

Take your next step to connect to us. Email us if you have an interesting story to share related to career.

facebook.com/  
thedailystar.nextstep  
Email: nextstep@thedailystar.net

The Daily Star

DHAKA, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017

JAISHTHA 5, 1424 BS

e-mail: nextstep@thedailystar.net

# NEXT STEP

## WHY NOT TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR

Should you consider a full-time job before fully pursuing that startup idea? Full-time jobs can be a blessing in disguise for future entrepreneurs. Here are five reasons to have a nine-to-five before taking the leap of faith.



ILLUSTRATION: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

As you do your 40 hours a week and absolutely despise every waking second of it (the peaceful, stolen moments of desk-napping don't count), you fail to realise the benefits of what is happening and tend to focus on what isn't. Some sit and daydream of how it could have been better to pursue that one idea you've always had a good feeling about, while others quit their first job in less than a month to immerse themselves in their startups.

Despite the climax of the startup ride the world is experiencing, the benefits of a full-time job before pursuing your dream business are invaluable. So when you feel lost and begin to question the course of your journey while juggling between your nine-to-five and your side-hustle, think of the following pointers for motivation!

### 1. FINANCIAL FREEDOM AND STABILITY

It's easier to save or make risky investments for your side-business while your full-time job is paying your bills and necessities. You can pay for courses, workshops or other branding opportunities that in most cases cannot be borne unless your survival is financially supported. So while you're getting regular pay-checks and benefits, you can gradually and carefully build your savings to prepare your young business. This also helps reduce the pressure of making huge profits from your business to pay for

the food on your table.

### 2. DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Your life is more disciplined when there are strict deadlines involved that may decide your next bonus or transfer, so you're pushed to your limits to achieve what's needed. Corporate life tests your limits and truly helps you understand what you're capable of. For those who work on their side-hustle simultaneously, days are hard and their nights are even harder. As insane and hectic as it sounds, there's a sense of beautiful accomplishment in it.

### 3. SKILLS TO RUN A BUSINESS

CEO, CFO, Head of HR – these are only a few of the roles one may have to play as a business owner (initially maybe all!). Regardless of what your full-time job may be, you are definitely learning something that will help you do better at your own game. If you're working with finance, it will definitely help you manage the financial ends of your business; if you're working with management, you're learning team and people skills and so on. These skills are better honed in a cultured environment and hence applied better when designing your own business.

Siffat Sarwar, Founder of ShopUp and former Credit Analyst and Relationship Manager at Standard Chartered Bangladesh, says, "Because I worked before I started my own company, I understand two things very

well. One, if you fail to execute, nobody cares why. It only matters that you failed and it needs to be fixed. Two, no matter how large of a company you become, every penny matters. It is all about ideas and plans. In real life, while working, you learn that ideas are the cheapest things ever. Execution is what matters."

### 4. DISCOVER YOURSELF

"Right after graduation, the most important lesson is character development and there is no better way to learn that than from those who have been at it for years," comments Taosif Amin Khan, Assistant Vice-President at HSBC Corporate Banking. What you learn and experience will help you realise the tone and modality of what you envision for your business, guide you in designing the structure and culture of your business. It may be because you either realised the absence or the presence of a particular feature at your full-time job. You also realise what corporate role best fits your personality and the type of corporate leader you aspire to be one day – all under the mentorship and grooming of those who are the best in the field.

### 5. SHARPENED INSTINCTS

Undoubtedly, prior experience and learning not only help develop skills and character, but also possibly the most important element in an entrepreneur – instinct. Getting to know the real world helps you get better

practical knowledge and hence sharper instincts to guide your decision-making. Forecasting, adjusting and overcoming challenges also become easier, if not more skilled than an amateur. Those who start without any prior experience do succeed, but after hard work and perhaps numerous failed attempts, opines Sajeed Alam, Future Leaders Programme Trainee at GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Limited. "To be a bit more certain and informed, wouldn't it be great to learn, experience and develop some competencies and then launch a venture?" he adds.

Of course there are success stories of individuals who made it big with no prior job experience, but this article serves a greater purpose – to influence and motivate those who have or had started their full-time jobs as a safety step before the change in employee to employer status. These pointers are why you started your job and although the struggles may be overwhelming and depressing at times, remember that what you're learning is worth it. Because when you're finally ready for the big step, you'll know you worked hard to get aboard the most terrifying yet thrilling experience of your life.

SABRINA RAHMAN

The writer is a junior at the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka.

## THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY

I'M POPULAR WITH MY EMPLOYEES. THEY'VE BEEN TAGGING ME ON FACEBOOK POSTS & SENDING EMAIL LINKS ALL DAY LONG. ALL THAT TO GET MY ATTENTION AND APPROVAL.



DID YOU CHECK WHAT FOR?

I DON'T READ EMAILS OR NOTIFICATIONS. I'M BUSY ACCEPTING THEIR ADMIRATION



THEY SEEM TO BE TAGGING YOU ON ONE PARTICULAR ARTICLE.



## CLIMATELAUNCHPAD 2017 KICKS OFF IN BANGLADESH

The world's largest green business idea competition, ClimateLaunchpad, powered by Climate-KIC, the European Union's main climate innovation initiative, kicks off the fourth edition of its green global business idea competition for the first time in Bangladesh.

In participating countries, teams embark on a two-day boot camp and six coaching sessions to prepare for the National Finals. The top three in all competing countries will compete at the Grand Final in Cyprus this October. The deadline for idea submission in competition Bangladesh is June 22.

ClimateLaunchpad welcomes innovations in renewable energy, energy efficiency, food and agriculture, water, transportation, industrial technology or any other way to tackle climate change.

The world's best ideas win access to Climate-KIC's renowned accelerator programme focused on cleantech commercialisation. The winner of the Grand Final receives a cash prize of €10,000, the runner-up gets €5,000, and the second runner-up €2,500.

For more information check out: [climatelaunchpad.org](http://climatelaunchpad.org), or visit the Facebook page: [facebook.com/climatelaunchpad.bd](https://www.facebook.com/climatelaunchpad.bd)



On April 8, Smart Blind Sticks developed by students of SAIC Institute of Management and Technology (SIMT) were distributed among a number of visually impaired people in the presence of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at the 2017 SIMT Job Placement Celebration.

## ROTARY CLUB OF DHAKA MAVERICKS HOLDS PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY TRAINING

On April 23-25, Dhaka Mavericks' Rotary Club partnered with the Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA) to train 13 nurses from three tertiary-level cancer-specialty hospitals and 10 Rotarians as cancer counsellors for patients and family members going through the trauma of cancer, and apply these principles in their own lives to achieve a better

understanding of their motivations.

CPAA runs a three-day Psycho-Oncology Volunteers Training Programme in Mumbai, India to educate individuals working in the field. Following up to the training, Mavericks will be partnering with hospitals to provide such trainings in their respective institutions and create four Cancer Care Centres.

## 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.



## 5 THINGS BILL GATES WANTS TO SAY TO FRESH GRADS

Bill Gates took to Twitter this week to give new grads a refreshing and sincere guide to their future careers. We sum up the inspiring series of 14 tweets on how to make the most of what he considers "an amazing time to be alive".

### 1. What to study

"AI, energy, and biosciences are promising fields where you can make a huge impact" says the Co-founder of Microsoft and the Gates Foundation. It's apparently what he would study if starting out today.

### 2. Intelligence isn't one-dimensional

"Looking back on when I left college, there are some things I wish I had known. Intelligence takes many different forms... And not as important as I used to think," reminisces Gates.

### 3. Fight inequity

In his tweetstorm, Gates remarks that young people today know more about the world's worst inequities than when did at that

age – in fact, he claims he knew very little when leaving school. "You can start fighting inequity, whether down the street or around the world, sooner," he encourages.

### 4. How to be your best self

Like Warren Buffet, the living legend measures his happiness by whether people close to him are happy and love, and by the difference he makes for others. "Surround yourself with people who challenge you, teach you, and push you to be your best self. As Melinda Gates does for me," advises Gates.

### 5. If he could give each of you a graduation present...

It would be *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has*

Declined by celebrated cognitive scientist, psychologist, linguist, and author, Steven Pinker. Pinker shows how this is the most peaceful time in history, and Gates calls it the most inspiring book he's ever read. "If you think the world is getting better, you want to spread the progress to more people and places. It doesn't mean you ignore the serious problems we face. It just means you believe they can be solved," tweets the billionaire magnate and philanthropist. This is the core of Gates' worldview and what has sustained him in "tough times". And he believes it can do the same for you.

AMIYA HALDER