

A beacon of hope from Pekua



Tanema Afroja from Pekua, Cox's Bazar has been invited to join the ongoing 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA.

IRIS FARINA

The strength of youth has a universal presence of energy that can dispel any atrocity if channelled properly. Its omnipresence can be felt anywhere and Tanema Afroja from Pekua, Cox's Bazar proved this to be so.

A second-year college student of Shahid Ziaur Rahman Upakulio College, Tanema has made an exceptional move in countering behaviour typical of leading towards violent extremism. Her story focuses on a young person in her community known as Rakib. Rakib held severe frustrations as he could not land a job despite his qualifications. He was showing behaviour related to radicalisation and Tanema was quite concerned. She could identify these behavioural traits from a skill session held by Torun Alo (a project under Manusher Jonno Foundation, funded by GCERF). She went on to talk with Rakib several times based on her learning from Torun Alo and eventually was able to steer him away from the dark spiral he was being drawn into. Not many are as blessed with such capacity of conviction as Tanema.

She did not just keep this story for herself and her community, she penned it into an essay for a competition. This competition was announced by the European Union and was held throughout July 2018 for the GCERF involved countries. Her confidence in describing her approach plus her final successful outcome was more than enough to earn her the top position. She has been invited to join the ongoing 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA in two side events — "Listen! A Youth Perspective on Preventing Violent Extremism" and "New Partnerships for Countering Violent Extremist Narratives" — to meet and greet other inspiring youths from different countries while sharing her story.

Sitting with Tanema Afroja for a quick chat on her amazing achievement, anyone could see she radiated with excitement, "Does anyone even know where Pekua is? And here I am, going to the UNGA as a representative of my home!"

She is an HSC candidate for 2019 and she already has a shining badge of achievement on her. As a regular participant in various extra-curricular activities and seminars in her college, her mindset is of forward facing growth. When asked about what she'd like to say to other young people, she emphasised on balancing studying with regular activities, in particular by involving the community. There simply is no better solution to improving the society and eventually a country without involving the positive power and energy of the youth, and Tanema Afroja stands as a testament to that.

While there are many stories that are yet to surface, we congratulate Tanema on her achievement and wish her bon voyage on her journey into life and inspiration.

ABOUT TORUN ALO

Torun Alo (Light of Youth) is a project under Manusher Jonno Foundation and is funded by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), which is based in Geneva, Switzerland. The project works for a pluralistic society where communities are capable in nurturing and promoting harmonious living with tolerance. Their initiatives involve young individuals from school, madrasa as well as youth not in formal education, aged between 15 and 25 to be empowered and technically equipped to develop their self-confidence, aspiration, and a positive self-image to combat violent extremism. Torun Alo's geographical area of focus is centred in Cox's Bazar, particularly on the upazilas of Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Pekua, Chakaria, Moheskhali, and Kutubdia.

Common CV pitfalls

RUMMAN R KALAM

More often than not, people fret over making their CVs for that perfect first impression. In fact, a lot of people applying to SHOUT as contributors face the trouble of wondering what to put into their CVs or even what it should look like. Here we explore common pitfalls you can avoid.

WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

Unless specified by the place you're applying to, usually a standard free template off the internet works best. Don't go for fancy; go for something that is simple. Looking organised is far more important than looking pretty in this case. Also, don't stretch your pictures. If you're putting in your photo, make sure to resize it while maintaining the ratios.

STOP QUANTIFYING YOUR TALENTS

A lot of CVs have these arbitrary progress bars or ratings of one's skill. Unfortunately, being 90% proficient at MS Word is not something that can easily be visualised by someone reading it even though you literally visualised it with fancy graphics. What does being 7/10 at Photoshop mean? What's a 10 and what's a 1? Without such benchmarks set, it's best to just say what sort of work you are comfortable with under proficiency and move on. Best is to show certifications. There are lots of online academies with courses you can take which provide certifications.

CANNED LINES MAKE YOU LOOK LAZY

Nothing is more groan inducing than reading that someone is a "dynamic individual" for the 463rd time. You don't have to put in your life's mission, vision and objective to make yourself stand out. And even if you are doing that, copy-pasting someone else's words is really not the point. Rather, look towards defining yourself in a few lines.

HOW LONG SHOULD IT BE?

As a lot of us know, size doesn't matter. Or it does. Depending on the requirements of the organisation, you might have to keep your CV to certain lengths. Usually one to three pages is considered fine. You're really pushing it at four. If your CV is seven pages long, you're either looking for a spouse or you don't actually need a CV for a job.

WHAT ECA SHOULD YOU INCLUDE?

I personally put everything into my CV to show that I am a flexible, dynamic and motivated individual without actually copy-pasting those words from a career advice website. However, a good rule of thumb is to only include stuff that could be relevant to the job and if none of them are relevant, you could put a few in anyway. This would go on to show that you did other stuff besides studying — extra important for those overachievers who have stellar grades.

One thing to remember is that these are not steadfast rules. Industries change and HR professionals find new things to look for in CVs. A one-size-fits-all approach isn't the best idea in most cases. Hopefully these pointers will help you land your dream job!

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