

NEWSLETTER

WAEPA
BANGLADESH

Editorial Team



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Editor's Notes

Amid the shifting political landscape of Bangladesh, the nation is undergoing a significant transformation across all sectors following the student-led mass uprising of July–August 2024. This powerful demonstration of people's will led to the end of the 15-year rule of the Awami League. The country is now governed by an interim administration under the leadership of Nobel Peace Laureate and global figure Professor Muhammad Yunus. We remain hopeful that Bangladesh will rise from the ashes, that the people's vision for the nation will be realized, and that justice will prevail.

We, the members of WAEPA Bangladesh, deeply mourn the loss of those who gave their lives during the protest and extend our heartfelt condolences to their families. WAEPA actively participated in the rehabilitation efforts for injured victims and stood beside the students after August 5th, when they took to the streets—managing traffic, cleaning, and protecting people from mobs. It was a rare and inspiring sight, giving us renewed hope for our country.

During this period of transition, WAEPA remains committed to empowering women professionals while continuing its regular activities.

WAEPA organizes a Round table with the Editor of the Mukto Akash Mr. Shamsul Alam on Women in Technical Profession, Its Scope, difficulties and Possibilities.

Treasure of the WAEPA Bangladesh Farhana Rashid, Founder & CEO of Bhumijo, has been honored with the Waislitz Global Citizens' Choice Award, a prestigious recognition given by the Waislitz Foundation and Global Citizen.

WAEPA Commemorate for Ar. Lailun Nahar Ekum deid on 11 February 2025. Ar. Lailun Nahar Ekum was one of the Founding member of the WAEPA Bangladesh and two times President. She was inspirational leading Professional of our country. WAEPA BAngladesh and IAB jointly ornized a program to celebrate her legacy and Women in built industry on the Occation of Women's Day 8th March 2025.

Ar. Syeda Saikha Suah
Tresurer WAEPA Bangladesh

July 2024 Revolution in Bangladesh

Article by Ar. Syeda Saikha Sudah



In July 2024, Bangladesh experienced a significant wave of student-led protests opposing the reinstatement of a controversial quota system that allocated 30% of government jobs to descendants of 1971 independence fighters. The movement, initially focused on quota reform, rapidly escalated into widespread unrest due to the government's forceful response.

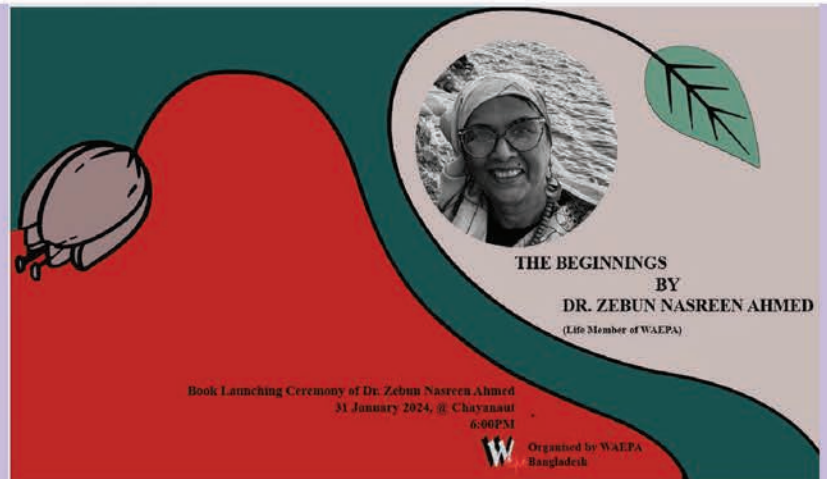
The sustained protests and international pressure led to the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in early August. She fled to India, and an interim government was established under Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to restore order and address the protesters' demands. Reports indicate that between 1,000 to 1,581 individuals were killed during the unrest, with thousands more injured or detained. Human rights organizations have condemned the excessive use of force and called for independent investigations into the alleged abuses.

Member of WAEPA participate in reforming new Bangladesh



WAEPA Bangladesh organized a book launch for founding member Dr. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed

On 31 January 2024, at the Chhayana Sanskriti Bhaban, WAEPA Bangladesh had the honor of hosting the book launch of **"The Beginning"**, authored by Dr. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed, who writes under the pen name Dipti Rahman.



A founding member of WAEPA Bangladesh, Dr. Ahmed is a passionate writer and dedicated researcher whose work is deeply influenced by the rich tapestry of her life experiences. Her journey marked by migration, travel, and personal and professional challenges has shaped her worldview and inspired her writing. "The Beginning" reflects the essence of these experiences, offering readers a powerful narrative that bridges the personal with the universal. The event was a celebration not only of literature but also of resilience, creativity, and the spirit of storytelling.

6th Executive Committee of WAEPA Bangladesh Greeted RIBA Gold Medelist Ar. Yasmin Lari

She is an Architect from Pakistan who is recognized world wide for her humanitarian works. She is also Pakistan's first women Architect. Her contribution to architecture and society has brought her many accolades in her country and abroad.



Yasmin Lari: A visionary of Barefoot Ecosystem

Article by Tasnova Iqbal



Yasmin Lari is a visionary of self-sustaining architecture and traditional urbanism. She has taught the world an economic and sustainable way forward for rural, socially disadvantaged and climate impact populations to live with honor.

She earned all our admiration through her modest gestures and humility. We were humbled when she personally apologized for the abuse done to woman during 1971 liberation war by the then east Pakistani counterpart.

Lari being the first woman architect of Pakistan faced many hurdles while working in the male dominated society of the sixties, but success followed her everywhere. Yasmin Lari has undertaken noteworthy projects in urban areas as a young architect but soon realized her knowledge is not serving the people who needed the most. Over the years she strived to know her country and its rural population. Her intent bore fruit, and the close interaction ignited knowledge sharing from the rural lifestyle. It introduced her to centuries old sustainable building traditions which were cheap, easily applicable and durable. In return she applied her own wisdom to further enhance these building skills and spread the knowledge throughout rural settlements of Pakistan.

Lari made prefabricated structures from traditionally used bamboo. She has made fifty thousand homes in Pakistan serving versatile humanitarian causes. Through this endeavor she has emphasized the importance of earth, lime, bamboo and thatch matting. These homes are zero charity, or zero fund homes built by the dwellers themselves through knowledge sharing. She has a target to build one million such homes. Her architecture is not limited to the building itself but a way to climb the poverty ladder, to reach SDG 1 goal of no poverty. Lari has also introduced flood resistance village boundaries by employing earth and bamboo. Myawaki forest and aquifer wells.



Her concern is not limited only to the rural population, but she has also promoted eco urbanism through her ingenious knowledge implementation compact cities. She advocates vehemently for humanistic eco-urbanism with compact cities, mixed-use development, walkable enclaves, adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, low impact hybrid architecture, forests, greenery and water bodies. She is against any type of hyper development that pollutes the environment. Lari discourages cement, steel, multistoried buildings, motorized vehicles, new constructions and demolition of historic buildings. She has contributed significantly to cultural and heritage conservation in Pakistan. In her presentation at Brac University she also talked about terracotta pavers and sponge pavements to reduce flooding. She has mentored groups techniques to design flood resilient streets and indeed implemented it in some streets of Pakistan.

Despite social barriers, political changes and economic challenges Yamin Lari never took a back foot in being a trail blazer to bring about an eco-friendly, socially just, zero charitable and an affordable solution in architecture. She has shown that it is possible to create zero carbon, zero waste and zero donor structures. Her architecture designed for this era is an embodiment of Pakistan's tangible heritage, intangible heritage and vernacular heritage as she took inspirations from traditional approaches throughout Pakistan.

Through her unceasing contribution in an eco-friendly and zero donor approach to socially just architecture she has won numerous awards. Some of her noteworthy awards were Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Fukuoka Prize and Royal Gold Medal. Her heritage conservation efforts were awarded by the U.N. Recognition Award from the United Nations. At the current 84 she is still bearing the torch spreading light wherever she goes. Lari is trying to heal the planet with her every step.

WAEPA Bangladesh had a insightful roundtable with Mukto Akash Magazin

On International Women's Day 2025, WAEPA Bangladesh, in collaboration with Mukto Akash Magazine, hosted a roundtable addressing the challenges faced by women in technical professions.

The event featured insights from prominent members, including President Ar. Pln. Salma Awal Shafi, who outlined WAEPA's future direction in supporting women in technical fields. General Secretary Ar. Tabassum Mahmud and other key members such as Architect Rahela Akter Happy, Treasurer Ar. Farhana Rashid Tanu, Architect Ar. Syeda Saikha Sudah, Ar. Siddiqa Nasrin Sultana, Ar. Tasnuva Iqbal, and Engineer members Engr. Nayeema Naznin Naz and Engr. Dr. Kazi Shamima Akter contributed to the discussion. Dr. Prof. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed enriched the conversation by introducing her book *In Transition*. Editor and publisher Md. Shamsul Alam lighted the seat from the MUKto Akash Magazin.

The roundtable highlighted systemic barriers that women in Bangladesh face in technical sectors, including gender biases, wage disparities, and limited access to leadership roles. Despite women's significant contributions, especially in sectors like ready-made garments, they often encounter challenges such as wage discrimination and limited career advancement opportunities.



On the occasion of Women's Day Mukto Akash Magazin Featured Members of WAEPA Bangladesh

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Mukto Akash Magazine featured members of WAEPA Bangladesh. Prominent women from the fields of Architecture and Engineering shared their insights on various topics, shedding light on the challenges faced by women in technical professions. They also proposed practical solutions to overcome these obstacles and improve the working environment for women in these sectors.

article Written by WAEPA Bangladesh President Ar. Pln. Salma Awal Shafi, General Secretary Ar. Tabassum Mahmud, Joint Secretary Ar. Rahela Alter, Ar. Syeda Saikha Sudah, Ar. Tasnuva Iqbal, Engr. Nayeema Naznin Naz and Engr. Dr. Kazi Shamima Akter.



Farhana Rashid, Founder & CEO of Bhumijo, and Treasurer of the WAEPA Bangladesh received the Waislitz Global Citizens' Choice Award, a prestigious recognition given by the Waislitz Foundation and Global Citizen.

Farhana Rashid, Founder & CEO of Bhumijo, has been honored with the Waislitz Global Citizens' Choice Award, a prestigious recognition given by the Waislitz Foundation and Global Citizen. This award acknowledges Farhana's innovative and impactful approach to addressing Bangladesh's critical public toilet crisis. The Waislitz Global Citizens' Choice Award celebrates individuals who are driving meaningful change and contributing to the global fight against extreme poverty.

Founded by Farhana Rashid in 2016, Bhumijo has been at the forefront of improving public sanitation in Bangladesh, particularly in low-income urban areas. The organization operates 47 hygienic and inclusive public toilet facilities, benefiting over 4 million people, with over 1 million women, children, and differently-abled individuals gaining access to these essential services. Bhumijo's approach is built around principles of dignity, accessibility, and cultural appropriateness, ensuring that the community's needs are met in a way that respects local values and promotes public health.

Farhana's personal experiences and expertise as an architect have played an instrumental role in the design and implementation of sustainable and inclusive sanitation solutions that are transforming the lives of vulnerable populations. Her leadership and vision are propelling the mission of Bhumijo forward, with plans to expand to 70 facilities by 2025, further enhancing public health and sanitation across Bangladesh.

This award is not just a recognition of Bhumijo's success but a testament to the organization's commitment to creating a positive social impact, improving well-being, and ensuring that basic sanitation services are accessible to all. Farhana Rashid's work continues to empower individuals and communities, making a measurable difference in the lives of millions.



WAEPA Organized Workshop on “Introduction to Fire Safety in Building Design” Funded by JICA

We conducted a workshop on fire safety, which was funded by JICA through Japanese OYO Corporation. The special thanks should be given to Jun Matsuo san. It was held on Feb 10, 2024 on zoom platform. Instructors were from Japan and Bangladesh.

which added to the overall learning experience. Additionally, the training materials provided were comprehensive and will serve as a useful reference in the future.

Resource Personnel

Online Certificate Course On
Introduction to Fire Safety in Building Design

Supported by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure & Tourism, Govt. of Japan

Date & Time: Saturday, 10 February, 2024, 9:30 am to 4:45pm
Zoom ID: 355 243 9747, Passcode: V4pFK7
Contact: +880 1908647130

WAEPA Bangladesh OYO

The course provided a thorough understanding of fire safety protocols, hazard identification, and emergency response strategies. The course was well-structured, with a balanced combination of theoretical knowledge and practical exercises. The instructors were highly knowledgeable, and their ability to break down complex fire safety concepts into easy-to-understand language made the material accessible to all participants, regardless of their prior experience with fire safety. They also shared real-world examples, which helped to illustrate the importance of these practices in everyday situations. The course, also included valuable information on fire evacuation plans, the importance of fire drills, and how to safely respond in case of fire. The course was interactive, with opportunities to ask questions and engage in discussions,

WAEPA WORKSHOPS

A Workshop on
Technical Publications - Reporting Facts
Dr. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed

Objectives
Introducing the basics of Technical Publications – how they differ from other forms of publications
Understanding the various sections of Technical Publications
Learning to generate outlines to report on a particular technical focus

Join us
on Saturday,
November 12th, 2024
5:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Meeting ID : 363 243 9747
Passcode : V4pEK7

Registration
<https://forms.gle/dCVwq1FsznGdvPX8>
workshop.waepa@gmail.com

Workshop Components
Introduction – 40 mins + 10 mins of Q&A
Highlighting the main sections of technical writeups – 1 hour + 20 mins of Q&A
Referencing text – freedom from any plagiarism – 20 mins + 10 mins of Q&A
Participants prepare an outline of proposed technical paper – 1 hour
Participants review the outlines – giving feedback – 1 hour + discussions 30 minutes

WAEPA Bangladesh Women Architects, Engineers, and Planners Association, Bangladesh

WAEPA Organized a Workshop on Technical Publications -Reporting Fact.

by Dr. Proff. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed

WAEPA Organized a Workshop on Technical Publications -Reporting Fact. The Workshop was conducted by Dr. Proff. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed on the online platform. The workshop was participated by thirty participants. The session was interactive and well articulated. Participants gave positive review about the workshop and asked for arranging more workshop similar this.

The objective of the workshop were,

-Introducing the basic of Technical Publication -how they differ from other form of Publications.

-Understanding the various sections of technical Publications

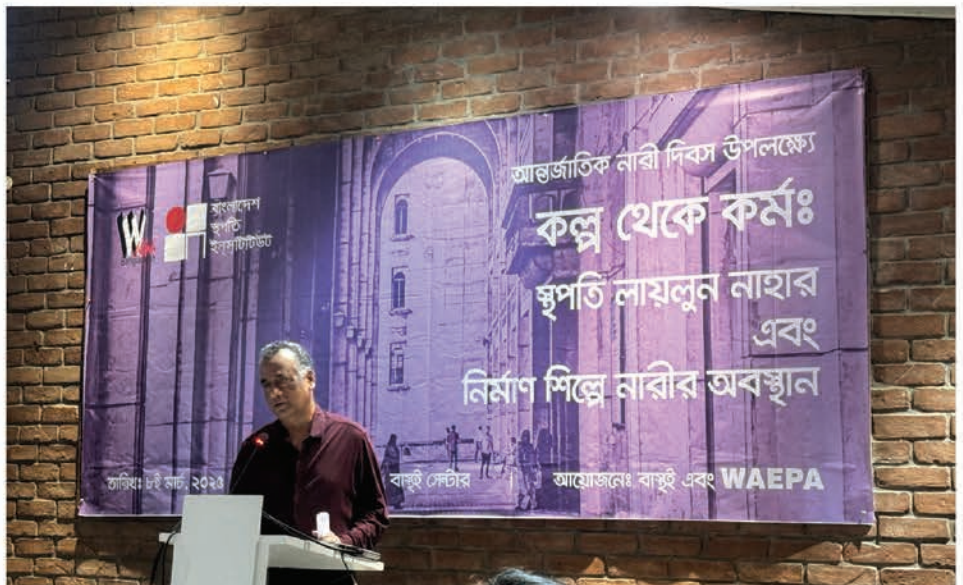
-Learning to generate outline to report on a particular technical focus

IAB and WAEPA jointly organized Commemorate program of Ar. Lailun NAhar Ekram on the occasion of International Womens Day 2025

On the Occasion of International Womens Day 2025 WAEPA Bangladesh and Institute of Architects Bangladesh jointly organized a commemorated program of Reknown Architect Lailun Nahar Ekram Shemi, and had a discussion on Women in built Industry.

Ar. Lailun Nahar Ekram passed away on February 11, 2025, after battling a critical kidney disease. She was a visionary architect and one of the founding members of WAEPA, having served two terms as its president. She also played a pivotal role in drafting the organization's constitution.

The program was attended by her colleagues, well-wishers, architects of all ages, and her family. Key speakers at the event included Dr. Abu Sayeed, President of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh, and Architect Planner Salma Awal Shafi, President of WAEPA Bangladesh, who shared their cherished memories of Ar. Lailun Nahar as well as the role of the organization such as WAEPA in empowering women in technical feild. Additionally, Engr. Nayeema Nazneen Naz and Engr. Dr. Armana Sabiha Huq spoke about their experiences working with Ar. Lailun Nahar, emphasizing the importance of passing on her legacy to the future generation.



WAEPA Bangladesh Annual General Meeting & Oath Taking Ceremony of the 7th Executive Committee



The WAEPA Bangladesh Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Oath Taking Ceremony for the 7th Executive Committee took place on 14th March 2025. The event was attended by esteemed members of WAEPA Bangladesh.

All candidates for the 7th Executive Committee were elected unopposed, making them uncontested winners. During the ceremony, the outgoing President of the 6th Executive Committee, Ar. Plnr. Salma Awal Shafi, officially handed over responsibilities to the newly elected President, of the 7th Executive committee Engineer Dr. Dil Afroza Begum.

The AGM concluded with a warm and friendly Iftar gathering, fostering a spirit of unity and celebration among the attendees.



WAEPA

Executive Committee Meetings

9th EC meeting

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: BUET Graduate Club

Date: Monday 24 June, 2024



13th EC Meeting

Venue: Officers Club Cafeteria, Baily Road

Date : Sunday 26 January 2025

Time: 5:00pm



14th EC meeting

Venue :Sel Center

Date: 11 February (Tuesday), 2025

Time: 6:00pm



Introducing 7th Executive Committee



President
Engr. Dr. Dil Afroza Begum
L-513



Vice President
(Architect)
Ar. Fahmida Sultana
L-561



Vice President
(Engineer)
Nayeema Nazneen Naz
L-558



Vice President
(Planner)
Ar.-Plnr. Syeda Jafrina
Nancy L-542



Joint Secretary
(Architect)
Siddiqua Nasrin
Sultana L-548



Joint Secretary
(Engineer)
Syeda Nawshad
Jahan L-578



Joint Secretary
(Planner)
Uswatun Mahera
Khushi L-577



General Secretary
Engr. Dr. Armana
Sabiha Huq L-551



Treasurer
Ar. SYeda Saikha
Sudah L-562



Member
(Architect)
Ar. Rahela Akhter
L-517



Member
(Architect)
Ar-Plnr. Farhana Rashid
L-579



Member
(Engineer)
Dr. Kazi Shamima Akter
L-572



Member
(Engineer)
Engr. Hasin Jahan
L-553



Member
(Architect)
Ar. Sutapa Das
L-524



Member
(Architect)
Ar-Plnr. Tasnova Iqbal
L-571



Member
(Engineer)
Dr. Nehreen Majed
L-537



Member
(Engineer)
Engr. Iftesham Bashar
L-554



Member
(Ex-Officio)
Ar.-Plnr. Salma
Awwal Shafi
L-552



Member
(Planner)
Farhana Rashid
L-579



Member
(Planner)
Hosneara Alo
L-584



Legal Advisor
LL.B, LL.M
Naznin Nahar
Nirupoma



Architect Advisor
Ar. Shamina Reza Ava
L-585



Engineer Advisor
Eng. Nurun Nahar
Begum

OBITUARY



Architect
Lailun Nahar Ekram
1953-2025

Our heartfelt tribute to the esteemed architect and Managing Director of Asenz Securities, Ar. Lailun Nahar Ekram, who passed away on February 11, 2025, at the age of 72 after battling critical kidney disease. A visionary in her field, she was one of the founding members of WAEPA and served as its President for two terms and was instrumental in drafting its constitution.

Architect Lailun Nahar Ekram played a pivotal role in shaping the architectural landscape of the country, designing iconic structures such as Dhaka Nagar Bhaban, Open University, LGRD Bhaban in Agargaon, and several significant projects for Bangladesh Bank. She leaves behind her husband, one son, one daughter, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, three grandchildren, and a wide circle of family, friends, colleagues, and admirers. Her contributions will resonate for years to come.



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