A publication of The Baily Star

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 76 FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022, ASHAR 3, 1429 BS

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE







Bangladesh has the lowest data breach density in Asia: studies

Bangladesh has the lowest data breach density in all of Asia, according to a global study conducted by cybersecurity company Surfshark. With 0.6 breached email accounts per 100 internet users in 2021, Bangladesh has the lowest breach count in Asia and the second-lowest breach count worldwide

Meanwhile, Iran has the highest data breach density in Asia and worldwide, with 231 breached emails per 100 internet users. However, the UK topped the cybercrime density chart with 4,783 victims per 1 million internet users.

In 6% of all analysed countries, breach rates are higher than 50%. Furthermore, more than half of the internet users in countries such as the USA, Iran, Israel, U.A.E. and Qatar got breached in 2021.

"Looking at the total breaches in 2021, we see that 71.7% of our analysed countries have lower than the global average breach density (16.5 leaked emails per 100 internet users). This shows that hackers target



some countries more than others," said Agneska Sablovskaja, Data Researcher at Surfshark.

On a continental level, Africa has the lowest breached email address rates, with 4 breached accounts per 100 internet users. Asia has the second-lowest breached rates, with 12 breached accounts per 100 internet

North America has the highest breach rates, with 1 in 2 internet users having their accounts breached in

Phishing is the most common

cybercrime that was reported in 2021. There were a total of 323,972 phishing victims last year. Statistically, every second individual that fell for an online crime was a victim of a phishing attack.

Since 2001, the online crime victim count increased by 17 times (from 6 victims to 97 victims every hour), and financial losses grew almost 400 times (from \$2,000 to \$788,000 losses per

In 2020, the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, the cybercrime victim count grew by 69% compared to 2019 (from 467,000 to 792,000 cybercrime victims per year). It was the highest cybercrime victim growth recorded since 2001.

People over the age of 60 were generally the most vulnerable age group to cybercrime since 2016 with over 92,000 yearly victims in 2021.

Overall, cybercrime claimed at least 6 and a half million victims and over \$26 billion in losses in the last 21

EDITOR'S NOTE

One less day of hustle?

Around 300 employees and 60 companies in the UK have recently begun a six-month trial of four-day working weeks. While the work hours will be cut, expected work efficiency and salaries will remain unchanged - which means the workers will still have to put in the work to make up for the missing day.

How would such a system work in Bangladesh? That is what we look into in this week's Cover Story. Perhaps we can expect positive changes if there were, indeed, fourday work weeks in this country.

For other pages, we have an academic career guide on Next Step, picks for smart TVs on Bytes and a special Father's Day tech gift list on

Until then. Stay safe everyone.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy Sub-editor & Feature Writer

Telegram Premium to be launched at the end of this month

Messaging app Telegram will be launching a paid premium subscription at the end of this month, Telegram founder Pavel Durov confirmed in a post on the platform.

According to Durov, Telegram's premium subscription will allow users to get their hands on new features faster while also getting additional speed and

Moreover, it will allow users to download larger files, voice-to-text messages and tools to customise their chats.

However, the currently existing features will remain free for all users across the platform.

Telegram currently has over 500 million monthly active users worldwide.



TOGGLE

Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam

Editor (Toggle) Shahriar Rahman

Team

Zarif Faiaz Shams Rashid Tonmoy Tanzid Samad Choudhury

Graphics

DS Creative Graphics Production

Shamim Chowdhury

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000

TikTok launches new screentime management tool

TikTok has launched two new practical tools as a part of its digital wellbeing mission to make it easier for its growing community of users to manage the time they spend on the entertainment platform in a single sitting and enable regular screen time breaks, thereby remaining in full control of their TikTok experience.

A new screen time dashboard will give TikTok's creative community data about how much time they are spending on the platform, with summaries on the daily usage time, the number of times they opened the app, and a breakdown of day-time and night-time usage available at all times. Users can also opt for weekly notifications to review their dashboard and monitor the time spent in a single sitting.

These prompts will remind TikTok users to take a break after a certain amount of

uninterrupted screen time, which they can set as per their choice and convenience.

TikTok has also introduced weekly digital well-being prompts for younger members of the community. When users aged between 13 and 17 spends more than 100 minutes on the app in a single day, he or she will get a reminder from TikTok of using the screen time limit tool the next time they open the app.

The new features are in line with TikTok's goal to promote a safe and positive experience for all its users and ensure that the entertainment platform is equipped to offer the best possible viewing choices for the TikTok community.

The entertainment platform is focused

on delivering digital experiences that bring joy, entertainment and enrichment to its community. Part of this includes ensuring that the community have a

positive relationship with their devices and allowing them to be more in control of their experiences. This is why

TikTok is taking a number of steps today to help support its community's digital wellbeing as they create content, including the new screen time management feature that allows users to restrict the uninterrupted time that can be

spent on the app. TikTok is supporting the rollout of the

new screen time management tools and encouraging its community in thinking

about their digital habits by publishing a new guide, titled "How can I reflect on my digital well-being with my family and friends?" on the platform's Safety Centre. The guide encourages the TikTok community to reflect more holistically about how they spend their time online – whether on ŤikTok or elsewhere – and how it makes them feel as they set the boundaries that best suit them

The tools are part of TikTok's continuous efforts to nurture its growing diverse global community and develop new tools and initiatives that support an environment where its users can create a customised experience, express themselves and have jov.

The new features can be found in the Privacy and Settings, under the section Digital Wellbeing.

Building a career in academia: things to know

AHMAD TOUSIF JAMI

Despite its unique structural challenges, an academic career offers a contentful professional experience. Whether through original research where you make new and necessary contributions to your field of work or through teaching to prepare the next generation, the role of academia in shaping the future of a country is enormous. Academia is a diverse field, and each niche requires a unique specialisation.

For Social Science and Liberal Arts The academia of social science necessitates a broad mix of abilities and characteristics. Awfa Islam, a researcher and lecturer at one of the country's top universities, advises against choosing this career path solely based on enthusiasm. The interest to pursue this career is often formed by societal norms and the false exaltation of teaching as a more respectable job than others. Therefore, one should carefully cultivate human skills before signing up for this career. For example, one may be an excellent teacher, but if they are not patient enough, they will find it difficult to be intellectually challenged by their students. "Good students always do not become good teachers. Therefore it is imperative to grow and cultivate your human qualities alongside your academic excellence," says Awfa Islam.

Moreover, it is essential to shape your identity around a niche field for in-depth contribution. Dr Shananwez Hossain,

Researcher and Assistant Professor at a country-leading university, says it is vital to build your academic portfolio with a coherent identity based on your interest and other works such as your thesis. He adds that this academic domain requires qualitative and quantitative research skills, and one should start learning them early. Knowledge of software such as Stata and SPSS also comes in handy for quantitative analysis - while theoretical knowledge allows for better dissection of numerical findings through qualitative research. He further adds, "Skills related to academic writing, avoiding plagiarism and proper ways of citing are some of the most important skills needed for academia.'

For STEM (Science, Technology, **Engineering and Mathematics**) When it comes to innovations in academia - STEM plays a crucial role. Branches of STEM academia include mathematics, physics, microbiology, earth science, etc. Many of the pure components of STEM require theory-oriented and quant-heavy skills such as programming language, statistical software, MATLAB. lab experience, etc. STEM academia enthusiasts may start their careers with pure subjects. For higher education, it is often really beneficial to pursue their education abroad and, in some instances, to build their career beyond borders.

It is important to note that academia is also more competitive beyond borders

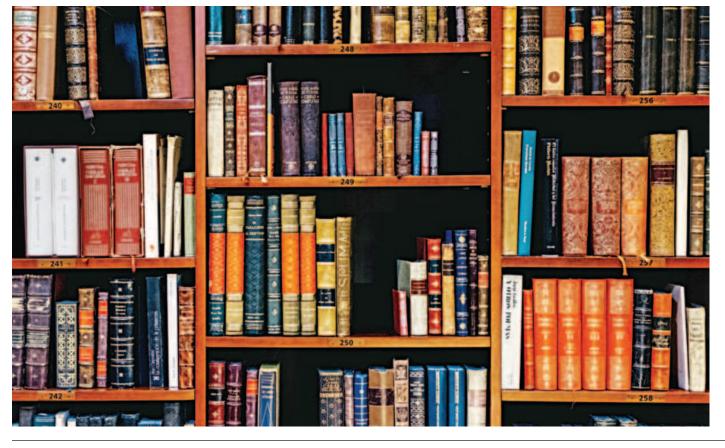
Abdullah Al Maruf, Assistant Professor at a leading university in Canada, explains two significant types of academic positions in North America: tenure-track (leading to tenure) and non-tenure-track (primarily contractual positions). Most academic jobs will involve three essential responsibilities - research, teaching, and service to the institute, the profession and the society. Given academic positions are highly competitive, to increase the possibility of getting a job, he suggests, "After getting your PhD, you should evaluate your research profile and decide whether you want to be a professor or move into industry jobs. One or two productive postdoctoral positions will make you competitive in your academic job search.

For Business

The academia of business is divided into several categories and subfields, within which you must determine your specific interests. Across the world, business school researchers have developed domains such as organisational behaviour, accounting, finance and strategy over time. At the current time when business is going global, SMEs are on the rise, microfinance institutions are growing and academia requires more dedicated minds to contribute to this sector, setting aside lucrative corporate job offers that, in some instances, ought to pay more.

In business academia, proper mentorship can take you a long way. This career path requires conducting research and knowledge exchange across industries - it satisfies diverse intellectual curiosity. "To flourish in business academia, you must set and understand your teaching and research philosophy in the early career under an appropriate mentor," says Dr Md. Mamoon Al Bashir, Assistant Professor at a leading public university in the UK. "No matter your country of the profession, you have to think beyond classroom teaching towards theoretical and practical contribution", he adds.

One thing to note here is business policies vary from country to country. Being familiar with the local business environment is a rudimentary qualification for working in business academia for a particular country. For instance, a business student with a marketing major from one country may not initially understand the best marketing practices for another country. On the other hand, developing quantitative skills, majoring in Finance, or obtaining degrees like CFA can give you an upper hand, and you would be able to make the most of your skillset with proper guidance from a mentor.







BIKE SAFETY TIPS FOR BEGINNER RIDERS TIMAM BASHAR PHOTOSI AYAN RAHMAN KHAN



In the overpopulated city of Dhaka, everyone looks for faster ways to commute. Many of us prefer riding motorbikes to travel faster, which can be used to manoeuvre between cars and buses stuck in traffic signals. To prevent bike accidents, bike safety should be considered before even learning how to ride a bike. Generally, protective gear increases the chances of survival during an accident. Below are some useful tips to consider when choosing the right protective gear. Wear a helmet

A helmet may not 100 percent guarantee to save a life but it does protect your head and give better odds of survival than riding without a helmet. An adequate helmet should be made of polycarbonate-based material as it is both lightweight and can reliably withstand the impact of a crash. Before getting a helmet consider these factors: the ISO rating, safety mechanism, weight, air ventilation, visibility, comfortability of the padding, style and last but not least, the cost of the motorcycle. Be seen

It's best to wear bright and visible clothes that are made of reflective material. Especially in early mornings, nights and cloudy days. Wearing bright clothes makes it easier for other road users to see a motorcyclist approaching, reducing accidents substantially. Wear a pair of riding gloves

A good pair of riding gloves is something that should be necessary for motorcyclists as hands are extremely fragile. Motorcycle gloves, in general, are sweat/waterproof, scratch-proof and lightweight, coming along with knuckle protectors and wrist support which are meant to protect the hands from debris, slipping and most importantly, during an accident. The material should be washable and comfortable for the riders to wear for an elongated period. Wear riding boots

People who often tend to wear casual shoes and sandals while riding bikes can often lead to dangerous injuries, as the toes and ankles are often sensitive to shocks and are usually the first thing to touch the ground when a bike is stopped. Motorcycle boots will protect your toes and ankles at all times and provide comfort and traction as well. Motorcycle boots are often durable and rugged, meanwhile giving adequate control over gear changing and brakes. Choose additional safety gear

These protective gears may not be mandatory but it's better to be safe than sorry. Things like body armour, elbow

to keep in mind like being alert at all times. It's important to know your surroundings and not drive recklessly. Make sure to check the weather forecast, as the weather often influences what you need and how you need to ride your bikes due to riders being out in the open at all times.

Know the bike safety rules and follow the traffic law accordingly to avoid getting into trouble. Be vigilant at the intersections, and watch out for loose dirt, potholes, puddles and other road



guards, shin guards and knee guards can help provide extra protection which will reduce the risk even further. Gear made for motorcycle riding is built to be impact resistant, absorbing most of the shocks from a crash, protecting most of your body, especially the high-impact areas of the body like elbows and knees. Gears like them often come with extra padding ensuring comfort and safety. Things to keep in mind

Protective gears may reduce the risk substantially but there are also things

hazards as bikers often get into accidents due to these simple reasons. Always carry a patch kit at all times and learn how to patch up your flat tire so that you are not stranded in a remote or unsafe area.

Bike safety should always be the first thing that riders should keep in mind whether they are riding a motorcycle for the first time or they are experienced riders. Always research and plan ahead before buying new gear, and remember to replace the old ones once they are worn out.

Why Bangladesh absolutely needs a 4-day work week

NAVID HOSSAIN

According to section 102, clause 1 of the Labour Act 2006 of Bangladesh, an adult may work up to 48 hours a week. Which is approximately 9.6 hours a week. Furthermore, clause 2 states that the employee may work up to 60 hours a week; following section 108, which

and physical distress. Which pays a heavy toll on the productivity of that person.

Now, during the Covid-19 pandemic many small businesses went down;

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises,

SME's barely paid their employees. Even the big guns suffered losses. To cover

refreshed and will work efficiently. As per the recent global trial run of the 4-day work week, employees felt approximately 45% less distress while working. Their productivity did not go down at all. This also allowed them to balance their work and personal life properly

Coping with post-pandemic stress
The Covid-19 pandemic changed the habits of people. From working at the office to working from home and finally back to the office again was a real hectic journey. Major changes in 2 year period were tough to deal with. Especially with companies trying to make up for their losses employees end up overworking. But the 4-day work week is their solution. This will help them breathe, to sustain themselves. They can cope with their hectic work schedule and retain productivity.

Morale boo

Now, when an employee sees the organisation doing everything for an employee, they feel motivated. This sort of decision is a big morale boost for an employee. When an employee is motivated and happy their workflow increases, and they get more work done in a short period. They are more encouraged to work. This would lead to employees being more innovative and implementing creative ideas into the workplace.

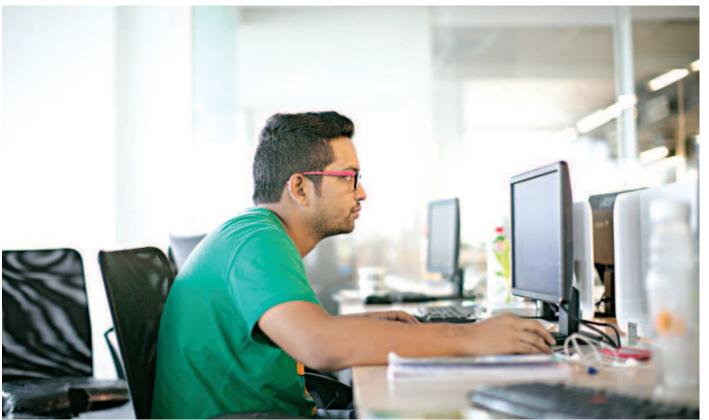
100-80-100 is a win-win

To elaborate, 100-80-100 means employees receiving 100% of their salaries while giving their 80% of the time to the company, and the productivity is still at 100%. Now, this is a win-win for companies and employees. Employees are happy with full payment and less time. On the other hand, the company gets 100% productivity of an employee and, thrives.

A big step into the future

industrial revolution, 4IR, the 4-day work week will be a big game-changer. This allows companies to automate manually done activities. With current technological advancements, many activities like recruitment process can be automated. Time will be shortened and all will be done with a click of a button. That way, employees won't have to run around to get documents signed, the automated process will take care of it.

With Bangladesh reaching for the 4th



states any employee working more than 48 hours is entitled to payment for overtime. Now, the question is, are Bangladeshi companies following this rule? No.

Common problems

With time cases of overworked employees surfaced. Companies implement ways to increase employee efficiencies. Incentives like "Employee of the Month" encourages an employee to minor extents. In turn, they only end up overworking. Providing incentives that harm employees only decreases their productivity. From top-level management to the labour class everyone is either overworked or underpaid.

Overworking causes a person mental

Increased productivity
Overworked employees are unhappy.
To extreme extents, they suffer from depression. All of these lead to decreased productivity. But a proper 36-hour work week will allow an employee to recover from the hectic work. They will feel

up these losses the big companies and

the SMEs that did not go down are now

overworking every employee. Those who

lost their amply paying jobs are now

Considering all those, the 4-day

work week is the only feasible solution.

Despite all the positive incentives, they

where the 4 day work week will prevail

failed and had a negative impact. This is

settling for half their past wage.

and here's why.

Uncommon smart TVs under Tk. 50k that might surprise you

ARFIN KAZI

Television entertainment has been the most common type of consumer entertainment since the dawn of time. Television technology has come a long way from being countertop virtual boxes; to having internet and complete interactive operating systems whilst not breaking the bank. If you're considering buying a new TV for your living room, check out our top picks for smart televisions under Tk. 50k.



Walton W43D210NF Smart LED TV

The W43D210NF from Walton is a great smart television which comes packed with a plethora of features. The TV has an interactive operating system with a built-in Chromecast which can support all major streaming apps including Netflix. The speakers of the TV come with a combined 20W speaker system with Dolby Digital and DTS-HD support. The panel supports full HD (1920x1080) and gets bright up to 300 nits.

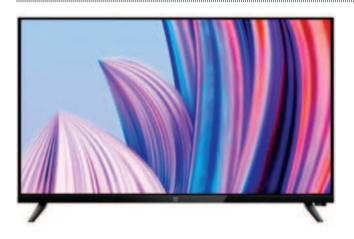
Panel size: 43" Price: Tk. 42,900/-

Xiaomi Mi P1 Smart LED 4K TV

The Mi P1 is the only television in this price range offering a full UHD 4K panel alongside a built-in Android operating system. It also has a Dolby Atmos and DTS-HD-supported 10W + 10W speaker system. The television also supports all major streaming services and apps which can be downloaded from the Google Play Store, with the support of voice commands through the remote provided.

Panel size: 43" Price: Tk. 40,000/-





OnePlus Y 43Y1 Smart LED TV

Being widely well known for making smartphones, OnePlus decided to make affordable televisions with plenty of features packed in. It comes with an Android operating system which supports all major apps and streaming services, while the display supports up to HD 1366x768 resolution and gets bright up to 230 nits. It also has a 20W combined dual speaker setup and supports wireless voice commands through the remote control.

Panel size: 43" Price: Tk. 40,000/-

Sony Bravia KDL-43W660G Smart LED TV

The Sony is comparatively less featureful than the TVs present in the list but the Bravia panels are one of the most reputed TVs in the current market - featuring an assurance of crystal-clear images and a panel that supports full HD up to 1920x1080. This TV supports all major streaming services and has an interactive operating system. It also has a Dolby Digital sound system with a simulated surround sound experience through partial volume tweaking.

Panel size: 43" Price: Tk. 50,000/-



Samsung SGTV-UA-43T5400ARSER Smart HD TV

This model of the Samsung TV has been a popular choice among buyers as the Samsung UI it comes with is quite user-friendly. Although it does not have android, the Samsung UI supports virtually everything essential to the TV and also when it comes to surfing the web. The panel supports Full HD and the Samsung Super AMOLED display also supports pixel dimming which makes colours vivid and also provides true black colours.

Panel size: 32" Price: Tk. 43,000/-



Gadgets to gift your father this Father's Day

SOFIA NOOR RAFA

Fathers dedicatedly work hard to keep their families in good shape. They are not only significant guardian figures but also torchbearers, leaders and utmost supporters of all the family members. Below is a roundup of at-hand gadgets that would make the dad-life of the fathers a little easier than before and help them maintain sound health.



Apple Watch Series 7

Apple Watch 7 is a luxe-looking yet efficacious addition for someone who needs advanced gear that will be a companion in any weather condition, working actively to serve the user. The watch charges fast, can record ECG, display the heartbeat at any time and measure the oxygen level of the user's blood. The screen performance is better than the previous smartwatches by Apple. Moreover, the Sleep app helps the user track the sleeping cycle. The dust-resistant, water-resistant, machine-learning-enabled keyboard holding watch will always come in handy.

Colour: Green, Blue, Grey, Starlight, Midnight

Display size: 1.9 inches Dustproof: IP6X certified

Waterproof: Swim-proof with WR50 water resistance

Weight: 42.3 g (41mm), 51.5 g (45mm)

Operating system: WatchOS 8.0 Sensors: Accelerometer, gyro, heart rate, barometer, always-on altimeter, compass,

SpO2, VO2max GPU: PowerVR

Battery type: Lithium-ion, non-removable Memory: Internal 32GB

Omron HEM-7121 Blood Pressure Monitor

This blood pressure machine can record and digitally display one's systolic and diastolic blood pressure and pulse rate. This machine has no complexities like the usual blood pressure calculators. With this handy gadget, calculating blood pressure is no longer a hassle. It comes with an arm-wrapper. Thoroughly following the blood pressure reports, one can take control of their lifestyle and head towards a balanced one.

Cuff wrap: Yes Origin: Japan

Memory: 30 Measurements Irregular heartbeat detection: Yes Price: Starts from Tk. 6,500/-



Price: Starts from Tk. 43,000/-



Philips Beard Trimmer BT3102/15

A beard trimmer as a gift is something any active adult man should appreciate. This Father's Day is the perfect time to replace your father's old trimmer with a fresh new one. While Philips is already known as a reliable shaver and trimmer brand, the BT3102/15 is an exemplary addition to its lineup. It not only provides a smooth and fast shave, but its precisely angled blades will also ensure a safe shaving experience - making sure the skin is never cut even during the quickest shaves. The device comes with a foil guard to protect the skin during closer shavers and catches falling and low-lying hair on the go. Dimensions: 19 x 6 x 10 cm Weight: 0.3 kg Blade material: Stainless steel Blade size: 1 mm precision

Power source: Battery

action per 10-hour charge

Price: Starts from Tk. 4,000/-

Runtime: 60 minutes of cordless

Double Head Full Body Massager

This comes with a variable-speed, infrared handheld body massager hammer. A handful of quick moves with this device is enough to remove the temporary difficulties due to irregular blood circulation in the body. The massager effectively works to remove any sudden pain or inertia in any body part, especially muscle joints, shoulders, legs, and lower back. The motor-enabled massager is movable to different body parts. The lightweight feature of the

gear ensures portability while travelling to destinations far from home. The infrared technology of the machine works beneficially to regulate blood circulation and delivers a comfortable massage experience at home. Colour: Grey

Functionality: Dual massage and vibration, motor movement, infrared technology

Design: Ergonomical Voltage: 220-250 V Plug type: EU Plug Power mode: Vehicle Power

Control method: Computer Type Push and pull switches: Yes Price: Starts from Tk. 1,799/-





Anker PowerCore Select 10000mAh **Power Bank**

Anker's two-port power bank is capable of charging two devices together. The user can simultaneously recharge two compatible power-needy smartphones or smartphone-like devices like tablets, with the gear's maximum power delivery of 12 Watt. The impressive PowerIQ of 2.4 Ampere makes it a feasible choice as a power-up device. The power bank is portable since it is lightweight and has a compact outer shape with a rubber coating. The other functionalities - short circuit protection and surge protection make it a great choice.

Dimensions: 104.4 x 64 x 25 mm

Battery: 10,000 mAh

Battery type: Lithium-ion battery

Input current: 2 A Output current: 2.4 A

Colour: Black

Price: Starts from Tk. 2,400/-

SPOTLIGHT

Shape: A startup that's breaking stereotypes

TAHSEEN NOWER PRACHI

Shape, an intimate clothing line for women in Bangladesh, provides lingerie and innerwear that caters to the distinct body featurettes of South Asian women. Since 2019, Shape has developed a clientele among Bangladeshi women not only through their unique sales but also through the creation of essential conversation that is considered taboo in our society. Founded by Monoshita Ayruani in September 2019. Shape is now a brand with 5 different stores across Dhaka and Chittagong with 12 members in its core team. Toggle recently talked with Monoshita Ayruani to learn more about this unique brand's journey.

The beginning of an inclusive brand If there's one thing lacking in South Asia, let alone Bangladesh, that is the lack of inclusivity in the sizes and shapes of undergarments. Most products available in local markets are of the few sizes that are excerpts of UK and US sizes. However, such fits are not compatible with the body sizes and structures of women in our subcontinent.

"I noticed the huge waste of investment every time when women buy their innerwear without any proper knowledge of their sizes and shapes. I decided to start a brand that will cater to women by not only selling products but also helping them understand their right fit," says Monoshita, "Hence, I started Shape. Currently, Shape has 11 different sizes of innerwear and loungewear one can find the perfect fit of."

The launching of Shape Shape initially launched its line on Instagram. Monoshita adds, "As we wanted to establish a communication



with customers to understand their needs and feedback, we designed our feed into a channel to reach out to them. This feed caters to topics not only limited to innerwear but on reproductive health, menstrual hygiene and mental health as well." This interactive feed is what helped Shape develop a sustainable bond with its clients, eventually leading to an official website and Facebook page.

Bootstrapping the business

Monoshita started the company with her own capital without external funding, expanding it with her partner after a while. Till today, the brand is self-funded and runs on its own revenue. Right now it is working on establishing a stronger base in the local market, with future plans on going international, especially to other South Asian countries.

Becoming a customer-friendly local brand

"Shape has worked hard to gain this trust over the two and half years from its clientele. It offers an open space for conversation for women who have a difficult time finding the right fit for their regular use. We offer size consultation with expert consultants," claims Monoshita.

According to her, the problem that customers often face is a lack of proper knowledge about choosing the right fit. The wrong fitted inner might harm the original body shape of the user and is usually uncomfortable. "But here in Shape, there is a right fit for everyone," adds Monoshita.

Their interactive and informative page and feed also answer FAQs about body

shapes and sizes, debunks taboos and eradicates misconception about less-talked but important issues. "Comfort should not come second to beauty, rather, it should come before the existing stereotypical norms of beauty. In Shape, we provide services that will serve both comfort and elegance to our customers," ensures Monoshita.

In the face of adversities

Monoshita highlights two prime adversities in her journey. Firstly, being a young female entrepreneur in Bangladesh with a unique product idea was nothing short of a challenge itself. Secondly, the lack of open conversation about women's innerwear and loungewear.

Creating a productive conversation about one of the most frequently-bought products seemed to be an absurd taboo. "I wanted to establish a safe space of informative shopping for women. While it was difficult to promote my brand's message initially, we steadily learned how to embrace the uniqueness of our brand with confidence," she says.

Breaking the taboos

Monoshita believes that creating conversation and building awareness are the two most important factors to break the stereotypes and taboos regarding women's intimate wear.

"Women have been taught to look beautiful first, and put comfort later. But it doesn't have to be that way; comfort and beauty can both come hand in hand," states Monoshita, "Shape is working towards a size-inclusive movement - whether you're lean or plussized, we have something for everybody."

