

My Experience  
at  
*The Daily Star*  
People's Right to Know



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August 2015



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My Experience

At

*The Daily Star*

A Report Submitted to  
The Department of English and Humanities  
of  
BRAC University

By

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ENH

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## **Acknowledgement**

My internship at *The Daily Star* has been a memorable experiences and it was very rewarding in many sense. This was the last step of my undergraduate studies as a student of The Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University. First of all, I would like to thank my almighty Allah for keeping me well and for the wisdom, knowledge and strength without it this internship would not have been possible.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the chairperson Professor Dr. Firdous Azim for granting me the permission and providing me with all her support and encouraging speeches. It is my pleasure to thank my Internship supervisor Roohi Huda, whose encouragement, guidance and support throughout my internship enabled me to develop an understanding and courage to do my best. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to my faculties whose support and guidance were invaluable especially in the initial stages of my studies.

I express my gratitude to Salehuddin Ahmed of *The Daily Star* for giving me the chance to do my internship and gain knowledge. I would like to acknowledge my supervisor, Sadya Afree Mollick in *The Daily Star* for guiding me and introducing me with the process. I also would like to thank my senior colleagues Saurav dada, Fahmim bhaia, Zahangir bhaia, Shaju bhaia and Rupon bhaia for the help and support.

I like to thank my family and friends for their support and inspirations. The love, prayers and support of my mother and father has uplifted me to finish my study well.

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## 1. Introduction

The extent of what we see and what we hear is said to be “news”. It is the information that we get on a daily basis that enhances our knowledge and capacity, and enables us to expand our vision when seeing the world. It widens our perspectives regarding different parts of the world. It gives us information, about the world we live in.

Crisis is all around us. This has occurred due to the rise in globalization. To know about the ongoing scenario of the world, news is an essential factor. Day by day it seems that the news or the media industries are blooming. The generations have been changing and the world is moving ahead with the generation change. Journalism or reporting is not what it used to be before. The numbers of newspapers agencies, font size, varying colours and concept, news agencies, be it the paper or the visual media, has brought about a revolutionary change.

The reason behind choosing “Media and Cultural Studies” as my area of concentration is because I have been a news presenter for the past two and a half years, even before deciding what my concentration is going to be. Gradually I realized that everything is changing, nothing is constant. Knowing what is going around the world, gives you an idea about how it is changing and how globalisation is the main reason behind it. A journalist knows better what is actually going on around the world. Nothing is better information than the detailed information which is only given in a newspaper. The things we see in visual media also tell us about the world but not always in depth. Since I wanted to do reporting for print media I did my internship at a newspaper office.

*The Daily Star* was my priority because it is the top ranking newspaper in Bangladesh, and it is recognized worldwide. It does not give biased news and is not politically affiliated. It concentrates on news about all political parties and gives solid information regarding the world and the other entertainment sectors.

In recent time different forms of Journalism play a vital role in our lives. From dawn to dusk directly or indirectly, we are dependent on, editorial, columns and features either in paper form or the online version. News is the part of Journalism that provides us information and creates awareness about remarkable incidents and problems which are taking place around us. “Journalists should be as transparent as possible about sources and methods so audiences can make their own assessment of the information. Even in a world of expanding voices, “getting it right” is the foundation upon which everything else is built – context, interpretation, comment, criticism, analysis and debate. The larger truth, over time, emerges from this forum.” (Fuller, Jack, and Gwen Lister 9-11). They recreate ideologies; subvert or reinforce social, religious and political stereotypes. On a more technical note, news deals with those particular issues which have important, positive and negative impact on us. News is noteworthy information especially about current events.

On the other hand, features are popular elements of newspapers, magazines, blogs, websites and other mass media, and it does not always deal with fresh issues. It always deals with published news which has impact on us and on our society. It covers the stories in depth and does more research than the writer of hard news, stories and explains the most interesting elements of situations or occurrences. Feature writing is more liberal than hard news writing. It provides the writers, reports and editors more flexibility. The most interesting aspect of feature writing is that it does not follow any Rudyard Kipling’s points about ‘the 5 W’s and 1 H and, the Inverted Pyramid structure.’ This is why writers, reporters and editors are able to use their creativity. But it always follows the five value factors such as proximity, prominence, oddity, timeliness, and consequences. One who writes feature stories must have good command or mastery on the target language.

## **2. A glance at the Newspaper Industry and the History of the Daily Star in brief**

We are living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where everything is based on communication and we are fully depended on media. Modern societies and media are connected with each other. From the moment we wake up till we go to sleep, we are constantly attached with communication in different forms. Newspaper is one of the most important media and communication components which is related to our daily lives and lives. Newspapers are the most common and famous medium around the globe to convey latest news to the readers. The role of newspapers is not limited in delivering news to the whole world but it also creates public awareness amongst the people. Journalists are the guardians of the society and their job is to provide the truth. In this modern time, the role of a newspaper is noteworthy in trade, commerce and business. To promote new products, big corporate houses and business houses give ads in the newspaper. Not only advertisements but also sports, op-eds, feature, press releases and editorials are also a part of newspaper. The readers get the knowledge of all of these in one place.

### **2.1 History of Newspaper:**

Newspapers are the most common and famous form of print media. It is a piece of paper where news, articles, editorials, features and advertisements are printed and distributed to the people. A newspaper comes out daily and they have special editions that come out yearly. Newspaper was not invented in one day. The history of it is very interesting. From Mary Bellis's article named "Timeline of the Newspaper History," I came to know that first newspaper was published at 59 B.C in Rome. It was called ActaDiurna. With the flow of the time the idea of the newspapers spread all over the world and become popular amongst the people. Daniel Defoe is considered as the world's first journalist. The history of newspaper dates back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. At that time newspapers were handwritten and published only for the aristocrats regarding particular matters. Johannes Gutenberg invented the first

printing press in 1445 AD.

At the very beginning, newspapers were only for the royal families. In 1512 Henry VIII created the Royal Mail and by 1635 King Charles allowed private citizens to use newspaper by paying a fee. During the Industrial Revolution, newspapers were sold all over the world on a regular basis. It played a very important role during Industrial Revolution and become famous. Tim Lambert in his article named “A Brief History of Newspaper” explained the history of famous newspapers. In the 20th century, newspapers changed a lot and some famous newspapers were introduced to the world. Such as “The Daily Herald”, “The Sun”, “The Daily Star”. In 1986 the first color newspaper was introduced in Britain.

## **2.2 History of Bangladeshis Newspaper:**

Newspapers have played a vital role in the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971. During the liberation war of Bangladesh, newspapers were a very important weapon to convey the situation of our country to the whole world. The first newspaper of Independent Bangladesh was *The Daily Azadi* (Dainik Azadi). After the independence of Bangladesh on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1971 only one newspaper was published and that was *The Daily Azadi* (Dainik Azadi) and their headline was “Joy Bangla, Banglar Joy”. Muhammed Abdul Khaleque was the founder of this newspaper.

## **2.3 Brief history of The Daily Star**

*The Daily Star* is a highly recognized circulating English newspaper in Bangladesh. *The Daily Star* was founded by Syed Mohammad Ali, on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1991. *The Daily Star* emerged as a leading and influential national newspaper. In the Bangladeshi context, the paper is almost comparable to the *The New York Times* of America and *The Independent* of the United Kingdom.

The slogan of *The Daily Star* is, "Committed to People's Right to Know." The newspaper is now led by Mahfuz Anam, a freedom fighter and former United Nations



official. Its principal bureaus are located in Dhaka and Chittagong, with several representatives abroad. It is organized into different sections which are News, Opinion and Editorial, Star Business, Star Sports, Arts and Entertainment, National and Metropolitan. Its major supplements include “The Star,” “Forum, Lifestyle,” “Star Literature,” “Law & Our Rights,” “Shout,” “Star Insight” and “Science and Life.”

Latifur Rahman's Transcom Group holds a major share for *The Daily Star*. There is also an online version of *The Daily Star* which updates news 24/7.

### 3. Working at *The Daily Star*

Working in *The Daily Star* has given me immense opportunity to learn new things. I could understand that working in a news paper office is lot different than doing classes on that particular field of expertise. I got to see how things work, learnt to do certain types of work and met a lot of interesting people. While I was doing class of media courses, things were between me and my teacher or professor. But when you work in an office or as a journalist things are way different. While writing something, that will be published, one must deal with the editors of his/her department and their opinions regarding a particular topic.

I worked in the Arts and Entertainment department. It is all about the glamour world; how celebrities live, what they do, their living condition and all. Due to globalization the glamour world is expanding day by day. As a result the entertainment journalism became a very important sector in our country.

The Daily Star sports department is governed by seven members:

1. The Entertainment Editor: the in charge of the department, decides which news will go the pages, also edits news items will go on which page and also edits news items.
2. Sub-Editor: He edits reports by the Staff Correspondents, sometimes the news is collected from the web. The sub-editor also prepares reports from international newspapers and press releases (after being translated).
3. Three reporters: One collects international news stories, the other collects news stories of the celebrities who are in the film industry and the other reporter collects news from the celebrity singers and dancers.
4. Two photographers: They go for photo shoots of different celebrities and programs.
5. Page designer: there is one page designer, who looks into the layout of the paper.

The Daily Star does not strictly follow British pattern of writing. Doing mostly literature courses for the past three and a half years, I found newspaper writing to be very different from academic writing.

My first two weeks, I wrote 12 interviews and reports. Three of my interviews were published. Two interviews were published on 14<sup>th</sup> January and another got published on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The interviews that I did were one on one interview. Most of the interviews were done over the phone. I could apply my knowledge that I have acquired from print media, editing, translation and cultural studies courses.

Doing the interviews and writing the reports, I got myself accustomed with the Daily Star's methods of writing. Their writing style is very different from the other English newspaper, as it is considered the top ranking English newspaper of Bangladesh.

Cross-checking, double checking, recording, writing and highlighting the important statement or jotting down the key words, and sticking to the truth, are the important ingredients writing in the Daily Star, especially in the Arts and Entertainment section.

Word limit must be maintained. And it should be kept in mind that not all the information that is gathered should not be written down for an article. It should be wisely chosen what particular information to write for an article. The paragraphs are usually between 300-350 words. However there are few short interviews that will be written between 50-100 words.

Nothing but the truth should be written in an article, especially what the interviewee has said. Any sort of sentence or words that can be offensive for the readers, while reading that particular piece should be avoided.

An interviewee usually speaks in bangla. So, those words need to be translated in English. That is where translation studies course helped me. Editing was difficult. A person needs to be an expert, while doing editing. English 401 course helped me here to an extent.

Writing for Arts and Entertainment is fun, because I am getting to meeting different personalities and interview them all the time.

#### 4. Interviews

When we know that we have to interview there are some things that are needed to be kept in our mind;

- I. Identify himself or herself at the outset of the interview.
- II. State the purpose of the interview.
- III. Make clear to those unaccustomed to being interviewed that the material will be used.
- IV. Tell the source how much time the interview will take.
- V. Keep the interview as short as possible.
- VI. Ask specific questions that the source is competent to answer.
- VII. Give the source ample time to reply.
- VIII. Ask the source to clarify complex or vague answers.
- IX. Read back answers if requested or when in doubt about the phrasing of crucial material.
- X. Insist on answers if the public has a right to know them.
- XI. Avoid lecturing the source, arguing or debating.
- XII. Abide by requests for nonattribution, background only or off-the-record should the source make this a condition of the interview or of a statement.

It is not always possible to cover every interview. The reason behind is that there are times when the interviewees are not available to give the interviews. They are either out of town, or maybe they are in a shoot. The interviews of many were taken over the phone. As I have stated in my earlier chapter that mostly the interviews are one-on-one interviews.

Sometimes, some interviews are taken face-to-face, but they are rare. When an interview of a person is taken it had to be made sure that we have the latest picture of that

person or our photographers took their picture. Without the picture, the Entertainment sections cannot introduce the new faces that are coming on the music stage or camera.

Exposure is one of the most important things that an Entertainment section gives to the celebrities. The glamour world is what we dealt with and we had to make sure that our page was vibrant with colourful pictures, juicy news, and some news about their personal lives and experiences.

Working ahead of time is another crucial factor in order to be a part of this section. We would have meetings about the upcoming events what happened in a specific month had that can be covered as an event or an interview. For instance during the month of February there was “Pohela Falgun”, “Valentine’s day”, and “Ekushey February”. Hence we scheduled interviews well ahead of our deadlines, we decided whom we will interview, what we will write, what kind of interesting questions to ask to the interviewees, we also noted the down the dates for the interviews to take place and much more. We kept track of what happened in a specific month that can be covered as an event as an interview.

Here are few of my interviews that were published in the newspaper.



# The spark of love

## The story of Reetu Sattar and Munem Wasif

A CORRESPONDENT

Reetu Sattar and Munem Wasif, artists in different field, fell in love with each other for who they are, and what their professions are. Munem is a renowned documentary photographer while Reetu is a theatre actor, director and performance artist. They are happily married for five years, and have a two -and- a - half year old child. Ahead of Valentine's Day, Reetu spoke to The Daily Star about the journey the duo took together.

"We were friends. No one thought we will tie the knot. We were not like the typical couple. I don't think I have ever met him without our friends around. Planning to get married and spending the rest of our lives together, it never even came to our thoughts for once. It was destiny that has brought us here, so far, together.

"Finding compatibility is rare, especially in a country like Bangladesh. Our society is very different from other societies, and it is not easy to connect with a

person. But what I found in Munem, I don't think any other man possesses.

"When we first met, Munem was my student in Prachyanat. Later, he also joined there to work. He was a new-comer and he was very dedicated with his work. Gradually as time went by, I discovered that we have lots of things in common; the same taste in books, movies, arts and lot of others small things.

"When I was with him life seemed so interesting. But funnily, we never thought to be a 'couple'."

"Time went by, without us even noticing that deep within we wanted to be together because we both respected each other, our work, decisions and the tiny choices we made. Our love was never commoditised. Times have definitely changed, and to profess one's love only on Valentine's Day must be because everyone is too busy to find time for their loved ones. I am lucky that I don't have to do that as I have my loved ones with me--especially Munem and my child,-- and can tell them I love them everyday."



## Rebeka Sultana to perform at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Rebeka Sultana, a renowned Nazrul Sangeet singer, will perform at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre at 6:30pm today.

"This performance will be dedicated to my mother. Tomorrow is her death anniversary. I will mostly sing all her favorites -- Nazrul Sangeet, old songs and patriotic songs, among others. My mother was an inspiration for me and my siblings", Rebeka Sultana told The Daily Star.

Rebeka Sultana's musical training was under Badrul Alam, Ramgopal Mohonto and Ustad Ful Mahammad. She gave her first public appearance at Khelaghar, and later acquired popularity on television with her immaculate performances.

Despite living abroad for a long time, she has been a sincere practitioner of Nazrul Sangeet. Even with organisational responsibilities as vice president of Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad and the President of Inner Will club, she does not take time off from singing.

# The highs and lows of being **Krishnokoli**

A CORRESPONDENT

Quazi Krishnokoli Islam, aka Krishnokoli is a renowned singer-songwriter. Born and raised in Khulna, her mother inspired her to join the world of music. Trained by Shadhon Ghosh (Rabindra Sangeet) and Basudeb Biswas (classical music), Krishnokoli believes that fame has its positives and negatives.

The Daily Star engaged her in a conversation about the perks and perils of being an artiste:

**What do your fans generally say about your performances?**

**Krishnokoli:** There will always be good and bad feedback. However, I am honoured that my fans root for me to continue singing and says that my lyrics are different and deeply touch their hearts.

**A negative remark that disheartens you...**

**Krishnokoli:** Being a woman is difficult, be it in any profession. Once I had a caller who com-



pletely disheartened me with a negative remark. My reply to that caller was, "I probably don't know anything about you. How would you feel if I responded by saying that I would dislike you

for the rest of my life?" A couple of months later, that person called me back to apologise. You don't get to see this everyday. Not everybody repents or understands their mistakes.

## CHITCHAT

# Maznun Mizan: In for the long haul

A CORRESPONDENT

Maznun Mizan is a very popular face among television viewers. Beginning his career 15 years ago on stage, his dedication has made him a regular on TV. The actor recently spoke to The Daily Star, about his profession and beyond.

**You're most treasured possession?**

**Manzun Mizan:** There is no doubt that my most treasured possession is my work. And through my work, I am recognised as an actor. I personally feel that any character I play, entertains or inspires the audience in some way, and teaches them to be someone.

**After all this time in the profession, what keeps you motivated?**

**Manzun Mizan:** I love my work. I truly value it because I have worked hard to get where I am now. Being an actor is not something that I decided overnight. I wanted to be an actor since I was in grade four. It has been a struggle but in the end it was worth it. I believed in myself, and made others believe in me, too.

**Something you have always wanted to achieve, but you are yet to?**

**Manzun Mizan:** I have always wanted to do something good for my nation. In the near future, I will be portraying the role of a freedom fighter on screen. Let see where that takes me.





# POSERS

## Golam Farida goes candid...

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

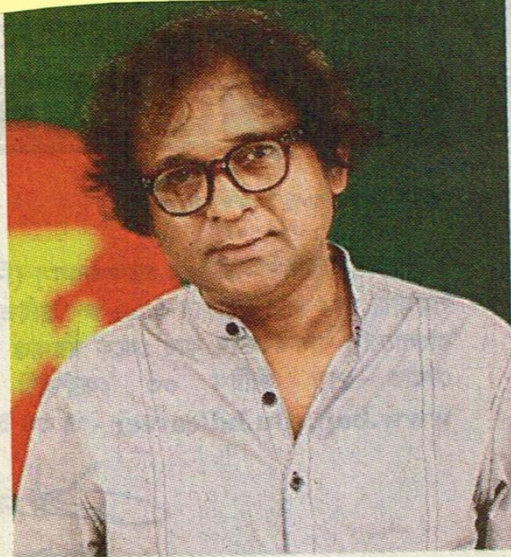
Popular actress Golam Farida Chhanda began her career as an actress way back in 1996, and has been around ever since. Her TV debut was in 1997 in a BTV drama. The Daily Star recently caught up with the artiste. Excerpts:

**What quality do you value most in a person?**  
**Chhanda:** I value humanity. It is how people learn to love, connect and be a good human being.

**One thing that you hate most ...**  
**Chhanda:** I hate hypocrisy and hypocrites. They are treacherous and ungrateful.

**The first compliment that you got for you work ...**

**Chhanda:** When I was selected for a tele-film by Mostafa Monwar named "Stri'r Potro", I asked him why he chose me amongst all the suitable candidates. His answer was, "I can mold you into any character I want to, because you are like clay." It was a very special compliment.



## Actors are like missionaries

### ... Azad Abul Kalam

A CORRESPONDENT

.....  
 Azad Abul Kalam, is not merely a popular actor but also a writer and director. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, he talked about if the next generation should make a full time career of stage acting:

In Azad's words: "Struggle had become the norm and in Bangladesh it is rather difficult for a person to make a permanent career of stage acting. Here, the actors and actresses are like missionaries who come for a certain task and leave, after having preached a certain message. It is rare for a person to last long in this profession. Only those very passionate about their careers can reach a certain level and gain respect. Having said that, it would be sheer stupidity to be focused on stage performances. Working as a stage performer in Bangladesh cannot be one's bread and butter.

"However, an actor should thoroughly enjoy his work. It should be kept in mind that contemporary theatre is likely to have the greatest appeal for future generations. A person interested in theatre should believe in themselves. Only then can they do better, thus attaining respect and position in our society."

# THE FM REVOLUTION

## Samannoy shares the joys of Radio Jockeying

A CORRESPONDENT

Samannoy Ghosh, better known RJ Samannoy, has been a radio jockey with ABC Radio for several years. One of the brightest, most upbeat voices of today's FM radio stations, he specialises in World Music programmes of various genres, and hosts live musical performances by bands. He recently shared memories of his first days on radio, and more.

"We have all listened to radio. In the old days, the only source of news was radio. So it would be wrong to say that RJ's are new. Even for me, this profession dates back many years. I started my work when I was in school. The first day I went there, I was nervous. I will never forget that day. My mother would accompany me at all times. She is still very supportive of my work."

"My first ever interview was with Partha Barua. I'd never dreamt that I would be hosting in a show with such a renowned artiste. Times were not

"Those were different times, and listeners only interacted through mails. I still have letters from my fans to remind me of those days.

"To be a good RJ, you need to be able to multi-task, to have wit and to be conversational, so that you can connect with people. But an RJ must also know where to draw the line. Even though I have been working for a long time, I still feel I have a long way to go.

"I feel proud of the FM stations, the way they are growing and reaching out further. This was only possible because the radio stations work hard to come up with new content, to keep listeners informed and entertained. And the RJs play a vital role in that."



## 5. Press Releases

If you work at a newspaper organization it is very likely that you will have write press releases everyday. In every media house there has to be at least one press release that go in the paper. Without press release it would have been hard to release proper newspaper.

The press release was born following a young man named Ivy Lee's response to a train wreck on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1906, in Atlantic City, N.J, that left more than 50 people dead. What Lee did was convince the railroad to issue a statement about what had transpired. For then onwards, he set in motion a practice for companies to address issues important to *The New York Times*, or, in that case the railroad, to offer an explanation of what had happened. The *New York Times* was said to have been so thrilled by Lee's release that the newspaper printed it exactly as Lee had written it. Some things never changes; technology may have been introduced, but there are several things a press release can accomplish that make its use as relevant today as it was when Lee was alive. What Lee had had created did bring a revolutionary change and often it is starting point for a journalist to create stories.

Press release is mostly sent by various organisations. They inform the media about press conference announcement, new product launching, death news, upcoming event etc. During my time with the Arts and Entertainment section, I came across a press release that was in English.

“Laila Sharmeen to showcase her works at Oxford Int'l Art Fair”

Staff Correspondent

Bangladeshi artist Laila Sharmeen has been selected to showcase her works at the second edition of Oxford International Art Fair, beginning on February 6 at Oxford Town Hall.

Over 150 artists from over 30 countries will display their artworks. The major attractions of the fair include sculptures by Peter Hibbard, stylised landscape paintings by Jenny Graham and Janet Lawrence, Kieran Stiles and Gareth Lloyd.

Laila's works focus on political and social engagement, formal beauty and romance. She is conscious of modern social upheavals. The artist feels that corrupt politicians and religious bigots are posing a threat to progress. She has 11 solos and over 60 international shows to her credit. In 2011, she won a Purchase Prize at the prestigious 16th Space International Print Biennial held at OCI Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea.

Last year, she also exhibited her works at Barcelona International Art Fair at Gaudí's architectural masterpiece Casa Batlló and Art Expo, New York Art.

=====Laila

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Some of my works of Press Release

2nd Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest begins tomorrow (Non Edited Version)

The second Dhaka International Theatre Fest-2015, organised by International Theatre Institute, Bangladesh in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) will begin from March 12 at three venues of BSA. The 10-day theatre fest -- from March 12 to 21-- features five international troupes alongside popular plays by a number of local troupes. The festival was announced at a press conference at BSA Seminar Room yesterday. ITI president Ramendu Majumdar, thespian Nasiruddin Yousuff, festival director Debobrata Devnath, festival committee members Selim SH Chowdhury and Dr. Irin Parveen Lopa were present at the press meet among others.

Finance Minister AMA Muhiit will inaugurate the festival tomorrow at 7pm at the Nandan Mancha of BSA in the presence of distinguished guests including Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor.

“The first edition was held in 2011 and our intention was to establish it as a biannual theatre festival but due to unavoidable circumstances it was not held in 2013. Nevertheless we hope that it will now continue as a biannual festival,” said Ramendu Majumdar.

Plays which were brought to stage in the years 2013 and 2014 will only be staged at the festival. In addition, the fest features dance drama alongside workshops and dialogues on theatre. Also a meet the director session will be held every day.

Two opera troupes from China will stage three dance dramas at the festival, while Srishti Cultural Centre will stage their popular production “Badi Bandar Roopkotha”. Moreover, two theatre troupes from India are also participating in the festival.

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## 6. TV Caption

TV caption was difficult for me to write. It is basically a brief description of a television program for the next day or any upcoming days. This provides additional or interpretive information. I had to translate the TV caption from Bangla to English. I was never good in translation, as a result this was the only time they gave me something to translate into English from Bangla.

Mostly, the synopsis of the TV caption is what is the show all about, who the producers, the directors and the people appearing on the screen will be. They usually mention the date of the series or program and when it will be aired.

“আরিফিন শুভর বিয়ে....

ঢাকার সিনেমার জনপ্রিয় নায়ক আরিফিন শুভ বিয়ের পিঁড়িতে বসছেন সহসাই । কলকাতার মেয়ে অর্পিতা সমাদারের সাথে চলতি মাসের ১৬ তারিখে শুভর বিয়ের আনুষ্ঠানিকতা সম্পন্ন হবে পারিবারিকভাবে । বর্তমানে শুভ কলকাতায় অবস্থান করছেন । সেখানে অর্পিতা সমাদারের পরিবার একটি পারিবারিক অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করেছে । এদিকে আরিফিন শুভ কলকাতা যাবার আগে জানান, অর্পিতা কলকাতার মেয়ে হলেও ঢাকায় একটি আন্তর্জাতিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরি করেন । সে একজন ফ্যাশন ডিজাইনার । এক বছর আগে তার সাথে পরিচয় । আমাদের দুই পরিবারের সম্মতিতেই বিয়েটা হতে যাচ্ছে ।

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This is my English translation of the mentioned piece on Bangla.

Dhallywood actor Arifin Shuvoo is going to tie the knot on this upcoming February 16<sup>th</sup> with Arpita Samaddar. Fashion designer Arpita Samaddar is from Kolkata who works for a multinational company in Dhaka. Shuvoo shares, they met a year ago and now they are getting married with the blessings of their families. He is staying at Kolkata now as there will be a celebration with family members organized by Samaddar's family.”

Some of my other works:



➤ **“Bindu Bishorgo” on ntv**

A Correspondent

Drama serial “Bindu Bishorgo” airs every Thursday and Friday at 8:20pm on ntv.

The play, written and directed by Animesh Aich, encircles the everyday story of a joint family. The joy and sorrow of the family and personal stories of every family member are depicted in minute details in the play.

Mousumi Hamid, Sporshia, Abul Hayat, Allen Shubhro, Raisul Islam Asad, Laila Hasan, Farhana Mithu and others are in the cast.

➤ **Riaz and Nova in “Pushpo...Tomar Opekkhay”**

A Correspondent

Riaz and Nova Firoz will make their first appearance as an on-screen couple in single episode drama “Pushpo...Tomar Opekkhay”. The play, written and directed by Raihan Khan, features the duo as a romantic couple who will be facing various ordeals in the course of their relationship. The play will go on air on Valentine’s Day on a private TV channel.

## 7. It's true

“It’s true,” this part mainly consists of bits and pieces of facts about celebrities that most people are unaware of. Here we have to do some research work about the celebrities and their lives. Doing this was fun and quite different from the interviews that we have to take. But we had to make sure that the sources based on which we are writing the “it’s true” part, are genuine. And the way we can understand this is by cross checking some of the facts with other resources.

There were times when we really didn’t get the correct information or any information regarding the things, the people, what, whom or the movie we want to write about. These information were mainly collected from the internet. Internet is the best resource for collecting the “untold” stories about celebrities and their lifestyles, or a fact about a movie that we never knew regarding a particular character or star in a star. The following piece is written by me.

### ➤ **“It’s true!**

**Iconic rock musician and front-man of genre-defining grunge rock band Nirvana, Kurt Cobain opened up regularly about his feminist beliefs. He sympathised with women who he said are “totally oppressed”, called heavy metal “pretty sexist”, rejected the idea of a “macho man”, and wore clothes onstage so that he could “be as feminine as I want”. Nirvana even went as far as to warn fans who were sexist, racist or homophobic to leave their shows and not buy their albums.”**

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➤ It's true!

Taylor Swift can play guitar, banjo, piano, ukulele and electric guitar. She is also a talented painter. A computer repairman taught her how to play three chords on the guitar when Swift was only 12. This later inspired her to write her first song "Lucky You". In 2009 Swift made country music history by selling more digital downloads than any other country artist ever. She sold over 20 million hits worldwide. Swift also wrote a 350-page novel at the age of 12. She is also keen to write an autobiography because she is the only one who knows her crazy activities.

➤ It's true!

Vincent Van Gogh – the Dutch post-impressionist artist considered one of the most influential in the world -- did not begin painting until his late twenties, completing many of his best-known works during the last two years of his life. In just over a decade, he produced more than 2,100 artworks, consisting 860 oil paintings and more than 1,300 watercolours, drawings, sketches and prints. However, he remained largely unnoticed in his lifetime and even after his death in 1890 (at age 37), and his fame peaked much later, near the time of World War I.

➤ It's true!

Pop icon Jennifer Lopez got married to singer Marc Anthony in June 2004 in a secret ceremony in her Los Angeles mansion, after just four months of courtship following her failed relationship with actor Ben Affleck. On their first anniversary,

**Marc Anthony bought J-Lo a \$1 million diamond engagement ring, because they had never really got engaged.**

➤ **It's true!**

**Leonard Cohen was nearing 70 when his daughter suggested that his longtime friend and business manager might not be acting in good faith. Cohen began looking through statements and discovered that for nearly a decade his friend had been selling off his music publishing rights. What should have been a well-earned \$5 million nest egg and growing was drawn down to a paltry \$150,000. Cohen was forced back onto the road and back to writing and recording songs. It's been a gift to his fans, but he lost a close friend, had his trust violated, and had little choice in the matter. But, being Leonard Cohen, he takes a Zen-like approach to it all and has embraced his late-career renaissance.**

## **8. Personal Account**

It is said that, “Not everything that is learned is contained in books.” There is no way to deny that books are the best sources of knowledge. However, the knowledge instructed is limited but saturated by the experience gained in this pragmatic world. Throughout our lives from primary level through tertiary level education to adulthood, we learn something either from our academic field or through experience. Practical knowledge gained through real world experience indeed strengthens a person mentally making his/her survival possible, otherwise s/he becomes vulnerable due to the changes in career. And seeking for a better prospect for am in life.

Knowledge that is pursued in educational institutions is expected to have a proper application in life. That is how knowledge can flourish and accomplish the goal of being acquired. But in my point of view, knowledge gained through real world experience has far more impact than knowledge gained from books. During my journey of the twelve week internship, I got to apply my previous knowledge about writing, and I also gained new practical knowledge about this field.

There is a vast difference between reading a book and going through a particular work text based and on the other hand there is a vast difference when you are doing a practical work. Doing a practical work enhances and clears lot of things that a text book does not allow us to do so. In a practical work we are not text bound. I felt journalism is a profession that should not be text bound, rather based on practical work. According to Gandhi, “be truthful, gentle, and fearless,” and this is what exactly this profession is about.

Although, I was not working in the central desk or hard core journalism which requires a lot more hard work than that of feature writing.

One of my fellow colleagues of “*Shout,*” department and a friend from BRAC University said that,

### **Write Generously**

Zoheb Mashiar

“The most popular advice given to a budding writer: do it for yourself, not for anyone else. It's well-meaning advice but it glorifies a selfish disregard for what the audience wants.

Nine times out of ten you are writing with the intention of being read. Perhaps it's your O Level English essay, or it's a story you're writing to impress your crush. You have an audience in mind, and you must write for them.

It pays to think of writing in terms of a transaction. You want something from the person you're writing for: full marks, money, admiration, love, etc. In exchange your writing must satisfy their wants. Identify what they like. Tailor your output to their tastes. There is no guarantee in the world you'll get that A or that kiss, but you have to do your best to please them.

However, what you should do your best to avoid is writing something you don't want to. Anything you aren't happy with will be poor and will not satisfy anyone. Write for yourself, as well as for the audience. Never make it a choice between the two.”

It really helped me in my initial days in *The Daily Star*. It was motivational. He is a good writer and I did follow some of his works. It was definitely not easy to write during the early days. You face so many problems. You are new in an environment and of course things will never look that pleasant. There were a lot of things to improve and work on during my initial days at *The Daily Star*. To me, everything seemed very daunting. I was very much concerned about the grammatical errors that I used to make. My supervisor noticed that, and

told me to concentrate more on the words, rather than the syntactical side of the language. Grammatical errors were edited once I prepared my storylines, taglines or captions. But gradually I got the hang of it and of course, my fellow colleagues were most certainly helpful.

The entertainment page is all about glamour and beauty. Till now nothing beats “the Arts and Entertainment,” section of *the Daily Star* in Bangladesh. Initially I also faced some issues about communicating with the celebrities and writing their words. It needed to be polished and edited a lot. It was a time consuming task. As I wanted to get rid of my fear, I started to discuss the draft plans and question patterns, what and how to ask with my supervisor first, she then pointed out the strengths and drawbacks of my strategies. After that I took the interviews. This plan of work helped me to be more confident about my assignments and put me in the right direction of brainstorming before working on the conclusion of an assignment writings.



## 9. Conclusion

The world of writing or being a part of a newspaper agency is indeed not easy. Being a bridge between the glamour world and writing their words, people associated to this field have to face different kinds of challenges everyday. There are struggles that many people face when entering the world of newspaper or feature writing. The twelve week internship experience was definitely not enough to know about all these difficulties, but it surely gave me a certain guideline to follow in order to overcome the obstacles that are faced. As a media student, it helped to know exactly what I can expect when going into this field, and how I can overcome the common problems, both professional and personal.

What I have learnt so far that you need to maintain a perfect liaison with the celebrities. You need to assure them and make them comfortable enough to communicate with you, so that they can share their thoughts and their lifestyle. While interning at *The Daily Star* I got to work on three of these aspects through different tasks. When I worked on heading and captions writing, I came to know how a simple sentence or a phrase can deliver anticipation and that it can convince a person or even a group that I am telling the story of their everyday lives as they read what is written.

Apart from the assignments, there were also different kinds of interviews, which I came across while doing my internship at *The Daily Star*. I was familiar with most of those terms beforehand because of Editing course like mug shots, pull out quotes and etc, but during my internship I saw the practical use of those terms. This is where working on academic projects and professional tasks is different from each other. While doing my course assignments all I thought of was being creative and sticking to the rules mentioned in the text.

However, when I was working on different writing assignments at *The Daily Star*, I had to come up with words that were relevant to my interviewee's word, because there are times when TV images were given to me and I had to write according to what was given. The description of the TV images had to be vivid enough to captivate the readers.

There is a famous saying by Pablo Picasso, "Learn the rules like a pro so you can break them like an artist." The world of newspaper agencies does not always go according to the rule book, but it was also essential to know the rules to understand their proper application in my work. During my three month internship period I had experienced both to an extent and not always fully, using my media background knowledge.

Sadya Afreen Mollick, my internship supervisors, had helped me to gain knowledge from her. She has been in The arts and Entertainment section for 12 long years. My fellow intern and I tried to learn as much as possible in that little amount of time. I believe this three month learning will be beneficial for me in the long run as it will help me to pursue a career in the media world. It will at the same time develop my analytical skills which will help me in life.

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