

Report on
Internship experience as a Sub-editor at *The Daily Star* Digital Desk

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
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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 that 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.

Student's Full Name & Signature:

Md. Ashik Hossain

18303017

Supervisor's Full Name & Signature:

Dr. Mahruba Mowtushi

Associate Professor, English & Humanities BRAC University

Letter of Transmittal

Dr. Mahruba T. Mowtushi

Associate Professor,

Department of English and Humanities BRAC University

Kha-224 Merul Badda. Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.

Subject: Internship report on Internship experience as a Sub-editor at *The Daily Star* Digital Desk

Dear Ma'am,

I am honored to submit my internship report titled, “**Internship Experience at *The Daily Star* Digital Desk**”, which is prepared under your kind guidance and supervision.

In this report, I have attempted my best to include relevant and essential, valid information and recommended theories in a comprehensive manner as possible.

I trust that this report will meet your desires.

Sincerely yours-

Md. Ashik Hossain

18303017

Department of English and Humanities BRAC University

Date: October 17, 2024.

Non-Disclosure Agreement

This understating is made and entered into by and between *The Daily Star* and the undersigned student at BRAC University named Md. Ashik Hossain for the commitment of avoiding the unapproved divulgence of confidential data of the organization.

.....

The Daily Star

.....

Md. Ashik Hossain

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank the almighty for guiding me through all the difficulties throughout my academic career. Starting off with difficulties socializing with people and having difficulties making friends, my academic journey came a long way. However, I have come across many helpful individuals who have helped me throughout this journey.

My honorable teacher, Roohi Huda, who helped me by referring me to *The Daily Star* as an intern. Without her help, I would not have gotten a position at *The Daily Star* as an intern.

I would also like to thank My friends who were always helpful to me! From brightening up my gloomy days, for pushing me to do better.

Thanks a lot, to my supervisor, Dr. Mahruba Mowtushi, Associate Professor, Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University for her kind guidance and feedback. Without the help of her expertise in the field of academia, my report would never come to the light of day. Thanks to her patience and guidance, I was able to maintain the desired standard required for this paper. She has been immensely helpful from the very beginning of my academic career.

Lastly, my sincere thanks to Mr. Sakeb Subhan, *The Daily Star's* deputy editor at the digital desk, who was my on-site supervisor. Without the guidance of him, I would not have learned about journalism practically. His immense help and dedication towards not just me, but the entire Digital Desk staff is commendable. I appreciate all the coworkers who taught me during my internship period. Thanks to Mr. Arnold Dhali Aunik for being a very friendly and helpful individual.

Executive Summary

The Daily Star is a well-known and reliable English newspaper in Bangladesh. The newspaper started its journey officially on January 14, 1991, and was founded by Syed Mohammad Ali. *The Daily Star* provides the citizens of the country with authentic and reliable news, following the motto, “Your Right to Know”. *The Daily Star* is currently managed by freedom fighter and former UN official Mahfuz Anam, the editor, who is committed to maintaining the highest standards of journalism ethics.

This report aims to elaborate on my 12-week internship experience as a sub-editor at the Digital Desk of *The Daily Star*, the industry-leading English daily in Bangladesh. This internship experience provided me with a valuable hands-on approach to digital journalism and allowed me to apply my theoretical knowledge from my Media and Cultural Studies courses at BRAC University.

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Glossary

Byline – Author’s name.

Borrowing – When a word is borrowed from the source language to the target language.

BSS – Bangladesh Shangbad Sangstha

UNB – United News of Bangladesh

HR – Human Resources.

Chapter 1: Introduction

In an era where public discourse and democracy are shaped through information, journalism is one of the strongest foundations of a well-informed society. Journalism plays a significant role in any modern society. It is a key medium through which stories, news, and information are shared. It not only helps the public by informing them but also serves as a storyteller and a strong driving force for societal change. Journalism, through its work, empowers the citizens of a nation so that they can make more informed decisions about their nation and lives. This vital role of journalism justifies the timeless axiom, “The pen is mightier than the sword”. Since childhood, I have always been intrigued by the people who brought out the truth in the light by using journalism as a powerful vessel to facilitate social change. In the digital world, journalism and the journalist's role are crucial for creating a better societal narrative and maintaining a proper flow of global communication. I realized how language and information serve as both a vessel for communication and reflection of history. I harbored this curiosity throughout my academic career, leading me to choose journalism. As a result, I decided to pursue my academic ambitions at the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University to develop and hone my knowledge of journalism. After rigorous academic study in Media and Cultural studies, I opted to pursue a career in journalism. Throughout this journey in media and journalism, I was intrigued by how crucial information is to shaping the societal narrative and how strong of a transformative power it holds.

Scholars in the field of journalism such as Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel have emphasized how journalism works as a primary vessel to provide citizens with information and news, which they can harbor for a free and self-governing life. Diving deeper into the idea of

journalism, I learned that journalism is merely not a profession, but rather a public service that is closely tied to democratic discourse.

As I progressed through my academic career at BRAC University, my instinctive curiosity for media expanded. The power of narratives that shaped social values and beliefs, and the potential power of media that raised awareness among the people about critical social issues about injustice and imbalances in society intrigued me even more. Consequently, I sent my application to *The Daily Star* where I was accepted as an intern Sub-Editor. *The Daily Star* provided me with a platform where I could learn more about it while at the same time putting to practical use my theoretical knowledge about journalism, which I learned at BRAC University.

As a news sub-editor of the digital section of *The Daily Star*, I was introduced to the fast-paced newsroom, where I was tasked with managing the sourcing of stories in real-time and editing and publishing of news in the online section of the newspaper. I had to collaborate with reporters and sources to bring out facts and information about events and news at a pace that was both exciting and demanding. This offered me valuable insight into journalistic ethics, fact-checking, and the real-world journalistic techniques of telling a story while also maintaining the integrity of the norms of *The Daily Star* and its standard of publishing news. Working at *The Daily Star*, I quickly learned editing skills that journalists use every day to prepare well-written and accurate news. I was given the role under a team that had 7 members, consisting of two deputy editors, two senior sub-editors, and 3 intern sub-editors, including me. Our job was to collect news from multiple sources, get them sorted out by importance, and get approval from the deputy editors. From there onwards, our job consisted of fact-checking information, getting accurate descriptions from the news reporters and correcting any incorrect grammar, spelling errors, making sure all the facts align with each other in order to create a libel-free, accurate news piece that would help the

readers to be well informed. As my time progressed working as an intern sub-editor, I was later given the freedom to select news from news agencies, such as nationally, UNB (United News of Bangladesh), BSS (Bangladesh Shangbad Sangstha), and internationally, AFP, Reuters. I was also often given the task of translating and transcribing news collected internationally.

I learned to apply critical thinking and fact-checking methodologies in real time as news came to us. This not only helped me to distinguish between what is necessary, and what is factual, but also to learn how to write a news piece that would help the citizens to be informed so that they can make the right decisions for themselves. navigating through all these challenges, I also learned to maintain digital ethical standards. I received hands-on experience learning directly from the reporters by collaborating with them, strengthening my team-player skills. Learning these very closely from the well-trained and professional deputy editors has further enhanced my journalism skills which I can utilize in the future in my career of journalism. It has given me technical skills as well as built an ethical framework that would help me to contribute to the field of journalism.

My internship experience has not only enhanced my ability to understand the dynamics of information, but also given me insights into modern-day journalism by directly exposing me to challenges and ways to solve them to contribute effectively to journalism in the digital days.

Chapter 2: A Brief Introduction to *The Daily Star*

The Daily Star is one of the leading English newspapers in Bangladesh. The organization was founded on January 14, 1991, by Syed Mohammad Ali, popularly known as S M Ali, who is also a novelist, journalist, and filmmaker. Ever since the English daily was founded, it has become one of the country's most well-known and widely circulated English dailies. *The Daily Star* is known for its impartial reporting and commitment to credible news sources. This English daily is consumed primarily by the well-educated and urban demographic. The readership ranges from Lawyers, and academics to journalists and business-oriented people, who rely heavily on newspapers to serve them news about current events regarding politics, national, and international news. People from the academia and university students also are a big sum of this readership number. Using the information from this newspaper as a source of research. The diverse readership of this newspaper reflects that the readers of this English daily are rather globally aware and seek authentic and reliable news.

The organization is owned by Media World under the Transcom Group, which is a business conglomerate. The businesses under the Transcom Group include beverages, pharmaceuticals, newspapers, radio channels, and electronic and food items. Transcom group was established in 1973 by Latifur Rahman, who was a Bangladeshi business magnate and media mogul.

The Daily Star is located at the heart of Dhaka city, at 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215. The building offers an excellent view of the center of Dhaka city, the metro railway. *The Daily Star* office accommodates over 300 dedicated individuals, who belong to a diverse field of expertise. At the heart of the newspaper, there are journalists and reporters who are dedicated to covering national and international news in both English and Bangla. Beyond the breaking news area, there are editorial, opinion sections, lifestyle and technology sections which are operated by

experts in the respective fields. People with expertise in Editing, editorial management, designing, and layout often find employment opportunities at *The Daily Star*. Besides that, individuals with expertise in the fields of photography, videography, public relations, and communications are also given priority in the hiring process. For the business and marketing sections, the roles are given to people who have a strong background in business, marketing, and media sales. For the editorial positions, people with experience in the media and cultural section are given priority when hiring as they can provide the English Daily with expertise on media ethics, fact-checking, and the ability to write a well-written news piece.

To add to that, in order to ensure the smooth delivery of news, they also have a dedicated team behind the scenes, the essential support staff. Who work in the fields of finance, HR, circulation, production, and IT. These different sections in the organization ensure that the English daily can effectively and efficiently deliver news to the people of the nation.

The Daily Star operates with the motto, “Your right to know”, reflecting the commitment of the English daily to upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and giving the public authentic and truthful news. With the help of this slogan, the newspaper emphasizes the significant role of journalism which helps to empower citizens to make the right decisions. The motto, however, is not exclusive to *The Daily Star*. It is a very popular slogan used in the field of journalism globally. It is often used by media groups to emphasize the importance of transparency, authenticity and providing public access to critical information. The publication is managed by freedom fighter and former UN official Mahfuz Anam, the Editor, who is committed to maintaining the highest standards of journalism ethics. Mahfuz Anam has demonstrated extraordinary tenacity throughout his career, overcoming multiple legal obstacles, especially after

he published news that was critical of the government. This is seen as a testament to the independence of *The Daily Star* as a newspaper agency.

The Daily Star prioritizes fact-checking and information accuracy. Beyond the news reporting aspect, *The Daily Star* also engages in social initiatives which include academic awards for the students of O'level and A'level examinations, and the Unsung Women National Builders Award. The organization often organizes debates, competitions, workshops, and discussions on the more pressing food safety issues and the Fourth Industrial Revolution's impact on our country.

The Daily Star operates independently aiming to serve Bangladesh with accurate and unbiased information. The newspaper aims to strengthen public opinion and promote democratic representation across all social classes while upholding free press values. It also actively supports young journalism graduates, shaping them into proficient and honest professional journalists. Currently, it employs over 17% of women from diverse backgrounds and the organization holds a clean record regarding sexual harassment complaints. The online version of *The Daily Star* is available 24/7, it continues to influence the landscape of journalism in Bangladesh, while also inspiring the next generations to be ethical journalists by serving as a beacon of truthfulness and honesty in the country's media sphere.

Chapter 3: Organizational Structure

The Daily Star's content is strategically well organized into multiple sections, such as World News, Editorial, Opinion, Business, National News, Sports, Entertainment, and Features. *The Daily Star* has both print and online versions of their newspaper, both of which are controlled by the newsroom. Where I happen to be an intern as well. At the top of the organizational structure, sits the Editor, Mr. Mahfuz Anam, who oversees everything about *The Daily Star*, and is also considered the overall boss of the company. After him, there are multiple Associate Editors, and Joint Associate Editors who oversee different departments of the organization. There are also News Editors, Reporters, Online Editors, Deputy Editors, and Subeditors, who work in teams and report directly to the editor once a week.

The building is divided into different work sections, for example, the first 5 floors are dedicated to the management work of the organization. The 6th floor where I interned is the Newsroom, it is divided into many subsections such as print and online journalism, page layout, sports section, and Bangla version of *The Daily Star*. The 7th floor serves as the office for individual journalists who work on feature writings for different sections of the newspaper which are Lifestyle, Shout, Star Weekend, and Star Showbiz. These weekly supplements and tabloids are published on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday respectively. The Rising Stars, Star Campus, and Star Insight are former publications that were once part of *The Daily Star*.

Digital Desk: The Digital desk is the newspaper's digital AKA online edition, which works on different types of news, National, International, Sports, and Politics. The Digital Desk is situated on the sixth floor of *The Daily Star* office and is open 24/7. The Digital team is led by two Deputy Editors, Mr. Sakeb Subhan, and Mrs. Farhana Ahmed. Among them, Mr. Sakeb Subhan was my on-site supervisor. The online team mainly operates under the supervision of these two individuals.

Every subsection in the online version of Daily Star is supervised and checked by both of them. The Digital desk time slots are divided into two shifts, morning and evening shifts. morning shifts beginning at 10 in the morning and ending at 4:00 pm. The evening shift starts at 4:00 pm and ends at 10:00 pm.

There are also two different sections in the digital desk of the organization, one is responsible for writing news in English, and the other mainly focuses on writing the news in Bangla.

International: The Digital desk also controls the international section of the newspaper; the team under Mr. Sakeb Subhan and Mrs. Farhana Ahmed is divided into sub-teams that work towards international news as well as national news. This team focuses on global breaking news, world politics, and international conflict. A team of sub-editors works under the supervision of the two aforementioned individuals. International news mainly comes from different international news organizations, including AFP, Reuters, DW (Deutsche Welle), Al-Jazeera, etc.

Sports: The sports team's primary focus is on sports-related content, as their name suggests. However, they do not only focus on news related to sports scores. They focus on sports drama, politics regarding sports, and sports gossip. The team is managed by a few Sub-editors, who are also sports fan themselves. The news sources for sports teams are local and international news agencies and correspondents.

Print Team: The print team is overlooked by multiple Chief editors and Deputy Editors. News from the online section, both English and Bangla are selected by the editors for their respective

print versions. Furthermore, different types of news, ranging from National to International, Sports, and lifestyle are also selected for the print version of the newspaper.

Social media: The Social Media team is responsible for managing Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media accounts of *The Daily Star*. The social media team is also in charge of the SEO - Search Engine Optimization aspect. They are divided into teams where one team is in charge of publishing the news on different social media platforms, and the other is in charge of creating visual content for the social media platforms, such as posters, banners, etc. Considering how dependent we are on social media platforms; this department is a quintessential part of the organization.

Features: The feature team works with the collaboration of the entire Daily Star newsroom team. Often borrowing reports, and stories from different sub-sections of the newsroom, the feature team writes good features, featuring different organizations and topics.

Special Pieces: Every weekend, *The Daily Star* publishes a satirical piece under the name “Satireday.

In this weekly dose of content, The Daily Star aims to write satire content based on the current trending topics in the country. However, around 2023, they were subjected to a heavy lawsuit from the Mayor of Dhaka City for writing a satirical piece featuring the mayor.

Chapter 4: My work as a Sub-Editor at *The Daily Star*

Development as a nation has been a crucial milestone in Bangladesh, along with all the political turmoil, and corruption the country did see a glimpse of development in terms of infrastructure. Along with it came the development of the digital and information sector, internet, and easier availability of content. People in the past relied mostly on printed sources of news and entertainment such as newspapers. However, because of the internet, news can be acquired 24/7, thanks to the digital/online version of news portals. This not only gives us live or instant updates of news, but also gives us a comprehensive overview of news with exclusive newsletters. I interned as a sub-editor under the Digital/online section of *The Daily Star*. Sub-editors are editors who work under the supervision of a Deputy Editor. Sub-editors are given the task of editing, fixing, and fact-checking news that comes from multiple sources, agencies, and correspondents.

The work of a sub-editor can seem fairly easy but is in fact considerably challenging. The process feels simple enough: the news comes from multiple different sources like reporters, news agencies, and correspondents via email, social media groups, also telephone, and sometimes even fax! The Sub-editors then select the news that will make the cut as headlines or leading items for the segment or time of the day. They then start to edit and polish that news accordingly. They work on translating the news from Bangla to English and vice versa. If necessary, fix the grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, etc. The facts and data provided in the news piece by the reporters and correspondents are double-checked and verified in order to write more accurate news. The sub-editors cross-check the story with the available sources, and relevant authorities and then edit the story accordingly. After a sub-editor has completed editing the news, they send it to the Deputy Editor for final revision, who gives it a final check and it is sent to *The Daily Star* website uploaders to be uploaded. *The Daily Star* does not have any specific position for news uploaders, the senior

sub-editors take on the job of uploading news to the website. However, because the senior sub-editors are more experienced and skilled and have edited news for a longer period, senior and more professional sub-editors frequently do not need the deputy editors to verify the news.

On my first day at work as a sub-editor, I was added to the central discord server of the newsroom where all the news was shared among sub-editors and deputy editors. They also provided me with a sheet with the numbers of all the correspondents and reporters, the numbers of the IT section of the organization, and business cards for important people who worked in the newsroom.



Figure 1: Screenshot of the first news piece I worked on.

Since I was taking two other courses concurrently with my internship, my shift began every day at 4:00 pm on most days after my university classes ended. Initially, I was only given small news pieces (Figure 01) to familiarize myself with the news structure that *The Daily Star* followed. I was taught to uphold their writing pattern standards, protecting the sensitivity of the news. I was given more news articles to work on after getting a general understanding of their writing requirements. It was my responsibility to verify the accuracy of these news reports, fact-check

them, and, frequently, correct any grammatical mistakes, because in most cases, the news pieces were directly Google-translated by the correspondents. After completing the editing, I was instructed to send my edited copies to the Senior sub-editors, or the Deputy Editor for verification.

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Daily Star. At the top, the date is Sunday, October 6, 2024. The main navigation bar includes Home, News, Opinion, Sports, Business, Entertainment, Life & Living, Youth, Tech & Startup, and Multime. The featured article is titled "'Allegations against my father completely baseless'" and is attributed to Monica Yunus, daughter of Prof Muhammad Yunus, tells CNN. The article text states that Monica Yunus spoke with CNN's Christiane Amanpour about her father facing judicial action in Bangladesh. A quote from Monica Yunus is provided: "In an interview with the CNN chief international anchor, Monica said, 'Bangladesh is trying to imprison my father on sham charges.' 'I think it's imperative for me to speak out to join the chorus of the many, many luminaries who have signed this letter [Around 150 Nobel laureates and world leaders in different sectors have issued an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last year expressing concern over the case against Yunus] in support of him. These charges against him and those of his colleagues are absolutely false and it is important for me to speak out against it.'" Another quote follows: "Upon being asked about the kind of charges, she added, 'So the charges are really civil in nature, it's an employment issue -- something that would normally be dealt with in the civil court, it's been criminalised. There is absolutely no sense to them.'" She further said, "The real charges carry a prison sentence, and that's the problem."

CRIME & JUSTICE

Star Digital Report
Tue Jan 30, 2024 06:27 PM
Last update on: Tue Jan 30, 2024 08:42 PM

Most Viewed

- 1 BNP's meet with interim govt: Roadmap for polls sought
- 2 Badruddoza Chowdhury: A life dedicated to public service
- 3 Trump says Israel should 'hit' Iran nuclear facilities
- 4 Rain likely till October 12: BMD

Figure 2: Screenshot of the News transcribing CNN talk show.

Over the course of several days, I was tasked with transcribing a crucial talk show featuring CNN anchor Christiane Amanpour and Monica Yunus, the daughter of Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus. I was strictly instructed to follow the rules of transcription and not alter words. I had to

carefully listen to the video clip of the talk show and transcribe the story. Considering the sensitivity of the news, I was rather nervous at first but soon realized that it was not as difficult as I imagined. To my surprise, the piece transcribed by me was published in the Digital Section within minutes, and I was praised by my senior Sub-editors.

Further along the way, I was also given the news that came exclusively in Bangla, which I had to translate into English while maintaining the integrity of the news, and the accuracy of sentences that carried the main essence of the news, specifically to not translate in such a way that it sounded like I was putting words into the speaker's mouth. The task was difficult, and I had to ensure utmost accuracy to what was said in Bangla while translating to English. I had to follow “The sense-for-sense approach” that we were taught in our editing course at BRAC University. When I was translating a news piece, I had to make sure which sense the speaker was trying to establish and make an accurate replication of that in English.

I was also instructed to collaborate with the reporters and correspondents so that I could collect the proper and accurate information of any news. In the same way that an author's integrity is highly valued in academia, plagiarism is not tolerated in journalism. I was instructed to thoroughly read news articles before beginning work on a story, and to frequently cross-check online to see if the same story had already been published in another newspaper, as news agencies and correspondents frequently worked for multiple publications.

I was free to take breaks for coffee or snacks at any time during my shifts. The environment of the Newsroom was extremely friendly and homely. During my coffee breaks, I would frequently relax in the lounge area with my coworkers, exchanging jokes, laughs, and harmless banter about many things, even the organization!

Chapter 5: Editing news, the “*Daily Star Way*”

As a subeditor, the majority of my work involves news editing. My learnings at BRAC University, specifically the media and cultural studies courses, have helped me significantly. The courses, including ENG331, ENG333, ENG401, ENG404, ENG440, and ENG465 provided me with a rich foundation for editing news, media aspects, and language theories that I could build upon in the practical scenario of the newsroom.

Throughout my academic career at BRAC University, I learned to translate stories from Bangla to English and vice versa, I learned how to properly write a news piece, features, and Op-eds. All of which were helpful for me when I worked as a sub-editor for *The Daily Star*. Following what I learned from these courses, I had to edit news copies that came in from multiple sources, correspondents, and reporters. I had to edit the stories to make them newsworthy while following *The Daily Star* way of writing a news piece.

To begin with, I had to ensure that we strictly followed the British style of spelling. Secondly, the introductory part is always written while keeping the 5W’s and 1’H (who, what, when, where, why, and how) in mind. News reporters edit news in an inverted pyramid form, while also keeping the socio-economic aspect, cultural aspect, and social forces in mind. The main aspect of the news should always be reflected throughout the news piece. Any irrelevant information that does not add to or support the story should be left out of the final version. Quotes are always prioritized over arbitrary information, especially quotes from officials present at the scene.

While editing sensitive stories about various forms of abuse such as sexual abuse, harassment, and cases of rape, we had to ensure that nowhere in the news the victim’s name is mentioned or anyone related to the victim, following the order of The High Court of Bangladesh. However, the name of the perpetrator is always mentioned along with any other information about

them. Victim blaming is strictly prohibited while editing the news. Making sure that the news does not directly point fingers at anyone is also another priority. Terms like “Alleged”, and “Suspected” were to be used in terms of uncertainty or stories that were not confirmed by the justice system.

One of the most important aspects of a news story is writing the headline. Headlines need to be arresting and captivating enough to grab the attention of the reader in an instant. First impressions are absolutely crucial in the game of headlines. I was given the freedom to be as creative as possible in coming up with headlines. I was allowed to make use of wordplays, puns, or witty and sarcastic/ironic expressions as I saw fit and as it befitted the nature of the news at hand. However, exaggerated or absurd headlines were strictly prohibited as they would often make the readers misinterpret the news. A good headline always answers two important questions: ‘Why is the story important?’ and “What in the title interests the reader/target audience”. The headline should be succinct and should summarize the gist of the story in a few words. This minimal approach to headline writing is crucial to ensure that the readers can grasp the story just by reading the title. It is done so that the readers can skim through the headlines and catch a glimpse of the news they are interested in, which would help them narrow down the type of news they are interested in.

For instance, in Figure 03, the headline gives an overview of the story that 8 people were abducted from Teknaf while emphasizing that 4 victims are children. It also gives an overview of the fact that the incident took place in the last 18 hours. I had to ensure that this information was correctly pointed out in the headline.

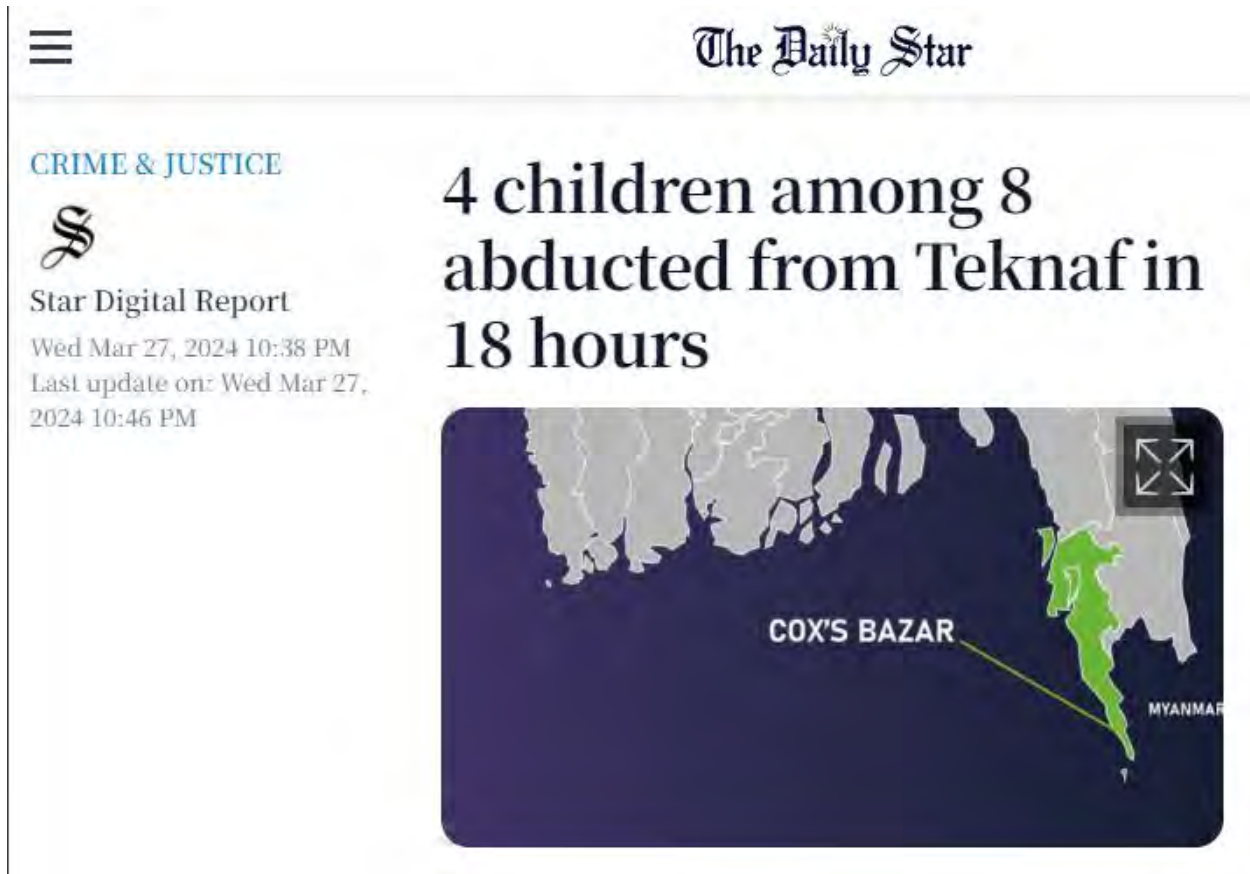


Figure 3: Screenshot of a news headline created by me.

While translating, the essence of the story was to be kept intact. My job was to ensure that the translated version of the story did not sound odd in the target language, which is English.

Furthermore, I had to ensure time frames were organized following a certain framework, for example, in the news from Figure 03, I had to use words such as “This Morning” to emphasize that the incident took place on the morning of the writing of the news. The mention of the location of the incident had to be mentioned in the very first paragraph of the news as well. In news stories, where the incident took place in the capital of the country, I used words such as “Dhaka” or “Bangladesh” because oftentimes, readers search for news using keywords. Expanding on the

British style spelling, the use of “ise” instead of “ize” and use of “S” instead of “Z” were to be used. British spellings such as, “colour”, “labour” were to be used instead of American spellings. However, this is not a rule set in stone for the entire editorial team of *The Daily Star*, this was strictly followed by the staff of the Digital Desk in the newsroom. The Deputy Editor of the Digital Desk encouraged everyone in their team to use British spelling.

For words that are exclusively Bangla, we were instructed to use the exact same word in English. For example, words like “Pohela Boishakh”, “Gonobhobon”, etc. In terms of numbers, there were certain rules. The numbers that correspond to currencies should be written like, “\$1000 USD” or “10,000 BDT”. However, exceptions were in place when the amount went above a hundred thousand, in that case, we used terms like “hundred thousand”, and “million” and the same applied to the population as well.

Translation:

Briefly learning about editing news, I was given the task of translation, where I had to translate news from English to Bangla and vice versa. Thankfully, during my academic career, courses like ENG465 helped me to learn the very essence of translating. Learning throughout this course was truly beneficial for me. It is crucial to understand the meaning of words and the overall idea of the story before translating. At *The Daily Star*, we were instructed to carry on the sense of the story while translating, technical jargon was to be avoided so that the readers could easily understand the story. Catford in his book, *A Linguistic Theory of Translation* developed the framework of linguistics approach to translation, drawing heavily on the linguistic aspects established by the Hallidayan functional linguistics, in which, Catford defines translation as “the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language”

(20). This means that when translating, from Bangla to English, similar English words and sentences are necessary in order to replace them in the source language.

I used direct translations as well as contextual translations when necessary. I would transcribe and translate the sentence in a way that would sound lively and realistic while also sticking close to the real meaning. I also used the “Borrowing technique” where many words from the English language are borrowed in Bengali form to translate.

Chapter 6: Making Story Out of News

When news pieces come from different sources, the first task of the sub-editor is to cross-check the news authenticity, as there is no value to a story that is bogus. Secondly, the story has to debunk the 5W's and 1'H aforementioned above. These questions are fundamental to writing a good story, as they provide a clear and broad understanding of the news. I had written multiple headlines using this method, for example, "BSF arrests 3 Bangladeshi nationals carrying 10 gold bars at Petrapole crossing checkup" is a news headline I had written where I answered the 5W's and 1'H clearly.

Who: BSF (Border Security Forces)

What: Arrests 3 Bangladeshi

Where: Petrapole crossing.

When: Since it was a current story, the present time was implied.

Why: Carrying gold bars

How: During routine checkup.

I have addressed every aspect of the news story by answering the 5W's and 1H in the headline.

The news most of the time comes directly from our correspondents, who write a brief draft of the news, and my job as a sub-editor is to polish them to make them newsworthy. However, when editing news, and reading it a couple of times, I often found information gaps that needed to be addressed. For which, I contacted the correspondents and asked them to gather more information about the news. In order to make the news easily readable and easy to understand, I

had to ensure the flow of the news. For this, I followed a certain framework - putting all the necessary information very briefly in the first few paragraphs and expanding from there onwards.

Furthermore, I employed the usage of much easier and relaxed language, which helps the readers to read the news with ease and comfort. The narrative of the story is portrayed throughout the whole story, and I made sure it is easy for the readers to grasp through the use of language, however, the fact of the story is not altered or changed regardless. The story has to maintain a certain level of transitional flow, otherwise the story would seem scattered and all over the place. To make sure that the readers have an easy time reading and understanding the story, the flow between the paragraphs is essential. I was instructed to address the key elements of the story in the first two or three paragraphs, and the rest of the information was to be delivered chronologically in the next few paragraphs in a well-maintained sequence. I would often edit stories so that the crucial information was always given in the first one or two paragraphs. The context and the background of the news are given in the third paragraph, as the background of the story provides a sequential flow of what has happened in the news story.

Chapter 7: Theories of Media and Cultural Studies

During the internship period, theories and techniques that I learned from the academic courses at BRAC University had a significant impact on my work. I found use for many theoretical ideas and concepts that I acquired by attending several courses in Humanities and Social Sciences at BRAC University. The courses, including ENG331 (Cultural Studies: Theory and Practices), ENG333 (Globalization and the Media), ENG401 (Editing), ENG404 (Copywriting), ENG440 (English for the Print Media) and lastly ENG465 (Translation Studies) provided me with a rich foundation that I could build upon in the practical scenario of the newsroom.

The course, ENG465 is a translation-based course that teaches how to translate a story from one language to another while maintaining authenticity, and accuracy and ensuring that the story does not sound odd. It teaches about which methods to follow in order to create a very meaningful translation. The details have been discussed extensively in Chapter 5.1. To add to that, multiple journalistic techniques have helped me to quickly grab the gist of the work of a sub-editor, thanks to courses like ENG404, ENG401, and ENG440.

To write good news, I had to ensure news value factors such as, Prominence of the story, Timeliness, Proximity, Consequences, and Oddity, were all present or the majority of them. We were taught the news value factors while taking the courses at the university. These five factors together made a story newsworthy.

Furthermore, many cultural theories proved to be very important while working as a sub-editor for the newsroom. Jean Baudrillard's concept of Hyperreality and the notion of simulacrum was one of the key theories. Baudrillard defined hyperreality as a blurry line between reality and imagination, which as a result makes it impossible to identify where one starts and another concludes. While editing news, this theory helped me in multiple instances. For example, the

headline of a news was heavily dependent on the news angle. For instance, if a story that came in was about a certain program held by an organization, it would not be very newsworthy, however, if there was a significant public figure present at the event, it would be a good story that people would read. Such news angles were employed on multiple occasions where the news would become more attractive and enticing by changing or shifting the angle of the story.

The concept of the Panopticon as introduced by Jeremy Bentham was relevant for me as well. The concept introduces a central surveillance tower that is surrounded by floors in a circle. In the essay, “The Eye of the Power” French philosopher, Michel Foucault relates the idea of the Panopticon to societal control, where one is always in fear of being “watched” which makes them stay at their best behavior. This theory was directly connected to my workplace etiquette, there were CCTVs all around the newsroom, the desks where the employees worked were open from all sides and the head of the newsroom and other senior members of the newsroom could easily look at them. It always served as a reinforcement of the office norms, rules, and regulations. I had to follow specific protocols while working, logging hours, following sign-in instructions, and marking news that I was working on. As if that hypothetical Gaze that Foucault described in his theory was on me.

In addition to all the journalistic theories and techniques, many abstract cultural theories that were taught in the humanities courses also were very relevant. The courses helped me to understand the Marxist view of the mass media to produce capitalist realities, it helped me to understand how journalism eventually revolves around the idea of “objective truth”, which is meticulously sculpted by the editors and sub-editors of the news in order to attract more readers and create a narrative. This aspect of the theories used in journalism is closely tied to the theories proposed by Baudrillard’s simulacrum - how journalistic depictions can often become more

enticing than they are. Study of theories proposed by philosophers like Guy Debord and his concept of “the society of the spectacle” helped me understand how media is not a neutral version of the independent reality, rather it is an actively produced reality that is created to attract the mass population and resonate with cultural values and norms.

My internship allowed me to connect these theories to my work and responsibilities as a sub-editor. Having knowledge about philosophy and cultural studies enriched my experience as an intern. These theories ensured I was accustomed to writing and language skills, and the cultural aspect as well. Rather than producing news unjustly according to the established templates, I used my knowledge of these theories and concepts to avoid making obvious mistakes. I constructively checked and edited the news articles by making sure they remained close to the truth and did not veer away from it. The complex interplay of the underlying reality with the already set norms created a challenging experience for me. However, by being familiar with the theories introduced by Baudrillard, Bentham, Foucault, Debord, and others during my BRAC university experience, I became more attuned to these complex underlying dynamics. Rather than just “following the norms” I recognized how my work will inevitably shape and change the dynamics.

The technical skills that I acquired were invaluable for journalism, and the theories I learned from my courses were an added benefit. These theories gave me a new perspective on looking at things. Theoretical knowledge enabled me to tackle my internship with higher consciousness and awareness, which helped me to navigate through the intricate webs of culture and journalism.

Chapter 8: Challenges and Barriers

While working as a sub-editor, it was not all about copy-pasting news. While editing news, I had to always make sure that the editing did not come from my perspective, and always reflected what the speaker wanted to convey. To add to that, *The Daily Star* always follows British style spelling, and growing up, I always used American style spelling, this added a layer of difficulty for me as a sub-editor. While editing national news, I had to be careful so that the news did not veer away from the truth and did not convey any underlying meaning.

As mentioned before, I was often told to collaborate with other reporters and correspondents in order to fact-check news stories. Being an introvert, adapting to the idea of collaboration was difficult for me. I also had to learn how to prepare a set of questions to help me validate a news story. Learning to pluck important and relevant information from a news story was also difficult, I had to skim the story and work to enhance it in such a way that it made the story more appealing by ensuring that the story was not too lengthy. I rearranged the story, removed repetitions, and made sure the story did not have too many characters.

Furthermore, the concept of “Positive Discrimination” in the workplace is something I had to investigate. This term was first introduced in US President John F. Kennedy’s Executive Order No. 10925 on March 6th, 1961. The initial goal of this was to correct historical and cultural inequalities that have prevented multiple minor ethnic groups from getting the same opportunity as the other more privileged part of the demographic. However, while this might be a well-thought-out, well-intentioned idea, positive discrimination can indeed have negative consequences, specifically in a workplace where people from diverse backgrounds work. The rationale behind positive discrimination is connected to the idea of achieving social justice. For a long time, many minority groups, ethnic groups, women, and individuals with physical difficulties have faced

challenges and hurdles trying to get opportunities in employment and education. Positive discrimination aims to abolish such problems through preferential treatment, where companies and institutions aim to balance out representation by giving minorities employment opportunities. By doing so, institutions and organizations can promote diversity in the workplace.

However, with this comes many negative impacts in the field of employment. Positive Discrimination can create a sense of perception that individuals are being hired based on their position in the social hierarchy, rather than merit. This can oftentimes create resentment between employees who feel as if they are overlooked despite their qualifications or hard work. This can often lead to a significant impact on meritocracy. The idea of meritocracy is to reward those who perform well at the workplace, based on competence and hard work. Positive discrimination, on the other hand, can create an impact on meritocracy since it may often favor identity over merit.

In terms of an organization situated in Bangladesh, which is a developing country, this idea of positive discrimination can be very beneficial, by grabbing international attention for companies to boost their publicity, reputation, and revenue, especially for newspaper companies that focus strongly on the progressive community of a nation. Conversely, it also brings in unequal fields in the corporate work field as well. Often times individuals with minor identities, or ethnic groups are hired based on their identity and not merit. This specifically helps an organization that focuses on empowerment and caters to the well-informed and progressive part of society. This could also be perceived as an illusion, an illusion that creates the curtain of inclusivity just to boost the reputation of an organization.

Without directly pointing fingers, it could be viewed as a general issue in the nation, where in the name of inclusivity, people from minor identities, and minor groups are hired. Considering the patriarchal stigma that still prevails to this day in our country, the male population of the

country may often find this positive discrimination threatening, specifically when women are hired at the workplace. Similar drawbacks were visible while interning at *The Daily Star* as well, there were multiple instances where people were favored based on their identity and not merit. Despite working more hours and more days, some people were discriminated against in terms of benefits and remuneration.

The conglomeration of the aforementioned challenges made my journey at *The Daily Star* quite difficult as well as enjoyable, since I had an invaluable opportunity to learn many new and exciting components of journalism which will further help me in my career as a journalist.

Chapter 9: Conclusion

As a sub-editor intern at *The Daily Star*, I was able to put my academic background in Media and Cultural Studies to use while also gaining experience that helped me become a more professional person by easing my transition into the corporate world and accepting responsibility for my work. The entire journey was filled with self-discovery, helping me to learn to step out of my comfort zone and deal with problems that I had never faced before. Facing these uncertainties, I learned to combat hurdles and gained more confidence in my abilities.

I am thankful to my on-site supervisor, Mr. Sakeb Subhan, for teaching me the techniques and skills of a sub-editor in only a 10-week time frame. His immense dedication to teaching me only reflects how passionate and skilled he is in his field. Without the assistance of all the other people who worked there at the Digital Desk, I could not have learned to solve the problems I faced.

I feel honored that my edited pieces were regularly published in *The Daily Star*. The idea of reaching out to such a mass crowd through my efforts gave me a huge boost in confidence and a sense of empowerment.

I hope to use all the skills I learned from *The Daily Star* in the field of journalism as a career.

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