music and the performing arts can be a powerful medium for not only expression, but for connecting to others. Journalist and film maker Simon Broughton, and dancer and cultural activist Lubna Marium discuss our intangible forms of cultural heritage, and the importance of cultural connections for humanity, with Goa literary festival director Vivek Menezes.

[338] 6:30 – 7:00 PM | CLOSING CEREMONY | Main Stage

Closing remarks by Dhaka Tribune editor Zafar Sobhan, Carles Torner, Anthony McGowan and Charlie Campbell. Speech by chief guest, Sir Fazle Abed, founder of BRAC. Vote of thanks by DLF director and producer Sadaf Saaz.

[339] 6:30 – 7:30 PM | TRIBUTE TO BAUL ROB FAKIR | Bottola

Shikor Bangladesh All Stars features super-stars of traditional Baul and folk music in Bangladesh, brought together by Band leader Dhol maestro Nazrul Islam. Shikor's London debut in 2015 at the Songlines Encounters Festival, followed by the mega international stage at WOMAD UK secured Bangladesh's place on the World Music map. The performance was hailed on BBC Radio 3 as 'One of the highlights of the festival.' London Jazz noted the 'seriously incredible rhythms, incredible vocals, and later (in workshop with LoKkhi TeRra) awesome cross-cultural collaboration. Performing here in memory of the beloved late Baul Rob Fakir, the band's lead vocalist, who had also performed at our very first Festival in 2011.