

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 2

Event: *Wild Tales of Bush & Field* - Saad bin Jung in conversation with Bikram Grewal & Michael Buckley followed by the launch of '*Matabele Dawn*'

Kolkata, 15th January, 2015: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 witnessed the launch of **Matabele Dawn**, a book of African travel writings by **Saad bin Jung** of the Pataudi royal house. The book was released by **Sahebzada Wasif Mirza**, descendant of the Nawab of Awadh and Nawabzada Saad Ali Jung, and the interest of the Royals in wildlife.

Matabele Dawn unfolds an epic saga of two lives in disarray — over timelines and generations where the solution is more lethal than the problem. The book is a tumultuous, thought-provoking journey through the heart of Africa and India where in one can smell the land, touch the wilderness and embrace the people and, above all, be a part of the story that shaped the history of both the regions.

Saad bin Jung captivated the audience with his conversation with **Bikram Grewal**, author, birdwatcher & conservationist and travel writer **Michael Buckley**. The session portrayed the author's journey across continents, his realization on conservation which is all about addressing a conflict; the conflict between the authorities and the local people, tribes that live in remote areas of both Africa and India.

About Saad Bin Jung:

Saad Bin Jung comes from the erstwhile royalty of Bhopal, Pataudi and the aristocracy of the Paigahs of Hyderabad. He is the author of *Subhan and I*, *Wild Tales from the Wild* and *Matabele Dawn*, and writes extensively on cricket and ecology for several newspapers. He is popular as an expert commentator on cricket on TV. He is a former international cricketer, a wildlifer, an angler, conservationist and a photographer. He has received accolades for his conservation works, and is a member of the Wildlife Advisory Board of Karnataka.

About the panelists:

Bikram Grewal: Bikram Grewal is an author, birdwatcher and conservationist from Delhi, India, who has written several guides to Indian birds. He has been working with governments and private groups to promote eco-tourism in Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal and Nagaland. His book *Birds of India*, has been a best-seller among Indian bird books. He has also been part of the Inheritance Series brought out by Sanctuary Asia.

Michael Buckley: Michael Buckley is an award winning Canadian journalist who authored the first ever guidebook to Tibet. A nomad at heart, Michael Buckley thrives on adventuring in remote corners of the globe. He is the author of a dozen books, including Meltdown in Tibet (a shocking environmental expose), Eccentric Explorers (winner of Biography category, National Indie Excellence Awards, USA, 2009), Shangri-La: a Guide to the Himalayan Dreamland Tibet: the Bradt Travel Guide. Buckley takes his own photographs to illustrate books and stories. He is filmmaker for three short documentaries about Tibet that tackle serious environmental issues.

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, in-depth 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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