

TAMANNA AHMED

An All-rounder

ARMAN R. KHAN

When it comes to managing extra-curricular activities and jobs while keeping up with academics, Tamanna Ahmed is exemplary. A final year student of the Pharmacy Department at North South University, Tamanna is an entrepreneur, a chess player, a debater and a tree-hugger. SHOUT caught up with her recently to find out how she manages all these.

Tamanna is the founder of an online boutique called "Unique Collection". When her family shifted to Dhaka from their hometown Chittagong in 2012 for Tamanna's higher education, she found that she had a lot of free time. Right around then, online start-ups were booming. So with the help of her mother, Tamanna set up her own business online. "I had to take a leap of faith and invest a lot of money, so I was scared initially," she said. Her business grew when she started selling good quality replica watches, one of the first online shops to do that. Unique Collection got a dedicated clientele, and Tamanna's initial risks finally paid off.

She started participating in exhibitions, where she gathered more new customers. This year, Tamanna thought about launching her own exhibition. Her idea and promotions got a lot of other online shops interested about participating. When asked what's different about her exhibition, Tamanna said, "You'll see a lot of new talents exhibiting new collections. This is a platform that many of the young online shops need, like mine initially did."

But entrepreneurship isn't her only strong side. Tamanna is a debater as well. She represented NSU Debate Club at international debate competitions. "I want to go to more such competitions and hone my debating skills," she said.

Moreover, she is a chess player. She was runner-up at a national chess championship in 2009. Since, there aren't

many female chess players in Bangladesh, Tamanna had to compete with men. Tamanna even tutored girls to play chess at one point. Although she isn't much active in the chess scene these days, she is the only girl playing for NSU Chess Team.

Besides all these, Tamanna is an avid lover of the Mother Earth. It all started when she participated in the Duke of Edinburgh programme back in school and became a bronze medallist. "We all care about the environment at some level, so why not do something meaningful about it?" With that in mind, she decided to continue her environmental endeavours in university. And due to her passion and dedication for the cause, she was made the Secretary of Publicity of Earth Club, NSU.

How does she manage time for all the ECA, studies, and still have a social life? "Well, once I set my mind to doing something, I make and maintain a timeline," she replied. "I meet my friends after classes, and work when I need to. I shut out everything else during my exams and



study. It's all about getting your priorities right." But she admitted that all her work and studies leave her with limited time for her family.

When asked why she is involved in all the ECAs and her business, though she is a student of pharmacy, Tamanna informed that she ultimately wants to build the first regulated pharmaceutical store in Bangladesh. She believes that her entrepreneurial and extra-curricular experiences will help her in that regard.

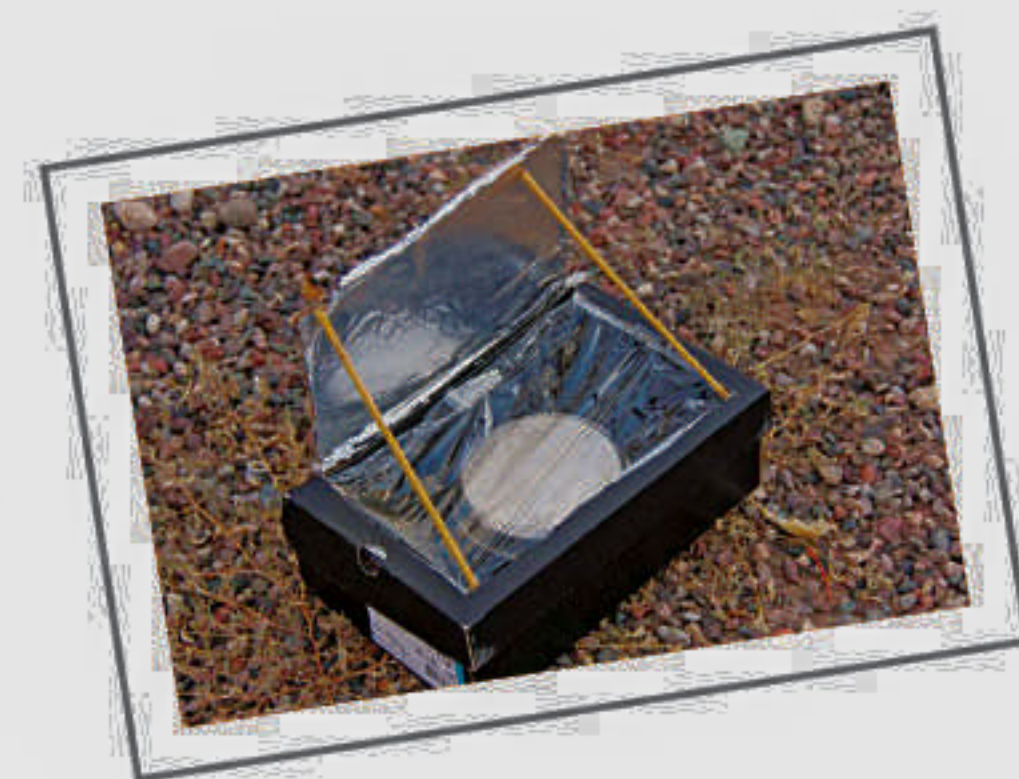
Being a student with lots of ECA and a business to run is definitely not easy. Yet, Tamanna Ahmed gracefully does it all, one day at a time. Surely, with a bit of dedication and proper planning, anyone can have a future as bright as hers.

"The Fashion Showcase" by Unique Collection is to be held on May 1-2, 2015 in EFES, Gulshan 1, Dhaka. Visit the event page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/836292719784136/>) or Unique Collection's page (<https://www.facebook.com/unique.collection.bd>) for details.



TRASH TO TREASURE
BY LABIBA MUSTABINA

When summer gives you lemons, squeeze them dry



We are back at that time of the year when we have to wake up to the sweltering, humid mornings of summer. Nothing beats a summer like ours: you could daydream about the perfectly ripe mangoes, all the while drowning in your own sweat round the clock. Since there's hardly any point in fighting off a bond so strong, let's turn the tables on summer and make lemonades out of the lemons it throws at us, shall we?

Speaking of lemonades, fresh smoothies and juices are a must to keep you hydrated throughout this season. But are you in the mood for something new which you can simply put together from leftovers? If so, try popsicles. Don't let the idea of making popsicles scare you; all you need are paper cups and some lolly/Chocobar sticks you have been saving up for no apparent reason. Now it's just a matter of creating your own chiller combo. Throw in slices of fruits, any juice, add a bit of sugar or salt to taste or even some yoghurt or milk to get a "creamsicle!" After you're done creating a blend of scrumptious flavours, pour them into the paper cups and allow to freeze. After the mix has slightly solidified, put the lolly sticks in the middle and allow to freeze again. So, whenever you're in the mood for a popsicle, simply tear the paper cup away and enjoy! If you're still lost on recipes, here are a few delicious combos that you should definitely try:

- Mango Lassi – sliced ripe mangoes + yoghurt + milk + sugar + salt + ground cardamom
- Dulche De Leche Lemonsicle – milk + lemon juice



- (with pulp) + condensed milk
- Orange Creamsicle – orange juice + cream + honey + vanilla extract + sugar
 - Cookies 'n' Cream – Oreo cookies + heavy cream + milk + sugar + vanilla extract
 - Coffee Popsicles – coffee + condensed milk + cream + vanilla extract

When you can't fight the Sun, let it power your shoebox.

Let's move on to cooking now, yes? All this intense

summer sunlight can be used to bake omelettes in your very own "shoebox solar oven". The instructions, of course, are very simple. You'll need a shoebox, aluminium foil, black spray paint, black chart paper, two pencils and a clear plastic sheet. To make your solar oven:

- If your shoebox isn't already black, paint the exterior using black spray paint.
- Create a hatch on the shoebox's lid by cutting three sides of the lid, leaving one side intact.
- Line the whole inside of the shoebox with aluminium foil, shiny side out. Ensure that no cardboard is left exposed. Line the inside of the hatch with foil and glue the foil in place.
- Place black chart paper to line the inner four walls of the box, leaving the bottom foiled.
- Cover the opening on the lid with a clear plastic sheet and prop the hatch open with two pencils on each side.

All those days when you were on a picnic and wished your sandwich was warm are now over. Lay back, let summer do all the work and have some time to spare (it's not exactly an electric oven you know). Chilled popsicles in hand and sunlight at your mercy, you're what's hot this summer.

Labiba Mustabina studies biochemistry and biotechnology at North South University. A tree hugger, she also claims to be a closet artist. You can reach her at labiba.wish@gmail.com.