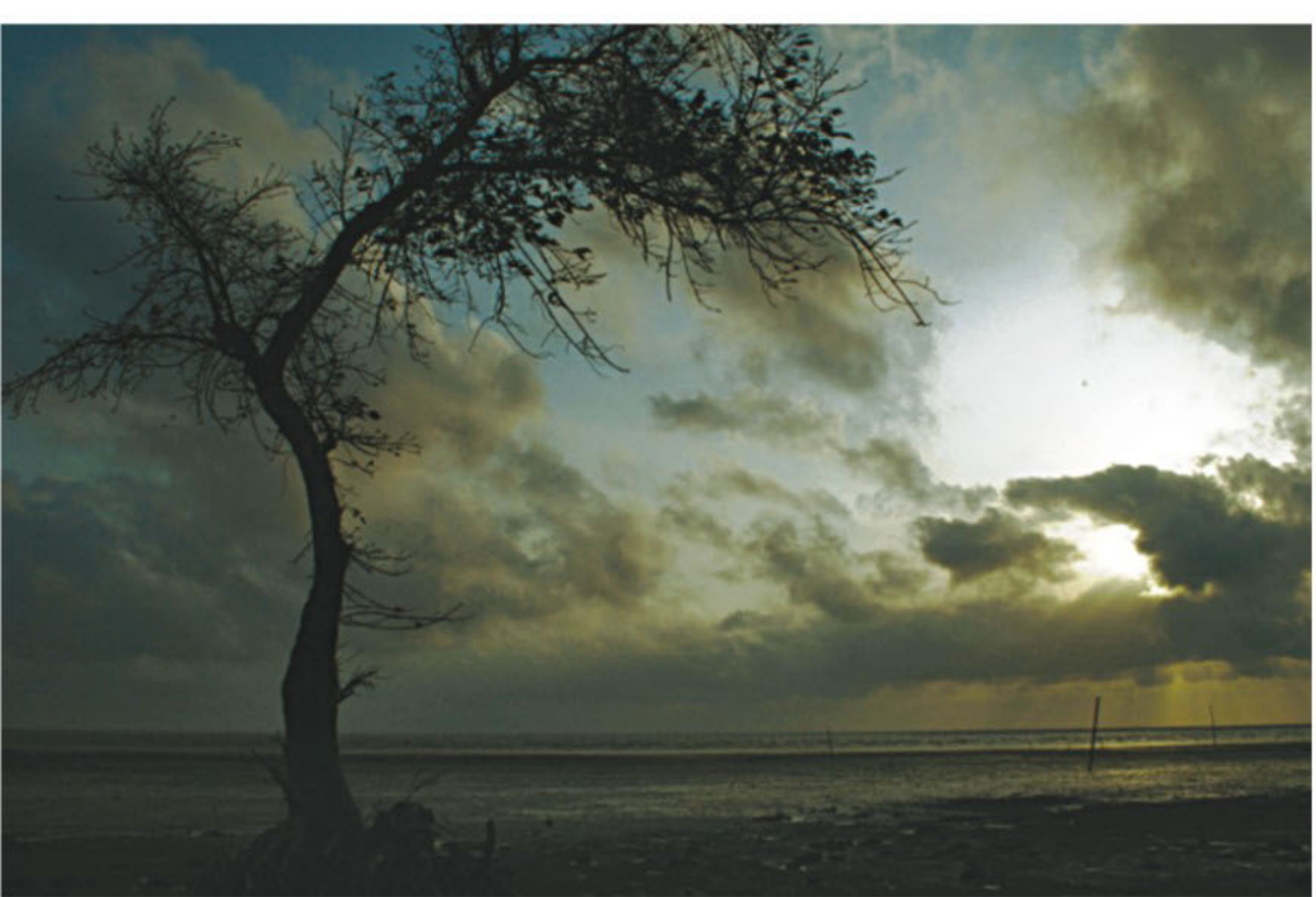


<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Musical Soiree Title: Shrotar Ashor Artists: Yasmin Mushtari, Md. Mofizur Rahman and Ifat Tasneem Haque Venue: Chhayanaout Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi Date: July 9, Time: 7pm</p>		<p>Film Screening Film: Chandrograhan Filmmaker: Parvez Murad Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan Date: July 8 Time: 6pm</p>		<p>Solo Art Exhibition Painter: Samiran Chowdhury Title: Connecting with Nature Venue: Galleri Kaya H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara, Date: July 2-15 Time: 10am-8pm</p>		<p>Theatre Play: Mouseltrap Troup: Padatic Nattya Sangsad (TSC) Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: July 8 Time: 7pm</p>	
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Stories of resilience

Premiere of documentary "Signal 10 Red Alert" at National Museum



University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB) recently arranged the premiere show of the documentary "Signal 10 Red Alert: Tales of Survival...Through Unity" at the National Museum Auditorium, Shahbagh, according to a press release.

Produced and directed by the students of the Media Studies and Journalism Department of ULAB, the film narrates interaction of students with the people living in coastal areas who were affected by cyclones Aila

of the Disaster Management; Professor Rafiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor of ULAB; and Stephane Bonduelle, country director of CUB, were the special guests. After the screening, ULAB students took part in a question-answer session.

A group of students from ULAB went on a nine-day trip to visit two villages in Patuakhali and Borguna districts that were devastated by Sidr and Aila. While documenting their journey, they met resilient locals who not only survived nature's fury but also surmounted it. The students made a documentary featuring tales of vulnerability, agony, inspiration and united efforts to overcome disasters.

Students taking ULAB's TV Production Skills course [supervised by filmmaker Razibul Hossain] planned and produced the film.

ULAB students who were involved with the documentary are Abdullah Al Ahasan, Abdullah Mohammed Hasan, Fahmida Sultana, Farhana Nasrin, Farhana Zabeen, Meer Iftikhairul Islam, Kamruzzaman, Md Nasiruddin, Md Rakibul Hasan, Md Reazul Hossain Bhuiyan, Rashenda Aziz, Rico Richard Halder, S M Habibullah, Sayeda Tasmiah Billah, Sultan Uz Zaman, Sultana Afifa Marium, Tarana Halim, Tarin Afreen and Tasnimul Hassan.



Scenes (top and bottom-left) from the documentary.



ULAB students who made the film.

More power to trees

Cultural programme to encourage afforestation

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

The Divisional Forest Office and Agriculture Extension Office jointly organised a cultural evening at Khagrachhari Town Hall recently to create awareness about the boons of tree plantation.

Local artistes presented traditional Chakma, Marma, Tripura and contemporary dances with a message to plant more trees and thereby save the country from the perils of climate change and natural disasters.

Four artistes presented songs urging people to protect the environment, never exploit or impede it, otherwise it would take unexpected revenge.

Two children recited rhymes and called upon people to reduce carbon dioxide emis-

sions to keep the world's temperature under control. They also pointed out how countries like Nepal and Maldives could suffer unforeseen natural disasters and even be wiped out completely because of climate change.

Earlier, a discussion was held at the same premises with Additional Deputy Commissioner Giasuddin Mogul in the chair. Deputy Commissioner Anisul Hoque Bhuiyan attended the programme as chief guest.

Divisional Forest Officer Ali Kabir in his inaugural speech said the government has plans to undertake afforestation of unclassified lands at eight upazilas of Khagrachhari district.

This initiative has its roots in the successful performance by different government and non-government organisations (NGOs) in the participatory afforestation programme in the district over the last five years.



A dance performance by young artistes.

PHOTO: STAR Source: Internet

Tom Cruise to reprise his "Top Gun" role?



Tom Cruise in "Top Gun."

Tom Cruise could reprise his role of Maverick from his 1986 classic "Top Gun."

"Top Gun" producer Jerry Bruckheimer and 47-year-old Cruise have already tried to follow up the 1986 hit, according to reports.

"We were recently approached again to start talking about it but, you know, nothing yet," Bruckheimer said.

"We kicked around some ideas because the aviation community has completely changed since we made the movie. So we have to find a way in and how to incorporate the Maverick character into it," he added.

Sumaiya Shimu's thriving TV career

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Single-episode TV plays, tele-films and serials are keeping Sumaiya Shimu busy. The vivacious actress says, "Acting is my profession; I don't mind staying busy."

Talking about the long-running drama serial "Lolita," aired on Ekushey TV, in which she plays the titular roles, Shimu says, " 'Lolita' has been a challenging experience but the response from audience have been very positive.

"Initially we were shooting the serial at the slums of Kuril, Dhaka. I had no idea about life in slums. It's been a learning experience. After Kuril, we shot the serial at a brothel in Tangail. Until then I haven't had first-hand experience of life in the brothels either. Now we're shooting at Sadarghat and coming across very interesting incidents. I'm fortunate to have gone through all these experiences."

Among her other serial are "Jolpukur," "FNF" and "Projapati Mon." About these serials Shimu says, " 'FNF' is being directed by Redwan Rony and is aired on ntv. In this serial I play a girl who stutters. 'Jolpukur is being directed by Fattah Tanvir. 'Projapati Mon,' aired on ATN Bangla, is helmed by Fazlur Rahman and my role in it is quite interesting."

Is she getting busy with special plays for the



upcoming Eid? Shimu says, "Every Eid I do several plays. As of now, I know that I'm doing 10/12 Eid-special plays to be aired on different TV channels. Shooting for some of these plays have wrapped up."

Afghan band rocks Kabul in post-Taliban era

AP, Kabul

Guitars strapped to their backs, three trim Afghan youths flash rock star smiles at armed guards who wave them through the steel doors of a private club.

High walls and barbed wire protect the neatly trimmed garden inside from Kabul's troubled streets. It's here that the young trio, Afghanistan's first indie rock band, is launching its debut album.

Less than a decade ago, when the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, a concert like this would have landed them in jail. Playing musical instruments was banned. Singing was allowed, but only songs praising God or the Taliban.

Today, Kabul Dreams, as the band is named, is paving the way for a very modest but growing local rock scene.

About 100 Afghans and foreigners gather around a makeshift stage with improvised lighting and a sputtering sound system.

Singer and guitarist Suleman Qardash repeatedly screams "I wanna run away" -- the album's title track -- as drummer Mujtaba Habibi ramps up the beat.

While the lyrics resonate with an Afghan youth weary of suicide bombings and Taliban attacks, running away is the last thing on the band's mind. The trio returned to Afghanistan after temporary exile in Iran, Uzbekistan and Pakistan during Taliban rule.

"Young people in Afghanistan like rock music a lot, and we're providing them with something from their own country," bass player Siddique Ahmed says.

The band rouses the crowd with another popular number, "Crack in the Radio," based on a girl who works in a Kabul rock radio station. It's a song subject that would have been unthinkable under the Taliban.

The crowd roars, and some dance wildly, waving their arms to intensifying drumbeats.

The band changes the mood with a wistful tune reminiscent of 1990s Britpop. Women in headscarves, sitting on the sidelines, sway demurely to the melodic guitar riffs.

With Taliban insurgents still holding sway in

parts of the country, Kabul Dreams has had to cancel several performances because of security threats.

The group sings in English, limiting its appeal at home, but the band says its choice of language will help spread its message to an international audience. In January, the group played at a regional music festival in New Delhi, India.

"We want to show the world that Afghanistan has rock music, it's not only suicide bombings or attacks," Qardash says.

Newer groups, such as alternative metal band District Unknown, look up to Kabul Dreams as mentors and pioneers.

District Unknown, which draws heavily from Western bands such as Metallica and Led Zepelin, has a much harder edge. Its upcoming single, "My Nightmare," deals with the frustrations of Afghan youth with few or no prospects in a war-torn country.

"We have our own feelings, we have got aggression, depression and we need to speak out for each and every Afghan youngster who needs to speak," says Lemar Saifulla, the 23-year-old lead singer.

The band doesn't perform widely, fearful of threats from religious conservatives.

"We don't want to be called Satanists," Saifulla says.

Rock music has made inroads since the fall of the Taliban. A smattering of music shops sell pirated CDs of Nirvana, Pearl Jam and other bands. Indian and Pakistani groups also are popular among the youth.

What is missing are albums by Afghan bands, a gap that Kabul Dreams hopes to fill. After its first album, which had just five songs, it is at work on a full-length successor that would have 12.

The new one won't be about politics, guns or violence, but rather love, relationships and daily life, Qardash says during a short break from a practice session at their drummer Habibi's home.

That prompts bass player Ahmed to chime in: "The fact that our songs don't have any political message in itself is political."



A solo album, titled "Tomar Shurer Neshaye," featuring Nazrul Sangeet by Dr. Afroza Yasmin was launched on July 3 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Former civil servant Azizur Rahman was the chief guest at the programme. This is the debut album by the singer. The album has been produced under the banner of Agniaveena.