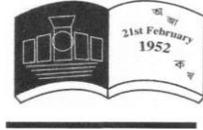


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URGENT MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 5 February 2020

Ekushe Book Fair 2020 – date shifted

Due to the forecast for heavy rains and storm over the weekend, the date of the Ekushe Boimela at Ashfield Park has been shifted from the 9th of February to the 23rd of February.

We look forward to seeing you then.

We are also pleased to provide below a summary of the Ekushe Seminar and the launch of a new project – Canvas Kids. This project should lay a pathway to Global Citizenship.

As a long-held tradition, Ekushe Academy held a seminar on the 2nd of February 2020 at the Belmore Community Centre, Sydney. This seminar was a preamble to the upcoming Ekushe Boimela at Ashfield Park. Like the previous year, also this year, an Australian-grown Bangla-speaking youth gave the keynote talk.

The seminar was opened by the General Secretary of Ekushe Academy Australia Inc. Mr Janmejyoy Roy and Chaired & Moderated by the President Dr Swapan Paul. The seminar was followed by the launch of the Academy's new project - Canvas Kids.

In her deliberation, Dr Monira Hoque (Irene), a research scientist, has acknowledged the day-to-day practising of her mother-language (Bangla) both at home and at community levels. She deeply believed in the need for one's practising of the mother language. At the same time, she reminded that it was important to accept the fact that in an English-speaking nation such as Australia, one's mother language perhaps could be better realised and conserved if English was used as a vehicle. In her 15-min deliberation, Irene has also made some key recommendations. These are:

- To provide opportunities for youth to participate in various cultural programs organised by Ekushe Academy.
- To promote Ekushe Academy's ideas and events through social media and community education.
- To engage kids in art and culture as a pathway to Global Citizenship.

Following her well-delivered keynote speech, three discussants further elaborated in their respective areas of interest. Among them were two more new-generation Bangladeshis – Ms Maliha Sattar and Ms Mahirah Sattar. They emphasised that in addition, even cooking classes could help to create community bonding and education. Mr Nehal Neyamul Bari highly appreciated the keynote talk and invited more youth to come forward.

The seminar was further enriched by general discussions. Many distinguished members of the community have spoken. Among them were most senior member Mr Abdus Sattar, Mr Shymal, Mr Abdul Matin, Dr Abdul Wahab, Mr Avijit Barua, Mrs Nahida Habib, Mrs Amia Matin, Ms Protiti and Mr Mojibur Rahman. Also, little Master Dhaiyen, and rising youth Neeladri, Ria, Protiti and Parthib have extended their support for the initiative.

In the end a new project – Canvas Kids, was launched by Ekushe Academy. This will involve kids expressing their culture and language through art, while being involved in charitable activities and community service, all the while encouraging within them aspects of Global Citizenship.

Finally, Dr Swapan Paul summarised the seminar and gave the closing remarks and thanks. With this, he has renewed his invitation to the Ekushe Boi Mela 2020.

[This article is written in English for accessibility to Gen- Y.]

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Working for Institutionalising
The International Mother Language Day Concept, the 21st February
Conserve YOUR Mother Language **Conserve YOUR Mother Language** Conserve YOUR Mother Language

