

Report On
My Experience as an Intern at *Dhaka Tribune*

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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
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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The internship report submitted is my 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 have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Approval

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Acknowledgment

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I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my dear supervisor, Jahin Kaiissar, who has been a great mentor to me. She is an excellent advisor and extremely supportive of her students.

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor at *Dhaka Tribune*, Zafar Sobhan, the newspaper's founding, and chief editor, for giving me this great opportunity as an intern. He is an excellent leader and mentor. My internship at the *Dhaka Tribune* has turned out to be one of the most important and inspiring experiences of my life. The work environment and guidance from the seniors there have inspired me and taught me a great deal about journalism, professionalism, and teamwork.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

News is information about current events. People get to know about current happenings of the world through various news mediums. Newspapers are one such pervasive medium for delivering information. Reading the newspaper is a part of many people's morning routine. For as long as I can remember, I have watched my father read the newspaper every morning. Whenever I saw him read the newspaper, I became curious about the information and value that newspapers carried. As a result of this curiosity, reading the daily newspaper became a habit of mine, and I gradually became interested in journalism.

The work of a journalist is extremely multifaceted and complex. A journalist's responsibilities include researching, collecting information, writing, and reporting information. However, most importantly, a journalist's job is to find out the unbiased truth and deliver it to the people. That is why, I believe that a journalist's role in society is extremely crucial. Journalism helps to shape public opinions and influence people's decision-makings. It provides them with the necessary knowledge about critical issues. Without journalism, the world would be blind, and no form of freedom might exist.

Once I moved out of my home to study at Brac University, I could no longer read daily newspapers like before. I noticed that people who were living in hostels like me or who were stuck at home during the pandemic often relied on online news portals to get the news. The demand for online news portals has increased drastically in recent times. However, there is a lack of trustworthy online news portals, as many of them spread false news. In Bangladesh, *Dhaka Tribune* is one of the most trustworthy and revered daily newspapers, and it has its own online platform, *Bangla Tribune*, which is written in Bangla.

I have always wanted to study journalism and pursue a career in print media. Therefore, when I got the chance to pursue my Bachelor of Arts in English at Brac University, I selected Media and Cultural Studies as my major. My dream is to become a world-class reporter, and doing my major in Media and Cultural Studies has been the first step to following my passion. Taking the opportunity to work as an intern at *Dhaka Tribune* for my final year internship has been the second.

I did my internship under Zafar Sobhan, the founding and chief editor of *Dhaka Tribune*, and later I was also assigned to the op-ed team. I had to cover all of the roundtable discussions for *Dhaka Tribune* alongside other senior reporters. I had to take notes during important events, and then the senior reporter, Md. Sohel Mamun, would compare them. He was in charge of writing the cover article for each event, which would be published the following day. My other responsibilities included writing and translating articles.

Chapter 2: A Brief History of *Dhaka Tribune*

Dhaka Tribune is Bangladesh's leading English-language newspaper, and it is known for its unbiased and objective reporting. The newspaper was founded in 2013 by the East West Media Group, a subsidiary of the Bashundhara Group. It aims to fill the gap in the market for quality journalism by providing news, features, and analysis on a wide range of topics, including politics, business, sports, and entertainment. The newspaper has an excellent track record and has received several awards for its reporting. In 2014, it won the Asian Digital Media Awards for "Best Use of Online Media." The newspaper has a strong online presence, with a website that draws readers from Bangladesh and around the world.



Fig. 1: Logo of *Dhaka Tribune*

Dhaka Tribune is committed to promoting freedom of speech and the press in Bangladesh. It has been an outspoken critic of government censorship and media restrictions, and it has faced its own challenges, including threats and intimidation. In addition to its daily newspaper, *Dhaka Tribune* publishes a weekly magazine called *Weekend Tribune*, which covers lifestyle, culture, and entertainment news. The magazine is a popular supplement to the daily newspaper and has helped increase its readership.

Dhaka Tribune, on the other hand, has a sizable online presence, with a website that attracts a large number of readers from Bangladesh and around the world. It also has a growing print readership. *Dhaka Tribune* covers politics, business, sports, entertainment, and other topics.

It employs an experienced team of journalists who cover and analyze local, national, and international news.

In addition to its regular coverage, *Dhaka Tribune* has been known to exclusively cover popular news stories. For example, in 2021, *Dhaka Tribune* reported exclusively on an alleged corruption scandal involving the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines by the Bangladeshi government. The publication obtained leaked documents revealing procurement irregularities, resulting in widespread public outrage and calls for an investigation. *Dhaka Tribune's* reporting was critical in bringing the issue to light and holding those responsible accountable.

Overall, *Dhaka Tribune* has established itself as a reliable source of news and analysis in Bangladesh, with a commitment to providing its readers with quality journalism and promoting free speech.

Chapter 3: Daily Activities at *Dhaka Tribune*

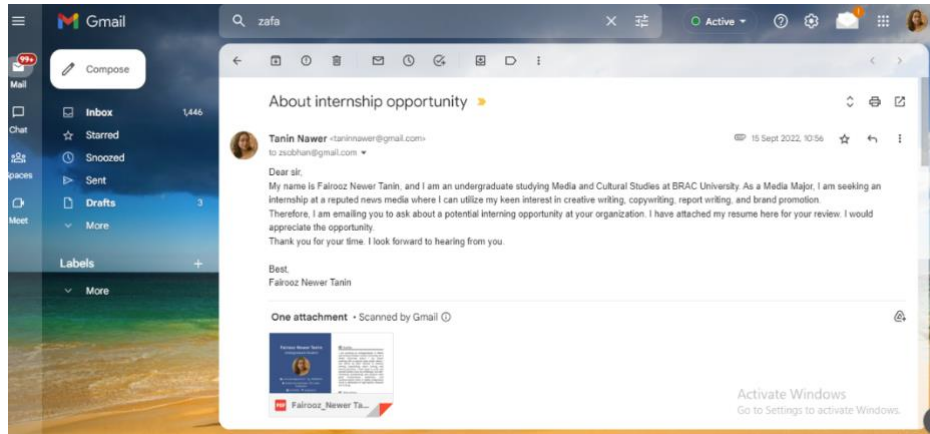


Fig. 2: Applying for Internship at *Dhaka Tribune*

People work in different departments at *Dhaka Tribune*. There are departments such as the Central Desk, the Social Media Department, the *Bangla Tribune*, the *Sports Tribune*, and so on. These departments are divided into two sections: one for the print version and another for the online version of the newspaper. All of these departments work alongside one another, and interns are assigned to these different departments accordingly. They are highly organized, skilled, and specific. Many other interns joined the workforce during the time I was there. Our designated supervisors provided each of us with excellent instructions. They were extremely accommodating and understanding.

While looking for an internship, I came across a number of news organizations. However, I have always wanted to work for *Dhaka Tribune*, and getting an internship here was not a piece of cake. My curriculum vitae was sent to them twice: once on August 31st, 2022, and again on September 13th, 2022. Waiting for their response was difficult because I was hearing that some of my peers had gotten the internship while I was waiting for their response with bated breath.

Fortunately, I got their response on September 19th, 2022. They had selected me and asked me to begin work on October 10th, 2022. Therefore, on October 10th, 2022, I started my internship at *Dhaka Tribune*. I was the Chief Editor's intern, and I am honored to be his very first direct intern.

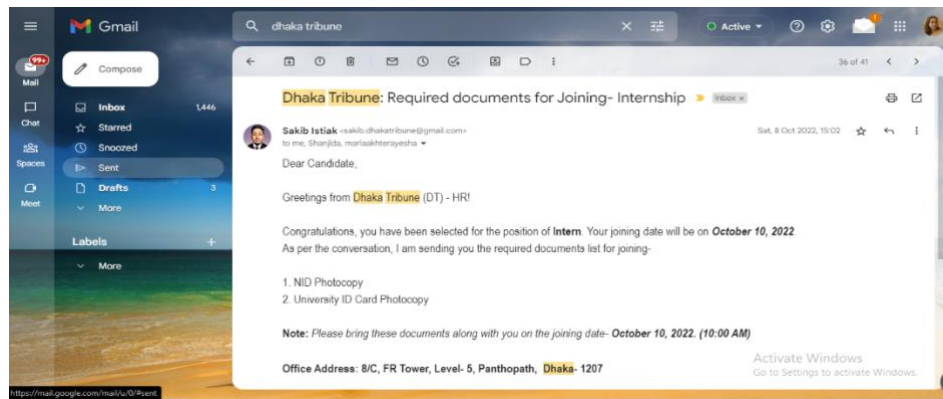


Fig. 3: Joining Confirmation at *Dhaka Tribune*

As needed, I had to complete a variety of tasks. I mostly worked at his Banani office, which was not the main office of *Dhaka Tribune*. When I first started, I had to go to *Dhaka Tribune's* Panthopath office, and then once every month to pick up my monthly internship allowance. I had to work six days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. I worked three days from home as I had university classes. As a result, I had to work six days a week for six hours a day, for a total of 36 hours per week. On most days, I had this shift. However, on the occasion of an event that I was expected to cover, I had to be present at the venue at 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. sharp. It was challenging for me to balance this internship with two academic courses. I had to put extra focus on my time management skills. Furthermore, I am a home tutor, so I had to manage three responsibilities alongside my social and personal lives. I managed everything because of the assistance and support of my coworkers and supervisor. Md. Sohel Mamun, a senior *Dhaka Tribune* reporter, taught me how to cover an event and take notes for an article.

Jarin Tasnim, Zafar Sobhan's personal assistant, instructed me about my duties and other responsibilities. Throughout this journey, my supervisor, Zafar Sobhan, constantly guided as well as supervised me.

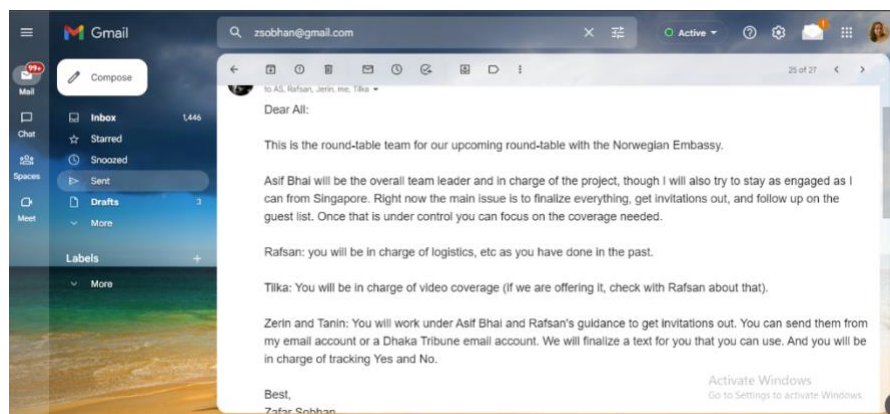


Fig. 4: Task Given by Supervisor

On the first day, my supervisor gave me a court document written in Bangla to translate into English for an article. My task was to find and highlight the most significant information in the document. The highlighted sections were subsequently converted into English. He had assigned me direct tasks like this via email, WhatsApp, or his assistant. He would frequently summon me to the office and directly hand over tasks. I had to constantly check my email for any new updates. I was added to the event's e-mail thread and Google group. In these groups, I discussed work and updates with my supervisor and coworkers. *Dhaka Tribune's* IT department's designer would create an invitation card for the events. Jarin Tasnim and I were in charge of ensuring that Zafar Sobhan approved the card. Following that, I was asked to follow the guest list and send out invitations to everyone.

Throughout this internship, I realized how much my university's teachings had aided me. The knowledge that I acquired in the media courses that I took at Brac University proved useful in my professional life. This internship has shown me that both theoretical and practical

understandings are equally important. I used the information that I learned from the English for Translation course whenever I was tasked with carrying out translations. Courses such as Copywriting, Editing, and English for the Print Media came in handy when I was covering events and writing articles. I always went back to my bookish knowledge and connected the dots while working. I grasped the practical application of the theories that I learned at my university.

Journalists must be extremely skilled. They cannot be biased; they must be opinionated while remaining truthful. They must present facts and evidence. They must be able to work well with individuals. They work tirelessly, night and day, to bring the news to the people. This internship has taught me how to apply all of these skills in the real world of work.

Chapter 4: Event Management

Prior to this internship, I had little experience in the field of event management. I had the opportunity to cover some events with my peers during my college and high school years. Aside from that, I had little knowledge of corporate event management. Once or twice a month, *Dhaka Tribune* hosts a roundtable discussion on an important issue or topic. The Norwegian Embassy co-sponsors nearly every one of the events. These events are attended by MPs, VIPs, ambassadors, professors, journalists, and critics from various fields. I had to deal with all of these influential people directly via email and phone calls.



Fig. 5: Invitation Card of Roundtable Discussion

The events hosted by *Dhaka Tribune* are crucial because they bring influential people together to discuss contentious and thought-provoking issues, as well as potential solutions. *Dhaka Tribune* has an entire team dedicated to covering these events. They decide who will be invited, the topic, and so on. Before the event, Zafar Sobhan sits with the panelists and discusses the topic to get a sense of how the event will unfold. The entire event is not scripted or planned in advance, as there is an opportunity for an open discussion and Q&A session in which guests and reporters can participate.

My task was to send the invitation to the guest list and then track their responses. I had to keep track of their responses and record them in Excel and Word. Throughout this, I was in constant contact with my supervisor and Jarin Tasnim. I had to give them daily updates because it was crucial for them to know the guests' responses. My supervisor would directly email the panelists and confirm their responses since the event depended on them.

I was instructed to call each person on the guest list who had not responded in any way after confirming the responses via email. This was a critical task with a strict deadline. I was expected to gather all of the responses at least three days before the event, document them, and then submit them to my supervisor. The venue's seating and food arrangements would then be confirmed accordingly. If I received direct responses late, they were likely to be unsure of the number of people who would attend the event. I had to call all of the guests to confirm their responses a day before the event. For this task, I needed to improve my communication and interpersonal skills. Overall, I got to see firsthand how *Dhaka Tribune* organizes events and learned a lot about event management.

Chapter 5: Covering the Events

“Myanmar: Implications for Bangladesh and the Region,” co-sponsored by the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), was the first-ever event I covered for *Dhaka Tribune*. I covered three roundtable discussions during my internship, each with a different topic but mostly the same guest list. I had no prior experience covering a live event. I covered a small event with my groupmates for the English for the Print Media course at Brac University, but it was to write a review on the event. However, while covering this event for *Dhaka Tribune*, I remembered theories on event coverage from English for the Print Media course.



Fig. 6: Article on the First Event

Before the event, the senior reporter and my supervisor briefed me on what to do and how to do it. My work did not end when I called the guests; rather, it only began. On the day of the event, I was required to show up at the venue at 9:00 a.m. and greet my supervisor in order to receive my tasks. The event lasted two hours. I had to attentively listen to the entire discussion,

keeping a keen ear out for important information. Before going to any of the events, I had to conduct my own research on the topics. The second roundtable discussion, for example, was titled “Ukraine Crisis: Foreign Policy Questions for Bangladesh.” I had to gather facts and data on the Ukraine-Russia war and the history of these two countries, beginning with Russia’s time under the Soviet Union. The background research was not about gathering basic facts. I had to sift through a lot of information to understand what they were saying at the event and decide what information to gather for the article.



Fig. 7: Article on the Second Event

Concentrating for a long period of time is often difficult, as listening to a discussion for a long time can become tedious. I understood how difficult the reporter’s job is. They cannot afford to overlook any information or quotes from an event. Otherwise, writing articles about it would be extremely difficult. My job was to accompany the senior reporter to the event and take notes. My job after the discussion was to summarize my notes and send them to the reporter, who would use them to write the article that would be published the following morning.

The third event was “How to Have a Free and Fair Election.” I had to repeat everything I had done for the previous two events. After attending the events, I learned a lot about the

topics they had chosen. I got to see the work of journalists up close. I witnessed how certain critical issues affect us all. The reporters bear a great deal of responsibility. They are in charge of answering questions from their constituents and disseminating that information to the general public. There were many debates and some unanswered questions at these events, but they were extremely informative, thought-provoking, and significant.

Experts: Political parties need to find common ground for free and fair election

By Falizeh Inna Kabir

Politicians and members of civil society have stressed finding a common ground among the political parties to ensure a free and fair election in the country gears up for the 12th parliamentary election, likely to be held in January, 2014.

Although finding common ground is very difficult, it is possible if the parties look to increase understanding and appreciation of the other, Sharmeen Masud, the chief executive officer of local election observer group Biotas, said at a seminar in the capital yesterday. Dhaka Tribune, jointly with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, organized the seminar, titled "Common Ground: How to get to free and fair election" at a hotel in Gulshan.



Diplomats, academics, journalists, and members of civil society organizations take part in a seminar on free and fair elections at a city hotel yesterday.

Zafar Sobhan, Dhaka Tribune's vice-in-chief, moderated the seminar, which was attended by diplomats, academics, journalists, and members of civil society organizations. At the beginning of the session, Norwegian Ambassador Egner Riksvolden addressed the audience. He hoped for a participatory, free and fair election in Bangladesh. At the seminar, the speakers also emphasized the importance of consensus building among the political parties to prevent any possibility of further political instability as well as the playing field ahead of the 12th parliamentary election. "The Awami League, we're very much willing to have these discussions. Because we believe that as long as we're open to the idea of realistic discussions, we can make changes happen," Naim Razaq, member of the parliament

standing committee on foreign affairs, said during his speech. He also urged other political parties and civil society organizations to come forward and engage in open discussions. Former BNP lawmaker Ruzveer Bhuiyan Farhata also stressed the need for open discussions among political parties. However, she called on the government to form a caretaker government to ensure a credible and fair election. "An acceptable and participatory election under a non-partisan caretaker government is a bare necessity in this situation," she said. "It will pave the way for a democratic Bangladesh which will ensure all the rights of the citizens." Zorayed Saki, the coordinator of Gausiathoth Aksholun, echoed her comments. "People in Bangladesh are now

egier to exercise their right to vote. The government needs to step down and establish a caretaker government to facilitate a credible and participatory election," Saki said. He further called on the government to come forward and open up discussions among the political parties to find a common ground. Among others, prominent political scientist Professor Roumya Jahin was also present. She advised all the parties to agree to mitigate the differences and suggested considering a potential electoral reform that would include proportional representation. "Can you come to an agreement that whoever gets elected will not get back 'winners take it all' system? In my opinion, that is the reason nobody wants to give up power," she said.

another, we don't find any common ground. "We as a nation emerged as a result of a government not wanting to transfer power in 1970. There was a fair election but the government did not want to transfer power. It led to radicalization and extreme divide which led to a war of freedom. That is the legacy that the people of Bangladesh carry," she further said, citing the history of Bangladesh's struggle for freedom. Stressing the need to recognize the undemocratic practices by both civil and military governments, Sharmis said the civil governments in Bangladesh have done a poor job in building a democratic society and institutions and have done poorly in organizing fair elections. Former foreign secretary Shamsheer Mohin Chowdhury said, "The outcome of the 2008 election was acceptable because the election commission did a good job." Terming the experience of involvement of the international community as not a very happy one, he said, "The 2008 was an outcome of the involvement of the international community and that was something not very healthy for Bangladesh. I think we should be able to solve our problems." Chairman of Sochiana Foundation Muhammad A. Arzaf said, "We could reach common grounds a couple of times in the past, but those were not sustained. So arriving at the common ground is not good enough. We talk about holding the next election free and fair, but why not we talk about holding all the elections free and fair."

Tangail sees 16 road crashes in a few hours due to thick fog

By Abdullah Al Hossain, Tangail

Three people, including a college student, were killed and 15 injured in 16 road accidents in Tangail due to dense fog yesterday. The injured were rescued and admitted to different hospitals. These accidents took place in one kilometer stretch on the Dhaka-Tangail Highway leading to the Bangladesh Bridge. At least eight separate road accidents took place in Pookamari, Charpara, Dhalia, Ishali, Kurni, Shubbhya and Dhalia areas on the Dhaka-Tangail Highway due to dense fog. Ambulances, cargo truck, pickup, private car, passenger bus, and motorcycles were involved in these crashes, local people said. The accidents caused a long tailback on the highway. Several road accidents took place at the Bala Manooor area in Mirzapur on the Dhaka-Tangail Highway around 6am yesterday. On the other hand, a Dhaka-bound motorcycle was hit by a car from behind in the Baskhola area on the highway in Basail area. An unidentified motorcycle was killed on the spot. Meanwhile, a head-on collision between a truck and a CNG-run three-wheeler took place at Jagajpata on the Tarakandi-Bhagpur road of Tangail's Bhagpur upazila around 9pm. Ishara, a college student was killed.

Fig. 8: Article on the Third Event

Chapter 6: Writing and Translating Articles

Writing and translating articles were two of the most important and consistent responsibilities I had at *Dhaka Tribune*. Articles from *Bangla Tribune* had to be translated into English and vice versa. In addition, I worked on translating a raw court document as well as a press release about it. The articles were to be translated, and they covered a wide range of topics.

The daily newspaper of *Dhaka Tribune* frequently publishes edited articles from *Bangla Tribune*. That is why someone is always assigned to translate and edit the Bangla articles into English. This type of translation was also assigned to me. I learned about different types of translation while taking the Translation Studies (ENG 465) course at my university. One type is known as literal translation, which means word-for-word translation. However, I did not simply translate the words as they were written. This would involve simply converting the text from Bangla to English, so the meaning of the story would have been lost.

The translation theory that was most useful was the Equivalence and Equivalent Effect. I translated the story's meaning rather than the language. The structure of the story is also an important aspect of this type of translation. Each language has a distinct structure, grammar, and style. While translating, I had to keep in mind that the structure of a Bangla story is not the same as the structure of an English story. As a result, I had to read the story very carefully to understand the important parts and its appeal. Following that, I had to restructure the story according to its appeal before translating it. I had to write it in such a way that readers could understand the story without realizing it was translated. I was advised to make the necessary cuts and extensions. Furthermore, as required, credit was given to the initial article writer. If the story had been published with an author's byline, I had to use it. Some news came directly from *Dhaka Tribune* reporters, and I had to give them credit instead of the Tribune Desk or *Bangla*

Tribune. The majority of these articles were about Bangladesh's current situation, which needed to be covered as soon as possible.

English for the Print Media (ENG440) course was my go-to while writing the articles. I used the inverted pyramid method for both writing and translating. The inverted pyramid method consists primarily of three parts: the lead, the body, and the tail. To write in the DT style, I had to combine my own knowledge with their style. While writing and translating, I kept the 5Ws and H in mind: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. The inverted pyramid method was used to divide each article into sections. The first section included the 5ws and H, which were the most important details of the story that readers needed to know. I included more details that were unique and important in the body, but the readers will not be left in the dark without them. Finally, the tail had a conclusion section where I added additional general and background information.

While I enjoyed the translation tasks, they were also extremely challenging for me. I had to be very careful during the translation and writing process because using the wrong word, misrepresenting the narrative, using the wrong name, and other errors in getting the story right will result in news fabrication and will not compel readers to read the articles. Moreover, the newspaper's reputation may suffer as a result. That is why reporters must be extremely cautious about these matters.

Chapter 7: Internship Experience

One of my goals was to intern at a reputable media organization, and I consider myself fortunate to have gotten that opportunity at *Dhaka Tribune*. When I received the call back from *Dhaka Tribune*'s HR department about my joining, I was ecstatic. As a media student, I was required to complete my internship at newspapers, news channels, or advertising firms. I have always wanted to work in an office or an organization because I was curious about how media organizations function in real life. Therefore, I am extremely grateful to *Dhaka Tribune* for this opportunity.

As already mentioned, my internship at *Dhaka Tribune* began on October 10th, 2022. As an undergraduate, I was unable to go to the office every day and enjoy the full office experience. However, whenever the opportunity arose, I took it and went to the office. My supervisor initially did not assign me to any specific team or department. I became concerned because I feared I would not have enough material to write my internship report. However, as time passed, I became a member of the team and was trained and advised on all of my tasks and responsibilities.

I consider myself fortunate to have had such supportive colleagues and supervisors. My supervisor, Jafar Sobhan, is a prominent individual in Bangladesh, so he is always on the go. Despite his extremely busy schedule, he made time to supervise me via social media and occasionally directly. He continued to assign tasks to me, either directly or through his assistant. He always had a solution for any problem I had. My co-workers were all kind and helpful to one another. Their office environment is cutting-edge and they have meticulously managed everything. A person's workplace culture and environment should be encouraging and

supportive so that the person can truly live up to their full potential. From my experience at *Dhaka Tribune*, I can confirm that they are indeed promoting that.

As a student, I have always been very nervous about public speaking, communicating, and keeping a tight schedule. My internship experience has changed everything. I became a more confident person as a result of having to cover multiple major events, speak with hundreds of people, and be extremely punctual. As a result, I improved my communication and multitasking skills. Furthermore, my work environment has taught me about professionalism, punctuality, event management, networking, and so on. I learned to be more alert and focused. Respecting my coworkers and being polite to everyone are essential at *Dhaka Tribune*.

My supervisor was also considerate of my sick leave and patient with me. If I did not complete a task by the deadline, he would approach me and ask what was wrong. Most of my tasks had an early deadline, and it was extremely difficult for me to complete them on time, so I had to become extremely adept at time management. Some days, after covering an event, I had to rush to my university to attend my regular classes and then to my tuition. Fortunately, my supervisor was very understanding and helped me along the way, so I was able to complete all of my tasks on time. I thoroughly enjoyed my journalism experience at *Dhaka Tribune*.

Chapter 8: Work from Home

Although almost everything went online during the Covid-19 pandemic, *Dhaka Tribune* had online working shifts for interns before that. Interns hired by *Dhaka Tribune* are mostly undergraduates in their final year of studies. As a result, they must attend their university classes while also working as an intern. I was relieved to learn that, unlike other media organizations, *Dhaka Tribune* provides both virtual and physical office hours. They provide flexible working hours while keeping students' schedules in mind. In fact, it was one of the reasons I applied there, as working as a full-time intern and going to the office every day would have been impossible for me.

Many of my tasks were completed from home because I had classes on those days. My reading table and a small corner of my room had been turned into my office. For the events, I was asked to send out invitations and then follow up with guests, which I could do from home. I was given a deadline and I had to work from home from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. I was told not to call the guests or their PAs during lunch, which was from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in most offices. While calling them, I had my laptop open in front of me so that I could see their phone numbers and other pertinent information.

I had to call every guest on the list using my personal phone. With each phone call, I had to provide an update to my supervisor. It was difficult for me to contact the ambassadors of various countries. They have a busy schedule, so getting them on the phone was difficult. I had to contact one person several times. In addition, with each phone call, I had to code-switch. Except for the ambassadors, the majority of guests spoke in our native tongue. With only a "hello," I had to guess whether to speak English or Bangla. However, after the first few calls, I had a good idea of what was going on. Thus, I was able to complete my task on time.

They gave me the office laptop when I worked from the office, but I had to make calls on my personal phone. Furthermore, while working from home, I sent the email invitations from my supervisor's official email account. I was given Zafar Sobhan's official e-mail address and password. It was my responsibility to send invitations to everyone and then track their responses. For this task, I had to constantly check his email and respond to the guests.

Moreover, working from home was not easier for me than working from an office. If I encountered any difficulties in the office, such as someone not responding in any way, my phone's balance getting low, or not being sure about how to answer queries from guests, I could simply go to Jarin Tasnim, who was assigned to the same office room as me. I could also speak with my supervisor in person at the office. However, if I encountered any of the aforementioned issues while working from home, I had to call or text Jarin Tasnim and my supervisor. In that case, I had to wait for them to respond, which slowed down my work and made it less fruitful.

Chapter 9: Relating Theories to My Internship Experience

While studying Media and Cultural Studies at Brac University, I learned many different kinds of theories. All of these theories have also aided me in my professional life. While working as an intern at *Dhaka Tribune*, I realized the practical application of the theories I learned in my university's Media courses. In fact, one of the reasons I applied for this internship was to gain practical experience in this field.

While completing my tasks during this internship, I was able to apply many theories from my university courses. Cultural Studies (ENG 331), Globalization and the Media (ENG 333), English for the Print Media (ENG 440), Translation Studies (ENG 465), and Editing (ENG 401) are just a few of the courses that I have taken that have been relevant to my internship experience.

Firstly, I want to talk about the “panopticon,” a theory that I have learned in Cultural Studies (ENG 331). “Panopticon” was introduced by English philosopher Jeremy Bentham. This idea reflects his belief that power should be visible and verifiable. This theory deals with the power of constant surveillance and the “panopticon.” The term “panopticon” is derived from the Greek words "pan," which means "all," and "opticon," which means “seeing.” The Panopticon is a type of architectural design developed in the late 18th century by Bentham. It was intended to be a design for a new type of prison that would allow for the efficient observation and control of large numbers of inmates. The basic principle for the design was that all inmates in a facility could be watched by a single security guard without the inmates knowing. Although it is physically impossible for a single guard to monitor all of the inmates' cells at the same time, the fact that the inmates have no way of knowing when they are being watched motivates them to act as if they are all being watched at all times. Bentham's design for the panopticon included a

circular structure with a central observation tower from which a single guard could observe all of the inmates in the surrounding cells or rooms. The cells were designed in a ring around the tower so that the occupants could not see each other, creating a sense of isolation and individuality.

The panopticon was built on the principle of visibility without observation, which meant that inmates would always feel as if they were being watched, even if no guards were present in the tower. Inmates would develop a culture of self-discipline and self-regulation as a result of being constantly aware of the possibility of observation and punishment. They are effectively forced to regulate themselves. As a result, they self-police themselves. Although the idea of the panopticon has often been criticized, it remains an influential and contentious concept that is being studied and debated by scholars and thinkers all over the world. Furthermore, I can relate this theory to my internship experience because I was constantly observed and supervised by my seniors and supervisors. In fact, every one of my coworkers had been watched. As a result, even though our supervisors were not always present, we still followed the rules and completed our tasks on time. In our minds, we knew there could be someone who is always watching us. CCTV cameras allow for constant surveillance in today's world. Almost every large office has them, and even though no one is watching, we have the feeling that we are constantly being watched.

Secondly, social theorist Anthony Giddens, in his book *Runaway World* (1999), defines globalization as “the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice-versa” (64). It includes the increased movement of goods, services, capital, and people across countries, as well as the spread of ideas, technologies, and cultural practices. While globalization has many benefits, including increased economic growth and cultural exchange, it has also been criticized for exacerbating inequality, eroding local cultures and traditions, and undermining

democratic institutions and processes. The spread of ideas, technologies, and cultural practices has also been related to globalization. This has increased innovation and creativity, but it has also resulted in cultural homogenization and the erosion of local traditions and identities.

Globalization in the media context has resulted in the integration of media systems across borders, allowing for the rapid dissemination of information and cultural products on a global scale. The consolidation of media ownership by large multinational corporations has been facilitated by globalization. These corporations frequently control and shape the flow of information and cultural content by owning multiple media outlets in different countries. This concentration of ownership has implications for media diversity, as these corporations' perspectives and interests may dominate the media landscape. Globalization has resulted in the establishment of global news networks such as CNN, BBC World News, and Al Jazeera. These networks have expanded their reach beyond their home countries and now provide global news coverage. Global news networks help to spread international news and provide a forum for different perspectives on global issues. Globalization, combined with the rise of social media platforms, has given individuals the ability to participate in the creation and dissemination of media content. Citizen journalists can report on events and share their perspectives from anywhere in the world, circumventing traditional media gatekeepers. Social media platforms also allow for the rapid spread of viral content, allowing information and ideas to travel across borders. *Dhaka Tribune* has an official Facebook page where it posts viral and breaking news. *Dhaka Tribune's* social media department manages all of its publications on social media platforms.

Globalization, in general, is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has had both positive and negative effects on the world's economies, cultures, and societies. I noticed that

many international news stories were being covered while I was translating and writing articles. They have an impact on the entire world due to globalization. For example, the first two events I covered were “Myanmar: Implications for Bangladesh and the Region” and “Ukraine Crisis: Foreign Policy Questions for Bangladesh.” Both of these topics are related to international issues. Roundtable discussions were held on these topics because they affect us as a nation. We are a faraway nation from Russia, but we are discussing what is happening in Russia because of globalization. In addition, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is a global phenomenon because sports like this pique the interest of the entire world. People from a remote village in Bangladesh to a large city like Mumbai watched the FIFA World Cup 2022. As a result, *Dhaka Tribune* covered daily updates on the FIFA World Cup 2022 in its sports section, and it also published the *Sports Tribune* magazine.



'We can dream again': The song that marked Argentina's WC campaign

"Muchachos", which translates as "guys," was Number 1 on Spotify in Argentina Tuesday with more than half-a-million plays, and was heard on repeat

December 21, 2022

Fig. 9: News on FIFA World Cup 2022

Thirdly, in political theory and social science, hegemony refers to the dominance of one group or social class over others achieved through a combination of economic, cultural, and ideological power. Hegemony is a type of power that is not based solely on coercion or force, but rather on the dominant group's ability to shape the beliefs, values, and attitudes of the subordinate group in a way that legitimizes their rule. The concept of hegemony derives from the

work of the Italian Marxist theorist Antonio Gramsci, who argued that in capitalist societies, ruling classes retain power not only through the use of force but also through the cultivation of consent and the production of cultural and intellectual leadership. Gramsci contended that the process of hegemony involves the formation of a dominant ideology or worldview that is naturalized and internalized by subordinate groups, leading them to accept their subordinate position as legitimate.

Hegemony operates on multiple levels and can be seen in a variety of social domains such as politics, culture, education, and the media. Politics is the most dominant ideology in our current world. The rules are made up by the dominant groups in power, and another dominant group ensures that the people follow the rules. If they do not, punishment is meted out. For example, while working at *Dhaka Tribune*, I came across some reports about suspected criminals being killed in gunfights with law enforcement. The majority of these cases were labeled as "gunfights" by the law enforcement team. Even so, there may be some speculation as to whether it was an 'encounter' or not. I was also instructed to refer to these incidents as "gunfights" between criminals and police. Law enforcement is the dominant group here. According to the law, newspapers are not permitted to publish any news without proper verification and authentication. We were obligated to verify every detail and the source material provided by the reporters. As a leading news organization, *Dhaka Tribune* cannot publish unverified stories. They must live up to their reputation. As a result, we cannot publish a news story based solely on speculation. We must publish unbiased, fully verified stories with supporting evidence.

The mass production and commercialization of cultural products such as music, films, television shows, and literature is referred to as the culture industry. Adorno and Benjamin were harsh critics of the culture industry and its influence on society, claiming that it had a negative

impact on individual and collective consciousness. Theodor W. Adorno and Walter Benjamin were two well-known thinkers associated with the Frankfurt School, a group of critical theorists who investigated the role of culture and society in the twentieth century. Adorno and Benjamin both made significant contributions to cultural industry analysis. In his co-authored book "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception," Adorno argued that the culture industry perpetuates a form of mass deception and manipulation. He was of the opinion that cultural products are standardized and designed to appeal to the lowest common denominator, resulting in a homogenized and passive consumer culture.

In his seminal essay "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," Walter Benjamin investigated the impact of technological advancements, particularly the reproduction of artworks through photography and film, on the aura and authenticity of art. Benjamin argued that the mass reproduction and distribution of art by the culture industry destroyed its originality, authenticity, and social significance. He believed that reproducing art disconnected it from its unique historical and cultural context, undermining its transformative power. Both Adorno and Benjamin were critical of culture's commodification and standardization, which they saw as producing a passive and conformist society. They saw the culture industry as a component of a larger capitalist system that alienates people from their true human potential and stifles critical thinking. Remaking movies has almost become a fashion nowadays. Movies that have already been commercially successful and performed well at the box office. *Drishyam*, for example, is a 2015 Hindi language crime thriller that is a remake of the 2013 Malayalam film *Drishyam*. Following the success of the original film, director Nishikant Kamat remade it in Hindi. There are numerous other examples of films and songs being reproduced or remade for commercial purposes. These films and songs are promoted and distributed to the mass audience through the

media. People are manipulated into watching these remade movies with a superstar cast, referred to as "hits at the box office," which means they are commercially very successful. Despite the fact that the original product is credited, people see the remake. The culture depicted in the original film is lost because Malayalam culture is very different from North Indian culture. As a result, it produces a homogenized and passive consumer culture. It is also a work of art that has been reproduced. The same type of news keeps surfacing on different platforms in the media. Art can be seen through media reproduction. For example, when the famous painting 'Mona Lisa' is made available to the general public via various media, it loses its aura and authenticity. There are numerous reproductions of the 'Mona Lisa' all around us. The 'Mona Lisa' image can now be reprinted on anything, from coffee mugs to pillow covers.

Moreover, during my internship, I adhered to the five news value factors. The five news value factors are prominence, proximity, consequences, oddity, and timeliness. I identified with all the news value factors during my internship. Prominence refers to the significance of the news. The importance of a piece of news is referred to as its prominence. Not all news is important or significant. Random events do not make the news. For instance, a common person traveling from Bangladesh to India will not make headlines. However, if the Prime Minister visits India, it will make headlines because this is important news. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) mass rally in Dhaka in December, for example, was a significant event. The BNP and other political parties, such as Jamat-e-Islami, announced plans to hold mass rallies in Dhaka in December 2022. *Dhaka Tribune* covered this story extensively in December. It was significant news because a political rally like this had consequences, so people needed to be aware of it. In addition, the third *Dhaka Tribune* event that I covered was "How to Have a Free and Fair Election." This discussion was taking place as a result of the rallies and protests.

December 24



BNP to hold mass rally in Dhaka on Dec 30

BNP has announced to hold mass rally in Dhaka on December 30. However, countrywide protest at the district and metropolitan levels with like-minded parties will still be

December 17, 2022

Fig. 10: News on BNP's Rally

Proximity refers to the distance between us and where the news is taking place. Not every piece of news from anywhere is relevant to us. We only see the news that is relevant to us. A local event does not always make it into the national press. As a result, the proximity of a news item is also important. For example, Argentina winning the FIFA World Cup in 2022 after 36 years was a global headline. Despite the fact that this news was happening in Qatar, it made it to the front pages of multiple leading newspapers in Bangladesh because it was a global phenomenon in 2022.

The term "consequences" refers to the effects and consequences of a piece of news. It is critical to understand the consequences of a news story after it has been published. For example, news of the BNP's mass rally on December 30, 2022, has ramifications. People will be aware of certain details, such as the location of the rally, duration of the rally, on which route, and how massive will the rally be. In order for people to be cautious and aware of the rally.



Fig. 11: News on Argentina Winning the FIFA World Cup 2022

Oddity refers to the unusualness of a news. It is news about something that does not happen very often. For example, I came across the following article in *Dhaka Tribune*:

“Bandarban youth sets world record for most football toe tops in a minute.” This is unusual news because it does not happen very often. Prenchong Mro, a young boy from Bandarban, has set the Guinness World Record for the most football toe taps in one minute.



Fig. 12: News on Oddity

Moreover, timeliness refers to the news being reported on time. If a news has not been published or reported on time, then it loses its value. If an important incident happened two days ago and was not reported in a timely manner, its significance will be lost. Furthermore, competitors of *Dhaka Tribune* will gain more exposure if they publish the news first. It is critical to report breaking news, especially hard news, on time. Therefore, I also had to translate and

work on articles on time. I always had a deadline because the news had to be reported on time. For example, the article, “6 injured in an attack on a police investigation center in Jamalpur,” had to be reported on time or else it would have lost its significance. People have a right to know about such events, so such information should be made public as soon as possible.



Fig. 13: News on Timeliness

Chapter 10: Conclusion

In conclusion, my media internship at *Dhaka Tribune* was a highly rewarding experience that provided me with valuable insights into the world of journalism. During my internship, I had the opportunity to work with some of the industry's most talented and dedicated professionals, who were always eager to share their knowledge and expertise. I want to express my gratitude to my department and university for providing me with the space and opportunity to learn. I consider myself fortunate to have gotten an internship at *Dhaka Tribune*. It was the start of my career as a journalist.

Based on my observations and experiences during my media internship, the media industry is dynamic and ever-changing. This internship provided me with the opportunity to work in a variety of departments and gain valuable insight into the world of media. One of the most important lessons I learned from my internship was the value of teamwork and collaboration in the media industry. I discovered that effective communication and coordination among team members while meeting tight deadlines are critical for producing high-quality content. Furthermore, I gained a better understanding of the media's role in shaping public opinion and its impact on society. I was able to contribute to the creation of content that informs, educates, and entertains audiences as a media intern.

Another important lesson I learned during my internship was the value of objectivity and accuracy in reporting. *Dhaka Tribune* team was dedicated to upholding the highest journalism standards, and I was able to witness firsthand the meticulous fact-checking and editorial processes that went into each article. During my time at *Dhaka Tribune*, I was exposed to a wide range of tasks, including research, reporting, writing, and translating. I was also able to attend

press conferences and cover a variety of events, giving me firsthand knowledge of the fast-paced and demanding nature of journalism.

I also learned the value of adaptability and flexibility in the media industry. As the media landscape evolves, journalists and media professionals must keep up with the latest trends and technologies to remain competitive. My media internship was a valuable learning experience that provided me with practical skills and knowledge that I can apply to future career opportunities.

Overall, my media internship at *Dhaka Tribune* was a tremendously enriching experience that has prepared me for a career in journalism. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work closely with industry experts and contribute to the creation of media content that reaches a global audience. I am also grateful that I had the opportunity to work with such a talented and passionate team. I look forward to applying the skills and knowledge that I gained during my internship to my future media endeavors.

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