

# Drama in driftwood

Priyobhashini's solo at Bengal Gallery

FAYZA HAQ

FERDOUSI Priyobhashini, who recently held her driftwood exhibition at the Bengal Gallery, says, 'I always saw forms around, such as in the clouds in the sky. My husband was posted in the village areas, as in Sylhet, so that I got a chance to visit garden areas. In making flower arrangements for the home I came across many dried branches and driftwood which I combined with green plants.' In her early steps to become a full fledged artist, she received encouragement from artists such as SM Sultan. Her husband also egged her on and did not mind her spending long hours over her driftwood. While her husband reads his books she whittles away on her driftwood pieces.



An afternoon of rain clouds

Asked what problems she faces, Priyobhashini says that she enjoys the struggles. She must preserve her wood pieces in salt, water and mulberry and boil them for hours at a stretch. She collects her driftwood in her daily activity, as she goes about her routine work, sometimes even collecting them from dust bins. When she works she has only her helper who assists her with hammer and saw. If any guest comes while she is working, she puts her work aside. She says she would have liked to have studied fine arts formally but at this stage in life, suffering from severe diabetes, she refrains from any such effort.

Her conventional themes include a swan with the wings spread out, created from a *krishnachura* tree. There is another one on Mother Teresa, contrasting with the collection of seven storks built from dried coconut shells and dead branches of trees. There was then a presentation of the romance of Leda and the swan.

Among the new works is the collage of a young woman dancing in spring. At the back are bits of burnt



Dusk and Priyobhashini (inset)

charcoal and fragments of wood pieces stuck with gum. There was then the large lyrical piece with giant mushroom blooms and slim stems, which was named 'goddess of flowers'. 'Chandrabilash', which dealt with the beauty of moonlit night, had been created with ivy leaves. 'Taaler shash' and old dried branches of money plant had been used in another creation presenting two contented birds. 'Sritir allindo' brought in windows in a haunted house, opening out to the past.

Earlier Priyobhashini dealt with war, struggle and the injustices of life. In the present exhibition she has concentrated on love and the graceful forms of birds and women.

This time, again, instead of clay pots, there were remnants of trees, in the form of driftwood, containing fresh green plants with decorative leaves like money plants and 'patabahar'. She has attempted to bring in a geometry of sculpture in plant life by controlling the growth and spread of plants by placing them in wooden forms. Living creepers, bits of earth and pieces of wood create joie de vivre.

She has taken part in 10 group shows and has had nine solo exhibitions.

## Of golden oldies

Nazrul and Tagore numbers by Kanak delight audience

ELITA KARIM

'I have been in this field for 20 years, and still look forward to it,' smiled Kanak Champa, when asked about her current successful career in music. Kanak was speaking at a recent soiree organised by Orchestra at the All Community's Club situated in Gulshan 2.

The hall room was aglow with candlelights and the round tables were adorned in white linens to bring a mesmerising effect. Fatematz Zohra Ritu, an upcoming singer, welcomed the crowd with several numbers hailing from the old-gold days, Nazrul's compositions and several modern numbers.

At around 8:00 pm, Kanak stepped on stage to begin with her set of enthralling compositions. 'As an artiste, it's a pleasure to have an evening all to yourself,' she said to the crowd. 'Usually, after singing a series of Bangla numbers, the crowd requests for Hindi numbers. However, tonight I am sure I'll be able to perform a few of my favourite compositions as well.'

She started off with a number by Rajanikant and went on to sing several numbers from her first few performances on the television, followed by golden oldies, Nazrul compositions and Tagore numbers. She held the audience captive with her melodious rendering of popular numbers such as *Shagoror teer theke, Nijhomo shondhyay, Eymon tomake dilam, Akashi ote meghla, Aamar bolar kichu chilo na, Prem ekbaar eshechilo nirobe* and many more. Her singing also complemented the melodious flute played by Jalal,



Kanak Champa

which seemed to speak of its own heart.

The audience clapped in appreciation and sang along with Kanak at times. Some of the spectators were seen giving in their own requests on cards, clearly enjoying the evening. In between her singing, Kanak dedicated a few of her numbers to her father and her husband, who were both present at the show.

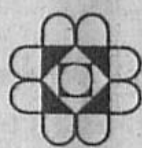
Kanak is a household name in the country today. She has also travelled around the world where her music has been widely appreciated. Looking into the future, she said, 'I have received recognition by singing these memorable oldies of legendary artistes of our land. Likewise I hope there will come a day when artistes will perform my numbers on stage and receive the same adulation,' she said.



## Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation

(June 17-July 23)



REVIEW

## Nagor Alir Kissa

The darker side of the city

These are far from peaceful days in Dhaka. One just has to look at the widespread problems such as terrorism, crime, housing shortage, lack of employment, hijacking, traffic jam and unprincipled politicians. Though the daily papers are replete with the solutions advanced by the intellectuals and the commitments of the politicians, the current status quo is alarming. Drishtipat Natya Shangshod's production *Nagor Alir Kissa* cries for an end to these problems.

On July 12, at the Experimental Theatre Stage Drishtipat Natya Shangshod staged their popular play *Nagor Alir Kissa* as part of the Dhaka Drama Festival 2004 arranged by BGTF.

MA Salam's play starts with an imaginary scene where three souls of language martyrs of 1952 ask a living freedom fighter, 'What have you done after the Liberation War? Why hasn't there been a change in the current situation of the society?'

The plot advances with two men, Nagor Ali and his maternal uncle, coming to Dhaka for a job. Through their experiences in the city, the playwright successfully depicts the darker side of Dhaka. *Nagor Alir Kissa* ends with a scene when Nagor dies in a clash between rival parties.

In the play, the playwright MA Salam has used the dialect of the slum dwellers and slang for his characters. The actors, thus, have a touch of realism.

MA Salam unfolded his play through a narrator. He has successfully handled the lifestyle of the slum dwellers. To avoid any controversy he has successfully visualised the political procession scenes, using only narration and mime. However, he could have avoided



A sequence from the play

the obscene scenes on the stage.

MA Salam, as the set designer, has used a replicated slum at the backstage. The remaining part of the stage was empty.

Swapan Das's light design was simple but effective. His symbolic colour effect to visualise the dawn scene was enjoyable.

Kazi Anis's gesture, voice modulation and body movement as Nagor Ali was excellent. Swapan Das and MA Salam also performed well.

## Khaled Khan: Diversified stage career

A regular member of Nagarik Natyasampradaya, Khaled Khan has been contributing his talent in theatre for more than two decades. Along with his diversified acting career in theatre, he has achieved recognition as a director. In the ongoing drama festival his group Nagarik will stage *Kalshondhyay* directed by him. Khaled said, 'It is not the construction of the play, but its philosophy the attracts me. After the successful rise a person may fall because of his arrogance.' Usually it is said that Buddhadev's plays have got less dramatic quality. But *Kalshondhyay* is an exception.

'The choreography in the play



needs some physical effort. That is why I have cast all the young artistes for *Kalshondhyay*. I am also the music composer in the play,' Khaled added.

Asked for his comment on the Dhaka Drama Festival 2004, Khaled said, 'I appreciate any drama festival. But it is pathetic to see the small turnout of the audience. All the groups should stage their new productions or some special plays in the festival, which they do not stage regularly on the Mahila Shamity Stage. We do not see many new productions in the festivals. I think BGTF should arrange a festival, including only the new plays.'

ERSHAD KAMOL

### THEATRE FESTIVAL SCHEDULES (JULY 14-JULY 17)

**July 14**  
Play: *Kalshondhyay*  
Playwright: Buddhadev Basu  
Director: Khaled Khan  
Group: Nagrik Natyasampradaya

**July 15**  
Play: *Bhaddornok*  
Playwright: Golam Sarwar  
Director: Golam Sarwar  
Group: Natyachakra

**July 16**  
Play: *Golepjan*  
Playwright: SM Solaiman  
Director: SM Solaiman  
Group: Theatre Art Unit

**July 17**  
Play: *Nittopuran*  
Playwright: Masum Reza  
Director: Masum Reza  
Group: Desh Natak

**Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy; Time: 7 pm**  
Tickets are available at Sagar Publishers, Baily Road and at the venue before shows.  
Prices: Tk. 30, Tk. 50 and Tk. 100.  
Schedules, provided by BGTF, are subject to change without any prior notice.

## Flavours of Thailand

Week-long Thai Food and Cultural Festival inaugurated

FAIZULA TANIM

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, in conjunction with the Thai Embassy and Thai Airways International, has organised a week-long Thai Food and Cultural Festival. The event was inaugurated on July 10 and continues until July 16.

Besides a special food menu, the festival hosts Thai belles and men dancing to traditional and contemporary music to create an exclusive Thai ambience.

Thai food is currently a highly

admired cuisine in Dhaka like elsewhere, gaining worldwide popularity. It has become the country's representative in the promotion of culture and image. Thai food blends a variety of tastes and mostly contains healthy herbs. Additionally, each dish is decorated for aesthetic appeal and is guaranteed to whet the appetite of the gourmet.

Apart from the popular hot and sour soup, the Thai specialist chefs tickled the taste buds with *Bangkok fried rice with Thai herbs* and



A graceful peacock dance



Performers presenting traditional Thai dance

*Bangkok gravy noodles*. The salads and the sauces, which added nicely with the various dishes *Sauteed beef and chicken*, was indeed lip licking. *Ho mok pla*, spicy fillet fish with coconut cream and curry paste along with crunchy *Tung Tong*-chicken inside rice paper, much like Wonton, is quite mouth-watering and people took extra helpings. Fried fish with chilli sauce and spicy minced beef/chicken salads were high on demand and taste.

The assortment of desserts includes fruit salad; fresh fruits from

the basket and most importantly decorated fruit cocktails. It was amazing to see a range of yogurt on small glass offerings, which, like our sweet-sour *Doi*, revealed the similar food habits of Thailand and Bangladesh.

Until July 16, this buffet would be a grand delight on one's dinner menu. The culture and food together was a wonderful blend of oriental flavours adapted to the local taste. High on Thai spice, the week should be a scrumptious feast for food enthusiasts.

## TV GUIDE

### PICK OF THE DAY



### Bangladesher Sthaniyo Sarkar

On Channel-I at 5:45 pm

Talk Show

Hosted by Nayeemul Islam Khan

This new series of TV discussion programmes is on different issues of local government in Bangladesh. The invited discussants of the first episode of the programme are Hare Krishna Das, Co-ordinator of Build Project at Care Bangladesh; Mohammed Hossain, Socio-economist of Local Capacity Development Initiative (LCDI) at Faridpur and Mahbubur Rahman Tulu, Treasurer of National Union Parishad Forum (NUFP) and also Chairman of Shahapara Union at Gaubandha. They will discuss on the issue of Union Parishad's finances.

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 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 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) at 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-I**  
Breakfast News 7:15 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 9 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.  
**ntv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 5:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 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**  
07:30 Bangladesher Hridoy Hotel  
09:00 Satellite Programme  
12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pala Thekey  
01:05 Prothom Antara  
02:05 Computer Programme  
02:30 Hijoimol  
03:05 Shukhi Panirab  
03:35 Geetoban  
04:05 Open University  
04:30 Apon Bhumi  
05:05 Maati o Manush  
05:30 Agradut  
06:35 Special Bulletin for physically challenged  
07:05 Bara Probaho  
07:30 Film: Mortal Combat Conquest  
08:30 Drama: Adho aalo aadho chayya  
09:00 Drama: Dour  
09:30 Drama: Beyaen Shaheba  
10:35 Kamon Achhen

**CHANNEL-I**  
09:45 Tititoy Matra  
10:45 Sports Time  
11:30 Close up Juice Box  
12:00 Chitthi Pelam  
12:30 Aaj Dupurey  
01:00 Ebon Cinema Gaan  
01:30 Sangbadpatrey  
02:00 Bangladesh and Public Reaction  
02:00 Bangla Film: Bhabir Sangsar (Shabana, Jasim)  
04:00 Banglar Gaan  
05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:45 Bangladesher Sthaniyo Sarkar  
06:10 Annodishitee  
06:45 Gillette World Sports  
07:55 RC Travel On  
08:25 Drama Serial: Kichhu Megh Kichhu Roddur  
09:35 Drama: Din Chole Jayi

10:00 Drama Serial: Gunai Bibi  
**ntv**  
08:00 Aajker Shakal  
08:30 Kobitalap  
09:00 Shanglep  
09:30 Images of Lights  
10:02 Zoo Adventure  
10:30 Aarshinagar  
11:00 Transworld Sports  
12:02 Circus Lights  
02:35 Sporshe bare  
03:05 Band Music  
03:45 Drama Serial: Shyaoila  
04:25 Fardl  
05:20 Apnar Jigyasha  
06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
06:55 Sports World  
08:15 Siddika Kabir's Recipe (Golden Jubilee special)  
09:40 Drama Serial: Shyaoila  
11:25 Dindapan

**ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 Talk Show: Annodishitee  
11:15 Drama Serial: Toboo  
11:50 Drama Serial: Tomakey  
12:30 Pishadini  
12:30 Musical Programme  
03:45 Ke Shay  
05:45 Islami Sawaal o Jawab  
06:20 Annodishitee  
08:00 Gondhoraj Samsung Cine Aaha  
08:30 Open Air Concert: ATN Live Dharmaka

**HBO**  
9:30 MacArthur  
12:00 Innocent Moves  
2:15 What Girls Learn  
4:30 Apollo 13  
7:15 Kindergarten Cop

9:30 Along Came A Spider  
11:30 Cinema Secrets III Ep 6 : Destructive Forces  
12:00 Breast Men  
1:45 Limbo  
**STAR MOVIES**  
8:00 Gosford Park  
10:15 Legally Blonde  
11:50 Unshackled  
1:45 In The Name Of The Father  
4:00 Hollywood Wives  
5:25 Kull The Conqueror  
7:00 Daylight  
8:55 Shallow Hal  
10:45 Great Balls Of Fire  
12:45 Southern Cross  
**STAR GOLD**  
8:30 Operation Gold  
9:00 Hit Filmein Hit  
9:30 Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan  
1:00 Pyar Ka Devta

5:00 Thakshak  
8:30 Gharwali Baharwali  
12:00 Hit Filmein Hit  
Sangeet  
**STAR PLUS**  
1:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay  
1:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
2:00 Bhabhi  
2:30 Kesar  
3:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai  
3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
4:00 Kahin To Hoga  
4:30 Kaashin Kishi Roz  
5:00 Tedhe Medhe Sapney  
5:25 Film Topper - 301 Series  
5:30 Hit Filmein Hit  
Sangeet- 20 M  
6:00 Life Nahin Hai Ladoo  
6:30 Fox Kids  
7:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

8:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom  
8:30 Sonpari  
9:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay  
9:30 Sanjivani - A Medical Boom  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki  
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
11:30 Kahin To Hoga  
12:00 Kaashin Kishi Roz  
**STAR WORLD**  
12:30 Law & Order: SvU  
1:30 Britannia India's Child Genius  
2:28 Star Asia Travel  
2:30 Oprah Winfrey  
3:30 Bold And Beautiful  
4:30 Hollywood Squares  
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway?  
5:30 Miami Vice  
6:30 The Simpsons  
7:00 Home Improvement

7:30 Friends  
8:00 Just Shoot Me  
8:30 Charmed  
9:30 The Practice  
10:30 N.Y.P.D. Blue  
10:28 Star Asia Travel  
11:30 Baywatch  
**HALLMARK**  
11:30 Mysterious Ways  
12:30 Bewitched  
1:00 Mad About You  
1:30 Stealing Sinatra  
3:30 Play With Me Sesame  
4:00 Sesame Street  
5:00 Bewitched  
5:30 The Guardian-Season II  
6:30 Mysterious Ways  
7:30 Deacons for Defense  
9:05 Adoption  
9:55 The Guardian-Season II  
10:45 Deacons for Defense  
12:30 Bewitched  
1:00 The Haunting of Seaside Inn

### DISCOVERY

12:30 Amazing Baby Videos  
1:30 Celebrity Slimming Year 2002  
2:00 Diet Busters  
2:30 Detective Stories The New Detectives : Case Studies in Forensic Science From the Ashes  
3:30 Wild Discovery Tracking Deadly Vipers  
4:30 Operation Junkyard  
5:00 Popular Mechanics for Kids Space  
5:30 Trailblazers Trail Blazers Japan  
6:30 Extreme Machines  
7:00 Incredible Robots  
7:30 Wild Discovery Reptiles  
8:30 Turtles : Life in a Shell  
The Fastest, Tallest, Biggest Superstructures  
Hyundai Heavy  
9:30 Industries Shipyard  
Cars Extreme Machines : Million Dollar Motors  
10:30 Casino Diaries Bet it all For Women only  
11:30 Berman & Berman  
Bilogy of Attraction  
Future Perfect  
Technocops  
**ANIMAL PLANET**  
12:30 Animal Planet Reveals  
1:30 Fighting Bears of Punjab  
2:30 In the Wild Tigers (Bob Hoskins)  
3:00 Wild Encounters  
3:30 Leopard  
5:00 Pet Nation Great Pyrenees  
6:00 Pet Nation Bichon Frise  
7:30 Wildlife Specials Eagle Master of the Sky  
8:30 Animal Planet Reveals  
9:30 Snakes  
12:00 Animal Planet Reveals  
Mamba

10:30 Wild Encounters Great Hunts  
11:30 Wildlife Specials Whale Giant of the Ocean  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
12:30 In Search Of Jaguar  
1:30 Cheating Death  
2:30 Young Global Hot Shots  
3:00 Xing Global Hot Shots  
3:30 Yukon Quest  
4:30 Myths & Logic Of Shaolin Kung Fu  
5:30 Africa From The Ground Up  
6:00 Sea Stories  
6:30 Dogs With Jobs  
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife  
7:30 National Geographic Special  
8:30 Cheating Death  
9:30 Extreme Superstructures  
10:30 Young Global Hot Shots  
11:30 Sailing's Everest  
Seven Deadly Arts  
**STAR SPORTS**  
11:30 Watersports  
Programming Hot Water (T)  
12:30 Soccer Masters League  
Football 2004 - Central Masters Highlights(R)  
1:30 Max Power 2004 (T)  
2:30 Hitz (R)  
3:00 World Pool  
Championships 2004 Day 5 1st Session(L)  
6:30 World Pool  
Championships 2004 Day 5 2nd Session(L)  
10:00 Futbol Mundial (T)  
10:30 Sportsline (L)  
11:00 Olympic Related Road To Glory Athletics - The Marathon Runners(T)  
12:00 Olympic Related Road To Athens (T)

**ESPN**  
1:00 Pro Wakeboard Series  
Fort Worth Tx Usa (R)  
1:30 Tour De France 2004 Highlights Stage #9(S)  
2:00 European Championship Football Uefa Euro 2004 Lisbon Portugal Finals(R)  
4:00 European Championship Highlights Uefa Euro 2004 Tournament Review(R)  
5:00 ESPN Presents  
Samsung Cricket Show (R)  
5:30 Uik Domestic Cricket  
Twenty20 Cup Leicester England Leicestershire Vs Nottinghamshire (R)  
8:00 Hitz (T)  
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)  
9:00 Football Focus Extra  
Roy Evans Special Part 1(T)  
9:30 NBA Anthology 1990  
Detroit Pistons - Pure Pistons (R)  
10:00 The Open Championship 2004 Preview(S)  
10:30 Uik Domestic Cricket  
Twenty20 Cup Yorkshire England Yorkshire Vs Lancashire (L)  
**TEN SPORTS**  
2:00 ATP Tennis  
3:00 Golf Highlights: Smurfit  
European Open  
3:30 Road to Athens : Ep 3  
4:00 ICC Cricket World  
5:30 Copa America H/Ls  
6:30 After Burn  
9:30 Tour De France  
11:00 Copa America H/Ls  
After Burn  
12:00 Beach Volleyball  
Highlights