

theatre

# A Struggle for Rain

Loko Nattyadal's 21st production *Tapasshi 'o Tarangini* staged

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

THE famous director of Kanjush, Liyakat Ali Lucky along with Loko Nattyadal presented their 21st production, *Tapasshi 'o Tarangini* at the Mahila Shamiati Stage October 11. Written by Budhabed Basu the drama depicts the suffering of humans due to the paucity of rain and a story of love.

The lack of rain brought out the gluttony in a particular country during the mediaeval time period. The knights were out collecting food, but food was somehow being stolen - even a ship full of food sank mysteriously, causing major problems related to hunger and starvation.

Having no other option the King ordered his sorcerer to stop the holocaust. The sorcerer then told him that the dry spell will come to an end if the bachelor saint (*shadhu*), Hrissa Shringa (Samsuddin Ahmed Sagar) got married. So, the King's men called in a powerful fortune-teller by the name of Lopangali (Zeenat Jahan Anita) and her beautiful daughter Tarangini (Sabina Bari Lucky) to seduce Hrissa Shringa with her beauty, so that he breaks away from his trance.

While the enchantress Tarangini enticed Hrissa Shringa, the King prepared his daughter Princess Shanta (Lavly Mahmud) for her marriage with the saint. The King figured that the only way to bring Hrissa Shringa to his kingdom was to attract him with the feminine beauty of Tarangini, where Shanta will wait for him, dressed as a bride. The next scene shows Tarangini, looking beautiful and seductive, trying to attract Hrissa Shringa while he was praying. She tells him that she went there to serve him. A very

good combination of dance music and stage lighting gave the scene a wondrous look.

According to the King's plan, Hrissa Shringa was brought to the city, with the help of the femme fatale. When Hrissa Shringa entered the city, there was a sudden lightning in the sky and then it started to rain. Everyone screamed 'Rain! Rain!' in joy and happiness - it was the first rainfall in a long time. After that Hrissa Shringa and princess Shanta got married, thus normalising the lives of the people.

When Tarangini had met Hrissa Shringa, he had described to her the Goddess like beauty that she possesses. After returning from the jungle she became unmindful and always looked for a mirror to see herself. Her dark life as an enchantress started to look brighter.

On the other hand Hrissa



A dramatic moment from the play *Tapasshi 'o Tarangini*

Hrissa Shringa and Tarangini did not make it together but their endless love for each other was alive long after the story ended.

Loko Nattyadal has proved



Sabina Bari Lucky and Zeenat Jahan Anita in a scene from *Tapasshi 'o Tarangini*

Hrissa Shringa and Tarangini did not make it together but their endless love for each other was alive long after the story ended.

Loko Nattyadal has proved

with their latest drama, that they are here to stay. The background music by actor Zahidur Rahman Pipli and authentic stage design by Labu and his team gave the play a lifelike feel. The dance sequences in the play was another attraction, which added to the charm of the drama.

poetry

# Soiree Poesie

5th Poetry Night at Alliance Franciase de Dhaka

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

MANY people writes poems and sonnets but do not get the chance for sharing them with others. Some also takes reciting as a hobby but also do not get the chance to recite their favorite poems. For the fifth time Alliance Franciase de Dhaka organised an evening of poetry for the dreams of these poetry lovers to come true. The 5th poetry night was held at the Alliance Franciase auditorium on October 15.

Mosud Mannan the guest of honor officially announced the 5th Soiree Poesie open by reciting a poem. He recited the poem with great passion and ardor, leaving the audience enthralled.

Bayazid Rahamanuddin Ahmed was the second to come with his poem titled *Dajokher Bashinda* - (The Hell Dweller). In the poem he says - I was a rose in Heaven, from now on I am a Hell dweller.

Professor Hosne Ara Kamal then presented her poem *Poor Kid* which was inspired by Professor Younus of Grameen Group. She recited - I was a dreamer, I dreamed as a poor child and went on with - What was my dream? A Fishing Net? The audience enjoyed her poem immensely.

The first Tagore poem of the evening was recited by participant Sayed Abu Naser Saber. He

event

recited *Porichoy*, a poem about an unknown journey for finding the origin of life. As he recited - Akdin Tarikhana Themechilo Aai Ghate Lege, the audience listened and moved.

A few participants were absent at the poetry night. For a difference, Alisha Khandakar came up with a Nazrul Song - *Shamrojol*.

After the song, the next participant of the night Mahmudul Hasan went on stage to recite a poem written by Shamsur Rahman titled *Jodi Tumi Fire Na Asho*. The young man recited the poem with a lot of depth and feel.

The first French poetry of the 5th Soiree Poesie was recited by Madinah Halim. Her first poem was *Letosian* by the great French poet Baudelaire, describing the mesmerizing beauty of nature. The second poem she recited was *Tell Me About*, which she has written herself, a very rhythmic poem describing daily life. Another French poem *Lahi* by Paul Alwak was recited by Sonia Agarwala who came on stage after Madinah.

One of the best recitation was done by Mahmuda Akhter, who recited Tagore's *Jala-Padma*. Very boldly, she recited, *Mather Pather Banker Banke, Dheer Protikhay Ashitechilam*. With a pair of small poems came Bidaura Binte Helal. Her first poem *Lokta Janlo Na* was funny, the second one was *Kano Elena* written by famous

Suvash Mukhopadhyaya.

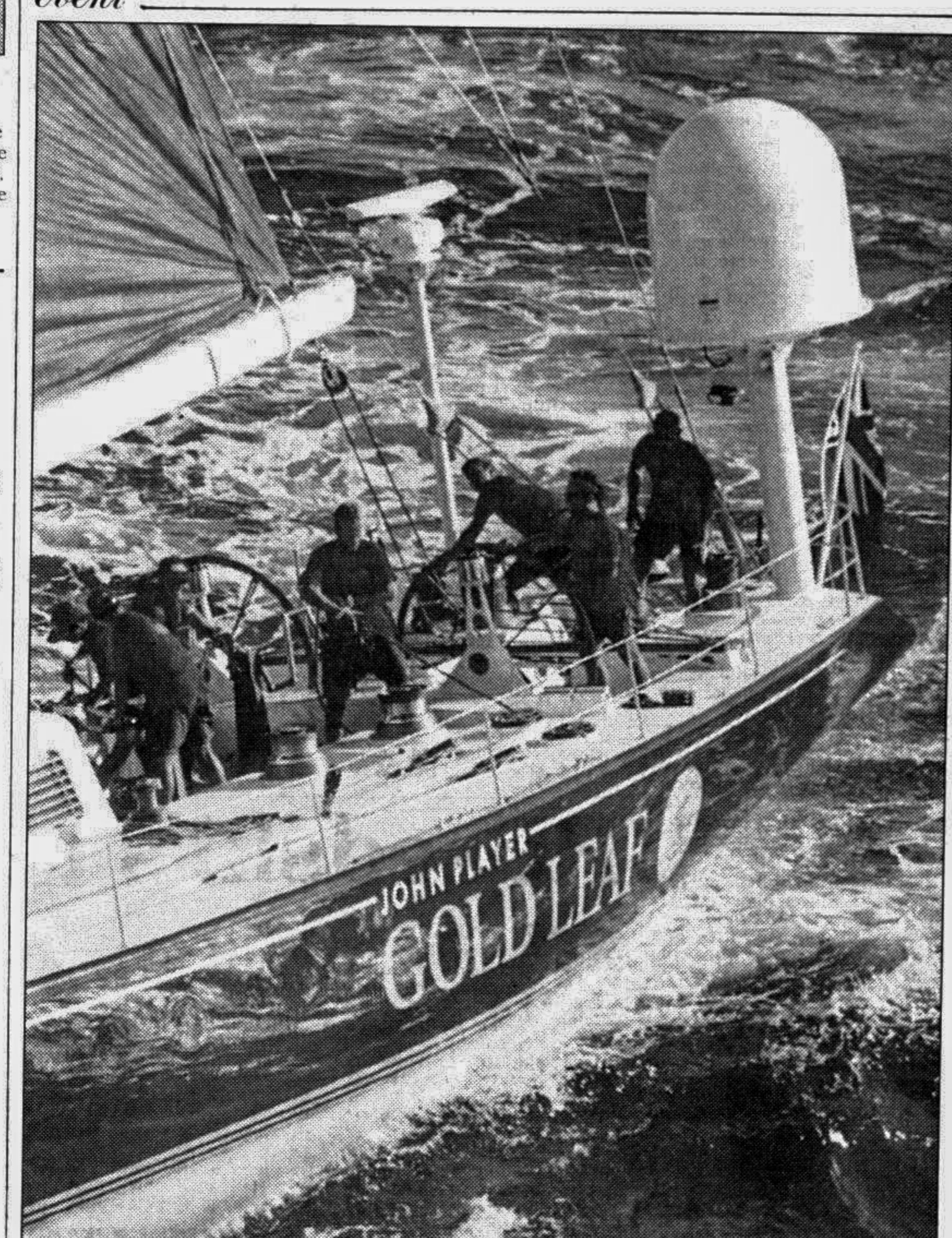
The next three participants were absent so Alisha Khandakar went on stage again with Tagore's *Otha Otha Re, Bhole Probhato Boye Jay Re*.

With a good French accent Dr. Tahmina Joy Rashid then recited a Baudelaire's poem. Thereafter Ahsan Habib's *Shadhinata*, a poem about the liberation war, was recited by Mahmud Zakaria.

Sayed Noor Mahal Sadeque, a blind old woman who can not even walk by herself recited Sayed Anwarul Hasan's *Babodhan*. She recited - *Aai Rajnitte Karma Klaanta Sramik Fire Asha Ghore*, enchanting and having the audience transfixed. Fahmida Aziz recited a poem for the children, titled *Ui Tu* and then recited a poem for the adults titled *Antahin Ashasti*. The audience loved her recitation, specially her expressions. She then recited two English poems titled, *Who Has Not and Urgent and Personal*.

Among the other performers at the 5th poetry night were Aminur Rashid, Zahid Bin Kalaim, Antonina Wdzieksonska who recited their selected poems.

The poetry lovers and invited guests loved the evening of verses and enjoyed their time listening to some authentic poems. The 5th poetry night, like the previous poetry nights, was a very successful and entertaining evening.



170-day Voyage of Discovery Near its Completion —

JOE Outred, the captain, has a clear face which hardly shows any signs of strain that days of continuous sailing sometimes have on his veteran seafaring counterparts.

The John Player Gold Leaf, an eight feet Maxi yacht, left London Tower Bridge on Saturday June 19, bound for the 170-day voyage, has seen the coastlines of the three continents through some of the world's most tasting waters; including France, Italy, Egypt, Cyprus, Oman, Djibouti, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E.

The final leg of the route will take the journey south to Goa, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and will end in the Bay of Bengal in mid-November.

exhibition

# Upholding Tradition

The National Arts and Crafts Fair ends today

By Nadine Murshid

DHAKA Sheraton Winter Garden is hosting the National Arts and Crafts Fair organised by the Export Processing Zone and Bangla Craft. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had inaugurated the 3-day long fair on October 17, 1999 at 11 am.

Just inside the entrance of the Winter Garden, one will see two weaving machines

(courtesy of Bibi Productions and Probortana) and two weavers operating them. This is one of the main attraction of the fair.

This fair is playing quite a role in upholding the tradition and culture of this country. Most of the stalls have been decorated with traditional Bengali decoration and they even sell traditional clothing, ornaments, toys, bed-sheets, towels and so on. The fair has given the poor weavers a chance

to show-off their talents as artists and craftsmen and has proved that the products 'Made in Bangladesh' are exotic and

beautiful — not only to

Bangladeshis themselves, but to foreigners, who has shown a keen interest in the fair.

Bane Textile of Rangamati has decorated their stall with shirts, panjabi, fatuwas, frocks for children and bed-sheets.

Kumudini Welfare Trust is another stall which has attracted a lot of attention. They have the very famous 'Nokshikatha' 'Nokshi Sari', 'Nokshi cushion cover' and shopping bags among their collection.

'Kanishka' has different types of saris which has caused quite a stir. Their 'Rajshahi Silks' are a major hit with the buyers.

The other stalls are BRAC Batic, Uttom, Midas Mini Mart, Maisha Boutique, Nipun and Heed Handicrafts among others.

All of these stalls have designed their own products and their own stalls and has done a commendable job.

Such fairs are not only necessary, but mandatory, for the promotion of traditional Bangladeshi products which are directly linked with the culture of this country. 'Nokshi Katha' and Handloom cloths are a vital part of the cultural heritage and it would be a shame to lose it all to modernism. New ideas are welcome, new technology is appreciated, but not at the expense of the age-old traditions which makes this country, what it is.



Viewers appreciating the handicraft exhibition at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

Some of the exhibits at the handicraft exhibition

News Inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 9:30 Asia Today: Drama: Shawpner Shiri (Episode 10) 8:30 am Bexi Life-style 9:00 am Drama Series: Robocop 9:30 am Ghane Ghane 10:00 am Bengali Movie: Sonar Bou 7:00 pm Dham Dharakha 7:30 pm Computer Projekti (Episode-7) 8:00 pm Chitra Jagat 8:30 pm Drama: Antahim Shimana (Episode-4) 9:00 pm Tumi Ki Sei Tumi (Episode-1) 9:30 Special Programme for Puja 10:00 Drama: Mama Bhagna

BBC WORLD 6:00 World News in Bengali 8:30 Gandhabri 9:00 Jatu Griha 11:30 News in Bengali 12:00 Bharat Bhromon

7:00 Kee Darun 7:30 Monihaar 8:00 Hirala Pannal 8:30 Kagojer Bou 9:00 Antaraley 9:30 Prem Trishna 10:00 Harano Sur 12:30 Monihaar 1:00 Bharat Bhromon 1:30 Grihosalja 2:00 Bahari Ahaar 2:30 Amaar Tumi 5:00 Alapa Chakra 6:30 Commander 7:00 Kancher Dewal 7:30 Premer Phande 8:00 News in Bengali 8:30 Gandhabri 9:00 Jatu Griha 11:30 News in Bengali 12:00 Bharat Bhromon

6:00 World News Headlines 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: Earth Report- Hope & Despair 7:00 BBC World News 10:30 Wheels 11:00

The World Today 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC News 1:30 World Focus: Reporters 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Talking Movies 3:15 Europe Direct 4:00 BBC World News 12:30 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report/24 Hours Presenter: Siddhartha Basu 1:30 Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast 3/3- Veneto 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: Science World 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Mastermind India (Quiz) 4:00 BBC The World Today 4:30 World Focus: Earth Report-Hope & Despair 6:30 World Focus: Science World 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC The World Today 8:30 World Living: Travel Show 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Tea With [V] 10:00 [V] Line Lagoa 10:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC The World Today 4:30 World Focus: Earth Report-Hope & Despair 6:30 World Focus: Science World 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC The World Today 8:30 World Living: Travel Show 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Tea With [V] 10:00 [V] Line Lagoa 10:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC The World Today 4:30 World Focus: Earth Report-Hope & Despair 6:30 World Focus: Science World 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC The World Today 8:30 World Living: Travel Show 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Tea With [V] 10:00 [V] Line Lagoa 10:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC 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