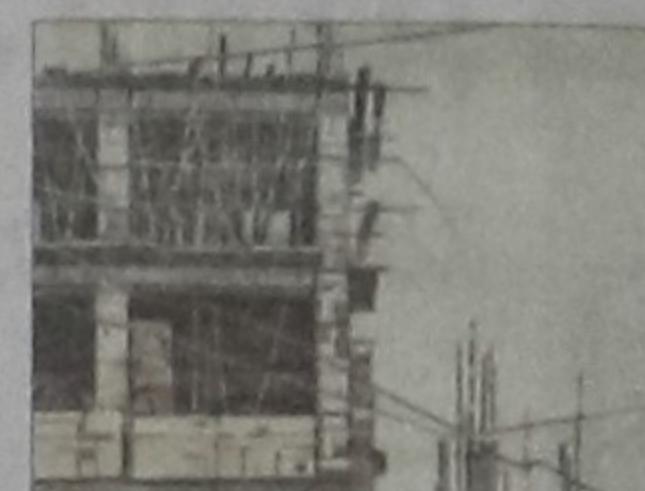


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Hiralal Sen Memorial Speech**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies  
Venue: Alangir Kabir Film Centre, 62, Science Laboratory Road  
Date: August 17  
Time: 8pm  
"Subrano Rekha" will be screened after the speech



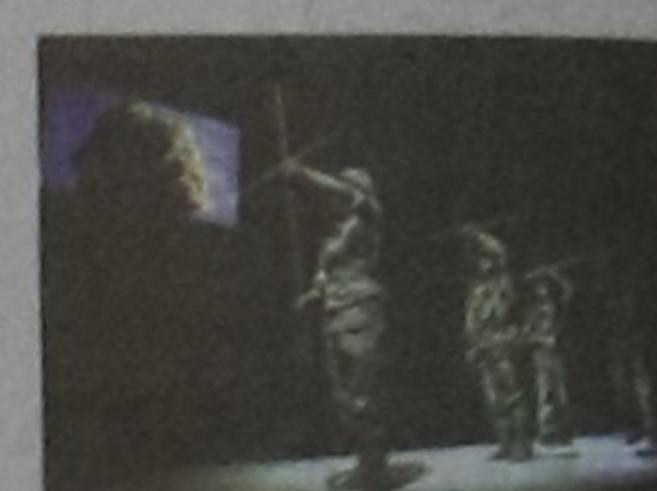
**Solo Woodcut Print Exhibition**  
Title: Kaleidoscopic Complexity  
Artist: Anisuzzaman  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi  
Date: August 9-22  
Time: 12-8pm



**Selim Al Deen Birth Anniversary Celebration**  
Organiser: Dhaka Theatre & Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: August 17-21  
Inauguration: 6pm



**Theatre**  
Play: Raja ... Ebong Onnyanya  
Troupe: Prachyanat  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall BSA  
Date: August 16-17  
Time: 7:30pm



## Baul Akbar Ali's mission of pursuing Lalon's philosophy

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Baul Akbar Ali Shajee regularly performs in Jhenidah. The artiste mostly renders spiritual *Pala Gaan*, accompanied by other folk artistes.

Akbar Ali was born in Dudrajpur on August 12, 1957. His father was the late Bahadur Malita.

Akbar Ali studied at Gopalpur Govt. Primary School. As a student of class V, Ali sang a Lalon song, "Jaat gelo jaat gelo boley," at a cultural function organised by the local scouts. At the end of the show, an emotionally moved scout officer embraced him. That gave an impetus to his musical intrigue and Ali began to learn *baul* songs. He trained under Santosh Kumar and Hazari in Kurulia village. He also started practicing with harmonium and *dotara*. Unfortunately, however, Ali soon faced the ire of the local conservatives who ostracised him. Ali recalls being prevented from even fetching water from the community tubewell.

Gradually, the young artiste was pressured and intimidated to flee from his village home. He went to India and took refuge with his previ-

ous mentor Santosh Gosai at Ghugragachi village in Ranaghat. There he spent eight years and gained deeper knowledge on the *Baul* philosophy and spiritual subjects.

Ali returned to Digherpara village in Bangladesh. There he trained for around 12 years under Aftab Shajee. At the age of 35, Ali returned to his native village Dudrajpur. Now he performs *Baul* songs and *Bhab Gaan* in Jhenidah as well as other districts of Bangladesh.

Ali performs spiritual songs and *Pala Gaan* with renowned artistes including Momotaj, Neela Pagli, Abul Sarkar, Khorsheed Alam, Khaleq Dewan, Aruz Ali, Nazrul Islam, Jhuru Shahi and Mahendra Gosai. In 2000 the then Jhenidah Deputy Magistrate Aminur Rasul conferred the title of "Lalon Shadok" on Ali.

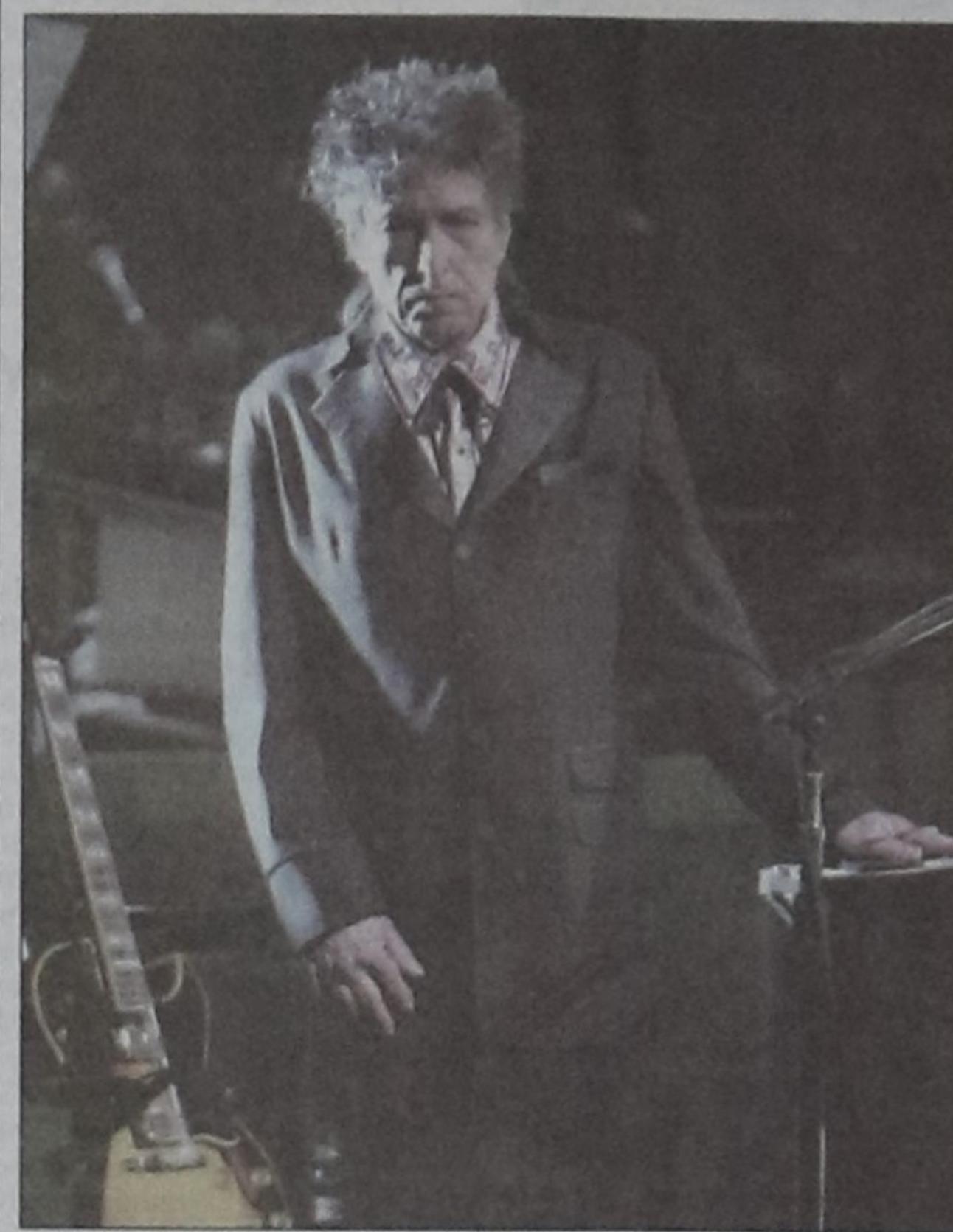
Ali possesses the unique quality of improvised compositions when he is on stage. He has around 300/400 spiritual and *Bichhedi* songs to his credit. The artiste has a family of five and he teaches Lalon songs. His ultimate aim is to devote himself to 'dive into Lalon's philosophy and songs.'



Akbar Ali (R) with his troupe.

PHOTO: STAR

## Police to music legend: "You're Bob Dylan?"



Bob Dylan

AP, New York

Like a complete unknown. That's how rock legend Bob Dylan was treated by police in one New Jersey shore community last month when a resident called to report someone wandering around the neighbourhood.

Dylan was in Long Branch, N.J., on July 23 as part of a tour with Willie Nelson and John Mellencamp that was to play at a baseball stadium in Lakewood that night.

Long Branch business administrator Howard Woolley says a 24-year-old police officer was apparently unaware of who Dylan was and asked him for identification.

The singer wasn't carrying any, so police took him back to his hotel, where tour staff vouched for him. No charges were filed.

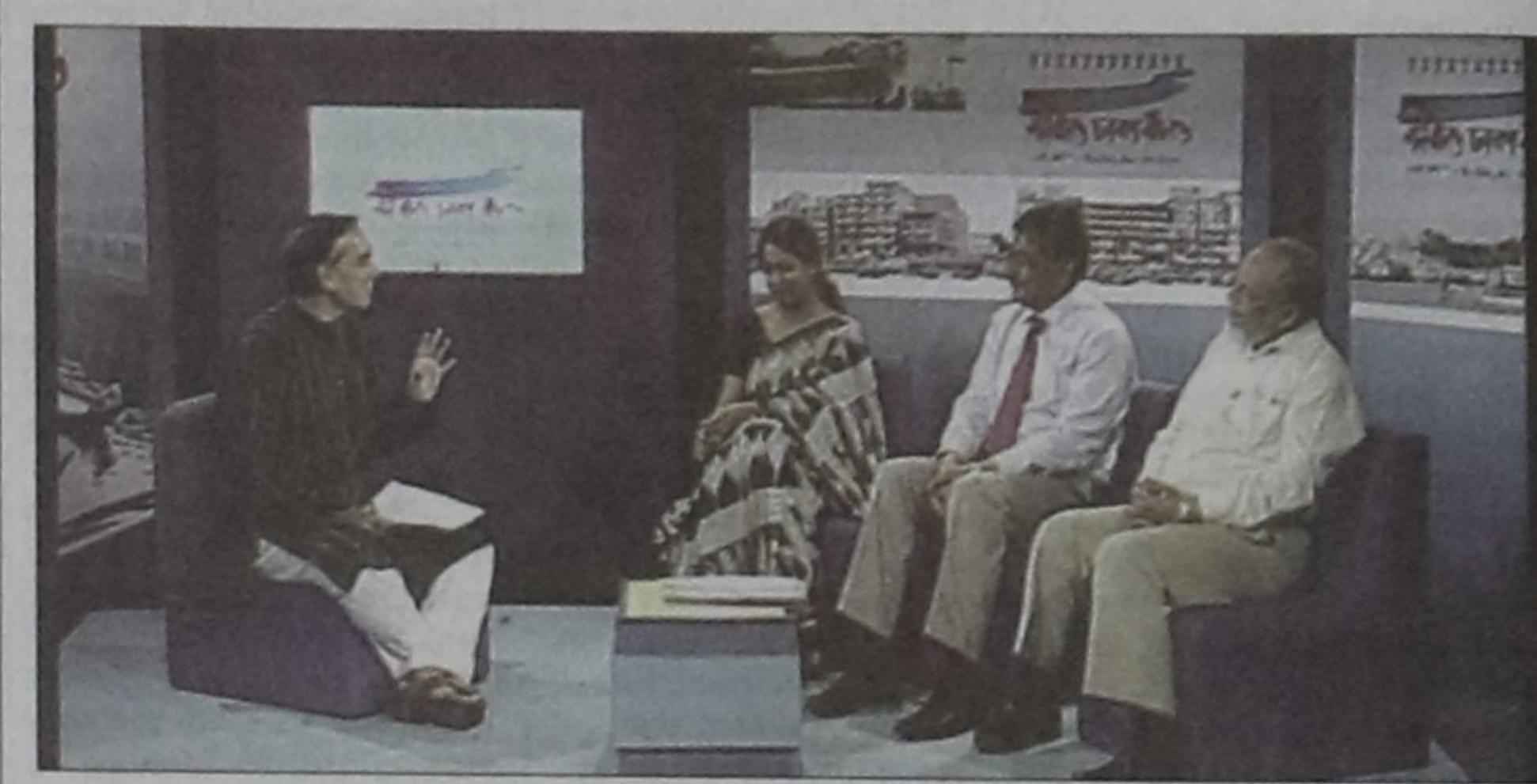
How did it feel? A Dylan publicist did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

## Nodi Bachao, Dhaka Bachao on Channel i

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The second episode of "Nodi Bachao, Dhaka Bachao, Pradhamantri Shomipoy" (a five-episode special talk show on recovering the rivers around the capital) will be aired on Channel i tonight at 11:30pm.

The programme aims at generating awareness on the importance of saving our rivers, a much-discussed topic of recent times. Tonight's topic of discussion is "Legal Tangles. Implementation of Recent High Court Verdict for Protection of the rivers."



Discussants seen with Mahfuz Anam (left) on the show.

## New TV serial "Babar Hotel" goes on air tonight

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

New TV serial "Babar Hotel" goes on air tonight on Banglavision.

The serial will be telecast every Monday and Tuesday at 8:15pm.

The serial is an observation of an otherwise 'ordinary' family through the perspective of an outsider. Piyash, a young man immersed in his studies, lives in the attic of a house. The serial shows the members of the family as Piyash sees them.

Rizwana Hasan, chief executive, BELA; Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, executive director, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and Kamal Uddin Talukder, DC, Gazipur are the discussants on tonight's show.

Mahfuz Anam, publisher and editor of The Daily Star, is the moderator of the programme. "Nodi Bachao, Dhaka Bachao, Pradhamantri Shomipoy" is a joint initiative by Channel i and The Daily Star. The following episodes of the show will be aired on August 23, 24 and 30. Shihab Sumon is the producer of the show.

Latif, a retired government official, is the patriarch of the family. He takes every issue the family has to deal with, seriously. Shafat, the eldest son of Latif, is an entrepreneur. Riya, Shafat's wife, considers herself very 'creative.' Lady Abir, Latif's youngest son, seemingly lacks ambition; though he has graduated from a university with flying colours. Manisa, Latif's daughter, like music and dance. Does she have a soft corner for Piyash?

Cast of the serial includes Abul Hayat, Intekhab Dinar, Jenny, Tisha, Iresh Zaker and others.

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

## On Air

## ATN BANGLA

08:15 Ajker Shangbadpotro  
08:30 Drama: Bhut Odhut  
10:30 Hello Bangladesh  
11:05 Top Spin

11:40 Amra Tomader Bhulbona  
12:15 Motamot  
01:25 Cholochitrer Golpo

02:30 Drama Serial: Ghar Jamai  
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar  
Chokhkhui Nai

03:45 Children's Programme:  
Chhotoder Prithibi

04:20 Special Programme

05:40 Business Week

06:20 The Lost World

06:45 Special Programme: Kaandey  
Amar Maa

08:00 Drama Serial: Shadakalo Mon

08:45 Gaaney Gaaney Golpo

11:30 Jey Katha Keu Boleni

12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

12:30 Hello Bangladesh

## CHANNEL i

08:05 Tagore Song

08:30 Shokal-er Gaan

08:40 Ajker Chakri

09:30 Shanbadpotre Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Grameenphone Tritiomastra

11:05 Educational Programme

12:30 Talk Show: Citycell Taroka

Kathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga

Ma

02:30 Hridoyer Gaan

03:00 Study at UK

03:30 Banjyo O Orthoniti

04:10 Mukti Juddho Protidin

04:30 Business Talk

05:30 Dhonyo Shei Kobi

06:00 Udyog

06:30 Shudin-er Barta

## 07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shanglaap

09:30 Bhengey Porey

10:00 Drama Serial: Manorama

11:30 Nodi Bachao, Dhaka Bachao,

Prodhmantri Shomipoy

12:00 Grameenphone Ajker

Shangbadpotro

## ntv

08:25 Swastho Protidin

08:45 Drama Serial: Bari Bari Shari

Shari

09:30 Joto Modhur Bhulguli

10:05 Gallery

10:30 Rup Madhuri

11:30 Tiffin-er Phakey

12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy

## Rtv

08:50 Trade Talk

09:45 Drama Serial: Dorakata

10:45 Taroka Alap

## ETV

09:55 Ekush-er Business

12:02 Ekush-er Dupur

02:30 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush

03:30 Deho Ghor

04:30 Desh Jurey Oporadh

05:30 Sports Plus

05:45 Street Magic

07:45 Cookery Show: Tommy Mia(n)r

08:30 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush

09:30 Drama Serial: Lolita

10:10 Talk Show: O Bandhu Amar

11:25 Trade Talk

09:45 Drama Serial: Dorakata

10:45 Taroka Alap

## BANGLAVISION

08:30 Bhalo Thakun

10:10 Jonofar Mukhomukhi

11:35 Telepress Business

12:30 Orthoriti Sanglap

01:30 Amar Ami

02:40 Drama Serial: Lucky Thirteen

03:20 Drama Serial: Megh Bondhu

04:10 Porospor

06:00 Din-er Sheshey

06:20 Sports Time

06:50 Point of Order

08:15 Drama Serial: Mama Bhagney

09:45 Amader Rannagar

11:25 Mega Serial: The Family

12:00 Special Programme: Smriti O

04:35 Priti Katha Kabyo

12:00 Shangbad Protidin

## 11:45 Shaja Katha

## HBO

09:15 Nutty Professor II: The Klumps

11:30 Loving Leah

01:30 Jaws: The Revenge

02:30 The Making Of Zodiac

04:15 Beyond Borders

06:45 Get Smart's Bruce And Lloyd

07:00 Out Of Control