



Remembering André Malraux

40th Anniversary of André Malraux's Passing



Programme Details







André Malraux was always a freedom fighter.

During the 1930s, Malraux was active in the antifascist Popular Front in France. During the Spanish Civil War in 1936 he joined the Republican faction in Spain, and the French Resistance during the WWII. At the age of 70 in September 1971, he was one mighty voice to air on the radio a vehement call for the constitution of a new International Brigade for Bangladesh, and his announcement to come forward for military service received hundreds of letters from volunteers. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman invited Malraux in recognition of his commitment to Bangladesh's cause and in 1973 Malraux visited the independent Bangladesh.

André Malraux was the very first Minister of Cultural Affairs in France, appointed by General Charles de Gaulle in 1959. Between the acts of his dramatic and absorbing life, Malraux wrote several brilliant and powerful novels dealing with the tragic ambiguities of political idealism and revolutionary struggle. He has also authored articles, essays, and books on history and criticism of art. He was an archetypal French intellectual.

Malraux passed away on 23 November 1976.





Remembering André Malraux

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of André Malraux's passing, under the patronage of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of Bangladesh and the Embassy of France in Dhaka, Alliance Française and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy are organising a series of cultural events.

These events are focusing on the support brought by André Malraux to the liberation war in September 1971, and the homage he paid during his visit to Bangladesh in 1973 to the sacrifice of martyrs, intellectuals, students and people of Bangladesh.

The events are organised on 22 and 23 November 2016 in Dhaka and on 26 November 2016 in Chittagong.

The main event on 23 November 2016 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is dedicated to the students of the University of Dhaka.

Programmes at Alliance Française

Tuesday, 22 November 2016 at 5 pm
at Auditorium Nouvelle Vague, Alliance Française de Dhaka

Reading session by **The Reading Circle** ^① on *Man's Fate* (English translation of *La condition humaine*), winner of The Goncourt Prize in 1933

Address by **Dr Gurupada Chakraborty** ^②: “Translating *L'Espoir* of André Malraux into Bangla, the Linguistic Challenges and the Options Adopted”

Screening of *Espoir - Sierra de Teruel*, film adaptation of *L'Espoir*, directed by André Malraux and Boris Peskine (1h28 min, Spanish with English subtitles)

Saturday, 26 November 2016 at 7 pm
at Auditorium, Alliance Française de Chittagong

Introduction speech by Jean-Pierre Poncet, Deputy Head of Mission and Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of France to Bangladesh

Drama performance titled আশা, *Asha*, directed by Ashim Das, Fame, Chittagong

Speech by Md. Shamsul Arefin, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong

Address by Dr Gurupada Chakraborty: “Translating *L'Espoir* of André Malraux into Bangla”

Address by Prof. Dr Kamaluddin Ahmed, Chairman, Department of English, University of Chittagong: “Malraux and His Humanist Philosophy”

Address by Shamsuddin Khan, President, Executive Committee, Alliance Française de Chittagong: “Personal Testimony of Malraux's Visit at My Home in Chittagong”

Mime performance by Anadikalpa

Screening of the documentary: “Malraux's Visit to Bangladesh in 1973 Through the Eyes of Prof. Dr Mahmud Shah Qureshi”

^① The Reading Circle or TRC, which celebrated its tenth anniversary in February 2016, have held book readings and literary discussions at Goethe Institut, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Liberation War Museum and Omni Books to name a few. For this event, TRC will be conducting a reading session on *Man's Fate* (English translation of *La condition humaine*).

^② *L'Espoir* was translated into Bangla as আশা, *Asha* by Dr Gurupada Chakraborty and was published by Alliance Française de Chittagong in 2015. Dr Chakraborty, who received his PhD in comparative literature from Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, has been serving as a professor at Alliance Française de Chittagong since 1985. During the course of this event, Dr Chakraborty will provide several addresses about his translation of *L'Espoir*.

Programmes at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Wednesday, 23 November 2016 at 10.30 am
at Jatiyo Chitrashala Auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Two exhibitions titled “Drawing Freely” and “Novembre à Paris”[©], in the lobby

Speech by HE Sophie Aubert, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh

Address by Prof. Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka: “About Malraux and the University of Dhaka”

Speech by HE Asaduzzaman Noor, Minister of Cultural Affairs

Screening of the documentary: “Malraux’s Visit to Bangladesh in 1973 Through the Eyes of Prof. Dr Mahmud Shah Qureshi”

Address by Dr Gurupada Chakraborty: “Translating *L’Espoir* of André Malraux into Bangla”

Drama performance titled আশা, Asha, directed by Ashim Das, Fame, Chittagong

Round-table on “Public Cultural Policies and Private Initiative for Culture” with panellists HE Asaduzzaman Noor, HE Mario Palma, Prof. Kaiser Haq, Nadia Samdani, Ziauddin Tariq Ali, and Anisul Hoque as moderator

 Refreshments

© Two exhibitions will be presented at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on 23 November 2016:

Drawing Freely A 12-panel exhibition on freedom of expression as embodied by fifty press cartoonists from all around the world, presented by Institut Français and Courier International.

Novembre à Paris A photography exhibition by Sumon Yusuf who was attending an artist-in-residence programme in Paris during the terrorist attacks of 13 November 2015. In the face of inhuman and extreme cruelty, his photographs became the context he could hold onto: he decided to capture life.





Round-table

On the topic: “Public Cultural Policies and Private Initiative for Culture”

**Wednesday, 23 November 2016 at 11 am
at Jatiyo Chitrashala Auditorium,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy**

Prior to André Malraux's appointment as the first ever Minister of Cultural Affairs in France in 1959, culture was under the Ministry of Education. Malraux wrote the first public policy for culture and defined the assignment of his ministry:

“ The Ministry of Cultural Affairs is to give the greatest number of French people access to all the masterpieces of the human mind, first and foremost to those of France, as well as to give the greatest visibility to our cultural heritage and to foster the creation of art and the spirit that enriches it.

From the beginning, Malraux had fixed three goals for his ministry: democratization, circulation and creation.

The cultural policy of Malraux mainly promoted the arts that have the greatest effect on the masses: performing arts, museums, music, and cinema. He created the Art et Essai (art house) label. Malraux's friendship with several leading artists (Matisse, Braque, Picasso, Giacometti among others) resulted in the commissioning of public work orders such as the ceiling of Odeon Theatre to André Masson or the ceiling of Paris Opera to Marc Chagall. He organised the presentation of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa in the US.

Malraux never ceased to promote French culture in the world. He is noted for the system of advances on ticketing, set up by a decree in June 1959, which has long been, and remains today, an important means of financial help to film-making in France. At the same time, he founded the Paris Biennale, an event that



aims at enhancing the young French and international creativity and strengthening the French artistic presence in the world.

As the topic of the round-table suggests, “Public Cultural Policies and Private Initiative for Culture” will invite the panellists to present and discuss the public cultural policies and private initiatives for culture.

Panellists

HE Asaduzzaman Noor

Minister of Cultural Affairs

HE Mario Palma

Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh

Prof. Kaiser Haq

Nadia Samdani

President, Samdani Art Foundation

Ziauddin Tariq Ali

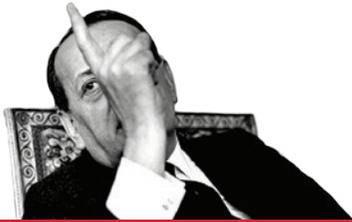
Trustee and Member-Secretary, Liberation War Museum

Moderator

Anisul Hoque

Writer and Subeditor, *Prothom Alo*





Malraux, The Orator

Beside from his versatile erudition and walking the path in pursuit of freedom, Malraux was a great orator.

On the occasion of the transfer of *Resistant* Jean Moulin's ashes to the Panthéon in 1964, his powerful mesmerizing voice remained engraved in the memories of each and every French:

“ [...] Enter here, Jean Moulin, with your terrible cohort. With those who died in basements without talking, like you; and even, which may be more awful, having talked. [...]”

During his visit to Bangladesh in 1973, Malraux delivered several speeches as tributes to the freedom fighters who were martyred during the liberation war. Here are some extracts from those speeches:

“ For the first time I speak in the only university in the world where there are more dead than the living. Students of France know that your teachers and your friends embraced death for the liberty, and they know that nowhere else ever before students and teachers paid such a heavy price for liberty.”

“ Those of yours who died have rendezvoused with the fate of Bangladesh, but now it is for you to build a Nation.”

↑ University of Dhaka, 21 April 1973

“ On any of the graveyard of your freedom fighters, on the ditches filled with the dead bodies of your intellectuals write in huge letters: 'You who shall pass later on, go tell to all of ours that those who fell here, were dead because during the nine months of suffering, they accepted to fight with their bare hands'”

“ Your culture holds to you in one lone and very big word: spirituality. Your liberation has attempted to unite the language of eternal Bengal with that of our Revolution. The world does not seem to understand that it is the only one with that of India, which did not end with totalitarianism. Neither Stalin, nor Hitler, nor Mao: Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. If the world did not yet understand, it is time to open his eyes.

“ Salute to you, dead of the surrounding forests! You have shown the world that one can never murder enough to kill the soul of a people who won't surrender.

↑ University of Rajshahi, 22 April 1973

“ We have defended you because you were the most cruelly decimated people, the most threatened. But also because you belong to the Indian civilization, which for three thousand years is a civilization of the soul.

“ I particularly appeal to you, intellectuals and students. When I went to lay a wreath at the monument of the dead students, I thought that in no country, repression had destroyed such a large number of students. You have fought for liberation. Liberation is made, but a new fight begins [...] that is to create a state.

↑ University of Chittagong, 23 April 1973



Malraux, The Author and Film Director

Malraux wrote novels that explore man's struggle with the foreign and the impenetrable. He also authored major essays on history and criticism of art. Here are some selections of his titles linked with the programme:

▣ *La Condition humaine*, 1933, (*Man's Fate*), Malraux's masterpiece depicts the early days of the Chinese Revolution. The novel is set in Shanghai during the crushing by Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalists of their former communist allies in 1927. Its main characters are several Chinese communist conspirators and European adventurers who are betrayed both by the Nationalists and by emissaries of Soviet Russia. Each of these complex, introspective personalities is affected differently by the tragic fate awaiting him, but the brotherhood arising out of a common political activity seems to them the only antidote to the meaningless solitude that is the hallmark of the human condition (see linked event: ref. ①, p. 3).

▣ *L'Espoir*, 1937, (*Man's Hope*), dramatically re-creates the first nine months of the Spanish Civil War, from Malraux's experience as an anti-fascist fighter serving as Colonel leading the International Air Squadron. One of his most pessimistic political novels, depicting human spirit within a framework of historical, political, and philosophical canvas (see linked event: ref. ②, p. 3).

▷ *Espoir - Sierra de Teruel*, a 1h28 min film adaptation of his novel *L'Espoir*, directed by André Malraux himself. The Spanish Republican soldiers fight against the better-equipped Francoist armies in the desolate Sistema Ibérico mountains of the Province of Teruel in 1937. The film was released and screened twice in France in 1939, then banned till 1945. Finally, Malraux was awarded the 1945 Prix Louis-Delluc for this movie.

André Malraux
La condition humaine



André Malraux
L'Espoir



সৃজনশীল বাংলাদেশ



বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি



Alliance Française