

Exploring Trends and Techniques of Writing

At Dhaka Tribune

Rashna Munawar

12203016

Department of English and Humanities

August 2016



BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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A Report Submitted to

The Department of English and Humanities

Of

BRAC University

By

Rashna Munawar

Student ID: 12203016

In Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements

For the Degree of

Bachelors of Arts in English

August 2016

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my gratitude towards the people who have made it possible for me to write this report, and made my internship a memorable experience. I would like to thank my BRAC University supervisor Ms. Roohi Huda for her patience, guidance and support during my internship period, and while writing this paper. I would also like to thank my *Dhaka Tribune* supervisor and Features editor Ms. Sabrina Fatma Ahmad, and my immediate supervisor Mr. Hasan Mansur Chatak, who is currently a reporter at the Showtime desk, for their guidance and support which made my internship period an educational and enjoyable experience. Also, I would like to thank each member of *Dhaka Tribune* for helping me with their patience and support whenever I needed help. I would also like to thank Ms. Mushira Habib and other faculty members of the English and Humanities Department for their constant support. Mostly, I would like to thank my parents and siblings for their immense support and love, and for their belief in my potential which has made my education at BRAC University and internship period at Dhaka Tribune an unforgettable experience. Finally, I would like to thank *Dhaka Tribune's* editor Mr. Zafar Sobhan for granting me the internship.

Rashna Munawar

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF <i>DHAKA TRIBUNE</i>	7
3. INTERNING AT THE SHOWTIME DESK	8
4. NEWS STORIES	9
5. TRANSLATIONS	10
6. PRESS RELEASES	14
7. EVENT REPORTS	17
8. FEATURES	20
9. MISCELLANEOUS WORKS	23
9.1 . OBITUARY	23
9.2 WHAT TO WATCH	25
9.3 EXPERIMENTATION	26
➤ BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK	26
➤ STARRED STARS	27
➤ WHO DO YOU SHARE YOUR HOROSCOPE WITH	29
10. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS	30
11. CONCLUSION	32

1. Introduction

The society we live in abides us with rules constructed amidst a mist of power relations. As part of the common gentry we seldom get a chance or even bother to take a look into the reasons behind following the socially constructed rules. Media plays an essential and, to an extent, a mandatory role in keeping one, even if least interested, updated with his/her surroundings and concerns. It has become a part of our daily lives in such a way that we, intentionally or unintentionally, rely upon the news that it provides us with. As a requirement to complete my Bachelors of Arts in English from the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University, I chose Media and Cultural Studies as my concentration because it would provide me with a chance and route to trace to the roots of “news” that claims to feed our queries and curiosities. Mainstream media enjoys an advantage of appreciation based upon our dependency on it for updated news and information but, on the contrary, is also criticised for exploiting this advantage. My internship at *Dhaka Tribune* was also an opportunity for me to balance my curiosity and skepticism concerning the world of media by looking into the authenticity and fairness of the news that we are regularly being bombarded with.

I decided to intern at *Dhaka Tribune* because of its transparency in practice. The policy of *Dhaka Tribune* advocates zero tolerance for sexual or any other form of harassment by anyone at all levels. The employees share a healthy working environment where fruitful team work is conducted in a cooperative and respectful atmosphere. The editorial policy of *Dhaka Tribune* is characterized as a liberal one, and is implemented at the workplace with a positive outlook towards new and creative ideas.

I interned at the Showtime desk of *Dhaka Tribune*. The Showtime page was initially published as the Entertainment page before the newspaper changed its layout from broadsheet to

compact on 1st March 2015. The Showtime desk, a part of the Features Department, deals with news and reviews about events, world cinema, music, movies, theatres, radio, and lives and works of celebrities. I chose to intern at the Showtime desk because what the diverse elements of the page talk about suited my interest. These elements include movies, events, lifestyles and works of national and international celebrities, and a deeper look into where reality is blurred by media representation.

2. A brief history of *Dhaka Tribune*

Dhaka Tribune

Dhaka Tribune is a Bangladeshi English-language compact newspaper which was launched as a broadsheet on 19th April, 2013. K. Anis Ahmed is the publisher of the newspaper, while Zafar Sobhan serves as the editor. *Dhaka Tribune* practices fair and objective journalism under the motto “*The news you want. No more, no less.*” The newspaper represents the voice of the progressive population of Bangladesh, and pledges to its readers to seek the truth, deliver the facts and offer relevant context and analysis where it is appropriate. The organization strives to address the readers’ concerns with a non-judgemental and objective tone. It serves to the readers’ benefit of making educated choices by providing authentic news including all relevant opinions, and ensuring that no significant strand of thought is neglected. *Dhaka Tribune*’s current slogan is “*I am made in Bangladesh*” which was initially “*Glad to be a Bangladeshi.*”



3. **Interning at the Showtime desk of *Dhaka Tribune***

My internship experience at the Showtime desk of *Dhaka Tribune* has been a beautiful journey of exploration and learning. It was a challenging task for me to maintain focus during the internship period, and simultaneously attain good grades in the two other courses that I had taken during the same semester. The thorough support and guidance from my supervisor Ms. Sabrina Fatma Ahmad (Editor of the Features department), and my immediate supervisor Mr. Hasan Mansur Chatak, at the Showtime desk kept me motivated through every hurdle and disappointment.

My internship experience at the Showtime desk not only propelled me to explore and utilize my highest potential, but it also required me to do a lot of research. In the three months allotted for my internship I also had to expand my knowledge that was not always enough to respond with urgency to the diverse elements that the Showtime page dealt with. This was also taken into account at the Showtime desk, and whenever crucial topics came up in which I did not have adequate knowledge, my entire team guided me towards where my potential could serve to the immediate benefit of the Showtime page.

4. **News stories**

Interning at the Showtime page initially seemed to be apt for my personal interest of exploring the various cultures and colours shown in media. I am also enthusiastic about writing poems in both English and Hindi languages. During my internship, I was required to write news stories that demanded stating rigid facts within a specific word allocation. It was challenging to write articles summarizing details to fit a rigid structure. My knack of creative writing and playing with words caused a hindrance in writing the lead paragraphs. The word-limit of these articles varied depending on the prominence of the topics and positioning of the articles compared to other articles on the same page that did not have equal amount of prominence and therefore space. The word-limits were similar to the ones that I was given in the Eng440: English for Print Media course at BRAC University. Within a range of words that varied mostly below 500 words, I was required to incorporate the necessary details while also maintaining consistency and flow of transition within and between paragraphs. This also required me to maintain precision with words and authenticity while stating hard facts. These are skills that I had learnt in the Eng404: Copywriting and Eng440: English for Print Media courses at BRAC University.

5. **Translations**

The majority of children in Bangladesh who belong from the lower middle-class families to those from a higher social class are more likely to be bilinguals. This can also be observed through the prevalence of code-switching which also suggests the decreasing necessity of translations in the bilingual Bangladesh. During my internship period at the *Dhaka Tribune*, a Bangladeshi English-language newspaper, I realized the significance of precise and meaningful translation, and of studies that revolve around it. Translation as a product in media has something more to it in most cases. Besides translating articles and press releases at the Showtime desk, I was also required to paraphrase articles and preserve the precise meanings of the source texts. Direct quotes had to be cautiously translated from Bengali sources to ensure equivalence of meaning while gathering information for news-stories written in English. While translating articles about advertisements, I also used transliterations since the names of the products had to be kept unchanged. For example, while translating a press release about the ad-shoot for ‘RFL Murgir Khancha’ from Bengali to English, I had to transliterate the name of the product. Since the original advertisement was produced for a Bengali target audience, I used the transliteration ‘RFL Murgir Khancha’ in the translated copy, instead of translating the product name to ‘RFL Hencoop.’ But, translation for other news-stories required only free translation. Free translation follows the sense-for sense strategy and aims at capturing the sense of the source text and conveying it into the target text. According to Hervey, Higgins and Haywood, in their book *Thinking Spanish Translation: A Course in Translation Method, Spanish to English*, in free translation, “there is only a global correspondence between the textual units of the ST and those of the TT’ (12). This experience was different since the alterations in translating copies for advertisements depended on the intended target audience, and the language in which the original

advertisement was produced. I could relate this variation in translation, which was due to the focus on the original intended target audience of the advertisement, to the Eng404: Copywriting course that I took at BRAC University. Similar to the word-for-word translation that I had learnt in the Eng465: Translation Studies course, I used direct translation while translating the list of winners of the National Film Award 2014 from Bengali to English. Following is the source text and the translated list of winners which was published within the article titled ‘National Film Award 2014 announced.’

National Film Award 2014: Full list of winners

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Jointly Syed Hasan Imam and Rani Sarkar
- **Best Film:** *Brihonnola*, Director Murad Parvez
- **Best Short-film:** *Gariwala*, Director Ashraf Shishir
- **Best Director:** Zahidur Rahim Anjan, *Meghmallar*
- **Best Actor:** Ferdous Ahmed, *Ek cup cha*
- **Best Actress:** Jointly Moushumi (Tarkata) and Bidya Sinha Mim (Jonakir Alo)
- **Best Actor in a Supporting Role:** Ejazul Islam, *Tarkata*
- **Best Actress in a Supporting Role:** Chitrolekha Guho, *Ekattorer Ma Jononi*
- **Best Actor in a Negative Role (Villain):** Tariq Anam Khan, *Desha: The Leader*
- **Best Actor in a Comic Role:** Misha Sawdagar, *Olpo Olpo Premer Golpo*
- **Best Child Artist:** Abir Hossain Ankon, *Boishommo*
- **Special Award as Best Child Artist:** Marjan Hossain Zara, *Meghmallar*
- **Best Music Director:** Dr. Saim Rana, *Nekaborer Mohaproyan*
- **Best Male Playback Singer:** Mahfuz Anam James (Potakata Khamchate), *Desha: The Leader*
- **Best Female Playback Singer:** Jointly Runa Laila (*Priya Tumi Shukhi Hou*) and Momtaz (*Nekaborer Mohaproyan*)
- **Best Lyrics:** Masud Pothik, *Nekaborer Mohaproyan*
- **Best Music Composer:** Belal Khan, *Nekaborer Mohaproyan*
- **Best Story:** Murad Parvez, *Brihonnola*
- **Best Screenplay:** Saikat Nasir, *Desha: The Leader*
- **Best Dialogue:** Murad Parvez, *Brihonnola*
- **Best Editing:** Towhid Hossain Chowdhury, *Desha: The Leader*
- **Best Art Direction:** Maruf Samurai, *Tarkata*
- **Best Cinematography:** Mohammad Hossain Jemi, *Boishommo*
- **Best Sound Recording:** Ratan Paul, *Meghmallar*
- **Best Costume Design:** Kanak Chanpa Chakma, *Jonakir Alo*
- **Best Make-up:** Abdur Rahman, *Nekaborer Mohaproyan*

<https://issuu.com/dhakatribune/docs/160226215613-ff7716f27345493e9ff6b3f89199b1df/3?e=6924309/33738588>

6. **Press Releases**

A press release is often underestimated merely as a tool of persuasion used by advertisers. According to Blake and Bly in their book *The Elements of Copywriting: The Essential Guide to Creating Copy that Gets the Results You Want*:

A press release is picked up by the media because it contains news of interest to a number of readers, viewers, or listeners - not because it is meant to persuade people to buy something [...] Most people don't realize that many news stories appearing in the media have been generated by press releases. Reporters and editors can't possibly cover every story in person. They rely on press releases to generate ideas for articles (115).

The articles that I had written at the Showtime desk also consisted of information accumulated from press releases which were mostly about movies, songs and events. The problematic part in preparing articles from press releases is that it requires paraphrasing, and also demands a tone that is not too mundane. I wrote several articles in English which were borrowed from press releases in both English and Bengali languages. I was required to be careful in avoiding clichés from the original press releases, and I also had to avoid repetitions that would resonate similar articles in other newspapers. It was more difficult for me to write articles from press releases written in English since they required paraphrasing without translation. It was a challenge to reconstruct the sentences using synonyms and similar expressions. Below is a press

release in Bengali that I had translated, and it is followed by the article in English which was published in print.



imation creator

মালয়েশিয়ার ৪টি মাল্টিপ্লেক্সে 'সুতপার ঠিকানা'

দেশব্যাপী প্রদর্শন শেষে এবার আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে বাণিজ্যিকভাবে মুক্তি পেতে যাচ্ছে সরকারী অনুদান সহায়তায় নির্মিত চলচ্চিত্র 'সুতপার ঠিকানা'। যার ইংরেজী নাম- 'হার ওন অ্যাড্রেস' (Her Own Address)। উপমহাদেশের নারীজীবনের ইতিবৃত্ত নিয়ে নির্মিত 'সুতপার ঠিকানা' নারী দিবসকে সামনে রেখেই পরিবেশক সংস্থা ৩ মার্চ মুক্তি দেয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছেন। এর আগে পরিবেশক ও প্রদর্শকের সম্মিলিত উদ্যোগে ২ মার্চ চলচ্চিত্রটির দুটি বিশেষ প্রদর্শনী হবে কুয়ালালামপুরের মিডভ্যালীতে অবস্থিত গোল্ডেন স্ক্রিন সিনেমার একটি প্রেক্ষাগৃহে। সকাল ১০টায় শুধুমাত্র সংবাদকর্মীদের জন্যে এবং সন্ধ্যা ৬টায় প্রদর্শিত হবে মালয়েশিয়ার অগ্রগামী নারীদের সংগঠন AWAM (অল ওমেনস এসোসিয়েশন অব মালয়েশিয়া) এর সকল কর্মকর্তা ও সদস্যদের জন্যে।

গত মাসের ১৯ তারিখে নির্মাতার সাথে মালয়েশিয়ান পরিবেশক সংস্থার অনুষ্ঠানিক চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরিত হওয়ার পর চলচ্চিত্রটি সেপরের জন্যে জমা দেয়া হয়। স্থানীয় চলচ্চিত্র অধিদপ্তর থেকে যথাযথভাবে সেপার প্রাপ্তির পর সেখানকার সবচেয়ে আধুনিক প্রেক্ষাগৃহ গোল্ডেন স্ক্রিন সিনেমার মোট ৪টি মাল্টিপ্লেক্সে চলচ্চিত্রটি মুক্তি পেতে যাচ্ছে। তার মাঝে রয়েছে কুয়ালালামপুরের 'মিডভ্যালী' ও 'প্যাভিলিয়ন' মেগা-মল, পেতালিং জায়ার 'ওয়ান উতামা' মেগা-মল এবং পেনাং এর 'গুর্বে প্লাজা'র মাল্টিপ্লেক্সগুলো। বাণিজ্যিক মুক্তি শেষে 'সুতপার ঠিকানা' মালয়েশিয়া ও ক্রুই এই দুটি টেলিভিশনেও প্রচার হবে। এরপর মুক্তি পাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা রয়েছে সিঙ্গাপুর, ইন্দোনেশিয়া, কম্বোডিয়া এবং ভিয়েতনামে।

২০১৫ সালের মে মাসে মা দিবস উপলক্ষে শুধুমাত্র রাজধানীর কয়েকটি প্রেক্ষাগৃহে চলচ্চিত্রটি মুক্তি পায়। এরপর বিকল্প পন্থায় প্রদর্শিত হয় ১২টি জেলায় এবং ৭টি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে। ৫টি মহাদেশের বেশ কয়েকটি চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবে অংশগ্রহণ করে অর্জন করে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সম্মাননা। এরপর গত ডিসেম্বরে শিল্পকলা একাডেমীর আয়োজনে অনুষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবে ৬৪ জেলায় একযোগে প্রদর্শিত হয় 'সুতপার ঠিকানা'। সরকারী অনুদানে নির্মিত প্রথম চলচ্চিত্রের নির্মাতা হিসেবে- দেশব্যাপী প্রদর্শনের এই সুযোগ ও সম্মাননাটিকেই সর্বোচ্চ প্রাপ্তি বলে মনে করেন চলচ্চিত্রটির নির্মাতা প্রসুন রহমান।

বিভিন্ন আন্তর্জাতিক চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবে বাংলাদেশের শিল্পসম্মত চলচ্চিত্রের প্রায় নিয়মিত অংশগ্রহণ থাকলেও বাণিজ্যিকভাবে মুক্তির ব্যাপারটি বেশীর ভাগ চলচ্চিত্রের ভাগ্যেই ঘটেনা। বিশ্বায়নের যুগে নিজেরা বিশ্ব চলচ্চিত্রের ভোক্তা হয়ে বসে আছি, কিন্তু আমাদের চলচ্চিত্র বিশ্ব-বাজারে নিয়ে যেতে আমরা এখনো সমর্থ হইনি। তাছাড়া ভঙ্গুর অবকাঠামোর কারণে সৃজনশীল কাজ নিয়ে নিজের দেশের প্রদর্শকদের কাছেই আমাদের জায়গা প্রায় তখনের কোঠায়।

স্বল্প বাজেটে আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে পাল্লা দেয়ার মতো প্রযুক্তিগতভাবে সমৃদ্ধ চলচ্চিত্র নির্মাণ করা দুরূহ কাজ। তবে ইরানী চলচ্চিত্রের মতো নিজেদের মৌলিক গল্প নিয়ে নিশ্চয় বিশ্ববাজারে জায়গা পাওয়ার চেষ্টা করা যেতে পারে। সম্পূর্ণ নিজস্ব যোগাযোগ ও প্রচেষ্টায় 'সুতপার ঠিকানা'র আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে প্রবেশের এই অর্জনটি আগামী নির্মাতাদের এই বাংলার জনজীবনের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট মৌলিক গল্প নিয়ে স্বকীয় ভঙ্গীতে চলচ্চিত্র নির্মাণে আরো আগ্রহী করে তুলবে বলে বিশ্বাস করি।

'সুতপার ঠিকানা'র পর এ মুহূর্তে 'ঢাকা ড্রিম' নামে আরেকটি পূর্ণদৈর্ঘ্য চলচ্চিত্রের নির্মাণ কাজ এগিয়ে নিচ্ছেন প্রসুন রহমান। যার ৪০ ভাগ কাজ এরই মাঝে সম্পন্ন হয়েছে। যেটি হবে প্রস্তাবিত 'ঢাকা ট্রিলজি'র প্রথম পর্ব।

*মালয়েশিয়ার গোল্ডেন স্ক্রিন সিনেমার ওয়েবসাইট লিংক: <http://www.gscmovies.com.my/her-own-address/>

*বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ: ফোন: ০১৯১৪৮৯০৯৩০ ইমেল: proshoon.rahmaan@gmail.com

*অফিসিয়াল ওয়েবসাইট: www.imationcreator.com www.sutoparthikana.com www.dhakatrilogy.com

Sutopar Thikana to premiere in Malaysia



Showtime Desk

Sutopar Thikana (Her Own Address) is all set to be released in multiple countries across the globe.

The film that depicts the dependency of a South Asian woman at various stages of life will be released in Malaysia on March 3 on the occasion of the International Women's Day to be observed on March 8.

Before the countrywide release, the movie will be screened twice on March 2 at a theatre in Golden Screen Cinemas located in Kuala Lumpur's Mid Valley.

Sutopar Thikana, the first feature film to have received government grant in Bangladesh, was submitted to the censor board after the producer and the Malaysian distributor officially signed the contract on February 19.

Upon receiving official censorship from the censor board of Malaysia, the feature film will be released in four multiplex halls of

the famous Golden Screen Cinemas in Malaysia: the Mid Valley, Pavilion, 1 Utama in Petaling Jaya and Gurney Plaza in Penang.

After the commercial release, *Sutopar Thikana* will be shown in two television channels of Malaysia and Brunei.

Sutopar Thikana, directed by independent film-maker Proshoon Rahman, who assisted late Tareque Masud on a few projects, is a screen adaptation of the book titled, *Ishhorer Ichhe Nei Boley*, written by the director himself.

The government-grant winning project was released in a few theatres in Dhaka on May 8, last year, on the occasion of Mother's Day.

After the premiere, the film was shown in 12 districts and seven universities.

Sutopar Thikana was also screened simultaneously in 64 districts in the country during the Bangladesh Film Festival organised by Shilpakala Academy in December last year. ●

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7. **Event Reports**

Event reporting was an opportunity and also a dare for me to transcend my comfort zone of interning at the Showtime desk. I wrote two reports on events, one of which I had visited for coverage from *Dhaka Tribune*. Similar to any formal event coverage, I was required to do research beforehand and take notes of all necessary details. I was spared the task of on-spot photography because the pictures for both the events were available for coverage. The experience was similar to my event reporting experience in the Eng440: English for Print Media course.

My first attempt at event reporting was moderately good. My entire team motivated me to do better and I was also given elaborate instructions about on-spot reporting by Ms. Promiti Prova Chowdhury, a journalist at the Showtime desk. She instructed me to give up all presumptions and expectations about the event before it began, and to keep all my senses open towards every detail including the ambience and audience. During my second event reporting experience, I followed these instructions thoroughly. It not only made my report much more efficient and lively, but also added a new, better and enjoyable dimension to my event reporting experience. While writing the report I realized that the instructions also gave me the liberty and hence courage to play with words as long as the facts remained unchanged. My event report had sufficient content and details and was better than the previous one. Since my team members at the Showtime desk insisted that I write a report on the event (*Valentine's Celebration with James*

& Sanam) that I attended with my personal expense, they supported me with guidelines, and the results also contributed positively to the unity of our team. Both criticism and appreciation were welcomed by the team as a whole. Here are my event reports with their links cited.

SNV Young Filmmakers awarded

Rashna Munawar

The SNV Young Filmmakers Short Film Screening was held on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at the auditorium of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB). The screening and award ceremony of 10 selected short films by young filmmakers in the development sector, along with a short documentary on their journey in the competition "Young Filmmakers in Development" sector, were hosted by Netherlands Development Organization.

With the curtains lifting at 3:35pm, enthusiasm of the energetic audience was heard till the programme concluded at 6:40pm with musical performances and the stage drama called *Two Sides of a Coin*. Zarin Zeba Khan - the communication advisor at SNV and adjunct faculty at the Business School of Independent University of Bangladesh, expressed gratitude to Enliven for technical support and Ekattor TV, Dhaka Tribune, ABC Radio (89.2 FM) and other media partners for their media coverage.

Creative Eyes, a team from Green University of Bangladesh was the winning team that enthralled the judges with their short film *My Garments My family*, which was based on sexual and reproductive health rights. The team received the award and a prize money of Tk50,000 handed over



by Mujibur Rahman Khan.

High Hopes, a team from Independent University Bangladesh, received the first runner-up award from Zarin Zeba Khan for their short film *Priyo-opriyo*.

Color Membrane, a team from Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College received the second runner-up award for their short film *TRAP*.

The programme was an initiative taken by SNV to empower young minds through their contribution of fresh, innovative and creative ideas into filmmaking in the development sector. Students were given the opportunity to attend a four-day expert training session on SNV's thematic area. They were also provided with technical guidance from Enliven to develop their ideas behind their documentary film productions.

Responded by 177 applicants from 35 universities, only nine winning teams were selected for the final round. The winners were selected by a panel of judges including photographer Mujibur Rahman Khan, cinematographer Asif Abedin, and actor and director Shahed Ali. Themes included faecal sludge management, inclusive business, and sexual and reproductive health rights. To create more opportunities, an opening for season two was declared on spot in the introductory documentary by Enliven on the journey of the Young Filmmakers. ☺

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James and Sanam rock Dhaka



Photos: AJ STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

Rashna Munawar

The stage, set with red hearts in starlit background, looked perfect for Valentine's Celebration with James and Sanam on February 11 at the Noboratri Hall of International Convention City, Bashundhara.

The musical event began at 8:15pm with a performance by children of the IQRA School rendering the national anthem and Tagore's song *Amra shobai raja*.

The applause for the young performers was followed by another performance by the

legendary singer, James of Nogar Baul. James performed a series of popular numbers including *Kobita*, *Lace fita lace*, *Jhakanaka Jhakanaka* and *Chal chale apne ghar*. Audiences in parts of the hall had their hands waving in sync with *Tarae tarae rotiye debo*. The enthusiastic audience sang the chorus for the song *Pagla hawa*, which concluded with a comment "Lootpaat kore dile guru" from the audience.

Bheegi bheegi si hai, the last song of the night by James at the concert, concluded with a standing ovation from the audience.

The concert continued with a performance by the young and sensational band Sanam. The fabulous four, Sanam Puri, Samar Puri, Venky S and Keshav, performed a series of songs including *Yeh raate yeh mausam*, *Teri deewani*, *Main tanu samjhawa ki*, *Lag ja gale*, *Mere mehboob qayamat hogi* and *Roop tera mastana*. The audience sang along with Sanam in many other songs but were most audible during *Jee le zara*.

Surprisingly, Sanam also sang in Bangla for the audience of Dhaka. The excitement also heightened when Sanam Puri replied "I love you too" to the audience that mostly consisted of girls. Near the end of the concert, Dipita, a student of Advanced Levels, said that she came to see Sanam and expressed her heart's content on attending the event.

Adding to the eventful night, band Sanam showed their new music video *Pehla nasha*, which was prepared to premiere on February 12. The concert concluded with Sanam's performance of the song *Pal pal dil ke paas*.

The concert was organized by Entourage Entertainment in association with The Agency Solution as a charity event to raise funds for the IQRA School that educates children from Korail slum. ❁

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8. Features

The three months allotted for my internship had been full of explorations and experimentations. Through the process of trying out several things, it is only during the end of my internship period that I realized my potential in writing features. Writing a feature also required data gathered by researching. Due to limitation in time and with other urgent news-stories at hand, I only got a few chances to write features. While writing features, even though I had the liberty to use puns and a bit of sarcasm too, I also had to be careful not to go overboard. Ensuring meaningful content was necessary and I had to carefully avoid the use of flowery words just for the sake of writing or filling spaces. These precautions reminded me of what I learnt in the Eng440: English for Print Media and Eng404: Copywriting courses that I had taken. The word-limit of these features was less than what I was given in my undergraduate courses because of the limited space in print. I also had to keep track of the multiple sources while gathering data to ensure authenticity. It was also for cross-checking purposes. Here are two features which I had written along with the sources cited.

5 Bollywood feminist flicks

Showtime Desk

Gender biasness and misogyny is rife everywhere. Challenging conventional ideas, Bollywood films have depicted women out of their traditional stereotypes, which eventually gathered appreciation for the actor. Female-centric films in Bollywood have gained some focus on certain characters as well, such as:



English Vinglish (2012)

Gauri Shinde's *English Vinglish* stars Bollywood icon Sridevi, who plays a housewife named Shashi Godhole. The film depicts her journey of self-discovery from a coy housewife to confident speaker in English. She secretly takes language classes in New York City after being mocked for her inability to speak English.



Queen (2014)

Queen stars Kangana Ranaut as a young woman named Rani. Her husband calls off their

wedding in the film, complaining that Rani's conservatism is unattractive to him. The film depicts a simple coming-of-age story of a naive and introvert girl. Heartbroken, but compelled to get over it, Rani goes on her solo journey to Paris and Amsterdam. Along the way, she meets many interesting people who teach her a lot about herself. When she returns to India, she brims in sincerity and self-love.



Astitva (2000)

Written and directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, the film stars Tabu in a struggle for her identity as a woman. Feminist in its tone and tenor, the film argued that a woman is not just a dutiful wife and a dedicated mother. Her world should not be, and is not, centered around a man.



Kahaani (2012)

Kahaani depicts the Vidya Bagchi's (played by Vidya Balan) persistence to track down her missing husband. Even

through in her final trimester of pregnancy, she travels to Kolkata with the determination to find her husband. Everyone she encounters tells her that her husband probably left her because he didn't want to raise the baby with her. She slowly figures out that her husband's death was part of a bigger incident involving the federal government and a rogue agent-turned-terrorist. Vidya continues to look for answers despite being threatened.



Fashion (2008)

In *Fashion*, Priyanka Chopra stars as Meghna Mathur, an ambitious model. She goes to Mumbai against her parents' consent to chase her dream. Struggling through several rejections, she finally catches her break after making some good friends and exhibiting confidence during a meeting with an executive at a major modeling agency. However, her health and relationships slowly begin to deteriorate after her involvement with drugs and alcohol. In order to get her career back on track, she has to overcome her addictions and phases of depression. ●

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Continuing the Bollywood legacy

Showtime Desk

Being born to a Bollywood star comes with a lot of privileges and also, expectations from fans and family. Some of these star-born children have followed the footsteps of their parents to the showbiz industry. With the support and encouragement of their superstar parents, the starlings are all set to hold onto their legacy in Bollywood. Five of our picks are:

Karan Deol



Sunny Deol's son, Karan Deol (aka Rocky), has assisted Sangeeth Sivan in directing *Yamla Pagla Deewana 2*. Besides his interest in football, the grandson of Dharmendra, has joined Rahul Rawail's acting school and is training to enter the silver screen

soon. No official statement has been made about the news of Karan's debut since it was delayed keeping the release of Ghayal Once Again in mind.

Jhanvi Kapoor



Sridevi and Boney Kapoor's daughter Jhanvi Kapoor, 18, has already been spotted by the media with her mother at various Bollywood events. While rumours of Jhanvi making her debut in a film still await confirmation, the teen is currently taking acting training from The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in Los Angeles.

Junaid Khan

Junaid Khan is Aamir Khan's eldest son with his first wife Reena Dutta. Quite a perfectionist like his father, Junaid made his Bollywood



debut as an assistant director in Rajkumar Hirani's *PK*. Currently studying at the Los Angeles film school, Junaid takes keen interest in his work.

Athiya Shetty



Athiya Shetty, Sunil Shetty's daughter, made her Bollywood debut through Subhash Ghai's *Hero*. The 23-year-old was studying filmmaking and liberal arts in New York Film Academy (NYFA). Athiya Shetty, who is the brand ambassador of Maybelline

New York, will take the Amazon India Fashion Week A-W'16 ramp for the Maybelline New York presents Namrata Joshipura show.

Harshvardhan Kapoor



Anil Kapoor's youngest son Harshvardhan Kapoor will make his Bollywood debut in acting in Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's film *Mirzya*. He has also worked as an assistant director in Anurag Kashyap's *Bombay Velvet*. Following the footsteps of his father, Harshvardhan will play the lead role in the sequel of *Mr India*, produced under the banner of his uncle Boney Kapoor.

The fresh faces were never completely invisible under the Bollywood limelight. Hopefully these little stars will shine bright and live up to the expectations of their fans and respective families. ●

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9. **Miscellaneous Works**

One must overcome the fear of making mistakes in order to be a good learner. Interning at the Showtime desk allowed me the flexibility to try out various tasks, but also required more persistence at times of failure. Since three months were too less to afford moments of frustration, I took every task as part of my learning experience where mistakes were bound to happen. My positive outlook towards learning and the encouragement that I received from the members of the Showtime desk prevented me from giving in to failures.

9.1 **Obituary**

The works that I enjoyed or did out of interest led to better outcomes than the ones I did only with required sincerity. On one hand, excessive writing was restricted by space allocations and format of the Showtime page, on the other hand, the diverse elements that the page talked about allowed fluidity in writing styles. I had written an article about the late artist Khalid Mahmood Mithu which was published four days after his death. Similar to what I had learnt in the Eng440: English for Print Media course, the article consisted of most of the necessary details of a typical obituary, but its heavy aesthetic value made it seem more like a tribute. It was in fact a feature obituary. The content under the article titled 'Khalid Mahmood Mithu: Life of an intuitive artist' mainly focused on the achievements of the deceased as an artist and very less space was dedicated to information about the incident of his death. The lack of timeliness and lamenting tone of the article also suggested its worthiness as an aesthetic article rather than only an informative one. Below is the article with its link cited.

Khalid Mahmood Mithu: Life of an intuitive artist



Showtime Desk

Khalid Mahmood Mithu was a multifaceted artist. Born on January 1, 1960 in Dhaka, Khalid completed his Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from the Institute of Fine Arts in Dhaka University.

Khalid Mahmood Mithu won the National Film Award in 2010 in the best director category for his debut film *Gahine Shobdo*. His second feature film *Jonokir Alo (Glow Of The Firefly)* was selected as Bangladesh's entry in the Foreign Language Film category of 87th Oscars. The film also earned

Did you know?

- Mithu is the nephew of renowned Bangladeshi filmmaker Alamgir Kabir, who also tragically died 27 years ago by accidentally drowning in the Jamuna River.
- From childhood, Mithu grew up around his uncle where he found a pleasing condition for learning to direct films. Alamgir Kabir's editing panel was right beside Mithu's reading table. Consequently, he got some help with experimental direction from Kabir's equipments.
- As his debut production, he directed *Shopne Shobuj Pahar* in 1992, a musical program assisted by the SAARC cultural exchange program.
- As his maiden TV play, he directed *Dhustur Album* in 1993. He later worked on more than 60-70 plays before shifting his attention to the big screen.

Khalid the Best Director award at the Brasor International Film Festival (BRIFF).

Khalid achieved a good reputation and won 29 prestigious awards for best in film directing, scriptwriting, painting, photography and cinematography. He won the Arab Bangladesh Bank Award in 2007 in the 16th National Art Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Khalid Mahmood Mithu is the founder chairman of Arjo Chokochitro Foundation.

Awards for films

2010: Best Director for *Gahine Shobdo*, Bangladesh National Film Award

2004: Best Script writer Award, Fizzup and Reporters Association

2003: Best Script Writer for Drama, *Rater Atibhy*, TRAB Award

2003: Best Director for *Rupar Palanko*, Television Reporters Association of Bangladesh

2003: Best Documentary Film Director for *Life in Light and Dark*, Bangladesh Documentary Film Festival

2001: Best Director Award in Drama for *Dhustur Album*, Bangladesh Reporters Award

2001: Best Director Award for Drama for *Smriti Satta*, TRAB Award

Noted artist and national award-winning director Khalid Mahmood Mithu died in the afternoon of March 7 after a tree fell on him while he was on his way home from his office. He is survived by wife Kanak Champa Chakma, who is also a noted artist, and their two children, son Arjo Shrestho and daughter Shiropra Purnais. The grief for the loss of director Khalid Mahmood Mithu shall supersede his success in his short lifetime. •

Mithu's journey as a painter

A graduate of Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, Khalid Mahmood Mithu's artistic career demonstrates a remarkable versatility in expression and creative inspiration. As a pure abstract painter, Mithu's works feature pure forms and compositions. His colours are subdued and the forms are not well defined.

Painting has always been a natural extension of his soul, an important element constructing his spirit. His paintings and prints demonstrates his deep relationship with art as an indispensable tool in finding meaning behind the human condition.

Besides his 11 solo painting and photography exhibitions held in Bangladesh, USA and Japan, Khalid had participated in more than hundreds of group exhibitions around the world.

Major achievements that mark the journey of Khalid Mahmood Mithu include:

2010: Peace Cup Award, Beijing China

2008: Olympic Medal, Beijing Olympic Fine Arts, China.

2006: National Award for Video Installation, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

2005: Excellent Award, Art Miami International Art Expo, Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.

1997: All media Best and Judges choice Award, Florida, USA

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9.2 What To Watch

During my internship period, I was not assigned only tasks which I could relate to the courses I took at BRAC University. A part of this learning experience also required me to get acquainted with and adapt to the existing trends of the Showtime page. One such trend of the Showtime page was a frequently published section titled, ‘What To Watch’ which I was taught to prepare. ‘What To Watch’ is a list which consists of the names of a few movies/shows expected to be aired on the day the newspaper comes out. The names of the movies/shows were listed along with some information which included general overviews and images of the

and the timing of their telecast. My team members at the Showtime desk taught me how to prepare the list by gathering information from particular sites. I also had to be careful while stating the timings collected from international sites since they had to be converted to Bangladeshi local time. The size and shape of the section ‘What To Watch’ was adjusted depending on the space allocations and placement of other articles on the Showtime page. The section served as a back-up to fill in space, and was dropped out at times whenever enough content was ready at hand. Attached is a sample of ‘What To Watch’ from the source:

WHAT TO WATCH



Fast and Furious 6
Movies Now 6:55pm
Hobbs has Dominic and Brian reassemble their crew to take down a team of mercenaries: Dominic unexpectedly gets convoluted also facing his presumed deceased girlfriend, Letty.
Cast: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Jordana Brewster, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson

Up
Zee Studio 7:35pm
Seventy-eight year old Carl Fredricksen travels to Paradise Falls in his home equipped with balloons, inadvertently taking a young stowaway.
Cast: Edward Asner (Carl Fredricksen), Christopher Plummer (Charles Muntz), Jordan Nagai (Russell), Bob Peterson (Dug / Alpha), Delroy Lindo (Beta), Jerome Ranft (Gamma)

Terminator Salvation
HBO 9:30pm
In 2018, a mysterious new weapon in the war against the machines, half-human and half-machine, comes to

John Connor on the eve of a resistance attack on Skynet. But whose side is he on, and can he be trusted?
Cast: Christian Bale, Sam Worthington, Anton Yelchin, Moon Bloodgood, Bryce Dallas Howard

The Descent: Part 2
Warner Bros 11:17pm
Refusing to believe her story about cave-dwelling monsters, the sole survivor of a spelunking exploration gone horribly wrong is forced to follow the authorities back into the caves where something awaits.
Cast: Shauna Macdonald, Natalie Mendoza, Douglas Hodge, Axelle Carolyn, Gavan O’Herlihy



Death Race
Star Movies 5:15pm
Ex-con Jensen Ames is forced by the warden of a notorious prison to compete in our post-industrial world’s most popular sport: a car race in which inmates must brutalize and kill one another on the road to victory.
Cast: Jason Statham, Joan Allen, Tyrese Gibson, Ian McShane, Natalie Martinez ●

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9.3

Experimentation**Birthdays This Week**

The diverse contents that the Showtime page talks about created possibilities for experimentation. Besides utilizing my educational skill to accomplish necessary and recommended tasks, I could also utilize my personal interests in zodiac/star signs to create new trends for the Showtime page. My team members initially encouraged me to create a catalogue in which I had to enlist birthdays of television celebrities under three categories: Dhallywood, Hollywood and Bollywood. Besides developing the catalogue, I used the birthdays to create a section titled ‘Birthdays This Week.’ It was irregularly published on Sundays, and consisted of celebrity birthdays ranging to the date corresponding to the upcoming Saturday. For example, the section ‘Birthdays This Week’ published on 20th March, Sunday, lists birthdays from 20th March to 26th March, Saturday.



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Starred Stars

It was a time-consuming task to gather and sort out data for the celebrity birthdays catalogue. I had to cross-check the dates by matching them with data suggested by alternate sources, and I also had to save all the sources so that they can be proofread. The section 'Birthdays This Week' was not regularised since the accumulated data was insufficient to satisfy our intention of always including celebrities from every category: Dhallywood, Hollywood and Bollywood. While preparing the list of birthdays for the upcoming week, I noticed that birthdays in every category were not well-scattered, and hence it would not contribute to fill in for the corresponding range of dates for every week ahead. To compensate our previous plan of using birthdays from every category, my team members and I decided to talk more about the birthdays with other relevant contents. Here, my interest in zodiac/star signs served to increase the content and diversity of the Showtime page. I researched online in order to gather information about certain star signs, and also to enlist common personality traits of people who share the same star sign. The accumulated data consisted of the type of element for each star sign, namely, the water, air, fire and earth sign. It also included the common personality traits such as weaknesses and strengths of people under the star sign, and stated their common outlook toward career, money, friends and family. A basic significance of the star signs lies in the range of dates that they cover. The 12 star signs, each lasting for almost a month, cover a range of dates across every two consecutive months. The problem with inconsistent celebrity birthdays had been solved since birthdays ranging within 30 days could be chosen from every category to be used in support with a certain star sign. I selected a few prominent celebrity birthdays, from all three categories, which were comparatively more significant within the catalogue. I then compiled the selected celebrity birthdays with all the gathered data about the star sign and about the people who share

the star sign, to create the section ‘Starred Stars’ which was published on Sundays alternate to ‘Birthdays This Week.’ For example, the section ‘Starred Stars’, published on 13 March, 2016, includes basic information about the star sign Pisces that ranges from 19 February to 20 March. Besides mentioning the personality traits, weaknesses, strengths, and outlook toward career, money, friends and family, that is common for all Pisceans, the section also enlists the celebrity birthdays under the subtitle ‘Famous Pisceans.’

Starred stars

Showtime Desk

Element: Water
Date range: February 19 - March 20
Strengths: Compassionate, intuitive
Weaknesses: Overly trusting, sad

Personality: Pisces are very friendly, and often find themselves in the company of very different people. They tend to be selfless, and willing to lend a helping hand without expectations of return.

Friends and family: Pisces are the greatest friends to ever exist. They are loyal, devoted, and compassionate. Whenever problems arise among family or friends, they will do their best to resolve them.

Career and money: Intuitive and often dreamy, they feel best in a position where their creative skills can be unleashed, even better if it's for charity. Occupations which would fit them include the roles of attorney, architect, veterinarian, musician, social worker and game designer.

Famous Pisceans
 February 20: Shajal Noor (Model/Actor)
 February 21: Alan Rickman (Actor)
 February 23: Emily Blunt (Actress)
 March 12: Shreya Ghoshal (Singer)
 March 12: Atif Aslam (Singer)
 March 14: Aamir Khan (Actor)
 March 15: Alia Bhatt (Actress/Model) ●



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Who do you share your horoscope with

The zodiac/star signs are the foundation bricks for astrological predictions which are commonly known as horoscopes. Building towards the diversity of the Showtime page, I and my team decided to publish the section ‘Who do you share your horoscope with.’ This section,

Who do you share your horoscope with

The impulsive nature of Aries often tends to be a pitfall on their way to success. This week is just right for you to put your energy into action. To spare you the worries of ending up getting in trouble, know that your intellectual abilities and focus will lead your will towards the right way. With a clear mind which is full of ideas, you will also come up with proper solutions to any given situation. This is the beginning of something new.

Famous Arians:

March 27: Renuka Shahane (Actress)
 March 28: Shakib Khan (Actor)
 March 28: Akshaye Khanna (Actor)
 March 30: Celine Dion (Singer)
 April 15: Raghu Ram and Rajiv Laxman
 April 16: Akon (Rapper)



published on Sundays alternate to ‘Birthdays This Week’ and ‘Starred Stars,’ consisted of a weekly horoscope for the certain star sign functioning for the week along with birthdays of celebrities who share the star sign and hence also the horoscope. Here is the section ‘Who do you share your horoscope with,’ published on 27 March, 2016.

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10. Special Achievements

My internship experience at *Dhaka Tribune* was not only about exploring the world of media, but it also was a journey of self-exploration. I initially felt trapped due to the restrictions in writing styles that I had to follow at the Showtime desk. My efforts in utilising my poetic skill in news-stories and features by creating puns had all gone in vain. Yet ironically, I was given credit as a poetess for the first time in print media while interning at *Dhaka Tribune*. Transcending the horizon of the Showtime page, I had my poem ‘Dead rose’ published on 26 March, 2016 in the ‘Arts & Letters’

supplement of *Dhaka Tribune*. I express immense gratitude to my supervisor Ms. Sabrina Fatma Ahmad for encouraging me to submit my poetry, and to Mr. Rifat Munim - Editor of ‘Arts & Letters’ for approving and publishing my poem.

Dead rose Rashna Munawar

A rose lay on my table:
crinkled, dry and dead,
Hard to believe my eyes
Which had once seen it so
red.
With petals wet in dewdrops,
It had enchanting charms,
And once saw you lay

careless,
Spellbound in my arms.
At the blossom of love,
In blooming red it shone,
And fading towards the Fall,
Was lifeless like a stone.
A token of immortal despair
From the seed of red it
grows,
Till love dies a brutal death
And leaves back a dead rose.

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Besides being attributed for my poetic skill, I have also received a testimonial from *Dhaka Tribune* which has added meaning to, and signifies, my internship experience at both personal and educational levels. It best symbolizes what I have learnt and earned during the three-month internship period. Below is a copy of the original testimonial.

April 03, 2016

To whom it may concern,

This letter is intended to serve as my formal recommendation for Rashna Munawar, who completed a three-month internship, under my supervision, at the Features Section at Dhaka Tribune.

Dhaka Tribune is a Bangladeshi English daily newspaper, launched April 19, 2013, and described as the nation's "fastest growing English daily". Aimed at a dynamic and young audience, it currently enjoys a print circulation of about 10,000, and an online daily readership roughly five times that number.

At features, our interns are given a crash-course in journalism, and expected to cover event, report on ongoing issues, and write reviews and feature pieces. Those who demonstrate an aptitude for it are given additional sub-editing duties.

Rashna, who mostly worked for Showtime, our entertainment page, had a desk job that involved a lot of editing work and selecting and compiling a daily viewing list for our readers. She proved to be regular and diligent at her job. Punctual and regular, her work has been consistent and dependable. A quiet person, she gelled well with the team she was assigned to.

Despite her health concerns, I believe she has put in the best effort she was able to, and it is this work ethic that is to be commended. I wish her all the best in the future.

Sincerely,



Sabrina Fatma Ahmad
Features Editor
Dhaka Tribune

11. **Conclusion**

My internship experience at *Dhaka Tribune* was not only about exploring the world of media, but it was also a journey of self-exploration. It was not easy for me to maintain focus while interning along with two other courses that I had taken for the same semester. It would not have been possible without the support and encouragement that I have received both from my family and from other members at *Dhaka Tribune*.

During my internship period at the Showtime desk, I have learnt how cooperation and mutual respect ensures fruitful teamwork in a friendly atmosphere. Practicing its motto “*The news you want. No more, no less,*” *Dhaka Tribune* welcomes new perspectives, and represents the voice of the progressive population of Bangladesh. My internship experience at *Dhaka Tribune* has not only contributed to my interest towards the world of media, but it has also made me a more insightful person. It has been an honour to be a part of *Dhaka Tribune*.

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