



LEVEL UP
WITH G SUMDANY DON

Munimul Islam Shanto

Excellence in extracurriculars

Munim reminds me of werewolves. When you look at him during the day, you see a serious corporate working for one of the leading telecom operators in this country. But the same individual turns into a party animal when darkness falls – leading and organising the largest and hippest shindigs.

Heading towards the jam packed job market without any extracurricular activities and experiences to include in your CV? Be ready to bury the depression that you are going to face in the job market. To stand out in the crowd you have to have something on your CV and make the interviewer read it with interest.

“Try a lot of things, and commit only to what's working. Be engaged in as many diverse fields as you can. You need to think out of the box to thrive in this era,” said Shanto. He also added that during the end of his university life, he got heavily involved with event management though he was getting an engineering degree from NSU.

“I worked part time for Grey and Interspeed which gave me exposure to the marketing, activation and event management industry,” he said. Shanto is currently the Brand and Marketing Communication Officer at Robi Axiata Limited.

Since his student days he was involved in debating, sports, event management and teaching. He not only participated but also organised events. Furthermore, he used to teach a batch of 40+ students which helped him



to be more patient.

We often end up causing more damage while trying to erase decisions we regret. Shanto got very frustrated when

RanksTel shut down temporarily and since no one was hiring engineers then, he was going through a lot of trauma and insecurities. That's when he decided to try something different. “I tried out a different career rather than being stuck, and joined sales which worked out really well for me. I guess RanksTel shutting down might have been a blessing in disguise,” he said.

His advice to students and fresh graduates is not to get stuck with the traditional mindset. He said, “Explore your wildest and weirdest ideas and do things you are really passionate about. You never know which one will click and your life might change.” Shanto also works as marketing consultant for Star Cineplex, and sometimes for hotels like Westin, Amari, Sayeman Beach Resort.

To me, Shanto is a great example of why people should get involved with a lot of extracurricular activities and other part-time gigs from the university days. You never know, you might lose interest in the subject that you study, or your skill sets might become irrelevant, but in that situation, your part-time “passion projects” may come to your rescue.

G. Sumdany Don is a professional trainer, and wants to inspire the youth of Bangladesh. He has a fascination for radio, TV and media in general and secretly wants to become really famous one day. He can be reached at don@donsumdany.com or www.facebook.com/donsumdany.

All Flavours of Rickshaw Rides

NIFATH KARIM CHOWDHURY

Rickshaws have been my number one mode of transportation for as long as I can remember. These three-wheeled, surprisingly sturdy vehicles have been my ride to all sorts of events, in all sort of weather and other conditions. Regular rickshaw commuters will agree with me, when I say that there are certain types of rickshaw rides everyone encounters.

Need for Speed: On days when the roads are relatively clear, the rickshaw-puller will let his inner Armstrong shine through. Hold on to your hood as the rickshaw blazes through the streets at breakneck speed. How he manages to manoeuvre such a bulky vehicle with such finesse is beyond me. Yes, sometimes you feel as though as you are about to topple over, or crash into the neighbouring *van-gaari*, but you can always count on the rickshaw puller to recover from those moments and keep cruising on.

Sound of Music: Why bother fumbling about with your headphones when your rickshaw puller is willing to show off his pipes. He doesn't even need a request -- he'll sing whatever he feels like, and before you know it the neighbouring rickshaw-pullers will have joined in while you sit silently -- either in awkward appreciation or stunned admiration -- feeling like an extra on the set of a musical. They're even nice enough not to charge you extra for the entertainment.

GTA V: The scariest, most nerve-wracking ride of the lot. Nothing deters this rickshaw puller from getting to his destina-



tion. He'll squeeze his vehicle through gaps meant for bikes, board foot paths without a second glance at pedestrians, go over potholes and sink his foot into inch-deep mud -- and he'll do all this while cursing and talking loudly. Some of the

first slangs I ever learned were during rickshaw rides. #KnowledgelsPower. These rickshaw pullers are also the most prone to roadside brawls, so be wary of them.

My Way or the Highway: This is a ride that will take place on those days when

nothing is going right. The last thing you want to deal with at the end of a bad day is a rickshaw puller who is determined to ignore your directions and follow his own roundabout paths to take you to your destination and then charge you twice the regular fee because it was a longer route. This is why you should fix the fare before getting on the vehicle.

Saw II: You spot a brightly painted rickshaw, all nice and shiny and get on it happily -- only to have your rear end and back stabbed by rusty nails that adorn the inside of the vehicle. This happens more often than most would like to admit. Needless to say it's almost impossible to get comfortable during these particular rides and you just try your best to survive the journey. You might wanna get a tetanus shot after this, just sayin'.

Hopefully this article got you all excited about your next rickshaw ride. Travel safely.

Nifath Karim Chowdhury likes to doodle all over her notebooks, textbooks and life. Send her a virtual high-5 at nifty_nicole@live.com.