

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 2

Event: Book launch of *'The Colonel Who Would Not Repent: The Bangladesh War and its Unquiet Legacy'* followed by a discussion with K. Anis Ahmed on *'Of Memory & Repentance: Revisiting the history of Bangladesh'*

Kolkata, 15th January, 2015: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 witnessed the launch of *'The Colonel Who Would Not Repent: The Bangladesh War and its Unquiet Legacy'* authored by veteran journalist **Salil Tripathi**. The book represents a concise history of Bengal, starting from the arrival of Islam leading to the East India Company's rule and Curzon's partition of Bengal. The author brings together the narrative skill of a novelist and the analytical tools of a political journalist always taking care to present both sides of the story.

The launch was followed by a thought provoking discussion with **K. Anis Ahmed**, writer & publisher from Bangladesh. The session entailed the author's journey on writing the book and his insights on the then circumstances leading to the Bangladesh war and the trials and tribulations of the country post its partition with India. This discussion reconnoitered recent history with all its ambiguities and contradictions. The Sixth edition of Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival is mainly focused on history and society and its integral link with the literature.

About Salil Tripathi: Salil Tripathi lives in London and is a columnist with Mint. He has written extensively on politics, economics, the arts and business for more than 25 years for the Wall Street Journal, Far Eastern Economic Review, The New Statesman, India Today, and other publications. As a correspondent in Singapore and Hong Kong, Salil covered the Asian economic crisis, and is the author of *Offence: The Hindu Case*. He is currently writing a travelogue, a book on a corporate scandal and a novel.

About K. Anis Ahmed: He is a Bangladeshi writer and publisher of the English-language daily newspaper Dhaka Tribune and the literary journal Bengal Lights. Ahmed is the author of two books: a short story collection called *Good Night, Mr. Kissinger* and a novel, *The World in My Hands*. He has been called one of the most significant voices in Bangladesh today. Ahmed is part of a new generation of writers who use English "to connect to the larger corpus of world literature", and as a "rejection of the insularity of contemporary Bangla-language literature".

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF):

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) is Kolkata's pioneering literary festival. Instituted in 2010 by the Apeejay Surrendra Group and its heritage Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, AKLF grows out of the bookstore's year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the six years since Kolkata saw her first literary festival in AKLF, literary festivals have mushroomed across the country, but AKLF stands apart with its unique identity as the only one with a now 94-year-old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favors depth over size, and includes a variety of subjects from history to the environment. AKLF also celebrates Kolkata's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites as settings for Festival events and eminent literati and cultural stalwarts from across India and overseas join the festival scheduled every year in the second week of January. In 2015 AKLF explores literature as part of our tangible and intangible heritage, a theme that runs through several sessions of the festival. AKLF focusses on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. Prominent personalities attending will be Hanif Kureishi, Naseeruddin Shah, Charles Allen, John Elliott, Mohammed Hanif, Leila Seth, Michael Buckley, Upamanyu Chatterjee, David Davidar, Shekhar Gupta, Shashi Tharoor, Asish Nandy, Ramachandra Guha, Kishwar Desai, Nabaneeta Dev Sen amongst several others. There are some firsts in AKLF 2015. A heritage literary walk, a literary 'adda', a Young Adult litfest for high school students, a bloggers' meet, a children's bookfest crammed with activities, even a standup comic for the college crowd and a leadership training session for young teens on importance of character, karma and individual social responsibility™. Add to that our signature heritage site evenings at The Indian Museum, National Library, Victoria Memorial, Lascar War Memorial, indepth discussions, top of the line authors, thinkers and performers, and you have a literary experience not to be missed. And all absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

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