

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Ekushey Book Fair**  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: February 1-28  
Time: 3pm-9pm



### Cultural Programme

To mark Amar Ekushey  
Organiser: Shamilito Sangskritik Jote  
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises  
Date: February 8-21  
Time: 4pm onwards



### Book Launch

Binir Shathe Putul Biye  
Writer: Nazia Jabeen  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-27 Dhanmondi  
Publisher: Sahitya Prakash  
Date: February 13  
Time: 3pm



### Art Exhibition

Artists: Tajuddin Ahmed and Kamal Kabir  
Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, F-33, Second Circle, DCC Market, Gulshan,  
Date: February 8-21  
Time: 10am-8pm



## Boi Mela thoughts



## Writing for the masses

Anwara Syed Haq

A CORRESPONDENT

"The relationship between Bangla Academy and Ekushey Book Fair has been fortified over the years. After the 1970s the fair's perimeters have expanded and it maintains a significant role in our cultural and literature arena. I think publications featuring essays, novels, poetry and travelogue should be sold inside Bangla Academy. Little magazines should be sold outside the Academy," says writer Anwara Syed Haq.

"Every year the number of participating publishers has been growing. Food stalls should be moved from the Bardhaman House premises. At the mela, stalls offering light snacks like nuts, chips and biscuits and tea/coffee can be accommodated," she adds.

"I consider the fair to be one of our major cultural festivals. It generates mass interest in Bengali literature and is a platform for writers, readers, intellectuals, social and cultural activists," says Haq.

At this year's Boi Mela, Haq's latest novel "Bari O Banita" (Panjeri Publications) is available. Among her other publications at the mela are "Uponyash Samagra-Ditiyo Khanda" (which includes five novels "Shei Prem Shei

Shomoy", "Udoy Mina-ke Chay", "Osthirotar Kaal, Bhalobashar Shomoy", "Haatchhani" and "Bhalobashar Laal Pipre").

A novel for adolescents, "A mader Muktiuddho Dadabhai" and "Gachhom Chhom Bhuter Galpa", for children, are being published from Vidya Prakash.

Haq's writings are character and theme oriented. Her writings usually feature domestic conflicts, issues regarding conjugal life and social injustice. Her novels explore the common peoples' woes, desires and dreams. Her writings also mirror cultural, social and political diversity.

Anwara Syed Haq's first short story "Paribartan" was published in Sangbad (in 1954). From 1955 to 1957, she regularly wrote for the Ittefaq's 'Kachi Kanchar Ashor'. Her first novel was published in Sachitra Shandhani in 1968. The novel was published in book form in 1981.



## Seminar on Selim Al Deen at Dhaka University

A seminar on theatre icon Selim Al Deen was held at the Seminar Room, Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities, University of Dhaka on February 8, says a press release.

Organised by the Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities, the seminar was presided over by the Centre's president Professor Nurur Rahman. Dr. Mohammad Saiful Islam, Associate Professor of the Department of Theatre, DU presented the keynote paper.

Professor Afsar Ahmed, Department of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University and Professor Biswajit Ghosh, Department of Bangla, DU participated in a discussion on the paper.

In his paper, Saiful Islam termed Al Deen as a "legendary figure in contemporary Bangladeshi theatre." He also urged that the works of Al Deen should be highlighted elaborately to understand him better.

Following the paper, the discussants noted that Al Deen's creations are some of the finest among the contemporary theatrical works in South Asia.

Director of the Centre, Professor Khondokar Ashraf Hossain, was the moderator of the seminar.



## Buzz

# Up and coming musician Anan's new album

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Kazi Anan's second solo album "Anan: 2010" will be released before Valentine's Day. The music composer, singer and songwriter recently talked to *The Daily Star* about his upcoming album.

Why '2010', Anan?

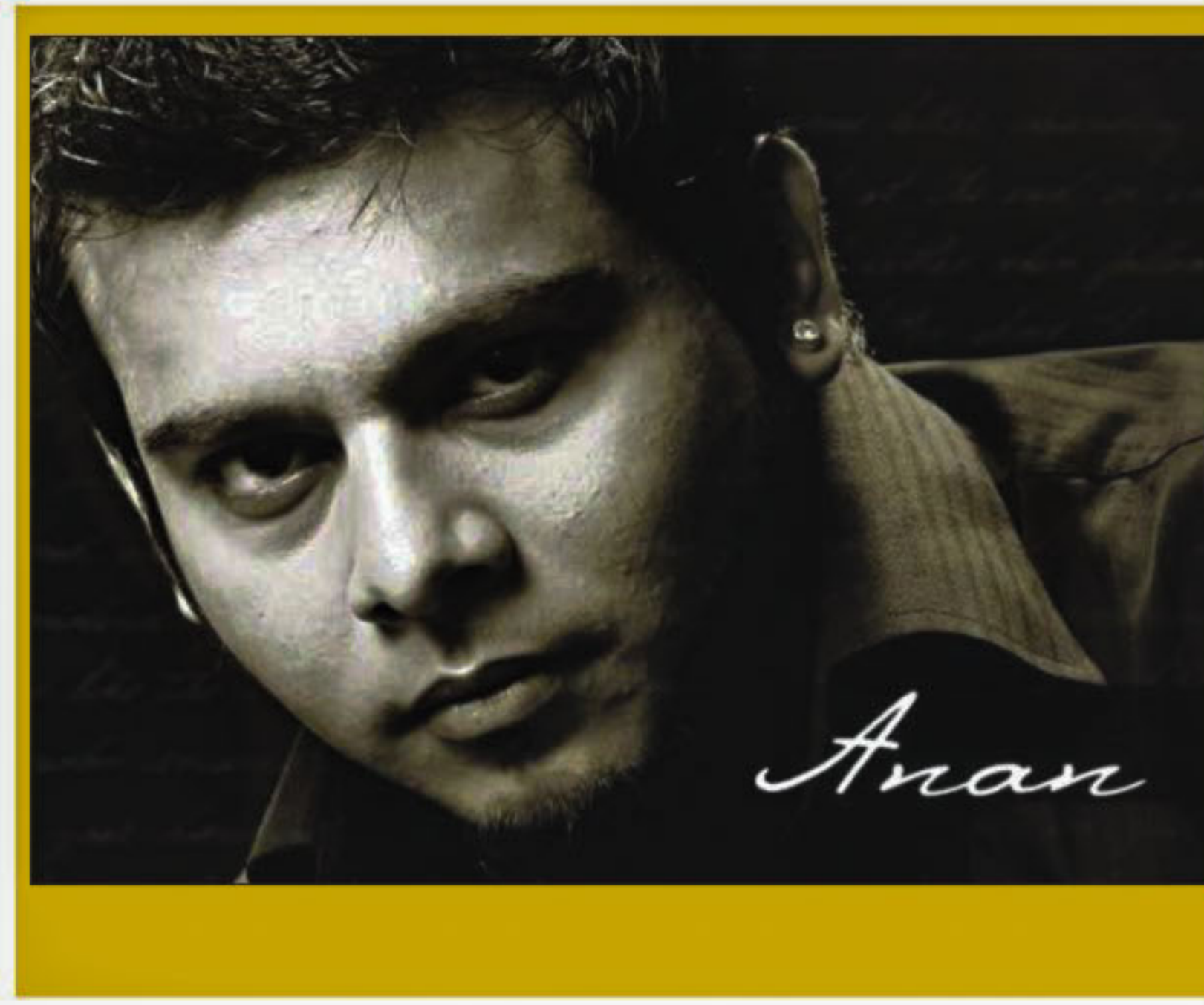
Anan: Well, there is definitely a 2010 feel in the album. My last solo album "Haater Rekha" that was out around two years ago might have some resemblance, something completely different when compared to this one. Basically being in my studio, almost round the clock and experiencing, experimenting with different kinds of sounds and rhythms has inspired the creation of "2010". So over this period, a lot of new flavours have been added, staying in consistency with the old renditions. That's what "Anan: 2010" is all about.

Also there is a fresh appeal about this album as you can say it's mainly for the new generation. But it would be wrong to specify as anybody from any age group can relate to it.

One thing very important about the songs I guess was the fact that each of them was a new creation for me. Not that any particular song has a special meaning for me, but all of them are special to me.

Tell us something about the album's songs:

There are 11 tracks. All of them are love songs. It doesn't necessarily have only one genre. You would find fusion, you would find rock, you would find pop, you would find hip



hop, etc. And some have a blend of many of these types.

The lyrics were by Shohan and me. Shohan has recently started doing this professionally and in time, we both became good friends, and a lot of our thoughts just clicked, resulting in some songs being written by both of us.

What does it feel when you hear your songs?

Anan: (Laugh) I feel nothing honestly! But of course different people around me say different things. Like my sister Afia said that she begins to reminisce when there are some slow numbers, or it gets her grooving at the more fast numbers.

What was the main inspiration behind your album?

Anan: In a way nothing inspired

me specifically. But it was rather a culmination of many things. My father Kazi Hablu is the one to inspire me the most. My mother also does music. You can say that my family inspired me a lot as we are all into music.

Whom do you like the most among musicians?

Anan There are so many like Zakir Hussain, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Ayub Bachu, James, et al. Actually they are all legends in their own respective fields, so it's really hard to say anything about anybody in particular.

Any motto that you have?

Anan: Yes, to learn music. Because no matter how much I learn, I feel like there is a lot more left for me to learn.

## Bollywood Corner

# "I never dreamt of becoming an actress"

## Tabu returns with new film

Tabu, the elusive actress who has been missing from the silver screen for a while, will be seen in the upcoming movie, "Toh Baat Pakki", where she plays a conniving woman eager to marry off her sister to the best suitor.

In a recent interview the graceful actress shed light on her comeback film, her views on today's women and what she does in her spare time.

What have you been up to?

Tabu: I caught up on my sleep, met friends, travelled, read and wrote a lot, and fiddled with photography. I also did a Telugu film.

Why have you been missing from movies?

Tabu: A lot of requirements need to be met for me to say yes to a movie -- the role, story, cast and producer should be good. I never compromise on these things.

What made you choose "Toh Baat Pakki"?

Tabu: I was longing to do a comedy for a long time and was waiting for someone to offer me a good script. "Toh Baat Pakki" has everything that I wanted in a comedy -- a good story and comical situations. It is not a senseless comedy. It deals with the issue of marriage in a very entertaining manner.

Is comedy the only criteria for selecting this film?

Tabu: The character is also important. I was doing something that I had not done in a long time. My character is a little loud, quite different from the subtle roles I have done in the past. So it was exciting for me.

How do you define yourself?



Tabu: I can't. My definition of me keeps changing. Sometimes I feel that all is well and at other times I get angry or upset. But most of the time I am happy.

When did you start getting roles according to your tastes?

Tabu: I always did films that I liked and wanted to do. I never planned to make a career out of films. I refused to do films in the beginning because I wanted to study and it was after a lot of per-

suasion that I agreed to do a film. "Prem" (debut film) was my decision too. I never dreamt of being an actress and I think this is the reason why I could do films that I wanted to do.

Do you ever consider direction?

Tabu: Yes, but I am very lazy. I am scared of the responsibility that comes with the job. I think I am not capable of managing so many people. I'm not ready right now. Maybe later.

You have portrayed women of all strata with their own set of problems. What would you say about a woman of today?

Tabu: A woman should live life to the fullest without fear of what people are thinking. I think women have never been able to explore and express themselves fully. Women all over the world understand sense of responsibility better.

However, the way people look at a woman who chooses to be single troubles me. We are independent and strong and in a position to do anything but I don't think it is easy for any woman. But it is necessary to break all the chains and move forward. I am sure every woman must have come across this problem -- that she has to fight for her right.

Do you think that in films women often don't get substantial roles?

Tabu: It's a vicious cycle. We show what the audience likes to watch. Films are part of the society. But there are directors who have gone ahead and made women oriented films and I appreciate their efforts.

What are your forthcoming films?

Tabu: I have Ravi Chopra's "Banda Yeh Bindass Hai", Chandraprakash Dwivedi's historical film "Legend of Kunal" (based on the life of Emperor Ashoka's son), and Vicky Chopra's "Seasons Greetings".

Compiled by Correspondent

**PHILIPS**  
Love Duo Offer

A perfect Valentine's Day  
Clean, smooth and shiny all the way.

Specific model of Hair Dryer and Hair Styler together at an exclusive price of **Tk. 6,175**

With a specific model of Hair Styler get a complimentary Garnier Fructis Shampoo

With any model of Man Shaver get a complimentary Garnier Men Fairness Face Wash

Specific model of Hair Styler and Hair Curler together at an exclusive price of **Tk. 5,000**

Specific model of Man Shaver and Lady Shaver together at an exclusive price of **Tk. 7,000**

**PHILIPS**

**TRANSKOM**  
DIGITAL  
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 665463