

**A report on the Internship at**  
***New Age***

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**A report on the Internship at**

*New Age*

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## **Acknowledgement**

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**Rokaiya Sharmin Erina**

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## Introduction

“A newspaper is the center of a community, it’s one of the tent poles of the community, and that’s not going to be replaced by websites and blogs”-

Michael Connelly

The statement of the above was quoted by the famous author Michael Connelly that undoubtedly expresses the significance of both news and newspaper. Newspaper is the source of people getting informed about almost anything that’s happening around. The concept of “News” is also varied based on different interpretations people make. The most general definition of news is the gathered and collected information that are served in an organized way, transformation of the chaotic events into structured materials for the purpose of letting people know about the notorious episodes taking place all over the world. Nowadays, the world is becoming so smaller due to globalisation, it’s become very easy to connect people from all over the world with the use of technology, social media platforms, print media, broadcast media and the essence of journalism, hence, is undeniable.

Unlike today’s world, journalism did not have too many options for the distribution of news, it started with print media, like newspapers, magazines, books etc. The first ever product of journalism was published in Rome, around 59 BC. Named ‘*Acta Diurna*’. However, the ‘*Relation*’ was perceived to be the first newspaper of the world, which was published in Antwerp in 1605. In the earlier days of the print media, the government imposed restrictions and taxes on press to put a barrier on the journalistic freedom. Then, as people got more educated and concerned, the limitation was removed with time. Now, we see the mass development in the journalism sector.

I never really had a pre-plan to study on journalism and work in the field. However, I have interacted with friends and relatives who are journalists and what they do always fascinated my mind. Their job seemed very intriguing to me from the very beginning. Even though I did not have any specific intention of joining the newspaper industry, I was always interested in writing. I enjoy writing more than any other things. I joined BRAC University to do bachelors of Arts in English and chose Media and cultural studies as my major over any other department or subject because I knew that I would enjoy doing what would be required for the completion of the degree.

I wanted to do my internship in two of the most remarkable English daily newspapers in Bangladesh- *Daily Star* and *New Age*. Since the location, timing and everything else seemed more convenient to me, I chose *New Age* at the end. Also, the environment there was very flexible, everyone around my desk was very helpful and friendly. I started learning things from the day of my joining which was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 2018. Even though I was scared at the early period of my internship, my supervisor made it very easy for me accepting my flaws and lack of knowledge about certain things. He did assure me that in order to learn things it is okay to make mistakes.

When I came out of this organization after three months, I realized that my writing skill has improved remarkably and now whenever I read a newspaper, I am able to detect any blunder and can recognize the format and writing styles that I learned there. Like every other newspaper, *New Age* also has its own style of writing and formatting procedure. I did not learn these things just in day. The three months of journey helped me in understanding new things and I will be portraying that on my Internship report. On the whole, I am going to be discussing about the entire experience I had in *New Age* during the internship and how it is reflected on my real life.

## Introducing a Brief History of the New Age



Fig. 1: New Age

*New Age*, The Outspoken daily, first started its journey on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 2003. The founder of this English daily is A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan. Shahidullah Khan, the Chairman of the Editorial Board ASM published the newspaper first on the side of Media New Age Ltd. Presently, the Editor of this daily is Nurul Kabir. Mr. Kabir is known because of his non-biased and bold opinions who do not hesitate in expressing the truth. It seems justified for a newspaper to be run by a leader like that. He is a journalist, writer, columnist, editor, and activist, all at the same time.

*New Age* is perceived broadly since of its non-biased courageous and honest publication arrangement. People can have access in the printing version as well as the online version of this daily newspaper. The E-paper become available after 12:00 AM. There are around 200 reporters working in *New Age* currently and it consists of 20 pages in total, which can sometimes exceed depending on the content and size of the information. There is an additional section of the newspaper named “*Trends and Youth*”. The 20 pages provide creditable news about both national and international political issues, sports, entertainment, business, technology, lifestyle and many more.

The two prominent news agencies of Bangladesh- BSS (Bangladesh Shongbad Shongstha) and UNB(United News of Bangladesh) are signed up by *New Age* and it also collects news from them. It correspondingly is connected to Reuters and Agence France Presse in order to have access in the internal news. This prominent daily has its own guide book as well named “**The Style book of *New Age***” that is followed by the correspondents to organize the news in their own writing style.

New Age tries to supply strong and upright news to its audience and readers. It has been known as a solid production for a long time indeed in questionable political circumstances. Their goal and objective is to be out and out unbiased and provide the exact news by remaining committed to its subscribers.



## **My Internship Experience**

I was assigned to sit in the national desk as a correspondent in the *New Age*. There I used to be given press release based on which I had to write the news reports. Not only I gained expertise on this particular section, but also I got to explore some other parts like international news, entertainment and sports as I got to observe how the reporters do their appointed work. To be honest, the experience for me was not as difficult and scary as I thought it would be in the beginning. Mostly, the credit goes to the friendly and relaxed environment of the office. Everyone had a happy and kind vibe that made me very comfortable in working there.

My Main supervisor was Farid Ahmed, the deputy editor of *New Age* who handed me to another supervisor Abu Shyem Akhund, the senior sub-editor of the daily, who helped me mostly and he would correct my mistakes by sentences, if I had any confusion or question about anything, I would go directly to Mr. Akhund. I was taking three other courses along with my internship during that semester, so it was important for me to be regular on the other courses as well as be engaged in writing the assignments, attending the quiz and other exams. I am luckily that both my supervisors were highly understanding about this matter while a kit of other interns would complain that their supervisors are not as much as relaxed like them regarding these issues.

On my first two weeks of working experience, I was basically asked to watch, observe and learn from the other skillful reporters which I did and later was given press releases based on the national news to write reports. As I have mentioned earlier, I also worked in the other desks, where I usually helped the reporters and edit the reports.

Primarily, my general work there was to write reports, check and double-check the authenticity of the information delivered to us, detect any misspelling, translating from Bangla to English when the press release or the hard news stories used to be written in Bangla. It certainly was not something easy to do, because in most of the cases they wanted literal translation which was quite tough for me. Word to word translation is to be done with proper knowledge, so I had to search a lot for the missing choice of Bangla words from my vocabulary.

As a matter of fact, *New Age* has its own house style for writing news that all the reporters had to follow. So I could not really use any formula that I learned before, as the formula was not similar here. Yet, I was able to use a lot of knowledge in doing my work that I had from my media courses. So, before, in my lectures I only studied of how things work in the print media, but my internship had given me the opportunity to gain that experience in my practical life.

## Press Release

Press release is the form of communication between the two parties, which are the PR people and the media. The information that are gathered to serve it to the public is carried by the press release that are sent to different media organisations so that they filter what is written inside and organise and restructure it if needed, not going too far from the main concept of the press release.

The information consisting in Press-releases come in the form of a pyramid where it starts with the introduction and ends with providing the way of connecting to them. A visual figure of a press-release pyramid is given below:

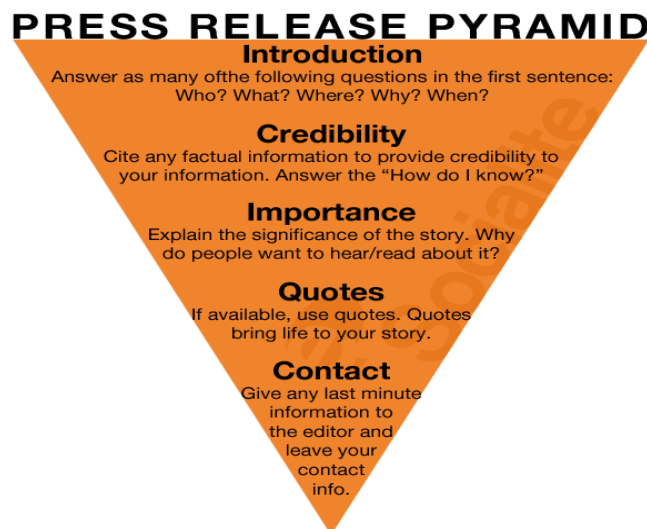


Fig. 2: press release pyramid

Picture source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/25755029090036255/>

From the above figure, it is clear that the information in the press release is organised step by step, from the most important to the least important one. The additional information like details, quotations are always in the middle.

My job was to convert the press-releases to news report, so the entire format used to be changed. While transforming it to a news story, I always had to keep in mind that unnecessary information should always be eliminated. Because, the news reports are usually very specific and short. Not to mention, I also had to decide the article name or caption that would be no similar to the caption of the given press release. The caption must be very concise, relevant and attention getting. Hence, it was quite difficult for me to keep it limited and succinct. The important names of the people, places, events, dates etc. are also highly fundamental to include in the news report.

Before writing the news article, I had to find what the news was about which I could get from the headline. The significance of the news can be caught easily just by a glance at the heading and first paragraph. Using the 5 W's is a must while writing, so we have to dig the whole press release to know all about the W's- What, why when, where and who?

New Age has its own way of writing news articles that I had to follow during making the reports based on the press releases. The rules used to be imposed on abbreviations, capital letters, citations, address, date formats etc. For example: 'Md.' Instead of 'Mohammad', 'prof', 'VC' instead of 'Professor' and 'Vice-chancellor'. Short forms were more preferred to use in the headings. For example, I captioned one article: 'Govt's more active role sought for child protection'. Here I used Govt., the short version of 'Government'.

## Translation theories

While doing the translation course in the university, I could never imagine that I would use this in my internship or in practical life. Translating words was one of the major obstructions that I faced. Because, the press-releases used to come from the different parts of the country and most of the people here speak and write in Bangla. Correspondents from some distant region would use some hard, uncommonly heard Bangla words that are very difficult to convert into English. At first, I was having complications in finding the correct words, when some of the seniors there helped me out.

In my 'ENG 465: Translation studies', I learned that there are a few approaches that are taken for translation which are:

- The sociolinguistic approach
- The communicative approach
- The hermeneutic approach
- The linguistic approach
- The literary approach
- The semiotic approach

I did not have to use all these theories, only the ones that were relevant to the news information were used. Mostly, the literary approach or word for word approach was used in order to keep the originality of the important words.

## News reports

During my internship of three months, I have written some press releases as well as hard news stories that are mostly based on the national news. I have helped my fellow superior in the International, entertainment and sports desk too. I made many mistakes and through them I learned as my supervisor was very patient and I would learn new things from him every day. I used everything that I learned in my Eng401: Editing, Eng404: Copywriting and Eng440: English for Print Media courses. Specially, the inverted pyramid style format was used a lot in the news reports.

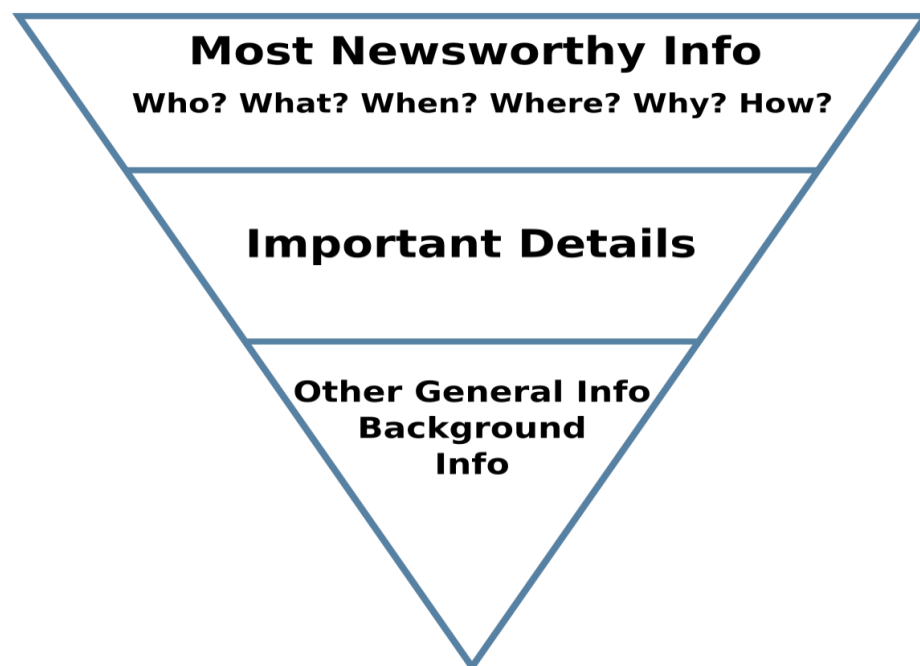


Fig. 3: Inverted Pyramid

Source: Google Image

The fact about inverted pyramid style is that the most newsworthy information are always on the top while the least compelling ones are kept at the end. It's because the most important one must grab the readers' attention first. The major information is emphasised on the beginning since it builds the seriousness of the story and frame a sense of anticipation in the audience for knowing about the news.

On the first day of my work, I wrote a report titled "BRTA realises fines in city over traffic violations". I of course made a lot of mistakes since it was my first time and figured out the problems while my supervisor checked the report. First and foremost thing I was asked to remember is that the most important rule of writing a report is to be precise and specific. Abandoning unnecessary, tiny details while writing a report is a must. In addition, the heading should be very particular and literal. The less words are there, the more attractive it would be, and hence the edited version of my report was quite narrowed down.



**BRTA realises fines in city over traffic violations**

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:37, Jun 06, 2018 | Updated: 00:48, Jun 06, 2018

**Byline**

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, in separate drives, realised around Tk 2,29,900 in fines in Dhaka and its adjacent areas for violation of traffic rules on Tuesday.

The authorities conducted four mobile courts from 10:00am to 5:00pm in the city and realised the fines in 80 cases filed under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, said a press release on issued by the BRTA.

BRTA authorities, led by its executive magistrate Md Munibur Rahman, conducted a mobile court at Manik Nagar and realised Tk 35,000 in fines in 17 cases filed over traffic irregularities.

The BRTA authorities, led by BRTA executive magistrate Md Mazharul Islam, conducted a mobile court at Shanir Akhra and realised Tk 31,000 in fines in 18 cases filed over traffic irregularities.

Another BRTA mobile court, led by BRTA executive magistrate Md Shakhawat Hossain, conducted a drive in Tikatuli area where it realised Tk 65,600 in fines in 20 cases filed over traffic violations. The court also sent one motor vehicle to the dumping station.

A fourth mobile court, led by BRTA executive magistrate Abdur Rahim Sujon, conducted a drive in Baipail area and realised fines worth Tk 98,300 in 25 cases filed under the ordinance for traffic irregularities.

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Fig. 4: News report

Source: New Age

The above picture shows a byline that I used. A byline is used under the heading, its usually like ‘Our correspondent, Rajshahi”, this is to give people the identity of the person who writes the article.

Another time, I had to cover a story based on a press release captioned “Talent breeding programme ‘Brain Warmer’ held at ULAB”. It was significant to give the reference of the source of news in my report. For instance, I wrote “MACOMM/Dentsu and Media Axis/Carat designed and initiated the event in association with ULAB to generate a creative talent pool in brand and communication for the coming days, said a press release of the university issued on Monday.” In this one, I kept the original information inorder to maintain the authenticity and accuracy of the news.

In like manner, I worked again with both press release and hard news story. I wrote two reports, one of which had the heading “Seminar on ‘Good governance, Office management & Financial Management’ held at BUP”. While writing the report, I was cautious of using 5 W’s and 1 H of the news composition that are "who, what, where, when, why and how". That is to say, who arranged the seminar, what was it about, where and when was it held, why it was so influential and how was it moderated, these questions I had to cover in the news report.

The other report was captioned “Transport strike to be taken place in six districts of Mymensingh”. A problem I faced while writing this one was how to keep the Bengali word written in the hard news story. There were several Bengali words in the news, I was confused if I would keep the original form or not because those words are given names of institutions and I was advised to not to change some specific words, for example, for the name ‘Kobi kazi Nazrul Islam University’, I did not use ‘Poet’ instead of ‘Kobi’. On contrast, I had to use the English version of ‘Bangladesh malik-sromik oikko porishod’ which was ‘Bangladesh Owners and workers union



council’. The writing style of the reports were familiar to me since I have already learned about the formats from my media courses.

I write a news article based on a hard news story that I got, I was asked to give the story a very precise title, so it was titled as ‘sale of advance bus tickets starts’. I had to follow the ‘inverted pyramid’ formula here, also known as ‘front-loading’ since the readers usually give up reading long before they reach to the end of the story. Hence, important and the most significant information have to be displayed in the beginning of the description. I kept the unavoidable data like how, from where and for which dates people are buying tickets in the intro part and then rest of additional details of people suffering and opinions of related people were kept at the end. My supervisor informed me that in case of writing article on hard news stories, it’s mandatory to follow the inverted pyramid style.

An article about strike was translated from a Bangla excerpt and the caption I had given was ‘Strike suspended at Ctg Pvt Hospital’. The hard news story from where I converted the news was very large in size, and was full of a lot of additional information, in effect, I cut out some sentences skipping the least important ones. I used the short forms of some words, such as, ‘Pvt’ instead of ‘Private’, ‘Ctg’ instead of ‘Chittagong’ etc. Because New Age supports using abbreviation for their news writing format. The lead of an article is supposed to be very concise in 35-45 words that would summarize the entire point of the news subject. Not to mention using the Subject-verb-object formula is needed to be kept in mind to make the article very precise and short.

I wrote two other reports named, one was ‘Speakers slams AL govt for its “fascist attitude”’. This one was solely a political news, thus I restrain myself from including anything that would make me look like an opinionated reporter. I strictly bound myself only in the given information of the press release. For instance, I first wrote ‘The judge did not validate the action of AL of

murdering people as an excuse of eradicating the usage of drugs in the society since drugs are becoming a threat for the young generation, the judge should have wanted a clear explanation of AL having a legal license of killing people, he thinks”. This sentence has too many extra redundant words so I later corrected that and wrote ‘He also criticized the judges for remaining mum on this current killing of people in the name of anti-drug drive.’

Not only did I worked for the press-releases and hard news stories, but also I looked over the magazine side as well. The magazine is published in Thursday and the contents, writing style, format and everything is very different than writing the daily copy consisting of news and happenings in the country and around the world. The most enjoyable thing I found about a magazine is, there is absolutely no limit in writing one’s heart out since there is no political agenda or sensitive material. In the magazine, feature writing format is used while in the newspaper, the inverted pyramid is used which is not at all suitable for the magazine. In fact, the most important information is never shown in the beginning of an article in the magazine. A magazine has a cover for a particular story, filled with colors and a lot of interesting contents to hook with the audience’s heedfulness. Often, magazines do discuss about people, event, festival, current fashion, religion of the world or can be a lot serious topic too, but is always written in an eloquent manner. Unlike newspaper, readers go for the magazines to get the relaxed and no pressure vibe.

There are two styles of writing these types of articles, 1) Personal view, and 2) individual style. As stated above, one can write according to their own desire mixing all sorts of emotions appropriate for the audience. That is to state, they have Pahela Falgun edition, Pahela Boishkah Edition, Eid/Christmas Edition etc.

The first report was titled as “DMP chief asks protesters to return to classrooms”. Here, I also kept a shoulder, in other words, a Kicker of the title which was “Traffic week begins Sunday taking

spirit of students' movement into consideration". The kicker is basically used across the width of the main headline to fill the space with additional highlighting information. The shoulder always uses the subject of the story to interpret the meaning of the main caption. My supervisor taught me to write a shoulder using a few tactics, because it also has to be very precise and specific.

One report that I did not write but edited for the daily was titled as "Mob burn covered van after it kills college student in Gazipur". While editing this one, I got confused because I was not sure about how legitimate and trustworthy this news was. So, after wanting help from my supervisor Mr. Ahmed, I got the surety of the reliability given news on account of my supervisor calling the people from the press release and got reassured about the news.

As has been noted, I made mistakes while making the news reports, I made progresses too. I was not only helped by my supervisors and other senior reporters, my friends who studied in the same area also helped me in a remarkable manner. So, after the completion of my 12 weeks of internship, I was able to acquire new insight about the print media and gained expertise in writing.

## Theories

One of the most interesting things about my internship was, I was able to relate a lot of theories that I learned in class to my time of internship at *New Age*. I never imagined that the tough theories would actually be useful in practical life since like a lot of other students, I also assumed that those were studied just for grades. I was happy as well as surprised to have them used in my constructive and factual experience. I was happy because I was able to use something in real life that I learned in my ENG 331: introduction to cultural studies course that was instructed by Professor Firdous Azim. At the same time I was surprised as I found the theories very easy and everything started becoming clearer to me while applying in my work observation. Some of the theories that I used are:

- **Panopticon and Gaze:** This phrase is usually very symbolic, it means to present the controlling but not exactly dominant part of the society that oversees at all the other parts of the society.

“...The panopticon must not be understood as a dream building: it is the diagram of a mechanism of power reduced to its ideal form. (Foucault, Michel, *Discipline and Punish*, 1977)

For the better understanding of a Panopticon, it talks about towers or buildings with circular courtyards like schools, temples, prison or even a hospital from where someone superior gazes at everyone and controls what they are doing and this is how these towers are actually made. After an architect designs a building, it's not possible for the laborers to complete the entire construction work without any supervision. For instance, when I worked in the

English Daily, I was supervised and my mistakes and flaws were controlled by the person who was assigned to supervise me.

The theory of ‘Panopticon and gaze’ is very much connected to media, because to collect data, news, information, all the journalists and reporters and media persons have to be so aware and observing that they do not miss a single news. Their gazes are kept in their strongest form, as they monitor and scrutinize everything while being mindful. The audience knows it well that every deed across the country is getting attention of certain people. No matter whatever one does, their deed does not end without being contemplated at all. Under this circumstance, everyone is more aware and controlled in their own actions and commission.

- **Tourists and vagabonds:** “We are either tourists in this world: we want to experience life to the full; we are nomadic by choice. We have opportunities in life. We fear turning into a vagabond”- through these lines Zygmunt Bauman how intellectually and thoughtfully associates human life with both touristic and vagabond life. According to his own words “There is no natural border anymore”, which clearly points at the rampant and unrestrained world of today that is becoming smaller day by day by reducing the distance through technology.

Identically, people have no limit of anything now, the more they get, the more they want. Their relentless journey of accomplishing more and craving more never stops. It is unstoppable because in today’s world a human knows that there is no end of anything. Everything has become so attainable that nothing is reserved in our dreams anymore. When the same theory I administered in the place where I worked, that there was this constant

search of truth and news to feed people and the world, because people also are hungry for the news. Newspaper can also be considered as consumerists sometimes who do things for people but at the same time they have this power over the public for their own benefits. They would never leave the public alone, or give them the space to breath. When there are too many foods to eat, one can easily get confused to choose between the items, and some can even get choked while trying to digest all the food at the same time. This is how Bauman's theory connected with the requirement and satisfaction of the customers.

## Personal Account

There is a saying, that is, “You can’t truly understand something until it happens to you”. For me, the same happened, I could never really realize the true essence of the lessons and theories I have learned during my classes held in the University. My internship experience made it clearer to me that why is it important to attend classes and lectures. Not only my media courses helped, I would say, the other courses had contribution as well to cooperate me in going through this entire period of internship. Some things are not learnt decently, but in passive manner it can be attained too.

At the end of my internship, I learned about the ways journalists gather informative, give them the size and shape to make it easier for the readers. I have known about all the background stories behind the hard work reporters do. My internship was not always easy, I had faced difficulties at time and sometimes overcame with the help of others and at times on my own.

There was always an immediacy of getting the work done in a very little time, so I had to brainstorm in a limited time and often failed. But that only taught me how to do it in a more productive way. I had to be very careful about not making any repetition of an information, adding unnecessary information, words and jargons, using too much complicated words for the people to understand. I also grew a sense of responsibility since I realized that the news article I am writing will go door-to-door the next morning, so anyone being misguided due to a little mistake of mine should not be fair at all.

Al in all, I can say that I did enjoy my internship and I could not ask for a better place to do it. My supervisors along with the other superiors were down to earth, communicative and empathetic. I had cultivated an attachment with them as well. I am very much grateful to my respective faculties and my supervisor as well for being so kind and generous. Their guidance, instruction and direction have brought me to the place where I am today.



## Conclusion

This individual report portrays my overall working experience during my internship in the *New Age*. It focuses on discussing my work environment as well as the detailed participation and practice I had. This report comments mostly on the elaborated topics of the print media theories, press release and news reports.

Print media is the main source of letting people be updated about the recent happenings around the world. Even though a lot of other platforms in the Internet is taking the place of the newspaper due to the availability and easiness to access, the quality, substance and significance of the newspaper cannot be attained by anything else. I am very grateful for the completion of my internship with a success and connecting my study theories to my practical field of work and hoping to connect the doctrines I learned about more in my future life. This entire journey has been an immensely amazing existence in my life that helped me to widen my knowledge in conjunction with my perspective.

## Appendix

Some of my news reports and articles that I edited got published in New Age are collected from the news archive and are attached below:

### Appendix 1:

## BRTA realises fines in city over traffic violations

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:57, Jun 05, 2018 | Updated: 01:01, Jun 05, 2018



The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, in separate drives, realised around Tk 1,49,200 in fines in Dhaka and its adjacent areas for violation of traffic rules on Monday.

The authorities conducted four mobile courts from 10:00am to 5:00pm in the city and realised the fines in 58 cases filed under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, said a press release on issued by the BRTA.

BRTA authorities, led by its executive magistrate Md Munibur Rahman, conducted a mobile court in Japan Garden City area and realised Tk 22,600 in fines in nine cases filed over traffic irregularities.

The BRTA authorities, led by BRTA executive magistrate Md Mazharul Islam, conducted a mobile court at Tejgaon and realised Tk 62,000 in fines in 22 cases filed over traffic irregularities.

Another BRTA mobile court, led by BRTA executive magistrate Md Shakhawat Hossain, conducted a drive at Sayedabad and realised fines worth Tk 38,600 in 14 cases filed under the ordinance for traffic irregularities.

A fourth mobile court, led by BRTA executive magistrate Abdur Rahim Sujon, conducted a drive in Notun Bazar area where it realised Tk 26,000 in fines in 13 cases filed over traffic violations.

The BRTA was carrying on drives in various parts of the city to check irregularities and traffic violations in the transport sector.

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## Appendix 2:

# Sale of advance bus tickets starts

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:30, May 31,2018 | Updated: 01:04, May 31,2018

With Eid-ul-Fitr approaching, people are now crowding different inter-district bus counters selling advance tickets in the capital on Wednesday.

People are mostly buying tickets for journeys between June 13 and June 14 as this year the Eid is likely to be held on June 16 depending of moon sighting and three-day Eid vacation begins on June 15.

Unlike previous years, this year the crowd was thinner, said transport operators.

Leaders of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association announced that they would to start selling advance tickets for journeys between June 9 and June 15 on Wednesday at Gabtoli terminal, Kalyanpur, Asad Gate, Shymoli, Kalabagan, and Rajarbagh.

Since morning, people rushed to the Gabtoli bus terminal and other counters along Mirpur road and formed queues to avail their tickets.

They were seen waiting for their lucky turn at the counters of Shyamoli, Hanif, Nabil, TR Travels and SR Travels companies early in the morning to buy tickets mainly for northern and south-western districts.

Some passengers alleged that they did not get tickets, especially for journey on June 14, and the transport operators were charging extra.

Transport operators, however, claimed that they were collecting the actual fare from passengers during Eid while they had to charge lower than actual fare round the year.

During eid the return buses came without almost any passengers, they added.

Shymoli Paribahan managing director and a senior association leader Ramesh Chandra Ghosh told New Age that this year the gathering of ticket seekers were not huge.

'Many tickets are being sold via internet and it is a working day,' he said.

He said the rush would increase at the weekends and added that selling of advance tickets would continue.

Bad condition of roads could be a reason behind the poor response, some association leaders observed.

Passengers usually get on long-route buses for south-eastern, eastern and middle region routes at Saidabad and Mohakhali bus terminals without advance tickets.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation is yet to fix the date for selling advance tickets.

## Appendix 3:

# Number of Hijra stands at 11,039, says minister

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:37, Jun 24, 2018



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Social welfare minister Rashed Khan Menon on Saturday told the parliament that the number of Hijra people stood at 11,039 in the country.

He revealed the figure of the third gender community replying to a tabled question from Awami League lawmaker Mohibur Rahman Manik.

The minister, however, said no survey was conducted over the number of Hijra in Bangladesh, though a significant number of the country's population belonged to the Hijra community.

He said the number of Hijra was 11,039 as per the information received from the deputy directors of the social service department.

He said that government was providing them with employment training on various trades, including haircutting, beautification, driving, farming, handicrafts, computer, mobile phone, television, refrigerator, air condition, automobile repairing, security guard and Ansar and VDP.

On completion of the training, each Hijra person is given Tk 10,000 as financial assistance for their rehabilitation, he added.

In 2017-18 fiscal year, some 1,900 Hijra persons were given training, Menon said.

Replying to another tabled question from AL lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah, housing and public works minister Mosharraf Hossain said Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha evicted some 2,339 illegal establishments from January 10, 2016, to May 31, 2018.

The minister said Rajuk also stopped commercial or non-residential activities in 87 residential buildings during the time.

Besides, Rajuk realised a fine of Tk 669.6 lakh during the same period, he said.

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**Appendix 4:**

# UGC to accord reception to 3 new national professors

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:05, Jun 26, 2018



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University Grants Commission will accord reception to the newly appointed three national professors, said a commission statement on Monday.

The government on June 19 appointed three eminent educationists of the country as national professors for the next five years.

They are professor emeritus Rafiqul Islam, adviser of Bangla Study Centre of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, professor emeritus Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University and professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, former teacher of civil engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

UGC will arrange the ceremony on July 9, at its conference room and education minister Nurul Islam Nahid is expected to be present as chief guest and secondary and higher education division secretary Sohrab Hossain will be present as special guest.

UGC chairman Professor Abdul Mannan will preside over the reception.

According to circular, the newly appointed national professors will perform their duties and avail facilities as per Bangladesh National Professor (Appointment, Conditions and Facilities) Rules 1981 (Amended).

Earlier in June 2011 five educationists were appointed as national professor.

## Appendix 5:

# Speakers slam AL govt for its 'fascist attitude'

Staff Correspondent | Published: 01:03, Jul 12, 2018 | Updated: 11:20, Jul 12, 2018



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Speakers, including politicians and intellectuals, on Wednesday slammed the ruling Awami League-led government for its 'fascist attitude' to all types of demonstrations and movements.

They slammed the government while they were addressing a roundtable discussion held at National Press Club in the capital.

Jatiya Mukti Council president Badruddin Umar presided over the discussion and said, 'Sheikh Hasina is doing and saying whatever she wants...she can also change the name of the country and the capital after her father's name.'

'She can change the name of the country as "Mujib Desh" or "Mujibabad",' he added.

Professor Akmal Hossain said, 'the present government and its law enforcement agencies are continuously repressing the country's people.'

'The repressions have represented the fascist attitude of the government,' he said while hosting the discussion.

Freedom fighter Zafrullah Chowdhury compared the activities of current government with Pakistan's Ayub Khan's regime.

'The model of Dhaka and the previous Rawalpindi model are same...thus the government also branded the quota reform movement in many terms,' he said.

He also criticised the judges for remaining mum on the current killing of people in the name of anti-drug drive.

Revolutionary Workers' Party of Bangladesh general secretary Saiful Haque said, 'All types of organisations, including constitutional and law enforcement agencies in the country, have been filled with the like-minded people of ruling Awami League in last nine years.'

'The prime minister is fearing even the sound of falling leaves...that's why all types of movement were muted at the begining,' he said.

Nagarik Oikya convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the country has almost ruined by the incumbent government's 'fascist activities'.

Referring the prime minister's statement in parliament on abolishing quota reform, he said, that was a 'cunning' statement of the PM.

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## Appendix 6:

# Police foil Zia Parishad's programme

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:05, Jul 15, 2018



Police on Saturday foiled a pre-scheduled discussion programme organised by Zia Parishad at Institution of Engineers in Dhaka.

The parishad, a platform of the pro-Bangladesh Nationalist Party professionals, organised the programme to step up its demand for release of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Zia Parishad chairman Kabir Murad told New Age that they had submitted an application to Dhaka Metropolitan Police authority on July 2 seeking permission and police gave them 'verbal permission.' As a large number professionals, including university teachers, doctors, and engineers, gathered at the venue at about 10:30am, a police officer turned up and asked the organisers to show the letter of permission, Kabir said.

When organisers failed to show papers, the officer closed the programme, said Zia Parishad chairman.

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who was invited at the programme as a chief guest, went to the venue and protested at and condemned the police action terming it an example of 'autocratic behaviour'.

Talking to journalists at the spot, Fakhrul said the government was not allowing minimum space to exercise freedom of expression.

The government was emerging as a 'horrible fascist force,' Fakhrul lamented.

## Appendix 7:

# DMP chief ask protesters to return to classrooms

Traffic Week begins Sunday taking spirit of students' movement into consideration

Staff Correspondent | Published: 15:43, Aug 04, 2018




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DMP commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia holds a press conference in Dhaka on Saturday. — New Age photo

Police will begin observing traffic week from Sunday taking 'tough line' on violators of traffic laws and ensuring enhanced punishments for offences taking into consideration the spirit of the ongoing students movement against anarchy in transport sector.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia made the announcement at a news conference on Saturday.

He thanked the students for performing the heavy tasks which police failed to do. 'We salute them... We have moral support to their demands,' he said.



New Age, Dhaka

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