

My Internship Experience at *Boishakhi Television*

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My Internship Experience at *Boishakhi Television*

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1. INTRODUCTION

I was always interested in media and culture from childhood when I used to attend all the singing, art and dancing competition under various organizations like Natun Kuri, Shisu Academy, ATN channel and so on. However, I did not have a clear idea of what I wanted to be after I got admitted at BRAC University. I was in a dilemma between choosing to be either in the ENH (English & Humanities) department or the BBS (BRAC Business School) as I had a concentration in Business Studies both in H.S.C and S.S.C. Then I chose ENH according to my father's wish. I was also confused regarding my concentration. I was always fascinated by electronic media, especially towards Television Channel from my childhood. I knew people will know me through media and I will be a media person. Following my interest I decided to do my concentration in Media and Cultural Studies at the ENH Department of BRAC University. I took Globalization and Media, Cultural Studies, Translation Studies, Copywriting, Editing, and Print Media courses that provided me with the opportunity to know new things about media from an insider's and outsider's view. Therefore, being a student of media and culture studies, I have long cherished to do my internship in the media world. At last, it came true by joining *Boishakhi Television* as an intern. To get a great opportunity to do an internship at *Boishakhi Television* was astonishing news to me. When the opportunity came my way I did not want to lose it. I did my three months internship at *Boishakhi Television*. At *Boishakhi Television*, I worked with the newsroom editing team mainly, and little bit with production, reporters and cameramen. In fact, working in an electronic media was completely a new experience for me.

My internship started from 9/06/2013. In fact, it was a long process to start my internship. Ashok Chowdhury, the Head of News of this channel told me that I will do my internship at the news site which is situated in the 7th floor. In fact, I was given an option to work either with

their NCA (News & Current Affairs) section of the editing or the production team but I preferred to join in the Department of English Newsroom editing team because I wanted to improve my writing skills. I also feel learning and observing the preparation of news can be a very challenging job. I know that news is what is always happening around us and from this every day I can gather the latest knowledge and information. Therefore, when I was told to talk to Mr. Gautam Barua, News Editor and In charge of NCA (News & Current Affairs) Department of English newsroom desk of *Boishakhi Television*, I was more than happy because he is one of the senior news editors in Bangladesh who prepares special news such as packages on famous person like Humayun Ahmed, Banga-Bandu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Kazi Nazrul Islam, etc. At the same time he prepares daily news. While talking to him I realized that he is a friendly person and became very pleased to get such a friendly person within my working place. Then he introduced me to the newsroom editing team. This team was also kind enough to give me the opportunity to work and learn practically in a friendly and helpful manner. This new experience and knowledge exposed me towards new possibilities of getting a job at the newsroom editing sector and gave me an eye-opening understanding of the electronic media. This may not have been possible for me and I would like to thank my department and BRAC University for giving me this opportunity.

During my internship I mainly worked with the English newsroom editing team as a junior newsroom editor. Therefore, this report will provide a general overview of the structure and operation of the newsroom at *Boishakhi Television* and will discuss the news editing process in detail. While doing so, the report will also provide an insider's perspective on the nature of news selection and production at *Boishakhi Television*.

2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF *BOISHAKHI TELEVISION*

On December 27, 2005, Boishakhi Media Limited, a private sector venture began its journey with the tagline "Muktijuddher Chetonay" (In the Spirit of Liberation War). In the beginning, it was lagging behind in technological expertise; but the channel was re-launched or there was a rebirth in 2010, by Destiny Group. They bring revolutionary changes through introducing latest technical support and new software-based system. It has its own fully state of the art Satellite Earth Station. The earth station is used to broadcast digital signal of Apstar 7 satellite whose downlink frequency is 4009 MHz C-Band. It transmits from its studio in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This satellite has a huge coverage area across South-East Asia, and we can watch this channel from our neighbouring country India. Some part of India, basically people living in West India can watch this channel.

The name of the channel is "BOISHAKHI". It is named after the first month of the Bengali year, "Boishakh," associating the channel with the ideas of being 'new' and being 'ahead'. This TV is an entertainment and news channel for both Bengali and English speaking people. This digital cable television channel mostly telecasts news, daily serials, movies, drama and talk shows. Major festivals like Bengali New Year (Nababarsho), religious festivals like Eid-Ul-Fitr, Eid-Ul-Azha, Durgapuja, Christmas, Janmastami, Buddha Purnima, etc. always get a special touch by *Boishakhi Television* since it broadcasts several programs related to that festival. For example, before Eid-Ul-Fitr, it broadcasts religious programs like Hamd- nath, recitation of Quran, religious talk shows and competition. Similar to the other channel, it also broadcasts 24 hours news and program which is one of the most important parts for a channel. In addition, it broadcasts different types of programs about Bengali culture, history, religion, geography, people, language, and faiths responding to the needs of both national and international audience.

They offer all kinds of television programs like news, live commentary, talk shows, live talk shows, religion, health, fashion, national and international sports, share business, music, puppet shows, cartoons, movies, magazine shows, agriculture, daily soaps and serials. I saw a huge studio where special news and programs are being always telecasted.

Boishakhi Television telecasts mostly hourly news, in particular the news headlines. This channel telecasts both English and Bengali news for both Bengali and English speaking people all over the world. Although, I hardly observed Bengali news because my working place was in English newsroom desk, I came to know the number of Bengali news bulletin is 13. The bulletins are broadcasted at 7am, 8am, 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 7pm, 7.40pm, and 11.30pm but three major bulletins are aired at 7am, 2pm and 11.30pm. The number of English bulletins in the channel is three. Two major bulletins are aired at 9am and 6pm and another short bulletin at 12pm. They also telecast Share Business news (Artho & Banijjo), National news (Saradesh), International news (Boishakhi CNN abang Sharabisha), Sports news, Entertainment and Cultural news. In terms of Share Business news, they telecast it at 3 pm every day, except public holidays including weekends (Friday and Saturday). Moreover, they telecast National news at 5 pm, International news at 5.15pm, Sports news at 7.40pm, and Entertainment and Cultural news at 8.30 pm.

Furthermore, *Boishakhi Television* tries to focus on the latest news of the country and the world. They always update news for their viewers in their upcoming news bulletins by adding latest information. Breaking news is aired and scrolled in the TV screen from international and national sectors.

In *Boishakhi Television* many teams work relentlessly and continuously for effectively telecasting this continuous stream of news and currents affairs. Reporters, producers, editors, broadcasters, video editors, cameramen are directly responsible for preparing news. Moreover, it has several desks like International, National, Local, Sports, and Share business where reporters, editors and producers work vigilantly.

3. INTERNING AT *BOISHAKHI TELEVISION*

I have gathered rich experience and knowledge by interning at *Boishakhi Television*. Now I can say that if I did not get chance to work in this channel, I certainly would have missed many things. I am lucky that I got this chance to work here. I got to see how things work, learnt to do certain types of work and met a lot of interesting people from different departments like newsroom editing, production and reporting. Actually having such a work experience and opportunity to learn new and exciting things means a lot to me. Furthermore, this experience will be helpful for my future as well as I am building a career in this field. One thing I realized especially well is that studying media and working in the same field are very different.

I mainly worked in the English Newsroom Editing Department of NCA (News & Current Affairs) of *Boishakhi Television*. News & Current Affairs department has proved to be one of the most popular elements of Boishakhi since it telecasts Bengali news bulletin 13 times, and English bulletins three times including Share Business news, National news, International news, Sports news, Entertainment and Cultural news. All these news-based programs proved to be major successes with local audiences and were bench marks in their times.

English Newsroom Editing Department of NCA (News & Current Affairs) of *Boishakhi Television* is governed by 11 members and I will be discussing it below:

- **One English News Editor:** My instructor, Mr. Gautam Barua is news editor and he is also in charge of the English Newsroom department of this channel. He decides which news will go for rundown preparation, which news will go to the script of the news presenter and which news will be on-aired for the next bulletin. He also edits all types of news items including packages. I came to know from him that a package should have an

intro, body and end with pay off. In fact, he does toughest job of the newsroom and that is preparing the rundown of the news bulletin of the day. This falls in the skilful hands of the news editor who is technically known as the “God of the Newsroom.” My instructor, Mr. Gautam Barua always helped me and also helped other newsroom editors to acquire knowledge of run-down preparation.

- **Three newsroom editors:** Editors’ reports are written by other desk reporters like Bengali newsroom reporters. Sometimes they collect the news from online sources, prepare reports from reporters and translate news from Bengali to English using sense for sense translation technique. They prepare news ticker, national and international news and news items on events happening everyday. They are always busy updating the News Ticker. I have learned from them what a news scroll is. In his channel both English and Bengali News Ticker or scroll goes on air from different pcs. I came to know Wasp-3D is the special software that is using here. They also collect international news items from a few renowned websites like BBC, CNN, Reuters and Al Jazeera.
- **One reporter (Staff reporter):** Collects news directly from the spots and events where incidents take place. He takes risk to collect news from different spots and events.
- **Seven presenters:** They follow the script and read out. If there is any mistake, then they inform the editor and the editor makes the corrections in the script.

News writing is completely different from what I have learnt in BRAC University, since *Boishakhi Television* follows the simple way of writing. I found news writing to be very difficult and different from academic writing style as I mostly took literature and linguistic courses for the first three years. It is different and difficult because it is not always an easy task to prepare news using simple language. We mostly know many complex and simple words but we know that

while writing news it always does not come to mind so easily. While writing for *Boishakhi Television*, I had to familiarize myself with *Boishakhi Television* news writing methods, which are considerably different from the other channel's English Newsroom Department of Bangladesh. I also had to accustom myself to *Boishakhi Television*'s viewpoint of news writing as editors always translate news from Bengali to English using sense for sense translation technique.

Sometimes they prepare news from reporters' unedited large news to smaller ones and give them perfect shape. In fact, while preparing news items, language has to be very straightforward but catchy to the viewers because it is electronic media not newspaper otherwise viewers can change the channel by using remote control. By including 5 Ws and 1 H question within the news, news items can be straightforward and catchy to the viewers. During preparation of news items editors do not mention age of any Prime Minister, President and other renowned person if not necessary.

In fact, including literary terms directly in a news item is not important at all since it loses the flavor of news, but idiomatic expression is essential to take in. Moreover, in case of preparing any news, from the beginning we should use past perfect and then simple past tense. Putting a perfect title is an important part of any typed news. After editing or preparing any news item we should always hit the justify command because it creates a clean look along the left and right side of the page.

I prepared many headlines and the standard word limit for each headline is 16-19. Word limit is important when preparing headlines. One cautionary fact we should keep in mind is that we should not exceed to 19 words, otherwise it will lose its headline value. Every news report is

written in several paragraphs and the standard word limit for each paragraph is 60-79 words, especially for the OOV (Out Of Vision). News items about the Prime Minister, opposition chief leader and packages on legendary people may contain more than 80-90 words. In fact important news should not be omitted in any case. These news items in particular, are made the lead items as the part of the requirement of the day. The title of the OOV should be prepared in this way- “Syria Crisis/oov/Kishowar Laila”. All this is done using the inverted pyramid method of course where the 5Ws and 1H are in the lead paragraph.

During my internship at *Boishakhi Television*, I did particular types of work. I had to prepare OOV, based on international, national, business and sports news items. I also had to translate a lot of Bengali news items into English. I also did editing here. I practically observed how packages are made by my instructor. It is a kind of news with more detail, and to a certain extent different from other news items. The length of the news package is more than 125 words. It should have an intro, body and end with pay off. Sometimes, a good package can bring some goodwill for the channel. I also got a good idea of how news and packages are prepared, made ready and get on-air for the public to watch. I wrote several news items, which were broadcasted during my internship period. Several of them will appear later in this report.

My first introduction to media education was with the Copywriting and Cultural Studies course during my third year, and then it continued through Translation studies, Editing, Globalization and Media and English for Print Media courses. I have also attended a seven day workshop on Media Ethics and Journalism which was conducted by Uche Oneybadi, Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University, USA and arranged by BRACU’s ENH Department. These gave me an idea about the contemporary media world and issues, and sparked interest in me to be a part of it.

The different sections of *Boishakhi Television* are as follows:

- **International Desk:** I mainly worked in the International desk and I learned that they collect news from internet by browsing a few renowned websites, such as *BBC*, *CNN*, *Reuters* and *Al Jazeera*. International reporters stay in office, since news comes from different online sources, and countries.
- **National Desk:** This desk collects news from their agents who are working in the entire country. Bangladesh is divided into seven divisions by district name. They are also responsible for collecting news and giving news updates. National reporters also stay in office, since news comes from different sectors and parts of countries.
- **Sports Desk:** Sports news items are of two types, international and national. National sports reporters sometimes physically visit and collect news from the venue where sports take place. They also collect news directly from sporting events and sport individuals like players, coaches, managers etc. Besides, they visit stadiums all around the nation, produce reports from score cards and press releases by translating. Moreover, international sports reporters sometime collect news from internet or their agent.

Under my instructor, I prepared some sports news items. I found this to be difficult, since I had very little knowledge on those sports topics. In fact, sports news items have a language that is different and unique. Therefore, years of experience, good knowledge and interest on sports issues are needed to be an expert sports news editor. Preparing news on sports issues was not an easy job for me and I always found preparing sports news difficult. I have learned from my instructor that if we find difficulty while preparing news items then we should talk to a reporter about those issues. Therefore, during preparation of any types of news, an editor needs to

cooperate with people from other sectors such reporters, producers and presenters. For this reason he told me to go to the sports news editor.

- **Business Desk:** Share business news items are mainly prepared by business reporter in this desk. They prepare news items from DSE (Dhaka Stock Exchange), CSE (Chittagong Stock Exchange) and BSEC (The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission) website. I have prepared a few news items for the Business desk and found it difficult while preparing them.

4. NEWS PREPARATION IN THE ENGLISH NEWSROOM EDITING DEPARTMENT

News stories can be defined as fresh, unpublished, uncommon and interesting. The first three elements are essential within news stories. In fact, interesting news does not always happen.

News worthy factors can vary a news item with others news items but it depends on some factors which are essential parts of a news items. In fact, no matter how a reporter or news editor tries, they will never be able to stem their own preferences in news judgments. In that case news worthy factors can help a reporter or news editor to judge a news story. The factors are:

1. Consequences- Consequences of events can make it important.
2. Prominence- It can turn an event into an international story.
3. Proximity- It is a deciding factor in making news decision because the further away something happens from us the less news worthy it is to us.
4. Immediacy- It plays a role in many news decisions. For example, if the death of Humayun Ahmed was reported a week after he died, the news of his death would not have same impact.
5. Oddity- Anything unusual is newsworthy. For example, a baby born with two heads.

These are the most important news worthy factors of news stories. There are also many factors that can be included in news stories too. They are: Relevance, Simplification, Predictability, Unexpectedness, Continuity, Composition, Elite people, Elite nations, Negativity, News fashion, Development, Source, Knowledge, Readers and Context.

There are different types of news items in the news sector. According to their nature and character, two types are important. They are soft and hard news.

- a. **Hard news:** These are general in nature and some can be breaking news. These are news items that require immediate publication so these cannot wait. For instance: fires, accidents, crime, the courts, riots, disasters, tragedies, war, news conferences, local government, or political campaigns.
- b. **Soft news:** These are light stories so it does not need urgent publication, but soft stories can be interesting to the audience. Audiences like news items that are about a person, an event or about a developing situation. For example, packages.

I prepared both types of news. The hard news items are verdict of Jamaat Leader-Kader Mollah's capital punishment, verdict of Ghulam- Mojaheed's capital punishment and news on the hartal issues. I have prepared news items about road accidents, fires, crime, riots and disasters. On the other hand, packages can be about soft news items. I have observed some packages on the death anniversary of famous writer, Humayun Ahmed, National mourning day of Bangladesh, the Independence Day of India, legendary poet Nazrul's 37th death anniversary, death of famous singer Rahman Boyati, horrible Japan earthquake and Gazipur City polls.

During my internship, I mainly worked with English Newsroom Editing Department where I had to edit, translate and search online-sources.

i) **EDITING:**

Editing is the preparation of a written material for publication by correcting, revising and adapting it.

A news editor has the following duties:

- Has a dynamic role since he has many responsibilities.

- The editor has to have the ability to compute the public mind in the light of popular trends.
- The editor has to get to know the staff recognizing good work for them and compliment them.
- He has to have the ability to resolve conflicts after discussing the pros and cons.

I have learned from the editing team how an editor performs his/her duty by editing, correcting, spell checking, modifying spelling mistakes, re-writing, re-structuring, justifying, cross checking and capitalizing. I also came to know an editor's duty behind editing a copy in an error free way. In fact, it is very challenging to be an editor. Editing sometimes is an annoying job, especially when they are dealing with rural reporters or ones who are not that well versed in the English language. Sometimes a newsroom editing team encounters a huge problem when reporters bring those reports. Reporters usually bring a huge report on any item and editors have to edit it to a shorter form. They have to match with the online-source to see if they bring correct information or not. I took "Eng 401: Editing" course, where I was taught how to edit news. In fact, editors play a role of an instructor who can guide reporters during gathering any news item so that the writing of stories can improve. An editor should uphold some rules and regulations during checking, editing and correcting any news story and they are:

Law and ethics

Editors should maintain the law and ethics of journalism accurately during editing any news story. For example, during my internship period, whenever I saw any newsroom editor using information from websites, they always mentioned the name of the site in the report.

Grammar checking

Editors need to pay attention to grammar because grammar is one of the fundamentals of editing.

Putting right punctuation

Editors need to check full stops, commas, hyphens, dashes, colons, semicolons, quotation marks etc. appropriately.

The Newsroom Editing team of *Boishakhi Television* does not mention the age and race of any Prime Minister, President and other renowned person if not necessary. Therefore, editor must edit news stories to get rid of racism and ageist language. But in some cases I had to mention the age and race of a person. For example:

“South Africa’s first black president, 94, was taken to hospital in Pretoria earlier this month for the third time this year, with a lung infection.”

“Abdur Rahman Boyati died at Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital on Monday at the age of 74 owing to old age complications.”

“The 26-year-old Jamaican player Usain Bolt destroyed the field to finish in 19.66 seconds,”

While editing, the newsroom editing team uses some techniques like they uses 5w and 1 h question to inform news’s actual issues simply. Using Rudyard Kipling’s six questions to make a report should be answered first. The questions are who, what, where, why, when and how. This is a useful checklist for news stories, and it is possible to write an Intro-that includes them all. For example:

According to W. Hicks et al.

“Lady Godiva (who) rode (what) naked (how) through the streets of Coventry (where) yesterday (when) in a bid to cut taxes (why)” (15).

Therefore, for TV news these six questions must be answered in the news story. When a new story is written, news reporters have to check whether they have failed to answer one of the questions or not. Finally editors have to check whether they have forgotten to check if the answered are there.

According to Rudyard Kipling in the chapter titled “Writing News” in the book *Writing for Journalists* by W. Hicks

“I keep six honest serving-men

(They taught me all I knew);

Their names are What and When and Why

And How and Where and Who” (15).

Once these six questions have been answered, the news writer has to become more cautious about shaping the body information of the news. There are some other important issues that they keep in mind while preparing news items. These includes why they are transforming the information into news, who is the target audience, what is the main subject of the news and about specific news they are looking for etc. A news reporter can never use ‘I’ when writing news items. They are expected to be the most neutral people and so that they have to speak in an objective voice.

Having a perfect title is an important part of any news item. I prepared many headlines during my internship at *Boishakhi Television*. According to Ron F. Smith and Loraine M. O'Connell, headline writing is an art. An important aspect of preparing headlines is maintaining word limit of 16-19 words. One cautionary fact, we should keep in mind is that we should not exceed 19 words; otherwise it will lose the flavor of news headline. I have learned from the “Eng-401: Editing” course that for beginners six steps must be followed. They are:

- Read and understand the story before you start to write the headline.
- Write a rough headline, experimenting with word combinations that will form one or more lines of the headlines.
- Choose specific, precise words.
- Make each word count.
- Use action verbs - and some creativity.
- Start over if you're stuck (Smith and O'Connell 139).

I also learned how a news ticker (which scrolls at the bottom of TV screen) is made. First of all the chief editor Gautam Barua shows his news to the newsroom editors so that they can edit the news and make it short and attractive. Then they write it down in Microsoft Word. After that they use special software with which news scrolls and the ticker is made. There are divisions of work. All reporters are not authorized to use the special ticker software. Only some pcs have the ticker software and the area where the ticker software is made is a very restricted area.

English Newsroom Editing Department of NCA (News & Current Affairs) of *Boishakhi Television* is governed by 11 members. My instructor, Mr. Gautam Barua is the news editor, and he is also in charge of the department. He decides which news will go for rundown preparation,

which news will go as a script of news presenter and which news will be broadcasted for the next bulletin. The big or serious reports are done by Mr. Gautam Barua. Moreover, he also edits all types of news items including packages. In fact, minimum five years working experiences is needed for making packages. Mr. Gautam Barua is one of the intelligent man I have ever met. He is also a very fast and flawless editor. Sometimes, while there are too many news bulletins and packages to do and one task after another lined up, Gautam Barua works calmly at an unbelievable speed. In fact, he does the toughest job in the newsroom and that is preparing the rundown of the news bulletin of the day. This falls in the skilful hands of the news editor who is technically known as the God of the Newsroom.

There are three newsroom editors. They collect news from online sources and edit them if needed. In fact, they play a big role in the news industry, since they do the primary editing work before the editor of the department takes a look. Sometimes they prepare reports from reporters and translate news from Bengali to English. They prepare news ticker (which scrolls at the bottom of TV screen) on the national and international news items. They are always busy updating the news ticker. There is one reporter who takes a lot of risks while collecting news from various spots. Actually, editors are the guardians of the wealth of words that the reporters gather throughout the day.

There are also seven presenters who follow and read out the script. If there is any mistake, then they inform the editor and the editor makes corrections in the script.

ii) TRANSLATION

“Translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life. This can range from the translation of a key international treaty to the following multilingual poster,” (Hatim & Munday, p-3)

There are generally three types of written translation:

- Intralingual Translation-translation within the same language
- Interlingual Translation-translation from one language to another
- Intersemiotic Translation-translation of the verbal sign by non-verbal sign (Hatim & Munday 5).

During my internship period, I prepared all the OOV (Out Of Vision), the news bulletins and headlines within only the Interlingual Translations- from Bengali to English. While preparing news in *Boishakhi Television*, translating always seemed very challenging job to me, since I have been studying everything in English for the last four years and forgot many Bengali words and the meanings of some difficult Bengali words. Although, I have done “Eng 465: Translation Studies” course more than one year ago, I have related it with my study. In fact, it always helped me a lot in translating the OOV (Out Of Vision), news bulletin and headlines.

Two types of translation strategies are:

1. Literal- word for word.
2. Free- sense for sense.

My instructor always advised me to do sense for sense translation because it is an essential part while preparing any news item, otherwise the general audience would not understand what you are trying to say. While preparing a news item, at first we need to know the actual fact of any incident and then we should translate. In sense for sense translation the idea of the author/writer is projected, rather than the exact words. While translating a news item we should always keep Dictionary (Advanced learner's Dictionary-English to Bengali & English) since, it will help us to find out meaning of words.

Here one of my colleagues miss translated the Bengali meaning “প্রায় তিন দিন ধরে ভোলা অন্ধকারে থাকার পর মঙ্গলবার রাতে বিদ্যুৎ আসল” she wrote “Bhola got power on Tuesday night, about three days after remaining in complete darkness”. It seems Bhola got power because it got charged. My Instructor Gautam Barua corrected this sentence by writing “Electricity supply to Bhola has been restored after the district remained in darkness for 74 hours”.

iii) ON-LINE SOURCING

In Bangladesh, on-line sourcing means a lot to news agencies. Most of the time our channels cannot afford to send reporters and camerapersons abroad, and sometimes even outside Dhaka. Automatically, they have to depend very much on on-line sources. In terms of international and sports news they generally browse websites. Editors collect the news items from the sources listed below and they also edit the news items.

- BBC
- CNN

- Reuters
- Al Jazeera

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is the world's oldest national broadcasting organization of British news agency. It has 3,500 staff, 2,000 of whom are journalists. Its main responsibility is to broadcast news for public service in the United Kingdom. It also broadcasts news across the world. The BBC is headquartered at Broadcasting House in London and smaller production centers throughout the UK. BBC News journalists, cameramen, and programs have won awards over the years for reporting, particularly from the Royal Television Society. At *Boishakhi TV*, BBC is mainly used for gathering all kinds international news except Middle East issues.

Cable News Network (CNN) is an American basic cable and satellite television channel that is owned by the Turner Broadcasting System division of Time Warner. The channel was founded in 1980 with the slogan “The Worldwide Leader in News”. “CNN=Politics”, “CNN=Money”, etc. Upon its launch, CNN was the first channel to provide 24-hour television news coverage, and the first all-news television channel in the United States. CNN primarily broadcasts from its headquarters at the CNN Center in Atlanta, the Time Warner Center in New York City, and studios in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles.

Reuters is an international news agency headquartered in London, United Kingdom, etc. The Reuter agency was established in 1851 by Paul Julius Reuter in Britain at the London Royal Exchange. It transmits news in French, English, Arabic, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese Russian, Chinese, and Japanese. Sometimes, news editors collect news from these sites. Reuters employs several thousand journalists, sometimes at the cost of their lives.

Al Jazeera is an Arabic news agency headquartered in Doha, Qatar. Al Jazeera is also written as Aljazeera. It is owned by the Al Jazeera Media Network. It is accessible in several world regions. It is owned by the government of Qatar. The station gained worldwide attention following the outbreak of war in Afghanistan, when it was the only channel to cover the war live, from its office. It is widely used in the English Newsroom Editing Department to prepare the news items around the Middle East area. It is probably the best site for the Middle East news. It is also available across the World.

In terms of international and sports news they generally browse these websites.

- **International news:** They collect news from the internet through browsing those websites. Some international reporters stay in the office since news comes from different online sources and countries. It is necessary to prepare international OOV within 60-79 words.
- **Sports News:** Moreover, international sports reporters sometime collect news from internet or their agent. In general international cricket, football and tennis news items are collected from online sources. Sometimes national sports news is collected from filed reporters. Two filed reporter are Trisha Vaktu and Sumon, they mostly deals with two types of reports, the ones that the field reporters bring in and the reports that are collected from online sources.

5. OBSERVING NEWS PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT'S JOB

According to Herbert Zettl in the *Television Production Handbook*, production means “The actual activities in which an event is recorded and/or televised” (3). He believed that production process is not an easy job and he found that one of the main problems of learning television production is “to understand the function of one piece of equipment or production phase, you should already know all the others” (3). As a result, we need to understand the main technical things for learning the job of the news production department. The staff of the production department are generally known as producers, who are “assigned exclusively to the production of news, documentaries, and special events” (3).

During my internship in *Boishakhi Television*, I mainly observed the detailed work that is done behind news production. I observed work of the production team. Here, I learned how to prepare, cover and telecast news. I also observed how to operate auto-script machine in the newsroom and how the news presenters read news from this auto-script.

In fact, the news items go through a process of production before it gets telecasted. First of all, the reporters bring the news to the newsroom from different spots. For urgent situation, they send e-mails, and make phone calls from the spot. Then, the senior reporters check the accuracy of the news. They also make sure that the sources are reliable and the angles of looking at the news items in their reports are appropriate. After checking, he sends the news to the editing department. Here, spelling mistakes are corrected. After that national, international, business and sports items are checked by desk reporters. The news drafts go to the news presenter as news script (hard copy) and auto-script (soft copy). The news presenters read all the news from the auto-script machine. Finally, the news items are on-aired and broadcasted through channel to the whole country.

Some Technical Things:

Some technical things like PC, camera, TV, microphone etc play an important role in the production department to broadcast a news item.

‘Win plus’ (a PC) monitors and guides presenter’s script replacement. ‘Wasp 3D’ (another PC) deals with the telecast of the presenter’s names is titled as ‘Phono-card’/ ‘Aston’ (the name and identity of the speaker, which we can see at the bottom of the TV screen). Sometimes live news items are telecasted in two boxes or three boxes depending on how much live news a producer requires to be telecasted. A PC named PVW (Preview) previews what is shown before telecasting a news item. The main job of ‘Online Video CONSOL’ (a PC) is telecasting online videos. In terms of telecasting news, ‘Online Video CONSOL’ and ‘Play out’ (a pc) are vital things to a sound editor. ‘Play out’ has a variety of sections such as play out-1, 2, 3 and so on.

‘Robotic Camera’ is used to capture the presenters’ news items and control their position in the TV screen. The ‘Sound-CONSOL’ maintains all kinds of sound based problems like voice up-down. Producers use the term PGM to refer to program. When the video is directly cut down, it is edited by video editor before it is aired. MCR hands over news to PCR and it is essential to maintain connection between those two terms.

In the news room a senior news producer, leads the whole news production team. There are three routers for video panel where video editors route video of various things.

There are two people in the newsroom who are from the broadcasting team. One person operates the VTR tape and another operates the auto-script machine.

The senior producer has a microphone which is used to communicate with the news presenters. The presenters handover the telecasting power to the production team at the beginning of the live news items. After the telecasting, it is again handed over to the presentation team. The person who controls the VTR player always remains ready with all the cassettes. He plays the cassettes following the instruction of the senior news producer. He gives a warning when the cassettes are about to finish. There are two VTR players in the newsroom and the VTR operator also gives direction to the broadcasting team about which VTR player should be used to play the cassette. Another producer controls the auto-scripts. The news presenters read the news from the auto-script (a monitor where all the news is written) and they have a talkback in their ears. They can listen to all the instructions from the senior producer. Sometimes when the news presenters are prompted about any problem or something coming on the way of the camera, the producer gives the instruction with the talkback. If any news arrives during telecasting, then the editor gives two scripts (hard copy) to the producer who keeps one for himself and gives the other to the news presenters. The senior producer gives instructions to the presenters while they are presenting the news. Sometimes, when the auto-script hangs and the presenter cannot see anything, the senior producer asks the presenters to read the news from their scripts. If the hard copy of the news does not reach the presenters, then the senior producer asks to read their news from the auto-script. I practically observed how to run the machine and move it. In fact, the presenter has to keep pace with the race of machine.

Electronic media report is made up of technicalities like 'Voice-Over', 'Synchronization', 'Sound-up' and many others. To make a package producers synchronize the video footage with 'Voice-Over' and 'Sound-up'. It is important that the voice-over complies with the footage. If sound-up plays the sound of the Guard of Honour but the video footage shows the Prime

Minister is observing milad during National Mourning day then it creates a mismatch and the viewers are left confused. Hence, the combination of Voice-over, Synchronization and Sound-up put things in order. Here I was taught how to give ‘Voice Over’ by using microphone, technically known as Boom. The term ‘ambient’ is a type of sound up. Voice over synchronizes with the footage, and footage length depends on the length of the news items. The sound editors edit the sounds in the video-editing panel.

Some Technical Terminologies:

I have explained some basic technical terminologies of newsroom production department below:

OOV (Out Of Vision): During OOV, the presenters stay on-air and remain invisible to us but we can hear their voice. With the presenters’ voice, we can see synchronized video or audio footage.

Sync (Synchronization): Sync is something that is used to support anyone’s word whether by video or audio footage. During news presentation, presenters come up with the opinion and interview of special people related to the news stories with the audio footage or video for two/three seconds and this is known as ‘Sync’.

OOV + Sync: If video editor adds the OOV with footage and the producer plays both OOV and Sync together then it is called “OOV + Sync”. It is another form of OOV along with significant interviews of correlated people for that reason, this form of news is called as ‘OOV and Sync’.

Gfx (Graphics): When footage of any news item does not reach at hand the producer, and producer shows the pictures of that incident/event, it is called “Gfx”. For example, on the occasion of BNP’s 35th founding anniversary, the reporter could not collect the video footage except some pictures in terms of emergency news.

I.V (In Vision): If there is no time to make any “OOV” or “Package” while telecasting a breaking news or any news that is very important, then editors pass the very raw news to the producers and the producers send that news to the presenter directly. In that case, the news presenter remains in front of the camera and read that raw news to the audience. In news terminology, this is known as I.V. (In Vision). Here just the news presenters are in vision and they can present news without showing any video or audio footage.

Phono: If a reporter is present at the news spot, the broadcast station tries to communicate with the reporter live and they talk to give more ongoing information about the incident, mostly when the news is being broadcasted at the same time. This way of presenting news is known as ‘phono’ or ‘studio’. Sometimes producers broadcasted video and voice clippings. For example: live Gazipur city corporation poll and the famous trial verdict (which was capital punishment) of Jamaat leader Quader Molla, and Mujahid were broadcasted to Boishakhi TV.

Vox pop: Sometimes, some news items consist of public reaction. If reporters while doing any assignment, interview a lot people and put that into the news, it is then called ‘Vox pop’ in news terminology.

Pkg (Package): It is a kind of news with more detail, and to a certain extent different from other news items. The length of the news package is more than 125 words. It depends on

the information which was gathered for video or audio footage. But news items with footage and still pictures have even greater importance than those news items without footage and still pictures. It includes most recent and significant incidents inside and outside the country. Reporters make packages of certain news items that have great importance like the National Mourning Day, Humayun Ahmed's death etc. Mostly presenters start the news with two or three important sentences and then reporters start their packages. While telecasting a package the presenter remains unseen to us, we even cannot hear their voice. On the other hand, when reporters do spot reporting we can hear their voice and we can also see them. Sometimes we can see the reporter reporting at the end of the package. Occasionally, the reporter states his/her opinion about the specific package. For example: In the package of the legendary poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 37th death anniversary, the reporter talked about his life and achievements.

The production team of this channel was kind enough to give me the opportunity to learn practically. I also observed a large studio where special news items and programs are being telecasted always.

6. AN EXPERIENCE WITH REPORTERS AND THE CAMERAMEN

Lastly I observed the reporting section during my internship period in *Boishakhi Television*. It was very exciting. I was sent for reporting on 18th September, 2013. The reporting took place on a hartal day which called by Jamaat-E-Islami to protest against the Supreme Court verdict of Jamaat leader, Quader Molla's capital punishment. I have gathered a lot of experience in terms of on-spot reporting. I was directed by the group of reporters and cameramen. First of all they ensured my safety in case of any uncertain incident on the day of the hartal. At the same time, I was also directed on how to load exclusive and special footage with the help of the cameraperson. I saw a little clash between the pro-hartal activists and the law-enforcers that took place in Mohakhali, Farmgate, and Bijoy-Shoroni of Dhaka area. However, the actions taken by the police force prevented such clashes from turning into a bitter turmoil. I also experienced a little bit of cocktail explosions and hit-and run attacks of hartal supporters. Although the clashes were minor, I became extremely anxious and nervous. The reporters told me not to be frightened because it is a usual occurrence on hartal days and they were around me to ensure my safety. They told me that a reporter has to be a brave person and always has to face difficult and risky situations with a brave heart. So, reporting is not a very easy job. The reporters along with the cameraperson may have to cover very risky and difficult incidents like strikes, floods, earthquake, wars etc. A reporter needs to think about his/her duties first not about his/her emotion. Their duty is to sort out the entire unknown news from the spot and bring those to the public who have the right to know everything. Reporting is all about passion for the profession, love for the nation, and respect for the people. If anyone has all the qualities mentioned before, he or she will do very well in this profession.

It was truly an exciting and awe-inspiring day of my life. If I compare between reporting and editing, I would say reporting is a self-motivated and active job with lots of challenges, which I like now after observing that day. But an editor needs more skills, good sense of grammar and years of experience. Finding and preparing a sensible report is not an easy job for anyone, so the links and communication skills are pre-requisites for a reporter. Suppose, a cricket reporter has to cover two cricket events at the same time when there is no other reporter available at the news desk. He or she cannot be present at the same time in two different places. If he/ she has a good link with other sports reporters from other channels, he/ she can collect the information or even the whole report. Later, he or she can write a new report by using that report and can also browse online sources. In addition to that, with so much happening in the national and local news every day, a reporter cannot always be aware of the important events. A phone call from other reporters from different channels and online sources always helps in such a case. Therefore, the person with more links, having interest to acquire knowledge of the outside world, and with good communication skills and years of experience will do wonder in this profession.

In fact, reporting consists of those people who run for the news items, and run to discover the truth from the spot. The only motto for them is finding out the actual truth. Every reporter has their individual allotted assignment from different categories like crime, sports, business reporting. These are assigned the previous night. Reporters have to contact the newsroom to know their given assignment for the next day. The chief reporter of the desk basically decides it. Before leaving for the shooting spot a reporter should research on that particular incident, plan for a shopping list and finally check the equipments. The reporter should observe the cameraman. He/ she needs to observe where they go and collect shots from. He/she should give instructions to the cameraman in terms of taking any shoot. At the end of the reporting, the

reporter should check those pictures and video footage to see whether those things were related to the incident or not. After reaching the spot, the reporter should observe the situation first and not start taking notes because observing and understanding the situation first is what a good reporter should do. Note taking before reporting news is also an essential job of a reporter. I also came to know from a reporter how to report news from a TV screen. For instance, I observed the news on “Hajj Camp’s Inauguration” from where I had to note down the main points of the Prime Minister’s speech including what are the things she contributed and is going to build etc. Then I showed it to a newsroom editor, Saad Siddique and he prepared news from it. In terms of preparing an emergency news story from a few still pictures, reporters should give emphasis on writing about the picture and not describing the picture.

While reporting news reporters have their own perceptions or angles. Therefore, from their different perceptions they telecast their report through the channel. Before that they should describe what and how they observe any news incident in terms of their own angle. According to Herbert Zettl, “The angle is a specific story focus, a point of view from which to look at and describe an event” (5). He also insisted that, “angle can lead to an obvious bias of who tells the story, or it can be subtler and make a story more interesting to watch” (5). For example, if there is a road accident in a highway between a bus and truck and many people die on the spot, then a reporter may claim that it is the fault of the truck driver, he was drunk or he may not have been an expert driver. On the other hand, another reporter may say that it is a fault of the bus driver because of his carelessness. The other reporter may focus on the government’s fault since they should build divider within the road to decrease this type of road accident. Hence, this is how the perspectives of reporters differ from one to the other and it also gets reflected in their reports. In

fact, they have to be very careful about reporting the news from a neutral angle because sometimes they get threatened by powerful people.

Reporters can also use an angle that gives the story a specific approach without introducing a strong bias. For example, if a reporter takes a private interview of any political leader in his/her office then it will be a more private “looking-into” (Zettl 5) point of view of the reporter. On the other hand if a reporter observes him/ her while he/ she is talking in a conference then it will be a more public “looking-at” (5) point of view of the reporter.

7. CONCLUSION

All the people, whom I work at *Boishakhi Television*, are so friendly that I never felt I was doing an internship there, but felt like I was in an office working with colleague. In fact, they are very skilled and disciplined. I liked the environment of this office a lot. All the departments are unique.

I particularly loved observing the packages on Gazipur City Poll, National Mourning Day of Bangladesh and Independence Day of India with my English Newsroom editing team. I learnt many things from an experienced editor. All the staff of this department are very punctual, calm and serious. Working with the English team of *Boishakhi Television* was a great experience for me. I have learnt many things and feel lucky to get the opportunity to learn new things.

I mainly observed the work that is done behind news production in details and I also observed the work of the production team. People working in this department are mechanized since they always stay busy with machine and other technological things. The production team of this channel was kind enough to give me the opportunity to learn the technological terminologies practically.

I also loved the work with the reporter and cameraman teams and learnt many things from them. The reporter and cameraman teams of this channel are very lively and enthusiastic. The teams were scattered and this made me more interested to observe their work. The experience of working with both the teams was great for me.

Although, I have gathered rich experience and knowledge by interning at *Boishakhi Television*, this was not enough for me because of the short duration of the internship. I never realized how fast time flew when I was gathering and observing news items from the English

desk of *Boishakhi Television*. After completing internship here, I can say that if I did not get a chance to intern at this channel, I certainly would have missed many things. I am lucky that I got this chance to work and learn here. Actually having such work experience and opportunity to learn new and exciting things means a lot to me as this experience will be helpful for my future as I am building a career in this field.

8. WORK DONE BY ME

The following work was done by me during internship period at *Boishakhi Television*. This was broadcasted through *Boishakhi Television*:

Saturday, July 27, 2013

English News

Duration: 10 min

Bulletin Color: Red

.....

Assalamu Alaikum

.....

Welcome to Boishakhi News

This isFrom the newsroom.

.....

Now the Headlines

.....

1. The US and Bangladesh immediately have agreed to initiate discussions on worker rights and factory safety issues. GSP will depend on Action plan.
2. Khaleda Zia is set to leave for Saudi Arabia on a 10-day visit on evening.
3. Janaza of AL MP Shabur was held at the tunnel of Parliament; He will be buried at the Banani graveyard
4. Ineffectiveness of local government
5. Deep convection is taking place over North Bay and adjoining area of Bangladesh.
6. Again unrest Syria; More than 150 people have been killed in Khan al-Assal at a huge clash.

.....
Washington-BD- Pkg/ Sabrina

.....

The government of Bangladesh and the United States immediately has agreed to open discussion on the actions to be taken to address worker rights and factory safety issues in Bangladesh. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trade benefits for Bangladesh were suspended after the collapse of the Rana Plaza in last April that killed over one thousand people. From Economics Times, Obama officials have agreed to initiate discussion with Bangladesh to bring solution.

.....
Khaleda Zia-gfx/ Sakhawat

.....
The opposition leader and The Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson, Khaleda Zia, is leaving Dhaka today for Saudi Arabia. She will stay ten days to perform 'umrah'. Around 7pm, she is scheduled to fly from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in a flight of Emirates Airlines. She intends to perform 'umrah' at the invitation of the Saudi King, Abdullah-Bin Abdul Aziz-Al Soud. Her younger brother Shamim Iskander, his wife, Press secretary, two private secretaries and a 12-member team of journalists will also accompany her. Besides attending that royal Iftar party, she will be attending another Iftar party organized by sojourn.

.....
Eid Ticket Train+ Bus/ Pkg/ Emon

.....
Many homebound people crowded different bus counters and Railway Station in the capital to buy advance ticket for the Eid. They are facing enormous suffering to collect train ticket. General passengers complained that, despite special measures for stopping the black marketing of tickets and systematic sale in the counters, many people did not get tickets. Besides, some complained that bus operators are charging extra. Sahriar Imon is reporting about this issue.

.....
O.Ka-OOV+Sync

.....
Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said that the opposition party is in an illusion that they are going to power following their wins in five city corporation polls ahead of the national election. He also rejected the opposition leader's notion that the government is suffering from public phobia. He claimed that they are worried about the opposition's violence in the name of movement instead of public wraths. The minister came up with the remarks while talking to reporters at Feni Circuit House in early morning.

.....
Weather/OOV/

.....
Deep convection is taking place over North Bay and adjoining area of Bangladesh. Besides, the squally weather has brought moderate to heavy rain across the country. Due to active monsoon heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at places over Dhaka, Chittagong Rajshahi, Khulna, and Barisal divisions during next 24 hours commencing from 10am today, Met Office said. Landslide may occur at places over the hilly regions of Chittagong division. In this occasion, maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazaar and Mongla have been advised to deep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

.....
Syria---oov/Afroza
.....

At least 150 Syrian regime forces have been killed in Khan al-Assal- a town in Aleppo province at the centre of an alleged chemical weapons strike this year. More than 50 of those killed were officers. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also said that at least 10 people were reported killed in regime shelling of the northwestern province of Idlib. They also added that 30 of the dead were executed by rebels.

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