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NEXT STEP

ROSY PATH FOR THE BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

Yes, rosy, and sometimes golden. If you haven't picked up my puns yet, I'm talking about weddings, wedding photography to be precise. Typically, a wedding is a very important part of someone's life. A phase when some lose their freedom, friends and/or pets, and some lose their virginity—which definitely in no way is a bad thing.

To the people who think you can just ask your friend who happens to have a DSLR to snap a few pictures and don't need a professional photographer, keep in mind: You'll regret this decision when this friend goes to the loo, and you miss the only chance to take a picture with your wife's hot friend who happens to live abroad. Anyway, it's quite obvious why someone would want to preserve special moments from their wedding, making way for a booming career opportunity for aspiring photographers.

Why opt for wedding photography?

Weddings are seasonal, like fruits. Think of it like this, bears work extremely hard to gather food for their hibernation period; you will be doing the same. Frenzy of weddings in the winter mean you are only obligated to work 30 to 40 days in a year. You'll obviously put in a lot more hours throughout the rest of the year, but that is the number of days that have a higher workload. The best part, you have the freedom to

be wherever you want when you don't have a wedding to shoot, leaving out time for other interests or businesses to take care of.

How to be better than just another guy



Speakers at the conference. From left: Akmal Hakim Rusly, Lito Sy, Matthew Tan, Albin Leong, Nik Pekridis, Chai Kok Leong, and Kharul Akmal

with a camera?

We had a chat with Rifat Shakhawat Hossain from Weddings Inc. and this is what he had to say about why wedding photography is a fairly easy way to gather pockets and how to be good at it.

You can't "spray and pray" and win in

the wedding industry. Weddings don't have the luxury of re-shoots or do-overs, you can't just tell a couple to repeat a ritual just because your photo was out-of-focus. You

need to be able to handle the responsibility, because nailing such critical shots are more important than taking more than necessary pictures of some girl or guy you found pretty.



Hands-on training by Lito Sy during the day-long workshop

Maestro organised a 4-day long conference and workshop in Dhaka and Chittagong not much long ago.

Qualifications for WPPA International membership were held where 14 participants made it through. Renowned WPPI masters of wedding photography and some amazing wedding photographers from Bangladesh shared nifty tips and tricks along their expertise and experience in the industry. Two workshops conducted by Lito Sy (one of the top 30 wedding photographers in Asia) and Nik Pekridis (brand ambassador for Nikon) allowed the attendees to get first hand training in posing techniques, composition and post-processing tips among many other aspects.

Once you have acquired the necessary skills, add your own signature style to it. Stand out, and look for inspiration in other sectors of photography. The wedding industry can get quite monotonous, it's easy to ride the trend train through to success, but trends are like cats, fickle. Once the winds change, you're yesterday's news.

RAHIN SADMAN ISLAM

Top 5 startups meet investors at Demo Day

After 4 months with the GP Accelerator program, 5 startups got the opportunity to present their businesses in front of 100+ attendees, including investors and professionals, on Demo Day held on May 31, 2016 at GP House.

Before the speeches, an introductory session titled 'Startup Bazaar' was organised, where attendees were able to meet and chat with the 5 startups.

In October 2015, Grameenphone partnered with SD Asia to launch the GP Accelerator in search of 5 talented tech startups in Bangladesh. After a rigorous process of reviewing hundreds of applications, face-to-face interviews and demo presentations, the GP Accelerator team unveiled the top 5 startups on February 7. The top 5 startups (Ennvision, Sheba, Repto, Kandy, and Share) received a seed funding of over BDT 10 lakh each, and got the opportunity to work inside GP House with full logistical support. The teams were also mentored by SD Asia's panel of startup ecosystem experts.



Ennvision Limited is a web design company that serves as the one-stop solution for businesses looking to create a solid online presence through their websites.

Kandy is an intelligent personalisation mobile advertising application that puts delightful content on users' lock screens and employs time-saving tools.

Shareis a carpooling application looking to disrupt the way people commute around Dhaka city.

Sheba is a service platform for solving day-to-day household problems.

Repto Education Centre is an online course marketplace, where you can create courses with state-of-the-art web tools and sell your courses online.

Investors, entrepreneurs, and social media specialists from all over the world attended GP Accelerator Demo Day, which brought the Bangladeshi startup ecosystem to the forefront.



Photographers from Bangladesh. From left: Faisal Xiko, Jobayer Hossain Shuvo, Rifat Shakhawat Hossain, Khondker Nasif Akhter, and M.H. Shuvo



Hands-on training by Lito Sy during the day-long workshop

NEWS



Inauguration drive for Toys R Yours season 2

On June 4, 2016, Toys R Yours distributed toys among 200+ children of Spreeha Early Childhood Development Centre at Rayerbazar (most of whom are from underprivileged families). Lead singer of Shironamhin, Tanzir Tuhin, inaugurated and took part in the simple yet deeply satisfying toy distribution drive.

Podium hosts Inception Summit at JU

Podium, the first free idea sharing platform in Bangladesh, was recently introduced to Jahangirnagar University through an Inception Summit on May 28, 2016. This is the fifth educational institution where Podium has set up a wing.

At the Inception Summit, Ishtiaq Ahmed, CEO of Omera Petroleum Ltd.; Shahana Sharmin, SocioTech Evangelist and Intrapreneur; Md. Raihan Khandker, Founder and President of Podium; and Ritum Mubtasin Kabir, Executive, Circle Foundation and Finalist of CreADrive, talked about public speaking, Podium, and a host of other career-related topics. Mashahed Hassan Simanta, the



youngest person to give a lecture in front of BCS employees and a judge in over 16 international competitions, including a few at Oxford and Cambridge, was also present. As per the process of wing setup,

Podium JU now has to conduct 6 demo sessions in the next 3 months, and if proven sustainable, Podium will sign the final agreement or the Memorandum of Unity.

IUB holds Job Fair for seniors and alumni



Rashed Chowdhury, Chairman of IUB's Board of Trustees and Prof. M. Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor of IUB, inaugurate the day-long job fair

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised a day-long Job Fair on May 31, 2016 for its students and graduates at the university's campus in Bashundhara, Dhaka.

Rashed Chowdhury, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB, inaugurated the Fair while Prof. M. Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, IUB presided over the inaugural session.

A H Lutful Hassan, Deputy Director, Office of Career Guidance and Placement, IUB, informed the Daily Star that IUB wanted to create opportunities for IUB students and graduates to understand the job scene of Bangladesh. He also added that the Fair will help the corporate houses to scope out promising IUB grads.

A total of 39 companies and organisations took part in IUB Job Fair, including reputable multinationals, local corporations, telecoms and IT sector organisations.

Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.

How to make friends at work

Whether you're the new guy struggling to get the hang of things or an old employee who's still a little confused about it all, you need friends at the office who'll give you a leg up every now and then. Work friends can make the job more fun and provide further incentives for you to improve. But we know, it's easier said than done, so here's our guide to help you out.

Greet nicely

People catch hold of micro-expressions. Merely acknowledging someone with a nod is not enough. Be it on the go or during a formal introduction, wave hi and smile at the people you come across around the office. It makes an individual seem more approachable and your co-workers become interested in getting to know you better.

Ask for help

While offering to help is always emphasised upon, we often forget to seek for it when needed. From tiny inquiries to big favors, asking someone to help you out makes them feel credible. It gives off a sense of respect for the other person and adds to your impression.

Be interested in others' work

Making friends is never a one-sided road. If your colleagues don't feel like you're interested in them, they won't put in the effort to do so either. Strike up a conversation about what they're working on. Go into the details and see if you can provide useful insights.

Follow up

Conversations around the office prove to be fake when you forget about them later on. Don't engage in them just out of politeness. Make sure to ask your co-worker again about that project he/she mentioned working on last week. People like it when you remember things they're invested in.

Connect outside the office

Adding the work peeps on social media is a must. There's so much more to a person than what they give away in a closed office setting. You get to know about their personal interests quickly and it's an amazing way to let them know about what's important in your life. A nice photo with your friends, a funny joke you shared or an opinion on an important matter can open up numerous discussion topics.

Small talk can have big impact

You can't always expect people to share a lot when

they're busy and worried about the upcoming deadline. But that doesn't mean catching up during small breaks have to come to a halt. As much as you love a deep, insightful conversation, don't ignore the impression a nice light-hearted chat can leave on the opposite cubicle.

Attend common events

Try to join office parties and events your co-workers are attending as well. You'll love the time away from all the work and pressure and end up having a nice time with them.



Celebrate small achievements and occasions

Make a big deal out of birthdays, buy small gifts and be sure to dish out compliments when your co-worker nails a task. If you want to make friends at work nothing does the job better than making others feel like they matter.

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