



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 30, No.1, January-March, 2024

A Note from the Editor

Since its inception on 3rd January 1952, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) has been tirelessly working to promote knowledge and research and develop a research environment in Bangladesh's academic arena. By undertaking various academic, scholarly, and intellectual pursuits, the Society has gradually grown into one of the most noted research organizations in the country as well as Southeast Asia. Now, it is considered the country's intellectual hub.

We are making every effort to carry on the scholarly legacy of our forebears by continuing the quest for knowledge and research. We are delighted that the Society has carried on its intellectual legacy for seventy-two years. We celebrated the 72nd Foundation Day of the Society with colorful activities on 3rd January 2024, with a Foundation Day lecture on "উত্তর মুহাম্মদ শহীদুল্লাহ: বহু ভাষাবিদ-শিক্ষক ও দার্শনিক" by an eminent historian **Professor Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury**, former Vice-Chancellor, National University and an honorable fellow of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh is governed by a Council elected by its honorable Members. On 30 January 2024, the election was conducted to elect the Council for 2024 and 2025. Two panels contested this election. The election results were officially announced at the 20th Biennial General Meeting of the Society held on 10 February 2024.

The Muldhara panel led by Professor Harun -or-Rashid and Professor Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan won the election with a resounding majority. The newly elected Council of the Asiatic Society assumed its office in March 2024.

The Council for 2024 and 2025 co-opted two ASB fellows in its first meeting on 25 March 2024. They are **Barrister Shafique Ahmed**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and former Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and eminent historian **Dr. Syed Anwar Husain**, Professor (Retired.), Department of History, University of Dhaka and Bangabandhu Chair-

Professor, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), Dhaka. All the statutory committees, Boards, and other Committees the Society were constituted in the same Council Meeting.

As a tribute to the founders of the Society, the present Council is working tirelessly, and no stone will be left unturned to realize their dreams. Indeed, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh is one of those few organizations in the country that has far exceeded the fulfillment of the dreams of its founders and now works beyond its motto (Men and Nature of Asia) through the creation and transmission of knowledge transcending Asia.

Despite numerous challenges, the ASB regularly publishes research journals and scholarly books. Apart from this, we are conducting other regular activities, including organizing monthly general meetings and lectures, special lectures, and trust fund lectures.

The Council members, office bearers, and the staff of the Society believe in teamwork. We strictly adhere to this spirit in all of our works. There will be no deviation from this principle when making decisions in the future.

Publication of Newsletters is one of the regular activities of the Society. However, we could not publish the newsletters on time for various reasons. I am sorry for that. We hope to publish the next volume of the newsletter soon.

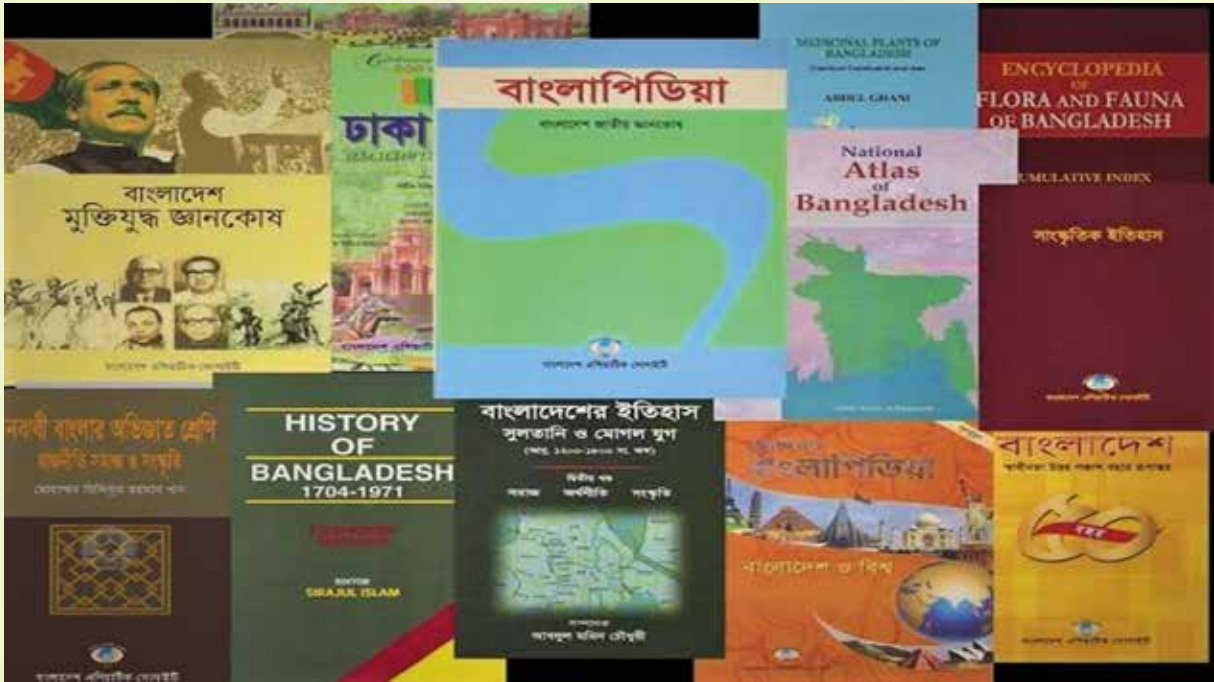
Before I conclude, let me pay our profound respect to the souls of the deceased. During the last three months (January to March), we have lost many of our members and notable national personalities. May the Almighty keep their souls in eternal peace. Their memories will remain everlasting in our minds.

Finally, we want to reassure you that the ASB will continue to be dedicated to maintaining transparency and accountability. ASB can only achieve intellectual freedom if these two fundamental components of organizational good governance are realized.

Thank you to all.



Regular Books of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh



Dr. Harun-or-Rashid's New Book



What the Book About

The book *UNDERSTANDING FIFTY YEARS OF BANGLADESH POLITICS* (published in March 2024 from London and New York simultaneously) studies the first 50 years of Bangladesh politics since the independence of 1971. It looks at Bangladesh politics as a unique case for study to analyze and understand the role of institutions, political parties, the election commission, election-time government, judiciary, the media, etc. The volume cross-examines the 1971 War of Liberation and the brutal killing of the republic's founding father in 1975 as the two great divides that crystallized in the political arena between the Awami League on the one side and the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) and Jamaat-e-Islami on the other. Through deep dives on major historical events and key political developments that have since shaped Bangladesh's entire society and politics, it then delves into topics including the parliament, electoral integrity, civil society, and politics as they take on a confrontational course. This book is majorly based on the author's researches at Heidelberg University, Germany, during 2021-2022 as Bangabandhu Professorial Fellow. Besides introduction and conclusion, the book (page: 224) consists of 5 (five) Chapters, namely: The Formative Phase: Mujib Era, 1972-1975; Judicial Activism and Constitutional Development in a Fledgling Democracy; Sheikh Hasina: Journey to power, Achievements and Challenges Ahead; The Crises of Electoral Integrity and The State of Civil Society. The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) of this book is 9781032727240.

An incisive study on major struggles, achievements, and challenges faced by Bangladesh in the 20th century, this volume will be of great interest to scholars and researchers in political science, democracy, modern history, and South Asia studies.

ASB Celebrates its 72nd Foundation Day

The 72nd Foundation Day of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) was observed on 3rd January 2024 with colorful arrangements.

Professor Dr. Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, President of the Society, presided over the founding anniversary program. Professor Dr. Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan, General Secretary of the Society, gave a welcome address to the audience on this occasion. Paying tribute to the founders of the Society, he presented a short report on the progress that took place in the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh during the year 2023.



The Inauguration of 72nd Foundation Day of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

Professor Dr. Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan mentioned that the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh turned 72 keeping behind rich, boastful and intellectual achievements. In spite of having numerous repulsions, the Society tried to overcome these with great efforts.

The General Secretary pointed out that the Council of 2022 and 2023 took charge of the Society with the mission of ensuring accountability and transparency in ASB's all kinds of activities



Pigeons are being flown as a symbol of peace on the occasion of 72nd Foundation Day

He further added that following the footsteps of our forefathers, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh has been encouraging and nurturing scholarly research works as a result of the continued efforts of the illustrious people, it has already become a hub of intellectual and academic pursuits and a study center for scholars from home and abroad. Now the

Society is considered as one of the leading research institutions in South-East Asia.



Professor Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury delivering speech on the 72nd Foundation Day

He also added that we assure you that the present Council of 2022 and 2023 will leave no stone unturned to make the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh an ever growing center of academic and scholarly excellence.

The General Secretary expressed his gratitude to His Excellency **Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin**, Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh who is the Chief Patron of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for extending his kind support to the Society. Before concluding the address, the General Secretary reiterates his commitment to the institutional capacity through digitalization of ASB's functions and strengthening its human resources.

The General Secretary concluded his speech thanking to the honorable Members of ASB and the Ministry of the Cultural Affairs and wishing a belated 'Happy New Year' to all.

Eminent historian **Professor Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury**, former Vice-Chancellor, National University and honorable Fellow of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was the Foundation Day speaker. He delivered a lecture on **উস্টর মুহাম্মদ শহীদুল্লাহ: বহু ভাষাবিদ-শিক্ষক ও দার্শনিক**।



Flower bouquet handing over to Professor Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury, the speaker of 72nd Foundation Day

National Fellows, academics, scholars, educational luminaries, public figures, high officials, guests and members, distinguished personalities of the Society attended the Foundation Day and made this program successful.

ASB Election

Election paves the way for new changes in leadership, dynamism and optimism in activities among the members of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. As the Society cherishes the values of democracy, transparency and accountability in all its activities in order to dispel the general notion that there is less scope for the common members to have any participatory role in the Society's highest body. Members of the ASB decide its future leadership and its course of actions.



Some of the Participants and Candidates of ASB Council Election held on 30 January 2024

The election of the Council of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh falls due after every two years. Within the stipulated time the ASB office received two Panels named *Muldhara Panel* and *Muktabuddhicharchar Panel* of ASB Council election for the years 2024 and 2025. *Muldhara Panel* was proposed by Mahfuza Khanam (Membership No: 982) and seconded by Dr. Khondoker Bazlul Hoque (Membership No: 863) and *Muktabuddhicharchar Panel* was Proposed by Mr. Mofidul Hoque (Membership No: 1305) and seconded by Dr. Md. Didarul Alam (Membership No: 1444).

The General Secretary placed these Panels before the Council meeting on 05 December 2023 and the Council endorsed both Panels as valid.



Some of the Participants and Candidates of ASB Council Election held on 30 January 2024

An Election Commission (EC) comprising three members, Professor Sharifullah Bhuiyan as Election Commissioner, Professor Dr. Sirajul

Hoque and Professor Dr. Md. Majibur Rahman as Election Commission Member, has been formed to run the election properly. It was resolved in the Council meeting (held on 05 December 2023) that the above mentioned Election Commission may adopt any one to the activities of the Election Commission if necessary.



Voting in the ASB Council Election held on 30 January 2024

The election of the new Council for the years 2024 and 2025 of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh took place on Tuesday, 30 January 2024 at the auditorium of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. The vote casting began from 10:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm.

After counting the votes, the election commission declared the election results of the new Council for the years 2024 and 2025 of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.



The Election Commission declaring the ASB Election Results held on 30 January 2024

ASB Participated in the Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2024

Like every year, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh participated in the **Amar Ekushey Book Fair** on 01 February 2024 at the Bangla Academy premises. The stall numbers were 801 and 802. Numerous people visited the ASB stalls at the Bangla Academy premises on this occasion. A large number of ASB publications amounting to TK. 6, 34,323/- only were sold in 2024 in the Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
Council 2024 and 2025



Prof. Dr. Harun-or-Rashid
President



Prof. Dr. Hafiza Khatun
(Vice-President)



Prof. Dr. Sajahan Miah
(Vice-President)



Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir
(Vice-President)



Dr. M. Abdul Mazid
(Treasurer)



**Prof. Dr. Mohammad
Siddiquir Rahman Khan**
(General Secretary)



**Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur
Rahim**
(Secretary)



**Prof. Dr. A.K.M. Golam
Rabbani**
(Member)



**Prof. Dr. Mahbuba
Nasreen**
(Member)



Prof. Md. Lutfor Rahaman
(Member)



Prof. Dr. Sadeka Halim
(Member)



**Prof. Dr. Asha Islam
Nayeem** (Member)



Prof. Dr. Abdul Bashir
(Member)



**Prof. Dr. Najma Khan
Majlis**
(Member)



**Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul
Karim**
(Member)



**Prof. Dr. Shuchita
Sharmin**
(Member)



**Prof. Dr. Sabbir
Ahmed**
(Member)

20th Biennial General Meeting

The 20th Biennial General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh took place on 10 February 2024 in the auditorium of the Society. Professor Dr. Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, presided over the meeting. The President in his lecture pointed out that the year 2024 is a momentous one for us as we had a Council election (held on 30 January 2024) under the Election Commission headed by Professor Sharifullah Bhuiyan and we are grateful to the Election Commission for conducting the Council election in a befitting manner.

Then he expressed his warm congratulation from the core of his heart to the newly elected Council members for the years 2024 and 2025 and also hoped that the new Council would be more vibrant and the activities of the Society be more dynamic than before.



Professor Dr. Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, President of the Society, delivering speech at 20th Biennial General Meeting

Barrister Shafique Ahmed, former Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Honourable Fellow, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh graced the program as Chief Guest. Barrister Shafique Ahmed expressed his feelings and experiences on the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. At the end of the program, General Secretary, Professor Dr. Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan declared the Election Commission's results before the audience.



Stage photo-session of 20th Biennial General Meeting held on 10 February 2024

Joint Council Meeting

A Joint Council meeting is held after every two years. In this meeting the outgoing Council and the newly elected Council meet together and the outgoing Council hands over their responsibilities to the new Council for the next two years. This is one kind of common practice of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. This year the Joint Council meeting was held on 22 February 2024 in the Society's Council Room where the outgoing Council (2022-2023) handed over responsibilities to the new Council (2024-2025).



The outgoing Council congratulating the newly elected Council in the Joint Council Meeting

Co-option of two Fellows onto the Council for the years 2024 & 2025

The Council of the ASB for the years 2024 and 2025 in its first meeting (held on 25 March 2024) co-opted two Fellows from amongst the ASB Fellows in accordance with the ASB's constitution article 28.



Barrister Shafique Ahmed



Prof. Dr. Syed Anwar Husain

The Council co-opted two Fellows named **Barrister Shafique Ahmed**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & former Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and eminent historian **Dr. Syed Anwar Husain**, Professor (Retired.), Department of History, University of Dhaka and Bangabandhu Chair Professor, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), Dhaka, Bangladesh for the years 2024 and 2025.

Obituary

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh records its deep sense of sorrow and loss at the sad demise of the following noted personalities from January to March 2024.



Dr. Md. Shamsuzzoha Esami
Professor
Department of Islamic History and Culture
University of Rajshahi
Rajshahi- 6205
Membership No: 2830
Passed away: 19 January 2024



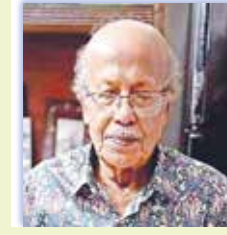
Dr. Rafiqul Islam
Professor
Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical
Technology
University of Dhaka
Dhaka-1000
Membership No: 1646
Passed away: 30 January 2024



Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury
Professor
Department of History
University of Dhaka
Dhaka-1000
Former Vice-Chancellor of
National University Bangladesh
Honorable Fellow and former President of
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB)
Membership No: 08
Passed away: 09 February 2024



Dr. Zia Rahman
Professor
Department of Criminology
University of Dhaka
Dhaka-1000
Membership No:1327
Passed away: 23 March 2024



Dr. Amir Hussain Khan
Department of Physics
Jahangirnagar University
Membership No:757
Passed away: 14 March 2024

Books Received as Donation

সরকার, মোনায়েম, *বাংলা ভাষার রক্তরঞ্জিত ইতিহাস*, ঢাকা: পারিজাত প্রকাশনী, ২০১৮।
সরকার, মোনায়েম, *মুক্তিযুদ্ধের নির্বাচিত কবিতা*, ঢাকা: পারিজাত প্রকাশনী, ২০১৬।
সরকার, মোনায়েম, *মুক্তিযুদ্ধের কত স্মৃতি কত কথা*, ঢাকা: ঢাকা প্রকাশনী, ২০২৪।
সরকার, মোনায়েম (সম্পা.), *মুজিব মানে মুক্তি: রাজনীতির কবি বঙ্গবন্ধুকে নিবেদিত কবিতাসংকলন*, ঢাকা: পারিজাত প্রকাশনী, ২০২০।
মোনায়েম সরকার রচনাবলি: প্রথম খণ্ড বঙ্গবন্ধু ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধ, ঢাকা: আগামী প্রকাশনী, ২০২২।
তালুকদার, মুহম্মদ সায়েদুর রহমান, *মাধবপুরের ইতিহাস ও ঐতিহ্য*, ঢাকা: মাধবপুর উপজেলা সমিতি, ২০২৩।
হক, মো: হামিদুল, *বৈভবে একাত্তর*, ঢাকা: এ এইচ ডেভেলপমেন্ট পাবলিশিং হাউজ, ২০২২।
স্বপ্না, শাহানারা, *আলোর শোভে*, ঢাকা: চমন প্রকাশ, ২০১৬।
স্বপ্না, শাহানারা, *দশ কিশোর গল্প*, ঢাকা: চমন প্রকাশ, ২০১৮।
স্বপ্না, শাহানারা, *নারীর কর্মে ধর্ম কোন বাধা নয়*, ঢাকা: চমন প্রকাশনী, ২০৮৬।
স্বপ্না, শাহানারা, *নীল তসবি*, ঢাকা: চমন প্রকাশ, ২০২২।
উল্লাহ, ম. পানা, *নোয়াখালীর লোকসাহিত্য: সংগ্রহ, সংকলন ও সম্পাদনা*, চট্টগ্রাম: মনন প্রকাশন, ২০২৩।
রসুল, শামীমা, *প্রাত্যহিক জীবনে বয়নশিল্পের ব্যবহার এবং এর ঐতিহ্য*, ঢাকা: নন্দিনী সাহিত্য ও পাঠচক্র, ২০২২।
মাশরাফী, রবিউল, *চুম্বক সিংহাসন*, ঢাকা: হাওলাদার প্রকাশনী, ২০২৪।
মামুন, হোদায়েতুল্লাহ আল, *উপনিবেশবাদ ও বাঙালির সংস্কৃতি*, ঢাকা: জার্নিয়ান বুকস, ২০২৩।
Sarker, Monaem, *Bangabandhu Shining Like Polester*, Dhaka: Agamee Prakashani, 2020.
Sarker, Monaem, *NATO: At Crossroads*, Dhaka: Parijat Prakashani, 2016



**Diorama: Court of Naib Nazim Nusrat Jung
(Asiatic Society Heritage Museum)**

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