

Upclose

## Tanveen Sweety: A modest, passionate actress

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

HERE was a gentle murmur at a sari shop at New Market when TV actress Tanveen Sweety walked in. The salesperson began piling up saris of all shades and designs. Without makeup and constantly attracting looks from shoppers, the artist seemed laid-back.

Tanveen Sweety, better known as Sweety, is one of the busiest actresses on the small screen today. Starting her career as a model in 1991, the actress has played diverse roles in several TV serials, tele-films and more.

"Growing up, acting was certainly not one of the careers I had in mind. After working in some TV commercials, I started getting offers from TV play directors and it got me curious. I became a member of Theatre (Natok Shoroni). Acting became a passion and I was ready to take it up as my profession," says Sweety.

Between modelling and acting, which one does she prefer? Sweety: "Well, I've worked in several TV commercials and concentrated only on modelling for five years. But I believe, when one wants to do something seriously, he/she has to set a goal. Acting is the bigger canvas. Acting is



something that requires undivided attention. Gradually, I was doing less TV commercials and was concentrating more on my acting."

The actress has worked in Abu Sayeed's upcoming film *Banshi*. Is she considering a career in films? Sweety: "My experience in the film has been very inspiring. I suppose, if it's a quality film that the audience can enjoy, I will definitely be interested in it."

**I lead a casual, modest life. I don't wear makeup unless I'm shooting for a play**

In between the interview, the actress shares her childhood fascination for dolls: "I grew up in Dhaka and like most girls, I was very fond of playing with dolls. I used to make my dolls with rags. I loved those rag dolls. My cousin and I would arrange marriages between our dolls. It was a lot of fun."

Has life changed much after becoming a celebrity? "I don't think it's a big deal. I lead a casual, modest life. I don't wear makeup unless I'm shooting for a play. And I certainly don't like showing off," the actress responds.

Any discontentment with her career? "I think every actor has this urge to do more and further hone his/her skills. It's normal. People who don't feel that way, never grow," says Sweety.

Future plans regarding acting? Sweety: "My husband and I have a production house, 'Shankha Neel'. I have high hopes for the production house. Some of our productions have been received well by audience. Recently we have finished a TV play *Horgoj Briefcase Ebong Kichu Shada Projapoti*. I am optimistic about this play."

Any advice to newcomers? "There is no alternative to sincerity and professionalism. Acting is a demanding profession. Several new faces have emerged and dissipated in this media. An aspiring actor must concentrate on expressions, pronunciation, apt makeup and costumes and much more," the artist concludes.

Special TV plays on Tagore's death anniversary

## "Rangin Boshonpranto" on Channel-i

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On the occasion of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore's death anniversary, Channel-i will air a special TV play *Rangin Boshonpranto* on August 6.

Written by Dr. Fazlul Alam and directed by Raju Alim, the play revolves around a young architect, Chaiti and her fascination with

everything Tagore. Chaiti is engaged to Kajol but before tying the knot, she decides to take a tour of Shilaidaha Kuthibari. At the Kuthibari, Chaiti meets a poet and Tagore researcher, Alok. Through Alok, Chaiti discovers details of Tagore's attachment to Shilaidaha. Everything at the Kuthibari, including furniture, boat, palanquin, writing and more, appear with renewed significance to Chaiti.

Through their shared passion for Tagore, a relationship starts to develop between Alok and Chaiti. Meanwhile, Kajol, Chaiti's fiancé, arrives at Shilaidaha.

Singer Agun, Irish Zaker and Rahi play the lead roles in *Rangin Boshonpranto*.



(From left) Agun, Rahi and Irish Zaker in the play

## "Samapti" on Rtv

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Special play *Samapti* will be aired on Rtv at 8:40pm on August 6, Tagore's death anniversary. The play is an adaptation of a short story bearing the same title by Rabindranath Tagore. The play is directed by Kayes Chowdhury.

Mrimoyee, an adolescent, is central to the storyline of the play. Returning from Kolkata after his

exams, Amulya spends a few days with his mother. The latter has arranged a good match for him. The son opposes the marriage proposal and draws his mother's attention to his love for Mrimoyee, a tomboyish young girl. Against his mother's wishes, he marries Mrimoyee. On their first night together, she escapes by climbing down a tree and spends the night outside. After the difficult wedding night, Amulya, instead of facing the circumstances, hastily goes back to Kolkata and Mrimoyee is sent back to her mother's house. Once he is gone, Mrimoyee realises how much she misses him and returns to Amulya's mother. Coming to terms with this situation, the mother pretends to be sick to bring Amulya back and reunite the couple.

Elora Gowhar, Mehdi Moinul, Porag, Rajib and Shabnam have played the central roles.



A scene from *Samapti*

## A world apart of roots and branches

### Ferdousy Priyabhashini's solo exhibition



Jalsiri Naditir Parey (top) and Ashwathto Bot-er Path-e by Ferdousy Priyabhashini

FAYZA HAQ

Ferdousy Priyabhashini's ongoing solo exhibition of driftwood at Bengal Gallery brings in humour, love, happiness and sorrow. In the exhibition titled *Branches and Twigs*, the artist's works with discarded objects like tree roots, branches, trunks, coconut fibre and grass, are on display.

Initially encouraged by maestro S.M. Sultan, Ferdousy has worked diligently and come a long way in 27 years. Commenting on her work S.M. Sultan had said in 1994, "The purity of form that Henry Moore sought in stones, Ferdousy has found it in trees". Poet Sufia Kamal once wrote, "Ferdousy inspires awe and admiration by discovering and communicating splendours in driftwood, cinders and dry grass."

Ferdousy, from her childhood was fond of nature and believes that man is an inseparable part of it. In her moments of distress and depression she often found solace in nature such as the rain or the setting sun. She chose driftwood as her subject as she sympathises with items considered

discarded and unwanted.

The artist picks up driftwood from the streets, from disposals and from homes, which she happens to visit. She used to clean the wood by boiling it in salt water. She later found this laborious and resorted to applying chemicals to the wood, a technique she learnt from Sharbiri Rai Chowdhury in Shantiniketan and Masuda Kazi. She also seasons her material by exposing it to the rain and sun for some time. According to the artist, she learnt this method from renowned naturalist photographer Enamul Haque. Ferdousy's creations find encouragement from artists like Shafiquddin Ahmed, Qayyum Chowdhury, Rafiqun Nabi and Abdus Shakoor.

From the fibre of palm tree leaves, Ferdousy gets astounding results in the form of birds caught in the rain. She rubbed it with grease to give it a brass-like shine. She added sand, lime and gum to the background to give it the greyish brown effect. With the root of a tree and a broken piece of tin sheet she created her a piece -- an open window, with its surrounding creep-

ers. The brown and black shades came naturally with seasonal rain and sun. Black tea leaves frame the composition. One gets the effect of a waiting person near a window and this piece is called *Storm in the Window*.

Dwelling on her early memories she has created a front door. Coconut fibres and thin strips of wood form three entrance gates and wicker fence. Another scene brings the front of a prison with bars and handles.

Yet another creation represents the goddess of rain and brings in a female figure walking through the torrents. In the entry, built around a temple, one finds a dancing figure amidst the ruins created by driftwood. *Song of Restful Times* has its origins in a banyan tree root. Shiva and his companions are brought in twisting and dancing forms. The torsos and limbs intermingling into mysterious forms.

Birds, boats, houses, trees, dancing figures, embracing lovers and many more endearing objects are included in Ferdousy's display of driftwood.

The exhibition is on till August 10.

## TV play "Biporeet" on the occasion of Friendship Day



Tony Dias and Richi Solaiman in *Biporeet*

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On the occasion of Friendship Day (August 5), ATN Bangla will air a special TV play tonight at 8:45pm.

Written by Masum Reza and directed by Taher Shiron, the play *Biporeet*, revolves around Khokon and his family. Khokon's wife Saba gets stressed when out of the blue

Khokon quits his job. She gets suspicious when her husband asks her brother for a sizeable amount of cash. The play reaches a climax when Saba finds out that Khokon was fired for misappropriating cash from his office and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Tony Dias and Richi Solaiman play the lead roles in *Biporeet*.

## Movie Watch

### "Gandhi, My Father": An unseen side of Mahatma

Indians have always revered Mahatma Gandhi as 'Father of the Nation'. Gandhi is also considered to be a global icon. Known to profess secularism, very little is known about Gandhi as a father. Slated to be released today, *Gandhi, My Father*, a film produced by Anil Kapoor, throws light on some of these aspects.

The title 'Mahatma' was bestowed on to Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi by Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. 'Father of the Nation', another title, was conferred on Gandhi by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Recently the United Nations has declared Gandhi's birthday, October 2, to be observed as International Day of Non-violence.

Believed to be an ardent follower of secularism, many are perhaps unaware of the fact that Gandhi disowned his eldest son Hiralal after he converted to Islam.

Eldest of four brothers, Hiralal Gandhi returned to India from South Africa to make a career of his own. He roamed in the streets of India for seven years after which he resorted to alcohol.



Married with three children, Hiralal adopted Islam; a religion he believed would give him some kind of solace.

The film gives a fascinating insight into the relationship between Mahatma Gandhi and Hiralal, a relationship that hasn't been delved into much until now.

The cast includes Akshay Khanna as Hiralal, Shefali Shah as Kasturba Gandhi, Bhoomika Chawla portraying Hiralal's wife and Darshan Jariwala playing the role of Mahatma Gandhi.

The film is being directed by Feroze Abbas Khan, a leading theatre director.

*Gandhi, My Father*, is said to be one of the biggest Indian films in terms of scale. Most of the principal technicians, including cinematographer David McDonald, are internationally acclaimed.

The film has been shot mainly in South Africa, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Bhoir, near Pune.

Source: Internet

A scene from *Gandhi, My Father*

## Johnny Depp to play a vampire in "Dark Shadows"

Johnny Depp is fulfilling a life-long ambition to play a vampire in *Dark Shadows*. London-based producer Graham King is overseeing this adaptation of this '60s TV show, which captured Depp's imagination. It's described as a 'spooky supernatural soap' fea-

turing gothic horror staples like vampires, monsters, witches, werewolves, ghosts and zombies.

Depp will star as Barnabas Collins, a bloodsucking, self-loathing patriarch, who has been roaming the earth for 175 years.

Source: BBC

