The World in My Hands
Another Footstep in Global Literature

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Even a few decades ago, the number of Bangladeshi writers writing in English who could get their work published were very few. Recently there has been a significant upward trend of such writers, some of them getting recognition outside their motherland.

After the time of Syed Waliullah and Sayeed Ahmed, now a new generation of English-language prose writers like Tahmima Anam, K. Anis Ahmed, Maria Chaudhuri, Sharbari Ahmed, Mahmud Rahman, Farah Ghuznavi, Khademul Islam have emerged.

The World in My Hands, an English Novel by Bangladeshi writer, K. Anis Ahmed can surely be counted as another step forward in taking Bengali writers to the world literature. Released in South Asia (and worldwide as e-book) by publishing giant Random House's Asian subsidiary, the book has already garnered quite a lot of attention. "A friend of mine in Calcutta just sent me a photo of my book in one of the Calcutta stores and I also learnt that it had been invited in the Jaipur Literary festival for a couple of sessions," the author of the novel excitedly says at the book launch event.

"Politics is not used as a backdrop of the novel, rather it lies in the centre piece of this literary work," comments Mahtab Haider, a prominent journalist who is currently working for the UN. Using a very satirical tone, *The World in My Hands* deals with two friends, Hissam, a struggling newspaper editor (who is the anti-hero of the novel) and Kaiser, the city's wealthiest property developer. The novel progresses with the changing relationship between these two as they find themselves standing on two opposite poles of a crisis that disrupts their country's social order.

Award winning Bangladeshi writer Tahmima Anam, author of *The Good Muslim*, describes the book as "darkly funny", foreshadowing Ahmed as a strong new voice in English writing from Bangladesh. Celebrated Indian politician and author Shashi Tharoor describes the novel as a poignant and insightful page-turner. In Bangladesh, Bengal Lights books is distributing the book, and it can be found in major bookstores around Dhaka , including Bookworm, Omni Books and Boi Bichitra, as well as other outlets such as Jatra, Aranya and Red Shift Coffee Lounge.



K. Anis Ahmed

The book was launched on December 27, 2013 at the Red Shift Coffee Lounge, Dhaka. The launching was followed by a lively conversation between Ahmed and Mahtab Haider that addressed different issues like the need of cross-