

**Facets of News Editing**

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**Spring 2014**



**BRAC University**

**Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Facets of News Editing**

**Internship Report Submitted to  
The Department of English and Humanities  
BRAC University**

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**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements**

**For the Degree of  
Bachelor of Arts in English**

**April 17, 2014**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My internship at *The Daily Star* has given me a memorable and insightful experience that marked the end of my undergraduate studies as a student of the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University. Firstly, I would like to express my indebted gratitude to the Chairperson of my Department, Professor Firdous Azim, whose unfailing guidance and encouraging words always helped me stay on the right path all the way through. I am grateful to my supervisor, Ms. Mushira Habib, for constantly providing me with advice and help as a teacher as well as a mentor from the very beginning to the end. A special note of thanks to all my teachers without whose support I would not have been standing here today, especially Mr. Sheikh Fazle Shams, Mrs. Asifa Sultana, Ms. Nausheen Eusuf, Ms. Mahruba Tasnim Mowtushi, Mrs. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Ms Sharlene Nisha Alam and Miss Roohi Huda. I would also like to thank my supervisor at *The Daily Star*, Mr. Shamim Ashraf, who taught me everything I needed to know about news editing and job life as a whole. Last but not the least, I want to thank my family, especially my brother Mohammad Shayaz Hossain, and my friends Kazi Farzana Shoily and Afreen Khan for always being there for me with their emotional, academic and loving support throughout my journey.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The astounding advancement in technology that the contemporary world has been embracing over the years naturally indicated that the changing trends of journalism were also heading in the same direction of accomplishments. News in the print media watched itself grow over the decade as it took up new forms to represent the many features of broadcast media, which resulted in the numerous television channels, radio programs and online websites. While it is often thought that the younger generation of today is not interested in the 'ins and outs' of journalism as a whole, the very advent of web news has changed the previous picture. The fast-paced world is only welcoming the newly-emerging forums of receiving information through technology, and giving its full support for any advancement in this sector. News coverage, therefore, is reaching new heights everyday with their multi-faceted stories waiting to be read, while journalism and studies related to the media are correspondingly being seen from a different light.

## CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Personal Statement:

Writing has always been a passion for me; a passion that was born the moment I was declared literate enough to understand the value of words, and turned into a dream in my over-enthusiastic teens as I stealthily wrote poems at the back of my copy in school. The dream, however, had started to look unrealistic as I entered my capricious mature years where the only non-academic writing I could do were the stories I could never complete, and almost perished as the pressure of the twenties came in. In spite of that, I found myself spending hours of bantering and shedding tears with my peers to allow me to continue pursuing the seemingly impossible – and finally – the day came when I stepped into **BRAC University** as a student of the **Department of English and Humanities**. That marked the day when I knew that writing was not just a leisure pursuit and much more than a forgotten hobby; it was the only definitive career option I could think of for myself.

Over the past three years, there were countless of times when I faltered in my path, sometimes because the syllabus seemed too difficult, and sometimes too easy. There were moments when I could not bring myself to write even if I had a head brimming with ideas. There were times when I did not realize how well an assignment that I submitted or a quiz I sat for turned out till I was praised for it, just as when I least expected it, I missed out on an A grade. I knew it was my fault. I usually worked my best when I did so under the pressure of a deadline ticking away the last hour, and after a while, I realized that I could not take the very pressure I brought upon myself. The one thing that never changed, regardless of all the ups and downs, was my unvarying zeal over the subject. I found myself happily lost in the worlds of the Classic

novels in the Literature classes, I learnt the language to its core with the lessons of Linguistics, and the Media & Cultural Studies courses seemed to have been designed just for me. In fact, I was dismayed to know that I would have to choose a major within the department in one of the three aforementioned programs – for I wanted to take every possible course there was – and it was one of the hardest decisions in my life.

I henceforth chose to complete my major in Media and Cultural Studies when I realized it would bring me an opportunity of doing an internship as a part of my curriculum. To me, it was my dreams knocking at my door. I would finally get a chance to practice journalism and this would only be the beginning. More than that, it would give me a worthwhile experience which would not only limit to work. I would learn to multi-task as I work while continuing with university studies; I would learn to socialize and discipline myself; I would learn to lead the adult life. The first challenge came when it was time to target the organization where I could venture upon my luck with the real world for the first time. I was in for another difficult decision.

For an introvert like me, stepping into the professional world initially meant stepping out of my comfort zone and experiencing the factor of interacting with the society. However, when the break came in the form of a dream career, I knew it was the one chance I have always been in search of. That still did not answer all the questions. The advent of the number of firms that grew over the last decade not only came with more openings for us aspiring writers, but rather gave rise to a very competitive generation of talented youngsters. Again, the fear of not being able to stand out among them surfaced, and I sought for advice. In the end, the countless sessions with my teachers, peers and friends who have previously worked in this field all indicated to the one answer I had subconsciously known all along. I wanted to learn the ins and outs of writing, and I realized that the most appropriate post for me would be that of an internee editor in a newspaper.

My internship as a news editor at *The Daily Star* soon marked the beginning of my career. I was overjoyed to be a part of this organization because of its grand reputation over the years. Not only is it the leading English newspaper in the country, but it is also the most popular with people of all ages and backgrounds. What remains to be strikingly unique about *The Daily Star* though, is the diverse sections and weekly supplements it offers. This shows that the contributors of the paper are simply given a shot at only what they are worth according to their caliber, and will therefore provide me with the comfort zone I was in search of. In fact, it was *Rising Stars* that I grew up reading in my over-enthusiastic teens and *Lifestyle* and *Star Campus* that guided me in the capricious mature years, and I had always dreamt to be a part of any or all of it. In my later years of studying English as a subject, I realized that it is also the one newspaper that was the richest in the language, and the very idea of working with any section of the paper at all felt like the big challenge I was finally ready to take. In addition to that, I was also looking for the opportunity to do something different from most youngsters at work. I found myself interested in journalism after I attended a workshop series on the different aspects of the media and the insights into the politics behind it all in a course titled “Globalization and the Media.” It seemed like a field that required a lot of potential and hard-work behind the scenes. I thereby showed my interest in the News section – just as I had chosen the newspaper for being the leading one in the country, I wanted to work at the front desk which was its most important section. I was overjoyed when I was called for the internship and over my tenure I tried my best to gain knowledge of and confer as much as I could. I took the challenge I had been meaning to all my life, and learnt a lot more than the projected job experience; I learnt to develop myself as a person.



## 1.2 Organization:

What has now become one of the leading newspapers of the country had initially started off as an independent daily mission to be on a par with the newly-emerging democratic state of the early 1990s. While the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1991 marked its initiation, it eventually rose to the extreme heights of popularity with its neutral positioning in the media since it had no allegiances to any political, social or religious parties. Instead, *The Daily Star* had always given the utmost priority to its readership, and its diverse range of sections and supplements that effectively covers all sectors of consumer demands only proves thus.

In addition to being the ultimate podium where the questions of the unfailing number of readers belonging to any gender, religion or age group is answered, *The Daily Star* also prides on maintaining transparency and accountability regarding its administrative and national interests. It not only holds a number of press releases regarding contemporary issues on a regular basis, but also organizes events for students of schools and universities where their competence and capacities are recognized and rewarded. The newspaper is run by a panel of Board of Directors who have taken the initiative to congregate writers from the country and abroad alike to build up a platform where creativity is given its own separate space while the reporters and columnists take up the responsibility to serve the nation's needs.

In other words, *The Daily Star* now stands as the most widely circulated and respected English newspaper of Bangladesh, largely owes its reputation to its vast readership of both mass and niche consumers.

### 1.3 News in the Print Media

The history of newspapers dates back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century where the previously circulated handwritten bulletins targeted only for the aristocrats regarding particular matters only gradually started to be printed for a broader sector of readers. The invention and the subsequent global spread of the printing press during the Industrial Revolution soon saw the emergence of newspapers being sold all over the world on a regular basis. The information covered in the newspapers would only be considered news if they satisfied at least one of the following factors: **(i) timeliness (ii) proximity (iii) oddity (iv) prominence and (v) consequences**. While studies of journalism all around the world are still debating over the inclusion of more factors, these have hitherto been more or less applicable for all news stories published over the centuries. The basics of journalism are further briefed in Chapter 2.

### 1.4 News and the Web

The advancement in technology in the contemporary world gave rise to another form of news broadcasting other than in the television and newspapers. News was now available on the web, written in almost the same format as the printed newspaper, sometimes in a more precise manner. This meant that the newspaper itself was now reaching a higher number of audiences all over the world in a shorter span of time. Indeed, what gives online news such a mass readership is its immediacy that almost matches that of the television. This automatically means that the audience did not have to wait for the next morning to get information on the incident being spoken about, since it is being updated on the online site on regular intervals right ever since its initial announcement. “In addition to having the immediacy of TV, the Web also allows for in-depth reporting and analysis, much like that of newspapers and magazines. Multipart stories can

be broken into effective news pages. Often these pages can feature more photos and graphics than could appear in a newspaper or magazine.” (Smith, O’Connell and Gibson 232) Also, the huge circulation of social networking sites these days allows the users to share the news stories to the rest of the people in their lists, which only makes the web pages all the more popular and considered a valuable source of information. However, it is also true that a number of sites have opened where false news get updated by bloggers and writers who often give off the wrong information, and this is why the readers should be aware to only rely on the sites of trustworthy newspapers that have been successful with the audience over time. My job at the online section of *The Daily Star* therefore taught me a lot more than just the basics of a work experience at the newsroom.

## CHAPTER 2 – THE BASICS OF JOURNALISM

### 2.1 Recording: Getting the Story

The three aspects of journalism that are practiced all over the world are recording, writing and editing. It is of absolute importance that a working journalist gives his/her utmost effort to gather all the relevant information about an event before declaring it as news, and follow a number of rules while at it. The first step is to collect the story that reaches the news desk either by a call from the local reporters or press releases, which a professional reporter receives. S/he then checks the story for details, and here is when the most important facet of news writing comes in. A complete news story must always satisfy the '**5Ws and 1H**', which comprises of **who** (the people concerned with the news, especially if they are important personnel), **what** (what is the main issue that the story highlights), **when** (the date and time of the occurrence of the incident), **where** (the exact location of the site), **why** (why the event was newsworthy) and lastly, **how** (how the issue began, transpired and reached a resolution or raised a question). If the report does not address all of the criteria mentioned above, the news is considered to be incomplete. Thus this obligates the reporter to do a further investigation of the matter till the standards are met.

The investigation, whether it is conducted by interviewing the people involved or visiting the site itself, must be performed professionally by maintaining the strict rules of journalism ethics. It is vital that the reporter is well-mannered and frank about his identity, and makes it a point to cordially introduce himself and ask for permission before recording an interview or shooting a footage and/or clicking photographs whether s/he is approaching an authoritarian figure or a mere witness. Also, the reporter must always remember to be alert and occupied with the

necessary materials i.e. pen, notebook, camera, recorder, map, etc, an act that is often overlooked by many careless ones. In short, getting the story requires a lot of research as on written as well as field work.

## **2.2 Writing – The Inverted Pyramid**

Once the reporter has gathered all the necessary information regarding the news story, s/he then sits down to write it. At this stage, the **inverted pyramid** comes to play. This simply means that the news writer has to break down the information and design it chronologically, starting with the most important and ending with the least. While the ‘lead’, i.e. the first line that catches the attention of the reader consists of a complete sentence that describes the 5Ws and 1H concerning the story, the body surmises the rest of the details where the inverted pyramid technique is executed. Other aspects, such as the sources used and the attributions that were referred to, are also very important in a story. The reporter needs to decide is s/he will quote directly or indirectly, which in turn depends on the position of the person being quoted, especially in the case of an inspector or a member of parliament sharing their stance over the matter. It is also crucial that the factual details presented by the source regarding any official, firm or organization are presented accurately and sincerely in the news by the reporter.

A good reporter also tries his best to make the story rich in language. It is always handy for him to keep a dictionary and a grammar book nearby since the writers working under any section of a newspaper are expected to not just be proficient in the language but also resourceful while providing information about a particular topic. A news writer must always be vigilant and spontaneous since news stories can be about any event that can happen at any time and anywhere.

### **2.3 Editing – The Final Touch**

The editor, who plays the topmost role in a newsroom, receives the news story submitted by the writer. S/he overviews the article, looking for the holes and the missing links if any – the grammatical errors, the validity of the sources and attributions, and consequentially rewrites anything that requires correction. S/he also revises the news so as to find its most interesting angle and improvises the story to make it as striking as possible. S/he finally checks through to locate any possible setbacks that might create issues such as that of **libel**- the defamation of any of the people in the story – and sorts it out accordingly. The editor also looks into the headline, which play a huge role in a news story as it is the first thing that catches the reader's eye and should be a concise summary of the whole story in the fewest words possible. Another important noticeable feature that needs checking are the captions of the photographs representing the story. It is important that s/he ponders over the two segments before accepting, changing or creating a whole new one to replace the old, as these are actually the most attention-grabbing part of the news. A small mistake that gets overlooked can result in big issues if not taken care of within the allotted time. Once all this revision is complete, the news story is finally ready to be published.

### **2.4 Editing for the Web**

Editing for the online site of a newspaper differs slightly from the printed version of it. The key point to remember is that the readers of an online news page are usually looking for the most precise form of the news, and it helps both the popularity of the newspaper as well as the reader's concentration level if the expectations are met. The editor therefore makes the sentences and the paragraphs as short as possible, and sometimes adds bullet points or subheads if necessary. Since the pages require constant updating, the editors are under constant pressure to

edit the stories and put them up on the site as soon as possible, as opposed to those of the printed newspapers who are allowed some more time since the news only gets published the next day. On the other hand, web editors have the advantage of being able to add, delete and/or correct a story in anyway whenever necessary, which becomes a big problem for printed newspapers in the case of any mistakes made since that can lead to a number of issues including a legal one. This obviously does not mean that the web editors are allowed to be careless with their work, since their readers usually look up the news as soon as it appears on the site. Also, it is much easier for web sites to have a number of stories in one page, as they can often add hyperlinks at the end of each to read more on the news that guides them to a detailed version of the news. This again makes it easier for web pages to have a lot of information on one page, and not be limited to just the front and back page as it is with the printed paper to catch the attention of the reader.

## CHAPTER 3 – WORK EXPERIENCE

### 3.1 Getting Started

I was assigned to work as an intern in the **News Editing (Web)** section of *The Daily Star* as a part of the curriculum of my major in Media and Cultural Studies in English at BRAC University. Since this was my first-ever job experience, it was quite challenging for me to turn up at the office during the third week of September and continue thereafter. To top that, I was asked to be present for 4-5 hours every day for 6 days of the week, which made my routine quite hectic, as I was also continuing my classes at my university simultaneously. However, factors such as the convenient location of the office and the welcoming working environment helped me a lot. My colleagues were not only extremely cooperative and friendly, but they also helped me develop in both social as well as educational levels.

The task I was given as a news editor was basically to learn and be able to apply a step-by-step process of editing stories. This was done by converting press releases and/or reports on an ongoing issue or event sent from organizations to *The Daily Star* to newsworthy stories for publication. The first setback that I faced was that the reports all came in Bangla and needed to be translated for the newspaper. I was duly expected to know compound terms and titles that are quite uncommon in colloquial or the widely read Bengali texts, so it was rather hard for me as I was not accustomed with the style used in Bangla newspapers. I was thereafter taught to use and apply the ‘inverted pyramid’ technique over the news stories, which was also quite difficult to muster. Although I had learnt as well as practiced this technique while studying the ins and outs of news editing in class, I realized how each story is different from another and that it could be quite confusing to decide what should be the highlighted line of one particular event and the



consequences of the rest of the facets of the story. Also, the reports were usually exceedingly long, and I was given the challenging job to shorten it into brief and precise news, for instance making a 500-1000 word story into a 100 word one. In short, I was tested on my ability to translate, shorten, and understand the typical pattern of any form of news stories in order to grasp the fundamentals of editing.

### **3.2 Translation**

The most difficult and time-consuming part of my everyday task on news editing was that of translating the stories beforehand. I realized the difference during the rare cases when the reports came in English, and although they still required the usual editing, I did not find it problematical at all after the first two or three times. I was mainly asked to translate the press releases and reports that came via e-mail and were distributed among the working editors by the Assistant Editor. Sometimes, news stories that were already published in the online site of *Prothom Alo*, the Bangla newspaper *The Daily Star* is affiliated with, were also translated accordingly and published. I was glad to be doing my course on Translation Studies at my university concurrently since the course materials proved to be a very helpful guide for me throughout. I learnt a lot of basic theories of translation that I did not know of before, and was able to apply it to the news pieces consequently. Likewise, my work experiences at *The Daily Star* also helped me with my studies.

To begin with, while I was translating the stories myself, I observed it was important to keep it literal when it came to quoting an important person or stating any facts, and yet I had to keep the context in mind when the story was being translated as a whole. Once I did a few classes on similar topics at my university, I learnt that it was rather the usage of the most appropriate and

equivalent word in the **target language**, while keeping in mind the context of the **source language** that made the translation more accurate and diminished all the confusion.

Next, I had to decide on the '**word-for-word**' as opposed to the '**sense-for-sense**' method. I was more familiar with the latter as the texts we usually practiced in our classes were mostly **expressive** or **vocative** that suited well with the said manner of translation. Moreover, this method is indeed one that entails a lot of practice and brainstorming, and can be very tough to perform at times. News reports, on the other hand, are mostly **informative** texts which can be translated via the word-for-word method quite effectively. The problems of **equivalence** and **adaptation** still persisted in this case, as news stories also follow a structure of their own. That is when my classes on the sense-for-sense method came in aid, for it taught me to be more patient and cautious while looking up the online dictionaries for a particular word; I made sure that I looked up a few meanings before deciding on one. The objective was to find the most appropriate word or phrase that can be used in hard-news. I also sought advice from my supervisor as well as my colleagues about this issue, and one of them taught me how to check upon the archived news in *The Daily Star*'s website in order to browse through similar news pieces and learn the usual pattern of reports in English. This indeed turned out to be a very useful tool for me; it answered all my questions regarding all the problems of translation.

Much of the tribulations with translation that I faced were with news pieces that dealt with the bureaucratic stories as well as those related to business concepts. It was not only due to my lack of detailed knowledge in those fields but rather the terms and titles that are used to address the personnel and the events that I hardly ever came across before. I did not face any problems with the language structures other than the names of some remote places and items such as clothing and food which have their own derivative spelling in English and are to be addressed as

such instead of being translated into. However, it took me a while to get accustomed to the hard-news topics as a whole. I was easily able to identify with the news of the country or city that was meant for the mass people and were centered on accidents and/or claims and protests made by a group or small events that were being celebrated. They usually only had a few minor details that needed concentration.

Some trifling problems I faced while translating the stories are discussed as follows. One was the importance of using the equivalent word or phrase so as to capture the proper structure of the news story. I remember one news piece which spoke of the import and export activities of the country becoming “বন্ধ” (to be stopped) and I had to debate over the words “stopped” and “ceased” and “ended” till I read an old similar news which had the phrase “came to a halt” and seemed the most appropriate. Another interesting thing I learnt while translating news was the difference in the titles when writing the languages. For example, the Bangla daily *Prothom Alo* often used idioms and catchy phrases for their news titles which was not quite the case for *The Daily Star*. The English newspapers in turn always opted for a straightforward title that was a simple summary of the news unless it was one describing an odd event. For example, I remember a story titled in the Bangla newspaper as “নাতির মুখ দেখা হল না মোতালেব এর” (Motaleb did not get to see his grandson) which was about a severe accident of the said Motaleb who was killed on his way to visit his grandson. For the English newspaper, I was asked to keep the title simply as “One dead” followed by the location and the cause of that event. The Bangla title, as can be seen, was written with the intention to give it an emotional touch, which was probably meant for readers who prefer it that way. Another old example that I was shown was one about Eid-ul-Fitr which stated “আজ চাঁদ উঠলে কাল ঈদ” (Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated tomorrow if

the moon appears tonight). The English papers, on the other hand, pride over not stating the obvious but rather just mention the event and the date of it taking place once it is confirmed, i.e. just “Eid-ul-Fitr to be celebrated tomorrow”. This difference probably owes to the fact that the Bengali papers have a diverse audience all over the country who enjoy catchy titles from time to time whereas the English paper readers do not expect such things since they follow the style of newspapers in the west. These papers usually leave off such news to become a part of their supplements or other sections and make sure that they do not appear in the front and back pages which are restricted only to the most important news pieces written in a precise form – in the plain news language. This therefore was another small lesson I learnt while working on the translation of news stories.

### **3.3 Editing News**

Once the news pieces were translated, they needed to be edited as official news stories for the paper/website as well as meet the word or space limit allocated for it. This in turn was dependent on the significance of the story and the parts of which needed to be highlighted within it. Although I was well acquainted with the inverted pyramid structure as well as the precise form of news story that gets published in websites from my courses of **Editing** and **Copywriting**, I still found it quite challenging when I worked on real stories for the first time.

The most important line of a news story is said to be the first one, which should be a concise summary of the whole story and not exceed **22 words**. This introductory line should also include all of the 5Ws and 1H if possible and thus even satisfy the readers who opt to only skim through the first lines of each news story. As a result, it is very important for the editor to be certain that the first line accurately represents the rest of the story. The heading of the story is also just as

important, as has been mentioned in Chapter 2, since that is the most conspicuous element of the news. The **eight-ten word- long heading** of a news story therefore required as much attention as the story itself, and usually got edited a final time by the Assistant Editor.

After the heading and the first line were decided, the rest of the story came to play. Deciding upon the most crucial point of the story would seem extremely confusing at first. News writing had its own set of rules that needed to be understood, followed, and worked upon to make the ideal story. For instance, it was a given that when there was the news of death, it would always come in the headlines as well as the beginning of the news, but in the case of a business going down or a particular claim made by a protesting group, it depended on a lot of factors such as the place, number of injuries, presence of important persons etc. Following on that, writing the reports as brief, precise news consisting of only a few lines is in effect a strenuous task. Besides, this also meant that the editor might have to leave out information such as that of vandalizing of firms and organizations which was not as important as the death of an important person, and that was again a novel concept for me to comprehend as I failed to understand why they were not insignificant.

Editing news stories did not only limit to the rules that I had to follow, but also focused on the strict structure as well as the general syntax and semantics of English language. Every little detail mattered in news stories since they were expected to be accurate and unbiased in all the possible sectors and to be read by thousands of people. Among the many small details that I learnt from editing news, one was to always make sure that the story mentioned a source confirming the event being presented, especially if it was not about a prominent figure or an odd occurrence of any sort. The source had to be official member of the state's law enforcing team, i.e. a police constable who inspected the site and stated his comment on the event. In fact, I was

taught that it is the reporter's duty to send in the details to the editors, and if not, the editor was to call upon the assigned reporter of that region and ask for more information. In case of the absence of an official, the news editors had no option but to discard it as 'news' and not publish it at all.

I had a further understanding of the importance of editing when I was made to work on news pieces that had already been shortened and written in English by a local reporter. On a usual day, the reports would be written in Bangla and often the stories would be tediously descriptive and full of trivial information. Thus, when I got the report for the first time, I initially thought it would only call for some minor editing. I was surprised to see that the sentences had a lot of grammatical errors and also did not seem to follow any pattern. Although the story being written in English helped me understand the usual news terms and titles I faced difficulty with, it still needed a lot of brushing up. That was the day when I realized how big a responsibility an editor of any place has and how the writers and the reporters should be more vigilant about their accountability in their own fields in order to ensure that no one has to take the burden of anyone else's mistake.

## CHAPTER 4 – PERSONAL INSIGHTS

### 4.1 Experiences

After working at the huge grey office built along the busy street of Kawran Bazar for three months, I can gladly affirm that *The Daily Star* helped me develop personally, professionally and socially by all means. The long working hours in the evening till 10pm on most days gave me a realistic experience on the adult job life that I had never lived before. I learnt to travel alone from my university to my office and then back home, and it made me venture on my independence as a careerist for the first time in my life. The exhausting schedule also helped me maintain a strict and yet healthy routine after a long time. I gradually overcame my fear of social interaction as most of my colleagues who were much senior to me with both age and experience did all they could to support and guide me with all my difficulties.

On a more professional level, working there meant that I was naturally aware of everything that was happening around me – news with severe content or merely entertaining ones – national and worldwide both. It did not just owe to the environment I was in but rather the fact that I was asked to read every single news story on the website that was being updated from time to time, even if I did not find them appealing. It taught me to get an idea of how different news are presented in their own ways, and also improved my old habit of speed reading through the headlines and no more unless I found a piece of my interest. Thus, in many unexpected ways, it improved my reading habits - both academic and outside of the textbooks.

Owing to the extreme political situation of the country that surfaced the months of November and December, I faced a lot of trouble going to and from the office over the latter half of my tenure of the internship, and had to make-up for the lost time by extending the total number of

days. The country's perturbing situation was also another reason for me for not being able to practice much of the political news, as they were only handled by the top editors and my colleagues were often overloaded with stories. I was instead made to either edit old news and check with the edited one later, or only edit small stories related to accidents, and deaths in my final weeks.

One disappointment that I had while working in the online section was it meant that I would not have the opportunity to visit any site and/or make an actual report of an incident taking place. Furthermore, none of my edited works got published as they mostly gave me pieces of old news to practice upon, and even if it did, I was told it would be submitted as work done by the Staff Correspondent. Nevertheless, I still felt the part of being in the newsroom from my little day-to-day experiences. I remember the one time I witnessed a clash in front of my university one morning in November. When I went to the office later and shared it with a senior colleague of mine, he instantly asked me if I had taken any photographs or not, and if I got to speak to anyone. Although I could not provide him with anything then, it made me realize that news was really happening all around us at all points and as a reporter, being fully aware of my surroundings automatically fell under my responsibilities. I also remember reading and correcting the report that came regarding the incident moments later from that spot, which was again between two political groups and not involving students of my or the neighboring universities as I had dreaded. What really moved me about this small incident was that when I had been watching it from one of the top floors, I was standing with a few of my friends and panic-stricken to see the police and even hear a few cocktails. While my immediate human instincts asked me to remain in the building with the teachers and the students unless we were asked to move, I realized how difficult and the extent of bravery it would require to be a



journalist to actually cover the incident from every possible angle instead of remaining under shelter. It made me grow a new kind of respect towards this side of the field I had not given much thought to before, and till date I have been looking forward for an opportunity to report a live event for a change.

As I had worked in the online section, I also had a first-hand experience of working under constant pressure at all times. Added to that, I also had a reality check over the advancement technology has made over the past few years, for news was now really only a matter of clicks away from being updated and shared. The online website of *The Daily Star* also offered SMS servicing of news as well as polls where the webpage visitors could drop in their opinions. Most importantly, every news piece that got published online was open to comment boxes at their ends, which again duly showed how the readers of the paper were just as well provided with a platform to express themselves. It helped me realize another sector of journalism I had never paid much heed to. I came across a lot of blogs as well as news websites that repeatedly plagiarized and published false news every now and then, and I was even more alarmed when it dawned upon me that most readers of such sites believed everything they were seeing on the Internet. I finally understood the gravity of the concept of '**yellow journalism**' and how hoax news could affect people to an upsetting degree. I did my best to make my peers on my social networking spaces become aware of such issues and encouraged to them start relying on newspapers such as *The Daily Star* instead which is undoubtedly one of the most trustworthy sites owing to its reputation over the past two decades. Given my own personal experience, it was not very hard for me to prove my stance over such matters.

## 4.2 Learning Outcome

Working at *The Daily Star* website has therefore changed my perspectives over life in a number of ways. I am now more confident about socialization and the whole idea of doing a job in an office. I also now feel more alert and interested in world affairs than I used to be, and I try to read more features online and share news and such on social networks so that my peers can also follow suit. I learnt to estimate the value of time when I suddenly had all the information with me before the rest of the audience, as well the responsibilities that one has to take up with jobs such as this that require confidentiality. I have understood the importance of editing which is necessary for any form of writing and involves sincere dedication and hard-work. All in all, my experience at *The Daily Star* taught me more than just editing news stories; it gave me an insightful glimpse into the corporate world and prepared me to deal with future prospects if opportunity were to strike again.

**Work Cited**

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