

On the Margins



Photos and Design: Philip Gain

Twin Photography Exhibitions

Venue: DRIK Gallery, House-58, Road-15A (new), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

Date: 17-21 April 2016

Time: Everyday from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm

How many ethnic communities are there in Bangladesh other than Bangalees? Where are they concentrated? How much do we know about their language, lifestyle and culture? Many of us want to know the answers to all these questions. In-depth investigations and research of the Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) have found 111 ethnic communities in the tea gardens and different parts of the country. Twin photography exhibitions on these communities have been organized at DRIK Gallery from 17 to 21 April 2016, everyday from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Exclusive photos of these ethnic communities will be showcased at the exhibitions highlighting their identities, lifestyles, cultures and struggle. You can collect exclusive publications of SEHD on these communities and other issues from the exhibitions.

You are welcome to visit the exhibitions with your family and friends

Contact

SEHD, 1/1, Pallabi (5th floor), Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. Phone: 9026636, 01790110501, 01716854051, www.sehd.org



Our Identity Our Culture



Bangladesh is a country of an overwhelming Bangalee majority. But there are many other ethnic communities, languages and cultures in this country. According to the government census, there are 27 small ethnic communities in Bangladesh. However, their actual number is much higher. In-depth investigations and research of the Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) found as many as 80 communities living in the tea gardens—nine of them are on government records as ethnic communities and one is a Bangalee community. There are 49 ethnic communities living in the Northwest, North-center and Northeast of the country. Of them, 13 are in the government records. Twelve ethnic communities are found in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and Cox's Bazar-Borguna. These ethnic communities speak as many as 40 different languages.

The languages and cultures of small ethnic communities have enriched the language and culture of the majority Bangalee community in many ways. These small ethnic communities are truly patriotic. They tie the Bangladeshi flag on their chest and head even when they participate in protest rallies for their rights. However, the mass population still know, very little about their identities and cultures. Even the state is not always fair to them.

In order to highlight these ethnic communities and their cultures, an open-air lecture and a cultural evening has been arranged.

Venue: St. Joseph Higher Secondary School Premises

Date: 18 April 2016

Open lecture: 5:30pm to 6:40pm

Cultural function: 7:00pm to 9:00pm



Dr. Rafiqul Islam, professor emeritus, ULAB, a renowned academic and creative writer and Mamunur Rashid, a prominent actor of Bangladesh, will lecture on the identity, language and culture of the ethnic communities.

Cultural groups from the tea gardens, Santals and Mahles from the Northwest, Koch and Garos from the North-center and groups from Dhaka will perform their traditional songs and dances. Moreover, publications on these communities will also be available for you to collect.

You are cordially invited to the Adivasi Cultural evening.