Internship Report

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MDMP Internship Report as
A Multimedia Producer in The Daily Star

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At first, I offer millions of my heartfelt thanks to almighty who has given me strength and opportunity to complete this internship program.

Later I convey my best respect to my reverend teacher Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, Senior Lecturer, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University. In the research area I am an infant, so without the help of my supervisor, preparation of this report was not possible on behalf of me.

I am profoundly grateful to Mr. Sharier Khan, Deputy Editor, *The Daily Star* for his hearty continuous supervision. I am also thankful to other reporters and my colleagues for their whole hearted cooperation.

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SUMMARY OF THE FACTS:  "The Daily Star"

The Daily Star is one of the leading national daily newspapers of Bangladesh, and also the widely circulated English daily. Starting its journey in 1991, the newspaper has come a long way to promote journalism without fear and favour. Recently The Daily Star celebrated its 25 years anniversary, which is also a milestone for the newspaper. It runs with the slogan “Your Right to Know” and always prioritizes the right of common people. The Daily Star promises to speak for the people without fear and favour, and has established itself as a spokesman of the subdued voice. Also it is the first English daily to have a four-page business supplement everyday and one-page for Arts & Entertainment. The newspaper boasts a brilliant editorial team, and many of the finest journalists of the country. Apart from its regular pages, the newspaper has several weekly supplements. The Daily Star will continue to stick to its commitments to the people of the country.

OBJECTIVE

The Daily Star carries on with the long-term responsibility is to strengthen public opinion on how the democratic system should work and how to sustain and nurture democratic norms effectively. It was a privilege for The Daily Star to be part of a changing scene after the fall of military autocrat in early 1990s. With that privilege came an enormous responsibility of upholding the duties of a free press. The newspaper is proud to pursue that policy without relenting for the past 23 years.

VALUES

The uniqueness of The Daily Star lies in its non-partisan position, in the freedom it enjoys from any influence of political parties or vested groups. Its strength is in taking position of neutrality in conflicts between good and evil, justice and injustice, right and wrong, regardless of positions held by any group or alliance. The paper believes to report events objectively, as it is, and without any fear and favour. It is committed to serve the people. That’s why people — whether in power or in opposition — respect The Daily Star.

The Daily Star advocates rule of law, human rights, gender issues, national interests, press freedom, transparency and accountability of people in the administration and in the world of trade and industry on which the newspaper has never compromised whatever the costs. No political powers can take it for granted and no-one is given cause to doubt its fairness.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITMENT

Being well aware of its social responsibilities and duties, the newspaper works to ensure human rights to all, remove gender discrimination, advocate rule of law, press freedom, transparency and accountability in the administration and in the world of trade and industry and above all to
uphold national interests. While working for these ends, *The Daily Star* always maintains utmost sincerity and accountability to serve the nation the way it is bound by its norms and values. Besides running news reports on these issues, *The Daily Star* carries special reports, human-interest stories, features, articles and essays written by its staffs and other professionals and talents from across the country and abroad.

During different national crises, the newspaper played an important role to solve those to stop people’s sufferings. As it remain alert of its social duties, *The Daily Star* frequently organises roundtables, seminars and discussions on the issues. It also works closely with the civil society for this end.

To promote young talents, *The Daily Star* organises debates and different competitions at school and college-levels and awards those who show excellence in different fields.

**ORGANOGRAM**

The Editor who is also the Publisher of the newspaper leads the news, reporting and editorial units. He is assisted by an associate editor and assistant editors.

An editorial board comprising the associate editor and assistant editors are responsible for writing editorials under the supervision of the Editor.

The associate editor is responsible for assisting the Editor in leading the all the units and works as acting editor in absence of the Editor. The assistant editors are responsible for writing editorials in line with the instruction of the Editor.

They also write and collect post-editorials from other writers and looks after the editorial and post-editorial pages. It is also their responsibility to look after the features and articles and make-up the pages.

The management of the newspaper is headed by the Managing Editor. He is responsible for supervising the whole management including the accounts, production, store and establishment units.

Meantime, the Establishment is responsible for all establishment affairs including human resources development and administrative works. An Establishment Manager is the head of the department and works under the supervision of the managing editor.

The Finance Manager heads the finance and accounts sections. The Circulation Manager is responsible for all circulation of the newspaper across the country and for taking necessary steps to increase circulation. Advertisement Manager heads the advertisement section and is responsible for managing advertisements.

The chief reporter is responsible for supervising the whole reporting team, the key unit of the newspaper. He assigns reporters for covering events and writing special reports and receives reports from the correspondents working across the country. After getting the reports, he forwards those to the news editors.

There are two chief reporters in *The Daily Star*, one responsible for current affairs and another for specials affairs.
Chief News Editor heads the news section that comprise of news editors and sub-editors. Besides two news editors and a joint news editor, there are several sub-editors. The News Editors are responsible for page make-up. They also write headlines of the reports. The sub-editors edit the reports and submit to the news editors. The news editors later send the reports for revision to Revision Editor. There is also a City Editor in The Daily Star who coordinates all the events that take place in the city. He also supervises reporters who cover special events and coordinates the staff who work with bringing out special pages on different occasions. Meantime, there are rewrite men and translators in the newspaper to develop copies.

DECISION MAKING PRACTICES

The newspaper is run according to a policy composed in line with its objective and values. The policymakers take the decisions. Besides the editorial board, the managing editor, news editors and chief reporters also play important role in decision-making. Crucial decisions also come from the weekly meeting of reporters and sub-editors.

CAPACITIES OF STAFF MEMBERS

There are several sections in the newspaper — News, Reporting, Sports, Business, Editorial, Metropolitan, National Page, Star Weekend Magazine, Law and Our Rights, Lifestyle, Culture, Online, Establishment, Circulation, Advertisement, Computer Operator and Reading Section. Total of 280 staff are now working in these sections. Of them, 40 are female staff. Of the 16 sections, Magazine, Law and Our Rights, Life Style, Culture, and Computer Section are headed by women staffs. Besides, a number of women are working in different policy making positions of these sections.

ROOM FOR VARIATION

To cater to the widest spectrum of the reading public, regular 20-page issue contains 2-page Sports round-up, 4-page Business news, 3-page City news, one-page Arts & Entertainment, Country and International news, plus many more varied, informative and interesting pages on weekly basis including 2-page Star Literature, Law etc.

In addition The Daily Star has a weekly Special Magazine on Friday (The Star), a 4-colour tabloid-size publication for the young on Thursday (Shout) and Lifestyle on Tuesday. To be more of the readers, the daily carries a Holiday page, City-in-Frame and introduced a few months ago Star Insight and Star Campus.

Presently its internet edition is the most widely browsed web page by the Bangladeshi nationals living abroad and it is frequently quoted in national and international journals, seminars, research papers as the most trusted and authentic source of news. For The Daily Star and those who work here it is a rare privilege to be cherished by all.
MY WORK & RESPONSIBILITIES:

I am working as a Multimedia Producer in *Star Live*, which is the official YouTube video channel of *The Daily Star*. *Star Live* is a dedicated section for Online Video production. As per my responsibility, I have produced quality video contents and video stories for the said department. My supervisor is Mr. Sharier Khan one of the Deputy Editors of *The Daily Star*, who is the key person of the online video section.

My responsibility here can be divided into six parts— helping my colleagues with new story ideas, researching on a given story, scripting based on research, shooting, editing and lastly writing accompany report for the video content. I also play a crucial role in our weekly brainstorming meeting.

Every day I follow the daily newspaper to get news ideas. Besides, my colleague also helps me with story ideas. During our weekly meeting I put forward my ideas before the team. We spent at least an hour, arguing and discussing about different angels of the idea, ethical issues (if there is any), research, shooting plan and etc. At last, based on the merit of the idea my supervisor decides what to do and what not.

A video production requires in-depth pre-production design. During the pre-production phase I choose my story topic and start researching. My supervisor plays an important role and provides some facts and ideas. After the discourse ends, I begin to work on the story visually. A concrete research has always been a primary tool to write a successful script. Shooting plan for the story is a part of pre-production phase.

During my research work I also contact with the potential sources. Here, source actually depends on the story format (news or feature). So, we can define source as the primary-information-provider. Interestingly, common people can be our potential source in a feature story focusing on daily life of city dwellers. Besides, researcher working on urban life is also a potential source of information.
At shooting, I try to delve deep into the script idea to make my research visually appealing. It is not an easy task to do, since we usually work on documentary format. So I need to stay alert to check whether the light position, camera movement and characters answer in front of the camera are sinking with my story idea or not.

After finishing successful production shooting I need to segregate ok footages and also have to make a log shit for the editing. Usually I have to guide our video editor during this post-production phase to edit my story according to my script. Sometimes I did the rough-cut for the video editor also. If any graphics or motion graphics needed in my story I need to consult with our graphics designer and also have to do in this phase.

To do a successful production everything about the story I have to nurture until the story upload to the Star Live (The Daily Star YouTube channel). To publish my story into the The Daily Star web portal I also have to write a summary of the story.

I covered negligence of the government regarding the maintenance of the largest archaeological sites in South Asia, Bhitarghar, along with the mindless constructions of various Corporate organizations within the site elicited a High Court rule, instructing the government to take steps to protect the national treasure.

During my intern period I have contributed significantly in our newspaper. I have travelled to remote districts to investigate on human rights and environmental change issues. Recently I came from Shundarban by covering Rash Mela, Punno Snan (ablution), super-moon, biodiversity and the forest conservation condition of the world largest mangrove forest.

During my intern period I did three complete stories and also did cinematography and video editing in another five productions. My two projects are running which are now in post-production phase. One of the ongoing project is feature on a true history based first Bangladeshi 3D game 'War 71' and another is feature on the culture of world largest mangrove forest Shundarban dwellers.

I don't want to describe my finished projects one by one because the completed stories are available in the web and I am giving bellow the name and the web link of the stories.
My completed stories are:

The symbol of love and a mansion in ruins in Barisal  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/the-symbol-love-and-mansion-ruins-barisal-1303006

Autumn white fields of Dhaka  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/autumn-white-fields-dhaka-1294483

Oxford Mission, a century old church in Barisal  

Meet the fourth generation of poet Rabindranath Tagore  
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o68pCnRBruo

Habib talks about creativity, music, his likes and dislikes  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/music/habib-talks-about-creativity-music-his-likes-and-dislikes-1284520

Sundarban-10, most luxurious launch of Bangladesh  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/sundarban-10-most-luxurious-launch-bangladesh-1282702

[WATCH NOW] N'ganj anti-militant operation roundup  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/narayanganj-raid/watch-now-narayanganj-anti-militant-operation-roundup-1276396

Demand for plants high at Brikkho Mela  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/demand-plants-high-brikkho-mela-1271728

Rickshaw painting in Digital age  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/rickshaw-painting-digital-age-1267468

Tea garden workers: Living like slaves for 175 years  
Link: http://www.thedailystar.net/country/tea-garden-workers-living-slaves-175-years-1262731

Savar not yet ready for Tanners  
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZSdCNBBimg
Here are some projects where I did Cinematography:

Dhakaites react to victory of Donald Trump
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgaj-2P6YpA

Tips Guru: Amitabh Reza on film direction
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLJnz22cJ9Y

Aynabaji: Chat with Amitabh Reza & Gang
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGD4jxaPEQg

The grand old Srinagar Bazar
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVU3yUvnJ8s

Discover Bangladesh: Chill out at Arial Beel
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1AoJhRJUKk

Here are some projects where I did Video Editing:

Turag At Death Bed
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQQsVDMrRhY

Barisal: Durga Sagar and Lakutia Zaminder Bari
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS7uaGyQssQ

Bangladesh’s Most Luxurious Launch
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsi9KEf0CdM

Bashundhara fire under control in 6 hours
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zMndWfA3I

SPACE AND TIME CONSTRAINT:
The newspaper is a daily in nature; I have to work amidst time constraint to finish my works by the deadline. Sometimes I have to cover more than one event a day and have to hurry in submitting my stories keeping in mind the deadline. Usually my office time is so flexible; if I have no outdoor shooting my office time is 12 PM to 6 PM. But, when I have shooting or appointment there is no time boundary and I have to work whole day.
WORKING ENVIRONMENT:
The Daily Star offers a very healthy working environment to its staff as it thinks a good working environment is the prerequisite of better output. My supervisor and my colleagues are very helpful and comparative. My office desk and work station is in the news room at the sixth floor of The Daily Star Building. In the news room the environment is always quite and everyone are always busy with their won work. So, the overall working condition of The Daily Star is fabulous and too much working friendly.

SELF-EVALUATION:
Choosing The Daily Star as the host organization for my internship was indeed a very wise decision. The way they welcomed me and guided me throughout my internship period is really appreciable. The power of “We” was one of the most important lessons that I have learned from that organization. The supervisor wanted me to have in dept knowledge of the newspaper production system. I also gained knowledge about print media through working there in collaboration with my colleagues.

Now I know each and every step of newspaper production and their workflow. This gained knowledge will help me better perform in any kind of situation, especially in this field. Now I can consider myself as a complete producer. It tremendously helped me developing my aesthetic sense regarding storytelling and creative output. I believe that all these knowledge I have managed to gather from The Daily Star is sufficient enough for me to start a career in journalism.

OUTCOMES:
As an intern, I thought I would make professional skills, knowledge about the field, professional links, and mentality to work for others and some kind of reputation of being a good person to work with. And after this long internship, I can say, I have achieved almost everything I wanted to and everything gone perfectly fine with me. I have learned production maintaining, team work, brain storming, idea generation process, creative input, leadership capabilities, responsibilities and lots of professional behavior. After working with so many projects its develop my capacity and skills. I feel this will help me a lot with my goal to be a content developer and campaign tool designer. This experience made me more professionally skilled, wise about the field with professional links.
REFLECTION AS AN IMPLEMENTER:
Working as a Multimedia Producer for *The Daily Star* helped me develop and learn lots of things. This is a creative job. It helps to acquire knowledge, identification of problems in productions and increases the concept of standard productions. It improves my practical experience in multimedia production. I can go to local area people in order to my work. As a Producer, I have to work in many areas where I did not go before. By doing this job I can explore lots of new area, culture, and people. Previously I described my responsibility as a producer. The good thing is that these all aspects of the knowledge I obtained during my whole masters. This knowledge has helped me a lot with the projects that I have done for *The Daily Star*. I already studied the structure of research, writing and the aspect of development. The knowledge that I obtained of my education has really helped me in this area.

The only area where I didn’t have any knowledge before this intern period was the organisational practice and the professional behavior. That is why the first few weeks I have to face some difficulties. Mainly because most of the time I was not aware of what was happening around me. But, after some constrictive meeting and by the help of my supervisor and teammates I do overcome the situation.

REFLECTION ON DEVELOPED AREAS AND SKILLS:

The working areas I develop and improved during my internship are the following:

**Story Planning:**

Working in this area has helped me to understand the process of story planning and story selection with the priority basis, becoming aware how to plan and organize a story for a production. I mostly obtained knowledge on what is needed to plan a successful production.

**Researching, Writing & Analysing:**

Working in *The Daily Star* has helped me to develop and improve my research, observing capacity, analyzing facts and writing skills. During my internship, I had to conduct researches on lots of different plots and stories. This enhanced my analysing capacity and helped me to develop my critical thinking process. As for my story I have to write an English report for the web portal of *The Daily Star*, which developed my writing skills.
Public relations:
This intern creates the scope for me to do public relation. I improved in this area by communicating lots of people for the reason of my story. I also have achieved this by publishing my stories into *The Daily Star* web, YouTube and communicating through the social media tools.

CONCLUSION:
The past months of my internship have been very instructive for me. *The Daily Star* has offered me opportunities to learn and develop myself in many areas. I gained a lot of experience, especially in the story telling. A lot of the tasks and activities that I have worked on during my internship are familiar with what I learned from my masters. I worked in many areas where I did different work. This gave me the chance to find out which areas I want work in after my education. The area that I found most interesting is story telling through the lens. By developing a story, I had to do lots of research where I had to find the best way of understanding the present socio economic condition.

Before my internship started my ideas did not match the experiences have gained during my internship. There is a big difference in the university projects and the tasks and activities during the actual work. In university we learn how to describe the work in projects, where in work one can learn how to implement them in reality. This internship was definitely an introduction to the actual work field for me. I have learned to work in a team environment by the professional behaviour and apply my knowledge into practice.

I enjoyed whole the time of my internship at *The Daily Star*. I learned a lot about the areas of PR, storytelling, communication and production designing. I also became stronger in my English oral and written communication. I have achieved this because it is an english newspaper and by writing my stories for *The Daily Star* web. I also traveled many areas of Bangladesh for done my story which helps me to understand the overall country condition and also I enjoyed those tours.

Finally I can say I enjoyed my intern period in *The Daily Star*. I learned lots of factor and gain many professional knowledge during this period. I think it will help in my future career.
APPENDIX:

Project: Autumn white fields of Dhaka

Script:

কাশফুলের গল্প
সবে তো এই বর্ষা গেল
শরৎ এলো মাত্র,
এরো মধ্যে তুষ কাশে
ভরল তোমার গাত।

আবহান বাংলার ঝুঁতু বিচিত্রে কাশফুল এভাবেই শরতের আগমনি বার্তা নিয়ে হাঁসির হয়। ঝুঁতুর পরিবর্তনে বাংলার রূপের যে পরিবর্তন তা আজকের শহরে বাঙালীরা প্রায় স্বীকার করেছে। এই গানের আর আত্মিকার ভিড়া শরৎকে যুগান্ত তাই আমরা এসেছি কাশফুলে।

শুনুন উওনা ১৫ নম্বর সেক্টর এবং দিয়াবাড়ির আশ পাশের কাশফুল। এখানকার বিকৃতি কাশফুল আপনার নগর জীবনের সকল ক্রুশ ভুলিয়ে শুভ্রান্ত ছোয়ায় আপনাকে নিয়ে যাবে এক অংশ জগতে। কাশফুলের উপর অসংখ্য সাদা কাশফুলের রোমে ঢাকা রাস্তাও-লাগে দেখে মনে হবে, কেউ যেন শুধু গল্পেরি বিচিত্রে রেখেছে স্বথেরে পথে।

শরতের প্রধান আকর্ষণ কাশফুল। সাধারণত কাশফুল দেখা যায়, নদীর তীরবর্তী পলিমাটির এলাকাজুড়ে। এলাকামুকুম্বি এলাকা কিংবা পরিবর্ত জমিতেও হয়ে থাকে নিঃসন্দেহিত কাশফুল। কাশফুলের অপর সূনের ধরনোতে পুলিকটি হয়না এমন মাইথ ঝুঁজে পাওয়া কঠিন। খেত তুষ কাশফুলের নবম পাচকে চড়ে শরতের মেহে হাসিরে যেতে কার না মন চায়? সাদা কাশ-ফুলের উপর পড়ে বিকেলের সোনালী আলোর ছায়া, এ যেন এক বিচিত্র কাশফুলের অনুষ্ঠান আগান।

কাশফুলের বিদ্যা সমস্ত হইলের পাদদেশে অবমুক্তি দক্ষিণের পলিশ আলোগুলি-লালে। কাশফুল মূলত ঘাসজাতীয়, উড়িয়া। এর পাতা গাছ, সোনুর ঝরে ও সরু হলেও বেশ রুক্ষ ও কালো হয়। পাতাসোনা লম্বা প্রায়, ১ মিটার এবং চওড়া প্রায় ৬-১৫ মিলিমিটার পর্যন্ত হয়। কাশফুলের সাদা মাঝেরটি ১৫-৩০ সেন্টিমিটার পর্যন্ত রাখে হয়। উইজ সুদৃশ্য সাদা রোম থাকে। এই রোমের কারণেই বীজগুলো উড়, বেড়া এবং কাশফুলের বিংশ বিষার ঘটে।

উওনা, পাঞ্জিপুর কিংবা শঙ্গামী কোন বাসে চড়ে উওনা হাইস বিভিন্ন-এ এসে, মোছ থেকে বামদিক বিশ্বাস নিয়ে সহজেই চলে আসা যায় এখানে। মিরপুর বাসীরাও বেড়িরাখ দিয়ে ঝুঁতু সহজেই চলে আসতে পারেন নিয়াবাড়ি। লেক, লেকের উপর ব্রিজ, চারপাশে ঝুঁতু কাশফুলে, লেকে নৌকা, ঘোড়ার পিঠে বসে দুর্লভ চলে কাশফুল দর্শন আর চট্টগ্রাম-কুচুকায় একটি বিচরণ কালিয়ে দেয়া যায়।

এছাড়াও আফতাবপুর, ৩০০ফিট রাস্তা, আদিল্লয়া, ঢাকা উদ্যান, ধারাবাহীর তীর, ওয়াশ-পুর, কোনো সুচিত সহ ঢাকা শহর ও আশপাশের আরো বেশ কিছু জায়গায় কাশফুলের দেখা নিলে পুরা শরৎ জুড়েই।
Published Story:


**Autumn white fields of Dhaka**

**Khalid Hussain Ayon**

What is it that makes the month of October so different from the rest of the year? The sky wears a deep blue colour with specks of white clouds. And as you roam the country in this season—you will surely notice white seas of Kans Grass (Kashful) covering newly farmed lands, shoal and the river banks.

In the concrete jungle of Dhaka, finding fields of Kashful would not have been possible had there not been large-scale filling of low lying lands in the outskirts of the city.

You can spot massive Kashful fields in the Uttara third phase, Bashundhara, Aftabnagar and many other places.

Watch the video below to catch a glimpse of the delightful white Kashful field swaying in the autumn breeze.

**YouTube Link:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DofnI0OsAmU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DofnI0OsAmU)
Project: The symbol of love and a mansion in ruins in Barisal

Script:

Durgi Sagar and Lakuitora Jomidar Barni

বিভিন্ন অর্থে আছে, প্রজাদের খাবার পানির কাট দেখে প্রজাবহস্ত রানী দুর্গাবতী বিচিত্র হয়ে রাজার কাছে একটি দিয়ে খানের আচর্য জানান। বাংলার বাড়া ভুইয়ার একজন চতুর্দশীপ রাজার পঞ্চমশ রাজা, রাজা শিব নারায়ণ রায় শ্রী দুর্গাবতীর প্রতি ভালোবাসার গভীরতা প্রমাণনার জন্য ঘোষণা দেন, রানী দুর্গাবতী এককে যাতেমুখী হেটে যেতে পার্থক্য তা তখনি ঞান্যাগা নিয়ে খানন করা হয় একটি দিনী। দে রাতে রানী প্রায় ৬১ কানি জমি হেটেছিলেন। আর তাই ১৭৮০ খ্রিস্টাব্দে জমিদারি অনুযায়ী, রাজা শিব নারায়ন রায় খানন করলেন বাংলাদেশের দক্ষিণাঞ্চলের সর্বোচ্চ এই দিনীটি। রানী দুর্গাবতীর নামেই এর নাম করা হয় দুর্গাসাগর। মূলত দিনীটির বিশালতা বেশীতেই যোগ করা হয়েছিল সাগর শাখাটি।

সরকারী হিসাবে অনুযায়ী দিনীটি ৪৫ একর ৪২ বর্গমান্ত জমিতে অবস্থিত। এর ২৬ একর ৩৮ বর্গমান্ত জলাশয় এবং ১৮ একর ৪ বর্গমান্ত পাঁচ। পাড়াটি উওয়ালে দিকে যায় ১৪৯০ ফুট এবং পূর্ব পশ্চিমে ১৩৬০ ফুট প্রশস্ত।

দুর্গাসাগরের মূল ঘাটটি নিমেষে বায়োণে বেশ প্রশস্ত এবং পরিচর্ণ। বিশাল এই দীর্ঘ টলারে জলের মাঝে মাথা উঝর করে আর সুবতে একটি দীর্ঘ যা অতিথি পাথিয়ের কলকার্তিতে মুখোটি থাকে শীতকালে।

পাথিখীর অভাবে এই এলাকা। দীর্ঘ পাতে সরা রাত্রি, মাথা মাঝে বসার সৌন্দর্য ঘননের গাজাপালা আর দীর্ঘের স্বচ্ছ জলে আকাশ-মেদিনীর প্রতিভার মিলে পুরো এলাকাটি যেন এক অনাবিল প্রকৃতিকে লৌহদ্বীপে আঘাত।

বরিশাল জেলা শহর থেকে মাত্র ১২ কিলোমারে মহান পাবা ইউনিয়নে এই দুর্গাসাগর দীর্ঘের অবস্থান।

সন্দর্ভ থেকে ১০০ টাকায় আটোরিকা ভাড়া করে থুব সহজেই ঘুরে আসা যায় প্রায় আড়াইঘো বছরে পরেনো এই দীর্ঘের।

দুর্গাসাগর থেকে ব্যাপককাটি—বরিশাল রোড দিয়ে থাকোর বাজার-হয় মাইলে সড়ক হয়ে আসা এসেছিএ ৪০০ বছরের পূর্বে লাকুটোরা জমিদার বাড়িতে। ইট-পাপড়া আর মূত্রক গাঠ্যা এক সময়ের এই জমিদারি বাড়িটি একন পরিকৃত। যতদূর জানা যায়, আদিপুরুষ রূপচাঁদ রায়ের হাত ধরেই প্রতিষ্ঠা পায় এই জমিদারি বংশ।

পরবর্তীতে, ১৭০০ সালের দিকে রূপচাঁদের পোশাক রাজচুতর রাজা জমিদারি গড়ে ওঠে এখানে।

এপ্র থেকে বাড়িটির সাথে ইতিহাস হয়ে আলাদা তিনি।

লাকুটোরা জমিদার বাড়ির বেশীরভাগ খাবারই আটলাটা দেওয়ালে হীরিতে তৈরি। বাড়িটি দোতলা, সামনে-পিছে একই ভিডিয়নে তৈরি হোনরের উভয় তলাতেই সরি ধরে অনেকগুলো দংজলা-জানালা দেখা যায়। তবে নিচ তলায় মাথা বদলার এপার-পায় যাযাতের একটি পথ রয়েছে।

লাকুটোরা জমিদার বাড়ির সবচেয়ে সুনাম ও আকর্ষণীয় স্বপ্ন শিখনরীতির কিছু মনোর ও সমাচারবিদ। এর তেলর আনেকগুলো মন্দিরে খাননা প্রায় অক্ষত অবস্থায় দৃষ্টির আছে।

জমিদার বাড়িগুলো মূল প্রবেশপথের বাঁ পাশে রয়েছে শান বাড়িগুলো ঘাঁটোলা সুপরিক একটি বুক। জমিদার বাড়িটি এখান বালাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশনের তত্ত্বাবধানে রয়েছে। তবে অতীত আর অবহেলায় এটি প্রায় বিস্তৃতির পথে।

এর বেশীরভাগ দেওয়ালগলোই ভেঙে পড়েছে এবং জানালা দংজলগুলো অতিহাসিক আর বুঝতে পারেনা যায় না।

বরিশাল শহর হতে ১০০ টাকো আটোরিকা ভাড়া করেও থুব সহজেই ঘুরে আসা যায় ইতিহাসের নাখী হয়ে দাঁড়ায় থাকা এই লাকুটোরা জমিদার বাড়ি থেকে।
Published Story:


The symbol of love and a mansion in ruins in Barisal

Khalid Hussain Ayon

Located only 12 kilometres off the Barisal city, Durga Sagar is the largest pond in the southwestern region of the country.

In 1780, Raja Shil Narayan Rai dug a 64-acre massive pond as a symbol of love for his wife Rani Durgahari. Legend has it that back then people were facing acute drinking water crisis in the area.

Raja Durgahari asked the king to find a solution and this pond was built in response.

The ancient pond is now surrounded by lush green trees while there is an artificial island in the middle. The pond attracts many migratory birds during the winter.

About 5km away from Durga Sagar is another heritage site that should not be missed: The Lakutia Zaminder Bari.

Located at the village Lakutia, this magnificent relic of a zaminder house was built by Rupchondro Ray in the early British regime. The building was modified and expanded by his grandson Rupchondro Ray.

YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS7uaGyQssQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS7uaGyQssQ)

Screen shot of the editing period:
Project: Oxford Mission, a century old church in Barisal

Script:

অক্সফোর্ড মিশন চার্চ
কীর্তনখালী নদীতীরে স্থাপিত বন্দরকে ঘিরে বাংলাদেশের দক্ষিণাঞ্চলের বিভূতিয় শহর বি-রশাল। এ শহরেই রয়েছে এশিয়া মহাদেশের দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম এবং বাংলাদেশের শৈল্পিক প্রত্নতাত্ত্বিক জীবনের মধ্যে অন্যতম স্থাপত্য নির্মাণ অক্সফোর্ড মিশন চার্চ। বুড়ি রোডে অবস্থিত এই শতবর্ষী স্থাপনাটির নাম এপিফানি গির্জা হলেও স্থানীয় ভাবে এটি অক্সফোর্ড মিশন নামেই পরিচিত।

প্রাক স্থাপত্যশৈলীতে নির্মিত লাল ইটের এই গির্জাটি সিটিয়ার এডিথের নর্কশায় মূল আকৃতি দেন ফাদার স্ট্যু। ১৯০৩ থেকে ১৯০৭ এই চার বছর সময়, কালে নির্মিত হয় গির্জা ভবনটি। বাইরে থেকে দেখতে চার-পাঁচ তলা ভবনের মতো মনে হলেও ভেতরটা কেবলই একতলা সু-বিশাল প্রাথমিক কক্ষ। গির্জার মূল ফটক দক্ষিণপশ্চিম। মূল ভবনের তিন দিক থেকে অনেকগুলো দরজা। গির্জার ভেতরে আছে আকর্ষণীয় একটি ছাদ যা এশিয়ার মধ্যে সবচেয়ে বড়। গি-জাসিটে রয়েছে অসংখ্য করিডোর ও ৪০টি পিলার, যা এর কাঠামোকে করেছে সুদৃঢ। ভেতরের মেজেতে রয়েছে পাথরের তৈরি চৌচাঁচা ও ব্যাটিজম বাথ বেসিন। এছাড়া গির্জাটির ছবি আর ধর্মীয় বইগুলো দিয়ে সাজানো রয়েছে প্রাথমিক কক্ষটি। ভবনের ওপরে পূর্ব দিকে রয়েছে কালো পুলিশ ও বিদ্যাকৃতি বিন্যাস। মূল বেদিতের ওপর চোখে পড়ে বিশাল আকৃতির একটি ক্রুশ যা আনা হয় প্যালেস্টাইনের বেথলেহেম থেকে।

৩৫ একর গির্জা এলাকায় রয়েছে ১৩ টি পুকুর, অক্সফোর্ড মিশন প্রাইমারি স্কুল, অক্সফোর্ড মিশন হাই স্কুল, হাসপাতাল, লাইব্রেরি, কার্যালয়, হোস্টেল, হালচাল, ফাদার্স হাউস, মাদার হাউস সহ একটি মোলোর বিভিন্ন স্থাপনাগুলো পাওয়া যায়।

সারি সারি পাস্ত্র টি আর শৈল-ঘির্ষ মনোরম পরিবেশে ঘেরা দৃশ্যের ভেতরে দূর থেকে প্রাচীন স্থাপনাটিকে দেখে মনে হয় যেন কোনো রেলগাড়ির ইঞ্জিন বিশ্বাসের সূত্র ধরে সর্ব্রেন নিয়ে যায় এর জাতীয়তার।

শতবর্ষী এই গির্জাটির নির্মাণদেশে মূল্য করতে যে কোনো বর্যী দর্শনার্থীর। সকাল ১০ টা থেকে বিকেল ৪টা পর্যন্ত অনুমতি সাগর্জে ঘুরে দেখা যায় চমৎকার স্থাপত্যশৈলীতে নির্মিত গির্জাটি।

Published Story:

Oxford Mission, a century old church in Barisal

Khalid Hussain Ayon

While roaming the streets of Barisal city, a majestic red brick colonial structure drew my attention. From far it looks like a huge locomotive designed with beautiful archways and a dome on the top. If you have already seen it, you know what I am talking about.

It is the Oxford Mission Epiphany Church, a century old church situated beside Bogra Road in Barisal.

In the early twentieth century, the ancient river port city attracted many Christian missionaries. Those who came from Europe to visit the city built the church and school here. An England-based missionary, the Oxford mission started its journey in this region at the end of the 19th century.

The church was built in 1903 from a sketch by Sister Edith. Father Strong later completed the project around 1907.

The building has been designed following Greek architecture. Although it looks like a four or five-storied building from the outside it is in reality a single floor with a large Prayer Hall. There are many doors on the three sides of the main structure.

There are forty archways and many corridors to strengthen the main structure of the church. The large cross on the main altar was brought from Bethlehem. The interior has been designed with wood carvings and the floor including the baptismal basin decorated with marble tiles.

The church also runs a number of philanthropic activities in Barisal—primary and secondary schools, girls' schools, hospitals, libraries, students' hostel and so on.

The Epiphany Oxford Mission Church stands witness to hundred years' of communal harmony in Bangladesh.

YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mazRMI3rOf8
Project: Tea garden workers: Living like slaves for 175 years

Published Story:

Link: [http://www.thedailystar.net/country/tea-garden-workers-living-slaves-175-years-1262731](http://www.thedailystar.net/country/tea-garden-workers-living-slaves-175-years-1262731)

Tea garden workers: Living like slaves for 175 years

Khaled Hussain Ayon

Imagine that you and your ancestors have been living in an area for 175 years but you don’t have any right to own a land. Imagine that after living in an area for so many years, you cannot even sell a tree that you planted without the permission of the ‘authority’.

Imagine, your children can not go to proper schools. Your pay is so poor that it can hardly feed your family. But you cannot say much because as a worker, you work under an exclusive labour law that is not applicable for any other profession.

This is the story of almost any tea garden worker in the country.

“We have no land right on this land. If I plant a tree, I can’t cut it without the signature of a manager,” said tea garden worker Rajkumari Bin, at the Shamshur Nagar tea estate in Trimongal.

She and the other tea workers are all descendents of minority communities from South India, Bihar, Orissa and even Uttar Pradesh.

Their ancestors were brought here nearly 175 years ago by the then British Raj who treated them like slaves. The British rulers left long ago and Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation. But till today, they are still not treated like citizens of the country.

This natural mix works like a vacuum. It cleans out toxics within 5 to 7 days.

Get a glass of water. Put in some seeds, stir and drink. Do it twice a day.

Garden workers are treated under a discriminatory labour law that the British Raj had introduced across the sub-continent.

"The maternity leave for a tea garden worker is four months. But other workers get six months maternity leave," says Sitaram Bin, a member of tea garden workers’ union and Shamshur Nagar UP member. “This is clear case of discrimination in the labour law in the same country."

The workers are very poorly paid. They get much lower wages than the Indian tea workers. Their wage rate is daily 85 taka now which is not sufficient to maintain their livelihood—especially when the areas around a tea estate do not offer other job opportunities.

“We are 10 members living together in our family, how can we survive with this meagre 85 taka?” asks worker Rajkumari Bin.

A worker is allotted a single room by the estate. A single room is crowded with people of different ages of the family.

Cattle or domesticated animals and human beings are often seen living together under one roof. This is also the common scenario of living condition among the tea garden workers.

The education and health conditions of the tea garden workers are in a poor state as well. There is no primary school even in the government owned National Tea Company’s gardens.

The working condition of garden workers is dismal. Besides, they are socially excluded, overwhelmingly illiterate, deprived and disconnected.

The condition of the workers stands as a stark contrast to that of the country’s tea estates—which are among the most beautiful places to visit because of the lush green landscape, the silence and the hilly terrain.

YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSG2ThNOS_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSG2ThNOS_U)
Project: Rickshaw painting in Digital age

Published Story:


Rickshaw painting in Digital age

Khalid Hossain Ayon

With the advent of the digital printing press, Rickshaw painting a previously well known art form is on the verge of extinction. Many painters had to switch their profession to survive the "digital revolution".

A few of them continue to endure the struggle and have managed to keep the art form alive. Rickshaw painters Rafiqul Islam and Sayed Ahmed are among one of the artisans.

They have participated in different international exhibitions and have received national and international recognition. But they say, the demand along with prices are in steep decline.

"My work was exhibited and sold in many countries like, Germany, England, Italy, Japan, Russia and Canada among others. But in my own country the demand continues to fail every day," said Rafiqul Islam.

Strangely, the unique art form now survives with the help and financial support of foreign art enthusiasts.

YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bVTFqZDS40](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bVTFqZDS40)