

Far Away

A couple months ago, the world knew nothing of COVID-19. We were going about our daily lives — going to school, sitting on the subway for way too long, hanging out with our friends, and seeing our loved ones regularly. Some went to work everyday to provide for their families while others took long walks in the park. Many of us looked forward to the summer, where we'd go to faraway places for vacation or visit the beach for a nice day in the sun. However, all of that was taken away from us. People were laid off, given fewer working hours, and paid less money. Small businesses went into a crisis, as they relied on their customers for their well-being. Everyone was ordered to stay inside for their safety as well as others. We can't see each other anymore and have to communicate through phone screens and video calls. It's a difficult time. Since my father is somewhat of a clean freak, he disinfects everything in our house every single day, from top to bottom. With the exception of my mother, who's a Kindergarten teacher, everyone stays inside most of the time. I am sure we won't contract the virus, but the same can't be said about my family members in Bangladesh. Although I am proud of my country, it's the truth that it's a poor country with limited resources. Furthermore, there isn't an equal distribution of the resources they do have, with most of it being consumed by the rich. This pandemic has proven to be a disaster for the poor in Bangladesh. A couple months ago, three of my uncles passed away from the virus. Each had a family and were the sole breadwinners of their families. They went to work almost every day to provide for their families. This has left all three families devastated, as they're left with little to no way to support themselves on top. Events like this help me realize how lucky I am to be able to

afford necessities such as disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks. My family and I constantly worry about my relatives living in Bangladesh who can't afford these things. We're far away from each other, so we can neither deliver what they need to them or be with them when they're sick. This is one of the hardest things I've experienced during this pandemic. Only my immediate family immigrated to the U.S., so everyone of my relatives are still in Bangladesh. It's not safe to travel, so we won't be able to fly over there in the case of an emergency. It's a very bad situation, and we don't really know what to do. I hope a vaccine will come out soon, not only in the U.S. but all around the globe.