

ALIZA AHMED MINA CONQUEROR OF THE LAND PORT

PHOTO: COURTESY

SANJIDA CHOWDHURY

Aliza Ahmed Mina has set the record as the first female cyclist from Bangladesh who cycled alone for almost 1100 km. She dreams to conquer the mountains by cycling, and has come one step closer to fulfilling it by cycling from Teknaf to Tetulia within nine days only. On September 27, 2017, Mina hopped on a bus to Teknaf. Having reached the destination, she did not look back until October 6. With her cycle, she crossed cities, villages, and bazaars to reach Tetulia.

Upon asking her about the experience, Mina exclaims with joy and replies, "This journey was a totally different experience for me. Even though the weather was not in my favour, I was still very excited." Her fight with the rain

started from the very first day of her journey, or to be precise, as soon as she took off from Teknaf. Ignoring the rain and darkness, from Teknaf Zero Point to Marine Drive, Mina got drenched but still decided to paddle. At 10:30 PM, she reached Kolatoli Beach, Cox's Bazar, by defeating the unruly weather.

Throughout the journey, Mina had to take shelter during the nights at different places. People from different cycling groups around Bangladesh have helped her to meet her goal. Before starting from Teknaf, she had shared about her expedition with other cyclists through her Facebook page "Ramble Riders". A group named Himu Paribahan helped Mina arrange the accommodations at different locations. On October 5, they also arranged for a reception upon Mina's arrival to

Bikon Nattokendro, Rangpur. In Chittagong, cycling groups like the CTG South Riders, Dichokrojan and FNF have helped her with directions and guidelines. Mina mentions to Star Youth, "I want to thank all the cycling groups from the bottom of my heart. Without their help and support, I would not have been able to complete the challenge."

Even though the weather was not in her favour, surprisingly, Mina never felt the need to return home. Crossing from one place to another, the one striking realisation that hit Mina was, there is a lack of greeneries in the towns and cities of our country. An important lesson that has come out of her voyage is, we need to plant more trees: for both natural beauty as well as for life to sustain.

Tales in Teabags: Teabag Stories



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Youth Opportunities

Diversity and Inclusion Youth Conference 2018 in Malaysia



DIYC seeks to gather the youth together to understand how the values and practice of moderation, among themselves, can have a significant contribution towards peaceful

co-existence in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious environment.

Deadline: December 31, 2017 | Award

Next Generation Leaders 2018 in USA

The McCain Institute's flagship programme is the Next Generation Leaders (NGL) programme, designed to identify, train, network and empower a diverse group of emerging, character-driven leaders from the United States and around the world.

Deadline: January 31, 2018 | Miscellaneous

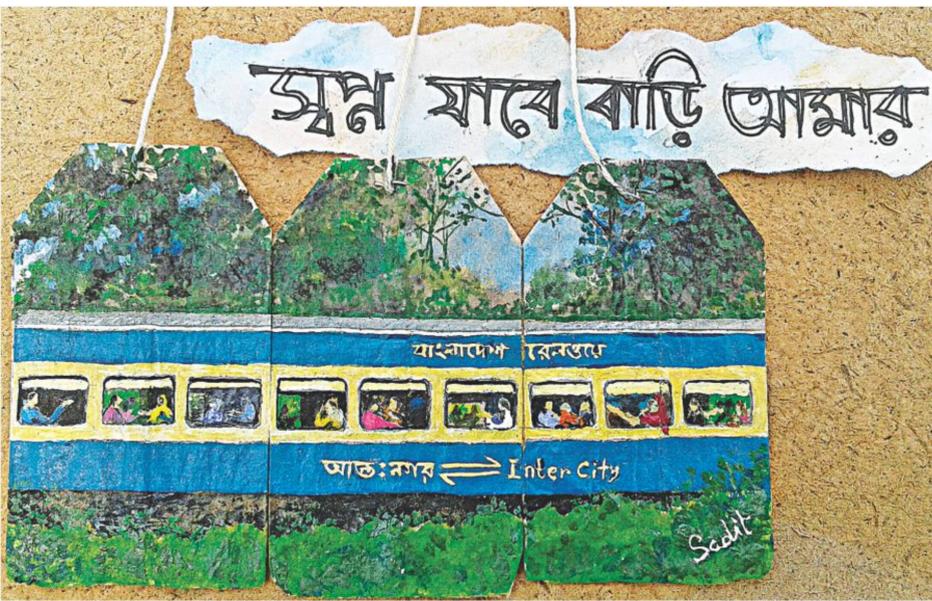
Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) For Secondary School Educators Programme FY 2018 in USA



The American Center at U.S. Embassy Dhaka is pleased to announce the Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) for Secondary School Educators programme, which

will take place in summer 2018. The SUSI programme is a five-week exchange programme sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

Deadline: December 21, 2017 | Miscellaneous



AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Chitchats over a cup of tea help plenty of tales circle around. While some are lost, some we like to carry with us. Md Sadituzzaman, an artist from Rajshahi, has a brilliant idea to capture these stories.

Sadituzzaman, using a form of recycled art, draws on the used teabags. The

teabags are his mini canvases to render his thoughts and anecdotes. He mostly uses acrylic colour but, experiments with water colour and pencil colour too.

However, Sadituzzaman claims himself as a non-professional artist. He says, "I graduated from AIUB. I am a Marketing major. So, I'm not a student of Art. But, Marketing is a subject where I learned that

it was not only about selling products, but it was also about selling a dream that could be manifested through a product."

Teabags, being the product, help Sadituzzaman reach to people and achieve his purpose. He believes these little things will carry the essence of Bangladesh and exhibit its uniqueness. "Happiness comes from small things and

I find it in my work. I hope my work gets to spread happiness as well," he adds.

His teabags, containing his artworks, are portrayed in a Facebook page called, "Teabag Stories".

To explore Teabag Stories, visit facebook.com/Teabag-Stories-1527218267588061



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Masquerade Medley and Annual Public Speaking Competition at NSU

NABIHA KABIR

North South University Communications Club brought back "Masquerade Medley and Annual Public Speaking Competition" for the fifth time, after its last appearance in 2015. This year, the programme was held between

November 17 to 21, at the university premises.

On the first day of the event, the Annual Public Speaking Competition began and took place up to the semifinals. The competition's tagline this year was, "Exhibit. Empower. Express". The day ended with the selection of five finalists.

The Masquerade Medley took place on November 21, and the theme chosen was, "The Perfect Villain". The venue was decorated with skulls, demontors, demogorgons and other villainous objects. The participants cosplayed as characters from the Anime, DC and also the Marvel Universe. "This is a new form of art that has been introduced amongst our generation not too long ago. It is very encouraging to see top educational institutes following the trend as well," says Kazi M Noor, one of the cosplay judges.

After the performances of all the

cosplayers, the Grand Finale of the Annual Public Speaking Competition was initiated. The final round's topic was, "Let your voice make a difference". The judges of the public speaking finale were Naveed Islam, Faculty Advisor of NSU Communications Club; Dr Katherine Li, North South University's Honorary Faculty; and special guest Naushad Ali, who is well-known for his dedication towards the Dhaka Lit Fest.

Everyone was blown away by the performances of all the participants. "We all know public speaking is a very nerve-racking task, but, the public speaking contestants made it seem so easy," says Naveed Islam. After all the final performances by the Masquerade Medley and Public Speaking participants, it was time for the award giving ceremony. Kazi Ayesha Rahman won the first position of the Public Speaking Competition and Tanvir Islam was the first prize winner of Masquerade Medley, who cosplayed as "Chung" from Elsworld.

The function ended with a grand feast. Even though there were only a few winners, everyone went home with smiles on their faces.



PHOTO: COURTESY