

Report On

Observing Different Aspects of Print Media Journalism
at *The Daily Observer*

By

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An internship report submitted to the Department of English and Humanities in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in English

Department of English and Humanities
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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

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

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Acknowledgement

“Alhamdulillah for everything. We can never thank Allah enough for the countless bounties He blessed us with.”

Where I stand today, is only because of my parents. I want to express my gratitude and love to my mother, Mrs. Shamima Rahman and my father, Md. Habibur Rahman, also my other family members for their constant support and encouragement through thick and thin.

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Glossary

Gaze	A silent unknown overseer of the society.
Panopticon	A tower at the center from which prisoners of each cell could be observed all the time.
Inverted Pyramid Structure	It illustrates how information should be prioritized and structured
Mediascapes	A world created by media where no radical barrier is evident.

Chapter 1

Introduction

A famous playwright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard inspired me to decide that I wanted to pursue journalism as my profession. He said that, "I still believe that if your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more immediate short-term weapon," This refers to the idea that through writing one can create a better place to live. Being a person who is an introvert, I felt penning down and publishing my voice is the best legal form of fighting back against the violence and injustice of the society. Therefore, I decided to pursue Media and Cultural Studies as my area of concentration as a requirement to complete my Bachelor of Arts in English from the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University. Moreover, I knew, it has the ability which would help me to inspire, motivate, and influence public opinion.

At present media is the most powerful tool in the world for people of all classes. We live in an era where every aspect of human life is hugely influenced by media. Thus people cannot even imagine their lives without media these days. However, in this age of globalization, people get 'news' from different sources. Among other sources, the hard copy of the newspaper still remain popular today because of its credibility. A journalist takes a lot of time to write a report after a lot of research. On the contrary, anyone can say anything regarding a matter on social media with verification. That is why print media is still considered to be the number one source for us to be knowledgeable and stay up-to-date.

Christiane Amanpour, British-Iranian journalist and television host said, "And I believe that good journalism, good television, can make our world a better place." Keeping this in my mind, I decided to pursue my internship at *The Daily Observer* as it is committed to serve the nation without compromising the transparency and administration accountability. Moreover, I

was interested because of its reputation of being one of the leading daily where there is no place for yellow-journalism. Besides, it is neutral about conflicts between good and evil, right and wrong, justice and injustice. Apart from that, its friendly environment influenced me while I decided to pursue my internship there.

I interned at the *Countryside* Desk starting from January 19th to April 19th, 2019. During these 12 weeks, I got the opportunity to apply what I have been taught in my university years. Not only that, I got the opportunity to experience workspace environment. This place helped me to be self-reliant and self-disciplined. I also learned how to be professional and work with other staff members by maintaining a good understanding. Nevertheless, it has to be mentioned that my residential semester had a great impact on my internship. The reason is that it has taught me to be a self-reliant and hardworking person in an unfamiliar place. As a result, after completion of my three month internship, they asked me to continue the internship for a few more months.

Chapter 2

A Brief History of *The Daily Observer*



Figure 1: Logo 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 is one of the most reliable and popular daily newspapers in Bangladesh. It has been serving the nation since 1949. Moreover, it is the oldest published English language daily newspaper in Bangladesh. Therefore, it is one of the most circulated English newspapers in our country. However, behind this success there is a long history.

The publication of this newspaper was not continuous from the beginning. Previously it was known as *The Pakistan Observer*. The reason is, it was established in early 1949 which was before the independence of our nation.

From the very beginning of the circulation of this newspaper, it followed independent editorial policy. Being the oldest English newspaper it easily gained popularity among the educated people. However, within just a few years, this newspaper had to face a ban on publication by the government, and was shut down from 1952 to 1954 because of supporting the East Pakistan language movement, and demands for provincial autonomy through writing

articles. Later, in 1954, when the political power changed, they withdrew the ban on the publication of the newspaper.

Till then it was named *The Pakistan Observer*. After the liberation war when East Pakistan became independent and known as Bangladesh, it was immediately named *The Observer* on 18th December 1971. Later, it was renamed *The Bangladesh Observer* on 26th December 1971. This paper was nationalized in January 1972. Moreover, it was founded by the then provincial Minister Hamidul Huq Choudhury.

The newspaper was shut down in 2010 after a prolonged dispute between the owners and the employees. Nevertheless, this newspaper again resumed its journey as *The Daily Observer* on 1st February 2011 with the slogan “*We stand for people’s rights*”, under the ownership of Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

Currently *The Daily Observer* has 20 regular pages with sections titled editorial, sports, business, city news, countryside, eduvista, and many more. It does not only publish a broadsheet newspaper, it also has both English and Bangla versions of the paper online. This is available 24/7 and continuously updated.



Figure 2: Front page of *The Pakistan Observer*, *The Bangladesh Observer* and *The Daily Observer*

Chapter 3

My Experience as an Intern

I had to appear for an interview before being accepted as an intern for the Countryside Desk of *The Daily Observer* by its editor, Mr. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury. After being selected as an intern, he gave the responsibility to supervise me to SM Saifuddin who was the in-charge of the Countryside Desk. Mr. Saifuddin acted as my supervisor throughout my internship period of 12 weeks. Additionally, I had the responsibility to complete two courses for my undergraduate degree. Initially, it was challenging for me to continue my internship as well as studies at the same time. Although by the end of the week, my mind was able to push me to my limits to ensure productivity and efficiency in whatever I was doing. Also, the encouragement I received from my family, and peers had helped me a lot to do my work and optimism with sincerity.

The Countryside Desk team consists of Mr. SM Saifuddin as its joint news editor, two sub-editors, two page-layout designers, and local correspondents from all districts. Throughout my internship period, I had the opportunity to publish hundreds of report in the Countryside section of the newspaper. The nature of my work varied from collecting reports, news sorting, report writing, doing translation, caption writing, and other internal work such as taking approval for publications, downloading emails that news stories, receiving calls from the correspondents etc. I also had to involve my in preparing the page layout almost every week.

Moreover, I started my work by learning the rules and styles of reporting. Here my first writing task was a news report on accidents happening all over the country, except Dhaka. While writing the report, I had learnt that the first line of the news report is called 'Intro'. It should be specific one sentence and the word limit is maximum thirty. Also, the intro should give a short summary of the report. In short, the answers of 5W and 1H (when, why who, where, what, how) should be given in the intro. Then the supporting lines of the intro should be provided in the other paragraphs; but it is needed to maintain a sequence in a news report. Also, the sentences should be logically connected with each other with transitional words. This way the readers can read the report like a story. The latest and most important points should be mentioned at the beginning to build interest among readers. For example, where, how, who was the victim, when the incident happened should appear in the first line of the news story about an accident. Then the identity of the deceased person will appear, followed by how and by whom the body has been recovered, the identity of the criminal, and the news sources. For example, the statement of the Officer-in-Charge of a certain police station. News source is a very prominent part of a news report as it proves the authenticity of the news.

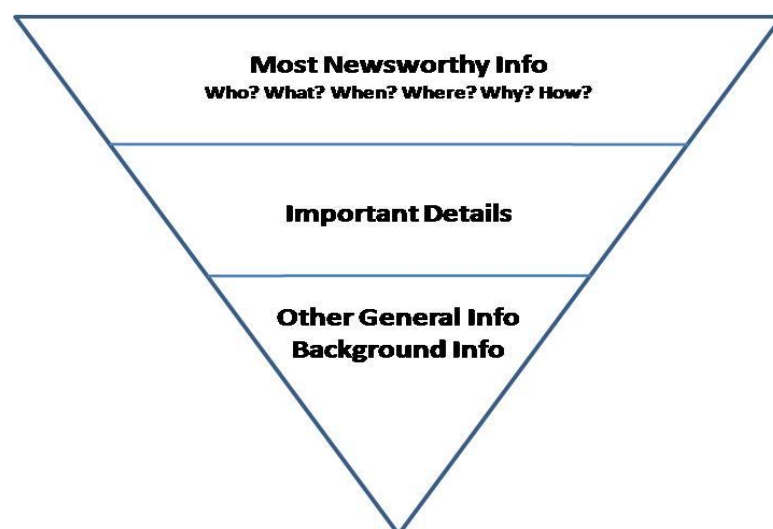


Figure 3: Inverted Pyramid Structure

Additionally, I was made aware by my supervisor that *The Daily Observer* follows British English spelling. I have always been instructed to use American English by all the education institutions I attended. Thus, in the initial weeks, this resulted in me making several spelling errors. It took me a bit of time to adjust to the change. In addition, I also learnt that if there is any abbreviation inside the report then the sub-editors have to write the elaboration of that abbreviation at least once. For example, the elaboration of 'OC' is 'Officer-in-Charge'; this full form should be used at least once in the whole report because some people may not know its full form.

Apart from that, I have learnt professionalism and how to accept criticism. In my academic life my faculties gave me any kind of feedback in a polite manner. Without criticizing, they used to correct my mistakes. However, at the workplace, I had to adjust to the new way of handling feedback. Many times my in-charge was harsh while pointing out my mistakes. Enduring criticism this way was something new for me. Besides, I have learnt how to complete tasks under a lot of pressure. One of the sub-editors of my team was on leave for one month during my internship period. Thus, all her responsibility was given to me, including mine. This taught me to multitask within a limited time.

Furthermore, being a Sub-Editor I realized no matter how much effort I put in to write a special report, I would not get credit for that, nor would any other sub-editor because in the bylines the name of the reporters who did the field work would be mentioned. This to some extent demotivated me. However, this journey at *The Daily Observer* has been really transformative for me.

Basically news structure follows the inverted pyramid format. I had learned about this structure in ENG440: English for Print Media course. The pyramid structure prioritizes the news report in a descending order of importance. As the story progresses, it gets more

specific. Moreover, it is also helpful in terms of editing. The editor can cut the least important details of the story from the bottom of the pyramid, if there are any space constraints in the newspaper. Also readers can stop reading when they are satisfied with their curiosity without worrying that something important is being held back.

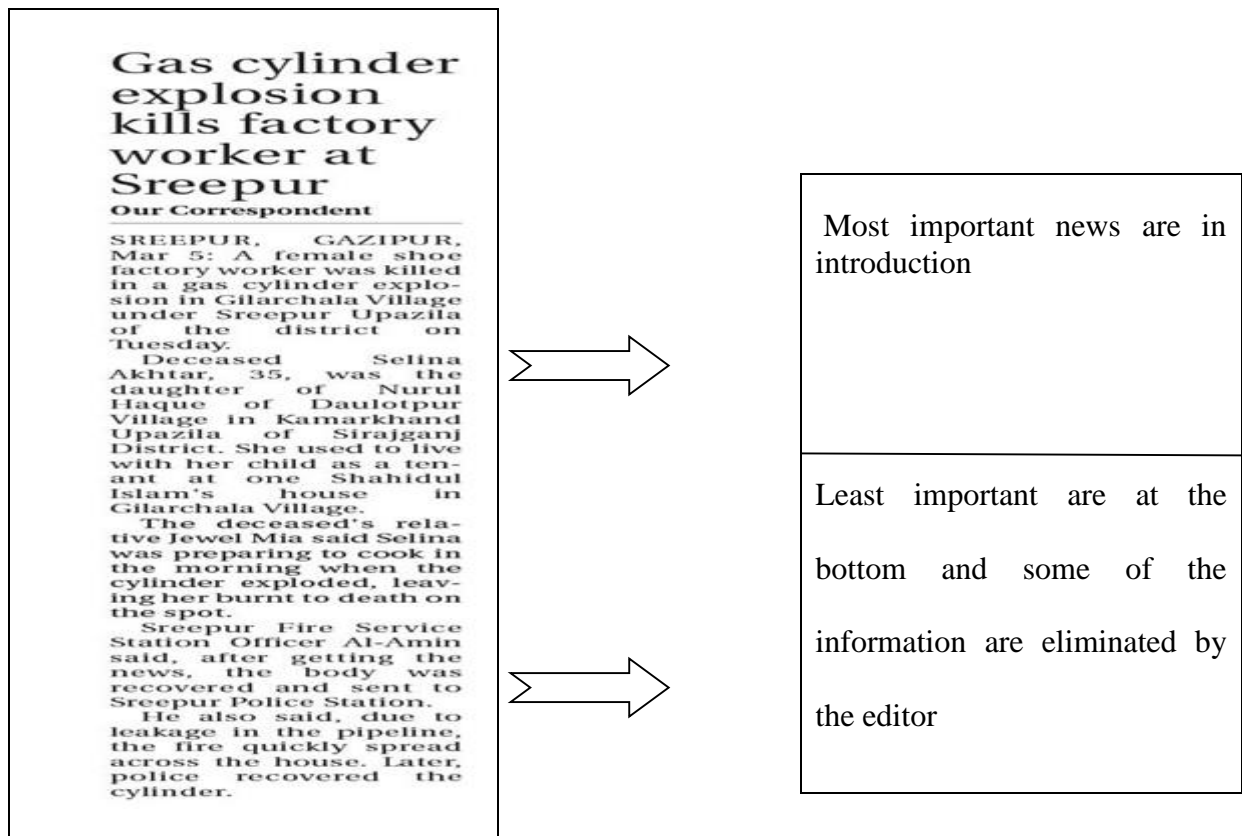


Figure 4: News report showing the structure of pyramid

Chapter 4

Working as a Sub-Editor

4.1 Collecting News Stories: As an intern sub-editor, I was required to collect the news stories, sometimes along with pictures through emails from the local correspondents. Then I had to check those stories for details, and had to make sure that it has all the elements that make a story newsworthy. If I found the news story did not have any news value factor, I had to inform my supervisor. Later, he used to contact those correspondents through phone calls and collect the information which was not provided. For example, once I got an email from a correspondent about an accident. There he did not mention in which the victim was taken and declared dead. Then I informed my supervisor about this issue and called that correspondent to collect that information.

I have included a screenshot of the homepage of the district Gmail of *The Daily Observer* from where I used to download emails from the local correspondents. Also, a raw news story from a correspondent is given below.

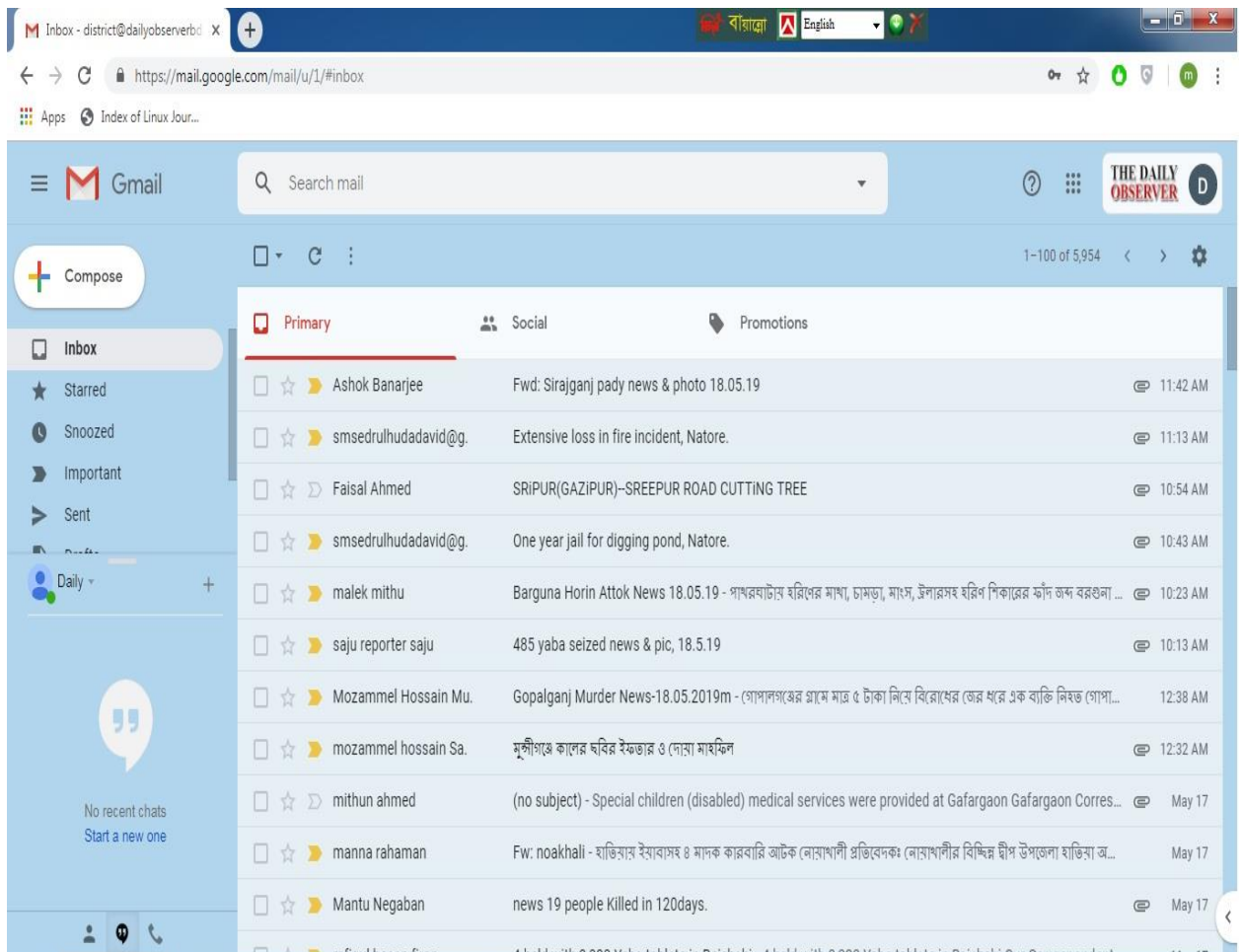


Figure 5: Screenshot of the gmail homepage of *The Daily Observer*.

বগুড়া পৌরসভার চেলোপাড়া এলাকার ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর পরিমল কুমার চন্দ্র জানান, নিহত পাভেল তার সৎ মার সাথে বসবাস করতো। তার সৎ বোন ও বোন জামায় একই বাড়িতে থাকতো। তাদের মধ্যে পৈত্রিক সম্পত্তি নিয়ে দীর্ঘদিন ধরে কলহ চলছে।

বগুড়ার অতিরিক্ত পুলিশ সুপার সনাতন চক্রবর্তি জানান, মঙ্গলবার দুপুর দেড়টায় সন্ত্রাসীদের গুলিতে পাভেল নিহত হয়েছে। হত্যাকাণ্ডের বিষয়টি নিয়ে পুলিশ সদস্যরা

তদন্ত করছে। পারিবারিক কলহ নিয়ে এ ঘটনা ঘটতে পারে।

পুলিশ বলছে পারিবারিক ও সম্পত্তির বিষয় নিয়ে সে খুন হয়ে থাকতে পারে। স্থানীয়রা গুলির গুলী বিদ্ধ অবস্থায় প্রতিবেশীরা আহত অবস্থায় পাভেলকে উদ্ধার করে বগুড়া শহীদ জিয়াউর রহমান মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতালে নিলে সে মারা যায়।

Figure 6: News story from a local correspondent.

4.2 News Sorting: News sorting is basically deciding which reports are newsworthy. While doing this, I had to keep the news value factors in mind. Therefore, whenever I chose any report to write, I made sure they had some of the elements of newsworthiness, such as prominence, proximity, consequences, timeliness and oddity. All five are not always there. Most of the times it is a combination of four or three of the news value factors. I learnt about these factors from the ENG 440: English for Print Media course.

i. Prominence: The topic needed to be prominent among the readers or else many would not pay attention to the news story.

For example, I wrote a report titled “Farmers busy farming Boro paddy in Bogura”. The ‘agriculture’ topic is always prominent among readers of the Countryside section. That is why this report was published as lead news in the Countryside section of the newspaper.

ii. Proximity: The readers were required to be able to relate to the selected topic so that they found the article interesting and useful.

For example, I wrote a special report on the extinction of fish titled “54 varieties of indigenous fish become extinct”. In recent times, people are concerned about the extinction of animals. Therefore, this topic ensured prominence. This report was also published as lead news.

iii. Timeliness: To ensure timeliness, I used to choose topics which were discussed frequently at the time of them being published.

For example, I wrote a report titled “No Shaheed Minar at 94 govt primary schools in Sapahar”. It was published on 21st February, which is International Mother Language Day. Thus, this report was timed perfectly, and it also informed the authorities about establishing Shaheed at the 94 government school.

iv. Consequences: News stories that affect readers' lives are the consequences of the news.

Thus, I wrote reports which created an impact on the public's mind after reading.

For example, my report titled "Fani damages paddy fields in Rajshahi" would let people know how this certain natural disaster affected the people of Rajshahi, especially farmers.

Also, informed how Fani created a bad impact on our agricultural site.

v. Oddity: Public like to read unusual news or news with events that only happen once in a while. Thus, I also had to ensure oddity while writing reports. For example, I wrote a report titled "Mentally-challenged son kills mother, grandmother in Jhenaidah". It was a very unusual report than as opposed to other crime reports that I wrote. Such as, a businessman being killed by his neighbours due to land disputes.

At first, my supervisor used to assign me reports in my folder named 'Fatema', which anyone from office can access from any computer. After one month of my internship, he told me to select topics on my own. Therefore, through news sorting, I wrote those news stories from my perspective would attract a significant audience or readership. However, I used to give the killing, rape, drugs, suicide, fire, and verdict reports more importance while sorting and writing any report.

Some of my published news stories are given below, along with the links.

https://www.observorbd.com/d

dailyobserver

54 varieties of indigenous fish become extinct

Published : Sunday, 10 March, 2019 at 12:00 AM Count : 121
Our Correspondent

NARSINGDI, Mar 9: About 54 varieties of local fish have become extinct from the local water bodies for many causes including river pollution, navigability crisis and unabated use of pesticides. According to sources at the Fisheries Department, once 276 types of local fish were available at present 222 varieties are seen. Earlier different indigenous varieties of fish were found in most of the water bodies of the district by selling the fish, local fishermen used to maintain livelihood, said local fishermen. They said day after day, the navigability of Meghna, Shitalakshya, Arai Kh, Old Brahmapu other rivers decreases, therefore, the local varieties of fish are hardly found in local markets. Besides, due to various reasons, the fish habitat is being destroyed, which is hampering natural breeding spaces of fish, the fishers added. As a result, local fishermen have become workless. Some of them are switching to other professions. The sources at the Fisheries Department said, steps have been taken to protect the local fish. The sources alleged that due to use of illegal net and pesticides and dumping of industrial waste the native fish are being extinct. Many fish including pabda (Indian catfish), shing (stinging catfish), koi (climbing perch), kh (banded gourami), mola (mola carp), dhela (dhela carp), chapla (Indian river shad), bai (zigzag eel), baia etc have decreased. District Fisheries Officer Md Tofaz Uddin Ahmed said, in rivers and canals, 54 varieties of 276 have become extinct; initiatives have been taken to protect the fish.

Picture 1: News report

https://www.observorbd.com/details.php?id=182929

dailyobserver

Farmers busy farming Boro paddy in Bogura

Published : Tuesday, 12 February, 2019 at 12:00 AM Count : 126
Our Correspondent

BOGURA, Feb 11: The local farmers are passing busy time in Boro cultivation. Preparation for Boro seedbed and Boro seedling plantation is also going on simultaneously. Due to favourable weather, cold injury could not hit the Boro seedbeds. As a result, there was no harm to Boro seedlings. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), a total of 1.89 lakh hectares of land have been targeted under Boro cultivation this year in the district while the production target is 7.54 lakh metric tons of rice. But the cultivation of Boro would be 1,000 ha less than the previous year's target of Boro cultivation, said Deputy Director of the DAE Nikhil Chandra Biswas. Boro cultivation is now going on in full swing throughout the district. Some farmers are preparing seedbed with tractor or mechanical plough. Many farmers have started planting Boro seedlings since mid-January. So far, 31 per cent of the target which means 71,000 ha of land is now under Boro cultivation in the district. Moreover, due to the suitable weather, cold injury could not affect the Boro seedlings. As a result, the farmers did not face any problem. In this season, farmers have made seedbeds on 10,400 ha of land. The Boro cultivation will be possible by the seedlings produced on 9,000 ha of land. Even after Boro cultivation, the seedlings of 1,000 ha of land will be surplus. Farmer will not have to face any problem for seedlings. Meanwhile, due to less cultivation of Boro paddy on 1,000 ha of land in the district, farmers are interested in producing more profitable crops than Boro. For example, they are giving more priority to wheat, corn, and vegetables production. They will harvest wheat, corn, and vegetables and cultivate Aush paddy by selling them. The agriculture officials are hoping that the target of Boro production will exceed the current season, if the weather is favourable.

Picture 2: News report

https://www.observorbd.com/details.php?id=194931

dailyobserver

Hailstorm damages Boro paddy in Rajshahi

Published : Friday, 16 April, 2019 at 12:00 AM Count : 152
Our Correspondent



RAJSHAHI, Apr 23: Recent hailstorm damaged Boro paddy yield in Godeganj Upazila of the district. The local farmers are worried about getting low price of the produce in the market. They are now apprehending huge loss. Upazila Agriculture Office sources said Boro paddy was cultivated on 14,273 hectares of land this year. The paddy growers grow well amid favourable weather. But, the hailstorm at the end of the season caused huge damage. Farmer Masum Khan of Godeganj Municipality said, "The hailstorm on Sunday caused much damage to the Boro paddy yield. On next morning, I went to the field and found that half of the paddy sheaves dropped. As a result, the yield may suffer much." He also said, "I cultivated Boro on about eight bighas of land this year. I had to spend Tk. 10,000 in per bigha. After selling the produce, I will be hardly able to repay the loan taken from different sources." Farmer Abdulfah of Mad Kamla Village said, "The hailstorm damaged Boro paddy yield in our area. We will get four to five mounds less yield in per bigha." He also said, "We don't get fair price cultivating paddy. If the government controls the market, farmers will remain at ease. The prices of all materials are increasing, but that of paddy is decreasing." Upazila Agriculture Office Shaiful Islam said the hailstorm will not cause much damage to the yield. The storm did some damage in Godeganj headquarters. The paddy plants will not be much damaged. While asked about the extent of damage, he said that they are conducting field level survey, and after the survey is over, the extent of damage will be known.

Picture 3: News report

https://www.observorbd.com/details.php?id=186055

dailyobserver

50,000 villagers suffer for lack of bridge over Baral

Published : Saturday, 2 March, 2019 at 12:00 AM Count : 161
Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 1: The Baral River, a branch of the Padma River, has gone through 20 villages including Gocher, Kusabariya, Jothroghu, Hamdikura, Jamongar of Bagatpara Upazila in Natore District, and Bashbariya, Kalikapur, Dobila, Munshipara, Koicharpara, Koromdoshi, Bhitortbing, Majhpura, and Gollarghup in Arani Municipality of Bagha Upazila. Nearly 50,000 people live in rural areas around this river. These villages are famous for cultivating different vegetables including brinjal, pointed ground, potato, bitter guard, bean, radish, carrot, tomato, cowpea, spices like pepper, turmeric, onion, garlic, ginger, and fruits like mango, jackfruit, litchi, plum and guava. After fulfilling the demand of the area, these products are sold in various parts of the country including Dhaka. However, because of not having any bridge over the Baral River in Jamongor-Gocher point, farmers have to sell their agricultural products within their areas at a very low price. Arani is a famous haat of Bagha Upazila in Rajshahi, which is just two kilometres away from Jamongor Village. From this haat, traders take their agricultural products to other places of the country including Dhaka. But the Baral River becomes a prime obstacle for the people of these villages. Every day, the people of the area have to cross the river and go to the Arani haat. Besides, they have to travel about five to six kilometres for a route of two kilometres as there is no straight way. Moreover, villagers have to stand for hours for transport, whereas a bridge can change the fate of these 20 villages. Before elections, local public representatives promised to take steps for making a bridge here, but nobody implemented it after coming to power. Sobel Rana of Hamdikura Village said, "We are not able to sell our produce properly for the lack of a bridge. Even after taking measurements from the Upazila Engineering Department several times, there is no further news about this bridge." President of Arani Municipality Awami League Shahiduzzaman Shahid of Kusabariya Village said, if the bridge is built over the Baral River, it will not only allow farmers to market their produce

Picture 4: News report

4.3 Translation: Since Bangla is our native language, it was one of my most specific, major and regular tasks to translate Bengali stories in English provided by the local correspondents. These stories varied from agricultural stories to time sensitive specials to stories about accidents, politics and law enforcement related stories, and everything in between.

In the ENG 465: Translation Studies course, I was taught about ‘Word for Word’ and ‘Sense for Sense’ (or free) translation techniques. At first, I decided to apply for the ‘word for word’ technique. According to Lamya Rasheed Majid in her article titled “St. Jerome’s Approach to Word-for-Word and Sense-for-Sense Translation” “Word-for-word translation concerned with the level of words, in which each linguistic element of the source language (SL henceforth) is replaced by its closest target language (TL henceforth) correspondent [...]” (53). However, by doing this I was not able to express properly through writing what the story was saying. Moreover, the richness of the whole article was being hampered. Therefore, after getting feedback of my reports from my supervisor, I implemented ‘sense for sense’ technique for my translation tasks.

Jeremy Munday in his book *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications* mentioned that, “the sense-for-sense approach, on the other hand, allowed the sense or content of the source text to be translated” (20). After doing ‘word-for-word’ translation, I realized this statement was very true. This approach (sense for sense) can make a report more interesting, and can create a connection with the readers by keeping the essence of the report the same, even if the translation is not done word by word. That is why, whenever I translated a line from a Bangla source text to the English target language, I took into consideration what sense the raw story made. Besides, by creating a target text in “sense for sense” approach can make the news report more appealing and engaging in the target language (TL), which was English in this case. For this reason, Majid also added in his article that, “Sense-for-sense

translation is more concerned with creating a target text (TT henceforth) that sounds natural in the TL [...]” (53).

Another important aspect of translation is Translation Shifts. Lea Cyrus in his article titled, “Building a resource for studying translation shifts” stated that, “Translation shifts denote departures from formal correspondence between source and target text, i.e. deviations that have occurred during the translation process (1240).” Thus, a sentence written in one structural form might change when translated into the target language. This type of shift is called structure shift. Whenever I was given a story to translate, at first I read the whole article, understood what it was trying to say, and then translated it into English. The reason is the arrangements of words in the target text often vary from the source text while the meaning remains the same. Moreover, the structure of Bangla and English language are different from each other.

I have included a raw story and its translation that I did.

Three businesses fine in Gopalganj

Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, May 18: Department of National Consumers Rights Protection (DNCRP), in a drive, fined three businesses Tk 12,000 at Korpara area in Sadar Upazila of the district on Saturday.

Assistant Director of DNCRP Shamim Hasan conducted the drive.

During the drive, Messers Milton Ice cream was fined for using harmful chemicals and colors, Messers Highway Café was fined for selling date-expired foods.

At that time, District Marketing Officer Md. Arif Hossain, district unit General Secretary of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, Mozaharul Haque Bablu and police members were also present.

Figure 8: A translated news report

4.4 Editing: Sub-editors have to do the primary editing work before the editor of the department takes a look. They are responsible for the clarity and accuracy of content that is published in a newspaper. Moreover, they double check the grammatical accuracy, spelling, sentence structure, attributions, the validity of the sources and punctuation. Then they prepare them to be published.

Since I was a Sub-Editor intern, I had to edit a number of news stories every day related to crime, accident, agriculture and other issues. While writing or editing any report I always tried to maintain some rules. Moreover, in this case, the lessons from the ENG 401: Editing course helped me carry out these tasks. For instance,

- The introduction part needs to cover ‘5Ws and 1H’
- Has to be very careful about the facts and figures
- Always double check the designation and the name spelling of a person
- Cut the unnecessary and vague information
- Following British spelling and the Times New Roman font style
- Abbreviation of words need to be mentioned in full form, for example, sub-inspector (SI)
- maintain the length of a news based on the requirements

a. Editing Newspaper Headlines: Headlines mainly draw the attention of a reader. That is why; a headline has to be eye catchy in which readers can find interest. Otherwise the news

will lose its appeal even to the readers who opt to only skim through the first lines of each news story. Hence, it was a tough task for me.

I applied the following techniques while editing headlines that my supervisor instructed, along with the ones that I had learnt from ENG 401: Editing course-

- Keeping the headline within eight to ten words even less if possible
- Drawing attraction with the use of active words
- Being factually correct is important rather than grammatically correct
- Remaining faithful to the original story
- Using simple words rather than complex words

However, I was suggested to rewrite or edit any headline after I was finished with the writing of my reports.

A few pictures of my published headlines along with the news is given below-

Carpeting of new road in Laxmipur damaged within one week

Our Correspondent

LAXMIPUR, Feb 11: A road from Haunbaish Boro Bari to Uttar Hanubaish Ershad Hossen area in Ramganj Upazila of the district has returned to its previous condition within a week of construction.

The contractors allegedly used low quality materials, and for this, the carpeting of the new road has been removed in just one week. Besides, pot-holes have been created in most parts of the road.

Following this, locals protested in front of the house of Hanubaish Halim Munshi recently.

After getting the news, contractor Emdad Patwari, Assistant Engineer Tahir Uddin and Upazila Executive Engineer Shifat Ahmed went to the spot and rebuked the protestors as they were facing questions from protestors.

At that time, Zakir Hossain, Mizan Mia and some villagers complained that Emdad Patwari, owner of Riya Enterprise of Laxmipur, got the work of renovation from Hanubaish Boro Bari of Bhadur Union to Ershad Hossain road. After the start of the work, they used old construction materials and built the

road without following the required process.

Doctor Saiful Islam said, "Within seven days, carpeting of the road was damaged. Though local people informed the people concerned, there were irregularities. The supervisor of the work and Upazila Assistant Engineer Tahir Uddin completed the work with the help of contractors."

Some villagers- Tahir Uddin, Arman Hossain, Bachchu Mia and Mammur Rashid and some others, who were present in the human chain, were threatened by the supervisor.

In this connection, Tahir Uddin said, "I did not rebuke anyone. I talked to the labourers who worked during the construction. If the public goes too far, then we will have to stop the work and send the contractor to Laxmipur. In future there will be no new roads in this area."

Contractor Emdad Patwari said, "Work has been done in presence of Upazila Assistant Engineer Tahir Uddin. There is no irregularity."

Upazila Executive Engineer Shifat Ahmed said, "Work has been stopped over locals' allegation. After knowing more details, action will be taken."

Picture 5: News report

Road accidents on rise in Noakhali

10 killed, 34 injured in nine days

Our Correspondent

BEGUMGANI, NOAKHALI, Jan 23: Road accidents have increased in the district in an alarming rate. Roads and highways have become death traps.

Almost every day in the district, death incidents are occurring because of road accidents. In the last nine days, at least 10 people were killed and 34 others injured in road accidents at the district's Begunganj, Senbag, Sonaimuri, Chatkhil and Hatia upazilas.

But most of the accidents occurred on Sonapur-Maizdi and Chowmuhami-Feni regional road.

Because of these accidents, many people have lost their lives on the roads and many have been injured and paralysed.

These accidents are occurring mainly due to unskilled and addicted drivers, illegal competition, movement of vehicles with-

out fitness and narrow streets.

District and upazila administration, traffic division, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, and highway police are taking various steps to curb the road accidents, but nothing has changed.

In this situation, the victims have demanded proper action to prevent road accidents.

According to local sources, on January 17, a motorcyclist, Jahurul Islam Kochi, 30, was killed and two others were injured in a road accident in Mohammadpur Union under Senbag Upazila.

On the night of January 16, driver of a passenger bus lost its control on Noakhali-Feni regional highway near Zamidarhat under Begunganj Upazila and fell into a nearby canal, leaving two killed on the spot and 22 injured. Later, two more died at the hospital.

On January 13, two motorcyclists and a jeep passenger were

killed in a collision between the motorcycle and the jeep at Khabir Mia area on Chhkhali-Tomoroddi road in Hatia Upazila. More than 10 people were also injured in this accident.

On the night of January 11, a motorcyclist was killed when a pickup van dashed the bike in Chatkhil Police Station area.

On January 7, a woman named Hasina Begum, 55, was killed after a pickup van dashed her on Sonaimuri-Chhatrapaiya road in Bijoynagar area.

When contacted, District Traffic Inspector (Administration) Sakhawat Hossain said road accidents happen due to various reasons. One of those is contiguous movement of speedy and slow vehicles on the roads.

"Our traffic department is also trying to sensitise drivers through meetings, seminars and training to prevent accidents," he added.

Picture 6: News report

VALENTINE'S DAY TODAY

Tk 8 lakh flowers likely to be sold in Sirajganj

Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 13: Flowers worth Taka 8 lakh are expected to be sold on Valentine's Day in the district, said local florists.

They collected and gathered flowers from different places ahead of the day.

Shops are adorned with flowers of different colours. Street vendors also brought flowers to sell on both sides of the streets. They imported flowers from Bogura and Jashore.

Ratan Ray, owner of Chamak Ful Ghar, one of the biggest flower shops in Sirajganj, said, "I have been doing the business for the last 20 years. I purchase flowers at wholesale

rate from Jashore."

He also said, "I cannot profit much now like before. Flower is not cultivated in Sirajganj. People buy flowers from Jashore. The wholesalers demand prices as per their wish. They do not have any fixed price."

He has set an aim of selling flowers worth about Taka 3 lakh on Valentine's Day.

Raja Ray, a street vendor said, "I sell flowers round the year. The price of flowers increases on different occasions. I have set an aim to sell flowers worth about Taka 1 lakh this year."

Reshma Khatun, a customer said, "The price of flower is much higher this year. The sellers are selling a rose over Taka 20."

Picture 7: News report

Mother seeks help for her meritorious son

Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Feb 20: A mother is seeking help for her 10th grader meritorious son Zulfiqar, as his both kidneys have already been damaged.

Zulfiqar is the only son of garments worker Sahedar Rahman and Nur Banu of Amra Village under Kazihal Union in Fulbari Upazila of the district. He is a student of Muraripur High School in the upazila.

Zulfiqar's poor father has already sold their only house for his son's treatment.

Doctors said it would be possible to save Zulfiqar only by replacing his kidney. To save son, Nur Banu is ready to give her kidney but Taka 7 lakh is also needed for this.

However, it is not possible for this poor family to manage this huge amount of money. For this reason, Zulfiqar's parents are seeking help from the wealthy people of the society to save their son. The survival of Zulfiqar's life is at their hand.

Picture 8: News report

b. Caption writing: My supervisor taught me how to write a caption for a photograph. The limitations were similar to the ones I learnt from the ENG 401: Editing course. The limitation was to keeping the technique of 5 W's and 1H in mind, I was required to write picture captions with the necessary details. For example, the figure 16's caption breakdown is given below-

Who - Local people

Why - demanding exemplary punishment

What- forming human chain

When- Tuesday noon

Where- Sirajdikhan Upazila of Munshiganj

How- Formed a human chain

Three of my published picture captions are given below-



Local people formed a human chain in Sirajdikhan Upazila of Munshiganj on Tuesday noon, demanding exemplary punishment for local drug trader Aslam Sheikh and his cohort Jahangir Molla.

PHOTO: OBSERVER

Picture 9: News Caption



The photo shows a flock of migratory birds fluttering over historic Jabai Beel of Sapahar Upazila in Naogaon. PHOTO: OBSERVER

Picture 10: News Caption



Rajshahi College celebrated its 147th founding anniversary on its campus on Monday.

PHOTO: OBSERVER

Picture 11: News Caption

4.5 Page Makeup:

Page makeup is formatting a printed page that includes columns, layout of headers, footers, borders, page numbers, rules and graphic. I was given the basic ideas of page makeup. I had also learnt page makeup in the ENG 401: Editing course. I was given the opportunity to do the page makeup for several times for the Countryside desk of *The Daily Observer*.

Basically the graphic designer, who is assigned for the page makeup of this desk, does the work. A sub-editor only instructs about them how to do the layout. Following the instruction of the sub-editor, the graphic designer makes a draft the print version of the newspaper. While doing page makeup, I was told to put the sensitive reports such as killing and rape reports, and reports on the upper side of the page, and inauguration of events, help seeking news for example, mother seeking donation for her son's cancer treatment, obituary etc. types of reports on the bottom.

Moreover, considering the importance of a report, I had to decide how many columns a report would get.



Figure 9: A picture of a draft page of *The Daily Observer* newspaper whose page makeup was done by me.

Chapter 5

Incorporating theories with my work

While taking the Cultural Studies course, I was taught several theories related to news and media. At first, I was not able to draw a connection between the theories and the real world. After interning at *The Daily Observer*, I started to understand the practical application of the theories that I was introduced to in different courses such as, ENG 333: Globalization and the Media, ENG 331: Cultural Studies Theory and Practice etc. In this chapter, I will relate the theories that I learned and their connection in the media world.

The first part of this chapter will talk about how Michelle Foucault's take on 'Panopticon' and 'Gaze' is applicable in the case of the media industry. And the second part will discuss mediascapes and its applications.

5.1 Panopticon and Gaze:

The term 'Panopticon' was first coined at the end of the eighteenth century by an English philosopher, and social reformer Jeremy Bentham. Later, his idea was discussed by Michelle Foucault, a French philosopher, historian, social theorist and literary critic in his article, "The Eye of Power."

Here "Pan" refers to all and "Opticon" means to observe, which indicates that everything is under observation. Foucault discusses the architecture of the Panopticon as a building in the form of a ring with a tower at the center. The design was such that the person, the watchman sitting on top of the tower can keep an eye on the prisoners who were kept in cells inside the ring-shaped building. The whole world can be considered as a panopticon and as a citizen of a state we are constantly being watched and judged by our actions. Foucault labeled this as 'Gaze'.

According to Foucault panopticon is thus a “[...] technology of power designed to solve the problems of surveillance” (148). In a jail, when ‘Gaze’ is interiorized by the prisoners, they feel being watched every moment even without the presence of a watchman. Thus, this causes them to mend their behavior and stay sober, and civil. Likewise, citizens of a state who want to commit crimes are always in fear that they might get caught because they are being watched by the authorities and media. Moreover, people consider religion to be a major Panopticon that assigns ‘God’s Gaze’ within subjects to control them.

Similarly, when crime stories are published in newspapers, the readers are constantly reminded that no unlawful act is going to go unnoticed. It is instilled within the minds of the citizens that their crimes are being recorded by the media, and is being published for the masses to read and be informed. There, fear of getting caught is instilled within people which often stops them from committing murder, robbery, rape, etc. For example, Khandakar Enamul Basir who is the suspended director of Anti-Corruption Commission was sent to jail for a bribery case. After reading this news stories the citizens understood that sometimes even if a criminal is in a powerful position in society, he or she will not always be able to get away after committing a crime. This way the media create fear on the minds of the majority of the population, which leads them to follow the law and order.

Moreover, social media also acts as a Panopticon. This is because news can reach faster through the social media to anyone. Also in social media, people can express and share their opinion which they cannot do so in published newspapers. Additionally, it shows people breaking news as fast as possible, and constantly reminds that the citizens that they are under the gaze, i.e observation. That is why *The Daily Observer* has a Facebook page to connect to people faster.

During my internship, I was also under observation as my work was observed by my supervisor. Also the other sub-editors who used to sit in the cells designed as individual cubicles were under observation. Not only that, there were multiple Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in *The Daily Observer* office. With these cameras, the administrations as well as the senior officials of the news organization were monitored. This constant observation made me more active and conscious. However, it also made me uncomfortable as I was being watched all the time.

5.2 Mediascapes and Globalization

An acclaimed Indian-American anthropologist and social researcher, Arjun Appadurai discussed five scapes of globalization in his book *Modernity at Large*. Those are mediascape, financescapes, ethnoscapes, ideoscapes and technoscapes.

According to Arjun Appadurai, mediascapes can be comprehended as the numerous media outlets (TV, radio, newspaper etc.) that shape the real world we occupy, where narratives and pictures are frequently the main way through which opinions are formed about a place or culture. He also states that the effect of media on society is creating a fictional universe which does not have any racial limits. Thus through this nonexistent viewpoint, a man from Bangladesh is familiar with the lifestyle of US, Japan, or even Africa, and other countries.

There are millions of people around the world who start their day with a newspaper in their hands. The information that they consume from the newspapers works as a medium to shape their ideas about the world and the surroundings. Mediascape is one of the 'scapes' that I was able to relate to during my internship period. For example, during my internship I wrote a lot of crime stories which helped me realize that the crime rate is high in our country, even though I do not see crime happening in front of my eyes. Also, the information in the

newspaper creates a view of the world and other countries. It can also change people's perspective on a topic. For example, after the terrorist attack in Kashmir on 14 August, 2019, people all over the world had a positive view about Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan. The reason is the way he handled the situation was impressive, even though his country was claimed for the attack was impressive. We got to know all this because the international news of a newspaper enlightens the reader who are far from India and Pakistan. Moreover, the photos in print and audio visual media give enough information to form choice of what kind of culture the other individual is experiencing.

Moreover, the media has an ability to make people have the world in their grasp. This way a person who cannot afford to travel to another nation can imagine how life abroad is. For example, scenes of war impacted countries like Syria, Afghanistan are showed in the media. People can relate to the desolation of the war by living in another part of the world through mediascapes.

Chapter 6

Recommendation

Social media has radically changed the landscape of news consumption. Apart from other aspects, it has the biggest impact on newspaper. In earlier days people used to depend a lot on the newspaper to know what is happening around the world. Now because of technology, the scenario has changed. People are getting news even faster from social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram than newspaper and on television. *The Daily Observer* has an official Facebook page and online site in which they update news online. However, during my 3 month internship, I noticed that their social sites were not much active like their printed version of the newspaper. Moreover, if we consider the other renowned English newspapers of Bangladesh like *Daily Star*, *Dhaka Tribune* etc., we will notice their websites are updated more frequently. Thus I would like to suggest them to give equal importance to both their printed version of newspaper and websites.

Moreover, during my internship, I was familiar with many techniques of news writing because of learning them in the media courses I took. However, I forgot some techniques when I needed to apply them in my writing. The reason is because the techniques and theories that I learnt in my courses was taken quite a long time before I started my internship. Therefore, I would request the department to offer media courses twice a year, as media courses are offered once a year. This way students' will not have the gap in between their internship and theoretical learning. Furthermore, from my perception freshly learned theories and course content combined with practical application and techniques applied right after they were taken are more effective.

Chapter 7

Conclusion

This report is focused on my internship in the Countryside Desk of *The Daily Observer*. I have learned numerous things during my internship period. This paper also incorporates the practical application of a few theories and techniques that I learnt from my media courses.

Through book I learned the directions and rules; however, I got genuine experience of the media world when I was in the four-dividers of *The Daily Observer* office. The internship has helped me to develop into an increasingly capable and efficient person. I have learnt professionalism, time management and especially how to take responsibility under pressure considering the weight of the work. I also know what it takes to become a journalist. All these things aided my self-growth and have increased my admiration for this profession. By seeing my dedication towards the work and also for my good performance they offered me to join in this newspaper. However, for the time schedule of this semester, I had to say no to the offer with a heavy heart.

Lastly, I appreciate the guidance and help that I got from the *The Daily Observer* team as a whole because their constant support throughout the internship has made it as a rewarding experience for me.

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