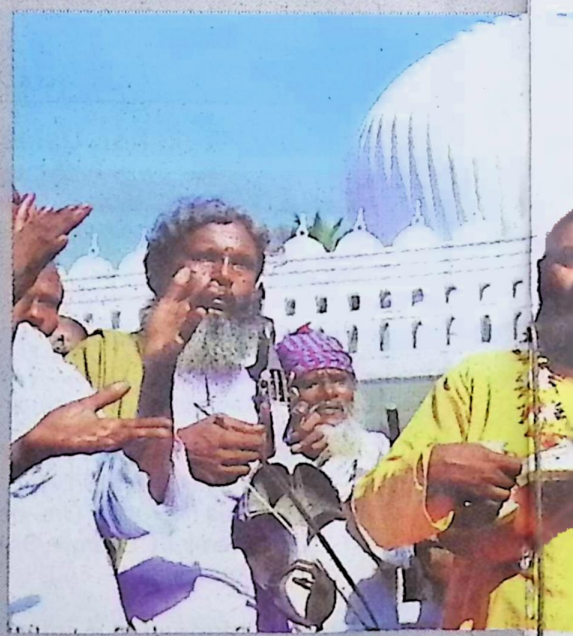
At the Lalon Festival

Nazia Fairuz Tuba



TWO members of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), namely Geoffrey Hiller, a Fulbright scholar visiting IUB and Salman Sayeed, a student of media and communication and a semi-professional photographer, embarked upon a spiritual journey to Kushtia to attend the three day program at the Lalon Akhra of Chheuria in Kumarkhali, a nearby Kushtia town, to mark the 118th death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah.

Hiller and Salman began their awaited journey for Kushtia on early morning of Thursday, October the 16th. During their stay they resided at a nice and comfortable hotel that was run by an organization called Desha. One of Hiller's intentions of visiting Bangladesh consisted of conducting research on the baul culture of our nation. This festival



gave him the opportunity to experience our folk tradition up close and personal and to take several video footages and photographs. Salman assisted him every step of the way and also captured few photographs of the 'Lalon Mela'.

On Thursday evening as Hiller and Salman reached the mela, Hiller was astounded with the vast number of people who came to attend the festival from all over Bangladesh.