

WHAT'S ON

International Dance Day
 Organiser: Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: April 23-29
 Time: 6:30 pm

Theatre Festival
 Organiser: BSA Employees' Union
 Venue: National & Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Apr 24-28
 Time: 7pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Unseen in Our Sight: Dalits in Bangladesh
 Photographer: GMB Akash
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
 Date: April 15-29; Time: 3pm-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Proximity of Line
 Artist: Ruhul Karim Rumees
 Venue: Shilpangan, Dhanmondi
 Date: Apr 21-May 5
 Time: 3-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Perception
 Artist: Uttom Kumar Roy
 Venue: Radius Art Gallery, 57 Gulshan Avenue -1
 Date: April 8-May 4
 Time: 9am-10pm

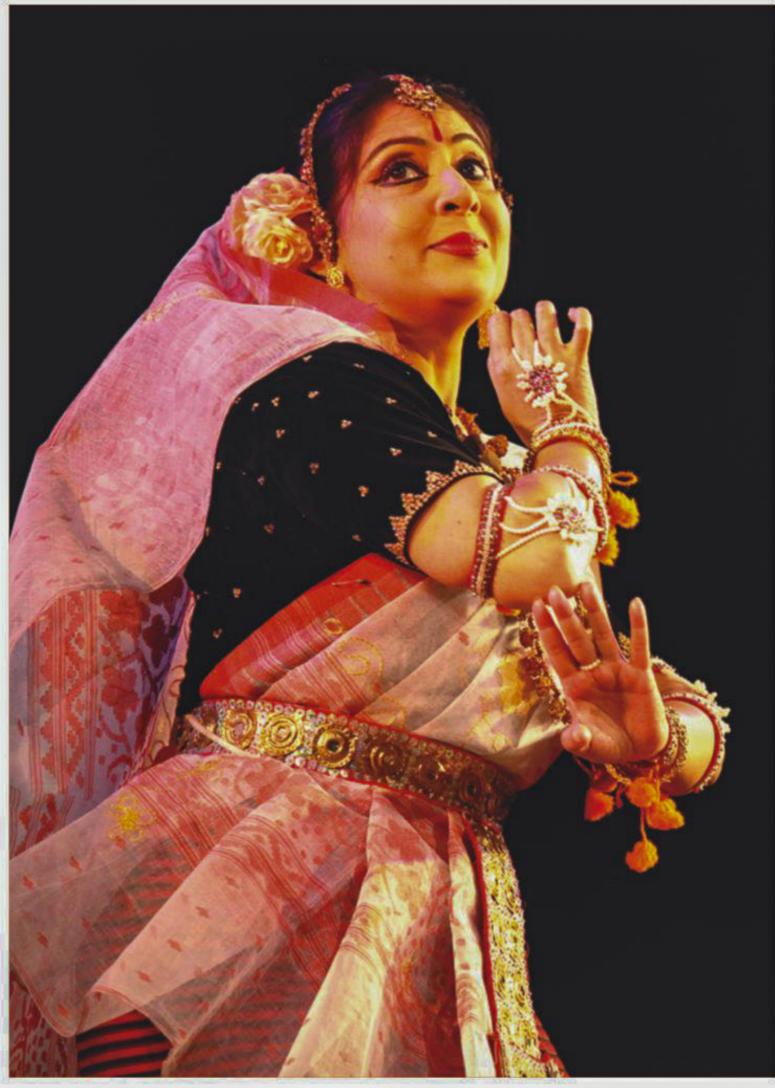


PHOTO: STAR

INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY
"WE NEED MORE EXPOSURE"

...Tamanna Rahman

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

After its grand inauguration on April 23, the weeklong International Dance Day festivities are currently underway. The opening day saw performances of noted dancers, including leading Manipuri dance exponent Tamanna Rahman, who is the founder of Nrityam as well as a lecturer of the Department of Dance at Dhaka University. In a recent conversation with *The Daily Star*, the artiste speaks of the art form, her current ventures, and more. Excerpts:

"I performed during the inaugural ceremony of International Dance Day festival on April 23, to a contemporary patriotic song called 'Jole Otho Bangladesh'. The event was lively and the performance went smoothly. I have also recently performed a Manipuri number for a programme on AIN Bangla, which will go on air on April 29. Currently we are preparing for performances commemorating Tagore's birth anniversary on May 6, and will record dances to five Tagore songs for BTV soon. We are still in talks with other television channels, and will begin rehearsals soon after a concrete plan is laid out. The dance numbers will be done in the Rabindrik style, infused with Manipuri dance."
 "Although dance is a primary cultural component, very little respect is given towards this art form. Our performances usually take place on the stage, and television channels usually hesitate in covering such events. Dance programmes are also scarce on TV, and that must be changed. We

need more exposure if we are to preserve and promote this sacred art form. We also don't receive much support when it comes to sponsorships, and even when we perform at government programmes the fees we receive are a mere pittance. Patronisation from the government, corporations, and the people is necessary if we are to take steps forward."
 "How can dance be expected to flow through generations when today's youth are pressured into sedentary lifestyles? The demand to succeed academically and professionally without respite is limiting the nurturing of their minds, bodies, and souls' needs. This will result in the loss of humanity in the long run, and it is difficult to identify clear solutions against this epidemic. It would be a good start if schools can incorporate the arts into their core curriculum and place equal emphasis like other subjects."

Delineating folk motifs following geometric forms

Ruhul Karim Rumees solo exhibit at Shilpangan

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Promising printmaker Ruhul Karim Rumees' 6th solo exhibition titled "Proximity of Line" opened at Gallery Shilpangan, Dhanmondi in Dhaka recently. Rumees, an Assistant Professor of the Institute of Fine Arts, Chittagong University, completed his BFA (Hons) and MFA with distinction from the Department of Print Making, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. The current exhibition showcases 30 woodcut prints with 15 drawings and mixed media works.

Eminent artist Monirul Islam inaugurated the show as chief guest on April 21. Art connoisseur Zareen Mahmud Hossain was present as guest of honour while renowned art critic Moinuddin Khaled presided over the programme. The show, opening from 3pm to 8pm daily, will conclude on May 5.

Rumees, a devoted artist, loves to do portraits of towering personalities like Tagore, and at the same time, he depicts the faces of the marginalised people. Nature is a favourite theme for the artist as well.

His previously exhibited works (woodcut prints, lithographs and etchings) were also themed on varied objects like rickshaws and wheels. He also experiments with amorphous forms and compositions, which have been used in his prints. His meticulous work of art expresses subject in a subtle manner, with light shades of colours, chosen to only enhance the meaning of his expression.

Rumees' current exhibition is however



Guests visit the exhibition on the opening day.

different. Geometric forms coupled with folk motifs are conspicuous features of the show. Unlike portraits of various styles and forms, the audience will come across aquatic elements like fish. He has outlined fishes following geometric shapes. With almost unbroken lines, the artist has portrayed his popular series works "Ambiguity" for the exhibit. He has worked adeptly on the expression and minute details of the works that the

spectators will find quite ambiguous. The different shades on the woodcut prints have reinforced the ambiguity of the subject deciphering an abstract quality. Urban architecture and unplanned urbanisation are two other aspects of the exhibition.

Apart from six solo exhibitions, Rumees has many group exhibitions and workshops to his credit. He has already achieved prestigious awards like

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award at National Art Exhibition, 2nd Winner in Young Artist Art Competition, organised by China-Bangladesh Friendship Centre, Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA) award, Bhasha Shainik Gaziul Haque Award in the 19th National Art Exhibition, Honourable Mention in the 17th Young Artist Art Exhibition and more.

The exhibition closes on May 5.

Nova busy with Eid plays

A CORRESPONDENT

With Eid ul Fitr a couple of months away, this time of the year marks a period of high activity for actors of the small screen. Popular actor Nova has been caught up in the same flurry of shooting schedules and is slated to appear in a number of ventures for the occasion. She recently traveled to Malaysia to wrap up shooting for a six-episode TV play directed by Imraul Rafat.

The actor will also appear in another single episode TV play by the director, and has teamed up with director RB Pritom for another single episode play. The actor will also share the screen space with Mosharraf Karim, Noble and Purnima in a single episode play titled "Jokhon Shomoi Thomke Darai", helmed by Rihan Khan. However it doesn't end there for the busy actor, who said, "There are more projects which shall be planned soon next month."

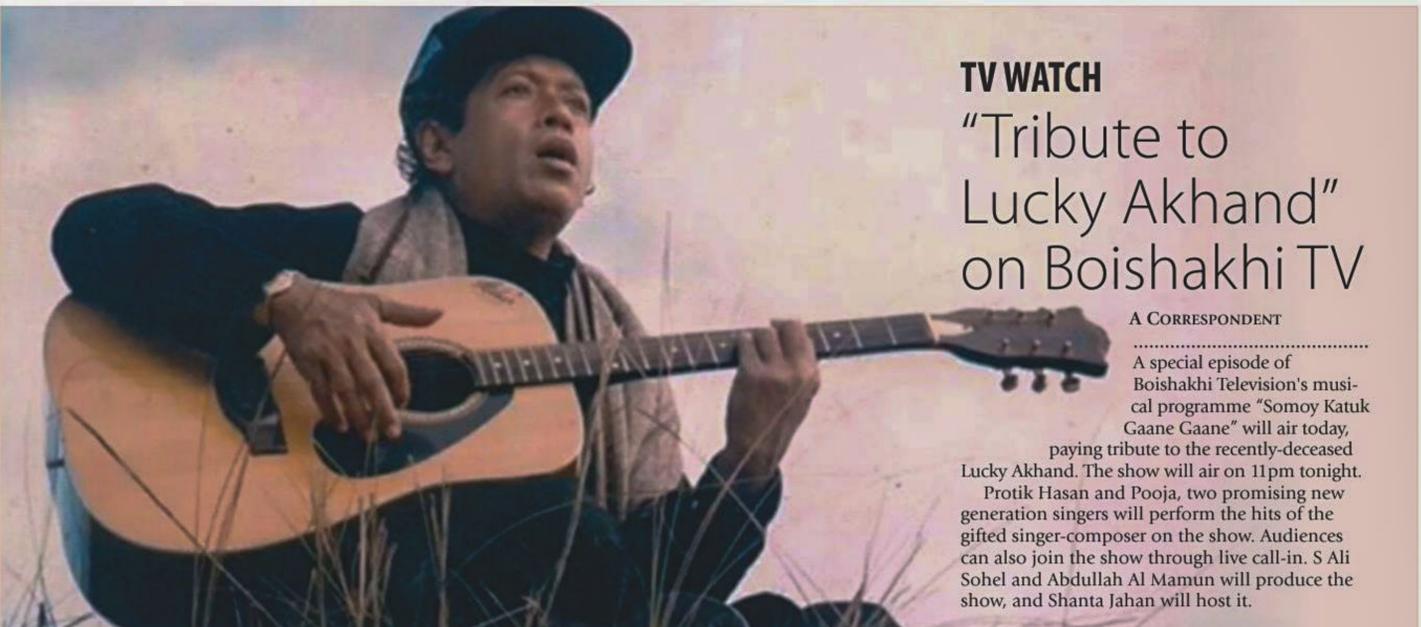
Regarding her new ventures she added, "Each narrative is different, but they all deal with contemporary social issues. Common themes often intersect these plays and viewers will be able to relate to what is being presented."

There are a number of TV serials currently on air that feature the actor, including "Brishtider Bari" on Banglavisian and "President Sirajuddowla" on Rtv. The actor has also worked with director Himel Ashraf in "Google Shob Jaane", which is yet to be aired. "I have also worked on plays for new TV channels, which will go on air once the channels are launched," said Nova.

When asked about what characters she prefers to portray, the actor responded, "As an actor I enjoy performing my character convincingly as opposed to being dolled up for the camera. I have yet to act in period dramas, and have always dreamed of working on a play based on any story by Rabindranath Tagore."



PHOTO: STAR



TV WATCH
"Tribute to Lucky Akhand" on Boishakhi TV

A CORRESPONDENT

A special episode of Boishakhi Television's musical programme "Somoy Katuk Gaane Gaane" will air today, paying tribute to the recently-deceased Lucky Akhand. The show will air on 11pm tonight.

Protik Hasan and Pooja, two promising new generation singers will perform the hits of the gifted singer-composer on the show. Audiences can also join the show through live call-in. S Ali Sohel and Abdullah Al Mamun will produce the show, and Shanta Jahan will host it.