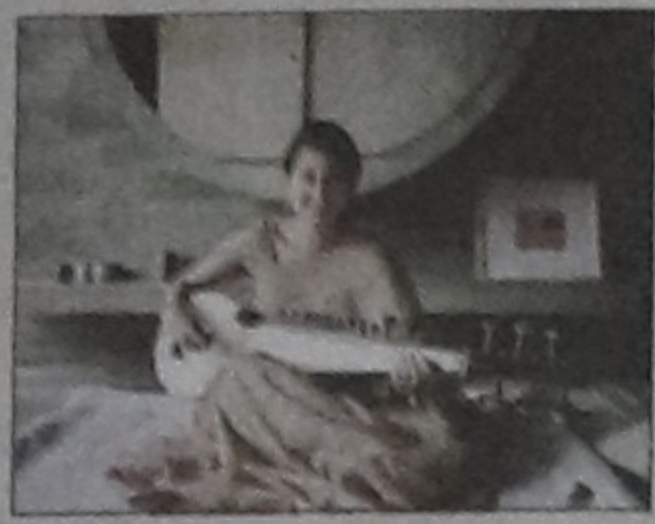
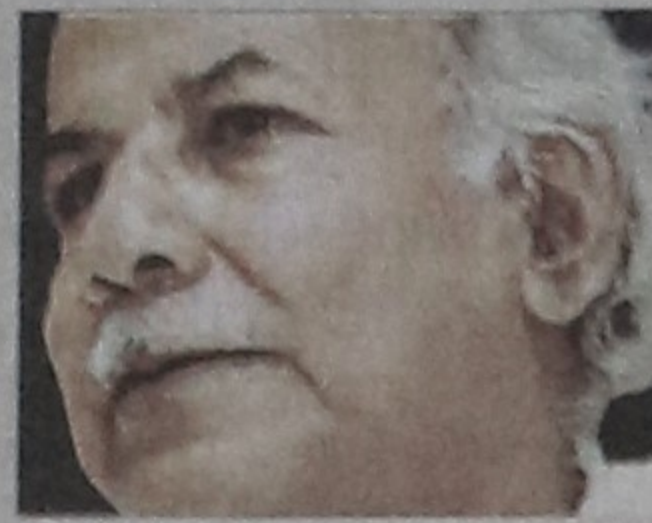


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

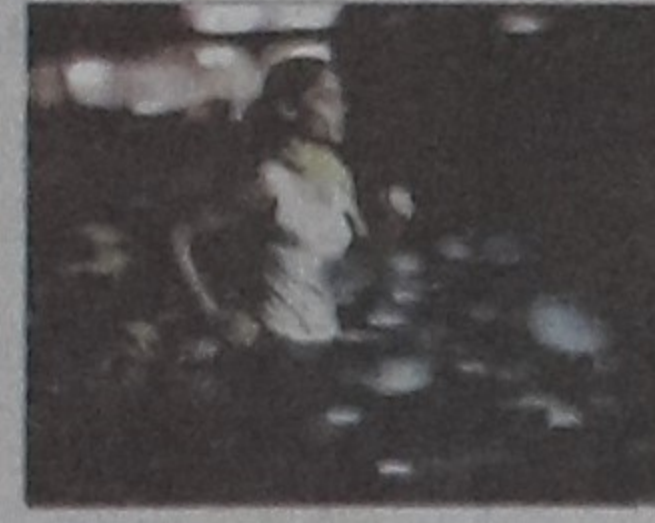
**Recital of Sarod**  
 Artiste: Rajrupa Chowdhury  
 Venue: HCI Cultural Centre and Library, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1  
 Organiser: Shadhona  
 Date: March 20  
 Time: 7pm



**Tribute**  
 76th Birth Anniversary of Waheedul Haque  
 Organiser: Anandodhoni  
 Venue: Chhayanat Shangkriti Bhavan  
 Date: March 16  
 Time: 7pm



**Film Screening**  
 Organiser: High Commission of India, Cultural Centre  
 Venue: High Commission of India, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan-1  
 Film: Siumdog Crorepoti (Hindi)  
 Date: March 16  
 Time: 6pm



**Francophone Film Festival**  
 Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, Zahir Raihan Film Society  
 Venue: Auditorium, AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi  
 Date: March 16-24  
 Time: 5pm onwards



## The king of mystics continues to rule the roost

Lalon Smaran Utshab at Chheuria

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The three-day 'Lalon Smaran Utshab' (memorial festival) ended on March 12 at the Chheuria Akhra (den) in Kushtia.

The theme of the festival was 'Developing a secular society inspired by humanism.' The event was arranged by Lalon Academy, an organisation consisting of elected members who oversee Lalon's shrine, in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Grameenphone was the sponsor of the programme, while Kushtia district administration also lent a helping hand.

The programme included a 'Lalon Mela,' discussion and rendition of Baul songs by artistes of Lalon Academy and Bauls from various corners of the country.

On the occasion, the 'akhra' was colourfully decorated and attracted an influx of devotees from all over Bangladesh and abroad.

The festival is a regular phenomenon, held annually on the occasion of 'Dole Purnima' (full moon) in line with the last day of Bahgla month Falgun.

As in previous years, a large number of Baul singers and enthusiasts attended the 'Utshab.' A sizeable number of female and teenaged Bauls were seen at the festival this time. For some of them, this was the first such visit. Clad in saffron attire, and carrying musical instruments, mainly 'ektara,' the Bauls added to the ambience of the festival.

Research has it that 'Dole Purnima Utshab' has been observed for about 200 years. From the very beginning, this festival was sponsored by many well wishers. Lalon himself celebrated it every year at his 'akhra' in his lifetime. After his death, his 'shishya'



The festival is a regular phenomenon, held annually on the occasion of 'Dole Purnima.' PHOTO: STAR

(disciples) carried on with the tradition. The Bauls however, refer to this celebration using several terms like 'urus' of the Sufis, or 'sadhusangho,' 'sadhushaba,' 'motsob'/'mossob' (corrupt of 'mahotsab.' Thousands of the Bauls, male and female, attend the festival and stay at the shrine premises -- singing and feasting for three consecutive days.

Songs of Lalon follow Sufi and Vaishnav traditions. The common trait of both these cults is mysticism, which denotes the soul or one's self as the centre of

thought. In course of time, this turned into a sect. In the 17th century, the Baul sect was not given its due. Bauls were regarded heretic. However, the Baul tradition goes beyond the confines of formal religion. Thus, when Lalon died no religious rites were held.

The Bauls strictly follow their own customs. To them division in society on religious lines is simply unacceptable. Bauls prefer to distance themselves from worldly desires, a philosophy that was developed by Lalon in Chheuria about 200 years ago.

## Drama serial Shada Kalo Mon on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Shada Kalo Mon," will be aired tonight at 8pm on ATN Bangla. Written and directed by Ali Imran, the serial is aired every Monday.

The serial is set in a village called Anandanagar by the river Padma. The villagers have their own share of sorrow and bliss. Sometimes they struggle with the adversity of nature and at times they are busy celebrating local festivities. Jinal Bhandari, the leader of the fishermen community overrules his people like a parent. Ijjat Fakir, an eccentric quack does not like the gathering of people at Bhandari's place. Kader Molla, the chairman of the village, is a peace-loving man. He does not react much even when his only son marries a Hindu girl, named Anannya. Rather, he tries to extend his hands in friendship to the



Zahid Hassan in a scene from "Shada Kalo Mon."

girl's family. However, things do not remain serene.

The cast includes Zahid Hassan, Nadia, Challenger, Tushar Khan, Zahid Hossain Shovon, Masud Ali Khan and others.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Govt. Mominunessa Mohila College in the district town performed at a cultural show at the college premises recently. The programme marked the International Mother Language Day. Principal Alhaj Motiur Rahman, MP handed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

## Variety show for Children

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Jahangir Smriti Shebasram Primary School organised a cultural programme at its premises marking its annual function. The school is a project of Coordinated Education-Cultural Activities by Fulki, Tangail.

Students of the school performed songs and dances, and recited poetry. A play "Agun Abishkar" was the highlight of the day.

Earlier, a meeting of the guardians of the students was held at the venue. Renowned physician of the area, Dr. Ratan Chandra Shaha, presided over the meeting.

Among others, Headmistress of the school, Ferdousi Akhter, coordinators of Fulki -- Syed Aminul Haque Kaiser and Sanjida Yasmin; freedom fighter Abu Mohammad Enayet Karim and Abu Ashraf Khan, secretary of the school managing committee, spoke at the event.

Bidyut Chandra Saha, programme officer of Fulki in Tangail, moderated the discussion.

Later, the guests inaugurated a painting exhibition at the school premises.

## Celebrating Sri Ramkrishna anniversary with devotional music

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The 174th birth anniversary of Sri Ramkrishna Paramahansa was celebrated with a two-day programme (on March 12 and 13) in Thakurgaon. Thakurgaon Ramkrishna Ashram organised the programme that included a special 'puja,' 'Dharma Shabha,' devotional songs, reading out from the scriptures, art competition, recitation and discussion.

Many devotees from different corners of the country attended the function.

On the first day, the programme began with offering homage to Sri Ramkrishna. This was followed by recitation and competitions for

children. After the competition, the Kishore Radha Gobinda Samproday of Ranishankoil in Thakurgaon performed "podabali."

At dusk, a "bhajan shandhya" was held. Artistes, including assistant professor of Drama and Music Department of Rajshahi University, Dr. Ashit Roy, devotional songs. Hasan Raza, a former student of Rajshahi Art Institute and researcher at Folklore Department, gave a flute recital. Pallabi Roy rendered "Shyama naam-er laglo agun," a Shyama Sangeet by Nazrul.

On the second day, after a 'Dharma Shabha,' students of Swami Vivekananda Hostel, Dinajpur staged "Kotha Khujichho Ishwar," followed by another play "Bhakta Ram Das."



PHOTO: STAR

Thakurgaon Ramkrishna Ashram organised the programme that included devotional songs.

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## Cultural competition in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A weeklong literary and cultural competition and prize-giving ceremony at Government M.M. Ali College in Tangail ended here last Thursday.

The competition included folk, classical, Tagore, Nazrul, patriotic and spiritual songs; essay writing; poetry recital and impromptu speeches. A total of 74 students of the institute took part in the competition.

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