

## Press Release

Dhaka, 27 May 2015

Attention: News Editor/Chief Reporter/Assignment Editor/Cultural Page-in-Charge:

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L'Été des poètes, The Summer of Poets is a two-day poetry festival by Alliance Française de Dhaka. This is the first edition of this festival and Alliance Française de Dhaka is very happy to organise this on Thursday, 28 May and Friday, 29 May 2015 at its Dhanmondi premises.

The festival was inspired by its namesake— a festival of poetry called 'Le Printemps des Poètes' that started in 1999 in France and Quebec. We are calling out to the unafraid hearts of all the poets and poetry-lovers for a two-day poetry festival to share, exchange and augment our experiences with poetry, and how we continue to relate to poetry notwithstanding our social roles and typicality.

We are honoured to have Prof. Kaiser Haq as the festival-poet who will present his keynote on Influence of French Poetry on Bengali Literature. We are very happy to present (alphabetically) Prof. Anisuzzaman, Asad Chowdhury, Prof. Iffat Ara Nasreen Majid, Mofidul Hoque, Mohammad Nurul Huda, Moinuddin Khaled, Prof. Salimullah Khan, Suman Sajjad, and Syed Shamsul Haque. They will talk about how poetry inspires them ceaselessly, will read their favourite poems and share the thoughts behind them.

Moreover, a number of ancillary events ranging from poetry slam to poetry recitation, poetry installation, screening of documentary, and musical performance will be organised: Interested poetry lovers can register beforehand and participate in the poetry recitation segment. A five-daylong poetry installation titled "Kobita Airlines" will be organised where hand-written poems and their corresponding thoughts—submitted by interested participants—will be exhibited. IF THE POET, an inspiring documentary film (2014, Canada, 19 min) about Ian French—aka "IF"—who dove into Slam Poetry at the age of 50, will be screened for the first time in Asia. The concept of poetry slam is new in Bangladesh and we are delighted to organise this at Alliance Française, albeit non-competitive for this edition. There will be a poetry quiz where general questions from Bengali, French and English poetry will be asked in real time. Lastly, we are very happy to have Shayan in this festival with us. The band, Monosoroni will perform as well.

Open to all, this two-day festival will start on Thursday, 28 May from 4 pm to 9 pm and will resume on Friday from 5 pm to 8 pm. Thanking you in advance for inserting this press release in your flash news. It will be highly appreciated if a cultural reporter and a photographer or a camera crew could be sent to cover this special event.

Sincerely yours,

Mamun Ar Rashid Rony

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