

RECOMMENDATIONS



Exhibitions

January 04-15

A joint exhibition title *Bhutan: an Act of Offering* by Kama Wangdi of Bhutan, Deepa Islam and Jasim Uddin Xeon of Bangladesh, and Yannick Jooris of Belgium will be inaugurated on January 4 at the gallery of Alliance Francaise at 6:00 pm. The show will remain open for all from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

January 08-22

The Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts will hold a solo exhibition, titled *Evidence of artist Mohammad Eunos*, featuring his works on oil, acrylic paints and acrylic sheets, starting from January 8 at the gallery premises. The show will remain open for all from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm everyday.

January 04-February 04

Russian Cultural Centre holds a month-long children's book exhibition dedicated to the 100th birth anniversary of the prominent Russian writer A P Gaidar at the centre's library.

Film show

January 11-12

Russian Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Zahir Raihan Film Society will hold a Retrospective of Russian films dedicated to the 80th birth anniversary of Russian film director Sergei Paradjanov at the auditorium of the centre.

January 11

2:00 pm *A Chef In Love*  
4:00 pm *The Colour of Pomegranates*

January 12

2:00 pm *The Legend of The Suram Fortress*  
4:00 pm *Ashik Kerib*

January 13-14

A two-day-long Russian film session and photo exhibition dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the Russian Northern Capital St. Petersburg at the Jahangirnagar University, Savar.

January 13

2:00 pm *Vor (The Thief)*  
4:00 pm *Dersu Uzala*

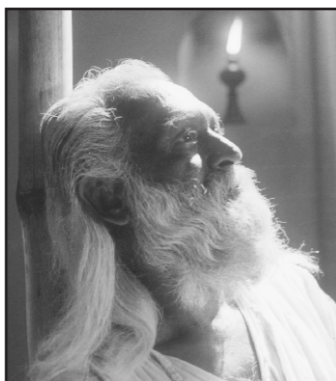
January 14

2:00 pm *Sisters*  
4:00 pm *The Odyssey*

Cinema

## Lalon to be released shortly

Lalon's life, persona and ideas portrayed through his songs



Raisal Islam Asad as mystic poet Lalon

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

TANVIR MOKAMMEL'S endeavour in *Baul* legend Lalon Shah that got a primary expression in his documentary *Achin Pakhi* (The Unknown Bird) in 1996 gets its final shape in feature film *Lalon* in 2003-04. The movie has been submitted to the Censor Board, and is expected to be released very shortly if everything goes alright.

The *bauls* of Bengal with their mystic songs and inimitable lifestyle are a very special sect. Throughout the centuries *baul* songs, depicting asceticism and transcendence of life, have expressed the pathos and pangs of the castle-ridden subaltern rural populace of Bengal. Lalon Fakir (?-1890) was a unique figure among the *bauls* (the minstrel) of Bengal.

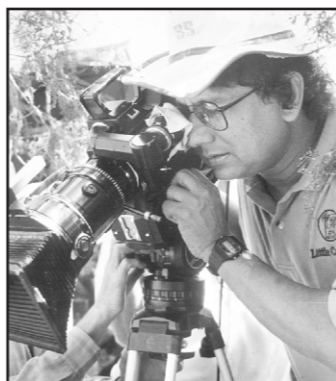
Lalon's lyrics have enchanted the people of Bangladesh as well as West Bengal for generations. Lalon's position as a folk-philosopher and composer of songs has still remained unsurpassed even after a hundred years of his death. But surprisingly, very little is actually known about the life of this mystic poet and much of it is shrouded in mystery.

'By portraying the milieu of Lalon, a kind of *Guru* during his time, my film aims to catch the social ethos of his period,' says Tanvir Mokammel. 'Some historical personalities like Jyotirindranath Tagore, Kargal Harinath and Mir Mosharruf Hossain who came in touch with Lalon also figure in the film,' he

informs. The film *Lalon* aims to find the minstrel's persona, his philosophy, and tries to explore the lyrical beauty of his songs.

Earlier in India Shakti Chattopadhyay made a film on the life of Lalon titled *Lalon Fakir* in 1986 which also won the national award that year. Mokammel's version is, however, the first feature film entirely on the legendary character in Bangladesh.

Tanvir Mokammel started shooting the film at different locations of Jessore, Kushtia and Hotapara in April 2003 and continued for three months. The 2-hour-and-20-minute movie is produced by Anjan Chowdhury Pintu and



Tanvir Mokammel in action

Kino-Eye Films.

Acclaimed actor Raisal Islam Asad plays Lalon in the most part of the film. On the other hand, Orko Saha and Azad Abul Kalam act the character in his childhood and youth. Besides, Shomi Kaiser performs the character of Lalon's daughter Piyarinnesa. Tammanna Yasmin plays Bishakha-Lalon's all-time companion, Bhaswar Banarjee plays Lalon's step-father Malam Shah, and Chitralekha Guha plays his step mother Motijan Bibi. Among the historical characters, Khurshiduzzaman Utpal plays Jyotirindranath Tagore, Shahab Ali acts in the role of Mir Mosharruf Hossain, Ramendu Majumdar plays one of those who denounced Lalon at that time. The cast also includes Wahida Mollick Joly and about 25 *bauls*. Eminent folk-singer Farida Parveen and many *bauls* give voice to about thirty songs.



Asad and Shomi Kaiser as Lalon and his daughter Piyarinnesa

Artists duo

## Striking out together

Rokeya Sultana and her husband Omar Khalid Rumi talk to Fayza Haq of The Daily Star

**The Daily Star:** How did the two of you get together?

**Rokeya:** Ours is an arranged marriage: our fathers worked together in the police. Our parents felt, as Rumi played cricket and was a musician, this would match my being a painter; we would be able to inspire each other in our different fields. Later, Rumi was busy with the ICC world cup selection and his musical preoccupation with his group Feedback. I continued as a student in quest of my Masters.

**TDS:** Was it difficult for you to pursue your studies and Rumi had to be on his own in Dhaka soon after your marriage?

**Rokeya:** We missed each other. I used to come to Bangladesh thrice a year, during my holidays and Rumi also visited me once or twice. We loved music and books and we went together to Santiniketan and Kolkata, hunting the old book stalls.

**TDS:** How did you, Rumi, take the separation when Rokeya was at Santiniketan?

**Rumi:** The separation was agreed on both sides: when Rokeya got the Indian government scholarship, it was an honour and I couldn't stop her.

**TDS:** Will you say something about your band?

**Rumi:** My band Underground Peace Lovers was the first band of its type in Bangladesh in 1972. The first



Omar Khalid Rumi and Rokeya Sultana

concert was at Hotel Purbani and that was the beginning of my music career. When I started playing cricket for the national side, cricket became more serious to me than music.

**TDS:** When do you both get together as a twosome when you both have your individual work in cricket, music and painting?

**Rumi:** I found Rokeya serious with her painting, so, I let her do it. She likes music as well and doesn't

come in the way when I pursue my music. She is also encouraging about my cricket. As for painting, it is nothing new for me as I was attracted to it even as a child.

**TDS:** Does Rumi's music get on Rokeya's nerves or do the long hours that Rokeya gives to her painting make Rumi restless?

**Rokeya:** Sometimes, I feel I miss her. I feel I miss her when she is not around. I feel I miss her when she is not around.

**Rumi:** I spend the time in my own way when I find Rokeya busy with her students and artist friends. Sometimes, in the morning, when I don't get my breakfast due to Rokeya's preoccupations, I might feel flustered.

**TDS:** Does Rumi give you enough

time to get on with your work, especially during the Biennales?

**Rokeya:** Neither of us come in each other's way. When I'm too busy and can't give Rumi and my daughter Laura their meals in the normal manner, none of them complains. I work in bits and pieces on my work. When I need special time for my work, I do this at night when no one is disturbed or wants my attention.

**TDS:** Do you find it hard to combine painting with teaching, house keeping and putting up a bright face at social functions?

**Rokeya:** It is hard but over the years I've got used to it.

**TDS:** What were your experiences, say, in USA and France, where you went recently? Did you take your family with you?

**Rokeya:** My family went to Nebraska and Chicago in USA with me, and they joined me after three weeks in France. I taught print-making as a visiting teacher in Nebraska, and in France I had an artist residency programme arranged by Andre Raynaud of the French Embassy.

**TDS:** Does any of you feel that the other tends to over shine the other?

**Rumi:** I don't think so. We've been doing our own thing in our own way and there's no competition or clash at all.

Drama festival



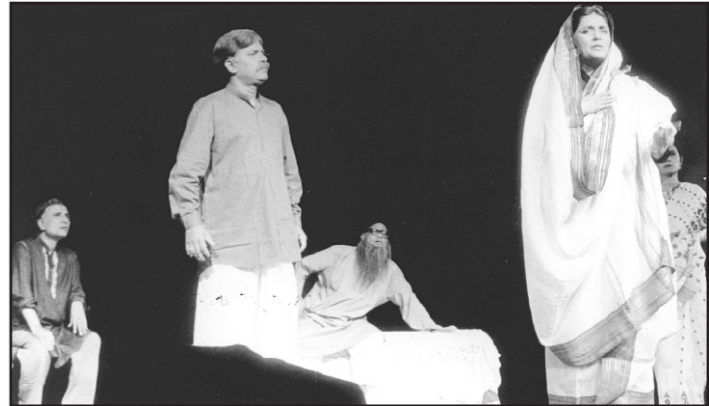
ERSHAD KAMOL

## Preview--Meraj Fokirer Ma

Today Theatre will present *Meraj Fokirer Ma* at 7:00pm at the Public Library auditorium.

Abdullah Al Mamun's play *Meraj Fokirer Ma* poses a few very important question of life: What is more important--relationship or religion? Should a son leave his mother if his views regarding religion differ from that of hers? In fact, through this satirical play, the playwright tries to bring out the human values and depict certain characters who oppress people in the name of religion.

Hasan Ahmed is the set designer and Thandu Ryhan is the light designer of the production.



Ramendu Majumdar, Ferdousi Majumdar, Abdullah Al Mamun and co-artist in a scene from the play

Review

## Dharmagola

The play with Bangla Drama flavour

Natyabhumii, the group from Agartola, staged *Dharmagola* by Kamol Roychowdhury on ...in the on-going drama festival arranged by Nagorik Natyangan.

The plot of *Dharmagola* is set in a remote area of the Indian state Tripura. The story depicts an ethnic community named Riag revolting against the King of Tripura who is patronised by the British imperial Lords.

The protagonist of the play Ratanmoni Riag inspires transcendentalists to revolt against the King of Tripura for illegally using his power. The play also portrays the traitors and the impact of their betrayal during the revolution.

The most remarkable thing in this ethnic play is that the dramatist explains through a narrator his logic of using standard Tripura language as the dialect of the tribal people what the ethnic playwrights in Bangladesh never do. However, Kamol Roychowdhury could not convey the depth of the theme of the play through the dramatic action. The narration only touched it in an implicit way.

Director of the play Sanjoy Kar unfolds the story of the play through *Kabigan*, which is a popular performing art form in the rural areas of the Indian sub-continent. He maintains all the required techniques of Bangla Acting Form and repeatedly alienates his characters from the play through *Kabigan* and narration, which is the basic concept of this particular theatre.

Diponkar Barman's set is very simple. He has used a few stools on the stage as the set elements and has also tried to apply *Chowkonakhola Mancha* technique, as

is seen in the traditional *jatra*. He has created new sequences by changing just one craft at the backstage.

Debol Chatterjee's light design is also very simple, but more symbolic colour effect could be used.

Except Sonjoy Kar, all the artistes are of average standard. Sonjoy Kar's voice modulation and rhythmic body movement is quite impressive.



Maniratn Riag tending to one of his revolutionary comrades in the play *Dharmagola*

Come-back

## Bismillah in action again

Barely 10 days after his sell-out jugalbandi concert with Ustad Anjad Ali Khan ended abruptly, shehna maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan teamed up with sitar wizard Ustad Vilayat Khan for another jugalbandi to enthrall music connoisseurs here with a virtuoso performance defying his age.

"*Hamara kaam sirf bajana hai, usmein asar dalna upar wale ke hath hai*" (our job is just to play, to make it effective is in God's hand), the octogenarian shehna player said midway through the nearly three-hour concert at the Science City auditorium last evening.

Incidentally, it was the same

venue where Bismillah Khan's much-hyped jugalbandi with Ustad Anjad Ali Khan on December 23 had ended barely 20 minutes into the programme when he refused to play complaining about bad acoustics and the incident led to a public spat between the two classical music greats.

But last evening it was a totally different Bismillah Khan as he left his shehna to do the talking amidst rapturous applause from the packed audience.

Speaking after the programme, Bismillah Khan said that he has no grudge against 'any one' due to that

incident. He also appreciated Ustad Anjad Ali Khan's New Year's best wishes for him saying, "*meri duayen unke saath hain*" (my blessings are for him).

Overwhelmed by the performance, Ustad Vilayat Khan, who described the shehna maestro as the senior most artiste in the country today, said, "*Is umar mein Shehna bajana to door, humse sitar mein stroke bhi nahin lagenge*" (at this age leave alone playing a wind instrument like shehna we cannot stroke the sitar).

Source: Internet

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

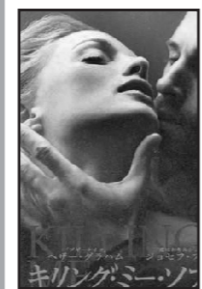
News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-i**  
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00 am  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 09 a.m, 10:00 a.m, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm, and 8:00 pm.  
**NTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:02 pm, 6:30 pm, 9:45 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
**TARA BANGLA**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.  
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.  
**BBC World**  
Every hour on the hour

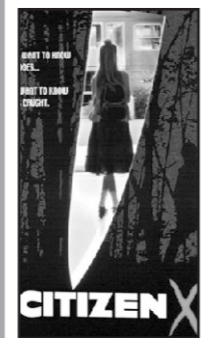
**BTV**  
07:35 *Suprobhat Bangladesh Programme From BTV Archive*  
08:30 *Anyo Bhubon: Wrestling/ Believe It Or Not*  
12:15 *Sangbad Poter Pata Theke*  
01:05 *Priyo Shilpi Priyo Gaan*  
01:30 *Hajar Bochhor Dhorey*  
02:05 *Cartoon Show: Captain Planet*  
02:30 *Anu Paramanu*  
03:05 *Chhaya Manobi*  
04:05 *Lekha Pora*  
04:30 *Open University National Television Debate*  
05:05 *Chhotoder Khabor*  
06:10 *Dolon Champa*  
07:00 *Share Market, Weather Forecast*  
07:05 *Noksha*  
07:30 *Drama Serial*  
08:30 *Contemporary Drama*  
09:30 *Drama Serial: Jonok Chawa Pawa*  
**CHANNEL-i**  
09:45 *Tritia Matra*  
12:00 *Chitthi Pelam*  
12:30 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
02:00 *Feature Film: Ani Shahen Shah (Rubel/Shuchorita)*  
06:10 *Music Plus*  
06:45 *Drama Serial: Dhingar*  
07:50 *Drama Serial: Bijji Boarding*  
08:25 *Drama Serial: Khunt*

09:35 *Drama Serial: Boomerang*  
10:00 *Drama Serial: Kachher Manush*  
**HBO**  
8:15 *Safe Men*  
10:00 *Come Together*  
12:00 *What Dreams May Come*  
2:15 *Pressure*  
4:00 *Timecop*  
6:00 *Little Nicky*  
7:45 *Dragonheart: A New Beginning*  
9:30 *Citizen X*  
11:30 *The Assassination File*  
1:45 *Safe Men*  
3:30 *Blackheart*  
**MGM**  
6:30 *An Ideal Husband*  
9:00 *All the Little Animals*  
11:30 *Banwagon*  
12:00 *Fraternity Vacation*  
2:00 *Asterix and Obelix*  
4:30 *Appetite*  
7:00 *Romantic Monday: The Night Before (Keanu Reeves)*  
9:30 *Getting Personal*  
**STAR MOVIES**  
9:00 *Double Whammy*  
10:45 *Cocktail*  
12:30 *Death Ring*  
2:00 *Scent Of Murder*  
3:30 *Fly Away Home*  
5:25 *When Good Ghouls Go Bad*  
7:00 *Killing Me Softly*  
8:35 *Death Train*  
10:15 *American Girl*  
11:45 *Fatal Beauty*  
1:30 *Say Anything*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**STAR MOVIES: 7:00 pm. Killing Me Softly.** Genre: Thriller. **Heather Graham, Joseph Fiennes, Natascha McElhone.** A London website designer ops out of her comfortable but ordinary relationship with a nice boyfriend when she forms a dangerously obsessive bond with a handsome, mysterious mountaineer, who turns out to have some secrets.



**HBO: 9:30 pm. Citizen X.** Genre: Mystery / Thriller. **Donald Sutherland, Stephen Rea.** What happens when a bloodthirsty, death-by-numbers John Doe stalks the Soviet streets taking out innocent young drifters? Based on the true story of a Russian serial killer who, over many years, claimed victim to over 50 people. His victims were mostly under the age of 17. In what was then a communists state, the police investigations were hampered by bureaucracy, incompetence and those in power.

**ZEE CINEMA**  
10:30 *Dulhan Whoi Jo Piya*  
Man Bhaye (Pre Kishen, Rameshwari)  
1:30 *Hatikadi (Govinda, Shilpa Shetty)*  
5:30 *Yalgaar (Feroz Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Manisha Koirala, Nagma)*  
9:30 *Kareeb (Bobby Deol, Neha)*  
**STAR PLUS**  
9:30 *Fox Kids*  
1:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*  
2:00 *Bhabhi*  
2:30 *Shagun*  
3:00 *Kabhi Aaye Na Judai*  
3:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*  
4:00 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*  
4:30 *Kahin To Hoga Kaahin Kissi Roz*  
5:00 *Taaza His*  
5:55 *Hum Saath Aath*

PICK OF THE DAY



**BOOMTOWN**  
Premiere today on AXN at 10:30 pm. (Every Monday 10:30 pm.)  
Each week, as a new crime takes place, the world-weary cops of the LAPD, the ambitious District Attorney, the hope-giving paramedic and the nervy newspaper reporter who tries to exude confidence see their lives intertwined by the very nature of their jobs. Told in a gripping format that sees each person recounting the incident as he or she saw it, *Boomtown* reveals - like the missing parts of a puzzle - pieces of information about the crime as it took place.

**STAR GOLD**  
9:00 *Baazi*  
12:30 *Zaalim*  
4:00 *Without Ticket*  
4:30 *Haqueegat - Ajay Devgan*  
8:30 *Ghar Ho To Aisa*  
**STAR WORLD**  
9:00 *Cheers*  
9:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*  
10:30 *Nash Bridges*  
11:30 *Da Vinci's Inquest*  
12:30 *World's Wildest Police*

**Videos**  
Mac Gyver  
2:28 *Star Asia Travel*  
2:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*  
3:30 *Bold And Beautiful*  
4:30 *Hollywood Squares*  
5:00 *Two Guys And A Girl*  
5:30 *Knight Rider*  
6:30 *The Simpsons*  
7:00 *Home Improvement*  
7:30 *Friends*  
8:00 *Just Shoot Me*  
8:30 *That '70s Show*  
9:00 *Everybody Loves Raymond*  
9:30 *Yes Dear*  
10:00 *Becker*  
10:30 *Third Watch*  
11:28 *Star Asia Travel*  
11:30 *Baywatch*  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
11:30 *Dogs With Jobs*  
12:00 *Toyota World Of Wildlife S3*  
12:30 *Monkey Business*  
1:00 *Vultures On The Verge*  
1:30 *Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures*  
2:00 *Toyota World Of Wildlife S3*  
2:30 *Built For The Kill*  
3:30 *Blue Wonder*  
4:30 *On Assignment*  
5:00 *On Assignment*  
5:30 *Return To The Wild*  
6:00 *Animal Edens*  
6:30 *Dogs With Jobs*  
7:00 *Toyota World Of Wildlife*  
7:30 *Monkey Business*  
8:00 *On Assignment*  
8:30 *Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures*  
9:00 *Toyota World Of Wildlife*

9:30 *Built For The Kill*  
10:30 *Finding Elliot-A Remarkable Dinosaur Story*  
11:30 *Vietnam's Unseen War: Pictures From The Other...*  
**STAR SPORTS**  
8:00 *Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Sydney*  
1:00 *Australia Cricket 3 Test Series Sydney*  
1:30 *Dakar Rally Telefonica Dakar 2004 Day 3 Highlights(R)*  
2:00 *Futbol Mundial (R)*  
2:30 *Futsal Thailand 5s International Futsal Tournament Bangkok Thailand Review(R)*  
3:30 *Spanish Football League 2003/04*  
5:30 *Tata Open Chennai Tn India Round Of 32(L)*  
7:30 *Hitz (R)*  
8:00 *Sportsline (L)*  
8:30 *Sunny Programming*  
10:30 *Sportsline (R)*  
11:00 *Dakar Rally Telefonica Dakar 2004 Day 4 Highlights(S)*  
**ESPN**  
9:00 *Pakistan Tour Of New Zealand Vs New Zealand*  
10:30 *Nba Basketball East Rutherford Nj Usa*

1:00 *West Indies Tour Of South Africa*  
2:28 *South Africa Vs West Indies 3rd Test Day 3 Highlights(R)*  
9:30 *Sportscenter India (L)*  
10:00 *Pakistan Tour Of New Zealand National Bank Series Auckland New Zealand Vs Pakistan 1s Todi Highlights(R)*  
11:30 *Sportscenter India (R)*  
**TEN SPORTS**  
10:00 *WWE: Specials: Armageddon 2003*  
12:00 *FA Cup 04: Yeovil Town v Liverpool (Ep.3)*  
1:00 *Legends: Pakistan Great Performers*  
1:30 *ATP Tennis*  
2:30 *Asian Highlight Show*  
3:30 *Pick of the Week (2): Ep 51*  
4:30 *Fitness Beach*  
5:30 *Extreme Sports*  
7:30 *Raw (1): Ep 551*  
8:00 *Gamer TV*  
8:30 *Gillette World Sport*  
9:00 *World Football News*  
11:00 *FA Cup 04: Leeds United v Arsenal*