

**Working for Journalistic Excellence**

*At The Daily Observer*

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BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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*At The Daily Observer*

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Md. Mamunur Rahman

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## **Introduction**

“The careful reader of a few good newspapers can learn more in a year than most scholars do in their great libraries.”

- Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, American journalist and author.

As a part of my concentration in Media and Cultural Studies, I had to intern at a media related sector for 3 months to complete my BA in English. When I had a chance to start my internship in Summer 2015, I chose to do it at a newspaper office and there are reasons behind it. Newspapers have been an important part of the society, providing information to citizens, convening groups around event and issues and serving as a powerful watcher against abuses by those in power. In Bangladesh, newspapers have always been playing a vital role in shaping the people’s opinion since the time of our liberation war till today. In the context of our country, newspaper is the only medium that provides its readers more detailed and follow up information than TV news channels. Moreover, a newspaper journalist digs deeper and deeper to get to the actual facts behind any occurrence. Besides that, most of the time, the voice of the reporter and the editor becomes the voice of the commoners while they (reporters) cover news stories on political violence and human sufferings. In these cases, a newspaper can make a stronger impact in the public sphere than any other media related sectors like TV channels, or magazines. That is why I decided to join a newspaper company as an intern, and also to fulfill my long cherished desire to start my career as a newspaper journalist.

Newspaper serves many purposes. Every newspaper holds much influence and power. A newspaper helps us to enhance our knowledge and broaden our vision. Newspaper is one of the most effective mediums that keep us informed about the current events of the world. It gives us information about latest discoveries, inventions, researches, incidents etc. It also helps the traders to advertise their products all around the world through advertising in the papers. In modern times, businesses cannot thrive without advertisements. With the world becoming globalized and the variety of products, services and ideas increasing, newspapers are undoubtedly become one of the mediums of advertising. It also guides the government in times of national crisis and natural disasters through its editorial and op-eds. However, newspapers serve the public not only in terms of information and entertainment, but also in terms of creating a strong economic atmosphere by making people aware of economic issues and crisis around the world through prediction and suggestions in the newspaper's economic forum. For example, a newspaper's business page deals on pre and post budget economic situation of the country, where economic masterminds of the country include their comments and suggestions.

The *Daily Observer* newspaper is one of the leading English newspapers of Bangladesh that deals with all the above mentioned aspects in a very responsible way. I had a chance to intern there in 'Sub-Editor' position under the guidance of Mr. Akhtarul Haq, Executive Editor of the *Daily Observer* newspaper. It was really a unique experience for me as I had a chance to relate all the topics (editing reports, writing headlines) that I have learnt in the Media and Cultural Studies courses.

The main concern of the *Daily Observer* newspaper is to focus on people's right. That is why its theme is- "We stand for people's right."

Christiane Amanpour, Chief International Correspondent, CNN, once said in her article that- “And I believe that good journalism, good television, can make our world a better place.” Like Amanpour, our editor of the *Daily Observer*, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury also believes that good journalism is the key element in making a country or the world a better place. It makes the public concerned about their deprived rights and helps to create a public sphere. According to him, newspapers are a mirror of public’s opinion. That is why he designed the *Daily Observer* in such a way so that it enables people to present their views regarding national and international issues. The *Daily Observer* newspaper is also very concern about giving its readers the correct news. The *Daily Observer* does not distort or misrepresent the news. Therefore, when I got a chance to do my internship at the *Daily Observer* newspaper, I accepted it without second thought.

## **A Brief History of the *Daily Observer***

“A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself.”

– Arthur Miller, American playwright and essayist.

The *Daily Observer* newspaper has been serving the nation since 1949 while it was known by the name of the *Pakistan Observer* (1949-1971) or the *Bangladesh Observer* (1971-2010). It was the oldest, continuously published English language daily newspaper in Bangladesh until it ceased publication in June 2010. The *Bangladesh Observer* was founded by Hamidul Huq Choudhury, who was born in Noakhali District, Bengal (subsequently East Pakistan and now Bangladesh) during the British Raj in 1901. After the partition in 1947, Hamidul Huq was elected to the Pakistan Constitutional Assembly. He was also a member of the East Bengal Legislative Assembly. He was also the Minister for Finance, Commerce, Labour and Industries (1947-49). The *Bangladesh Observer* had a strong, independent editorial policy that reflected both the personality its owner Hamidul Haq and editor Abdus Salam.

The provincial government of East Pakistan imposed an embargo on the newspaper's publication under the repressive Public Safety Act in February 1952. Pakistan Government arrested both Hamidul Huq Choudhury and Abdus Salam to suppress the voice of the press. The United Front government withdrew the embargo in May 1954.

However, in the early 1960s, the paper was black-listed by the military government of General Ayub Khan. The newspaper was renamed *Bangladesh Observer* in December 1971 and

the government of that time brought it under state control in 1972. Hamidul Haque Chowdhury in 2010.

The *Bangladesh Observer* newspaper ceased its publication in 2010 after a prolonged dispute between the owners and employees. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, who was the sub-editor then, blamed the owners for not paying wages to the workers.

However, finally, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury again started the circulation of the *Bangladesh Observer* newspaper by the new name *The Daily Observer* in 2013. The *Daily Observer* newspaper is now divided into six major departments- editorial, circulation, administrative, accounting and store department.

## **The Daily Observer: Its Departments and My Duties in the Advertising Department**

The *Daily Observer* newspaper has 6 major departments- editorial, advertising, circulation, printing, administrative, accounting and stores departments. I started my internship in the newspaper's advertising department under the guidance of its commercial editor Farooque Ahmed Talukder. After that, I was shifted to the newspaper's editing department as a sub-editor where I worked with Mr. Akhtarul Haq, the executive editor of the paper. In this chapter of my internship report, I am going to write down about the above mentioned departments of the *Daily Observer* briefly as well as my work experiences as an intern.

One of the major departments of a newspaper office is the editorial department. The news editor of this department is one of the most important persons who plans a daily newspaper. However, the editorial board of the *Daily Observer* newspaper consists of a couple of editors like any other daily newspaper of our country. The head of the editorial board of the *Daily Observer* newspaper is called the chief editor. The duty of the chief editor is to hire and evaluate the reporters. He has the authority to say 'yes' or 'no' to story ideas and edit a reporter's story before sending it to the page editor. Sometimes this process of editing requires multiple days, draft and additional reporting. Moreover, the chief editor also has a deputy who edits news reports. Besides that, the *Daily Observer* newspaper also has a section editor who is responsible for the editing of the feature page. He basically receives the edited stories from the chief editor and says 'yes' or 'no' to it. He also edits those stories, usually within a single day with the help of his deputy. Like every daily newspaper, the *Daily Observer* newspaper has a copy editor who edits for clarity by double-checking the names of corporations and people in the news stories. The

copy editor has the authority to fill the story with more facts that were not available when the story was submitted. Besides that, the newspaper has a news editor who in charge of the less prominent pages and edits the news stories that go inside a section. For example, feature stories, news stories in sports and business pages. He also takes the decision about which stories should get published on which page and in which editions. There is another position in the editorial board known as final reader. The final reader checks all the versions of the news stories edited by the editor. Last but not the least, the editorial board also appoints a company lawyer to evaluate the sensitive cases to find out whether their news stories have any libelous statement or not. Moreover, there are other editors including the photo editor, the design editor, and the layout editor etc. who work in other departments of the newspaper.

The second major department of the *Daily Observer* is the advertising department. The main function of the advertising department of a newspaper is to generate revenue for its business by selling advertising space to local or national organizations. The *Daily Observer* newspaper's advertising department takes multiple measures to sell advertising space including accepting and processing orders from advertisers, creating advertisements, providing media information about the cost of advertisement to advertisers and advertising agencies in order to help small businesses develop their advertising. The advertising department also plans and works with editorial teams to develop elements of advertisements that will attract the advertisers.

During my first two weeks of interning with the *Daily Observer*, I came to know that there are ads known as "Classified Advertisements." These advertisements are small, low in cost and generally consist of text only. Sometimes these ads may include some photographs. These advertisements are known as classified advertisements. The *Daily Observer* has special sections, with different headings and classification where they publish these classified advertisements.

The *Daily Observer*'s advertising department takes order for classified advertisement via telephone, email or the internet, and processes the orders for publication on an agreed-upon date.

Moreover, newspaper ads can span across multiple columns. It can even cover a full page, half page, quarter page or other custom sizes. Newspaper ads contain high resolution colours and black/white formats that help in providing high visibility for the readers of newspapers.

However, the prices of online advertisements are often lower than advertisements on the print version of a newspaper.

Besides that, advertisements that appear within the editorial section of a newspaper is known as "Display Advertisement." These advertisements consist of texts, illustrations as well as photographs. The advertising department of the *Daily Observer* sometimes offers design services to its advertisers who do not have their own facilities or do not use an advertising agency. The *Daily Observer* has an in-house graphic designer who can create and write an ad based on the advertisers' demand that suits the space that the advertiser has purchased.

Another important task of a newspaper's advertising department is to provide media data to the advertisers. The advertising department of the *Daily Observer* publishes a rate card that lists the costs of different sizes of advertisements, the discounts available for multiple bookings etc. This rate card with media data on it helps the advertisers to plan their advertising campaigns. The advertisers seem to choose a newspaper for their ads that reaches the largest proportion of their target audiences at the lowest cost.

However, the *Daily Observer* newspaper mostly publishes ads or circulations of government agencies and ministries. The ad rate of the *Daily Observer* newspaper per inch column (Colour) is tk. 6,000 for inner general pages and per inch column (black and white) is tk. 3,800 for inner

general pages. The *Daily Observer* charges the highest rate for front page advertisement on its print version, and the rate is tk. 15,500 per inch column (Colour, Min 12 Inch-Column). The newspaper also charges an additional 25% rate for special placements like the advertisement in the upper left or upper right corner of the front page and a full page advertisement.

The advertising department of the *Daily Observer* newspaper reminds me of the ENG-404 Copywriting course that I have taken earlier. Newspaper copywriters create compelling, effective and profitable ads for their advertisers and clients. They are specialized in creative thinking and ideas. In the copywriting course, I came to know about the works of a copywriter and his several characteristics including the ability to write creatively and persuasively, to work under pressure, to work cohesively with clients etc. The in-house graphic designer and copywriter have all those qualities and an amazing sense of humor. Copywriters need to have proper ideas of sensation and ideas of reflection in order to develop creative ads. Moreover, to overcome 'writer's blocks', the copywriters have to focus on lateral thinking. Often that leads to a thought which is so different from the copywriters' original line of thinking that it stimulates the innovative idea that the copywriters' were looking for in the first place. The *Daily Observer's* commercial editor always encourages the copywriters to go for lateral thinking and develop their ideas. Besides that, copywriters have to do a lot of brainstorming. Besides that, copywriters have to do a lot of brainstorming. Like every brainstorming group, the *Daily Observer's* advertising department has two kinds of people- 'Eddy the Extrovert' and 'Ingrid the Introvert.' Extroverts are at their most energized state when they have others around them. They can be warm, funny and energetic. They are happy to share their thoughts, even if they have not been thought through fully. On the other hand, introverts do not like attention from a crowd unless they are very familiar with everyone. The low participation rate of the introverts does not mean that they do not have

anything worth to share. Introverts like to keep their ideas to themselves until they have thought them through.

The graphic designer and the in-house designer of the *Daily Observer* newspaper frequently faces problem when it comes to reshaping the ad and fitting it within the allocated space purchased by the advertisers. I have learned how to reshape those ads or photographs using Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and other Adobe softwares.

The third major department of the *Daily Observer* newspaper is the circulation department. The job of this department is to get the newspaper to different parts of the town and country. It is not always possible for the newspaper to reach every hook and corner of the country. Therefore, it has a website that is accessible from any device that can be connected to the internet. The main three responsibilities of this department are to collect data about subscribers, deliver it to the retailers and ensure the paper is delivered to the subscribers properly.

The fourth major department of the newspaper is known as the print department. The job of the print department of the *Daily Observer* newspaper is to compile all the news stories into the newspaper format and then put it on paper. Before printing, the newspaper's print department can make minor changes in each edition of the newspaper. However, the *Daily Observer* newspaper gets published by the editor on behalf of the *Observer Ltd.* from Globe Printers, 24/A, New Eskaton Road, Ramna, Dhaka.

The fifth major department of the *Daily Observer* newspaper is the administrative department. The general administrative work comes under this department. These tasks include the appointment of new staffs, training, maintaining records and managing other departments etc.

The accounting department is at the sixth position in the departmental hierarchy. It maintains all the financial responsibilities of the newspaper. The accounting department of the *Daily Observer* newspaper keeps the record book, maintains balance sheet, budget and provides finance to all other departments. It also calculates the revenue expenses and profits.

Last but not the least, there is the store department. This department looks after all the storage works of the *Daily Observer's* office. It keeps the record of the stocks of storage items including raw materials like paper, ink etc and finished things like the primarily printed newspapers.

## **Editing, Proofreading and Copy**

As I mentioned before, the editorial department is the most important departments of any newspaper. The *Daily Observer* also has a strong editorial board consists of Chief Editor, Executive Editor, Commercial Editor and some deputy or Sub-Editors. The chief editor of the *Daily Observer* is Mr. Iqbal Shobhan Chowdhury. The executive editor of the editorial board is Mr. Akhtarul Haq, while Mr. Farooque Ahmed Talukder is the commercial editor. Under those positions, there are some deputies or sub-editors who help the editors to edit or to re-check the previously edited news items.

A news editor divides all the obvious and exclusive stories of the paper. A news editor gets a lot of satisfaction from the stories which are exclusive to his own newspaper. The editing of the news stories is important, but the more important thing is to maintain accuracy with the original ones produced by the editor's team of correspondents. The news editor is also responsible for final scrutiny of important news stories submitted by different local correspondents, feature writers and outside correspondents. He/she gives special attention to the facts and figures included in the write-ups and wherever he/she is in doubt, he/she takes pains to check their accuracy from the authentic source. Moreover, the news editor is called upon to use his/her discretion and imagination in evaluating the public mind and selecting news stories that have news value factors and can be regarded as important news item by the readers. It would be wrong for an editor to assume that every reader will show interest about everything in the newspaper. That is why the editor must publish what most readers want for the newspaper's survival and benefit. A good editor focuses on insightful coverage. The *Daily Observer's* editors

always encourage the reporters to cover the subjects that have not been covered and are not easily accessible. The subjects include social issues and corruption. Moreover, the newspaper also gives bonus to the reporters for an unusually good idea as a part of creative encouragement. However, sometimes when the editor doesn't understand what the reporter has to say through his/her news report, he/she has to make educated guesses to make a good story out of it.

Typography is another important thing in news editing. The in-house designer and the graphic designer of the *Daily Observer* newspaper have to consult with the executive editor about the possible placement of every news items as well as their typography. The editor carefully observes if there is any the kerning and scaling. He also checks the length, width and typeface of each and every headline designed by the graphic or in-house designer before approving it. Moreover, the editor also guides the designer about the placement of pictures- which pictures should go on which pages and where to fit them.

Besides that, the most challenging task for an editor is to write an 'eye-catching' and creative headline for the readers. Writing headline is considered to be an art. Therefore, the editor must create a picture of an entire story in just a few words and make it appealing to readers by injecting his/her creativity. As an intern, sometimes it was hard for me to develop a proper headline in just 8-10 words. So, I had to consult with my supervisor for his help. My advisor, Mr. Akhtarul Haq suggested me to write couple of headline-like sentences by using action verbs creatively before writing a final headline, and to choose the best one as a headline. This technique really worked for me and I gradually learned how to construct a proper headline. Another important issue that the editor takes care of is writing a proper anecdotal lead. He/she has to make sure that the anecdotal lead illustrates the story fairly.

While interning as a sub-editor at the *Daily Observer*, I came to know about the fundamental aspects of copy editing and the vast responsibilities of an editor of the newspaper agency. One of the most important duties of an editor is copy editing. Copy editors are responsible for the clarity and accuracy of content that is published in a newspaper. They check newspaper copy to ensure that it is factually accurate conveys meaning of the content clearly. If they have queries about the copy, editors check references or discuss the issues with contributors. As a sub-editor, I had to check grammar, spelling and punctuation, using style guides, such as the Associated Press Stylebook, or the *Daily Observer's* own in-house style rules as reference. It is obvious that too many questions marks, exclamations, fragments divert the readers from the substance of the tale to the performance of its author and therefore, I had to fix those problems carefully. Besides that, I had to submit my edited copy of the news article given to me by the executive editor to ensure its accuracy. However, if there was any mistake in my edited copy, he used to send it back to me so that I could correct it. Therefore, I needed to have a good sense about the editing marks that I have become familiar with in the ENG-401 Editing course.

## STANDARD EDITING MARKS

MARK	MEANING	MARK	MEANING
1	insert in the text	---	remove an underline
e	delete a punctuation, word, or letter	o	spell out abbrev. or number (see 1 hr. as one hour)
∩	delete and close up space	#	indicate a paragraph
∪	close up space	c	run in; no paragraph
#	add space	] [	center
~	transpose; change order the	∨ ∨	superscript or subscript ( $\pi r^2$ or $H_2O$ )
↺ ↻	move word or a phrase	↗	comma
/	set in Lowercase letters (lowercase)	⊙ ⊙	period or colon
∟	LOWERCASE a series of capital letters (lowercase)	“ ” ‘ ’	double or single quotation marks or an apostrophe
≡	set in capitals (CAPITALS)	=	hyphen (first-class)
≡	set in small capitals (450 B.C.)	—	em dash (typewritten as two hyphens—without spaces)
—	italics ( <i>italics</i> )	—	en dash (1:00–3:00 P.M.)
≡	boldface ( <b>boldface</b> )		

However, while most of the readers read the *Daily Observer* for unbiased factual reporting, it also typically includes a fair bit of opinion. This specific opinion pieces written by the editor or the editorial board appears in Editorial section. It may appear in the writings of individual columnists or it may appear in editorial cartoons. The editorial board always very concerned about coming up strong editorial writing by rising above any kind of political bias. The editorials are *Daily Observer*'s official stance on specific issues. It covers political, social or cultural aspects. Editorial boards of the newspaper often endorse candidates in upcoming elections. Moreover, reading editorials in various newspapers about the same topic can give the reader different viewpoints about that particular issue. In the *Daily Observer*, editorials, op-eds

and letter to the editor get published on a separate page so that readers can know when they are reading a factual news report that tries to be objective, and when they are reading the opinion of the editorial board and the opinion of the general public. While publishing an editorial, the editors cannot have libelous statement in it. If a published editorial, op-ed or letter to the editor libels someone, the newspaper could be sued. According to the simple definition, "Libel is any published defamation of a person. Defamation is any representation that holds a person up to hatred, contempt or ridicule; that causes the person to be shunned or lose respect; or that harms that person in an occupation or profession." (Smith and O'Connell, 165). Therefore, the editorial board of the *Daily Observer* is very concerned about avoiding any libelous statement for the sake of its good reputation. Because of that, the *Daily Observer's* editorial board has hired a legal advisor in order to protect the newspaper's reputation from any kind libel issue. Moreover, to avoid racism, sexism and other complexities, the *Daily Observer's* reporters and editors use gender-neutral words.

Last but not the least; editors are not the only people whose opinions appear in newspapers. Often, newspapers employ cartoonists who draw cartoons that make a statement about current events. These cartoons often focus on politics, but can also deal with economic, social, and cultural issues. Editorial cartoons often seem to appear in the *Daily Observer* newspaper.

## Translations

Nowadays, translation plays a vital role in newspaper agencies. World events can only be transmitted accurately if the correct information is received by news agencies. This involves proper translation of news going from local bodies and regional centers to international news agencies like BBC. Unless proper translation is done, the news will be ambiguous and unreliable. An example of this can be seen when the government of China recently banned international news agencies from entering local regions for covering a major problem. However, information was still passed on to the world. Insiders covered all the important news which was later translated and presented to the world. In journalism, translations are only carried out by professionals who have expert knowledge in the field of journalism as well as in translation. Like every newspaper, the *Daily Observer* has also a board of experts that basically translates Bangla press releases into English. According to the Thai translation theorist Sunchawee Saibua translation methods have two main types: **literal translation** which focuses on keeping the original form and **free translation** which modifies and rearranges ideas of the original form. But according to the author's view, translation methods can be classified into three main groups. They are **word-for-word translation** where the translator translates literally by its most common meaning into TL (Target Language) while grammatical constructions remain unchanged, **literal translation** where the translator tries to keep the original form, so there are only few parts of the SL (Source Language) that are changed, and **free translation** where the translator changes or adapts the original form to the TL (Target Language), and therefore, almost every part of the SL is changed. By keeping these theories in mind, the *Daily Observer's* board of expert translators

translates press releases and other important Bangla news pieces from various sources. However sometimes, the translators have to follow some strategies to make the translated version of the news more alive and reader oriented. Some of those strategies are-

1. Interpretative translation is used in translating idioms, slangs etc.
2. Rhymes and joke- related dictions are used when translating joke.
3. Proper English equivalent of a Bangla word is used in the translated script.
4. Omission of first person pronoun and contextual pronoun are found in the translated version of the news.

While interning at the *Daily Observer* newspaper as an intern, I had to keep in mind the above strategies while translating several press releases from Bangla to English. The next chapter of my report will shed light that topic.

## Press Releases

Nowadays, press releases have become an integral part of any organization's marketing strategy. However, there are different types of press releases that deal with not only the marketing strategies of a company, but also with other aspects. Some examples of the types of press releases include general news releases, launch releases, product press releases, executive / staff announcement news releases, expert positioning press releases and event releases. Here is more on those six types of press releases:

1. **General News Releases:** General news releases are the most common type of press releases. A general press release simply includes news that needs to be disseminated to members of the media in the hopes of media coverage and exposure. For example, a general news release might be used if a company runs a contest, wins an award, or if there is some other general news about the company/organization or to highlight the achievements of the higher officials of the company/organization or to announce the launching of their website.
2. **Launch Releases:** These types of releases share information about the launching of a company, website, organization etc.
3. **Product Press Releases:** Product press releases are associated with a company's marketing strategies. Product press releases can sometimes have a slightly different format than general press releases, because they will often include specifications of the product. Product press releases can overlap with launch releases when a new product is launched, and can also be used if products win awards, reach sales

milestones, have to be recalled for some reason, have an upgraded version released and can be used with any other product-focused news. Product press releases will often benefit by including photos.

4. **Event Press Releases** – This includes all the details of the event organized by the company or business. This includes date, time, venue and all the major and minor details of any event. Apart from the media advisories who convince members of the media to actually attend an event, event press releases are usually issued in hopes that the media will announce the event details to the public.
5. **Announcement Press Releases** – Every business to grow in this competitive era has to make announcements for each and everything they did and will do in the future. This is the key point for the development of the business. These types of press releases that make business announcements are called announcement press releases.
6. **Staff Announcements** – Companies often send press releases when there are staff changes, especially in high levels of management. This type of release can be biographical as supporting information to justify the staff change and introduce the new staff member. This often includes at least one photo.

Press releases have to follow a certain structure. The structure of a press release consists of the following:

1. **Headline** – grabs the attention of the reader and gives a brief summary of the content.
2. **Dateline** – has the release date and usually the originating city.

3. **Introduction** – gives the basic answers to the questions who, what, when, where and why.
4. **Body** – gives further explanation and statistics relevant to news.
5. **Boilerplate** – a short section that gives the background of the issuing company or organization and the background of the company's high official or officials.
6. **Close** – Indicates the end of the release.
7. **Media contact information** – Name, contact number, email address, mailing information and other contact information for the PR or other media person.

The *Daily Observer* newspaper publishes a lot of news releases every day. Sometimes the newspaper publishes the press releases without any editing and sometimes they have to translate the Bangla press releases into English so that they make sense to the readers of this English daily. While I was interning at the *Daily Observer*, my supervisor gave me some Bangla press releases and told me to translate them into English. At first, it was really very hard for me to decide whether I should follow the word-for-word translation method or the sense-for-sense translation method to translate those releases. My supervisor then advised me to do the word-for-word translation. However, sometimes, I had to use the sense-for-sense translation method to convey a proper sense of meaning out of the TL (Target Language) from the SL (Source Language). I have included few examples of my translated press releases (from Bangla to English) at the *Daily Observer* -



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স  
ঢাকা



স্মারক নং-এমএডপিআর/১৭০৫

তারিখ- ০২.০৮.২০১৫ খ্রি.

**মিডিয়া রিলিজ**

**বিচার বহির্ভূত হত্যাকাণ্ড পুলিশ করেনি  
অধিকার ও বাম্বাকের বক্তব্য বেআইনি; নিহত নাশকতামূলক প্রচারণা**

ঢাকা, ২ আগস্ট ২০১৫ খ্রি.

'অধিকার' এবং 'বাংলাদেশ মানবাধিকার কমিশন' (বাম্বাক) এর উজ্জ্বলিত দিয়ে কথিত 'বিচার বহির্ভূত হত্যাকাণ্ড' সম্পর্কে পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত রিপোর্টের প্রতি বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের দৃষ্টি আকৃষ্ট হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ সরাসরি ওই রিপোর্ট প্রত্যাখ্যান করেছে। তাঁর প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছে তাদের বক্তব্যের। পর্যবেক্ষণে দেখা যায়, সংস্থা দুটোর বক্তব্য বাংলাদেশের বিনাম্যান আইনের পরিপন্থী, যা আইনের শাসন এবং বিচার ব্যবস্থাকেই চ্যালেঞ্জ জানানোর শামিল।

বসন্ত বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ এদেশের মানুষের জীবন এবং সম্পদ রক্ষার জন্য জীবনের ঝুঁকি নিয়ে কাজ করে। এইতো গত জুলাই মাসে কক্সবাজারে একজন টুরিস্ট এর সম্পদ বাঁচাতে গিয়ে ছুরিকাখাতে প্রাণ দিলো কনস্টেবল পারভেজ। পরদিন মেহেরপুরের চেকপোস্টে খুন করা হলো কনস্টেবল আলাউদ্দিনকে। এভাবে ২০১৪ সালে কর্তব্যরত অবস্থায় মারা গেছে ১০২ জন পুলিশ সদস্য। যারা পুলিশের বা সাধারণ মানুষের প্রাণ হরণ করবে তাদেরকে প্রতিহত করতে গিয়ে মৃত্যু পর্যন্ত ঘটনোর আত্মরক্ষার অধিকার স্বীকৃত রয়েছে বাংলাদেশের আইনে। পুলিশ আত্মরক্ষার সেই অধিকার সঠিকভাবে প্রয়োগ করেছে কি-না, অভিরিক্ত শক্তি প্রয়োগ করেছে কি-না তা অনুসন্ধান করেন ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের নেতৃত্বাধীন নির্বাহী কমিটি। এমনকি সেটা আদালতেও বিচারযোগ্য। আত্মরক্ষার অধিকার প্রয়োগে পুলিশের ভূমিকা আইনানুগ কি বে-আইনি; সেটা বলার এখতিয়ার রয়েছে ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট বা আদালতের। জুলাই মাসে পুলিশের সাথে বন্দুকযুদ্ধের কোন ঘটনাকে ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট এবং আদালত বিচার বহির্ভূত বলেননি। আগ বাড়িয়ে ওই এনজিও দুটো বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের ওপর হত্যাকাণ্ডের দায়ভার চাপাচ্ছে। যা পুলিশের কাজকে বিতর্কিত করছে; ভাবমূর্তিকে জনসমক্ষে ক্ষুণ্ণ করেছে। এটা মানহানিকর এবং ফৌজদারি অপরাধের শামিল। আদালতের ভূমিকায় অবতীর্ণ হবার অধিকার কোন এনজিওকে দেয়নি এদেশের আইন। তাই ওই বিচার বহির্ভূত হত্যাকাণ্ড বলে দুটো এনজিওর বক্তব্য এদেশের আইন এবং আদালতকে চ্যালেঞ্জ জানানোর শামিল।

সম্প্রদে যেভাবে নিজ দেশের বিরুদ্ধে লেখানোর জন্য পঞ্চম বাহিনীকে ব্যবহার করা হয়েছিল বাংলাদেশেও সেই অপতৎপরতা লক্ষ্যণীয়। বিনেশী অর্ধায়নে পরিচালিত বিভিন্ন সংস্থার রিপোর্ট এদেশের আইন-শৃংখলা, বিচার ব্যবস্থাকে বিতর্কিতভাবে পৃথিবীর মানুষের সামনে তুলে ধরা হয়। এতে বিদেশের কাছে বাংলাদেশের ভাবমূর্তি, বিনেশী বিনিয়োগ এবং রাজনৈতিক ও অন্যান্য ক্ষেত্রে নেতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়ে, যা নাশকতামূলক কাজ হিসেবে বিবেচিত।

এ ধরনের অপপ্রচার সম্পর্কে সতর্ক থাকার জন্য জনগণকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে। এ ধরনের সংগ্রামে পুলিশের বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ এবং আইনের শাসন সম্পর্কে বিরূপ মন্তব্য করলে- সেটার আইনগত ভিত্তি সম্পর্কে প্রশ্ন উত্থাপনের জন্য সচেতন সাংবাদিক মহলকেও অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে।

(মোঃ মজরুল ইসলাম)  
এআইজি (এমএডপিআর), বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা।

Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters  
Dhaka

Memo No. M and PR/1705

Date – 02.08.2015

**Media Release**

Police did not commit extrajudicial killings

**Statements of Odhikar and BAMAK are unlawful; only subversive campaigns**

Dhaka, 2 August 2015 AD

The report entitled 'Extra Judicial Killings' published in the newspapers, written by citing information from 'Odhikar' and 'Bangladesh Human Rights Commission' (BAMAK) has caught the attention of the Bangladesh Police. The Bangladesh Police reject the report outright and strongly protest the submissions [of the organisations]. In analyzing the statements, it is seen that the two organisations' statements contravene the existing laws of Bangladesh, which is synonymous to challenging Rule of Law and the judicial system.

In fact, the Bangladesh Police risk their lives to save the lives and property of the people of this country. As an example, in July Constable Pervez was stabbed and killed while trying to save the property of a tourist in Cox's Bazaar. The next day, Constable Alauddin was killed at Meherpur checkpost. In 2014, a total of 102 policemen were killed on duty. Bangladesh law allows for the voluntary causing of death of those who threaten the lives of police and ordinary citizens. An executive committee headed by a Magistrate investigates whether the police has implemented the right of self-defense correctly, or whether he has used excessive force. This matter can also be tried in court. Only the Magistrate or the court can determine whether the right of self-defense practiced by the police at a particular time was legal or unlawful. In the month of July, no Magistrate or court claimed that incidents where the police were engaged in gunfights were extrajudicial acts. Those two NGOs are jumping to the conclusion that Bangladesh Police are to be held responsible for acts of murder. This is making the activities of the police controversial; and lowering the reputation of the police in the eyes of the public. This is synonymous to defamation and a criminal act. This country's laws have not given any NGO the right to act like a court.



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Therefore, the statements made by those two NGOs regarding extrajudicial killings challenge the laws of this country and the courts.

It has been noticed that there is a similar attempt in Bangladesh to act like the 'Fifth Column' in Spain, which wrote against its own country. Reports from various organisations using foreign funds, are making this country's law enforcement and judicial systems look controversial in the eyes of the world. This has a negative impact on Bangladesh's reputation, foreign investment and political and other issues; and may be considered as subversive activities.

The public are especially requested to be aware of such negative campaigns. It is requested that enlightened journalists question the legal basis of any allegations against the police and negative comments against Rule of Law.

(Md. Nazrul Islam)

AIG (M and PR), Bangladesh Police

Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

Phone - 9588066

**(Translated Copy)**

২৯ অগাস্ট ২০১৫

গুমের শিকার ব্যক্তিদের পরিবার, আফাদ, এএলআরসি, এফআইডিএইচ এবং অধিকার এর যৌথ উদ্যোগে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য ডিকটিম পরিবারের সাক্ষ্য ও অভিজ্ঞতা শীর্ষক অনুষ্ঠানটি বাতিল করে দিয়েছে  
জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাব কর্তৃপক্ষ

অধিকার এবং গুমের শিকার ডিকটিম পরিবারগুলো গভীর উদ্বেগের সঙ্গে জানাচ্ছে যে, আগামীকাল ৩০ অগাস্ট ২০১৫ জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাব, ঢাকায় 'গুমের শিকার ব্যক্তিদের স্মরণে আন্তর্জাতিক দিবস' উপলক্ষে ডিকটিম পরিবারগুলোর অভিজ্ঞতা বিনিময়মূলক অনুষ্ঠান হবার কথা থাকলেও জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাব কর্তৃপক্ষ তা হঠাৎ করে বাতিল করে দিয়েছে। এই অনুষ্ঠান করার জন্য গত ১১ জুলাই প্রেসক্লাবের অডিটোরিয়াম বুকিং দেয়া হয়েছিল এবং হলভাড়া পরিশোধ করা হয়েছিল। আজ ২৯ অগাস্ট ২০১৫ বিকাল ৫.২০টায় প্রেসক্লাবের স্টাফ সেলিম মিয়া অধিকার এ ফোন করে জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাবের সাধারণ সম্পাদক কামরুল ইসলাম চৌধুরীর নির্দেশে প্রেসক্লাবের অডিটোরিয়ামের বুকিং বাতিলের কথা জানান। এর আগে দুপুরে কয়েকজন গুমের শিকার ব্যক্তিদের পরিবারকে বিভিন্ন অজ্ঞাত ফোন নম্বর থেকে ফোন করে উল্লেখিত অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহণ না করার জন্য ভয়ভীতি দেখানো হয়। এছাড়া আজ বিকাল ৫.৩০টায় দুইজন সাদাপোষাকধারী লোক অধিকার অফিসের মূল গেটে এসে অধিকার এর সেক্রেটারি আদিলুর রহমান খান এর অবস্থানের ব্যাপারে জানতে চায়।

অধিকার টিম ও ডিকটিম পরিবারবর্গ

### **National Press Club Authorities abruptly cancel a programme organised by the families of the disappeared, AFAD, ALRC, FIDH and Odhikar**

On 29 August 2015, the National Press Club authority has abruptly cancelled a programme, which was scheduled to be held on 30 August at the National Press Club auditorium. At 5:20 pm on 29 August, Odhikar received a phone call from Selim Mia, an employee of the National Press Club that, as per the instructions of the General Secretary, the Club was cancelling its permission; and would not allow Odhikar to host the programme at their premises. There was no valid reason given.

Today is the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances to remember all those who have been disappeared and to show solidarity and support to their families. At 9:30 am today, family members of victims of enforced disappearance were to come together at a solidarity meeting at the National Press Club. This was scheduled to be jointly organised by members of the families of the disappeared, the Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), the Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Odhikar.

At approximately 5:30 in the afternoon of 29 August, two men in plain clothes came up to the main gate of Odhikar and asked the security guard for the whereabouts of its Secretary, Advocate Adilur Rahman Khan. The men were carrying 'walkie-talkies'. This is something that has happened several times in the past.

The meeting was organised to allow family members of victims of disappearance to recall the incidents, remind everyone of the issue and demand justice and recovery. It would have been their platform. Earlier, Odhikar also received information that a few victim families who were supposed to attend had been threatened over the telephone and told not to participate. Their voices have been silenced once again.

**(Translated Copy)**



## এই ঈদে সকল বাংলালিংক গ্রাহকরা পাচ্ছেন বাটা'য় ১০% ছাড়!

ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ, ২৪ জুন, ২০১৫- বাংলালিংক বাংলাদেশের দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম মোবাইল ফোন অপারেটর বাংলালিংক তার সকল গ্রাহকদের জন্য বাটা'য় ১০% ছাড়ের সুযোগ নিয়ে এলো। এই প্রথমবারের মতো বাটা'য় রমজানে ঈদ-উল-ফিতর উপলক্ষে এমন কোনো ছাড় বা ২৬শে জুন থেকে শুরু হয়ে ঈদের দিন পর্যন্ত চলাবে।

অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন বাংলালিংক মার্কেটিং মিনিস্টার ডিরেক্টর সোলায়মান আলম; এ সময় বাংলালিংকের হেড অফ মার্কেট, লস্যান্টি এন্ড পটেন্সিয়াল এন্ড কাস্টমার বেজ ম্যানেজমেন্ট মাহবুবুল আলম উপস্থিত থেকে বাংলালিংকের পক্ষে চুক্তিতে স্বাক্ষর করেন।

অন্যান্যিক বাটা সু-কোলেশানী এর রিটেইল ম্যানেজার শিন কি লী এবং এ্যাডভার্টাইজিং এন্ড প্রমোশন ম্যানেজার রাজিব জাহান (ফরদৌস অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

বাংলালিংকের চীফ এক্সিকিউটিভ অফিসার শিয়াদ মাতারা অনুষ্ঠানে বলেন, “নিজস্ব উদ্ভাবন এবং সমাধান প্রদানে বাংলালিংক সব সময় গ্রাহকদের আরও কাছে থাকার চেষ্টা করে। আমি বিশ্বাস করি, আমাদের এই নতুন প্রচার গ্রাহকদের জন্য একটি আরামদায়ক রমজান এবং আনন্দিত ঈদ উদ্যাপনে সাহায্য করবে।”

নেদারল্যান্ডসভিত্তিক ডিঅপলকম লিমিটেডের সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠান বাংলালিংক হলো বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশের দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম মোবাইল ফোন অপারেটর; যাদের ৩০ মিলিয়ন বা ৩ কোটিরও বেশি গ্রাহক রয়েছে।

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## **BANGLALINK CUSTOMERS TO GET 10% DISCOUNT FROM BATA DURING EID!**

dhaka, bangladesh, 24 June, 2015- on the occasion eid-ul-fitr banglalink, the second largest telecom operator has signed a joint partnership under “priyojon” program with bata where all banglalink customers will get flat 10% discount from bata during eid. this is the first time that

bata is offering such loyalty offer during ramadan. starting from 26<sup>th</sup> June and be till Eid day  
banglalink subscribers can avail this offer.

present at the ceremony as chief guest was solaiman alam, marketing senior director, banglalink  
md. mahbubul alam bhuiyan, head of mass market, loyalty & partnership and customer base  
management, banglalink was also present and signed the agreement on behalf.

from bata show company sin kee lee, retail manager and razib jahan ferdous, advertising and  
promotion manager were present in the ceremony.

on the occasion banglalink ceo ziad shatara said, “banglalink always tries to provide customers a  
better value through new opportunities and innovative offers. i believe the new promotional offer  
will help our customers to have a joyous eid.”

banglalink is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest mobile telecom operator in bangladesh with over 30 million  
subscribers, and a subsidiary of netherlands based vimpelcom ltd.

**(Translated Copy)**

Afterwards, the above primarily translated copies were sent to the sub-editor’s desk for  
further corrections and editing.

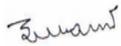
Sometimes, the *Daily Observer*, instead of using a small press release, just uses a picture  
and a caption with it. The following is an example where a picture and caption have been used  
instead of a small press release.

## Inaugural Ceremony of Book Fair-2015 | Press Release

### Press Release

Inaugural Ceremony of Book Fair-2015  
Jointly Organized by Uttara University and Bangla Academy

A Seven Days long Book Fair has been inaugurated on 07 June-2015, Sunday at the Uttara University Premise (House-07, Road-16, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230) jointly organized by the Uttara University and Bangla Academy. Honorable Education Minister, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, Ministry of Education, the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the Book Fair. Prof. Emeritus Dr. Anisuzzaman, Chairman of the Bangla Academy along with renowned folklorist Prof. Shamsuzzaman Khan attended the fair as the special guest. In this book fair, welcome speech was given by Prof. M. Azizur Rhaman, Ph.D., Vice-Chancellor of Uttara University. Prof. Dr. Eaysmin Ara Lekha, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Uttara University expressed the vote of thanks. Mr. Altaf Hossain, Director General (In-Charge), Bangla Academy presided over the inaugural ceremony. Besides, Mr. Badrul Iqbal, Chairman of the Uttara University Trustee Board was also present in the inauguration ceremony. Adviser, Prof. Faez M. Serjul Haque, Treasurer, Prof. Mumtaz Begum, Registrar, Kazi Mahiuddin and the Controller of Examination, Prof. A. K. M. Mozzammel Haque were also present in the ceremony. Along with them, Dean, Chairpersons and Heads of Department of different Schools and Departments of Uttara University attended in the ceremony. In addition, the high officials of the Bangla Academy and the officials of all levels of Uttara University were also present. In this program, the importance of reading books and its impact on creation of knowledge based society had greatly been discussed. The honorable Education Minister, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid visited the book fair and talked to the visitors. The Seven Days Long Book Fair will end on 13 June 2015 in the evening. You are requested to publish or telecast the news in your esteemed channel or newspaper in your everyday's schedule.



(Kazi Mahiuddin)  
Registrar  
Uttara University



Photo: Honourable Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid was delivering his speech in a seven days long book fair's inauguration ceremony started from Sunday at Uttara University.

## **Conclusion**

My internship has been an excellent experience for me. My internship at the *Daily Observer* newspaper was the first experience for me to be interning in any professional field. I am glad to have had the *Daily Observer* as the place of my first work experience. I had no idea about the challenges that were faced after putting my foot in the professional world. I have been able to meet and network with many people I am sure they will be able to help me again in the future if needed.

The most important think that I have learned through this internship is self- motivation. When I started my journey at the *Daily Observer*, I did not think that I was going to be able to make myself sit in an office for eight hours a day, seven days a week. Once I realized what I had to do, I organized my work accordingly so that I was not wasting my hours. I got to know that I needed to be organized in order to receive a good feedback from my internship supervisor. During this three month internship, I had to learn how to motivate myself while being in the office for so many hours. Moreover, I believe that my experience will help me avoid the common dilemma that many students face after graduation. I have gained practical work experience related to a newspaper. This will help me satisfy the employers who are looking for experienced candidates. My internship experience also helped me explore and make decisions about my future career options. It helped me combine my academic knowledge with hands-on work experience. Through my internship at the *Daily Observer*, I practically learned the journalistic way of writing. I also came to know the structure of a newspaper agency, the activities of the different sectors of that agency, the fundamentals of editing, advertising and

translation. I came to know the pre and post processes of printing a newspaper. Moreover, my internship at the *Daily Observer* also helped me develop my communication and editing skills.

The work environment at the *Daily Observer* was very nice, friendly and suitable for me. I worked in different departments of the newspaper during most days of my internship period. I interned at the editing and advertising departments. During this time, I received massive support from the people associated with the *Daily Observer*. However, there were some exceptions who were not interested to talk to me. In fact, they did not appreciate my presence. In spite of this, I will still say that the overall working atmosphere at the *Daily Observer* was quite nice and supportive for me. All the members and staff of the *Daily Observer* are educated, trained, experienced and skilled in both field and management level. This was also very helpful for me.

I am very thankful to my internship supervisor Ms. Roohi Huda, who checked my reflective papers and provided feedbacks during my internship period. I feel like a more well rounded person now, after having both textbook and practical knowledge about print journalism.

## **Work Cited**

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