

## Cinema

## Classic Bengali novel Lalsalu made into film

Front-ranking film-maker Tanvir Mokammel's new venture is set to hit silver screen soon



In the opening scene Majid (Raisul Islam) offers prayer upon arriving the village for the first time

AZIZ AMIRUL

ONE of the most celebrated novels of contemporary Bengali literature *Lalsalu* by Syed Waliullah has been made into film by country's leading film-maker of alternative cinema. Cine literates of the city will soon be able to savour the movie.

Lalsalu, Tanvir Mokammel's ninth production, focuses on rural Muslim community of the then-East Bengal (presently Bangladesh).

Set in the 40's, Lalsalu is a brilliant commentary of rural Muslim psyche. The film opens at a remote village in some marshy region of the country as suddenly a bearded Mullah arrives among the simple and unlettered Muslim community. Majid, a quite haggardly middle-aged man impresses the innocent villagers with his religious knowledge and profundity. Soon after his arrival, Majid starts cleaning and renovating an old, dilapidated grave lying in an un-cared state since ages among the bamboo forests.



Majid (Raisul Islam) fingering beads with the red clothed mazaar in the background

under his influence.

The mysterious 'grave overnight turned into a holy place covered with the piece of red cloth (Lal salu) on top of the oval shaped grave and glowing

start bringing offerings of cash and kinds to the 'holy' shrine, in fact to the self-created vault of Majid.

Once a vagabond with no home and family, Majid, within a few years, makes his fortune and immense influence on the villagers. Majid, the holy man, of the village marries Rahima, a hard working peasant woman, not so young, robustly built yet docile and obedient to his commanding husband.

But Majid soon decides to take a younger girl as his wife and marries Jamila, a teenager, who soon sniffs something fishy about her husband's spiritual authority. Jamila, the simple young girl, has been portrayed in the film as the nemesis of Majid, who causes the collapse her husbands hypocritical façade.

It was some twelve years back when Tanvir Mokammel first decided to make a film out of the novel and in fact, he was further inspired after the publication of his analytical book 'Syed Waliullah, Sisyphus and Quest of Tradition in Novel

(1988)'.

Said Tanvir, 'Lalsalu tells a story very much close to that of our own lives. Though the novel is set in the mid 40's, nothing has practically changed in the



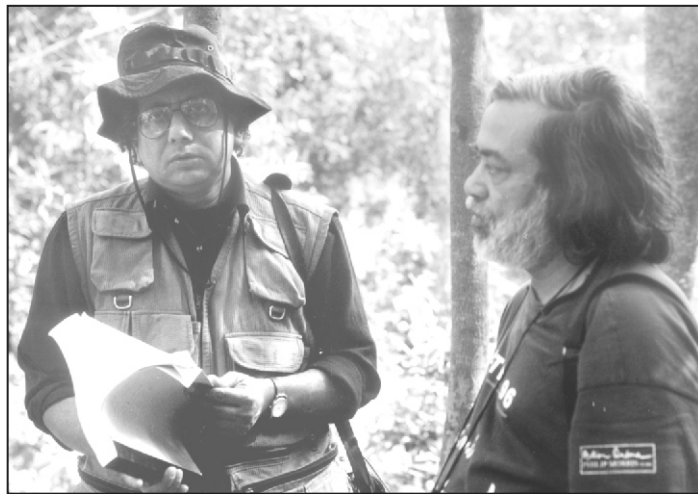
Awal Pir (Aly Zaker) arrives as a rival of Majid, trying to influence people with his brand of religious preaching

aware of the fact that fake pirism and shrine business is a misde-meanour going on since ages and would probably, continue to exist. Therefore the relevance of Lalsalu will remain in future as

communities of the pre-partition period lacking enlightenment. But to give the novel a cinema version, Tanvir Mokammel has seen the novel from a wider perspective.

Tanvir finds a new chapter of interest as he closely observes the clash of Majid with the peasants. Majid is a parasite, living on the donations of the peasant-community yet he, all the time, holds sway on the poor people, throwing them into desolation. Hiding behind a mask of hypocrisy and misinterpreting the ideals of Islam, Majid finds success but ultimately fails when his wife Jamila reveals his misdeeds before the public.

Tanvir hopes that the film will arise fresh discussion among the critics and the general viewers about obscurantism and religious hypocrisy. In a period of social unrest and anxiety, worsened by harsh attitudes of fundamentalism and fanaticism, the screening of Lalsalu would be a befitting mode of protest and a means of awareness for the secular people of the country.



Director Tanvir Mokammel (wearing a cap) sharing a moment with cinematographer Anwar Hossain

rural societies of Bangladesh. At a time when fundamentalism has come under world attention, our rural societies are reeling under the spell of obscurantists and hypocrite mullahs'. Tanvir is

it has been now.

While writing this bold novel, the chief aim of Syed Waliullah was to expose the misdeeds of the religious hypocrites and to show the dark and backward

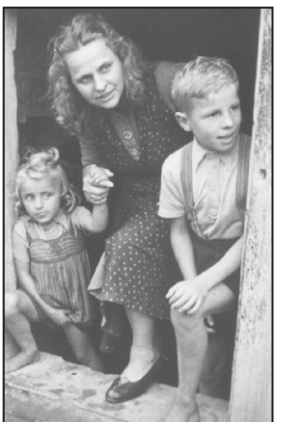


Jamila (Chandni), the young wife of Majid

Majid, fast manages to enchant the poor, illiterate folks with his fake speeches on religion and soon succeeds to create a supernatural awe and mystery around the grave thus bringing the people of the entire village

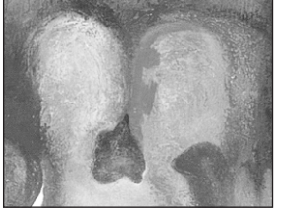
candles gives the place a metaphysical aura. Verses from Quran recited by Majid day and night creating awe in the minds of the villagers, most of them are landless peasants. Completely succumbed in the spell, people

## RECOMMENDATIONS



## Photo-Exhibition : Germany 1945-1995.

Goethe Institute Dhaka holds a photo exhibition titled 'Germany 1945-19195' (Deutschland seit 1945), featuring fifty years of German history at House # 10, Road # 9, Dhanmondi R/A. The show runs from 2 to 8 p.m every day, (except Fridays & Saturdays)



till September 30.

## Solo exhibition

A solo painting exhibition by Ali Akbar is being held at the Gallery 21 (765 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka). The exhibition will remain open to all everyday from 10.00 a.m to 8.00 p.m. till September 30.

## Sculpture show

The 3rd solo sculpture show by Maynul Islam Paul is being held at the La Galerie l'Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The exhibition will remain open to all everyday from 5.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. till September 30.

## Six Seasons

Shiparag Gallery at Dhanmondi (House#15, Road# 27 old) presents an exhibition on the theme six seasons. Leading artists of the country have captured in their canvases the rich variety of our seasons and their ambience. The month-long show will continue till October 14 everyday from 11 am to 8pm.

## TV GUIDE

## EKUSHEY TV

12:00 Ekushey Headlines  
12:05 Aikar Potrikay  
12:14 Ektattur Ei Dine  
12:20 Mukto Khobor  
12:50 Bolte Chai  
2:30 Ei Shoptaho  
3:00 Ekushey Headlines  
3:05 Muktomoncho  
5:30 Deshjure  
6:00 Ekushey Headlines  
6:05 Serial: Thief of Baghdad  
6:55 Ekushey Headlines  
7:00 Prosongo: Nirbachon  
7:30 Ekushey News  
7:58 Ek Minute  
8:40 Bangla Film  
10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV  
11:15 Ekushey Late Night News

## ATN

5:30 Islamic Prog.  
6:07 Child's prog: Shapla Saluk  
6:45 Film Songs prog: Surchobi  
7:20 Drama Serial: Uttaran  
8:00 Drama serial: Gunjon  
8:35 Magazine prog: Tasmeri Kechukkhon  
9:10 Reporting prog: Ghotanar Nepathee  
10:00 ATN Bangla News  
10:30 Drama serial: Rahiman Purrer Bilkis  
11:00 Bolliwood Khobor  
11:45 Bengali film: Odhinayok

## CHANNEL-i

(Evening session)  
6:10 Patriotic song  
6:40 Documentary Suryar Sawpna  
7:15 News headlines  
7:20 Drama serial Joyar Bhata  
8:00 Drama serial Durbin  
8:30 Ispahani Tele quiz  
8:40 Music Horizon  
9:15 Film and Freedom Struggle  
9:30 Results of Ispahani Tele quiz  
10:00 Quiz programme 60 seconds  
10:01 Magazine Chhaya  
10:30 I Prabaha  
11:00 News headlines  
11:05 Bengali feature film Aamar Desh Aamar Prem. Starring Ilias Kanchan, Ditee

## HBO

6:30 Atomic Dog  
8:15 Baby Monitor: Sound of Fear  
10:00 The People Under the Stairs  
12:00 Nick of Time  
1:45 Don't Talk to Strangers  
3:45 The Unholy  
5:45 Losing Isaiah  
8:00 Event Horizon  
10:00 The Chamber  
12:15 Urban Legend  
2:15 Do The Right Thing  
4:45 Losing Isaiah

## STAR GOLD

10:30 Amul Bollywood News  
11:00 Geet Bahar  
11:30 Kartavya (Dharmendra, Rekha)  
3:00 Amul Bollywood News  
3:30 Pathhar Ke Sanam (Manoj Kumar, Waheeda Rehman)  
7:00 Geet Bahar  
7:30 Saturday Special- Hum (Amitabh Bachchan, Rajnikant, Govinda)  
11:00 Raheem Na Raheem Hum  
11:30 New Wave Cinema Diksha (Nana Patekar, Manohar Singh)  
12:30 Diksha (Contd)  
3:00 Geet Bahar  
3:30 Pathhar Ke Sanam (Manoj Kumar, Waheeda Rehman)  
7:00 Parbat Pe Apna Dera (Vanamala, Ullhas)  
8:30

## STAR WORLD

6:00 Water Rats  
7:00 The Simpsons  
7:30 Things People Do  
8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful  
10:00 That '70s Show  
10:30 Travel Asia  
11:00 Goosebumps  
11:30 Spiderman  
12:00 Biker Mice From Mars  
12:30 X Men  
1:00 World's Wildest Police Videos  
2:00 Mission Impossible  
3:00 Baywatch  
4:00 Hercules  
5:00 Xena  
6:00 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World  
7:00 First Wave  
8:00 Water Rats  
9:00 3rd Rock From the Sun  
9:30 Baywatch Hawaii  
10:30 First Wave  
11:30 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World  
12:30 Xena  
1:30 Hercules  
2:30 Cops  
3:00 Key of David  
3:00 Morris Cerullo  
4:00 Benny Hinn  
4:30 Small Wonder  
5:00 Mr Belvedere

## 5:30 Doogie Howser

STAR PLUS  
6:30 Star Geetmala  
7:30 Ek Main Aur Ek Tu  
8:00 Hit Ya Fit  
8:30 Aatma  
9:30 Fox Kids  
10:15 Sangeet Toppers  
10:30 National Geographic Special  
11:30 Hit Ya Fit  
12:00 Kuchha Papad Pucca Papad  
12:30 Mirch Masala  
1:00 Son Pari  
1:30 Gharwali Uparwali  
2:00 I Love My India  
2:30 National Geographic Special  
3:30 Tea Time Cinema  
6:30 Fox Kids  
7:15 Sangeet Toppers  
7:30 The Sword of Tipu Sultan  
8:30 Star Superhit: Bade Miyan Chhote Miyan (Amitabh Bachchan, Govinda, Raveena Tandon & Ramya)  
11:30 Aaj Ki Baat  
11:45 Star Superhit: Bade Miyan Chhote Miyan  
12:30 Ji Mantriji  
1:00 Kalash  
1:30 Jubilee Plus  
2:00 Tu Tu Main Main

## BBC WORLD

6:30 World Business Report  
6:30 Asia Today/World Business Report  
10:30 Talking Movies  
11:30 Hospital  
12:30 Click Online  
1:30 Correspondent  
2:30 Millionaires  
3:30 People's Century  
4:30 Holiday  
5:30 This Week  
6:00 BBC News  
6:30 Millionaires  
7:30 Click Online  
8:30 2nd Russ Rev  
9:30 People's Century  
10:30 Mastermind India  
11:30 This Week  
12:30 Earth Report  
1:30 Millionaires  
2:30 Talking Movies  
3:30 2nd Russ Rev  
4:30 Hospital  
5:30 This Week

## STAR MOVIES

6:30 Drama: Before & After  
9:00 Comedy: Good Morning Vietnam  
10:45 US Top Ten  
11:15 Action: Terminator-2 Judgment Day  
12:30 [V] So Long Gone  
8:30 [V] Best of Jumpstart  
11:30 Billboard US Countdown

## CHANNEL [V]

7:30 [V] So Long Gone  
8:30 [V] Best of Jumpstart  
11:30 Billboard US Countdown  
5:30 Anatomy of Disaster I

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Ekushey: 7:00 pm. *Prasanga Nirbachan*.

The subject of today's talk show is the process of election.

The discussants who would take part today are

Moniruzzaman, Dr. Zarina Khan, and Ahmad Kamal.

Star World: 8:00 pm. *Water Rats*. In,

Danger Encounters, Goldie and Jack are kidnapped and hunted like animals by a murderer who sees his victims as prey.

## PICK OF THE DAY



The Chamber.

On HBO at 10:00

If it's John Grisham it has to be gripping, that's a safe rule of thumb in Hollywood. And this one doesn't disappoint either. Based on his bestseller, the film is the compelling tale of an idealist lawyer who's forced to confront the secrets of his family's dark past.

12:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
2:30 [V] Mainstage  
3:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
5:30 [V] Weekend Spl  
6:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
8:00 [V] Karaoke  
8:30 Billboard US Countdown  
9:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
10:30 Club [V]  
11:30 [V] Weekend Spl  
12:30 [V] So Long Gone  
1:30 [V] Sunday Stack  
DISCOVERY CHANNEL  
6:30 Treasures of the World 1  
7:30 Ultimate Guide  
8:30 Wild Discovery  
9:30 Discovery Kids Watch..... Prehistoric Sharks  
10:00 Real Kids, Real Adventures  
10:30 Going Wild With Jeff Corwin  
11:00 Naturequest  
11:30 Treasures of the World I  
12:30 Living Britain  
1:30 Chimpanzee Diary  
2:00 Wild and Dangerous  
2:30 Wild Discovery  
3:30 Crime Night  
4:30 Lonely Planet VII  
5:30 On The Inside  
6:30 Untamed Australia  
7:30 Land of the Tiger  
8:30 Shark Weekend 2001  
10:30 Trauma V Life in the ER  
11:30 Anatomy of Disaster I  
12:30 Untamed Australia  
1:30 Land of the Tiger  
2:30 Shark Weekend 2001  
4:30 Trauma V Life in the ER  
5:30 Anatomy of Disaster I

## ZEE TV

12:30 Koshish  
1:00 Ateet  
1:30 Dollar Bahu  
2:00 Hip Hip Hurray  
2:30 Guldudee  
3:00 Hindi Feature Film  
5:30 News  
6:30 News  
7:00 Yoga For Life  
7:20 Jagran  
7:50 Zee Gym & Eat Healthy  
8:15 Jai Ganesh  
9:00 Nickelodeon on Zee  
10:00 Guldasta  
10:30 Top of The Tops  
11:00 Chota Muh Aur Badia Baat  
11:30 Sansaar

12:30 Khana Khazana  
1:00 Hip Hip Hurray  
1:20 Jhalak  
1:30 Ateet  
2:00 Dollar Bhu  
2:30 Guldudee  
3:00 Rishley  
4:00 Naye Nazrane  
4:30 Razzmatazz  
5:30 Boornvita Quiz Contest  
6:00 Gaane Anjaane  
6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee  
7:30 Neelam Ghar  
8:30 Saturday Night Special  
11:30 Shri 420  
12:00 Guldasta  
12:27 Intermission  
ZEE NEWS

6:30 News In Hindi  
12:00 Encounter  
12:30 News in Hindi  
4:00 Beyond Headlines  
4:30 News In Hindi  
5:00 NR Eye's  
5:30 News in Hindi  
6:30 Sports News  
7:00 Business News  
7:30 Zee Premier Show  
Cyber Zee  
9:00 Metro News  
9:30 News At 9  
10:00 Prime Time  
10:30 The Inside Story  
11:00 News Round Up  
11:30 World View Evening  
12:00 Sports News

## ZED TV

10:30 Kuch Dekho, Kuch Seekho  
11:00 Maze Maze Mein  
11:30 Right Click  
12:00 Studying Abroad  
12:30 Tip Tap Toe  
12:45 Little Einsteins  
1:00 Zed TV Curtain Raisers  
2:00 Footprints of Time  
2:30 Jobs People Do  
2:45 Aa Gayi Hindi  
3:00 Swayam  
3:30 Kya Aap Jante Ho  
4:00 Drishti  
4:30 Off-beat Professionals  
5:00 Kehle Surte  
5:30 Once Upon A Time  
6:00 Architecture  
6:30 Crt Rsr-Yout  
7:30 Orator  
8:30 Walkin Tall  
9:00 Xpressions  
9:30 Nest Set Go  
10:00 Zed TV Curtain Raisers  
11:00 Strictly Business  
11:30 Financial Management  
12:00 Crt Rsr-IT & ECL

## ZEE ENGLISH

10:30 A Mind To Kill  
11:30 Full House  
12:00 Too Close For Comfort  
12:30 Out of This World  
1:00 Would You Believe it  
1:30 Dave's World  
2:00 Amazing People  
2:30 Charlie Chaplin  
3:00 Can't Hurry Love  
3:30 A Mind To Kill  
4:30 The West Wing  
5:30 Police Academy  
6:30 Living Single  
7:00 Full House  
7:30 Mowgli

8:00 Mini Series  
9:30 Police Academy  
10:30 Promised Land  
ZEE CINEMA  
2:30 Do Anken  
6:00 Sikandar-E-Azam  
10:00 Mere Bhaiya  
1:30 Bharosa  
6:00 Gopi  
10:00 Hum Tum Pe Marte Hain

## ZEE MGM

9:00 The Silence of the Lambs  
11:30 Desperate Hours  
2:00 Robocop III  
4:30 Rush  
7:00 Underground Aces  
9:30 The Silence of the Lambs  
11:30 Desperate Hours

## ZEE MUSIC

10:30 Hit Mix  
11:00 Fillers  
12:00 Zee Music Box  
1:00 Best of The Best  
2:00 Jharokha  
2:35 Compact Disc  
3:05 Tara Rum  
4:00 Hit Pe Hit  
5:00 Zee Music Box  
5:30 Hit Mix  
6:00 Just Jammin  
6:30 Dial M  
7:30 Hit Pe hit  
9:30 Zee Music Box  
10:00 Sizzlers  
10:30 Jharokha

## ALPHA TV

## BANGLA

10:30 Daibaddho  
11:00 Googly  
11:30 Girisajja  
12:00 Sa Re Ga Ma  
1:00 Ingeet  
2:00 Nayantra  
2:30 Bangla Feature Film  
5:00 Gaan Unltd  
5:30 Disney  
6:00 Alpha Khabor  
6:25 Jhankar  
6:30 Aatpake Bandha  
7:00 Saffalya  
7:25 Jhankar  
7:30 Sur Taal  
7:55 Jhankar  
8:00 Nijei Nayak  
8:30 Hiya Majhe  
9:00 Abhinetri  
9:30 Prapto Baesthoder Jamroy

## SITI CINEMA

10:30 Amanat  
3:30 Prem Granth  
6:30 Prih Wohi Raat  
9:30 Guddu  
CNN  
11:00 World News  
11:30 CnN Hotspots  
12:00 World News  
12:30 World Sport  
1:00 World News

## SPORTS

## ESPN

6:30 Sportscenter Hindi  
7:00 Here We Go  
8:00 Racehorse Digest  
8:30 UEFA Champions League 2001/02 UEFA Champions League Group Phase 1, Matchday 3  
10:30 Sportscenter: International Edition  
11:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2001/02  
1:00 Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon  
2:00 Tony Hawk's Gigantic Skatepark Tour 2001  
3:00 South Africa Cricket India V South Africa In Review India @ South Africa  
4:00 Here We Go!

4:30 Pool World Pool Trick Shot Masters 2001  
6:30 ATP Tennis Show  
7:00 Epl Saturday Preview  
8:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2001/02  
12:30 South Africa Cricket India V South Africa In Review India @ South Africa  
1:30 Carl Rockingham 500  
4:00 Tony Hawk's Gigantic Skatepark Tour 2001  
7:30 Golf Programming Golfglobe 2001  
8:00 WTA Tour Toyota Princess Cup Tokyo, Japan Semifinals  
9:30 Here We Go!  
10:00 Australian Rules

Football Australian Football League 2001 Grand Finals  
2:00 World Cup Mix  
2:30 PSA Super Series Hong Kong Open 2001 Hong Kong, China Highlights  
3:30 National Rugby League 2001 Telstra Premiership 1st Preliminary Final  
5:30 Spanish League Highlights  
6:00 NBA Inside Stuff 2000/01 NBA Inside Stuff  
6:30 National Rugby League 2001 Telstra Premiership Sydney, Australia 2nd Preliminary Final  
8:30 Princess Cup Tokyo, Japan Finals  
10:00 Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports

10:30 Spanish League Highlights 2001/02 Spanish League Highlights  
11:00 South Africa Cricket India V South Africa In Review India @ South Africa  
12:00 Formula One Qualifying 2001 Formula One Qualifying Indianapolis, IN USA US Grand Prix Qualifying  
1:00 Spanish Football League 2001/02 Spanish Football League  
3:00 PGA Tour Golf Texas Open At Lakantera San Antonio, TX USA Second Round  
5:00 Class 1 Uim World Powerboat C'Ships Oslo, Scandinavia Scandinavian Grand Prix  
5:30 Boxing Series Fight Time On Fox 2001