

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*



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PepsiCo and Beyond Meat are working to devolve plant-based food



Beverage maker PepsiCo has entered a partnership with plant-based protein provider Beyond Meat to create plant-based food and drinks.

The PLANeT Partnership — as it's called — plans to combine Beyond Meat's protein prestidigitation skills with PepsiCo's marketing and manufacturing base to bring new plant-based snacks and drinks to the global market, both companies claim.

In a statement, Ram Krishnan, PepsiCo Global Chief Commercial Officer, said "Plant-based proteins represent an exciting growth opportunity for us, a new frontier in our efforts to build a more sustainable food system and be a positive force for people and the planet, while meeting consumer demand for an expanded portfolio of more nutritious products."

At this time, both companies refrained from releasing any other details.

New car this week Haval debuts lifestyle pickup with decent off-road capability

Ace Autos, the exclusive distributor of Haval SUVs, launched a new luxury-focused pickup truck in their showroom at Tejgaon, Dhaka.

The Great Wall Motors POER is aimed at customers looking for a slice of that off-road lifestyle. The fully optioned Super Luxury trim of the truck has a plethora of features usually found on upmarket SUVs, such as a powered driver seat, six-speaker sound system, power sunroof, six airbags, 17-inch alloy wheels, and many more.

Power comes from a 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbo diesel making 161 Hp and 400 Nm of torque. Said power is sent to all four wheels through an eight-speed ZF transmission, though the base model is available with a six-speed manual. Low-range gearing and a locking rear differential are standard across all models, giving it the truck respectable off-road capability.

The price of the POWER starts from 36 lacs, with the fully optioned model costing a little over 40.



Tesla updates its Model S electric sedan, announces plaid+ model



American electric carmaker Tesla has updated their flagship Model S luxury sedan.

Although the changes to the exterior are minimal, the interior has been extensively revamped. The steering wheel has been replaced with one that resembles an aircraft yoke. The vertical tablet is swapped for a 17.0-inch portrait display, similar to the ones found in the Model 3 and Model Y. Tesla claims the resolution is vastly improved to 2200x1300 with brighter colors

and improved responsiveness. The rear seats have received additional bolstering as well as a supplemental display for passengers at the bottom of the center console.

In addition to the updates, Tesla also announced an upcoming new Plaid+ trim for Model S. The trim will feature the automaker's new battery cells, which will give the car a record-setting of 837 Km and 0-100 time of less than 1.9 seconds.

Using WhatsApp in desktop will now require biometric authentication

TOGGLE DESK

Amidst all the heat, WhatsApp has brought in a new feature to ensure security for WhatsApp desktop or web. Now, if your device supports, you will need to authentic using your face or fingerprint while enabling a desktop or web session. Amidst all the heat it is receiving, WhatsApp's this feature will ensure snooper are not able to activate a web session without your approval. Once your login using QR code, you will be prompted to authentic it.

How do you turn it on? Here is how you can enable the biometric security option enabled.

1. Tap settings icon) WhatsApp Web
2. Hit the plus icon and then follow the instructions if your phone supports biometric authentication
3. Select the "keep me signed in" option on the QR code page on your computer if you wish to stay logged in
4. Scan the QR code displayed on your computer with your phone camera

EDITOR'S NOTE

Rinse and repeat

How do you avoid burning out? We do muc of the same thing day in and day out. We write, edit and publish. Somedays we want to throw the table nd be the meme. So, how do we avoid burning out?

Rotate. We take on tasks that are not ours. We rinse off the tiredness by trying something out of our comfort zone. Last week, our usual travel/tech guy did a car review. He didn't die. Far from it.

I took on an online writing workshop quieting my discomfort over public speaking. That's in page 3, summarized by a writer who studies economics and writes for a tech publication.

We try what makes us uncomfortable. And then you appreciate the new thing better. And then we rinse and repeat. Whatever we knew to be a norm in the past is gone.

Welcome to being uncomfortable and adventurous.

- Ehsanur raza Ronny, Editor

TOGGLE

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Tesla in talks to license their Autopilot technology

SpaceX deploys record-breaking 143 satellites into space



Google lets Pixel users permanently turn off their Night Sight

Apple celebrates over 1 billion active iPhones



General Motors working on a hydrogen truck with Navistar

Be a pro writer: Learn the craft of writing

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Writing, as an essential skill itself, allows you to represent your thoughts and views with clarity and ease to a far larger audience. No doubt that knowing grammar is important to explain a context or to work with a subtle idea. Besides this, there are some important key points to remember for enhancing your writing skill. Ehsanur Raza, Editor of Toggle, shared such tips from his working experience in the Online Workshop of the Economics Study Center (ESC): The Craft of Writing on the 23rd of January.

Be specific when you write

It implies that we need more details or some concrete information to understand better about a particular topic. Writings based on some blanket and vague statements or casual observation cannot attract or fascinate the readers. You need to research thoroughly regardless of what you are writing to make it worthwhile. For example, "Police stopped the car". This is just a simple statement which has nothing in particular to tell you. You can make it better by saying "Police stopped the rusty, blue Toyota". You can also add details about the police, weather or the situation here. Without details, you cannot have a story. And without story we cannot draw your readers' attention. But keep in mind that you should stick to relevant details only.

Choose simple and easy words

Have you ever heard of 'verbiage'? It indicates complicated and lengthy words. Using verbiages should be avoided even in academic journals where difficult words are considered as trendy. Lots of people mistakenly think that they need difficult and complicated words to make a write-up sound important. However, it should be represented in such a way that readers can understand and connect with that. Always use short and simple words and sentences so that people get your story quickly and easily.

Leave out the fluffs

Fluffs are unnecessary details or words in your texts that reduce the impact of your thoughts. There are some common qualifiers in English such as basically,



very, little, quite, pretty, normally, usually, etc. A writer should avoid using these qualifiers as they prevent the writing from coming to the main point. Here is a sentence "She was basically quite ready to take on the job". To put directness into this, you can also write as "She was enthusiastic about tackling the job". Comparing these two sentences, you can

see that the second one is much stronger way to express the same context.

Don't repeat. Don't say the same thing over and over again. Don't retell or echo the same thought. And don't repeat.

Something we see in different newspaper reports where 345 words have to be filled, but you only have 50 words

to say. So you repeat the same details to fulfill the requirement. But it kills the interest. If you ever feel that you don't have enough information or words to be filled, go back to the rule number one. Be specific, look for more details thoroughly and add relevant information if possible. Don't repeat unnecessarily as it instantly causes people to skim and move on. You can use photos, graphs or infographics depending on what type of writing you are working on, when there is a lack of words.

Edit mercilessly

A good write-up requires proper editing, or to say drastic and massive chopping. Read your own write-up minutely and cut down redundant details once you have finished. The best way to do this is to leave it aside for a few hours or a day. Because when we write a piece, we think about it in a same way for a while. But after a break, we begin to spot mistakes and improvements in the same writing with our fresh eyes.

The best ways to brainstorm and improve your style

Read widely. Read outside your comfort zone. Thanks to the accessibility of the internet that we have the chance to explore different topics. Find out your field of interest. If you have any basic idea about a definite topic, look for sources of information to take some inspiration from there. In case you want to write on something about which you have less or no idea, take an expert's advice. This will make your write-up enlightening for the readers. And always look for different genres and medium. Try fiction of different types. Read technical material. Read comics to get examples of informal and conversational styles. Just reading your Facebook Newsfeed isn't reading at all.

In short, a writer needs to have all the information and then write. Write concisely, leave it for a while and edit to chop out unnecessary bits and pieces. To develop styles, read everything. Even if it is only the label of a soap packet and you are sitting on the toilet.



শাৰাশ বাংলাদেশ!

স্বপ্নের পদ্মা সেতুর শুরু থেকে শেষ
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দেশের ১ নম্বর স্টিল এক্সপার্ট

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Four EV companies that didn't make the cut

RAHBAR AL HAQ

Faraday Future

The rise and fall of Faraday Future were as interesting as it was spectacular. Founded by the Chinese billionaire Jia Yueting in 2014, the company's early days were filled with bold claims such as their intention to "reformat" the auto industry and bizarre promises such as their car's creating a "third internet living space", whatever that means. The company showed off its impressive 1,050Hp FF91 EV concept in 2017 and planned to open a \$1 billion factory in Nevada. However, it was also around that time things began to go horribly wrong for them. The company's billionaire founder was running on borrowed money — several billion of it in fact — and the creditors were asking them. After a series of scandals, setbacks, critical people's jumping ship, and finally Yueting fleeing to the US and filling for bankruptcy protection in 2019, the company was all but dead in the water. However, as of January 28, the company seems to have received a new lease in life. What's left of the company was merged with a Special Purpose Acquisition Corporation named Property Solutions, and intends to become publicly-traded with plans to raise 1 billion USD. Maybe there's hope for the FF91 yet.



Coda Automotive

The Coda All Eclectic sedan is a car that looks so bland that it can slip in anywhere with anyone realizing it's an EV. Built and sold by California-based Coda around 2012, the car was based on the Chinese Hafei Saibao, an unremarkable compact sedan that was remarkably designed by Pininfarina. The car's single Fwd motor made 134 Hp and 220lb-ft of torque, with an EPA range estimate of 141km. The company asked for a whopping \$45,000 for each car and managed to sell 117 cars before bankruptcy. This is not surprising as they were

pretty much asking midsize car money for what was essentially a barebones econobox. Funnily enough, you can still buy one of these brands new. A company called Mullen Technologies claims to still have an inventory of 50 units from the original production run, although they rebranded them as Mullen 700e.



accused the company of giving false statements about their technology and being an "intricated fraud". This set of controversy so fierce that it forced, Trevor the founder and CEO of the company, to step down after ten days. This was followed by two women accusing the formal CEO of sexual abuse, which pretty tanked the company's reputation and shares. The company now sits in limbo, with GM backing out of the Badger deal. It is uncertain if Nikola will ever gain a foothold, but for now, it's pretty much frozen in place.



Motors to create the Nikola Badger, an FCEV pickup truck with 906bhp and 980 lb-ft of torque, with a 0-100 of 2.9 seconds. However, a report released by the aptly named Haneberg Research

Nikola Corp

While Faraday Future was an actual company with a working prototype, there are some strong claims that Nikola Corp was nothing but an elaborate ruse. Founded by Trevor Milton in 2015 in the company planned to develop a fleet of hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV), mainly heavy-duty trucks and semi to take on the 1 trillion-dollar worth US trucking industry. The company rolled out two supposedly working semi models, and was about to enter into a partnership with General

Starting an auto company is hard, even if you have billions of dollars. However, the popularization of electric vehicles and the runaway success of Tesla made many believe they too have a chance. And while some did, others didn't. Here's are a few companies that planned to take on the auto industry, only to be swallowed by an extremely competitive environment.

Dyson EV

When the company that became synonymous with vacuum cleaner announced plans to make their own EV in 2016, a lot of eyebrows were raised. Some doubted the success of the venture, while others put faith in the company's founder Sir James Dyson, Britain's richest man. And to be fair to the supporters, Sir Dyson did put where his money where is, backing the project with £2.5 billion of his personal investment. Unfortunately, the doubters were proved right, with the company pulling the plug on the project in October 2019. The most tragic part of the entire venture was the fact the clean sheet seven-seater SUV — codenamed N526 — was almost production-ready, and was canceled because Sir Dyson didn't see the car's projected £150,000 price tag to be "commercially viable" in such a



competitive market. Dyson still intends to further develop and market the technology they made for the car, with plans to sell them to other EV makers.



Beat unemployment in the post-Covid future

NOMROTA SARKER

Have you noticed the companies making headlines frequently during the pandemic? Some have gone under; in a way nobody could forecast before. Some have risen from the ashes, with ideas nobody seemed to believe in. With Elon Musk becoming the richest person on earth surpassing Jeff Bezos in January 2021, traditional business practices are proving to be inefficient and why not? We don't work the way we did before. We're trying to put every extra hour into getting more work done in a day, thanks to work from home. Odd hours are now working hours for some. While the nature of work has become remote and easy to attend to, the pandemic has made it equally difficult for jobs to stay around. This is resulting in a polarization between increased productivity and decreased retention of the workforce. People who generally work hard are working harder, and people who want work are wanting harder. This signifies a loss of capacity and efficiency that will cost a generation its flight.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) 2019 report, the unemployment rate in Bangladesh is

4.19 per cent. Experts and economists are predicting that the rate will jump in the coming years. According to a World Bank report, one of every three graduates remain unemployed in Bangladesh. That means, 1 in every 3 graduates are failing to find themselves fitting into the job market. What if it didn't have to be the case? What if we could focus on building capacity instead?

A common excuse in Bangladesh is the lack of universal opportunity. It is widely believed and perceived that privilege is resource, hence less privilege means less resource. While it is true in a general sense but the meaning alters when it's seen from the perspective of education and professional development.

With the widespread use of technology, more opportunities are available to the ones who explore more of it. In this case, less privilege isn't a barrier, it is only a starting point of the quest to build capacity. In the post-pandemic world where employers are shifting towards fast-paced dynamic organizational cultures through integrating technology, catching up with it will be the difficult part.

Thanks to Covid, we now know how to work efficiently, as we've been able to cut meetings short and found newer ways to manage projects and continue with online classes. Convenience can be addictive with the rate of productivity being the same so we can all expect for some of these practices to last. But how should one prepare for it?

Get familiar with tech tools:

According to Weforum, by 2025, 97 million new roles may emerge that are more adapted to the new division of labour between humans, machines and algorithms. While Bangladesh buckles up to transform digitally, the workforce has to keep up with the changing dynamics of the job market. Tech-driven solutions have proved to boost productivity in this crisis and so, being more familiar with them can result in a better performance, virtually. The more we understand it, the better it works for us.

Communication and writing skills

With more meetings becoming emails and IMs, the formal communication procedure has seen its fall. But this also means more emails will need to be sent,

regular communication will need to be maintained. With better communication and writing skills, misunderstandings can be avoided. Composing concise and clear messages will save time and ensure efficient communication.

Being open to learn

Clearly, the future of work will not be about college degrees; it will be about job skills. Now is our opportunity to steer those without college degrees toward successful careers and increase diversity amongst our workforce. If we shift our focus from degrees to skills, we'll enable a bigger workforce that represents the diversity of our populations, and will help close the all too familiar opportunity and employment gaps. This will mean transitioning to always-on skills-based education and employment infrastructure that embraces not just credentials and certification but fitness-for-job and employment as outcomes. Learning more than what's required can help build a skill-set required to build more capacity eventually. Finishing your enrolled courses from Coursera is actually a good idea now.



Xiaomi Mi Band 5: Bang for the buck

ZARIF FAIAZ

For the past few years, Xiaomi's Mi Bands have been on point with their feature heavy, affordable fitness trackers. This year, it's no different with the Mi Band 5 as it nails almost all the departments. The band is just a minor upgrade from last year's Mi Band 4 but is still a considerable choice for an upgrade. Read on to see if you should.

The looks

The Mi Band 5 features a barely noticeable upgraded design. For a device that's supposed to be worn on our wrists for the most part of the day, it could use with a little better look. It's, however, slightly larger than the Mi Band 4 with a 20% larger AMOLED display, which is certainly an upgrade. The display has no ambient light sensor so you have to manually adjust the brightness every time, but it can be pretty bright even in direct sunlight, so that's good.

The Mi Band 5 is also very lightweight with a thin wrist band, which makes it a comfortable wear and the display is responsive enough to not get frustrated.

Features

As expected, Xiaomi has packed in a load of features in this budget fitness tracker. It features integrated PAI metrics that track your overall fitness and gives you a fitness score. Every activity throughout the day adds to the PAI score and the goal is to keep the score above 100 to motivate you to maintain a fit, activity-full lifestyle.

The fitness band can track 11 sport modes including outdoor and indoor running, cycling, pool swimming (it as a 5ATM waterproof rating, meaning you can jump in the pool or the shower with it), yoga, jump rope and so on.

The Mi Band 5 features a continuous heart rate monitoring feature, meaning it can record your heart rate 24 hours a day

– an extremely helpful feature, especially during Covid times

The tracker also sports a menstrual cycle tracking feature and a sleep tracking feature which we have found to be quite accurate and helpful.

Other impressive features include, GPS, lift to wake, smart features like app and phone call notifications, event reminders, accurate weather display and a wide range of watch faces featuring over 100 new watch faces for freestyle customisation.

The battery

The Mi Band 5 introduces a new hassle-free magnetic charging feature which is can refill the battery to 100% in about two hours. Xiaomi claimed that the battery can

last up to 14 days with single charging. With the average day to day use and basic fitness tracking, it lived up to the promise; we used it straight for 13 days once fully charged. So charge it once a week or every ten days and you're good to go.

The verdict

The Xiaomi Mi Band 5 is a winner in every segment, except that it could have looked better and the Mi Fit app could use with a better interface. Apart from that, the Mi Band 5 should be the go-to choice for anyone who wants to try out fitness trackers for the first time but is hesitant to spend a fortune on them.

Photos: Zarif Faiaz





Essential safety guidelines for reopening educational institutions

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

As educational institutions are all set to reopen in phases very soon, the challenge of maintaining social distance and proper hygiene measures emerges. Authorities and individuals must follow appropriate guidelines to minimize the potential exposure of the Covid-19. Here is a list of some important steps that should be followed as educational institutions are going to restart after a long break.

Routine cleaning and disinfecting in campus

Educational institutions must sanitize each and every corner and object of their campus on a regular basis. The frequently touched surfaces such as classroom desks, benches, doorknobs, light switches, handrails, push buttons of elevators, stair rails, etc. must be disinfected daily for all the students, teachers and staff. While cleaning and disinfecting, use soaps or disinfectants according to the need. For

example, soft surfaces such as rugs and carpets can be cleaned with just soap and water or with a normal cleaner. And it is not mandatory to always use disinfectants on less touched surfaces like floors, bookcases etc.

Reform the learning environment

A hybrid learning environment that allows both offline and online classes on a rotation can be introduced due to the current crisis. In this way, students or faculty will be able to continue courses from home even if they get sick. For offline classes, small classes should be hosted in larger rooms to support social distancing. But if the class is too large or moving into larger rooms to ensure adequate distance is not possible, split it into separate cohorts or rotate the pods in offline and online classes. Try to reduce bottlenecks when students come into or leave classes.

Availability of hygiene supplies

The authorities should ensure that all the students, teachers and staff have access to essential hygiene supplies including soaps, hand sanitizers, face masks, etc. It is imperative to keep alcohol-based hand sanitizers in every class. The administration may also install hand sanitizer pumps in every floor. In washrooms, liquid soaps should be kept in place of soap bars. If feasible, use physical barriers like shower curtains or plastic flexible screens between the

washroom sinks or other indoor places where it is difficult to maintain 6-feet distance.

Implement proper housing plans for the students living in dorms/halls

Dormitories must not be at the full capacity. Authorities should consider the number of students per room or per dorm. At least 6-feet distance per head should be ensured in shared hall rooms. There should be separate rooms available where students with Covid-19 or mild Covid-19 symptoms can be kept for isolation.

Reconfigure the dining halls

In the dining halls, authorities should limit the number of students per table to support distancing of at least 6 feet apart. For long tables, social distancing can be maintained by staggering chairs keeping proper space. Grab-and-go options should be available to reduce congestion. If possible, specified times to come to the dining halls may be introduced keeping course schedules of students in mind.

Evaluate other public settings and promote social distancing in campus

For common areas including seminar rooms, cafeteria and libraries, reconfigure seating arrangements to maintain 6 feet distance between people as much as possible. Restrict the number of people in such places. If possible, try to space

furniture out such that there is adequate distance between different groups and the gatherings can be minimized. Students or teachers are not accustomed to in-person classes with such restrictions. Hence, they need to be nudged very often to maintain social distancing and follow other Covid-19 rules. Some fun and creative ideas and rules can be taken for this purpose. For instance, a poster where there is a red cross on the picture of handshake reminds people not to shake hands with someone during this pandemic. The doors of classrooms may have posters with a quote such as "No mask, no entry".

Personal precautionary steps

We all need to be conscious to protect ourselves from the spread of the Covid-19. As the educational institutions are reopening, individuals need to follow some rules themselves besides the administration. Always wear masks and carry a bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you go to your classes. Keep a record of body temperatures. Measure the body temperature before going out for classes and do this again after returning home. It'll help to detect if there is any anomaly in body temperature. Maintain social distancing and other hygiene etiquettes as much as possible. Consume vitamins and minerals every morning to boost immunity as many of us are stepping out of our safe zones after a long time.



Best of Netflix stand-up comedy from 2020

Netflix has added more to the stand-up comedy scene in the past year alone, with a variety of content coming in from all over the world. Integrating culture, politics and other very important issues through stand-ups was what made these shows enjoyable and rich in content. Here are our picks for the best pieces of stand-up comedy released by Netflix in 2020.

Ari Eldjárn: Pardon My Icelandic

This has to be the first Icelandic stand-up on Netflix, and Ari Eldjárn's spontaneous delivery made this set enjoyable to the fullest. The humorous introduction to the Icelandic culture and the humour on Nordic languages makes it stand out pretty well. You're definitely in for a good time with "Pardon My Icelandic".

Yours Sincerely, Kanan Gill

Kanan Gill's honest and confessional

portrayal of his journey through his physical and mental health issues makes this set stand out. His delivery is effortless as usual, and he makes an attempt to connect to people with his story. The strong build up of the set leaves you in awe by the end of it, yet keeps the elements of comedy intact.

Chris Rock: Total Blackout, The Tamborine Extended Cut

In this set, Chris Rock remixes his 2018 special titled "Tamborine". In this stellar

set, Chris Rock takes the stage for a special filled with searing observations on fatherhood, infidelity, racism and politics, issues that are even more relevant in recent times.

Jerry Seinfeld: 23 Hours to Kill

Jerry Seinfeld's 23 Hours to Kill is a precisely tooled set from a comedian who mastered his craft decades ago but never stopped working on it. With his trademark crankiness and stunts, Seinfeld takes us through the perils of life in

general, especially in times like these.

Vir Das: For India

Vir Das introduces his country to a bunch of foreigners in his own quirky way. The set contains the mentioning of chronological events shaping the politics and thinking of Indians, along with an unclipped cultural representation of India in general. The subcontinental humour makes it way more personal and an interesting piece of comedy that we can relate to.

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