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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

UNESCO Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest 2019

The visual arts, and in particular photography, are increasingly being used by today's youth as a powerful tool for communication and self-expression. As such, they have the potential to play a significant role in raising awareness of the key issues facing our contemporary globalising world. The annual Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads International Photo Contest offers an exciting opportunity for young people from all over the world to capture their understanding of the common heritage of the Silk Roads through the lens of their camera.

DEADLINE: January 6, 2020 | Competition

Language League 2019

The Department of English & Modern Languages (DEML) of North South University is opening a door of opportunity for you to experience the country's first yet the biggest and the most versatile National Language Festival entitled as 'Language League' at the tertiary level on 18th and 19th October (Friday and Saturday), 2019, at North South University (NSU). This two-day festival is going to be the largest language competition in Bangladesh.

DEADLINE: October 17 | Competition



IndiaJoy Global Youth Festival 2019 in Hyderabad

IndiaJoy Global Youth Festival will give some exceptional youngsters a chance to explore the latest digital technologies and network with international leaders through its Global Youth Program. Some talented individuals will be provided with an opportunity to join us at a six-day festival where knowledge and fun are simultaneously integrated.

DEADLINE: October 31, 2019 | Conference

Places to visit during Durga Puja in Dhaka

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Today marks the celebration of Shashthi, the sixth day of *Navaratri*. After Maa Durga's arrival is celebrated in Mahalaya, the goddess first encounters her devotees on Maha Shashthi. Welcoming the goddess, four rituals, *Kalparamvo* (the beginning of *Navaratri*) *Bodhan* (the consecration of Maa Durga's idol), *Amantran* (welcoming the Goddess) and *Adhibas* (sanctifying the stay of the Goddess in the pandals), are performed on Maha

Shashthi by Bengalis around the world.

Below is a list of some temples and mandaps that you can visit with your friends and family during Durga Puja in Dhaka.

Dhakeshwari Jatiya Mandir

The name 'Dhakeshwari' means 'Goddess of Dhaka'. It is the national Hindu temple in the capital. The temple was originally built in the 12th century by King Ballal Sen of the Sena dynasty. Being one of the biggest temples in Dhaka, the Puja celebration at Dhakeshwari

is a wonderful experience for people who want to have a grand Maa Shashthi Puja during the festival. The Dhakeshwari temple is open every day.

ISKCON Hare Krishna Temple

Located on Swamibag Road, the ISKCON Hare Krishna temple's Durga Puja started with a *Ulto Rath Yatra*, a reverse journey of Lord Jagannath's chariot from Dhakeshwari Mandir to its premises on Mahalaya. Alongside the grand celebrations and Puja decorations, they arrange paid vegetarian meals for the

visitors after the *Anjali*. It also arranges free food for the street beggars, children, and other underserved communities.

Banani Puja Mandap

This is one of the biggest mandaps in Dhaka organised by the Gulshan-Banani Sarbojanin Puja Parishad. The venue is always filled with Hindu visitors, especially youngsters, who enjoy live music. It also has a beautiful idol of Maa Durga. Many celebrities visit the mandap during the festivities.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY SPECIAL

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OISHIK'S KARTOON AND STUFF

CARTOONPEOPLE COMICS

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REMEMBERS

"UGH.. WHAT NOW?"

"WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW? AFTER ALL THIS TIME"

"SHE STILL REMEMBERS"

HELLO OISHIK. THIS IS YOUR 5TH GRADE ART TEACHER SAW YOU IN THE NEWS PAPER TODAY. PROUD OF WHAT YOU'RE BECOMING.

Bonding with cats over coffee

SIHINTA SABEEN SHEMBIL

Six friends and recent graduates, Minhaz Uddin Shibby, Moeed Rasel, Tanimul Haque Khan, Rahat Rahman, Monirul Hoque Rifat and Fahad Bin Saad opened Capawcino Cat Café, the first cat-oriented coffee house in Bangladesh, this year. The café has a corner for guests to play and bond with cats and kittens, and a separate area that serves food. However, people cannot just walk into the feline zone. They have to register through Google docs (links given in the café's Facebook page) and pay a certain amount through bKash to pet the cats, play with them or watch them play around for an hour at a time. The café is located in Pallabi, Mirpur. On World Animal Day (October 4), we caught up with the co-founders of the café.

Each of the co-founders pay from their own pockets for the daily operations of the coffee house. They rented out and

renovated an apartment in six months, with upcycled do-it-yourself decorations, to build a beautiful ambience for the cats and the visitors.

A recent unexpected and catastrophic incident, where some visitors deliberately hurt the cats, led to a temporary shutdown of the café. Consequently, the co-founders formed new rules and regulations to ensure the wellbeing of the cats.

When the café reopens, it will be monitored via CCTV cameras. Visitors, who must be aged 12 and above, will be required to sign agreements of terms and conditions before entering the premises. Each petting and playing session will be limited to eight visitors at a time.

There are currently 17 cats, some of which are rescued. Charlie and Panda, the first two cats, were found as fragile

kittens in plastic trash bags on the road. They are known as the friendliest cats of the café. Another cat, Diamond, was rescued from an attacking dog's mouth, and her small body was warmed and healed in one month. Toothless, Ash and Loki are some of the other cats. All the cats are vaccinated, and those which are over five months old are neutered. Through PAW Life Care vet services, the cats receive frequent check-ups and medications at low rates.

After the café reopens, the co-founders aim to launch branches throughout Dhaka to reach more customers and to increase rescue options for cats in different locations. The rescued cats will also be available for adoption in the near future. In addition, the co-founders hope to reduce animal cruelty by educating street children through workshops on how to treat cats. They look forward to reopening the café by the last week of October.



PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

