

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

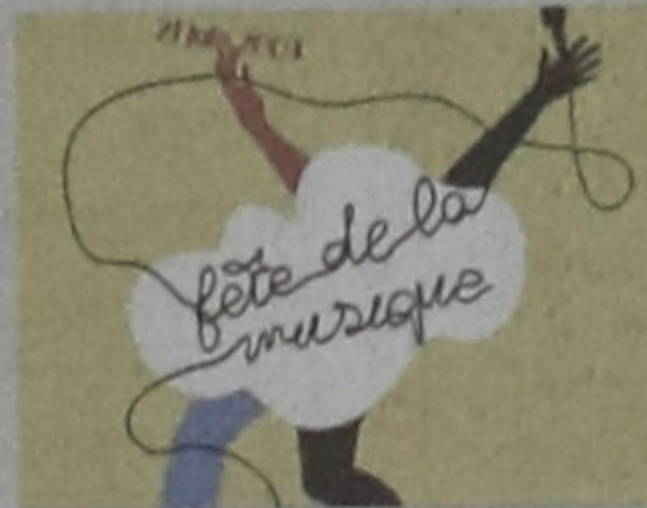
Album Launch
Title: Tomar Bibha Te
Organiser: War Crimes Facts Finding Committee
Venue: Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bhavan
Date: June 26
Time: 7pm



5th Int'l Children-Art Biennale
Organiser: Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: June 21-July 5
Time: 11am-6pm



Fete de la Musique
Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka (AFD)
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: June 21-July 2
Time: 6:30pm onwards



Film Screening
Film: Harano Sur
Filmmaker: Ajay Kar
Venue: Auditorium, Indian Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan-1
Date: June 26
Time: 6pm



Recalling the spirit of Sufia Kamal

Chhayanaut's Nazrul Festival ends



Dr. Rafiqul Islam reminisces Sufia Kamal in his memorial speech.



Shahin Samad (left) and Fatema Tuz Zohra sing in unison.



Chhayanaut artistes sing and dance at the programme.



NADIA SARWAT

"It was February 21, 1953. We attended programmes all day, observing the first Language Martyrs' Day. Barefoot, we went to the Shaheed Minar, which was just a bare brick structure covered by black cloth then. We were at memorial meetings and rallies, mourning those who had embraced martyrdom to secure our right to speak Bangla. In the evening, Sufia Kamal asked me what my plans are, and my tired answer was that I wanted to go back to my hall (at Dhaka University). She asked me, 'aren't you invited to the dinner celebrating International Poetry Festival?' I told her as they are celebrating the occasion on a national mourning day, I don't intend to go.

"To my surprise, she told me that we should protest this by going there, in front of all. I could not but agree with this brave woman and went to the dinner. Our presence itself was a protest, as we were in a total contrast

with the jovial atmosphere. Sufia Kamal wearing a white cotton saree and me in a cotton shirt -- both of us wearing a mourning badge. We were barefoot. Responding to the host's reluctant query, Sufia Kamal said that we were there to protest the event as it dishonoured the Language Movement, and that we wanted the guests to pay homage to the martyrs. I translated her words into English, as there were many non-Bengali guests. We left the dinner after the guests acknowledged the Language Martyrs' Day. That's how bold and determined Sufia Kamal was," noted Nazrul researcher Dr. Rafiqul Islam reminisced in his memorial speech on the concluding day of the Nazrul Festival at Chhayanaut. The festival marked the 98th birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal.

Dr. Islam spoke on the life and philosophy of Sufia Kamal, who was inspired by the progressive and secular thoughts and views of Kazi Nazrul Islam and Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

The concluding day's programme was inaugurated by veteran Nazrul exponent Sudhin Das at the Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan. Together with his wife, Neelima Das, the seasoned artiste also rendered a song at the event. Chhayanaut general secretary Khairul Anam Shakil delivered the welcome speech at the event presided over by Chhayanaut president Dr. Sanjida Khatun. Artistes of Nazrul Academy and music school Hindol presented group performances at the programme. The last day's evening session featured performance by artistes of Chhayanaut along with guest artistes. Yasmin Mushtari, Rawshan Ara Mustafiz, Ferdousi Rahman, Muntarin Mahal, Dr. Nashid Kamal and Fatema Tuz Zohra were among the guest performers.

A dance-drama, titled "Shajol Shyam Gahano Deya" was a major attraction on the closing day. Based on the theme of monsoon, the dance-drama staged by Chhayanaut artistes

featured Nazrul's songs and poetry on rain. The performance was directed by Sharmila Bandopadhyay. The dance-drama began with the song "Megher-o hindola." The repertoire included several songs portraying different aspects of nature and life in monsoon. Featured songs were: "Megh-medur baroshay kotha tumi," "Rimi rimjhim rimjhim namilo deya," "Chanchalo shyamolo elo gaganey" and the composition which inspired the title of the dance-drama, "Esho hey shajolo shyamo ghano deya."

Students and teachers of Chhayanaut, including Khairul Anam Shakil, Nasima Shaheen, Shahin Samad, Sharmin Shathi Islam, Sumon Majumdar, Nandita Dutt, Bijon Chandra Mistry and others performed songs. Bhaswar Bandopadhyay and Mahmuda Akther's recitation was also a part of the production. Sharmila Bandopadhyay herself performed in the dance sequences along with Arno Komolika, Sonia Rashid and other dancers.

Nagarik Natyanagan Ensemble to stage Neel-er Pala today

Nagarik Natyanagan Ensemble's latest production "Neel-er Pala" will be staged today at the Mahila Samiti Auditorium, according to a press release. The play focuses on the farmers' rebellion against the British, known as the 'Neel Bidroho' (Indigo Uprising) during the Raj era.

The play zooms in on a farmer in mid-twentieth century Bengal. England was going through its Industrial Revolution at that time. There was a huge demand for indigo, and a major share of it came from the subcontinent. The English settlers forced the farmers in Bengal to cultivate indigo instead of local crops.

After many individual objections and consequent tortures, the farmers were united in their protest against the British and decided that they would not cultivate indigo anymore. Through the story of Mathur, one such farmer, the play "Neel-er Pala" re-enacts the history of the uprising.

The cast includes Rabi Babu, Tapash Shaha, Rabiul alam among others. The play was written by noted litterateur Chittaranjan Ghosh and has been directed by Abul Kashem. "Neel-er Pala" was premiered on May 13 this year.



Actors of Nagarik Natyanagan Ensemble in a scene from the play.

Reading and writing competition in Dinajpur, Joypurhat

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Bishwa Shahitya Kendra's Dinajpur and Joypurhat roaming library unit, organised Nazrul's prose a reading competition on Nazrul's prose and another on writing on the occasion of the National Poet's 110th birth anniversary.

The event was held at the auditorium of Scholars International English Medium School here in Dinajpur recently. Professor Hasnin Ara Begum, principal of Dinajpur Govt. Women's College, attended the event as chief guest. AKM Ziaul Haque, principal of Scholars International English Medium School and Golam Kibria of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra, Dinajpur were present as special guests at the programme.

Md. Delwar Hossain, assistant librarian of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra, delivered the welcome speech.

At the meeting, the speakers emphasised the need for developing a reading habit to boost literacy. The speakers hailed Bishwa Shahitya Kendra's initiatives to provide the underprivileged with access to quality books.

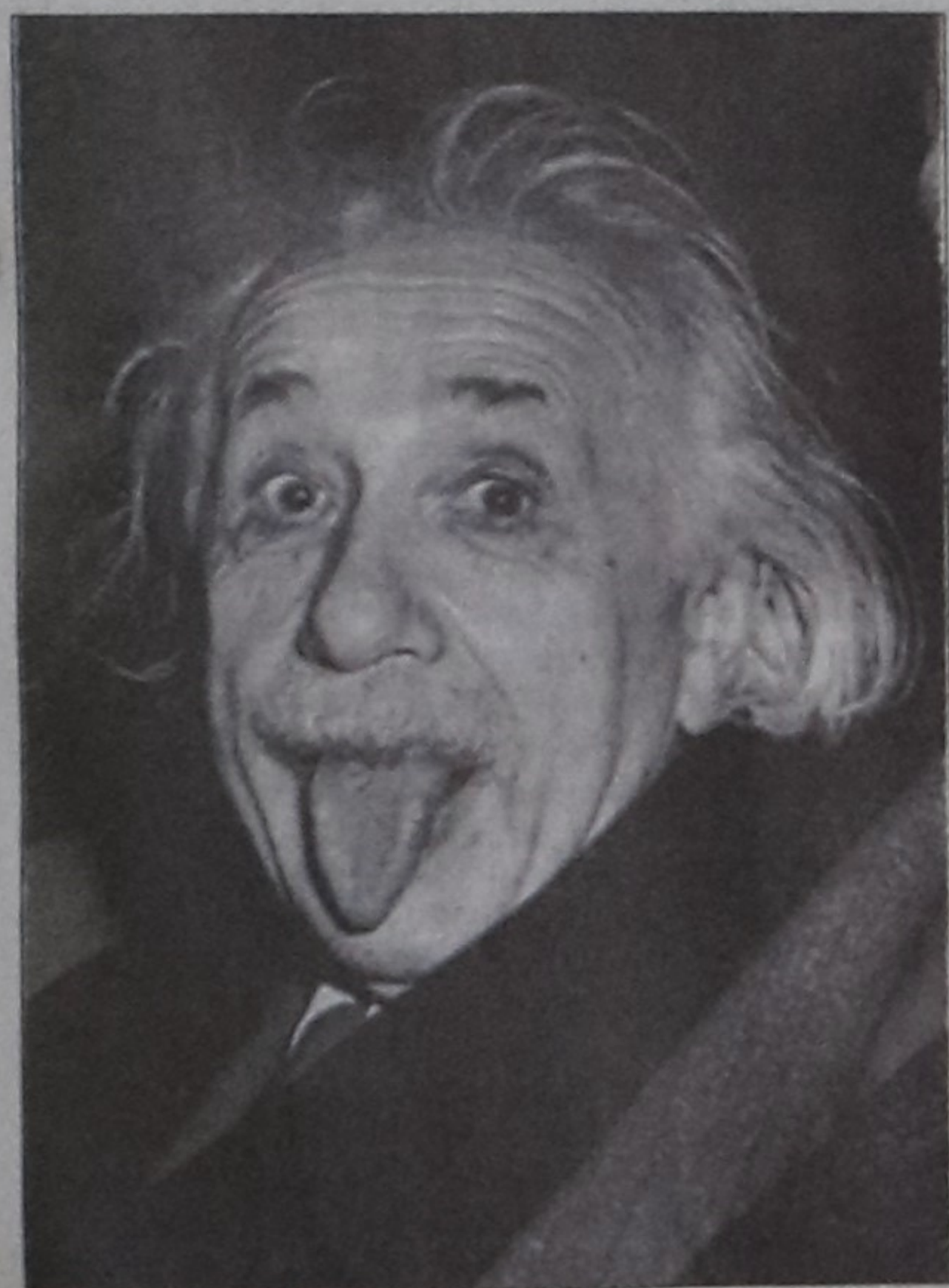
Later Hasnin Ara Begum handed prizes and certificates among the winners.

Around 140 students from different educational institutes took part in the competitions.

On the occasion, Dinajpur Film Viewers' Forum screened a film on Nazrul. The programme wrapped up with a colourful cultural programme.

In Joypurhat similar programmes were held by local organisations.

Print of iconic Einstein photo sells for \$74K



The original signed print of Albert Einstein sticking his tongue out.

One of the original signed prints of Albert Einstein sticking his tongue out at photographers has been sold by a New Hampshire auction house for \$74,324.

Bobby Livingston, of RRAuction.com in Amherst, says the picture was taken in 1951 after a 72nd birthday celebration for the physicist.

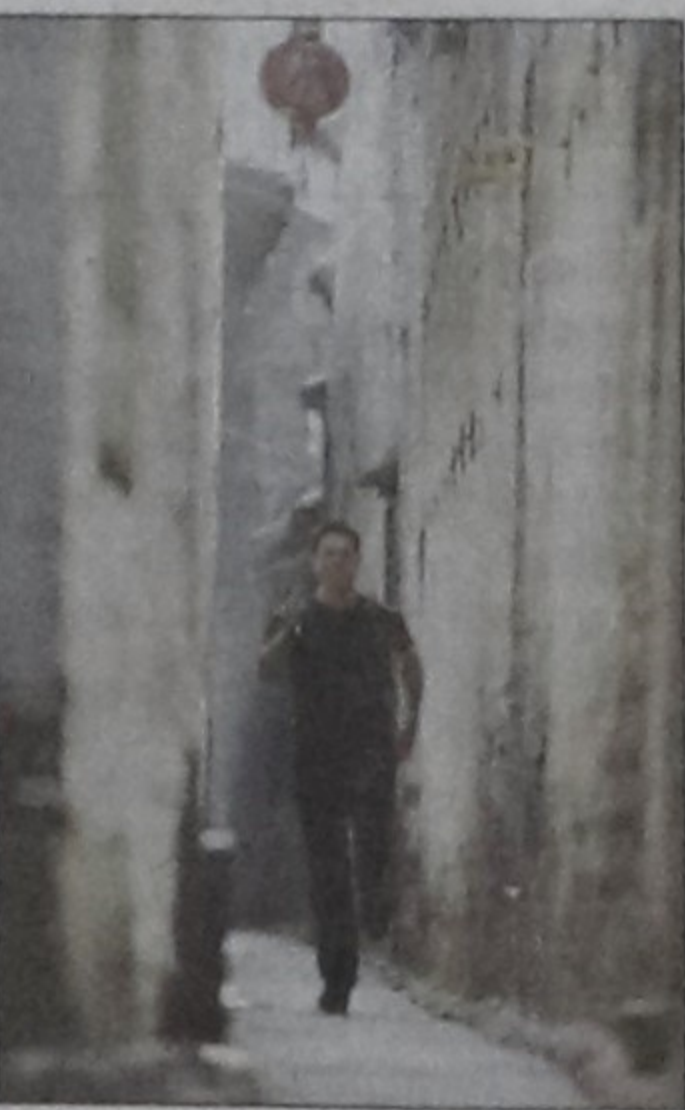
Einstein had nine prints made. He signed the print that was auctioned on Thursday and gave it to journalist Howard K. Smith.

In his inscription, Einstein said his gesture was aimed at all of humanity. Livingston says it also was aimed at the Red Scare and the McCarthy anti-Communist hearings of the 1950s.

David Waxman of Great Neck, New York, is the new owner. He is a specialist in important scientific books and autographs.

Source: Internet

Tom Cruise eyes new Mission: Impossible



discontinued his studio's long relationship with the star three months after the movie opened.

Relatively speaking, "M:I:3" was a box-office disappointment, compared with the second film's worldwide gross of \$545 million and the original film's take of \$452 million.

Abrams recently rebooted a moribund franchise by taking it back to its beginnings with a bunch of young, relatively unknown actors. His "Star Trek," released six weeks ago, has grossed \$335 million worldwide so far.

Abrams is not on board to direct the new "Impossible," and no writers have been hired to work on the fourth iteration of the franchise.

Source: Internet

J.J. Abrams and Tom Cruise are back in business, agreeing to co-produce a fourth "Mission: Impossible" movie with a potential 2011 release date.

Abrams directed Cruise in the third instalment of Paramount's TV-derived franchise, which grossed \$395 million worldwide in summer 2006.

But the future of the franchise was thrown into doubt -- at least in terms of Cruise's participation -- when Viacom chief Sumner Redstone

Suvash Das: An emerging artist



AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Suvash Das' passion for music and painting goes back to his primary school days. Even at that tender age he participated in many a local competition. Realising his immense talent, his primary teacher, Taimur Rahman inspired Suvash to formally learn painting. Likewise, Anwar Hossain Babu encouraged his musical talent. Today Suvash is a reputed artist-cum-singer in Jhenidah. Already three of his solo albums have been released: *Mon Pelam Na*, *Parsi and Srabaner Kanna*

Das is the son of late Santosh Das of Chasra village under Kaliganj upazila, Jhenidah. He passed his SSC from Naldanga Bhusan pilot secondary school and HSC from Mahtab Uddin Degree College. His uncle Anil Das gave him initial training. Later, he was trained at Ershad

Ali Signal training centre, Jessore Cantonment.

After his initial foray into various jobs, Das eventually set up a hut in Kaliganj upazila town from where he runs art classes and practices music. In the art school, established in 1997, he teaches recitation, painting, rhyme songs and patriotic songs. In his leisure time he enjoys sculpting. He has made statues of poet Rabindranath Tagore, Nazrul Islam, Michael Madhusudan, Jibanananda, Sharat Chandra, Lalon Fakir, Mother Teresa and many other notable figures.

Das is also a listed singer of Khulan Betar as well as a composer of music in BTV. Apart from Anwar Hossain Babu, his music teachers have been Bibek Babu, Samir Babu, Ramkrishna Pal, Kolkata, Mrinal Banerjee and Kalyan Sen Bayat from Kolkata. He also says that Aminur Rashid, chief executive director of Multi Media, has assisted him greatly in his musical career.