

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Exhibit of Wood Engravings
 Title: Palashi Thekey
 Ekaitur
 Carpenter: Naresh Kumar
 Sutradhar
 Organiser: Shudha
 Venue: National Museum
 Date: April 3-10
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm
 (Fridays 3:30-7:30pm)



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Recent Works
 Artist: Faraha Zeba
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sec 4, Uttara
 Date: March 21-April 3
 Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Lyrics of Line
 Artist: Sanat Kar
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
 Date: April 3-14
 Time: 12-8pm



Intra NSU Photography Competition and Exhibition
 Organiser: NSU
 Photography Club
 Venue: GMQ ground floor, GMQ Monami Tower, Banani
 Date: March 29-April 2



Conserving our rich dance tradition

Dance-based show sends out ripples on BTV



The two main pillars of Nrityanchal, Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad live and breathe dance.

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Dance is an art and not everybody has the knack to master it! Our dance has a rich heritage and this legacy is still alive today because of several talented and famous dancers. A dance-based weekly show titled "Tarana" went on air last night at 9:30 pm on BTV. Established artistes and institutes displayed a captivating lyricism through their performance

in the show. The 25-minute programme includes a discussion session, called "Nritto Kotha" (Dance Talk) where experts zero in on the richness and vibrancy of dance. They converse about the depth, spontaneity and passion of dance. Overall, this programme discusses a range of issues related to dance. The programme, organised by Nrityanchal and produced by BTV, is

sure to go down well with dance lovers for its aesthetic appeal. Nrityanchal is a dance academy which captures the achievements and development of young dancers and looks at Bangladeshi culture in a sensitive and contemporary light. One of the directors of the academy is Shamim Ara Nipa who lives and breathes dance. Nrityanchal will hold a round-table on "Oitijhobahi

Nritter Shondhaney" on April 4 with the objective conserving the folk dances of our country. Renowned experts will discuss ways to promote and revive folk dance, one of the pillars of our identity. This effort is long overdue as traditional folk dances are fast disappearing for want of patronage. Thus artistes from urban areas will be trained to perform in various programmes and events and will in turn play a pivotal role in propagating and developing traditional dances.

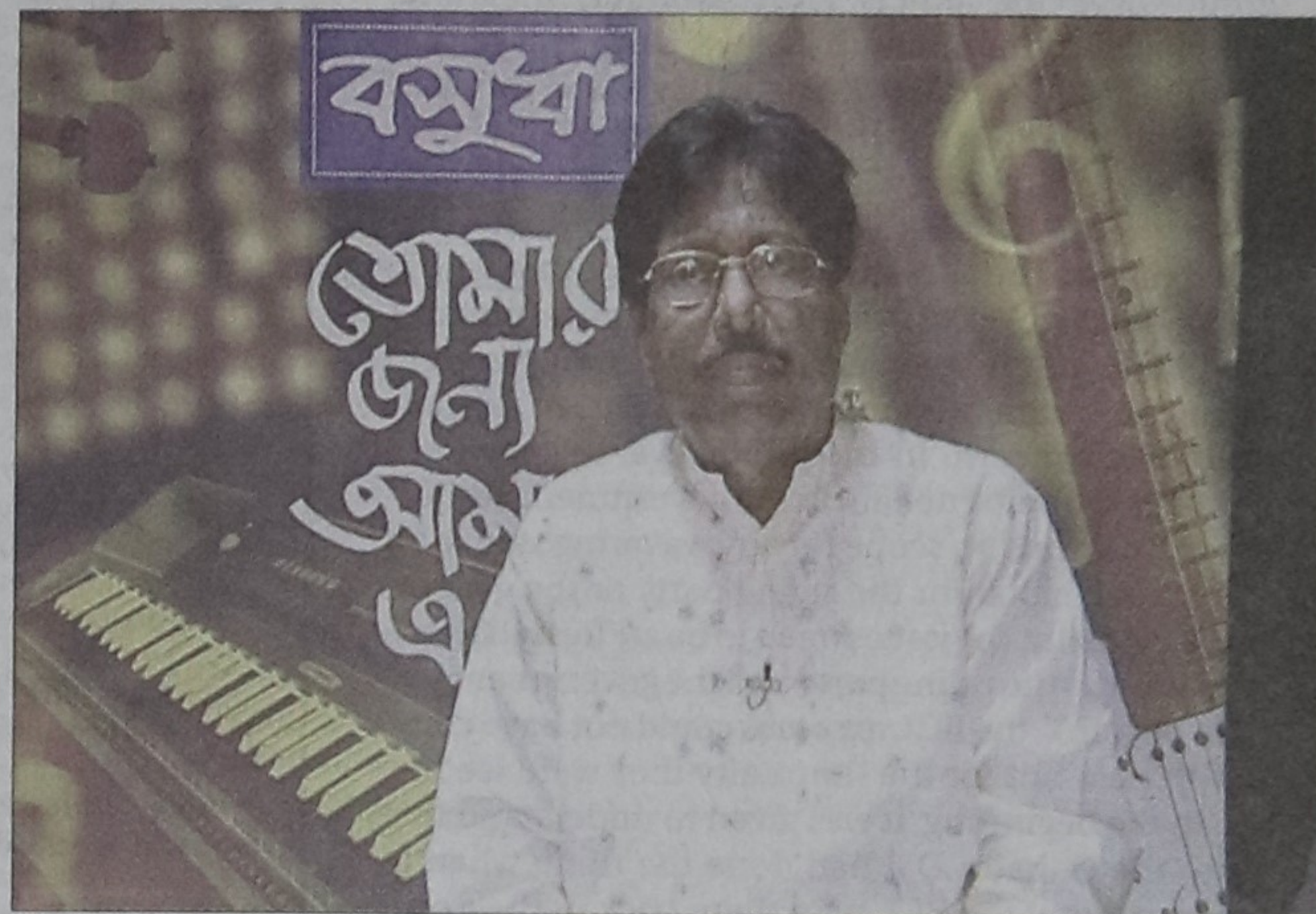
The two main pillars of Nrityanchal Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad who have attained mastery over the art of dance with their constant effort and determination and attained international recognition- will visit Australia shortly. The famous sitarist, Firoz Khan will also accompany them. They have been invited by Surolok, a Melbourne-based institute dedicated to promoting and fostering the Bangladeshi culture, to perform in the Bengali New Year. The Surolok artistes along with other celebrities of Kolkata will also perform on the momentous occasion, which will be celebrated on April 18.

The Daily Star congratulates these artistes for their excellent contribution in preserving and promoting our performing arts as a rich legacy for the younger generation living abroad.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

TV Watch

Bashudha Tomar Jonno Amar Ey Gaan goes on air tonight



Abdul Jabbar to perform his hit numbers on the show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Eminent singer Abdul Jabbar will perform on the show "Bashudha Tomar Jonno Amar Ey Gaan" on RTV tonight at 11pm. Jabbar has

countless hit songs to his credit-- ranging from patriotic songs to songs for films of the 60s and 70s. Directed by Tanif Mahmood and hosted by Laura, the programme offers an opportunity to phone in directly and interact with the singer.

Single episode play Autri on Desh TV



Bijori Barkatullah plays the role of Autri in the TV play.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single episode TV play "Autri" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 10pm. The play is written and directed by Shibu Kumar Shil.

The play revolves around the single Autri, a middle-aged schoolteacher. She shares a close friendship with Shunyo. However, Autri's life takes a u-turn when

Shunyo dies suddenly.

Shunyo's death creates an enormous vacuum in Autri's life. Moreover, she faces the toughest test of her life when she realises that she is expecting. The story unfolds rapidly from this point.

Bijori Barkatullah plays the role of Autri. Among others, Wahida Mallick Jolly and Sabyasachi Hazra play central characters in the play.

Talk show Priojon on ATN Bangla



Tonight's episode will feature Brindabon Das and Shahnaz Khushi.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will air celebrity talk show "Priojon" tonight at 6:20 pm. Directed by Fakhru'l Abedin, the show is hosted by

Karovi Mizan. A fortnightly production of ATN Bangla, "Priojon" features interviews with celebrity couples. Today's episode will feature popular playwright Brindabon Das and his wife, actress Shahnaz Khushi as guests.

Cuba holds biggest US art exhibit in 50 years

AFP, Havana

US artists have launched a show in Cuba aimed at bridging a gap separating the country from the United States in the largest such exhibition since the 1959 communist revolution here.

The exhibition that opened Saturday under the title "Chelsea visits Havana" -- after the famed New York art district -- displays 39 works of art by 33 US artists from 28 New York art galleries, according to National Art Museum curator Abelardo Mena.

"It is the biggest exhibition by US art galleries in Cuba," since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, says Havana Biennial organizer Alberto Magnan, who left Cuba when he was five years old and now owns an art gallery in Chelsea.

He says the exhibit took us two-and-a-half years to organize. "I hope it's the first step toward US-Cuban relations," Magnan adds.

The exhibit, which altogether involves more than 200 artists from some 40 countries, and will run through May 17.

The works displayed at the exhibit represent a wide range of views. Some make references to the history of the United States, notably the war in Iraq. Others focus on Cuba and its past, including the famous portrait Cuban Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara made to look like a jigsaw puzzle, from which it is very hard to conclude whether it is about to be finished or taken apart.

"One can see the difference from the Cuban art, which is more linked to tradition, to the collective identity," explains Abelardo Mena, the show organizer. "American art is more individualistic."

"Visual art can be interpreted in different ways," cautiously comments Cuban art lover Antonio Reyes, standing in front of a painting by Walton Ford.

The painting shows a macaw parrot, an extinct species in Cuba, which has



A worker paints a wall next to a sculpture by New York artist Padraig Tarrant called Castrobama at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Havana (Top). A US artist participates in the setting up of an exhibit at the National Museum of Art during the Biennial Exhibition.

somehow managed to survive and, borrowing a phrase from the father of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, happily proclaims that "history will vindicate" him.

The favourite piece of Reyes, who came to the exhibit with his adolescent son, is a "make-believe" nuclear missile launch site.

"This reminds us of the Cold War, of something that is well known" in Cuba, which in those years was an ally of the now defunct Soviet Union.

The young creator of this engineering marvel, Doug Young, said he was "delighted" to participate in this first exhibit in Cuba, which has lived under an American trade embargo for 47 years. The embargo forbids American citizens to visit Cuba as tourists.

However, 15 American artists and gallery owners did come to the island, according to Magnan.

At the same time, Japanese artist Setsuko Ono, sister of John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono, was not able to come because she lacked authorization from authorities in the United States where she lives, according to the official Cuban newspaper Granma.

Artist Duke O'Reilly, 36, who made a film about a fictitious Saint Patrick's Day parade in the streets of Old Havana, says "it is impossible to organize such an exhibit without slipping into politics."

"But art is what brings people closer, and this is the reason why this exhibit is very important, especially at this moment," when US President Barack Obama favors relaxing the Cuban embargo, he points out.

If artists need permissions to come to Cuba, art work circulates here freely, not being subject to restrictions imposed by the embargo, which is increasingly challenged in the United States.

"The United States does business with China and Communist Vietnam," notes Magnan, who hopes to be able to organize a similar exhibit next year in Chelsea and invite Cuban artists to participate.