

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

# A deep dive with Sakib Jamal FORBES 30 UNDER 30 2024



J.P. Morgan was a transformative experience. Quite frankly, I lacked a lot of professional polish and understanding of cultural norms as I did not receive the training many people who grow up here automatically get. However, I was incredibly lucky to have strong mentors who guided me on the right path. Not just at J.P. Morgan, Cornell or Crossbeam, but even in Bangladesh - people like Abdullah Al-Rezwan, Asif Khan, the founders of Lightcastle Partners, and many more to name.

### How did you come across Crossbeam Venture Partners? What prompted you to become a venture capitalist?

I was always interested in startups and worked on entrepreneurial projects. I started a business in high school that was taking 'nokshi katha' from Tangail to sell through a DTC (direct-to-consumer) e-commerce site and via stores in Queens, New York. I had to stop that business during my undergraduate years as my academics, club involvements, and part-time jobs were getting too much to handle together.

After graduation, while I was at JP Morgan, I started a newsletter called The Capsule on Instagram with my friends Zafin Hassan, Salsabil Salah, Muqueet Chowdhury and Umran Mustafa. At peak, we had 22,000 subscribers sharing bite-sized news across multiple platforms. We had to shut that business down when we failed to monetise effectively and the world reopened after Covid-19. Nonetheless, I learned a great deal from that experience.

I also used to serve as a teaching assistant for the Entrepreneurship class at Cornell, where I met Crossbeam's founding Partner during a guest lecture. We stayed in touch, and when he started the firm three years later, I decided to join him.

### What has been the most exciting startup that you have invested in?

There are too many to name! But there have been some cool ones over the years. There is one called Chexy that is a promising one out of Canada, and most recently I invested in a company in the senior care space called Blooming Health alongside Chelsea Clinton.

### Tell us about your projects in Bangladesh.

My way of giving back to Bangladesh is to ensure that the diaspora community has connectivity with home. As such, I am involved with a non-profit called Bdeshi.org which my friend Rahat Ahmed founded, where we try to do just that. My other main project right now is a collaboration with the JAAGO Foundation where all proceeds of my upcoming book will go towards children's education.

### Do you have any advice for aspiring startup founders or young entrepreneurs?

There is so much advice out there, but all of it will be useless if people do not implement them. I would say that everyone should employ the Pareto principle - focus on the few things that really matter to you, and stay laser-focused on them. Any large project requires a lot of stamina and you should optimise for sustainability instead of short bursts.

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### SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

Bangladeshi-born American venture capitalist Sakib Jamal has recently achieved recognition of being listed in Forbes' prestigious 30 Under 30 list for 2024 in the North America region, in the Venture Capital category. As the inaugural employee at Crossbeam Ventures, a venture capital firm, Jamal has played a pivotal role in propelling the firm's assets to an impressive \$280 million across two core funds.

Jamal is currently the Vice President of the Investment Team in Crossbeam Ventures Partners and also serves as a Board Observer for seven different companies in the portfolio. He has also worked at J.P.Morgan, the reputed multinational financial services company, as an investment banking analyst. Earlier in the year, this graduate from Cornell University also secured a spot on Crain's New York Business 20 under 20 list.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the young venture capitalist dives into his background, experiences, and projects of both past and present.

### How does it feel to get selected for the Forbes 30 under 30 list?

I think it's important to recognise that it is an award for young people, which means I

still have a majority of my life and career left. I am very grateful and it does feel good to be recognised for my work. I put in a lot of late nights and sweat, with many sacrifices along the way. But my dreams are much bigger.

I want to back the best global founders and achieve a level of expertise where I can engage with Bangladesh at the policy level with the government. There are a lot of low-hanging fruits that the government is already tackling, and I am excited for our infrastructure and commercial conditions to get better.

### When did you move from Bangladesh to New York? Could you share your background and the journey thus far?

I was born in Chittagong and then moved around all over the country - places like Comilla, Chittagong hill tracts, Syedpur, Rajshahi, etc. due to my father's job in the Army. Back then, he was posted in Myanmar, where I went to elementary school. Afterwards, I spent a few years at Sunbeams School in Dhaka, after which I received a scholarship to go to Hong Kong for high school. In 2015, I came to the US with a scholarship to go to Cornell University.

### You were a former analyst at J.P. Morgan. How did your experience there help you?

Wind.app is a 'self-custody', 'smart contract' digital wallet that runs on polygon blockchain technology, providing services that streamline cross border payments. The app offers competitive exchange rates with which users can send and receive money anywhere in the world. The app also has an on-ramp/off-ramp infrastructure that enables users to change between crypto and fiat currency. Regarding the funding,

Hussain Elius, Founder and CEO of Wind.app, said in an official statement: "This funding marks a significant milestone for us. We continue our mission of simplifying cross-border payments and expanding our global reach."

## Pathao co-founder Elius' new startup raises USD 3.8 mln

Wind.app, a fintech startup founded by Hussain Elius, former CEO and co-founder of the Bangladeshi ride-sharing platform Pathao, has recently received USD 3.8 million in pre-seed funding. The funding round was led

by Global Founders Capital, a Germany-based venture capital firm, and Spartan Group, a Singapore-based blockchain investment firm, with participation from other international investors like Saison Capital, Alumni

Ventures, and Tiny VC. Wind.app is a 'self-custody', 'smart contract' digital wallet that runs on polygon blockchain technology, providing services that streamline cross border payments. The app offers competitive exchange rates

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## How to look for jobs in X, formerly Twitter

X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, has recently launched the 'X Job Search' tool. The tool enables users to explore job opportunities and facilitates direct recruitment by organisations verified by the platform.

Currently, the tool is accessible for free to web users of X, with plans to extend availability to iOS and Android soon. X tested the job search tool's functionality in August, limiting access to users with X Premium accounts during the testing phase.

Let's delve into how you can use X to look for job opportunities.

### How to use the X Job Search tool

Begin by signing in to your X account. Then, navigate to the relevant job search page. Once there, click on the two text fields - one for inserting the required job title keyword and the other for indicating the location.

After choosing your criteria, click the 'Search' button. This will generate a list of job listings that match your specific preferences.

Using the 'X Job Search' feature, users may look for different opportunities in particular disciplines and receive detailed information from several businesses.

Through alerts, job searchers may see recruiting circulars and submit direct applications for opportunities.

The tool lists job openings on the left pane and provides relevant information, such as the name of the firm, the particular job role, and the location, on the right pane.

### Navigating the Job Search tool

It's important to understand that while you may examine job posts and their data on X's platform, you cannot submit an application directly using the tool when it comes to applying for employment or completing applications. Instead, to continue with their applications, users are sent to the employment page of the firm.

Furthermore, there's a copy-the-job URL option for sharing. Job postings on the app can only be posted by organisations that have opted into the 'Verified for Organisations' package.

### Limitations of the feature

As for limitations, X's job search feature currently lacks advanced search filters for refining results. Users cannot select specific job roles, such as full-time, part-time, freelance, work-from-home, or hybrid positions.

X owner Elon Musk has expressed the aspiration for the platform to become a LinkedIn competitor with added features in the future, though the nature of these enhancements remains uncertain.

However, as X broadens its features, its primary focus on brief, real-time posting may not offer as robust networking as platforms like LinkedIn, known for emphasising connections, recommendations, and group interactions.

While X's origin as a microblogging site with diversifying features attracts active users beyond job hunting, LinkedIn's established emphasis on professional networking and job-related activities potentially provides a more specialised experience for career advancement.

## JOBS SPOTLIGHT

### Standard Chartered Bank - Branch Manager, Bogra Branch

Deadline: 6 December



#### Eligibility:

- Must have minimum Bachelor's degree and banking experience in relevant field.
- Should be able to assist the BM/BOSM to ensure that all the Group and Local Regulatory guidelines are adhered to during branch operations.
- Expected to help increase the client base and achieve the branch asset and liability targets for the Premium Clients segment.

Minimum experience: 5-7 years  
 Apply through the official LinkedIn page of Standard Chartered Bank

### CARE Bangladesh - Regional Office Manager

Deadline: 9 December



#### Eligibility:

- MBA with a Major in Finance/HR/Business Administration or Master's degree in any discipline is preferred.
- Should have prior experience in handling financial and administrative responsibilities in a managerial position.
- Will be responsible for proper management of the program support functions of the regional/field office.

Minimum experience: 3-5 years  
 Apply through the Careers section of CARE Bangladesh's website.

### Square Pharmaceuticals PLC. - Product Executive, Product Management Department (PMD), AgroVet Division

Deadline: 11 December



#### Eligibility:

- Must have a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree.
- Should be proficient in crafting promotional materials and strategizing activities for the successful launch of new products.
- Expected to handle new product launches, including crafting strategic plans and developing comprehensive marketing strategies.

Minimum experience: 3 years  
 Apply through the Careers section of Square Pharmaceuticals PLC. Bangladesh's website.

## Degree or coding skills not a must to get hired by Apple: Tim Cook

In a recent interview with pop artist Dua Lipa, Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, provided valuable insights into the qualities he deems essential for prospective employees at the tech giant. Beyond the conventional requirements of degrees and coding skills, Cook emphasised the significance of collaboration, inquisitiveness, and creativity in shaping Apple's unique work culture.

Looking to get into Apple? You would do well to cultivate these traits. Keep in mind that it's not just about what you know but how you collaborate, question, and create in the ever-evolving landscape of technology.

### Do you need to know coding or have a degree to work at Apple?

When asked what kind of qualifications one would need to work at Apple, Cook emphasised that college degrees and knowing how to code aren't always essential. He said, "We hire people from all walks of life. Some have college degrees, some don't. We have people that code, people that don't."

However, even though Apple hires a lot of employees who don't know how to code or don't code on a daily basis, Cook recommended that everyone should still learn how to code. "I think coding is a form of expressing yourself. It's the only global language we share."

**Collaborative skills: the power of 1+1=3**  
 During the interview, Cook paid special attention to 'collaboration', explaining



how it's one of the key characteristics he looks for in his employees. "Can they collaborate? Do they deeply believe that 1 plus 1 equals 3?" he said when explaining this fundamental trait. He also added that he tries to be a leader who "deeply believes in collaboration", emphasising that bouncing ideas off one another in a team creates a bigger idea one person could generate on their own.

### Ask the right questions: curiosity as a driving force

In addition to collaborative skills, Cook expressed his admiration for curiosity and the ability to ask the right questions. He appreciates individuals who delve into

understanding how things work and why people think the way they do. He believes that asking the important "how" and "why" questions shows dedication to creating user-friendly and accessible products.

**Creative skills: seeing around the corner**  
 Cook revealed that Apple actively seeks individuals who possess a creative flair. "We are looking for people that can see around the corner," he stated, adding that Apple wants to create products that "people can't live without but they didn't know they needed". As such, a person with the right creative talents can pinpoint those needs and usher in brand-new, innovative ideas.