

CAREER BOOTCAMP

Redefining Career Training for Youngsters



ARMAN R. KHAN

Books and classes can teach us a lot of things, but important career and leadership skills are not necessarily a part of the curricula. With that in mind, Don Sumdany Facilitation and Consultancy recently held a three-day series of workshops under the banner of "Career Bootcamp 2015". This flagship event, conducted by professional trainer, G. Sumdany Don, was held from May 17 to 19 at the EMK Center in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

When asked what the aim of this event was, Don replied, "The youth of Bangladesh, though talented, lack motivation and proper career guidelines. This event should help them evaluate their strengths, find the correct path, and motivate them."

On the first day of the boot camp, the topic of discussion was the "Reality of the Bangladeshi Job Market." The insightful session was a real eye-opener for the participants, who were all university students or fresh graduates. Don informed the audience about the importance of CGPA and extra-curricular activities. "Having some ECA in your experience whilst maintaining a good CGPA gives the impression that you can get things done and can work under pressure," Don said. "So find your passion and get involved!" He also demonstrated via interactive games how to have a positive attitude. Md. Taslimur Rahman (Head of Corporate Sales, Transcom



Digital) attended the session.

Day two of the boot camp covered exactly what young professionals need to know – how to make a CV and how to behave professionally at a job interview. In the "Global CV" session, alongside understanding how to make their CVs more impressive, the participants got their photos taken by professional photographers. These standard photos can now be used by the participants in their CVs.

After a much needed "Interview Preparation" session, things turned a bit tense as the participants had to face a "Mock Interview Board" consisting of Najmus Ahmed (CEO, Lighthouse Bangladesh), Hafiz A Ahad (Director, ULAB) and Enam Ahad (Product Manager, Secure Link Services Limited & Selise Rockin' Software). This allowed the participants to get a direct feedback regarding their mistakes from the professionals who conducted the interview. Reaz Mahmud Fiem (Managing Director, Edification Education Services) shared his story with the participants at the session.

The third and final day of the event started with an interactive session on "Leadership" where Don discussed what leadership is and how a person can become a leader. He used some physical activities to demonstrate the power of teamwork. Next, Don's signature module on "Public Speaking and Presentation" was held where he shared some important tips about public speaking



PHOTOS: STUDIO CHEESECAKE

with the audience.

Some guest speakers then shared the success stories and further inspired the young participants. The guest speakers were Nafis Ahmed (CEO & Managing Director, LiveSquare), Tawsif Alam Khan (Managing Director, Vertical Horizon), Hamimur Rahman (HR Manager, Envoy Textiles Ltd.), Mahadi Hasan Sagor (CEO, GEEKY Social Advantage), Tasnim Noorin Brotee (Senior Producer, Program, Colours FM), and Rumana Habib (Manager, Marketing and Sales, Dhaka Tribune). The event concluded with a brilliant musical performance by the band "D Believers".

"Career Bootcamp 2015 was a life-changing experience for me. It taught me to be focussed, about leadership skills, and motivated me," said Quazi Navila Zaman, adding, "Now, I feel that my thoughts are more organised and that I know my goals better."

Career Bootcamp 2015 was sponsored and supported by EMK Centre. SHOUT, Colours FM and popcornlive.tv were the media partners of the event, while ULAB served as the knowledge partner. Omnicon Group of Industries Ltd., HubDhaka, GEEKY Social Advantage, Studio Cheesecake, Hifi Public, CriticalLink and YEF were other partners.

With its effective training, grooming and inspiring, Career Bootcamp 2015 had a positive impact on all of the 70 participating students and fresh graduates.

HOW TO KACHA BAZAAR

AZMIN AZRAN

For most of us, the thought of shopping for groceries is limited to department stores. But before that, kacha bazaars were the go-to place for groceries because that's where you get the freshest produce at the cheapest price, if you know how to haggle that is. And that is what this article is about.

Let's face it, kacha bazaars aren't clean. It's probably the worst place to buy stuff that you are going to eat but if the produce is good, it doesn't really matter how messy the place is. If you think you'll be grossed out by the smell contributed by fish, meat, *shutki* and a variety of unknown things, toughen up because there's no getting around that. Sadly, this is how food smells before it gets cooked and eaten: repulsive.

When buying fish, you want something fresh out of water. Fish that have been taken out a long time ago start to rot, and if they aren't rotting it means they've been drenched in all sorts of illegal preservatives. The way to tell if a fish is fresh out of water is by touching it. Touch a fish on its mid-section and if there's resistance, the fish is good. Rotten fish start going soft around the belly. Next, look into its eyes. Check if there's a gleam. If they're not gleaming, the fish is not good. The mucus that covers a fish dries out when taken out of water and the eyes dry out last. If there's still mucus in there, that's a sign that the fish was only



recently taken out of water.

At a kacha bazaar, you get to pick the chicken you want. They will chop it up in front of you, so you know everything's okay. Seems simple enough, but the shopkeepers will always try to get the better of you. Once you pick out the bird, watch closely as they process it, because somewhere along the way they will try to trick you and give you something you didn't choose – a diseased or smaller bird.

If you are buying vegetables, once again, you have to make sure it's nice and fresh and not old or rotten. You need to be able to bargain to get a good deal if you want to shop at a kacha bazaar. Any sign of weakness and you'll be robbed. If the initial asking price seems cheap, you need to ask for a price 75 percent of that. If the price seems okay, go 60 percent. If you find it expensive, go even lower to 50 percent. If it feels like murder, forget dignity and ask for 25 percent and start walking away. In most cases you'll be called back and given a price fair to both parties. Although in truth, you'll be robbed anyway. But at least you'll walk away satisfied.

There are some simple rules to follow when shopping at a kacha bazaar. Do your grocery shopping as early as possible, in the morning, when the freshest produce is still available. Wear disposable clothing because you don't want mud, or worse, on an expensive pair of pants. And lastly, prepare your nostrils because your sense of smell will be in for a very bumpy ride.