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Being stuck in the same dull place for a long time can be mentally or physically draining, thus we often think about getting out of the urban landscape to somewhere refreshing. Maybe someplace beautiful with amazing sceneries like Bandarban or Cox's Bazar, or perhaps a place that you haven't explored yet. Either way, a long road trip can be just the revitalising experience you might need. However, all the best plans will turn into a horror scene if your car is not up to the mark.

Remember to check these basic maintenance tips before going on a long trip.

#### FLUIDS

Fluids are the lifeline of an automobile, constantly keeping the car running. There are five essential fluids to watch out for depending on mileage and service history.

Engine oil is critical for an engine since it lubricates all the essential components reducing friction and preventing engine overheating. Use a dipstick to check oil quality or level, change it if servicing is not done within the recommended timeframe.

Radiator fluid or coolant keeps the car engine cool by extracting heat from the engine and dissipating it through the radiator. Top it off with the necessary coolant to not permanently damage the engine.

Brake fluid provides the force created in the brake pads when the brake pedal is pressed. Brakes are important since they are the only way a car can be stopped. Improper braking can lead to fatal accidents and similar worst-case scenarios. Brake fluid can be easily checked when the brake is applied and it can be felt whether they are working or not.

Transmission fluid is much like oil lubricating the transmission, making

sure the parts are functioning correctly. A long drive can easily be ruined by a jerky transmission, thus it's recommended to service it.

Power-steering fluid helps turn the wheels at any speed but it can wear out, making your steering less responsive. It's a good idea to check the fluid every time the engine oil is changed.

#### COMPONENT MAINTENANCE

Tires are one of the most important components of a car and it is the only part touching the road. Well-maintained tires are the most important part of safety. Try making a habit of checking your tires before a long drive, since unhealthy tires



will cause dangerous accidents. Always make sure the tires are properly inflated, not cracked or enough threads are there for traction, change tires if they are not looking good.

Light bulbs are the only way to navigate through the road at night, having a broken or burnt-out lightbulb can be dangerous driving through the night. Make sure the headlights, brake lights and turn-signal lights are all working properly.

Serpentine belt is a simple piece of rubber belt that keeps the car running by powering outlying devices such as the power steering pump, alternator and air conditioner compressor. If there is wear and tear or cracks, replace it or

else it can stop the water pump from circulating which can cause the engine to overheat, leading to sudden loss of power assistance for the steering system. This can be troublesome during a road trip.

Air filter is an essential component of a car that regulates the air that flows into the engine and keeps out debris that can damage the engine. Air filters enhance fuel efficiency, lower emissions and keep the engine life span longer during proper airflow. If it's thick, dirty and nothing can be seen through, the air filter needs to be replaced.

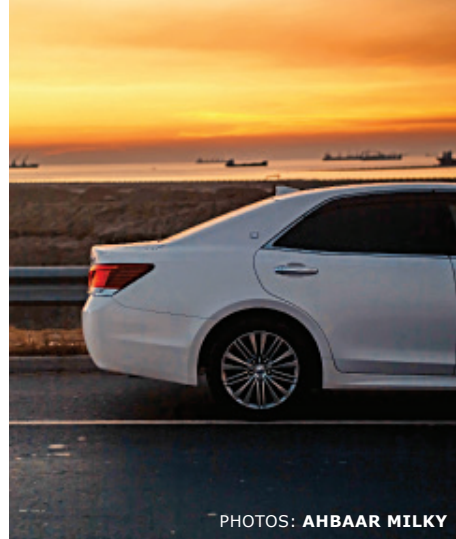
Battery provides power for starting your vehicle, thus it is very important to watch out for battery performance. The battery must be checked for a clean and corrosion-free connection. Check the battery fluid level and add distilled water if it's low and clean the terminals with water and baking soda.

#### EMERGENCY TOOLS AND DRIVER PREPARATION

It's always a good idea to plan ahead of the trip by getting your car ready and making sure to be prepared for the worst. Carry spare tires, an extra serpentine belt, extra air filter and handy tools for basic car breakdown maintenance as being stranded in the middle of a highway with no one around can be quite the trouble.

Be prepared mentally and physically by getting a proper sleep before an exhausting drive, staying hydrated to avoid being tired or nauseous, chewing gum to stay alert, stretch often to avoid body fatigue - since in such a road trip if the driver gets sick or tired can lead to fatal accidents as you are driving at high speeds in the highway.

After taking everything into account, the great long drive can be done safely where you can enjoy the view - an incredible opportunity to put your attention elsewhere and overlook your problems, at least for a little while.



PHOTOS: AHBAAR MILKY

# CONSIDER THESE BEFORE YOU QUIT YOUR JOB TO START A BUSINESS

FAIJA TASFIA AND NAVID HOSSAIN

Should I get a job? It's a steady paycheck every month, but there is no time for myself. I will get a good economic standing but is it enough? Will my potential reach its peak here?

These are some questions all of us have pondered at some point in our life. Every year our graduates wonder about their choices. With the rise of startup culture and wider government assistance in the country, there are more options along with risks and wondering on what to do.

#### JOBS

##### Pros

There is no denying the fact that jobs provide steady financial support. This is a great relief and lets you get on with your life without the bills hanging over your head. You can save up for your future endeavours. When asked why he chose to be in the job field instead of starting something of his own, Shaugat Ashraf, a product developer at an ed-tech firm replied, "I have inadequate support to start a business. I don't think I have enough courage to take on the risks of being a businessman. In the job sector, you will constantly get a chance to develop your skills and use them."

Ashraf further stated, "Not only do you learn new skills, but you also get to use those skills practically. Every skill you learn is an arrow in your quiver to shoot for your future." According to him, by sticking to jobs, you get to build your network, which will help you throughout your career irrespective of where you go and what you do. Networking is one of the most important steps of one's career. Our

career, like our life, is unpredictable, and you never know when you need something or someone.

##### Cons

Jobs lack flexibility in terms of growth and pay. There comes a time when you feel there is no growth in the position, and switching becomes difficult. Not impossible; difficult. Jobs do not offer individual flexibility, as everyone is there for certain jobs.

There is no room for trial and error in jobs. With every mistake, you get marked, and opportunities start to slip away without you even knowing. Even though you get to learn from your mistakes, it comes at a price. Jobs can get monotonous owing to their routine. The only answer to this problem is to love what you do. Like everything else, the job site has downsides. But in the end, it depends on the person. What you want to do, what you see yourself doing ten years from now.

Maliha Yasmin, an undergraduate student, prefers getting a job first to get exposure to the professional world and observe the market demand very closely. "Taking a leap from employee to entrepreneur seems more convenient to me. I have not planned when I want to take that leap, as the future is all about uncertainty. Planning is important; being adaptive is more," said Yasmin.

##### Distribution Business

Now, there is always the option of starting a business. Especially if you feel like jobs are not for you. And, not just any business, but distribution business - a common business among Bangladeshis. When you think about it, distribution and online retail have a lot of similarities, more than most small-scale businesses.

##### Pros

One of the major benefits of a distribution business is a small investment. You can start off with Tk. 20,000/- worth of FMCG (Fast-Moving Consumer Goods) and gradually increase the amount of investment. When it comes to FMCG products, the risk remains at a minimum and the ROI (Return on Investment) reach breakeven. If you want to get into the distribution business, you might consider selling in wholesale or retail. When in distribution you do both supplying to local wholesalers as well as retailers. Many consider that the most charming aspect of this

line of work. Nahiyon Ibne Hashem, an ex-field marketing executive of an

international firm, started a distribution business of ghee or clarified butter. He supplies to retailers and he retails himself too. In three months since starting, only a few kilos remain, with orders of 15 kilos coming in every week. This was a big success for the launch, and according to him, he has full control over the business and expresses full creative freedom over it. He managed to utilize the upcoming event of Laila-Tul-Barat's local sweet-making tradition to accelerate his sales.

##### Cons

The distribution business requires an extensive amount of attention and time. There might be times when you end up staying long hours in the fields. Forgetting to eat is a common problem when you are working to make your business a success. "Today I ended up staying all day at Kawran Bazar just to greet a wholesaler," said Hashem.

But this is just one aspect. There are times when you do not have sufficient funding to operate your business. Random hikes like the current oil

price hike of Bangladesh can have a deadly blow. Investment rates

can go up drastically. Distribution and sales will go down. We need to keep in mind that business is a gamble that dwells on many variables. But at the end of the day, hard work pays off.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ