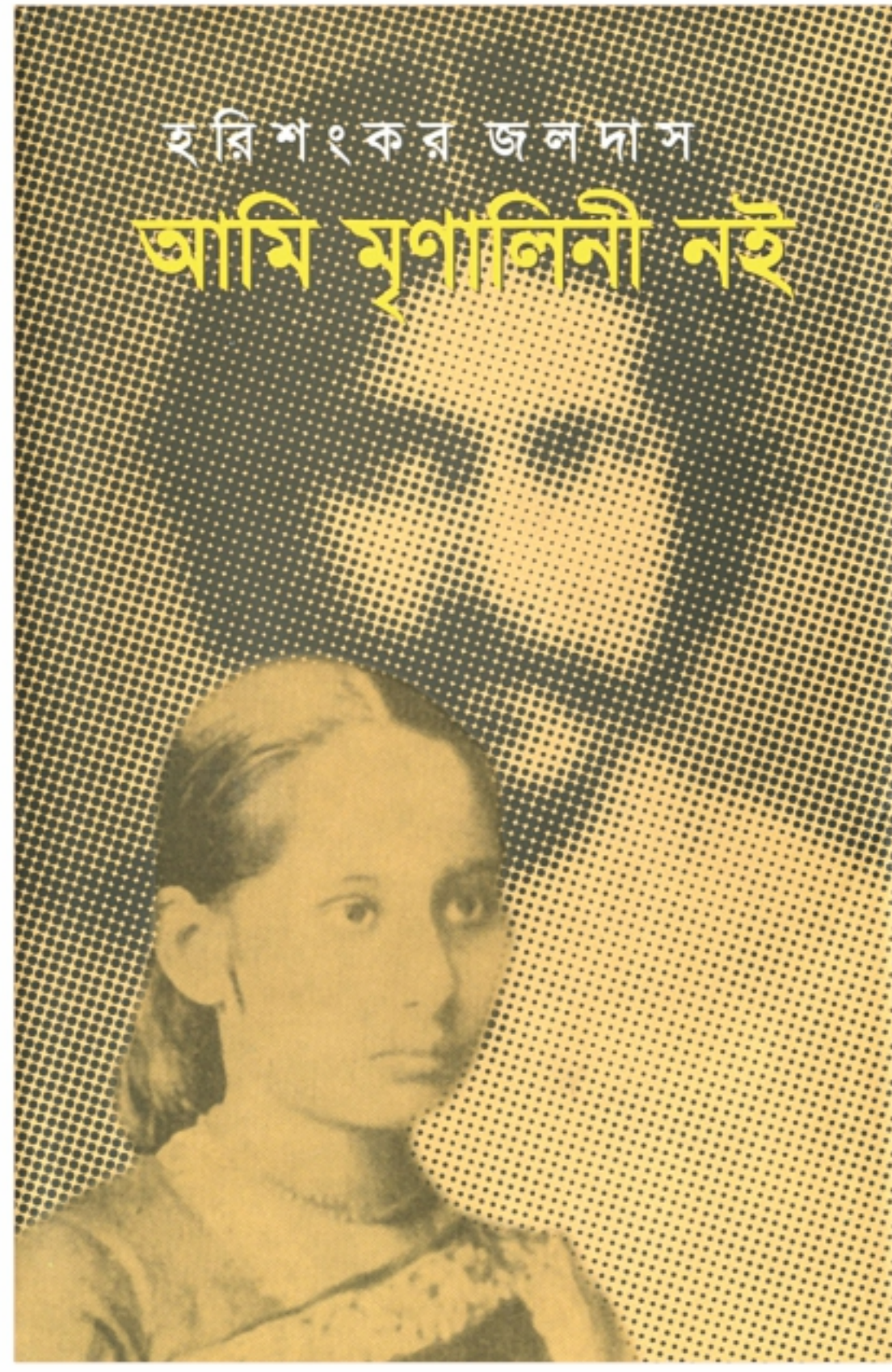


## Words from Mrinalini

APURBA JAHANGIR

Rabindranath Tagore's life has always been a topic of discussion, for both authors and readers. What makes the fiction 'Ami Mrinalini noi' stand out from the rest is that the story is told from Mrinalini Devi's point of view. Written by well known author Harishankar Jaldas, the book tells us about Mrinalini Devi's life, starting from her wedding night to the day she died. The story line flows through the ups and downs of the lives of Mrinalini and her husband, Rabindranath Tagore. The book also portrays the influence of other women on Tagore's life. Published by Prothoma, it is a must buy at the Ekushey Boi Mela.



## Colloquial Meanings

ANIKA HOSSAIN

'Shochitro Digital Baenga Abhidhan' is a combination of dry humour and pure wit. This satirical dictionary by Pallab Mohaimen is a compilation of web-based English technical terms and acronyms and the meanings the modern day Bangladeshi youth derive from them. For example, FnF (family and friends) is defined as not 'ami tumi o shey', but as 'ami o tumi', and call waiting is defined as 'premier land phone bekar premier phone call' and refers the reader to the famous song '2441139' by Anjan Dutta. The writer starts off as putting these up as his facebook status, when he was recognised by the Prothom Alo team who started printing his work. This eventually turned into his first book, published by Shuvro Prokash.



PHOTO: COURTESY

# Books for All Seasons

ELITA KARIM

Student Ways is one of the oldest and most successful publication houses in Bangladesh. After its establishment in 1951 by Alhaj Mohammad Habibullah, the youth of every generation since then have been motivated to not only hold on to the practice of reading books on a regular basis, but also to write, express and, in some cases, create subtle revolutions.

Now run by 31-year-old Mohammad Mashfiqullah, Student Ways has expanded to building newer avenues in the business, namely, Barshadupur, a publication house for

first-time writers of fiction. "I have been looking after Student Ways for the last 6 years," says Mashfiqullah. "My father Mohammad Liaquatullah is now the Adviser of Student Ways, which was founded by my grandfather Alhaj Mohammad Habibullah."

Student Ways has published more than 1200 books so far, covering various subjects and genres -- novels, short stories, essays, literary criticism, books on the liberation war, society, cultural issues, history, travelogue, medicine, biography, music, young literature and reference books. Books published by Student Ways received various awards such as the Adamji Literary Award, Dawood Literary Award, 6th



PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSEN AGAZ APURBO

September Award, National Book Centre Award, Alaol Literary Award and the Shishu Academy Award. Not only has Student Ways created a mark for itself in Bangladesh, the publication house has also been a participant in book fairs outside the country and played a pivotal role in shaping up Bengali readership both home and abroad. Student Ways Participated in 30 book fairs home and abroad, namely Muktohdara Book Fair in New York, Fobana in Atlanta, Kolkata Book Fair, Agartala Book Fair, Gouhati Book Fair, Shilchor Book Fair, Assam Book Fair and Delhi International Book Fair.

### SOME OF THE ALL TIME BEST SELLERS BY STUDENT WAYS

Riffle Rotey Aorat - Anwar Pasha

Mohashashon - Kaikobad

Omker - Ahmed Sofa

Desh e Bedeshe - Syed Mujtoba Ali

Shabnam - Syed Mujtoba Ali

Bissos Shahitto - Mobasher Ali

Bela Sheshe - Beduin Samad

Belet e shara satsho den - Muhammad Abdul Hai

Kuhlika - Kazi Nazrul Islam

Robindro Shuvashon - Mohammad Abdul Hai

Robindo shoto golpa shomikha - Anwar Pasha

### BOOKS FOR BOOK FAIR 2014

Jebon Silpi Abul Fazol - Anwar Pasha

Upponash Somogro - Anwar Pasha

Rumir Mosnobi - Moniruddin Yousuf

Kabbo Somogro - Moniruddin Yousuf

Ghum Neya kichu Kotha - Humayun Kabir

Ononno Annodashankar - Emdadul Haque Mamun

Greek tragedy - Mobasher Ali

Banglar shoroneo o shoshomoik bekteto - Mobasher Ali

## Rifat Kamal Saif

# THE YOUNG WRITER ON THE BLOCK

NAZIBA BASHER

In the year 2009, Rifat Kamal Saif, a student of Marketing in Independent University, Bangladesh, thought of going through some of the books written by his uncle (uncles name). "Writing has been a part of my family for generations." And thus, Rifat's journey into the world of literature began.



While studying in The British School and then doing his O and A Levels in private, Rifat had never really planned on writing, let alone publishing books. Instead, he was involved with other activities that ultimately gave him the courage and strength to give writing a shot. "I have been a part of the non-profit organisation- 1 Degree Initiative, for a long time," says Rifat. "I have been a part of their projects like '1 degree challenge.' Working with the organisation has helped me develop my skills in many ways. I have utilised my talents to the fullest and learned how to get them appreciated by others and also myself." Along with community service, Rifat also has a knack for photography which earned him published works in papers like The Independent and Shomokal.

In 2010, he hit his stride as a writer and won two awards- the Ananda Alo award and the Chotoder Alo award, for his first book 'Bhoot er Paye Boot', a compilation of 16 short stories, from Anannya Publishers.

From then on, Rifat has been writing at least one book a year and has sold many copies of them in the Ekushey Grantha Mela held every February. In 2011 he wrote his book 'Bhombol Oh Onanno Golpo' published by Anannya Publishers. In 2012, he wrote his first coloured book- 'Emon Oh Choroi Pakhi.' In 2013, he wrote the book 'Modelling, Painting Ebong Aarshan' published by Anannya Publishers. This year, his books- 'Circus er Ticket Oh Chhoto Chhoto Golpo' (Shomoy Publishers) and 'Aroni Jokhon Pori Hoya Jaye' (Anannya Publishers) can be found at the



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSEN AGAZ APURBO

Ekushey Boi Mela. Rifat has also translated 'Meghna Oh Pakhi Bondhu', a children's literature to English, originally written in Bangla by Faridur Reza Sagor.

"Earlier, I had no idea that I could write," exclaims Rifat. "I now want to continue writing." His area

of interest, quite evidently, is writing literature for the young, whether fiction or fantasy. "I always want to write for children because it's easy to connect with them," says Rifat. "Their imagination is vivid and spontaneous, and I feel just that, when I write. It's a different kind of joy."