

CHANGES THAT MAKE US #NOWINLIFESTYLE



DHAKA SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2018
FALGUN 12, 1424 BS

38

Twenty-something and broke!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

Rahman, a 25-year-old graduate of North South University.

In an excitement to start working full-time, the often-overlooked fact is probably that employers offer a very standard paycheck which is not all that lucrative to start off with. What's just as important as the monetary sums, however, if not more, is perhaps the work environment of the place you are signing up to work at.

Aspiring to work at an engineering consultancy firm, Mahtab Ahmed believes in progressive work environments, prioritising them over monthly salaries. "A better boss is better than better pay," he concludes.



In the midst of everything with money and work that may go wrong in your mid-20s, you also begin rediscovering yourself in a whole new light. This is when you learn that not everything goes according to plan. But maybe, that's okay.

Nahid Tabassum's initial flair for the creative arts soon evolved into a passion for imparting knowledge. Finally, taking to teaching as a profession, she shares, "I love what I do now and getting to know people and children is why I wake up in the morning. I plan ahead, but in the end, I improvise and make the best of the situation."

For Rezwana Rahman, though her plan to

work at World Bank burned out, her perseverance did not. While the corporate life was not her cup of tea, she opted for 'Plan B.' What started out as a means to keep up with financial costs soon blossomed into something she loved doing. Realising her true calling, Rezwana Rahman, too, now prospers as a mathematics teacher.

In a nutshell, accepting and adapting to changes will get you through the shroud of confusion and struggle to truly discover the flickering, silver lining in your 20-something years in the end.

Even with a more positive outlook now in tow, your spending habits may still remain rather questionable. Whether it is an old habit you just cannot shake or chasing the

thrill of a splurge, try putting a halt to impulsive purchases like 'Ubering' to the nearest destinations or pampering yourself at the salon.

But a tempting question is what do you save up for now?

The big stops here are the glorified Master's degree and the major milestone, marriage. And rescuing you in this equation? A little pre-planning.

Having an open discussion with parents and evaluating viable options when it comes to pursuing a master's programme or being wedded off will go a long way, but what will go an even longer way are the calculative risks with investments.

Instead of the usual savings accounts, opt for a moderate yielding option like fixed deposit schemes, or a high-yield option like mutual funds. To clarify, a fixed deposit scheme is a kind of savings account where interest is paid on the money deposited in the account for a stated period of time. And, while we are already on the subject, a mutual fund is operated by asset management firms, pooling money from many investors to invest mainly in capital market securities.

The amount of interest debited in a fixed deposit account and returns in the forms of dividends and capital gains from an investment in mutual funds are what champions them against humbler savings accounts.

Investments entail risks. And while it is possible for the bank you chose for a fixed deposit account to go bankrupt, it's still low-risk considering the latter choice. Warning to proceed with caution, Muqit-Al-Rahman goes on, "Since mutual funds invest mainly in capital markets, the risks can be much higher, so choosing the most appropriate mutual fund, managed by the right asset manager having the necessary skills and track record, is very important."

And after considerations have been made, savings have to be pre-planned and mature in time to reap the benefits for the expenditure you were awaiting. This is where a more mindful approach to future endeavors can prove rather helpful. If not, taking out loans is always an option, but debts can get tricky with repayments and interests.

Even with all that out of the way, life may still not run as smoothly. You may now juggle the dilemma: should you live with in-laws or move out?

A sweet perk for people living in extended families is the omission of rent. Moreover, utility bills and groceries will always be taken care of. However, for these sigh-inducing



Whether it is an old habit you just cannot shake or chasing the thrill of a splurge, try putting a halt to impulsive purchases like 'Ubering' to the nearest destinations or pampering yourself at the salon.

reliefs, prices in the form of curfews and other restrictions also have to be paid.

And if you decide to move out? The good news: you can set your own rules; it is your own house after all! The bad news? The combined financial accumulation of rent, food, commutes, medical bills, utilities and more. However, if you have the basic costs of rent, groceries and utility bills covered, you should not be too far away from managing the rest.

And if you are one of two working spouses, things might present themselves to be simpler. Or maybe not.

Married and living independently for about a year now, Nahid Tabassum clues us in, "With both my husband and I working, we like to think we earn enough. But we don't. Miscellaneous costs and unexpected expenses like surprise visits to the dentist will always find you."

Moreover, it can take a toll on the relationship as now you're both too tired to compromise or be patient and you just want to get ready for the next day.

And with the mistakes and the dilemmas, you will now have taken in great lessons from your 20s, setting your eyes on the next decade to follow. However, persisting financial fixes can still be resolved by simply beginning to save. With no right time or amount when it comes to savings, the hidden message here is to acknowledge that every purchase follows an opportunity cost. You cannot always have what you want. And responsibilities cannot be evaded.

Plans may fail, savings drain and your lives may make a complete revolution at 29, in comparison to when you were 20. "The trick is to accept changes and still pursue your passions to see how far you can go. I still haven't given up on all my dreams yet," encourages Nahid Tabassum.

"It's important to learn from your shortcomings and be wiser from here on in. That's what I want to be," optimistically shares Rezwana Rahman.

After all, your 30s are for new milestones to be achieved and for new ground to break. Solvency is a temporary situation and being broke is not so scary an abyss at the end of the day. And the great, big world is still your oyster, waiting to be unraveled every time you turn a brand new corner.

Photo: LS Archive

