Report on
The Internship Program at Dhaka Tribune

By
Tanita Hossain
15103001

Department of English and Humanities
Bachelors of Arts in English
Brac University
August 2019
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An internship report submitted to the Department of English and Humanities in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelors of Arts in English

Department of English and Humanities
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August 2019

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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The internship report submitted is my/our own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The report does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The report does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I/We have acknowledged all main sources of help.

Student’s Full Name & Signature:

___________________________________________
Tanita Hossain
15103001

Supervisor’s Full Name & Signature:

___________________________________________
Roohi Andalib Huda
Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities
Brac University
Acknowledgement

“Dear Allah

It is due to your divine blessing

That I breathe, I laugh, I survive, I learn, I love – each day.

Thank you!

Every day is a new day.

Every day is what I look forward to while resting my faith in You”

I have surely been lucky enough to be surrounded with humble people, who have shaped me to become the person I am today. Thank you to you all, who make everyday a peaceful world to live in and to do something better every passing day. If it were not for you all, completing my report in time would not have been possible.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank my father, Mr. Tarique Hossain and my mother, Mrs. Manifa Hossain, after Almighty Allah. Thank you is not enough to show my heartfelt gratitude to the unconditional love and empathy you two have always shown to me. My parents were reluctant with my choice of career preference in Journalism at the beginning. However, they came around in no time, understood and supported me with the constant “You can do it!” spirit.

I especially want to thank my supervisor, Ms. Roohi Huda for her constant guidance and support and for being the kind of a supervisor a student seeks. The amount of care and attention she gives to each of her student is unimaginable. From knocking me after midnight to remind me of my work, to co-operating with me to graduate with the most presentable paper – she has been there for me throughout. I am truly grateful to have a supervisor like Ms. Roohi Huda.
Lastly, I want to thank the generous Feature Editor of *Dhaka Tribune*, Ms. Sabrina Fatma Ahmed for making the arrangement to work from home during the last month of my report submission. This gave me the opportunity to utilize more of my time to efficiently write the report. She is truly an inspiration and a great mentor who I always look up to. It was because of her and of course of Mr. Zafar Shobhan, the Editor of *Dhaka Tribune*, and the entity itself that gave me the opportunity to explore my horizon in journalism. I want to also thank Ms. Saudia Afrin from the Features Department. Thank you for being the best mentor as well. She has always guided me and helped me clear out a lot of my confusions. I am truly blessed and honored to be working with such like-minded and great people at such a reputable organization like *Dhaka Tribune*. 
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## Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Village</td>
<td>A term which means the use of electronic devices and social media has increased interconnection around the world to consider the world as one whole village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Journalism</td>
<td>The biased and folly nature that a Journalist perceive in order to spread scam for money or for personal interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panopticon</td>
<td>A device that means all are being constantly observed by the surveillance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaze</td>
<td>It is someone at the top who is frequently watching all and acknowledging others of the use of his/her power on everyone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 1

Introduction

Inspired by the teenage novel series book, *Nancy Drew Mystery Stories*, where the main character was always persistent to solve mysteries -- I grew up to asking the silliest questions to people to find out the underlying meaning of every fact or any hidden truth, if there was any. In 2007 when I was watching the film based on the book, I was determined that journalism was the future that I wanted to pursue. Of course in the midst of seeking answers, this would give me a chance to unfold truths. Additionally, the only way to suffice my investigation as a credible source and to make my voice heard was by penning it down. Gradually upon finishing my high school and searching for the best possible institution for higher studies, I chose to get enrolled in the English and Humanities Department of Brac University, where I declared Media and Cultural Studies as my major.

In the 21st century, when news spreads very fast in the global village\(^1\) -- places having news published in the newspapers are considered as the authentic source of information, and are marked as one of the developed countries. Having said that, it is important to say *Dhaka Tribune* is considered to be one of the leading newspapers of Bangladesh that publishes

\(^1\) Global Village: A term that we learnt in the course ENG 333: Globalization and the Media. The term was first coined by media theorist, Marshall McLuhan. It means the influence of computer, television and other electronic informative sources has taken over the world, where all issues become so intimate that it is as if one’s own issue. In other words, the interconnection of all parts of the world through electronic medium and its influence to result globally simply is called as one world, that is, the ‘global village’.
authentic national and international news via print media and online. It embarks beyond the field of global politics and breaking news. Dhaka Tribune fosters its staff to bring progressive changes in the society by encouraging them to work on anything that is new, entertaining and worth working on.

In order to transpose my academic teachings into practical use for my internship, Dhaka Tribune can hands down be considered one of the best places to gather firsthand experience. During the 12 week, I was treated and also worked like a full-timer. Dhaka Tribune introduced me to all the nitty-gritties of investigative journalism, consequence of biased stories and yellow journalism. In the article “The School of Journalism” the United States journalist and finance expert, Horace White defined yellow journalism as a journalist being delighted in “sensations, crime, scandal, smut, funny pictures, caricatures and malicious or frivolous gossip about persons and things of no public concern” (29). Usually, such folly acts are done in order to gain his/her own personal interest or simply for means of getting money from someone. Starting from interviewing people of all walks of life in order to collect information, to maintaining confidentiality if one did not want to disclose his/her name, to finally writing the story in a readable manner -- all groomed me to become a true face of a trustworthy journalist. The internship being my first official work taught me how to work and behave in a professional manner. It helped me to push boundaries and to climb out of my comfort zone.

Gathering information for the news was not the challenging task that I had faced. One of the greatest lessons I have learnt from this internship is not about just getting the facts right, rather to write a story with a proper angle. Grabbing the reader’s attention with a good angle keeps the readers engaged. While ending the internship with sincerity, dedication and hard work, I was privileged with a job offer as a fulltimer at their Features Department.
Chapter 2:

_Dhaka Tribune_

2.1 A Brief History of _Dhaka Tribune_

Dr. Reena Mittal, a lecturer of DAK Degree College, in her research article “Role of Newspaper in English Language Learning” mentioned about the necessity of newspaper saying “Newspapers are one of the most powerful sources of sharing information and up gradation of knowledge bank. [. . .]. They are most reliable, affordable and easily available and accessible source of information and knowledge” (690). Thus, for the public benefit, on April 19, 2013 a newly introduced newspaper, _Dhaka Tribune_, was launched. In the article she also addresses the role of English language in newspapers – “English is a widely spoken language far and wide. It is considered Global language because largest number of people are speaking English in the world across the borders” (690). In order to reach a greater audience, the paper was launched as the English daily newspaper. Currently, marking as one of the renowned English daily newspapers of Bangladesh, _Dhaka Tribune_ was launched by Kazi Anis Ahmed as the publisher and one of the directors and Zafar Sobhan as its Editor. With the aim to provide authentic news with a neutral perspective the newspaper started as a

![Dhaka Tribune's logo](image)
broadsheet format and later modified to compact format, in order to meet readers’ interests. Hence, their tagline was justified - “The news you want. No more, no less”.

*Dhaka Tribune* covers both national and international news. With it, it targets the youth to create a new platform for their new voices to be heard. While targeting the young audience, *Dhaka Tribune* also uncovers all the hard to reach information, publishes breaking news and discusses the political agendas. *Dhaka Tribune* also takes the matter of the minority as a serious issue. One such example would be the Rohingya refugee crisis. *Dhaka Tribune* spent months living at the Rohingya camp, understanding and talking to the people in the crisis situation and gave its readers an immense number of insights into their lives. From talking about the life situation in the midst of the rain and storm, to coping up with food shortage as well as surviving while rapes and child abductions increased – all the horrifying incidents were highlighted by the *Dhaka Tribune* team to bring a more humanitarian approach to the story.

In terms of sharing international news to the readers, *Dhaka Tribune* keeps an eye, mainly at United News Bangladesh (UNB) and Reuters sites. Besides reporting on international news, each year *Dhaka Tribune* covers the biggest International Literature Festival, the Lit Fest, held at Bangla Academy, to closely associate with oversees countries.

Over the last year, due to *Dhaka Tribune*’s investigative journalism and its contribution in bringing fresh ideas into the spotlight -- the number of readers increased to the point, where they wanted to read more. Listening to the readers’ interest, as always, *Dhaka Tribune* introduced the broadsheet again to the market this May with the new tag line #BreakingNews #BreakingBarriers.

In May 2014, *Dhaka Tribune* launched its another online segment, Bangla Tribune. The motive was to make news and information easy to access to the native readers.
2.2 Dhaka Tribune’s Departments and Style Guide

As one of the leading English daily newspapers of Bangladesh, Dhaka Tribune covers all kinds of news under different sections. Each of these sections are looked over by the specified departments namely Central Desk, Features Desk, Arts and Letters, Sports Department, Showtime Department and Business. All the departments cover both national and international news for online and the broadsheet as well. Authenticity of news being the foremost foundation of all departments is ensured. For providing unbiased information to the readers, all departments make sure information collected first hand or second hand are rigorously checked, and then published for the readers. To maintain the immediacy of any news, only the necessary information is provided after double checking facts and then updated online. However, for the following day to be published on the broadsheet newspaper, in-depth information about the news stories are provided.

Dhaka Tribune has its specified style guide, which it follows both to write for online as well as the newspaper. All the writing rules are elaborated and specific in their ‘Style Guide’.

a. **Articles:** According to their Style Guide rules, generally any short stories are mentioned to be written within 300 words. On special circumstances, however if the word limit exceeds more than 600 words then the news editor should be informed. It is also suggested that the long form stories should not exceed than 1200 words.

b. **Headlines:** Headlines on the other hand, have their specific ways of being written. It is the headline that readers see first, and so in precise words it is suggested to write headline briefly. This gives the readers a clear idea about the news quickly. Within 70 characters, Dhaka Tribune writes any headline with “verbs (action verbs are words that describe physical or mental action in a clear and convincing way). For example ‘use’ instead of ‘utilize’ or ‘show’ rather than ‘demonstrate’ or ‘model’. [V]erbs like
‘think’, ‘believe’ or ‘feel’ – these are not based on fact or statements and add zero value to” the headline is mentioned to be avoided (1).

c. **Stand first:** Stand first is the second important thing while publishing any news or article online. After the headline it is the stand first that mostly people seek to read. Hence in 75-80 characters, the stand firsts are written after headline. The stand first gives the readers a brief idea about the news or the story.

d. **Spelling:** *Dhaka Tribune* does not solely follow British or American writing styles. It is a mixture of both British and English writing styles. The kinds of spellings that are used are: industrialized, colour, program and ton.

e. **Writing currencies:** For currencies the symbol is always used at the beginning, such as Tk 500, $ 500. However, Yen and Rupee are written differently, such as 500 rupee and 500 yen.

f. **Designation:** For designation no full stop is given after Doctor or Brigadier, such as Dr Lutfor Rahman and Brig Gen Masud. While for referring to a Bangladeshi person in this context the commonly used names are referred and for any foreign citizen the last name is used.

g. **Date:** As for the date, *Dhaka Tribune* writes July 30, 2019. If any event or incident is currently taking place, then in a sentence the year is not written; only the month and date is written.
Chapter 3:

Central Desk

One of the essential departments of the *Dhaka Tribune* is the Central Desk. It is the engine room, where the staff writers work for hours to provide the breaking news to the online readers. If the news are provided first hand by the reporters, then the staff writers in the process of efficiently translating and double checking facts, writes an article for the online. Along with the report writing on breaking news, Central Desk covers political agendas, profiles, advertisements, and international news, both for the online and print media as well. In regards to follow-up with the international news, Central Desk constantly glances through the previously mentioned sites -United News Bangladesh (UNB) and Reuters.

For report writing a specific writing structure called the inverted pyramid is followed. The inverted pyramid style answers the 5W and 1H (who, what, where, when, why and how) in the lead paragraph. While the rest of the paragraphs proceeds with the elaborated details.

![Inverted Pyramid Diagram]

*Figure 2: Inverted Pyramid*
In the article ‘33-shops-gutted-in-bhola’, the lead paragraph is divided in few lines that answers the basic questions ‘what’, ‘where’ and ‘when’. In the last paragraph, the Police’s statement is given. Here is the link to the article:

Dhaka Tribune has their designated journalists, who go on field to collect source and then send them to the staff writers. One of the crucial factors of Central Desk is to clarify the information provided to them and efficiently translating them. In the Style Guide it has been mentioned “While translating, do not simply convert the Bangla text into English. Translate for essence, not the language of a story. [. . .]. You may have to restructure the story to highlight the points that are most relevant to your story. Feel free to cut a story short or extend it, depending on relevance.” (11). In regards to the necessity of effectively translating from one language to another, the famous British translator, in his book “Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications” mentioned translating in “sense-for sense” method instead of “word-for-word” method. Sense-for-sense means understanding what the writer is trying to convey, and writing it another language while delivering the same meaning. Word-for-word on the other hand refers to literal translation, which in many ways through the process of translation distorts the actual meaning of the source language. He mentions dismissing the use of word-for-word translation approach, as it can “produce absurd translation” and can “cloak the sense of the original” (20).

In the method of sense-for-sense translation Munday talks about the concept of “equivalence”. When there is no exact for the target language, the equivalence concept is applied. While preserving the meaning the writer can translate it to the target language using the closest phase based on the socio-cultural context. Some words that are used in English are used or mentioned differently in Bangla. In some cases the exact words are kept while translation. For example in the article “Celebration of Boshonto Utshob 1425 at Bottola”, the term ‘Boshonto’ is not translated. Boshonto means Spring in English but it is not exactly called Spring as there are many seasons in Bangladesh, Boshonto specifies a significant time of the geographical location. Hence while translating the term ‘Boshonto’ in target language is not translated so that the readers understand the essence of it.
Understanding that the sense-for-sense method is more effective, in the Style Guide it is mentioned “Often, a story structure that works in Bangla does not work in English” (20). Hence, in efficiently translating and delivering news, sense-for-sense translation is suitable.
Chapter 4

The Five News Value Factors and Their Application

For news to be informative and worth perceiving, it is important for the news to be connected with one or a few of the five news value factors. The Central Desk of *Dhaka Tribune* also ensures that the news delivered meet the five news value factors:

a. **Prominence:** It was ensured that the news that was being delivered was important amongst the readers. If it was anything other than important, most readers tend to overlook. So prominence of news was carried out.

My internship started after the closing vote of the four times elected Prime Minister - Sheikh Hasina. Hence, any news associated with the election and the changes brought with it were considered prominent. The article that I wrote on ‘What is causing the price hike?’ is prominent for the readers to read about. Rice being the staple food of Bangladesh, it was important for people of all backgrounds to know the actual reason why the price has increased. Here is the link to the article: https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2019/01/15/what-is-causing-the-latest-rice-price-hike
Fear of post-election political turmoil has driven the rice market into frenzy, say market insiders.

Rice millers and wholesalers across the country are cashing in on the prediction of a serious political instability in the country that many feared would follow the December 30 general election. The crisis never happened, but they have gone ahead and hiked rice prices at consumer level.

Both parties hold each other responsible for the latest upward trend in rice prices as happened before, the Dhaka Tribune learnt after speaking with several mill owners and wholesalers.

Interestingly enough, all millers, importers and wholesalers admitted that there was adequate production, stock and supply of rice in the country.

Experts find the Ministry of Commerce responsible for the price hike, saying they failed to ensure regular monitoring of the commodity market.

In the past two weeks, prices soared by Tk130-250 per 50-kg sack in Kurigram, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Khagaria, Pabna and Jessore, according to the Bangladesh Auto Major Husking Mill Owners’ Association (BAMHMCA).

After visiting several wholesale stores in Dhaka city – mainly in Karwan Bazar – on Monday, our correspondents found that each sack containing 50 kg of Miniket rice was selling at Tk2,600 – some Tk200 higher than the price two weeks ago.

The price of each 50-kg sack of Nazirshail rice shot up by at least Tk200, Tk2,800. Meanwhile, BR-28 rice was priced at Tk1,900, up from Tk1,700 at the end of last year.

Speaking to the Dhaka Tribune, Md Hasan, Kurigram Rice Agency’s proprietor in Kurigram’s Khagaria area, said he ordered rice four days before the election, but received the consignment two weeks later, when the prices had already soared significantly.

“The millers deliberately stockpiled rice and delayed the supply to push the prices up,” he claimed, alleging that the mill owners did it to make a quick buck.

He further opined that the millers thought the new government would remain busy with administrative responsibilities, instead of focusing on market monitoring.

Nur Alam, of Barisal Rice Agency in Karwan Bazar, echoed the same sentiment, saying that the market saw the highest hike in the price of aromatic rice – Tk500 per 50-kg sack.

“A sack of aromatic rice is selling at Tk4,500,” he said, adding that they had been spending an additional Tk18,000 on an average for each shipment of rice since the election.

“What can we do, except hope that the government would do something?” said the frustrated rice trader.

He further added that the wholesalers were making only marginal profits, as the millers are begging the hefty sum.

Md Nurul Islam, owner of Shibli Shahi Rice Agency in Radda, made a similar allegation.

---

**Picture 2: What is causing the latest rice price hike?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>2 weeks ago</th>
<th>Now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miniket</td>
<td>Tk2,300</td>
<td>Tk2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BR-28</td>
<td>Tk1,700</td>
<td>Tk1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nazirshail</td>
<td>Tk2,600</td>
<td>Tk2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aromatic</td>
<td>Tk4,000</td>
<td>Tk4,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b. **Proximity:** The geographical location of any newsworthy incident and the distance of the readers from it -- refers to proximity. Since it is a Bangladeshi broadsheet newspaper, news from all areas of the nation are covered. News such as: ‘13km tailback on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway’ and ‘PM pays tribute to Bangabandhu at Tungipara’ gave the readers a better picture about the condition of the country along with the timing of their plausible smooth movements on the road. Here are the links to the articles:


*Picture 3: PM pays tribute to Bangabandhu at Tungipara*
c. **Consequences:** Consequences refer to the effect of any incident on the general population. It can also refer to the aftermath of any incident and its consequence on the public. Years after the mass killing at Gulshan’s Holey Artisan Bakery and the brutal death of Felani, people of the nation still seek the news of the justice that is yet to be served. *Dhaka Tribune* covered news such as: ‘Eight years on, no justice for Felani’ and ‘Suspected militant den raid ends in C’nawabganj, 1 held’ as the follow-up of the years of unsolicited injustice. Here are links to the articles:

https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2019/01/07/eight-years-on-no-justice-for-felani

In 2011, the 15-year-old was killed as she crossed into Bangladesh from India

Today marks eight years since the death anniversary of Felani Khatun, the adolescent Bangladeshi who was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) as she crossed the India-Bangladesh border into Bangladesh.

The incident triggered a global outcry and is yet to be met with justice.

The 15-year-old's family, and the world, still awaits an appeal to be made to the court. Felani's father, Nalul Islam, is hopelessly about the two petitions that appealed to the High Court since the incident.

The main accused of the murder, BSF member, Anayya Gholi, along with his superior officers, have twice been found "not guilty" at a special trial of the General Security Forces Court.

Nalul Islam says: "It has been eight years that my daughter has not been served justice after her brutal death by the BSF. Even though the accused, Anayya Gholi, is found not guilty, I have gathered all my hope and appealed to the High Court in India. I am certain I will get my justice there and my daughter's soul will finally rest in peace."

Nalul demands justice for Felani and an end to border killings.

On January 7, 2011, Felani Khatun was shot, allegedly by Anayya Gholi, the BSF member of 181 Battalion. The young girl, from West Bengal, lived and worked in home Delhi. However, her marriage was arranged in Bangladesh. Felani and her father attempted to cross the border. While crossing, Felani's dress became stuck in the barbed wire at the border, and BSF opened fire on her. Felani was left upside down, tangled in the barbed wire for four hours. As she pleaded for water during her last breath, no one came forward to help. The image of Felani's death went viral, internationally, and started an outcry.

On 13th August, 2013, the protest against Gholi began at BSF's court.

Again, on September 22, 2014 a special hearing of Felani's murder took place at the General Security Forces Court.

**Picture 5: Eight years on, no justice for Felani**

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**Picture 6: 'Suspected militant den raid ends in C'nowabganj, 1 held**
d. **Oddity:** Oddity refers to the rare incidents that occur, such as co-joined babies, man having bark like growth coming out of his body, the tree-man. *Dhaka Tribune* has dealt with few rare incidental news items like these. However, in my one month of internship at the Central Desk I did not cover any such news.

e. **Timeliness:** One of the crucial factors that were always ensured in the *Central Desk* was the prompt deliverance of news. For example the articles that I wrote: ‘33 shops gutted in Bhola’, ‘2 workers go missing in Sylhet stone quarry’ , ‘Bus-truck collision kills 1, injures 10 in Tangail’ and ‘10th Chobi Mela begins in February’. Here are the links to the articles:


10th Chobi Mela begins in February

The 10th edition of Chobi Mela, Asia’s renowned photography festival, will raise its curtain on February 28 at Dhaka Gallery.

*Picture 7: 10th Chobi Mela begins in February*
Chapter 5

Features

5.1 Feature Stories

In the course ENG 440: English for Print Media we got to learn “Feature stories are human-interest articles that focus on particular people, places and events. [I]t covers topics in depth, going further than mere hard news coverage by amplifying and explaining the most interesting and important elements of a situation or an occurrence” (75).

Feature stories can be of different types. The author of the course packet of ENH 44: English for Print Media mentions about the five types of feature stories. These are: A. Human interest, the feature story that “discusses issues through the experience of another” (76). B. Profile, that talks about the character and lifestyle of a person for the readers to feel they know individual being discussed about. Profile features can be in narrative form or question answer format. C. Product features, where the writer educates the readers through his/her research and reviews about different products. D. Historical Features: “[F]eatures commemorate important dates in history or turning points in our social, political, and cultural development”. It takes “the reader back to revisit the event or issues surrounding a particular date” (76). E. Seasonal Themes: “Stories about holidays and the change of seasons address matters at specific times of a year. For instance, they cover life milestones, social, political, cultural and business cycles” (76). And lastly, F. Behind the Scenes: These features are about the “Inside views of unusual occupations, issues and events” that gives the readers “a feeling of penetration the inner circle or being a mouse in the corner” (76).
5.2: Introduction to the Features Department

Features Department is Dhaka Tribune’s one of many widely recognized departments. It focuses on entertainment, fashion, lifestyle, travel, technology, along with an in-depth look at any subject that excites the readers to read more. Features Department is famous for its monthly Avenue T weekly-magazine. It also has its separate section named, D2 in the Saturday pages of the newspaper.

Unlike the Central Desk, where the journalists provide first-hand source, and the reporters compile the information to write an article, the feature writers themselves are the first hand source collectors and the writers. Starting from getting the story, to interviewing people, visiting sites to finally writing an article, the feature writers do it all with an appetite to create a timeless story that has human interest.

Since the feature articles are more research based, descriptive and colorful; the writers take sufficient time to come to the original point of the article. There is no immediacy of the articles and the inverted pyramid wiring style that is followed in the Central Desk, is not applied at the Features Department. Commenting on the contrast of the two different types of news writing, the author of the ‘Features’ chapter in the ENG 440 course packet mentions “In a feature story, the writer has the time and space to develop the theme, but sometimes postpones the main point until the end.” He also adds “the whole story does not have to be encapsulated in the lead” (76). In this way it can be said, that the writing format is different from the writing format followed at the Central Desk.

The course packet mentions that the newspaper features are of 500-2,500 words while the magazines can be written within 500-5,000 words. This is also followed at the Features Department of Dhaka Tribune.
Depending on the interest and the importance of the story, the writers write the feature story, but all articles are edited by the Editor. Then the articles, along with the necessary amount of pictures and intriguing page layout are published for the magazine and newspaper.
Chapter 6

The Ethics of Interviewing

Most of the articles are research based articles. The information are collected either from online or through practical knowledge. Journalists also go on the field to gather all the facts and information for the story. Feature writers at Dhaka Tribune have to be conscious of the latest trends, along with the news. The writers have to always come up with fresh ideas that make the articles worth reading and different compared to any other magazine and newspaper articles in Bangladesh. During my internship, I wrote two interview-based articles. While interviewing I had to make sure as a journalist I followed all the ethics of interviewing.

In the documentary, Getting The Story: The Basics of Professional Journalism, there shows several ways a journalist can extract information through interviewing and it also shows the right way to do. In order to get the story first hand, a journalist can come across different kinds of people, some would want to know who they are and why they are seeking answers, while some are fine to simply a have conversation. When mentioned a person is a journalist a speaker sometimes gets nervous even though there might be nothing too sensitive or scary to talk about. In this case the documentary says “While identifying oneself as a reporter not all individuals would want to be in the spotlight or get into trouble. However, there is a right timing to mention if the person is a journalist and there are certain ways in which information can be tactfully extracted from any groups of people”. A reporter can identify himself/herself as a journalist, but sympathetically and gently. This honest approach avoids problems in the future, and the person is likely to co-operate with the journalist. A journalist must be careful of biased information and should not solely depend on one source, but rather verify information with multiple sources. He/she must be persistent in order to get the actual story.

The documentary also mentions that besides talking to the general people, the reporter should
also talk to the officials. Even if the reporter has information from various sources, he/she should not show his confidence about the story. As, most of the time, the officials are reluctant to give the actual answer on issues that might expose their work deficiency. In such circumstance, the reporter must ask the officials questions in a rhetorical manner. Thus, this will help the reporter to get to the bottom of the story. It is also important to respect people’s confidentiality while interviewing. A lot of times people want their names not to be publicized. Most do not even want to get the conversation tapped. In all circumstances, the reporters must make sure their interviewees are at ease.

Following all the ethics of interviewing, I interviewed many people to write two feature stories. Amongst the many types of feature stories, the two interview based articles I wrote falls under the category of human interest. As mentioned earlier, human interest is the feature story that “discusses issues through experiences of another” (76).

For our Avenue T issue of Mother’s Day, I interviewed a UK based Bangladeshi mother blogger. Following this mother’s blog for a year, I learnt about the struggles of her life as a new mother, and her balancing act with motherhood, blogging and working life. Upon her arrival in Bangladesh, while also educating myself about the Bangladeshi and UK social context as a whole -- I sat down for an interview with her. The idea was to make my interviewee comfortable, so that she gets the scope to talk to me freely. Finally, after having an informal talk, when it was time to create an angle for my story, I went with the angle of a mother’s balancing act that every mother can relate to. So the title was - “A mom for all seasons”. Here is the link to the article: https://www.dhakatribune.com/magazine/avenue-t/2019/03/14/a-mom-for-all-seasons

The second article that I wrote was for the Saturday page where I focused on the importance of world water day. In the light of the issue of the availability of pure water, I interviewed
Footsteps, an NGO. They set up free water purifying tank in the slum, and at the sides of the roads to provide safe and free water to all. Interviewing the owner about the whole set-up was not enough for an article. As an ethical journalist, it was important to see to what extend the objective has been implemented in the society. Hence, I visited the site where the purifying tanks were installed, talked to the locals about the changes they witnessed after the installation of the tank. Thus finally after jotting down all the information and considering the angle of the news story about the water condition for the people of Karail, I came up with the article titled “Sips of Salvation”. Here is the link to the article:

https://www.dhakatribune.com/feature/2019/03/30/sips-of-salvation

Picture 8: Sips of salvation
A mom for all seasons

A Bangladeshi mommy blogger talks about the balancing act

by TANITA HOSSAIN

Mother to baby Arya and wife to Nizam, Samira Ahmed is an Air Traffic Control Engineer in the UK. It wasn't her first choice of career — something any Asian would be able to relate to. Samira was always passionate about writing. She aspired to study language and history, but ended up studying engineering. When Instagram and blogging began to get popular in the UK, Samira jumped aboard the trend with her blog 'Lattes and Travels.' That was her first, ultimately abortive, brush with storytelling.

Having had to abandon the first blog due to work pressure, it was during her maternity leave that Samira found the time and head space, and yes, the need to document her journey through new motherhood, and thus her blog 'The Millennial Ma' was born.

The Millennial Ma

Along with everything else, parenting strategies have also changed over the past two generations. Working mothers now have to deal with an incredible amount of pressure that didn't exist a decade ago. The name Ma is the essence of Bengali culture. Millennial Ma is more than just about the struggles of this generation's mothers. The blog covers the transition from a woman to a mother. "I was a different person before I became a mother," says Samira. The blog reflects on the entirety of the experience, both as an individual who loves books, fashion and food, and a mother. Samira wants to make meaningful content and give the readers the flavour of a mother's lifestyle as a whole. While one may wonder if Samira had quit her older blog due to work pressure, how she can now expect to run the blog, Instagram and Youtube accounts of The Millennial Ma, she responds that she's learnt to multitask. Be it in traffic, while Arya is being fed or sleeping, Samira has been consistent and learned the art of balancing life with the baby and the blog.

The first chapters

Motherhood can have its ups and downs. A mother's overwhelming emotions and struggles can give any mother-to-be mixed feelings about having a baby. While some may be overwhelmed, others may be anxious about oneself and the baby's health. Samira meticulously writes her story providing a personal insight into the trials and tribulations of her journey. She cherishes her moments with her little boy and documents them on Youtube. Samira is well aware that pregnant mothers surf the internet to learn more about this journey. In her blog, she shares her experiences and the things she's learnt under the sections 'Pregnancy Diaries.'

Reaching to a greater audience

Because no two pregnancies are the same, The Millennial Ma has collaborated with famous mother blog, 'Motherly.' Motherly shares real life stories of mother bloggers. Each pregnancy is different, each mother has her unique experience to share. As an Instagram mommy blogger, Samira, too, contributes to the paid weekly pregnancy and postpartum videos with Motherly. Besides Motherly, she creates her own content on breastfeeding, nursing bras, baby K'tan, teething, weaning, stretch marks and all the nitty gritty that becomes part and parcel of being a new mother. In her Instagram stories, she has collaborated with other bloggers and has also done a Q&A session where they answered frequently asked questions. Samira mentions that seeking doctor's advice should be the priority, but talking to another mother could help bust one's misconceptions, and sometimes solve pregnancy issues. Samira has been helpful and gathered much more knowledge simply by using 'themillennialmamayoung.' The heartfelt conversations with other mothers gave her a sense of community, because often, it can be a very lonely experience.

Findings in Bangladesh

The new wife and mother travelled alone with her seven-month-old baby all the way to Bangladesh from the UK. During this short trip to Bangladesh, she is relearning her baby to the weather and the daily hustle and bustle of social engagements and family commitments. In the midst of said adjustments, Samira has been researching dining outlets that offer nursing rooms and baby chairs in Dhaka. Mothers of babies and very young children struggle with dining outside when Dhaka has no baby chairs, claims Samira. In the quest for baby chairs, Samira has compiled a handy list of establishments that offer such facilities. She has also stumbled upon services like baby spas and wellness care centres. Samira's exploration continues and connects the mothers here with 'dhakamom.'

When asked for a message for the readers, Samira Ahmed says, "Be kind to mothers. Life can be difficult for new moms with babies and toddlers. As a community, we should make lives as easy as possible. We need to have mom friendly places. I want to see mothers enjoying their time with their babies outside their homes." For Irish ideas about fashion, books and motherhood follow Samira at: https://www.instagram.com/themillennialma/
Chapter 7

Event Covering and Press Release

a. Covering Events: After gathering the experience of taking one-on-one interview, it was then the turn to cover events. During my internship, I was sent alone to cover events. Before physically going to the event I was given a brief idea by the Editor about what the event was about, so that I get a general idea about it. Once I was there, I had to sit and observe the whole event. Throughout the event I had to note down necessary quotes. Even during breaks when snacks were served, I had to wisely make use of that time by informally conversing with people to get an idea of the expectation or experience they received from the event. At the end of the event when there were Q/A sessions, like any other journalist seeking his/her necessary questions, I too asked questions. Before leaving I had to collect their written press release, if they had any. Having collected all the information, along with the quotes, the final task was to write a story. The following links are the articles to the event that were published in our Saturday section, D2: “Jump-start your future”.
Jump-start your future

Picture 10: Jump-start your future

Where Do They Go?

Picture 11: Where Do They Go?
b. **Press Release:** If any organization wants to arrange or host an event and wants the general population to know about the event or to attend it -- the invitation is usually circulated through social media and especially though print media. The invitation that consists of all the information along with the reason of the event to take place are all written in a document file and sent to the Editor of the Newspaper. This document file is called the press release. Since *Dhaka Tribune* is an English Newspaper, if any press release is received in Bangla, the text is transcribed into meaningful English language then an article is written with the writing structure that is followed at the Features Desk. If the writer gets sufficient information about an event and he/she does not have to make any necessary changes other than editing it, then the writer’s name is not written. Instead of the writer’s name the ‘Features Desk’ is mentioned, as it is the Department who receives the information and publishes with a few corrections on it. Here is the article of the Press Release: “Celebration of Boshonto Utshob 1425 at Bottola”  
Celebration of Boshonto Utshob 1425 at Bottola

Picture 12: Celebration of Boshonto Utshob 1425 at Bottola
Chapter 8

Departmental Activities

a. **Central Desk:** The task was to wait for the supervisor to send me information in order to write articles. Most of the works were to translate the information collected from the reporters, talking to them for clarification, double checking facts and then finally writing the article. The articles were either press releases, profiles, breaking news or a report writing. Each day I had to write at least four to five articles. This was my task for the two months at the Central Desk.

b. **Features Department:** Features Department of *Dhaka Tribune* always holds the monthly meetings. It is a round table meeting which takes place between the Editor and the rest of the staff members of the department. Firstly, the Editor discusses the monthly topics for the magazine. Then the staff members pitch in their ideas. After jotting down all the ideas, later a content plan is made. Following the content planning later comes the hunting of the location, model, make-up artist and photographer for the cover shoot of the magazine. Depending on the topics of the magazine, the team has to come up with the theme for the cover shoot. While the team is working on the contents for the monthly magazine, ideas are constantly pitched in and contents are brought in to publish articles for D2. D2 is a section of *Dhaka Tribune* that comes out every weekly at Saturday pages of the newspaper. At the end of every week necessary articles are written for the pages and those are thus published at the weekly page under the section D2.

Although I was an intern, I had to do all the activities like any full-time staff member had to perform. Hence, like the rest, I would pitch ideas for the monthly magazine along with the Saturday page. For example, for the March issue which highlighted
Mother’s Day, I pitched the idea of how a mother is good at multitasking. Upon pitching the idea, I interviewed a Bangladeshi based UK mother blogger and titled the article ‘A mom for all seasons’. For the Saturday page, highlighting the world water day, I interviewed Footsteps, an NGO. They provide access to free and safe water to the underprivileged areas as well as for the public at the side of some roads. I titled the article “Sips of Salvation”. Besides providing ideas, interviewing and writing articles, I was also responsible for uploading articles on the website. Once the articles were ready to be published, I had to prepare the draft for the article along with the picture(s). All the pictures had to be within the specific ratio of 800:500 (width:height) and the resolution had to be within 150KB. Finally when the magazine was in for the market, and the Saturday paper was published, the articles were uploaded online.
Picture 13: Backend Manager of Dhaka Tribune
Chapter 9

Parallel between Theories and Internship Experience

Having declared the Media and Cultural Studies as my major, I took courses that elaborate the different segments of media. There was a course, ENG 331: Introduction to Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice, from which I could relate with the real life scenarios. Although the theories were taught to us, I could not connect the dots between the theories and the real world. It was during my internship, when I was finally able to draw the parallel between those theories and my internship.

Amongst the many theories, I will be highlighting a theory that entirely relates with my internship. The highlight would be on the concept of ‘Pancoticon’ and the practice on the ‘Power of Gaze’. Michelle Foucault’s criticism on ‘Penopticon’ and the ‘Power of Gaze’ are essential factors in the modern times, especially in the segment of media.

Panopticon and the Power of Gaze:

Michel Foucault was a French philosopher, social theorist and a literary critic. His theories relate to building a relationship between power and knowledge. He addresses that both the knowledge and power are used as a form of ‘social control’ in ‘societal institutions’ such as hospitals, military school and prison. In the article “The Eye of Power” he relates the concept of the social control with a device named ‘Panopticon’.

‘Panopticon’ was coined by Jeremy Bentham, who was an English philosopher, jurist and social reformer. Generally, the term pan refers to all entities and the term opticon means to observe. In the earlier days prisoners were put in dungeons as a form of punishment. Instead of using the earlier violent method, Bentham introduced a new concept with a tower like architectural design. The idea was for the all entities “under a system of centralized observation” (146) around the tower to be glanced over from the top. Bentham calls this a
device that alerts people to refrain from criminal activities due to the surveillance. With the practice of this device named, panopticon, the ability of taking over power upon the entities was also addressed. Foucault points out that it served as “the focus the exercise of power and simultaneous, for the registration of knowledge” (148). In simple words, the exercise of the “all-seeing power” was practiced upon the people who were under surveillance to lead the society in a civilized and crime-free manner. This “all-seeing power” in other words Benthan calls it the “gaze”.

Studying the architectural details by Bentham, Foucault has noticed its use globally. In the modern times when technology has advanced so much -- any news, image or video of one region can be seen seconds away from another region. Bentham’s system of “ensuring a surveillance which would be both global and individualizing which at the same time carefully” separate “the individuals under observation” (146) is practiced rigorously in the modern times. The CCTV camera, live streams on Facebook, drones which in Bentham’s concept can be referred to as the “optical system”, happens to be the “easy and effective exercise of power” (148). This gives a chance for the state to control its entities, and even for the global world to be aware of any unwanted disruptive activities.

Foucault further points out that Bentham’s concept of surveillance, comes with the power of the overseeing ‘gaze’. He mentions that it is because of this anonymous gaze that immerses “people in a field of total visibility where the opinion, observation and discourse of others would refrain them from harmful acts” (153).

Despite of the power of gaze and the practice of panopticon being constantly exercised, there still remain some people who befall in the hands of heinous incidents. However, Foucault mentioned in his article that the surveillance is “diabolic piece of machinery sparing no one” (158). Social media being the widely used medium to access information, sure enough has
been used as one of the tools for surveillance. In terms of the application of panopticon in the modern world, the use of the CCTV camera and social media had helped to find out the attackers of Holey Artisan. The heinous incident that took place on July 1, 2016 the attackers took over the place in such a manner where the hostages could not be rescued and the face of the attackers couldn’t properly be captured. However, after the gruesome incident ended, few newspapers extracted clips from CCTV camera and some residents uploaded the blurry videos on social media. In no time, the public saw the pictures, meticulously started digging on social media to identify the attackers and finally revealed their faces and the images went viral. In the same manner, with the help of CCTV the attackers of Rifat Sharif and Taslima Begum Renu were found out. Regardless of any race and economic background, the criminals were meticulously searched through every possible medium and thus the murderers were brought to justice.

Although Bentham talked about the gaze, Foucault also points out that even Bentham is not clear who or what the actual gaze is. Presumably it is the higher authority of any institute or state that controls and internalizes the practice of panopticon around them. During my internship program there was constant surveillance with CCTV camera. It checked our arrival and departure timing as well as any activities that would seem inappropriate at an ethical work environment. Additionally, it was due to the internalization of panopticon that always made everyone conscious of their work.

Besides, print media being another application of the panopticon, gives a writer the ability to unfold truths by penning it down. Newspaper alerts people of what is happening around us and addresses of the consequences of doing harmful activities. In regards to the gaze, the senior staff members and the Editor of Dhaka Tribune are the people, who keep an eye on what is being written and published for their readers.
Chapter 10

My Experience as an Intern

Internships are the first step towards career building opportunities. It is the chance to practically work on the theories we have been studying in our institutions. As Brac University makes it mandatory to do internship during undergraduate level, it gave me exposure to know the nitty-gritties about how professional jobs work, especially in the sector of Journalism.

The tale of Dhaka Tribune being the perfect place to work for internship was long heard. For such obvious reasons, and Dhaka Tribune being one of the leading newspapers, I applied there. At the beginning of January, 2019 I was called to sit for a meeting with Zafar Shobhan, the Editor of the newspaper. In the meeting he asked me about my background and to tell a little bit about myself. While learning about me he asked me why I wanted to do my internship there and which department would I be interested to work at. Features writing being my first priority, I mentioned, of course of Features Department. That day I got the confirmation and was informed to start working from the next day.

Although Features Department was my priority and the Editor had approved of it, however, I was assigned to work at the Central Desk. According to Zafar sir Central Desk is the first stage and the important place to really understand how newspaper works. As a student, in my academic courses such as in ENG 440 I learnt about journalism, in ENG 401 I learnt how to edit articles and in ENG 465 I learnt the effective ways of translating English to Bangla and vice versa. Here in Dhaka Tribune, I had to implement all my knowledge into practical work. The basic difference between of interns and the full timers was only the salary. Other than that, the interns had to work like the full timers for eight hours straight five days a week. I studied their style guide and initially was taught the over all process by the seniors of how central desk works. In few days I geared up to constantly receiving reports from reporters,
talking to them for clarification, double checking facts, translating the language and finally writing it into an article for the readers. Each day at the Central Desk I had to write at least five-six articles. It was not just the ‘sit at the desk and write all the time’ task, I had to interact with everyone to maintain the interpersonal relationship. What I gathered from this is that, it helps to build up a good relationship between the co-workers and increases the enthusiasm to come to work.

After two months of rigorously working at the desk, I moved to Features Department, where I got to act like a journalist. From interviewing people to get information, to going to that extra mile to check the authenticity of the information, to following the ethics of journalism while interviewing, to covering events, writing press and articles – I did it all while being an intern. Additional to newspaper, I also got the opportunity to be a part of the lifestyle magazine, Avenue T. For this I had to stay hours back to make sure all the layouts for the magazine is compiled and completed to be sent to the printing team.

In every step of the way in three months, I was respected and considered like a full timer. I learnt to be punctual and responsible. I also learnt how to adjust with the work environment. Dhaka Tribune has truly given me an experience I never imagined I would receive while being an undergraduate student. With this experience I can end saying that I am ready to take on any professional tasks or job.
I was certain I was able to give my best while interning when the Feature Editor asked me if I was interested to work there as a full-timer. After I submitted an application for the position of Apprenticeship Feature Writer, I was thrilled to receive the approval letter. It surely was a remarkable feeling when I came to learn that my performance was acknowledged and apprenticed. Here is the offer letter that I receive from Dhaka Tribune:
Chapter 12

Recommendation

Inevitably, the theoretical courses that are included for the Media and Cultural Studies stream have definitely helped to mold my foundation on these subjects. However, having completed my internship and implementing most of the theoretical knowledge has enabled me to note down a few points which could improve the teaching materials of the designed courses.

a. Exposure to more practical practices or workshop: In the major courses of Media and Cultural Studies stream, such as- ENG 440: English for Print Media, ENG404 Copywriting and ENG 401: Editing, there were several new terms introduced to us. Such as: clipping, scaling and copywriting. Some activities were conducted in the class such as bringing newspaper articles or examples related to the contents of that day, guest speaker session was arranged for us to have general idea of the whole process of journalism and journalism documentaries were shown in class. We were taken to a newspaper office for a guided tour. Yet, the concepts were not entirely clear to us, and it could not be mentioned as an effective learning method. One of the reasons may be due to the time constraints of one course per semester, with elongated chapters and materials. This made learning too overwhelming to efficiently learn in such a short time. Nevertheless, it can be pointed out that it was during the time of the internship program, when the terms were used for practical purpose thus they became clearer to us. So, it can be mentioned, besides the activities done in class and instead of simply learning it for the sake of getting good grades -- one or two days of workshop activities with any staff writer of any newspaper would be helpful for the students to become familiar with the use of the terms.
b. **Less rigorous reading materials:** With a hefty amount of chapters and materials to read for the courses, the process of effectively learning gets distorted. At the end, students become more concerned about reading the specific chapters that are easier for them to understand, and thus the rest of the chapters remain quite unfamiliar. It would have been easier if the students went to the consultation hour. However, it does not help much as due to the short period, extensive reading materials are too hard to learn fast. In the light of this situation, my suggestion would be to reduce a few chapters while still highlighting the basic and necessary chapters to the newly introduced course.

c. **Group activities:** Learning is more fun when learnt through group activities. One of the many perks of group activities are the interaction of one student with another. It helps one to clarify one concept through the process of explaining to each other. Group actives also help to understand the peers, adjust and act on different scenarios and explore ideas together. While there were some group activities, I believe it will be more efficient to add more group tasks to make learning process more interactive.
Chapter 13

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be stated that Dhaka Tribune’s internship program has given me the exposure write unbiased reports, efficiently translating news to the readers, covering events, ethically taking interviews, and writing feature articles. Working in two diverse departments - Central Desk and Features Department has also made me understand the essence of each department’s work, and how the online and print media sections are run.

The scale of opportunities Dhaka Tribune has always given me and through the process of adjusting ethically in the work environment, I can say that it has shaped me to become like a professional journalist. I have learnt to be more persistent, responsible and active. This approach has made me career ready. On an ending note, I want to state that it was an honor to be interning with one of the reputed newspapers of Dhaka, and make my voice heard to the masses. My interest in journalism has increased, and I believe I will able to act on the inspiration I got from The Nancy Drew’s series. Thus I can finally say -- I am ready to pursue journalism as my profession.
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Pictures Cited
