

THE DEFINITIVE
YOUTH
MAGAZINE

SHOUT

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2020, JAISHTHA 21, 1427 BS

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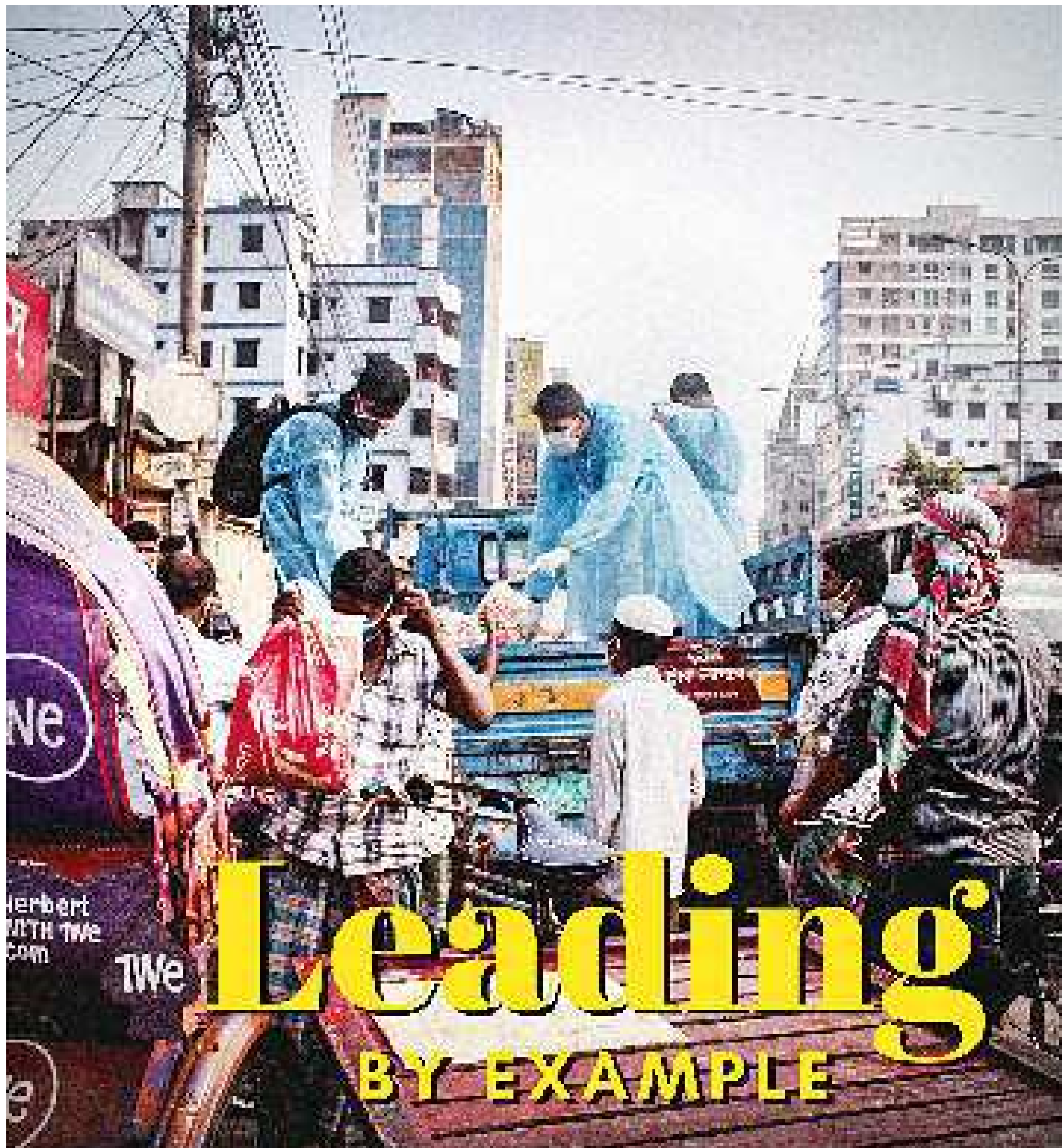


HOW TO NOT LET THE
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Leading

BY EXAMPLE

EDITORIAL

Social media moves at a mind boggling pace. It's literally mind boggling because if you tried to keep up with every trend or every story that's in the conversation, you will get confused, dizzy, and eventually sick. It is known.

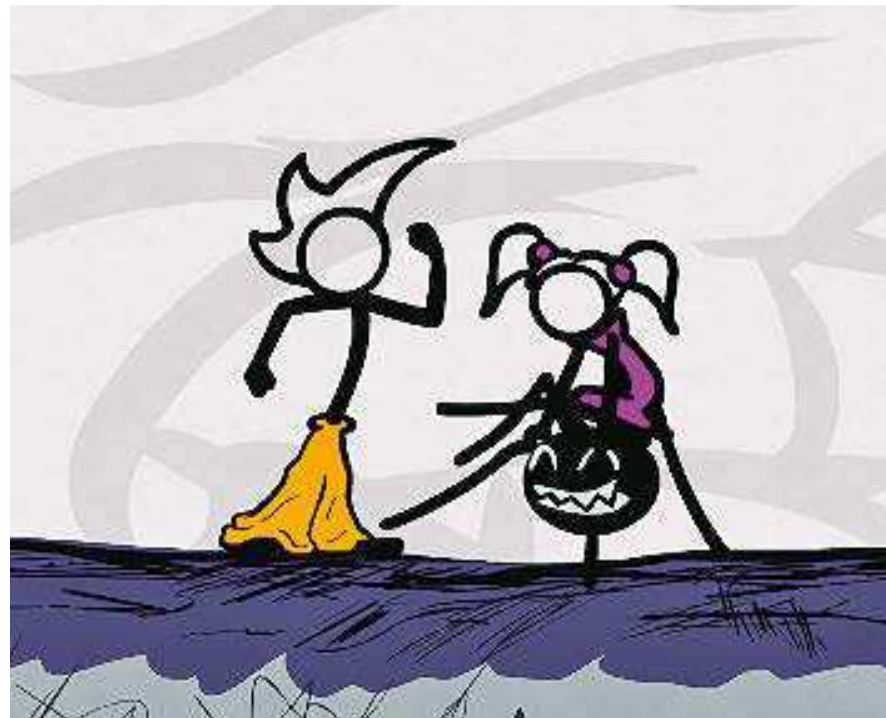
Well, we knew this before. I like to think of my life in two divisions, pre-March 2020 and post-March 2020. Pre-March 2020, I knew about the speed at which content moved, but what surprises me now is that there's possibly no cap as to how fast the people on social media can consume content. Post-March 2020, people have been online for longer durations. As socialising "irl" becomes non-existent, everyone's attention has been turned towards finding new things to obsess over online. This is a great thing because people have the chance to care about more stuff, right? But I think there's a bad side to it. There may not be a cap on how fast we can *consume* content, but there definitely is a cap on how much we can process. I've been pushing that limit myself, but it may be time to stop. Question is, how?

– Azmin Azran, Sub-editor, SHOUT



PLAYWATCH

GAME REVIEW



Flash games you can still enjoy

ABHOY HRIDDO

No high-powered PC, no PS4. Just your dad's dusty old laptop. With nothing to do tonight, you take that 512 MB computer, and look up flash games on Internet Explorer. This is a cherished old memory for many people who grew up in the mid-2000s. Flash games were free to play, required no downloads, and had no micro-transactions. Thus, I decided to jump back on the horse and see if there was still an eight-year old in me.

Here are a few flash games that I bumped into while taking a trip down memory lane.

SIFT HEADS

Sift Heads follows a trio of assassins in Chicago who clean up the city by painting it with yakuza and mafia blood. This game was beyond ambitious. The world of Sift Heads had so many variations, from sniper games to straight up hand-to-hand combat. It was a very different and defying game, especially given the fact that all the characters were just stick figures.

THE PAPA'S SERIES

This game is basically a restaurant simulator where you're the only chef and have to design and decorate your dream restaurant while providing lip-smacking food to your customers. The series lets you deal with a wide range of food items including burgers, pizzas, tacos, ice cream, cakes,

hot dogs, grilled cheese sandwiches, and so on. As you play through the game, you'll find yourself being consumed by the game's colourful aesthetics as well as the delicious (and virtual) food you will be making.

FANCY PANTS ADVENTURE

Heavily inspired by Sonic the Hedgehog, Fancy Pants Adventure follows a stick figure with choppy, spiky hair wearing nothing but triangular pants, hence the name Fancy Pants. The game will have you run through an array of unusual enemies consisting of spiders, snails and mice with assault rifles that you can either avoid, or defeat. What made the game different was the smoothness in the characters' movements. Seeing Fancy Pants slide or grab onto a ledge was one of the many satisfying things the game had to offer.

THE WORLD'S HARDEST GAME

I kid you not, this is the world's hardest game. Sekiro and Dark Souls is nothing compared to this. You're basically a red square and your goal is to avoid blue balls. This concept is mesmerised into a variety of challenging levels that get harder and harder as you progress. Some levels will make you break your monitor while others will leave you scratching your head wondering how people beat this game. Sure enough, as the game says, you don't know what you're getting into but don't worry, you will love it.



How to Not Let the News Get to You

NABIHA NUSAIBA

Day 49 into your quarantine, you settle on your couch with the rest of your family for a slow night in. You're slowly flicking through channels in the dark, taking your time discussing the infection rates.

You reach into the bowl of *chanachur* when your mother nudges your shoulder and eyes your sibling. On the other end of the couch, your sibling's sweaty palms have lost grip of their phone, causing it to fall on the carpet and vibrate happily with notifications of the latest news updates. Staring up at their face, you see them like you've never seen before. Curled up on the sofa, they are clashing their teeth in step with their bloodshot, twitching eyes. Did something break your sibling?

The doctor you called has informed you that your brother has the symptoms of "extreme news intake". In severe cases, news completely obstructs blood flow to the brain, causing insomnia and panic. To stop further spread, she has prescribed the following.

AN APPROPRIATE TIME

The best time to read the news is in the morning, right before you do something engaging. This might help you stop running in circles.

DON'T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

Keeping yourself updated on the news is very crucial. However, rest assured, there is absolutely no need to tie yourself to a chair in front of the television. Read or listen to the news at fixed times, no more than twice daily.

FAKE NEWS

Get your news from trusted news sites. Fake news can leave you confused and afraid. It is always ideal to check WHO guidelines for health and safety measures.

SELF-CARE IS THE BEST CARE

Give yourself time to process your feelings if you come across something that bothers you. Bottling up your feelings does more harm than good. Talk to those who understand you. Meditation is also an excellent way to, first, get in touch with yourself, and then, reality. You owe it to yourself to be stress free now more than ever. Stop engaging with the news at least an hour before you go to bed. Do something relaxing and monotonous instead. How about reading that biography gathering dust on your shelf?

DO YOUR PART

You have more power than you realise. Upset about the lack of medical equipment or food supplies? Donate. Educate those around you on the risks of not social distancing. Stay at home, help flatten the curve, help reduce bad news.

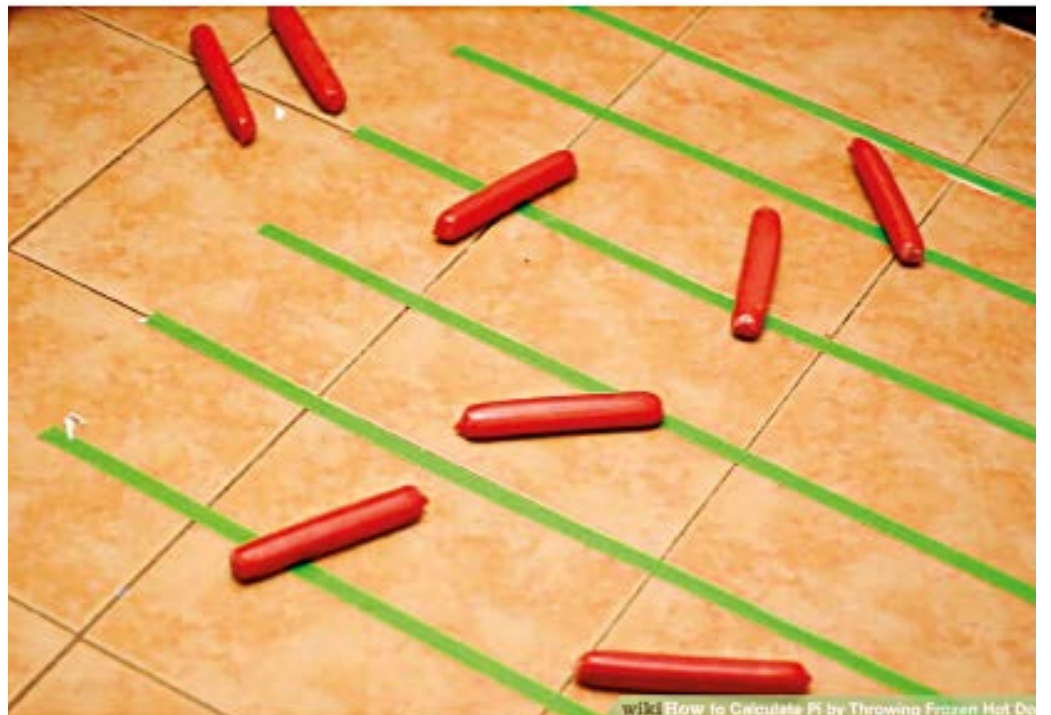
The writer is a few days away from impulsively painting her walls. Help her choose the colours at n.nusaibaah@gmail.com



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA



I am not sure on a whole lot of things, but there is one thing I am sure of, and that is that 'How to calculate pi by throwing frozen hot dogs' is the best wikihow article.



The Wonderful Weirdness of WikiHow

ADHORA AHMED

If the fact ever dawned upon you that you don't know a certain basic life skill, such as how to tie a tie or cook an omelette, you might have visited a certain website called WikiHow. It's a helpful resource when it comes to the most random of life hacks and almost every aspect of the life of a normal human being.

However, in the midst of it all lies a rabbit hole where all the absurdity resides. Because of this, a WikiHow binge can be similar to a YouTube one. You might start with tips on how to clean your bathroom, and before you know it you'll end up initiating black magic rituals on your siblings from another article.

WikiHow demonstrates self-awareness, to some extent, with a sister website called WikiHow Fun, where it provides sincere advice for our hilarious and mischievous ideas. How fun, right? You'll find step-by-step instructions on how to annoy your neighbour or act like an anime character. Yet, the main website takes the cake when it comes to sheer weirdness. The following are some examples.

HOW TO CALCULATE PI BY THROWING FROZEN HOT DOGS

Yes, it's apparently possible. First of all, who on earth would go to this length to learn this mathematical constant? And why learn how to calculate pi when you can just memorise up to two or three decimal places? The only scenario I

can imagine a Math teacher using this method is when the classroom is in a kitchen without any whiteboard nearby.

HOW TO NOT BE A CRY BABY

This guide is tailor made for those children at restaurants who cry and scream for no reason while their parents fail miserably at calming them down. Only if they could read. In all seriousness, this guide can come in handy if you're actually having trouble with emotional outbursts. Check yourself.

HOW TO BE OKAY WITH HAVING A COMMUNIST FRIEND

Who hasn't gone through this? Some people might not know who their true parents are, but every single one of us can name *at least* one communist friend. The one who always carries a copy of *Das Kapital* and knows the lyrics of "The Internationale" by heart – you know who it is. Jokes aside, the main takeaways from this guide can be applied to any friendship with different ideological beliefs or interests. The main goal is tolerance and understanding, two things that will take anyone far in life.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the silliness that abounds in this corner of the Internet. During these trying times, if you're feeling bored, have a laugh reading some of these. On the upside, you might actually learn something.

Adhora Ahmed daydreams too much. Send her reality checks at adhora.ahmed@gmail.com



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Youth-led organisations of Bangladesh in the fight against Covid-19



PHOTO: COURTESY

THE DEFINITIVE **YOUTH** MAGAZINE
SHOUT

SYEDA ERUM NOOR

People respond differently when faced with crises. As we crawl our way together through this pandemic carefully, with masked faces and gloved hands in the safety of our own homes, some of us have risen to the occasion. Amidst the chaos, many young individuals have dedicated themselves to the service of the disadvantaged, to selflessly support anyone and everyone facing the daily struggles of life in Covid-19.

Apart from the obvious — people being newly infected and so many suffering or dying from this deadly virus — there are other challenges that many people are having to face. With no work and the loss of jobs, many families have lost their only source of income, leaving them struggling to

make ends meet. The less fortunate with barely a roof over their heads are starving as they live completely exposed to the dangers of this disease. Many of us are unaware about the exact nature of the challenges the people have to face outside the walls of our homes and the people on the streets.

"The middle-class families are struggling financially," says Tahniat Bushra Waheedi, student of North South University, one of the lead volunteers at Charge for Dhaka, Bangladesh Food Bank and founder of the group Feed a Family. "It was unexpected and a lot of these families are unable to ask for help, leaving them to suffer in silence."

"This pandemic is also affecting people mentally and emotionally," she further explains. "We wanted to make this easier. We wanted to ease their pressures of daily life."

In this group, the members have the chance to anonymously reach out for help. The initiators have also not put verification past them, ensuring that only those in need would receive aid. Upon checking, they then made arrangements to deliver groceries to the families in need, so that each family had food on their tables at the end of the day.

Apart from the basic struggles of being at home and cut off from the outside world is the fact that everyone tends to panic, mostly because they don't fully understand the problem and what is being done to deal with it.

"Awareness is an increasing problem among almost all mediums of people," explains Tasneem Batool, recent BRAC University graduate and Vice President of Ashia. "The situation needs to be explained to them so they don't panic and abide by the necessary guidelines and instructions."

However, the suffering does not take into consideration which social class one comes from.

"The daily workers and labourers have been suffering quite a bit," says Abir Ahmed Khan, CEO and Founder of Rising Star Charity Bangladesh.

His team went all out during the month of Ramadan in an attempt to make sure that everyone was provided with iftar. He mentions, ecstatically, "We've successfully been able to provide homemade iftar to approximately 11,000 people, every day."

Along with this charity organisation is a group of university students who recently conducted an independent drive to help those in need. Ifreet Taheea, a North South University student, along with her friends Taslim Imam Khan, Tazwar Hussain, Mohaiminul Kamal, Rabea Ahmed, Naymour Rahman Khan and Sayad Zunaïd Alavee opened a group on Facebook titled Dhaka Covid-19 Crisis Relief. They took the



initiative to provide food and medicine to the less fortunate ones.

"We tried to make sure that we could tackle the basic necessities," Ifreet tells us. "Because before we can do anything we need to make sure that they have food items as well as other essentials and supplies for safety."

In all this chaos, those who are actively working in the frontlines to combat the virus shouldn't be left behind at all. The doctors and nurses who are spending sleepless nights tending to patients also need our attention and gratification.

"Alongside struggling families and the poor, we've been trying to supply the nurses and doctors with nutritious food," Tasneem adds. "Because after a long hard day at work, a lot of them don't get to go home. We want to make sure we are serving those who are serving us."

Food and income isn't the only thing that has been diffi-

cult to come by during this pandemic. Hospitals have run dry of equipment and medical supplies with the rising influx of the infected.

"We've made it our priority to help those fighting in the frontline for us in this global pandemic," says Ahmed Imtiaz Jami, President of Obhizatrik Foundation. "We've been distributing PPE and sanitizer to the doctors of Bangladesh Medical College Hospital and donated to the Chattogram Field Hospital."

Jami also attempts to help protect those who are out praying. He adds, "We've also given out sanitizers to the mosques in areas around Dhaka."

When we see others taking brave steps towards doing good for the people, the intention to do the same ignites in us too. Having said so, we always don't know how. For those who want to help and are looking for an opportunity to, we

asked these organisations how they can contribute — how you can support the people in need.

"Letting people know," responds Abir. "Being informed doesn't just help with more donations but also helps inspire others to join our cause. Work with us to help people."

If people have such positive influences more readily available and visible to everybody, it'll undoubtedly turn the push to shove, making more people follow their hearts to serve the society. Charity, however, doesn't have to start at some organisation. It can start right at home.

"You don't need to be part of some group if you want to help people," Ifreet explains. "Help your neighbour. Do something for your domestic help and their families. Charity is in kindness."

Volunteering for charity changes people in ways unimaginable. When exposed to the hardship and suffering, even teenagers gain perspective and grow as humans.

"I see empathy in the eyes of all my younger school-going volunteers," says Tahniat, beaming with pride. "A new compassion is born within us when we have the pleasure of doing these things. The younger you start, the better."

Moreover, each of these organisations have also already started making arrangements to help those affected by the recent cyclone Amphan, trying to make sure people in coastal areas have the right shelter and means to survive. Throughout everything that they're doing, they have made sure to follow all the necessary guidelines including wearing masks and gloves and managing crowds as much as they can to try and prevent the spread of virus.

Youth-led organisations — old and new, big and small — spread across the country deserve praise for their selfless initiatives and contributions. Every little that they are doing is making a world of difference in the lives of many. So we urge the youth to do something. It can be as simple as not throwing out the leftover food. It can be cooking just a little extra for the security guard that lives downstairs, or the person who runs a tea stall down the road. It can be emptying a few clothes out of your closet and handing it to a little child. Start small. One does not have to leave their home to do something. One can do a lot from within the safety of their homes and the lockdown.

Stay safe, stay home and take that first step towards kindness.

Syeda Erum Noor is dangerously oblivious and has no sense of time. Send help at erum.noor1998@gmail.com





ECHOES BY
ASRAR CHOWDHURY

Online classes in the time of coronavirus



Have you ever seen a *black swan*? Probably not. If you were asked to write about *black swans*, what would you do if you found out nobody knows about *black swans*? You'd have to imagine the unimaginable. This is nice in fantasy. You fall down the rabbit hole, off to Wonderland. In reality, imagining the unimaginable is full of uncertainty. The phrase *black swan* describes totally unpredictable events, where past experience doesn't exist from which a solution can be found.

Until the year 2019 BC (Before Corona), classes happened the same way for centuries. The teacher enters. Students rise. The teacher calls attendance. Class starts. Interaction is face-to-face. In 2020, the *black swan* pandemic came and disrupted everything. Nobody knew for how long it would last. Nobody knew how it would affect our lives. Nobody knew how to solve the challenge. Each nation had to play safe.

For health safety, education institutions had to be shut down. The next question was: for how long? Once again, nobody had an answer. The pandemic appeared as a *black swan*. Nobody was prepared. Time was ticking away. Schools, colleges, and universities had to find a response. Unless you respond, you'll never know what works and what doesn't. Apparently, life doesn't move in a straight line. Schools, colleges, and universities each faced different problems in online responses.

With schools, students come from similar social backgrounds. They don't live too far away from the school. Colleges tend to attract students from more diverse social backgrounds and geographical locations. Universities attract students from the most diverse social backgrounds and geographical locations. When education institutions were shut down, school students weren't living too far

away from each other. Their access to net speed and devices were similar. Thus, it was possible for some schools in large urban centres to go for online classes via platforms like Zoom that require good devices and high net speed.

With universities (and also colleges), students come from different parts of Bangladesh, where the net speed varies from urban to rural centres. Students of universities also come from diverse social backgrounds. They don't have similar access to devices and net speed. When universities shut down, students went back to their homes scattered throughout Bangladesh or at least scattered within a regional division. This created a big challenge.

How did the teachers fare? Teachers weren't ready for online classes. Some faced problems because they either lacked computer literacy or couldn't choose online platforms when they thought about net speed and device access to their students. Moving away from face-to-face contact meant lack of interaction. Delivering lectures on maths or technical topics became a big challenge.

There are some structural problems to consider. Not all platforms can record when students enter the lecture, or if they attended the entire lecture. This can affect learning outcomes. Finally, the challenge of online exam-assessments is a grey area that needs to be carefully thought. Credibility of exam-assessments forms a fabric of the moral foundations of education institutes.

If education institutes are shut down for a long period, schools, colleges, and universities will have to carefully rethink how they deliver education. A post-pandemic world may never be like 2019 BC for a long time. Meanwhile, looking before we leap; thinking even more carefully; and observing the experience of others is the safest bet to play. Stay home. Stay safe.

The author teaches economics in classrooms. Outside, he watches Test cricket, plays the flute and listens to music & radio podcasts. Email: asrarul@juniv.edu or asrarul@gmail.com

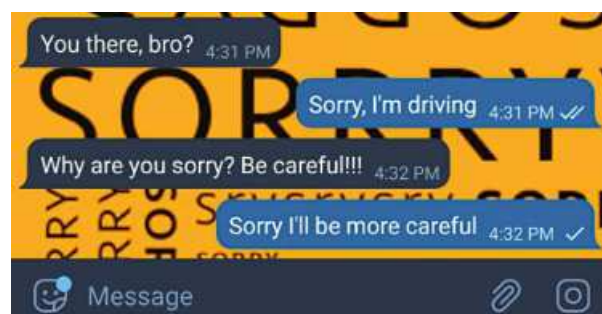
Sorry, not sorry

HIYA ISLAM

If you spare a thought or two, you'll realise the word "sorry" is littered just as often as "like" or "uhmm" in our daily conversations. While no other word does the job of expressing anguish or remorse well enough, saying sorry too much is doing more harm than good in ways we do not realise. Over-apologising is killing your confidence and downplaying your worth, especially in professional capacities.

Why? Because once you apologise for something it implies you are responsible in some way for the inconvenience or mishap that occurred. But is it your fault that you happened to be driving when someone left a text? Or that the guest speaker is late to the seminar? Very often, we are habitually apologising for something we had not done and only for the sake of chivalry.

We can still be considerate without throwing around the word "sorry". Try using "Thank you for waiting" instead of "Sorry, I'm late". Or, "How about we try..." in place of "Sorry to interrupt...". Even something as simple as "Hey, I was driving/at work" is in no sense a mean reply. The first step is to identify when it is unwanted and then finding a better alternative to what you'd say.



One way to do it is to express gratitude and positivity. Say, there is a slight delay processing the bill at the counter. There is a massive difference between "Sorry, here's your bill" and "Your bill, ma'am, and have a good day".

A number of studies found that women are more likely to apologise than men when given a series of hypothetical offenses. The findings suggested that men have a higher threshold to consider an offense worth an apology. This implies that women are more empathetic. But sometimes, it is necessary to dodge the word as it plays to a disadvantage for women in workplaces.

All of this only brings us to ask when should we really

apologise. As easy as it is to slip one out, we all can tell if it is a sincere one. Thus, sincerity is essential. While it is necessary to explain what went wrong that led to an apology, never follow it up with excuses. Excuses show an absence of responsibility. An apology is never about you but the person affected. The key to reforming the bond is, of course, changed behaviour. An apology without corrected behaviour is as useless as a dime thrown in a wishing well.

Apologising is not bad. Just overdoing it impresses a wrong notion of us in the mind of others. However, it's also important that we work around our communication to incorporate a balanced mix of empathy, assertiveness and comfort in terms of the context.

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Hiya goes to and from between sleep and boredom. Leave her a message at hiyaislam.11@gmail.com

FALSE REWIND

SHAHRUKH IKHTEAR

"You need to promise me that you won't mention this to anyone," Ray's eyes twitched about, scanning the unusually clean white ceiling in the damp, old room.

"Your secret is safe within these walls," the watchmaker replied after a brief pause. He was wearing a blue vest over a white shirt that looked like it had seen the corner of a stuffed closet too many times. His soothing baritone voice reassured Ray who sat on the maroon leather sofa. His face was barely discernible in the shadows. A light shaft beamed through the only window near the ceiling, reflecting off his silver monocle and on to Ray's eyes.

As Ray tried to readjust his head to avoid the shimmer, the smell of old books and aged wood in the room reminded him of his grandfather's study where he found the curious artefact that would change his life forever. Ray felt his neck rubbing against the leather which felt like plastic. He brushed the thought away as he had a more pressing matter at hand.

He lifted up his left hand and curled his fingers into a fist. He shook his wrist to

draw attention to his watch. It didn't have a brand name. A dome-shaped glass covered the blue dial encased in a gold frame. There was a circular cut out at the six o'clock position for a golden tourbillon unit with a crimson gem in the middle.

"This... is no ordinary timepiece," Ray hesitated to get the words out as he was worried about what the watchmaker would think of him.

"What do you mean?" The watchmaker leaned forward to inspect the timepiece, bringing his auburn moustache into the light.

"It's easier if I just show you," said Ray as he got up from his sofa. He walked to the opposite end of the room up to the largest bookshelf, the leather sole of his half brogues scratched against the seemingly-smooth wooden floor. He started to pull the books one by one and threw them on the ground.

"Mr. Johnson, what is the meaning of this?" The watchmaker's voice bore an unusually calm tone.

"Wait. I can fix this," replied Ray as he reached for the crown of his watch. He

pulled it so that the crown clicked twice and he could turn the minute hand. As he turned the hand back by a minute, he looked at the watchmaker dead in the eyes.

Slowly, the watchmaker began saying what he did in reverse and the books flew back into the shelf one by one, exactly as they had been thrown. Even the dust settled back in the places where Ray's fingers had been.

"You're probably wondering how I got to this point of the room. I walked here and reversed the time using my watch. These particular books were on the ground just now," Ray said as he pointed out the books he had thrown.

"I see. Very interesting," the watchmaker did not seem amused as he straightened the collar of his shirt.

"You don't think this is strange? You think this is a joke?" Ray started to think that he had made a mistake.

"Of course not. You're not the first person to seek my counsel regarding these matters."

"You think this is a joke. I can't believe I just wasted my time," Ray's frustration

seemed to only grow as his voice became louder with each word.

"I need you to calm down. I can help you but you need to be patient. Please wait outside my office and I'll give you a detailed document which will help you control this... *power*," the watchmaker calmly replied.

"Alright, I'll wait," Ray sighed as he slowly walked out of the office room. Did the watchmaker really believe him? Or did he want Ray out of his sight as soon as possible. It was hard for him to keep his thoughts in order.

As Ray exited the room, the watchmaker looked at the floor near the bookshelf. The watchmaker could tell that Ray had thrown a good amount of books on the floor before he turned back time. He could sense the chrono-energy near the shelf.

"So, you're a descendant of the famous bloodline," he cracked a smile as he pulled up the shirt cuff on his left arm to reveal a watch exactly the same as Ray's but with a crimson red dial.

"It's been a while since I added a rewind watch to my collection."



Our Hero, The Sundarbans

As told by an Environmental Science student

H. RAINAK KHAN REAL

The moment I hear the name *Sundarbans*, the image of a lush green mangrove forest and a Royal Bengal Tiger majestically taking a stroll flashes before my eyes. The name itself is enough to elicit in us a combined feeling of thrill and pride which stem from the fact that the Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a Ramsar site and the largest mangrove forest in the world.

And as for students like me who are studying the environment, the name evokes veneration and profound gratitude. After all, just like a mother sacrificing herself to protect her child, this forest protects the millions of Bengalis living in the coastal districts from the onslaught of violent cyclones and tidal surges which ravage our country almost every year, the most recent of which is the super cyclone Amphan.

Due to its unique geographical setting, Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. In coastal areas, deadly cyclones are accompanied by tidal surges which can reach a height of several metres.

But the Sundarbans, like the fortified wall of a castle, stands between our western coastal districts and the Bay of



PHOTO: STAR

Bengal as the sole form of defence against these cyclones. This natural barrier not only reduces the intensity of the cyclones via surface roughness but also weakens the tidal surges through the dissipation of wave energy due to the unique structures of its mangrove vegetation. The mangroves also minimise the saline water intrusion and reduce the risk of coastal erosion by trapping and stabilising the soil sediments. Recent studies also suggest that

mangroves enhance vertical land development through sedimentation processes.

Apart from disaster protection, the Sundarbans is the largest carbon sink (absorbing more carbon dioxide than it emits) in Bangladesh and plays a role of utmost importance in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. It is the home to a treasure trove of unique wildlife, including a few globally endangered species and is the source of livelihood for thousands of

people in the coastal districts.

Upon exploring the Sundarbans as a part of my field study, I was grief-stricken after witnessing how uncontrolled human intervention had led to its over-exploitation and mass deforestation.

Right now, what our precious mangrove forest needs is the time to heal herself as she was badly damaged by the super cyclonic storm Amphan.

There is no alternative to the Sundarbans. Sustainable consumption and minimal human intervention is the only way to save our beloved mangrove, our silent guardian.

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H. Rainak Khan Real has stopped searching for the elixir of eternal youth, instead he has begun searching for the potion that can slow down the time. Send him clues at rainakkhan-real@gmail.com

The dos and don'ts of feeding stray animals

FARIHA S. KHAN

Stray animals that primarily depend on garbage waste and leftover food from restaurants for their meals go hungry everyday as the coronavirus crisis continues and Dhaka city comes to a standstill. As the pandemic progresses, even people who would feed strays on a daily basis have stopped coming out of their houses. On the other end of the spectrum, many are being harassed while feeding strays as rumours circulate that dogs can spread the virus.

Contrary to popular belief, the World Health Organisation (WHO) cleared the air when they announced in March, "At present there is no evidence that companion animals/pets such as dogs or cats can be infected with the new coronavirus." According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, the risk of animals spreading the virus to humans, though it exists, is very low.

While new discoveries are being made everyday regarding animals' relationship in regards to the novel coronavirus, armed with the proper equipment, it is deemed safe enough to come into contact with animals — not only because animals might spread the disease to humans, but because there is a higher risk of humans spreading the disease to animals.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

First and foremost, you'll need a pair of gloves. Even if you won't be touching the animals, when you're stepping outside your house, you are likely to come into contact with other surfaces that may carry the virus. If you do not have gloves to use, carry hand sanitizer with you. Try to avoid contact with the animal by throwing the food on

the floor but make sure to sanitise if you do come into contact. Try not to leave food rotting on the streets as this can increase the risks of contamination.

Secondly, make sure you carry a mask with you. While it is unlikely that you will contract the virus from an animal's breath, you may get it from pedestrians, which is

why it's important to wear a mask. When feeding the animals, it is best to do it in areas where the risk of running into other people is relatively low.

When feeding strays, dry food such as biscuits are very affordable options. Though it is usually advised not to give dogs sugary treats, light sugary may be a good source of energy for animals that go hours (or days) without eating. Other options may include boiled vegetables, which will give them the nutrition they require. While onion, garlic and pepper are deemed harmful for cats and dogs, they tend to eat other vegetables, such as carrots, corn and chopped greens. Avoid giving them table scraps and stale food since this will likely make them sick.

If you are unable to get out of the house yourself, you can always help out by donating money to charitable organisations — even donating as little as 35 taka can help a dog that might have otherwise gone hungry.

Reference

The Independent (April 17, 2020). Coronavirus: can your dog or cat get covid-19 and can you catch it from your pet?

Fariha enjoys binge-watching movies in the dark vicinity of her bedroom. Strike up a conversation with her at fariha.safa@gmail.com