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| <p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Self Depiction Artist: Afrida Tanzim Mahi Venue: Kalakendra, Mohammadpur Date: October 21 – November 12 Time: 4 pm – 8 pm</p> | <p>Architectural Exhibition Title: Holograma: The Future of Our Habitats Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi 37 Date: November 2 – 30 Time: 12 noon – 8 pm</p> | <p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Pracher Prachin Dhara / The Ancient Lineage of The East Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali Date: October 25 – November 10 Time: 12 noon – 8 pm</p> | <p>Photography Exhibition Title: Different Images of Men Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA Date: November 2 – 5 Time: 11 am – 8 pm</p> | <p>Musical Workshop Title: RAGA: Theory and practice with Nishit Dey Date: November 9 Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur Time: 5 pm onwards</p> |
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Celebrating 100 years of Tagore's visit to Sylhet

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, from Sylhet

Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore visited Sylhet on this day in 1919, six years after he received the Nobel Prize in literature. To celebrate 100 years of Tagore's visit to Sylhet, the citizens of Sylhet have organised several grand programmes in the city.



Rabindranath Tagore with his son Rathindranath Tagore and his daughter-in-law Pratima Devi (third row, centre), along with the family members of Gobindanarayan Singha, at the Singha household in Chowhatta.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

A formal committee was formed to organise the *Rabindra Shatabarsha Smaran Utshab*, with Former Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith as its President and Sylhet City Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury as its General Secretary. The main events of the programme are scheduled to be held on November 7 and

8. Minister of Foreign Affairs AK Abdul Momen is expected to attend the closing ceremony of the programme. The Srihatta Brahma Samaj has organised programmes at the Brahma Temple and at the Kabi Nazrul Auditorium today, commemorating the occasion.

Tagore's trip to Sylhet has been recorded by several historians and biographers over the years. It went on to become one of the most important chapters of Tagore's life and the history of Sylhet.

In 1941, after Tagore's death, *Kabi Pranam*, a commemorative book, was published in Sylhet. Nalinikumar Bhadra, Amiyangshu Endo, Mrinalkanti Das and Sudhirendranarayan Singha edited the book. Details of Tagore's trip to Sylhet was also published in Sudhirendranarayan's article, *Srihatter Rabindranath Tagore in Kabi*

Pranam. In addition, Tagore biographer Prashanta Kumar Paul wrote about the trip in his book, *Rabijiboni*.

In October of 1919, months after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Tagore came to Shillong, a place close to Sylhet, for a vacation. Gobindanarayan Singha, who was the Secretary of Brahma Samaj in Sylhet at the time, wrote a letter, inviting the poet to the city, but Tagore declined the invitation, stating that the journey would be too long and tedious. After much persuasion from Mahila Samity, Anjuman-E-Islam and other organisations, Tagore agreed to come to Sylhet.

He started his journey to Sylhet after the Assam-Bengal Railway was planned. His son Rathindranath Tagore and daughter-in-law Pratima Devi accompanied him. On his way to Sylhet, Tagore stayed

at Guwahati for a day. He passed by Lumding, Badarpur and Karimganj (present day Assam) and Kulaura (present day Moulvibazar), before stopping at Maijgaon, Baramchal and Fenchuganj (present day Sylhet).

Former Sylhet Municipality Chairman Ray Bahadur Shukhomoi Choudhury, Abdul Karim, Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid (Kaptan Miah), Ray Bahadur Pramod Chandra Dutta, Nalinibala Choudhury, Gobindanarayan Singha and others welcomed the poet to Sylhet. Crowds of people arrived to get a glance of Tagore at the Chandni Ghat of the Surma River, as the poet entered the town. He stayed at the house of Mrs Roberts, near the Bungalow of Reverend Thomas.

He attended a special evening prayer session organised by the Brahma Samaj at the Brahma Temple of the town, where he sang, *Beena Bajao He Momo Antore*, recited from *Upanishad*. A civic reception was also arranged in his honour, where Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid, President of the reception committee, gave a welcome speech. Tagore also delivered a long speech on 'Bangaleer Sadhona'.

Moreover, during his stay in Sylhet, Tagore attended programmes arranged by Murari Chand College and Mahila Samity. He also met poet Ray Bahadur Nagendra Choudhury, the Principal of Murari Chand College, Apurba Chandra Dutta, and the Singha family. At the Machimpur area, Tagore was introduced to Manipuri dance, art and culture. He later introduced Manipuri dance in Shantiniketan.

Tagore was so inspired by his trip to Sylhet that he named the city 'Sree Bhumi' and wrote the poem, *Mamatahin Kalsrote*, about it. Unfortunately, the poem was never incorporated in his literary works as historians believed that it was written while he was writing an autograph to someone. The poet left Sylhet for Agartala on November 8, 1919.



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Staying Alive' with SONIA HOSSAIN

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Acclaimed actor, anchor and television personality, Sonia Hossain will make her debut as a radio jockey today with her new show Staying Alive with Sonia on Radio Aamar 88.4 fm.

"I've always wanted to do this, and even received an offer in 2016", says Sonia, who could not commit to the previous offer because of her busy schedule. "This is a youth-based show, where we will discuss issues related to the youth, who don't just want to survive, but stay alive." *Staying Alive with Sonia* will air on Radio Aamar 88.4 fm on every Tuesday, from 9-11 pm.

'An Untimely Gathering of Cartoonists' in Dhaka

'An Untimely Gathering of Cartoonists', a crowdsourced storyboarding event took place at Pathao Headquarters on Saturday. The event was attended by 22 comic enthusiasts and cartoonists.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The event was organised by Laugh Later, a comedy platform. "We want to create a community of cartoonists, writers and comedy enthusiasts and engage them through our ambitious programmes designed to create a sustainable comedy ecosystem in Bangladesh," said Onindo Ahmed, co-founder of Laugh Later.

Through the crowd-sourcing platform, the storyboard of the script of an upcoming comic book of Laugh Later was developed by 14 contributing cartoonists in just 2 hours, at the first of its kind event in Bangladesh.

The storyboarding session was supervised by acclaimed cartoonist Arif Iqbal. The event was sponsored by Pathao and the refreshment partner of the event was Cheez and Beanz.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LAUGH LATER



Artworks by current and former students of Charukola on exhibit at the event.

PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

'Inktober Showdown Charukola' concludes today

TIASHA IDRAK

The Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka (Charukola), the alma mater of most prominent artists of the nation, is hosting *Inktober Showdown Charukola 2019*, at their premises. Just as the title suggests, the theme of the three-day exhibition is Inktober, the practice of creating an artwork every day for the month of October. Jake Parker, an American artist and illustrator, pioneered the popular annual celebration of Inktober during October 2009. The exhibition concludes today.

As people enter Charukola during the exhibition, they will come across hundreds of artworks hung across all over the premises.

The exhibition features works of current and former students of Charukola. While some followed the prompts given in the Inktober website, others opted to follow their own themes to tell their stories throughout the month.

Starting from popular series and movies like *Stranger Things* and *Star Wars*, to old Bengali films like *Hajar Bochor Dhore* and *Matir Moyna*, various themes are projected through artworks at the exhibition.

Artworks of Damla folklore characters, like *Shakhchunni*, *Banguri* or *Petni*, traditional clothes of different nations, portraits of historical figures, athletes and snippets from day to day lives are currently on display.

"The submissions must have 31 entries, one for each day. The artworks must be in A4 sized paper", said Tamanna Tasneem Supti, a third year student of the Department of Drawing and Painting in Charukola. Her entries followed the prompts given by the Inktober site. Faiaz Rafid, another third year student said,



"The character in my entries is based on myself. I created this series following the official prompt. My character gets trapped in a fantasy world and in order to escape, he has to complete a set of tasks. He gets killed in the last one. However, later he is to realise that it was a virtual reality game all along."

Ahsana Angona, a final year student, mentioned that the real difficulty of Inktober lies in maintaining the consistency rather than the skills. A pioneer of the exhibition herself, her entries feature the shenanigans of a cat. The initiative of celebrating Inktober in

Charukola began in 2017 by six students: Prosun Halder, Tariqul Islam Herok, Upoma Haider, Ashim Faiaz, Rafuzzaman Rhythom and Ahsana Angona.

"I first heard of Inktober back in 2015. I wanted to try it out, but could not keep up. Later on in 2017, the six of us first held an exhibition," said Rhythom "In 2018, there were 24 of us with 744 artworks. This year we have 48 artists with 1488 artworks."

They plan to hold another exhibition at EMK Centre, Dhanmondi featuring the highlights from this exhibition.

