

# When I'm 25...

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Your 25th birthday won't be like any other. It's that wonderful year when you have lived a quarter century on the planet. You'll have gathered plenty of first-hand experiences and learned valuable lessons to last a lifetime. But that doesn't necessarily mean your understanding of life will be any greater than an 8th grader's.

On the occasion of The Daily Star's 25th anniversary, we asked youngsters where they would want to see themselves when they are 25. Some of them might or might not have had breakdowns when trying to think what they'd really want to do with their lives.

*"I want to be an orthopaedic surgeon. Some people are unable to walk or play due to broken bones. I want to be the one to mend the bones and give the patients a new hope and opportunity. On the other hand, I want to travel to Egypt, Rome and Greece before I'm 25. The historical sites in those countries have always attracted me since I read about them in history books."* – Mahzabeen Yousuf, 15, The City School International

*"If God gives me the opportunity to get to 25, I plan to make the most of it. By that age, I want to invent a self-repairing quarrying robot that can be sent to outer space for asteroid mining and can also be used to transport the extracted gold and platinum back to Earth. Aside from making me wealthy, I intend to use the money to improve the standard of living of the poor in our country and also invest in the protection and conservation of the Bengal tigers. I also plan to become a pro at making lava cakes, because as much as I love eating them, they are extremely difficult to make."* – Aritri Priya Saha, 17, S.F.X Greenherald International School

*"I aspire to be a problem solver. By the time I turn 25, I want to be a part of scientific or environmental projects and experiments – anything that will make a big change in the world. I want to be able to help the people of Bangladesh in finding simple solutions to big challenges. I do believe that my IB education in Malaysia will help me in that regard."* – Farih Ihsanul Kabir Khan, 17, UCSI International School

While scientific and developmental endeavours are priority for some, others had a different outlook on life. Some were more career-oriented.

*"I intend to complete all the three levels of CFA before I turn 25 and earn myself a place among the youngest CFA degree holders in the country. In the meantime I want to complete my FRM exams that will complement my skills in financial analysis. I want to learn and understand more about the economy and the financial institutions and also develop strong financial literacy. Alongside these, I plan to start my own manufacturing business of green construction and household materials, grow and stabilise its operations before I leave the country for my master's studies."* – Sharmili Rowshon Kabir, 22, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka

On the other hand, love for the arts seemed to interest some budding talents.

*"I want to be in a position where I know hard work and honesty has paid off. I would like to pursue a career in physics and publish my music from my home studio by the time I have turned 25."* – Aumio Ishaat, 18, Hurdco International School

*"I have always hated tea with milk. I used to hate it so much that I'd get a headache even when I saw someone else have it. But that was five years ago. Now, I cannot live without having at least four cups of milk tea a day. That shows how things can change in five years. In the next five years, I see myself graduating, getting some books published, securing a good job, having my own apartment, and getting a pet. But in reality, nobody knows what's in store, and the uncertainty is pretty exciting. Except the part about getting a pet; that is something I surely will do."* – Shazmeen Haq, 20, North South University

