

Report On
Internship as a News Writer at *New Age*

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

Brac University

October 2023

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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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Acknowledgment

First and foremost, I want to thank Allah SWT for always being there for me and for giving me strength throughout my undergrad journey at BRAC University.

Whatever I am today is because of my mother Sharmin Riyaz. She and my grandmother Anowara Riyaz have always been like a roof over my head in my education life. My wife Afsana Yasmin was my support when I changed my department from the School of Law to English and Humanities. My sister Rehnuma Sayeed has been a source of motivation to face all the challenges during my journey. Lastly, my daughters Suha and Seher are the reasons why I kept pushing through the boundaries I faced. Their love and faith in me are what keeps me going even when I'm low in confidence.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my faculty members and friends at the University. Especially, Tabassum Zaman, Sayeed Noman, Roohi Huda, Farzana Sultana, and Asifa Sultana have been sources of constant support and guidance during my undergraduate life. My friends and peers at the university have always been there for me helping with their support and care for which I am extremely grateful. I would like to thank my supervisor Tabassum Zaman for having patience with me and guiding me to complete my graduation. Her teachings and motivation have given me the opportunity to break away from traditional beliefs and see the world in a new way.

Finally, I would like to thank Farid Ahmed, my supervisor and the Deputy Editor at New Age for giving me the opportunity to do the internship. He showed faith in me and guided me throughout my internship process.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

I have always been curious about learning the craft of writing. It was something that I considered one of the oldest and most consistent things in life humans can do. When I started studying in the English and Humanities department of BRAC University, I found the opportunity to learn about writing not only from an academic perspective but being a major in Media and Cultural Studies, I could also explore different styles and orientations of analytical writing from a professional and journalistic perspective.

When I was a child, my father was serious about me learning English. It was a popular belief back then that knowing the English language can take you to places. I used to have fun reading English books, mostly non-fiction ones. In school, I performed better in English subjects than in other subjects. So, it was always a corner of confidence and comfort for me. After my father passed away, I had no one to make the right decisions for my life. At that time, as I knew I was good at English, I wanted to major in English at the university. However as a degree in English is not considered profitable, my family wanted me to study Law. In the end, it did not work out for me and I shifted from Law to English in 2022.

At first, I was confused about what major to choose. I had friends who already graduated from the English department, so I talked with them. Most of them advised me to study linguistics. I personally liked literature as I found it interesting. Yet, in the end, I chose Media and Cultural Studies as my major. There is an obvious reason for my choice. I was already working as a freelance writer. When I saw the subjects offered under the Media and

Cultural Studies major, I was clear about what I was going to select. Courses like Copywriting, Editing, and English for Print Media were going to hone my writing skills and extend the types of services I was offering in freelancing marketplaces. Especially copywriting, which is one of the in-demand skills in today's world, lured me in the most as it is a tough skill to learn. Majoring in Media and Cultural Studies helped me learn more than just copywriting. I learned how to write for news, and magazines, how to edit articles and news reports, and also different philosophies and theories of globalization and cultural studies.

I never had any serious interest in the news. Growing up, the only parts of the news that were of interest to me were the sports section and the entertainment section. I remember my father used to keep *The Daily Observer* as our daily English newspaper. Later, he started keeping *The Independent* and *New Age*. That was when I first got familiar with the *New Age* newspaper. Now newspapers like *The Daily Star* and *The Dhaka Tribune* are the most popular newspapers in Bangladesh. Even then, the childhood memories of my father keeping *New Age* as our daily newspaper created a soft spot for the newspaper inside me. Out of that, I decided to do my internship in *New Age*.

Our Spring 2023 semester started in February. However, by the time our classes started, many of my fellow ENG466 students were halfway through their internship journey. But, as I was skeptical about whether I should start my internship before the start of the semester, I waited for my classes to start. Ultimately, I joined the office of my internship on 12th February

New Age brings out both physical and online newspapers. My job was to write reports on the news collected by the reporters at the news desk. During my internship, I got a first-hand experience of the things that I learned in my courses in Media and Cultural Studies. The

Deputy Editor of *New Age* as well as my supervisor and colleagues were experienced in writing effective news. They helped me correct my mistakes and showed me different techniques I could use to write better news reports.

Chapter 2

A Brief History of *New Age*

New Age is one of the leading English newspapers in Bangladesh. It is one of the most outspoken newspapers in Bangladesh, which is also portrayed through its tagline “Outspoken Daily.” The newspaper is known for its unbiased and neutral news reporting. A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan founded *New Age* in 2003. The current editor of the newspaper is Nurul Kabir, a journalist, writer, columnist, and former left-wing activist. His courageous leadership allowed *New Age* to produce unbiased news for a long time.



Figure 1: New Age Logo

The logo of *New Age* is a red background with the words “New” and “Age” written in black and white consecutively. The colors red, black, and white represent the boldness of the newspaper. As *New Age* is not scared to publish the truth in their news, their fearlessness is also represented in their colors. While the red color is a symbol of bravery and boldness, the black and white are symbols of false and truth, right and wrong, and crime and justice.

New Age offers both online and offline newspapers. The offline newspaper consists of 12 pages and covers sections like national, international, editorial, op-ed, business, sports, and

entertainment. There are two types of online versions, one is the regular website version and the other one is the e-paper version. In the website version, readers can read news in web article forms, similar to how they read other articles on Google. In the e-paper version, readers read cut-out pieces from the newspaper. It gives the readers the traditional feeling of reading a newspaper.

The office of *New Age* is located at Bir Uttam CR Dutta Road, Hatirpool, Dhaka. It is a safe work environment where both males and females work neutrally to provide authentic news.

Chapter 3

Daily activities at *New Age*

I joined the office of *New Age* on February 12, 2023. I was hired after an interview with Farid Ahmed, the Deputy Editor of the newspaper. He was also my supervisor. He appointed me to the news writing team under Mustafizur Rahman, the Chief Reporter, who assigned work for me, reviewed my work, pointed out my mistakes, and guided me throughout my internship journey.

As a part of the news writing group, my job was to translate and write news reports and press releases. From the first day of my internship, I was instructed to read the newspaper of the previous day before starting to write any news. This was an attempt for me to get used to the writing style of *New Age*. Before joining *New Age* as an intern, I was familiar with journalism and news writing only within the boundary of what I was taught in our courses at BRAC University. So, it was exciting for me to know that every newspaper had a writing style. I read as many newspapers as possible to not only know how to write news reports and press releases but also learn new English words. *New Age* follows a writing style similar to *BBC News* and *The Daily Star*. This involves writing in a structured manner, avoiding informal language as much as possible, and focusing on key information. Also, these newspapers prefer British word spelling. So, I was also advised by my co-workers to follow those two newspapers.

My first task was writing news reports on various national topics. These topics included accidents, local crimes, and incidents. Also, the news from the staff correspondents came in Bangla that needed to be translated into English. So, translation was another task that I needed to do during my internship. Furthermore, I wrote press releases provided by different

companies and organizations for their events and promotions. These press releases came full of excessive information that needed to be paraphrased without leaving any names or details out. So, carefully writing them was an important task for me. Moreover, doing all these tasks without any error was crucial as the news would be read by millions of people nationally and internationally.

Apart from these, a common task during my time as an intern was to act as an editor for my own writings. This was an attempt to make me find out my own mistakes. It was also one kind of revision for me to see if I remember the previous mistakes I made and if I have repeated those mistakes. During the first two weeks, I would personally email the Deputy Editor my writings. Later, they went through the Chief Reporter followed by the Deputy Editor before it got published.

Chapter 4

News Reports

My primary task as a part of the news writing team was to write news reports. I was given some news information and assigned to write a 250-word news report. Along with the news report, I also wrote the title of the news. When writing these news reports, I needed to keep some factors in mind. These factors were:

4.1 Organization of Details

The first step of writing news reports was to organize them according to the importance of the details. It followed a pattern similar to the inverted pyramid structure. In this structure, the most important news goes first followed by other news. The least important news goes last in this structure. Most of the news stories that were handed over to me were of small incidents and petty crimes that went to the third page of the newspaper. As these stories are shorter than the news on the first page or last page, extra care was needed to make sure that the most important information went first. A common approach to organizing the details when writing news reports is to address the 5Ws and an H questions. In *New Age*, the questions “What”, “Where”, and “When” would be addressed first. After that, the question “Who” would be addressed followed by “Why” and “How”. For example, the editing on the draft of the Satkhira news (Figure 2) shows the reorganization of details in the inverted pyramid style. In that draft, the details of an incident similar to the news were written before the details of the person committing the crime. The details of the arrested is a piece of important information as it answers the question of “Who”, so it needs to come before less important details. Also, in *New Age*, the time of an incident is usually avoided in the case of petty crimes. This makes the news look smoother.

One caught in Satkhira with 18 gold bars

Own correspondent, Satkhira.

The Border Guard Bangladesh on Friday, 12 February, at around 2 P.M. arrested one with 18 gold bars from Bolodghata near the Boikari border in Satkhira Sadar Upazilla.

The BGB 33 Captain of Satkhira, BA 6380, Lt. Colonel Md. Ashraful Haq, PSC, confirmed the news of the arrest.

Earlier this month, the police arrested another named Mithu with 18 gold bars from the area near Bakal Bridge of the Sadar Upazilla on 6 February.

The arrested Shri-Pachu Sarkar, 52, is the son of Durga Charan, who lives in Bolodghata village of Boikari union in Satkhira Sadar Upazilla.

The BGB officials said, based on a tip-off that a big amount of gold was being smuggled to India, the BGB 33 captain, Lt. Colonel Md. Ashraful Haq, PSC, led a special team of BGB Boikari BOP to the Boikari border area. At around 1am, they conducted the mission in Bolodghata, 200 yards inside from the sub pillar 37 of the main border pillar 13 and caught Pachu Sarkar, with 18 gold bars weighing about 2 kg 99 grams and 520 milligrams wrapped in 4 bundles of plastic.

The estimated price of the gold bars is about 1 crore 66 lakhs 55 thousand 492 takas. The arrested is to be handed over to the Satkhira Sadar Police Station and the gold bars are to be kept in the Satkhira Treasury Office.

The lieutenant colonel said his battalion team is determined to protect the Satkhira district border and prevent gold trafficking.

Figure 2: One Caught in Satkhira with 18 Gold Bars

One caught in Satkhira with 18 gold bars

Our correspondent, Satkhira.

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Earlier this month, the police arrested another named Mithu with 18 gold bars from the area near Bakal Bridge of the Sadar Upazilla on 6 February.

The estimated price of the gold bars is around 1 crore 66 lakh takas.

The arrested is to be handed over to the Satkhira Sadar Police Station and the gold bars are to be kept in the Satkhira Treasury Office.

Figure 3: One Caught in Satkhira with 18 Gold Bars (Edited)

4.2 Brevity and Precision

The next aspect to keep in mind when writing news reports was the length of the news and how it was written. The news has to be short, concise, and to the point. It should be written in such a way that the readers find it easy to read and understand. For example, instead of using the words “said to”, the word “told” should be used as it is shorter and easier to understand (Figure 4). One technique that can help leave excess words out of the news report is to read the news from the point of view of a reader after finishing writing. If the news seems smoothly readable during the writing process, then it means the news would be simple and smooth for the reader as well. For example, in a news report called “3 Lakhs Fined for Illegal Excavation

of Soil and Sand in Ramgarh, Khagrachari”, the Upazilla Assistant Commissioner said a lot of words but most of those could be avoided in the news report to maintain precision. That’s why they were highlighted and recommended to be omitted (Figure 4).

3 lakhs fined for illegal excavation of soil and sand in Ramgarh, Khagrachari

Khagrachari Correspondent, 14-02-2023:

The Mobile Court fined Jashim Uddin (57) alias Bagha Jashim Tk. 3 lakhs in two separate cases for illegally cutting hills and excavating sands in the residential areas of Nazir Tila village of Ramgarh upazilla in Khagrachari hill district. Later, as the penalized was reluctant to pay the fine, he was ordered to send to jail.

Upazilla Assistant Commissioner (Land) Manosh Chandra Das, on Sunday 13 February gave this order.

The penalized Jashim Uddin alias Bagha Jashim is the son of Md. Abdul Haq of Nazir Tila village.

As per the Mobile Court sources, the sentence was given for the violation of clauses 6(B) and 15 of the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 and clauses 4(B) and 15(1) of the Balumohal and Soil Management Act, 2010.

Upazilla Assistant Commissioner (Land) Manosh Chandra Das **said to** the New Age correspondent, **to protect the environment, hill-cutting is a lawfully punishable crime.**

He added that, to stop hill-cutting, illegal sand excavation and protect the environment, this type of campaigns will continue.

Figure 4: 3 Lakhs Fined for Illegal Excavation of Soil and Sand in Ramgarh, Khagrachari

A part of writing news reports was to write the headline or title of the news. The titles or the headlines needed to be short and concise too. The general rule that needed to be followed was to keep the length of the titles within 10 words. Also, using the main keyword of the news in the title was another thing to keep in mind as that can grab the attention of the readers. However, in the beginning, I had problems writing short titles. For example, the title “3 Lakhs Fined for Illegal Excavation of Soil and Sand in Ramgarh, Khagrachari” is too long and would not be able to catch the mind of the readers, which is why this title was edited later to just “3 Lakhs Fined for Illegal Excavation in Khagrachari” (Figure 4). The mistakes were also a doorway for me to learn new things about *New Age* as a newspaper. For example, I learned that *New Age* does not use the article “the” before its name.

4.3 Word Choice

An important aspect of news writing is to make sure the vocabulary that is used is acceptable and on point. For example, in one instance, I wrote a news titled “Hijra Stabbed to Death in Gazipur City.” This headline was edited and changed to “Transgender Stabbed Dead in Gazipur City” (Figure 5). In addition, more changes were made in this news report. For example, I used the words “rescued the corpses” which was edited and changed to “recovered the dead bodies” as “rescued” is used in the case of living things and corpses might mean dead for a long time. So, vocabulary should be kept in check to choose the perfect word for the perfect situation.

Transgender stabbed dead in Gazipur city

Our Correspondent · Gazipur

AN UNIDENTIFIED transgender woman was stabbed to death by miscreants in Gazipur city early Sunday.

The victim is in her late thirties, the police said, adding that they are trying to confirm her identity and other details.

The victim was stabbed in the chest, said Gazipur Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner (Sadar) Fahim Asjad.

The body was spotted by local people on Sunday morning in front of K S Super Market in Chandona area under the Bason police station in Gazipur city.

One of the locals made a call to national emergency helpline 999 and informed it of the incident.

A team of the Bason police rushed to the spot and recovered the body, said AC Fahim.

The police officer suspected that the 'hijra' was stabbed in the chest early Sunday.

The police sent the body to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College morgue for a post-mortem examination, the AC added.

Figure 5: Transgender Stabbed Dead in Gazipur City

4.4 Grafting Quotations

Another aspect of writing news reports is writing quotes by others. As most of the news reports contained news of local crimes, accidents, and illegal activities, the information came with quotes from either hospital employees, police or other important personnel. When writing news reports, the name and the title of the person quoting should be used the first time using his quotes. The next time any of his quotes is mentioned, either the short version of his title or his last name should be used. For example, in one news titled “Schoolgirl Murdered in Sylhet”, when using the quote of the Officer-in-Charge, at first, his full name and title were used (Figure 6). Afterward, only his shortened title “OC” was used. Similarly, extra caution needs to be paid to differentiate between the quote of a police officer and the police in general.



Figure 6: Schoolgirl Murdered in Sylhet

To conclude, writing news reports was the biggest and most demanding task of my internship. I made a lot of mistakes at first and my writings would get edited a lot. But with time, the number of mistakes kept getting smaller. In the end, each mistake being edited helped me learn something new and made me confident as a news writer.

Chapter 5

Translation

A big part of my job was to translate the news from Bangla to English. As part of the news writing team of an English newspaper that covers news from all over Bangladesh, it is important to know how to translate from Bangla to English. *New Age* has its correspondents all over the country from where they receive news. Most of these correspondents are unable to write news information in proper English. Moreover, they do not have the time to write the information in English as they need to send the information quickly to the *New Age* office. So, I found out the importance of translating for an English newspaper.

I faced many hurdles in translating the information received from *New Age* correspondents. I had permission to use the internet and Google Translate if necessary but they provided strange English translations. Some of the challenges I faced when translating involved choosing the right approach and translating names.

5.1 Approaches to Translation

When translating Bangla information into English, the approaches to translating need to be kept in mind. These include different concepts of translating as well as different words in the source language and the target language.

গজারিয়ায় বাসের ধাক্কায় অটোরিকশা চালক নিহত

মুন্সীগঞ্জ প্রতিনিধিঃ

ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম মহাসড়কের মুন্সীগঞ্জের গজারিয়া অংশের জামালদী বাস স্ট্যান্ড সংলগ্ন হামদর্দ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সামনে বাসের ধাক্কায় এক ব্যাটারি চালিত অটোরিকশা চালক নিহত হয়েছে।

নিহত অটোরিকশা চালকের নাম গোলজার হোসেন (২৮)। সে গজারিয়া উপজেলার বালুয়াকান্দি ইউনিয়নের বড় রায়পাড়া গ্রামের আব্দুল লতিফের ছেলে বলে জানা গেছে।

ঘটনার প্রত্যক্ষদর্শী কয়েক জনের সাথে কথা বলে জানা যায়, সোমবার (২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি) সকাল নয়টার দিকে অটোরিকশা নিয়ে তেঁতৈতলা হাস পয়েন্ট থেকে জামালদী বাস স্ট্যান্ড যাচ্ছিলো অটোরিকশা চালক গোলজার। পথিমধ্যে হামদর্দ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সামনে আসলে কুমিল্লা থেকে ঢাকাগামী মিয়ামি পরিবহনের একটি যাত্রীবাহী বাস অটোরিকশাটিকে পেছন থেকে ধাক্কা দিলে সেটি দুমড়ে মুচড়ে যায়। এ ঘটনায় গুরুতর আহত অটোরিকশা চালক গোলজার। আহত অবস্থায় তাকে গজারিয়া উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্সে নিয়ে যাওয়া হলে কর্তব্যরত চিকিৎসক তাকে মৃত ঘোষণা করে।

গজারিয়া ভবেরচর হাইওয়ে পুলিশ ফাঁড়ির ইনচার্জ এ.এস.এম রাশেদুল ইসলাম জানান, লাশ বর্তমানে পুলিশ ফাঁড়িতে রয়েছে। ঘাতক বাসটিকে আটক করা হয়েছে তবে চালক ও হেলপার পালিয়ে গেছে।

Figure 7: Auto Rickshaw Driver Killed by Bus in Gazaria (Source Language)

Generally, two common techniques can be followed when translating. These are literal or word-for-word translation and sense-for-sense translation. When paraphrasing, it is not possible to always use literal translation to translate the Bangla words word-for-word into English. For most of the translation, sense-for-sense translation needs to be used. In some cases, literal translation had to be used. Also, for words that do not have an alternative English word,

sense-for-sense translation had to be used. Sense-for-sense translation also results in the loss or gain of word forms or expressions. For example, in one news report, for the word “দুর্ঘটনায় মৃত্যু” (Figure 7), I used the word “crush” (Figure 8) for its translation as it has no equivalent English word. Even though the translated word suits the word in the source language, it does not clearly express the expression of the word “দুর্ঘটনায় মৃত্যু”. So, it resulted in a loss of expression. This news report had some literal translations as well. For example, the word “ব্যাটারি চালিত অটোরিকশা” (Figure 7) was translated into “battery-run auto rickshaw” (Figure 8).

Auto Rickshaw Driver killed by Bus in Gazaria

Our Correspondent . Munshiganj.

A driver of a battery-run auto rickshaw was hit and killed by a bus in front of Hamdard University near Jamaldi Bus Stand of Gazaria of Munshiganj in Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The deceased Golzar Hossain, 28, is the son of Abdul Latif of Boro Raypara village in Baluakandi union of Gazaria upazila.

Eyewitnesses said that the auto rickshaw was going from Tetaitala to Jamaldi Bus Stand on Monday morning.

As the auto rickshaw reached in front of Hamdard University, a Dhaka bound Miami Paribahan hit it from behind crushing it and seriously injuring the driver.

Driver Golzar was taken to Gazaria Upazila Health Complex where the duty doctor declared him dead.

Gazaria Bhabar Char Highway Police Outpost in charge A.S.M. Rashedul Islam said that the dead body was kept at the police outpost.

The killer bus was detained but the driver and the helper fled, added Islam.

Figure 8: Auto Rickshaw Driver Killed by Bus in Gazaria

Moreover, as the news reports needed to be short and precise, paraphrasing Bangla words into English was an even tougher task. Most of the information seemed important and not worthy of leaving out. Translating them word-for-word would result in crossing the word limit. So, sense-for-sense translation was the only option to keep the meaning intact and the facts unchanged. For example, instead of using “Auto Rickshaw Driver Died after being Hit by a Bus in Gazaria” (Figure 7), I used “Auto Rickshaw Driver Killed by Bus in Gazaria” (Figure 8) as it does not change fact and keeps the meaning intact.

5.2 Translating Names and Dialect Words

When translating news from Bangla to English, it is mandatory to get the names of the places, people, and buildings correct. One way to do this is to find the correct spelling of the names online. If the person is a petty criminal, common sense needs to be used to write the spelling of his name. But in the case of respected people, the correct spelling of their names can be searched online. For example, in a news report named “3 Lakhs Fined for Illegal Excavation in Khagrachari,” the name of the Upazila Additional Secretary (Land) is “মানস চন্দ্র দাস”. As he is not a renowned person, I could write his name as “Manosh Chandra Das” (Figure 4). However, in the case of the names of villages, unions, upazilas, districts, and divisions as well as government and private buildings, names must be properly spelled when translating from Bangla to English.

In some instances, there may be some Bangla dialect words the meaning of which can be hard to understand. For example, in an article, I found the word “টেটা” which is a word used in Munshiganj. This word indicates a sharp weapon that is used for catching fish. It was tough

to choose its equivalent English word as it could mean both a harpoon and a spear. Seeking help from others helped, for example, one of my co-workers helped me with this translation later telling me that the equivalent English word of “টেটা” is “Harpoon” and the word “Spear” is used as an equivalent English word of “বল্লম”.

In general, translation played a big part in my work as an intern at *New Age*. Before joining as an intern, I never thought translating would ever be a part of my job. But it proved to be a key part of the day-to-day task of a news reporter. Through translation, I learned many new words in both source language and target language that have enriched my vocabulary.

Chapter 6

Press Releases

Apart from writing news reports and translating information, I also had to write press releases. Press releases are official statements that come from different institutions. These reports generally contain information regarding different programs or events held by an organization. Press releases are also a way for a company to advertise themselves through newspapers. These companies regard press releases as an important way to reach people. This is why it is important to make sure press releases are written in such a way that can grab the attention of the people. Writing press releases is similar to writing news reports. The challenges faced during writing press releases were thus also similar. Some aspects that I needed to follow when writing press releases were:

6.1 Structuring Press Releases

One of the main duties when writing a press release was to bring the press release under the correct structure. Most of the press releases were unorganized and scattered. Bringing them under a proper structure was important to make them effective. One common way of structuring press releases was to use the inverted pyramid structure. Similar to news reports, writing all the important information first was necessary to hook the readers. With all the important information at the beginning of the press release, readers can learn about the companies and events beforehand and it saves their time from reading the full news if the news is of no interest to them. For example, in a press release titled “Prof Abdur Rashid joins Islamic Arabic University as VC” I wrote the important information about the job he currently has and the position he is getting in the first paragraph (Figure 9).

Prof Abdur Rashid joins Islamic Arabic University as VC

Staff Correspondent

PROFESSOR Mohammad Abdur Rashid, a teacher of the Islamic studies department at Dhaka University, joined as vice-chancellor at the Islamic Arabic University in Dhaka on Thursday, said a press release.

Teachers, officers and employees of the Islamic Arabic University welcomed the newly appointed VC with flowers. They also organised a reception for the prominent Islamic thinker.

The university's pro-vice-chancellor professor Muhammad Abul Kalam Azad and treasurer SM Ehsan Kabir were present at the programme.

After joining the event, the newly appointed VC along with others placed a wreath at the portrait of Bangladesh's founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32 in Dhaka.

Figure 9: Press Release

6.2 Keeping Length and Facts in Check

Press releases generally come from companies containing excess information. On top of that, they were very lengthy and contained names, designations and quotations of various important people. When writing a press release, the names of important people should not be left out. So, it was important to make sure the press releases were readable and had all the important names, designations and quotations intact as well as the facts of the information unchanged.

Sixth sustainable development conference begins at UIU

Staff Correspondent

THE inaugural ceremony of the 6th UIU-International Conference on Sustainable Development, UIU-ICSD, was held at United International University at United City on Madani Avenue in Dhaka on Sunday.

The Institute of Development Studies and Sustainability of United International University, Bangladesh, organises this conference in every February, said a press release.

Anne van Leeuwen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh was present as the chief guest while Muinuddin Hasan Rashid, chairman and MD, United Group was present as the special guest.

Abdul Shaban, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences at Mumbai in India, and Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga, senior researcher of Water Management in Deltas, WUR, Netherlands, were present as guest of honours.

Rubana Huq, vice-chancellor, Asian University for Women was present as conference inaugural speaker. Md Abul Kashem Mia, vice-chancellor of UIU, presided over the inaugural session.

Hamidul Huq, director, IDSS and Convener, 6th UIU-ICSD 2023, started the inaugural ceremony with his welcome speech and research, and spoke about Bangladesh Delta Plan and sustainable development in Bangladesh.

Some insightful thoughts and steps for SDGs attainment came out from this session. A rich audience having representatives from government, universities, research organizations, foreign missions, national and international NGOs and civil society made the inaugural ceremony a success.

This ICSD aims to create a research-based knowledge sharing platform to notify Policy decisions, research activities towards attaining the challenges of sustainable development at national, regional and international levels.

Figure 10: Press Release

As an example, one of the press releases I wrote was “Sixth Sustainable Development Press Conference Begins at UIU” which involved the names of many respectable and important

international personnel (Figure 10). Their designations were also lengthy but as those were important, I could not leave them out of the news. So, in that instance, I sacrificed length to make sure the important information was not left out.

6.3 Short and Precise Headlines

An important part of writing a press release and any news story or article is to make sure the headline is precise and on point. At the same time, the headlines need to be short. When writing press releases for *New Age*, it was important to make sure the title or the headline represented the press release correctly and attracted readers. For writing headlines, the 10-word rule was followed. However, as most of the press releases contained names of events, they had to also be included in the headline. So, both precision and important keywords need to be kept in mind when writing headlines. For example, for one press release, I wrote the headline “UIU holds 6th ICSD”, which was edited and changed to “Sixth Sustainable Development Conference held at UIU” (Figure 10). This shows that even though a shorter title may look good, the ultimate goal of writing a headline should be to grab attention with precise keywords. In the given example, “Sustainable Development Conference” is a better keyword to hook the readers than the much shorter “ICSD”. So, precision is also a key part of writing good headlines.

In a nutshell, writing press releases was a great experience for me. It helped me to learn new things about writing as I learned how to write something different than news stories. Also, writing headlines for press releases helped me realize that both brevity and precision are important in writing effective headlines for news.

Chapter 7

My Internship Experience

Since joining the English department back in 2021, I have been excited about doing an internship. I have worked in offices before, but working in a newspaper agency was very new to me. On top of that, working for one of the best newspapers in Bangladesh created more excitement for me.

Before starting the office, I was too confident that I knew how news writing works in a newspaper office. It did not take me long to understand that a newspaper office runs differently than what I imagined. I thought in a newspaper office, there is competition between different writers to see who writes the best news piece. But at *New Age*, I realized that writing a single piece of news, even if it is only a 250-word news report, involves the contribution of multiple people. When I was given news information sent by staff correspondents, I wrote the first draft and then was advised to show it to my fellow news writers who are much more experienced than me. They would read my draft, show me my mistakes and then correct them. After their correction, I would send the draft for final editing. So, news writing is a collective process that I learned from my internship experience.

The Chief Reporter of *New Age* Mustafizur Rahman used to check my writings for the final time before they were sent to my supervisor. He played a big role in me learning new things from my internship journey. My supervisor Deputy Editor Farid Ahmed was very friendly and cooperative throughout my journey as an intern. He was very patient with my learning. He was also very considerate as whenever I had any problems i.e., family problems

or sickness, my supervisor understood my situation and offered me help any time, even allowing a few days off if needed.

From my co-workers in the internship, I got to learn about working in unity, caution, and time-management skills. As already said, the *New Age* office consists of people of different age groups, all of whom coexist in a very friendly manner in the office. I had the privilege of working with some of the most experienced and talented journalists in Bangladesh who are much older than me. Their affection and love towards interns made it easy for me to move on amid all the hurdles. My coworkers, who, unlike the seniors, are from private universities like me, taught me to balance between university and office life.

Chapter 8

From Theory to Practice

The primary purpose of doing an internship was to get a first-hand experience of the things that we learned in our time as students of Media and Cultural Studies. It was a practical journey to relate to our gained knowledge. During my time as an intern, I constantly remembered what I was taught. The courses from which theories I could relate to during my internship experience are ENG331: Cultural Studies, ENG333: Globalization and the Media, ENG401: Editing, ENG404: Copywriting, and ENG440: English for Print Media.

The first idea that was relevant during my internship was the concept of the Panopticon. Panopticon is a theory by English philosopher and social theorist Jeremy Bentham during the 18th century and it was taught in our ENG331: Cultural Studies course. It is an architectural plan of a new type of prison where there is a tower in the center and surrounding it are cells filled with people. The tower has an overseer who can see everyone in the cells - what they are doing and where they are looking at. This creates a fear among the people in the cells that the overseer is always watching over them. So, they stay clear of doing anything illegal. Even if there is no overseer, the people in the cell constantly live in fear that there must be someone on top of the tower looking at them. This idea of Bentham was borrowed by Michel Foucault, a French philosopher, theorist, and literary critic, who took the idea of the panopticon a step forward. His representation of the panopticon was for the idea of mass surveillance in the modern world where people could be kept in check without putting them in prison. "The inmate must never know whether he is being looked at at any one moment; but he must be sure that he may always be so" (Foucault 201). For example, in a building full of surveillance cameras, a person would hesitate to do something illegal or shameful. Our office was a friendly office

with plenty of flexibility. But it was also an open space where everyone could see one another. The Editor, Deputy Editor, Chief Reporter and others were constantly walking behind me. They could see what I was doing sitting at the desk. Similarly, everyone else was also being watched by our superiors in the office. On top of that, there were surveillance cameras all around the office space that were monitoring our activities. So, we were under constant feeling of being watched all the time. That automatically made us abide by the rules and do our best to perform.

Another idea that was very relevant to my work as an intern was the Mediascape from the five scapes of globalization presented by Indian-American cultural theorist, social anthropologist, and professor Arjun Appadurai in his Global Cultural Flow theory. Being one of the earliest and leading theorists of globalization, Appadurai believes that the binary theory of globalization where it is believed that globalization depends only on global north vs. global south, east vs. west, etc. is too simplistic. Instead, he proposes Global Cultural Flow, a theory where it is believed that globalization depends on the intercrossing of five global scapes: Ethnoscape, Technoscape, Mediascape, Financescape, and Ideoscape. Ethnoscape points to how different types of people move from one place to another. Technoscape refers to technologies that move from one place to another at high speed. No longer do technologies depend on market mechanisms but on money flows, availability of skilled labor and political possibility. Financescape refers to the rapid movement of money between different nations and countries. Ideoscape refers to the spreading of different ideas, mainly political ideas like capitalism, communism, socialism, etc. throughout the world. Mediascape means how the lives of people are impacted and shaped by what is shown in the news and media content such as television and films. “What is most important about these mediascapes is that they provide (especially in their television, film and cassette forms) large and complex repertoires of images, narratives and ‘ethnoscapes’ to viewers throughout the world, in which the world of

commodities and the world of ‘news’ and politics are profoundly mixed. What this means is that many audiences throughout the world experience the media themselves as a complicated and interconnected repertoire of print, celluloid, electronic screens and billboards. The lines between the ‘realistic’ and the fictional landscapes they see are blurred, so that the further away these audiences are from the direct experiences of metropolitan life, the more likely they are to construct ‘imagined worlds’ which are chimerical, aesthetic, even fantastic objects, particularly if assessed by the criteria of some other perspective, some other ‘imagined world’” (Appadurai, 1990). While interning at *New Age*, my job was to write about local incidents. The news of these incidents shaped the thinking of many people. As the readers of *New Age* consist of readers who understand English, most of these readers grow up in cities and their views of life outside the city are controlled only by what was told to them by the newspapers.

In our ENG440: English for Print Media course, we were taught the five news value factors, which are timeliness, prominence, proximity, consequence and oddity. As I did my internship in a newspaper agency, I could relate to these news value factors. These are really important in the field of journalism. For instance, in *New Age* and in any newspaper or news media agency, the news needs to be published within a set frame of time. Publishing something that occurred days ago not only means the news is of no interest to the public but also means wasting time, which is an important thing for a news agency. Also, if a piece of news is about any prominent figure, it gets highlighted more than general news. For example, during my time in internship, Mohammed Shahabuddin was selected as the next President of Bangladesh. This news is for one of the most prominent government posts in Bangladesh, so it was a news of utmost prominence.

One thing I could relate to easily during my time as an intern is that the proximity of news plays a major role. As I worked with local news mostly, my work included news from both inside and outside of Dhaka. In our office, news which is based in Dhaka used to get more priority than news from other districts. The reason behind this is most of the English newspaper readers are based in Dhaka. News out of their proximity does not concern them much.

Moreover, I constantly remembered the documentary “Getting the Story: The Basics of Professional Journalism”, which was shown in the ENG440: English for Print Media and ENG401: Editing courses. The documentary shows how a reporter reports an incident, how a writer writes a news story and how an editor edits a news to finally publish it. It also taught us about wearing several hats as an editor – one as a reader, one as a professional critic, one as a lawyer and one as a grammar policeman (Sarkar, 2015). When writing news, I edited my writing before showing it to my fellow co-workers and editor. So, I put myself in the shoes of an editor to see if my writing had any mistakes. I got to relate what was shown in the documentary with my practical experience, which made it easy to get into a journalistic mind.

Newspaper is a source of information that can play a huge role in determining the lives of the people. During my internship, I could relate it to the theory of Marshall McLuhan’s Medium is the Message. The medium is the message because it is the medium that shapes and controls the scale and form of human association and action (McLuhan, 1964). As a newspaper is a print medium and it is very popular among people, the message sent via it plays a crucial role in determining the beliefs of the people. News can increase the rage of the people and at the same time, cool down any heat that was already available. Especially in a country like Bangladesh where politics play a major role in the daily lives of people, news can act as a

driving force. Newspaper as a medium thus can play a crucial role in delivering the right message.

To conclude, the things I learned in the Copywriting, English for Print Media, Editing, and Globalization and Media courses helped me to understand the news writing process better. However, interning at *New Age* helped me get the firsthand experience of writing news reports. It made it easier for me to understand the theories and put them into practice, which resulted in an exciting experience for me.

Chapter 9

Conclusion

In conclusion, I am very thankful to BRAC University and the Department of English and Humanities for giving me a chance to get practical knowledge through this internship. Having such experiences early on before the start of a career is crucial, especially in the field of journalism, where having the knowledge and the ability to apply them correctly is very important. In addition, it was an opportunity for me to gather practical knowledge in a field about which I did not know before.

I am thankful to *New Age* for allowing me to do my internship in their prestigious office. My on-field supervisor Deputy Editor Farid Ahmed along with Chief Reporter Mustafizur Rahman gave me immense support and guidance to learn new things and expand the field of writing during the internship journey. Being under their umbrella, I got to understand not only the value of professionalism but also that you can be humble at the same time. As a result, I came out of this internship as a more confident and professional person.

I am very grateful to my supervisor, Tabassum Zaman, for being patient with me throughout my internship. Her teachings on media, culture and globalization helped me understand how media plays a big role in our daily life. Throughout my journey, I always kept in mind the ways by which media can affect the lives of people in this interconnected world. I want to send my thankfulness to my other faculty members who played a major part in putting the building blocks of journalism and a writer in general in me.

I am glad that I chose Media and Cultural Studies as my major. It allowed me to hone my writing skills and learn new techniques. Growing up, I did not imagine working in a newspaper agency. But after getting experience in one, I can say that I am looking forward to getting more of such experience.

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Appendix

NEWS IN BRIEF

50 held in Dhaka anti-drug drives

**Bangladesh Sangbad
Sangstha · Dhaka**

AS PART of the anti-drug drives in the capital, the members of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested 50 people on charges of selling and consuming drugs during the last 24 hours till 6:00am on Monday. According to a release issued by the DMP, police conducted the operations against the drug sellers and consumers in different areas under various police stations of the metropolis. During the anti-drug raids, police seized 7,677 Yaba tablets, 76.5 grams of heroin and 38.450 kilograms of hemp from their possessions. Police filed 32 separate cases against the arrested in these connections with respective police stations under the Narcotics Control Act.

Picture 1: News Report

54 arrested over drug dealings

**Bangladesh Sangbad
Sangstha · Dhaka**

THE members of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police has arrested a total of 54 people on charges of selling and consuming drugs during last 24 hours ending 6:00am on Friday. Police also seized 2,738 pieces of Yaba tablets, 222 grams of heroin, 14.101 kilograms of hemp, 10 grams of ice drug and 84 bottle of phensedyl from their possession. Police filed 40 separate cases against the arrestees.

Picture 2: News Report

*Kacchi Dine in
Ctg fined for using
unauthorised
chemicals in food*

Staff Correspondent ·
Chattogram

THE Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection authorities in Chattogram on Monday fined Kacchi Dine restaurant in Chawkbazar area Tk 2.5 lakh for using unauthorised chemicals in foods and preserving expired foods.

A DNCRP team led by assistant director Nasrin Akter imposed the fine on Monday afternoon.

'Kacchi Dine restaurant in Chawkbazar area used unauthorised chemicals in foods and preserved expired foods,' she said.

The DNCRP team, however, also fined Zaman Hotel Restaurant and Biryani House Tk 20,000 for using an unhealthy kitchen and Brand Avenue Tk 5,000 for selling unauthorised cosmetics, she added.

Picture 3: News Report

*Woman jailed
for life for killing
husband in
Minshiganj*

Our Correspondent ·
Munshiganj

A MUNSHIGANJ court on Tuesday sentenced a woman to imprisonment for life term on charge of killing her husband.

Senior district and session judge Kazi Abdul Hannan also fined the convict, Nila Begum, Tk 50,000, said court police in-charge Jamal Hossain.

According to the case, victim Najir Hossain's body was found by the police at the field of Mathpara on the June 20, 2015. The victim has two children.

Victim's brother Md Jahangir Hossain filed the case on June 21, accusing Najir's wife Nila of killing Najir over family feud using electrical wire to suffocate him.

Picture 4: News Report

*Manarat
International
University holds
workshop on job
preparations*

Staff Correspondent

A WORKSHOP titled 'Multi-national Company Job Preparation' was held at Manarat International University's Ashulia campus on the outskirts of Dhaka on Saturday.

Manarat International University Business Club in collaboration with the Student Affairs Department of the university organised the workshop, said a press release on Sunday.

Md Mahabub Alom, associate professor and head of the Business Administration Department chaired the programme, while Lieutenant Commander (retd) Azim Al Satter, director of the New Era Training Academy, was present as a resource person.

Among others, Ashiqun Nabi, assistant professor of the Business Administration Department and moderator of the business club, Alamgir Hossain, deputy registrar, Lieutenant (retd) Devayan Chokra Borty, managing director of the New Era Training Academy, Major (retd) Fazle Rabbi, Captain (retd) Noshin Nawar and Rafiqul Amin Khan, assistant director of the Student Affairs Department were present at the programme.

The event was anchored by Sk Takib Hasan, organising secretary of the MIU Business Club, while Ahmed Mansoor Hossain, the club president, Saudia Rahman, the club general secretary and students of various departments participated in it.

At the end of the workshop, crests and certificates were distributed among the participating students.

Picture 5: Press Release

Mongla port workers get food gift

Staff Correspondent

FOOD assistance has been given to temporary workers working on ships at Mongla port on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Mongla Port Authority, Mongla Customs Agents Association and Mongla Port Berth and Ship Operators Association organised this food assistance among 3,800 workers of the port on Wednesday afternoon.

Mongla Port Authority chairman Rear Admiral Mir Ershad Ali was present as chief guest and distributed the food items among the workers, said a press release.

The gifts included 10 kg rice, 1 kg Polao rice, 2 kg dal, 2 kg sugar, 1 liter of oil, 2 packets of semai, 1 piece of soap, 500 grams of powdered milk, 1 kg of salt, totaling 18 kg.

Mongla Port Berth and Ship Operators Association

President Syed Zahid Hossain and Mongla Customs Agents Association president Md Sultan Hossain Khan were also present during the distribution of food items.

Also present were senior officials of Mongla Port Authority and other leaders of the Berth and Ship Operators Association and Mongla Customs Agents Association.



Mongla Port Authority chairman temporary workers working on s Eid-ul-Fitr.

Picture 6: Press Release