

A Report on the Internship at

The Daily Star

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Inspiring Excellence

BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

A Report on the Internship at

The Daily Star

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By

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Acknowledgement

“My Dear Allah,

Thank you just so much.

For it is through your divine blessings

That I learnt

To love

and

Be loved.”

Where I stand today, is only because of the people in my life who never gave up on me. Without thanking them all, this report would be incomplete.

The very first person whom I would like to thank is my grandmother, Ms. Rowshan Akhter. Without her constant support and encouragement, I would never have been able to pursue my education.

I would also like to take this chance and express my heartfelt gratitude to my father, Major (Retd) Mizanur Rahman, and my mother, Ms. Nahid Parveen. Without their unconditional-love, patience, and understanding, reaching towards the end of my graduation would never have been possible.

I would like to thank my sister, Nawreen, who has been a role model for me. Although younger to me, she possesses a mind several hundred years wiser than mine. “Thank you so much, *Apu*.”

I would especially like to thank my supervisor, Ms. Roohi Huda, for her continuous support. Her effective guidance enabled me to write this report and submit it on time. I am also grateful to all the other faculty members of the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University, for their guidance. Also, I want to mention that, I would always be in debt to Sumaiya Miss and Monzia Miss for being with me through thick and thin.

Both my aunts, Ms. Naila and Ms. Nupur, encouraged me to establish myself as an independent woman by doing well in my studies. I must thank them both for being my support system. Also, I thank my best friend, Shembil, for always telling me that, “Amreen, you can do it.”

I am really grateful to *The Daily Star* and its family. They not only gave me the ground for gaining practical experience, but also, supported me constantly during my internship. My onsite supervisor, Ms. Elita Karim, has been a true blessing. With her constant guidance and direction, my internship at *The Daily Star* became truly effective and meaningful. I would also like to thank my uncle, General (Retd) Ibrahim, for his kind support.

Rasmia Rahman Amreen

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1. **Introduction**

A famous metonymic adage by English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton inspired me to decide that I wanted to pursue journalism as my profession. He had said that, "The pen is mightier than the sword," which refers to the idea that an independent press holds the power to overturn any tyrant. Being a person who is vocal against any form of injustice, I felt that "penning down and publishing my voice" is the best, legal and accepted form of fighting back and contributing to the society. As a requirement to complete my Bachelor of Arts in English from the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University, I decided to pursue Media and Cultural Studies as my area of concentration. I knew it would help me become the voice of the unheard, and also influence public opinion.

In this age of globalization, the media plays a significant role. Starting from influencing citizens to electing an unworthy leader for their country to making us validate the ongoing wars in different parts of the globe- the media is a form of power play used to run the world. Our societies are constructed upon 'news' provided from different media sources. It should be mentioned that the social media provides us with a big chunk of news every day. However, still to this date, households that do not subscribe to newspapers are still considered strange and uncultured. So, we can see that, the print media is still considered to be the number one source for us to stay up-to-date and well-informed.

I decided to pursue my internship at *The Daily Star* because of its reputation of being a leading daily where there is no place for yellow-journalism or biased news. *The Daily Star* also ensures that all of its employees are treated equal, and there is no room for gender discrimination. The organization's excellent work ethics and healthy environment played big roles while I decided to pursue my internship with it.

I interned at the *Star Weekend Magazine* starting from January 6th to April 6th, 2017. During this time, I also had the opportunity to witness how a new section called *Changemakers* was launched. During these 12 weeks, I did not only get the opportunity to practice what I have been taught in my university years, but also had a first-hand experience in adjusting myself to workspace environment. In addition to all the text-book lessons that I learnt as a result of taking the media courses, my experience from the Residential Semester also helped me present myself as a professional, competent and hardworking intern. During my Residential Semester, I was taught how to be self-sufficient. I took the responsibility of doing well in my studies on my own, as my parents were not there to push me to study hard. Also, it made me self-disciplined as I made my own bed and washed my own clothes. I was professional in the office as because I learnt how to function independently during the Residential Semester. I also learnt how to deal with authority and peers. These lessons helped me become competent and hardworking during my internship period. As a result, on completion of my internship, I was offered to work for *The Daily Star*.

2.

A Brief History of *The Daily Star*

The Daily Star

The Daily Star was founded by Syed Mohammad Ali on January 14th, 1991. Its neutral stand on all issues helped paved the way to establish itself as the leading English daily in Bangladesh. *The Daily Star* is the most widely circulated English newspaper in Bangladesh.

“*Your Right to Know*” is the current slogan chanted by *The Daily Star*. The Editor, Mahfuz Anam, is a freedom fighter, and also a former United Nations official. He is widely popular for being an honest journalist who would not bow down to any authority. His legacy of being charged on numerous cases as the editor of *The Daily Star* (filed especially after publishing news against the government) is looked upon as a mark of integrity. This independent entity works round-the-clock to cross check facts and references to ensure publishing valid news.

The Daily Star is a well-recognized brand upon whom the citizens have faith. *The Daily Star* does not only publish broadsheet newspaper, it is also engaged in different social welfare projects. For example, *The Daily Star Award* is given to those students who do well in their O’level and A’level examinations. *The Unsung Women National Builders Award* is given to women from all walks of life who contribute to the betterment of the society. *The Daily Star* also holds debates and different competitions at school and college-levels. They arrange workshops

and roundtable discussions where different contemporary and significant issues like food safety and the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on Bangladesh are highlighted.

The online version of *The Daily Star* is also available and news is continuously updated 24/7.

3. **My Experience as an Intern**

I had to appear for an interview before being accepted as an intern for the *Star Weekend Magazine* by its editor, Ms. Elita Karim. She acted as my supervisor throughout my internship period of 12 weeks. Also, I had the responsibility to complete a course for my undergraduate degree. Initially, it was challenging for me to continue my internship as well as studies at the same time. However, the recognition I received from my family, faculties, and peers acted as a pivot to uphold my work and optimism with sincerity.

The *Star Weekend Magazine* team consisted of Ms. Elita Karim as its editor, a sub-editor, five reporters, one photographer and a page-layout designer. Throughout my internship period, I had the opportunity to publish at least 14 articles on the *Star Weekend Magazine*. The nature of my work varied from interviewing people, writing event reviews, collecting and presenting facts about different heritage sites, writing awareness articles on different daily life issues and etc. I would also hunting for and writing about various social workers who have contributed for the welfare of the society. Besides, I also had to edit others' articles and be actively involved in preparing the page layout every Tuesday.

As the native language in Bangladesh is Bangla, I also had to translate. Mostly during interviews, I would usually implement my skills on translating from Bangla to English. In ENG 465: Translation Studies course, I was taught the sense-for-sense (or free) translation technique. Jeremy Munday in his book *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications* mentioned that “the sense-for-sense approach, on the other hand, allowed the sense or content of the source text to be translated” (20). During my internship period, I realized that this statement was very true. Whenever I translated a line from a Bangla source text to the English target

language, I took into consideration what sense the interviewee was trying to make. I also put emphasis on the context he or she was referring to. For my article titled, “Muktodhara Prokashoni: The Pioneer Behind Ekushey Book Fair,” the interviewee, Mr. Jahar Lal Saha, had said in Bangla, “*Bangla Academy’r kono bhalo library nai, kono research centre o kore nai, food stall ba cafeteria o nai.*” I had translated it into, “Jahar Lal Saha expressed the need of building an adequate library and a research center accompanied by food stalls or a cafeteria near the Bangla Academy premise.” Here, if I applied the word-for-word translation, then the translation would have been absurd and full of derogatory comments about Bangla Academy. Instead, I used sense-for-sense translation to highlight the lacking of Bangla Academy without hurting anyone’s feelings. At the same time, I conveyed Jahar Lal Saha’s constructive criticism about Bangla Academy by means of sense-for-sense translation.

Additionally, I was made aware by my editor that *The Daily Star* follows British English spelling. I have always been instructed to use American English by all the education institutions I attended. Thus, in the initial weeks, this resulted in me making several spelling errors. They were corrected by my team mates. It took me a bit of time to adjust to the change.

At the *Star Weekend Magazine*, I did not only practice the knowledge that I had gained during my university years by means of writing. In addition, I had to attend events, travel to places and interview people – experiences I never encountered before my internship. While taking university courses, I was usually handed back ‘sandwich-feedback’¹ by my faculties, i.e. they were kind with criticism. However, at the workplace, I had to adjust to the new way of handling feedback. Many a times, my editor was harsh while pointing out my mistakes. Enduring

¹The term ‘sandwich-feedback’ is derived from linguistics. It is a method that is used by the teachers to effectively correct the mistake/s of a pupil. First, by acknowledging the good side, a pupil is praised. Secondly, the mistake made by the pupil is mentioned and also, measures are given in order to correct it. Finally, the feedback is ended by again mentioning another achievement of the pupil.

criticism this way was something new for me. I also had to convince my Editor during every meeting about why I wanted to pursue a story for the coming supplement. This taught me to brainstorm ideas, do extensive background research on the topics, and also to be able to suggest a second topic if my editor discarded the first.

Integrity in the articles was something that I ensured throughout my internship period. Alike the academic world, there is also no room for plagiarism in the newspaper industry. *The Daily Star*, being the number one popular English daily in Bangladesh, maintains strict ethical grounds in its work.

4. **Writing Event Reviews**

My very first assignment after joining as an intern was to write an event review. I must mention that without the support of my family, commuting to and fro from office to places of the events would not have been feasible.

There are four event stories that I have had to cover during my internship period. One was a photography exhibition at the EMK Centre in Dhanmondi 27, the other was a summer meet-up arranged by MIB Spirit Bangladesh at their head office in Dhanmondi. Lastly, the other two were the launching ceremonies of two different books arranged by the English and Humanities Department of BRAC University at their premise.

Before every event, I did a little background research prior to attending them. While at the event, at first, I paid attention to the introductory speeches given by the event organizers. Without focusing or depending too much on what the organizers said, I also used my observation skills as a journalist and collected different perspectives from the audiences and attendees of the events. Usually, to write the event reviews, I collected as many quotes as I could and carried a note-pad jotting down all my observations. While writing the actual script, I would first write down all the points and then elaborate them according to necessity. Later, my editor edited my work. I was also applauded by my editor after writing the first event review.

In addition, the following steps that were taught in the ENG 440: English for Print Media course helped me write all the event reviews:

- 1. Talking to organizers and event managers:** Before and after each event, I spoke to people responsible for the event to gather information.

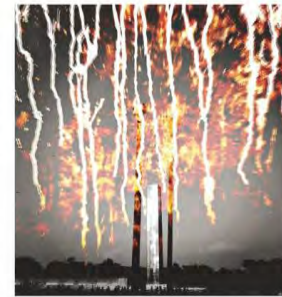
2. Jotting down minute yet important details: I wrote down the number of people who attended the event, the location, the time, the theme etc.

3. Taking adequate photos of the highlights of the events: Usually, I was accompanied by a photographer from *The Daily Star* to events I attended and covered. He was responsible for taking an adequate amount of photos. I reminded him to take photos of the main parts of the event, and also the people I quoted.

Following are the four event reviews that I published in the *Star Weekend Magazine* along with their links:

14 **STAR**
WEEKEND
January 13, 2017

| EXHIBITION |



POKING CONSCIENCE THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSSIN AGAZ APURBO AND IMRUL ISLAM

On the evening of 5th January, 2017, a two-week long photography exhibition titled "16" was launched at the EMK Center located at the heart of Dhaka, Dhanmondi 27. The exhibition is a joint collaboration of two renowned and vibrant Bangladeshi photographers, Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo and Imrul Islam.

The exhibition features artwork pieces that portray stories the Bangladeshi audience can relate to. Every piece has been created through the multiple exposure technique, where two or more images are superimposed in a single frame to create a single image. In this exhibition, each artwork has been created by superimposing two different images

contributed by the two photographers. The display sheds light on topics such as urbanisation in Dhaka, the effects of global warming on our nature, unsustainable tourism and its effect on St. Martin's coral reef, migrant workers of Bangladesh, the Buriganga River and its deteriorating condition, gender violence, Dhaka attack and more. Along with the photographs, texts are provided too to convey the artists' thoughts on every piece. "We want the audience to start having a dialogue within themselves upon issues less talked about," expressed Apurbo.

The opening attracted crowds of youth. When Sabiha, a student of North South University, was asked what brought her to the exhibition, she replied, "I'm an avid follower of Apurbo bhaia's photography and was keen to see how he and Imrul bhaia collaborated together and presented their skills." Nawra, a World Bank employee, said "I love how stories from

each photograph are open to interpretations but you can also read the text and know the photographer's point of view." Naim, another spectator, mentioned "The project is very interesting and each piece expresses a clear statement. Such exhibitions should take place more often and in open spaces so that it is exposed to more people."

When Imrul was asked about what kind of impact he wants the photographs to have upon the audience, he replied, "We want people to start acknowledging each incident individually and not just focus on numbers. Through this exhibition, we want the audience to look at nuances and the texts have been provided to slow down time while they explore each image".

The exhibition is open to all and would continue till 19th of January, 2017 (except for Fridays). EMK Center is located on the 9th floor of the Midas Center Building at Dhanmondi 27, Dhaka. ■



<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/exhibition/poking-conscience-through-photography-1344316>



MIB Spirit is a line of lifestyle products unlike the rest. What makes MIB Spirit stand out amongst all other brands is their open declaration of using industrial waste products and up-cycle them to create magic. A wide range of environment friendly products such as bags, wallets, scarves, natural soap bars, key-rings, etc. are made to help give the users their identity. Khaled Mahmud, the originator of MIB Spirit, feels that through his work, honesty and truth are delivered.

Initially for the first three years, MIB Spirit was run as a test model. Now, it is in full bloom. The MIB Spirit Studio, located in Dhanmondi 10/A, is described to be "a physical store" where the products are not only put on display, but the whole process leading up to their creation takes place. "Because of intimacy and love, our interior looks classy," says Mahmud.

Mahmud expresses his wish to help the young generation deliver. "MIB Spirit is an initiative to help bring forth the changes this generation is looking for. We are trying to present an alternative and create opportunities for new entrepreneurs. Our highly-skilled generation should not only be busy consuming and they need to break free of the virtual-reality."

Mahmud likes to term the people working with him as "The Real People". He even disagrees to call them "employees" and finds comfortable acknowledging these six members as his "team". Mahmud and his army fashions MIB Spirit products through a complex designing system depending on the current trends, needs, and prices. He believes that the ability to foresee future and predict ahead of time is very important when it comes to running a business.

When the keen and observant Mahmud

MIB SPIRIT CREATED WITH LOVE, AFFECTION AND UTTER DEXTERITY

RASMAIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTOS COURTESY: MIB



was asked about his goal, he replied "I want to help create a Bengali identity."

From 5th January up to the 14th, MIB Spirit arranged The Winter Meet-Up at their studio where the works of different entrepreneurs, bloggers, bands and celebrities were highlighted and presented in front of the public. Through this event, Mahmud hopes to create a challenging and competitive environment that would help enhance the quality of products. "Mela is not enough. Through a mela, the functional value system is not created. By selling the same range of products over and over again, there is no innovation but trading. Small entrepreneurs cannot sustain in such an environment," he says. He further adds, "Through the Winter Meet-Up, we have tried to create opportunities for small or new entrepreneurs and help them promote their products. Instead of complaining, we want to create scopes so that changes can happen, innovation can happen. It did not take a rocket scientist to create this event and we want people to realise that anybody can do it, anywhere they want to. If each of us ensures using our spaces effectively, then the delivery must come."

Stalls from Organic Essentials, Karkhana, Golpo and many more were showcased throughout the event. These entrepreneurs sold items ranging from baked products, handicrafts, organic skin and hair products, clothes, shoes, artwork and etc. One could even receive his or her own black-and-white vintage photograph by Live Box Camera Photography. On the opening day, a musical show by the very famous and talented Armeen Musa and her band was arranged. Anik Rahman's solo photography exhibition titled "Minors of Human" was also on display throughout the event. ■

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/mib-spirit-1347691>

TIME OUT |

BOOK LAUNCHING CEREMONY

WHEN FACTS MEET CURIOSITY

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN



PHOTO: BRAC UNIVERSITY

On 24th of February, 2017, the English and Humanities Department of BRAC University arranged the launching ceremony of Dr. Tamina Mahmud Chowdhury's book titled *Indigenous Identity in South Asia: Making Claims in the Colonial Chittagong Hill Tracts* at its GDLN Centre. Professor Firdous Azim, chairperson of the ENH department, acted as the master of ceremony and along with the author, she introduced four other discussants including journalist and researcher Afsan

Chowdhury, professor of anthropology Prashanto Tripura, professor of international relations Amena Mohsin and professor of history Shapon Adnan, who later shared their review upon Dr Tamina's work.

This book sheds light over the condition of the indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the colonial era, which lasted from 1860 to 1947. It is an extension of the administrative historian's PhD thesis that she completed from the University of Cambridge, England.

On asking Dr Tamina about what made her write this book, she replied, "Growing up as a Bengali, I have always been curious about our identity and especially about the identity of the large minority group in Chittagong Hill Tracts and why they call themselves indigenous. As a historian, my job is to assist or produce knowledge that furthers our understanding. This book will be a stepping stone towards knowing the history behind this indigenous group of people in the

colonial era. As an academic, I have tried to look at their identity critically."

Dr Tamina M. Chowdhury was born in Chittagong. Later, at the age of nine, she along with her family moved to Dhaka. After finishing high school, Dr Tamina attained BA in Political Science from liberal arts institution Sewanee College, and MA in Globalisation and Development from Warwick University. Afterwards, she completed her PhD from the Cambridge University.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/when-facts-meet-curiosity-1354975>

EVENT |

HOW 'TALASH' HAS BROUGHT BANGLADESH AND SOUTH KOREA A STEP CLOSER

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

When a research professor at the Kim-Dae-Jung Presidential Library and Museum of Yonsei University in South-Korea, Professor Seung-Hee Jeon, came across Shaheen Akhtar's fiction on the Liberation War, Talash, she realised how similar the two countries were from their historical perspectives. What touched Professor Jeon even more was the way in which the plight of women during Bangladesh's Liberation War narrated in the book is coincidentally so similar to the history of Korean 'comfort women' under Japan's regime. Even though we live in a time where the physical distance between Bangladesh and Korea is as short as five hours by air, however, majority of the nationalities of these two countries are still unaware of how in-sync they are, in both social and cognitive ways.

Thus, to bring these two nations closer and familiarise their past, Professor Jeon has decided to translate Talash into Korean language through the book's English



translation, *The Search* by Ella Dutta. The translation will be available by the end of 2017.

On February 15, 2017, the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University and the Department of English and Modern Languages, Central Women's University jointly hosted a discussion with Professor and translator Seung-Hee Jeon at the GDLN Conference

Centre, BRAC University. During the session, Professor Jeon met Shaheen Akhtar and they both shared their views on their works. Additionally, there were two other presenters; Bashabi Barua from Central Women's University and Anika Saba from BRAC University. They both talked about their research interest on the narratives of melancholy, trauma, and reconciliation.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/event/how-talash-has-brought-bangladesh-and-south-korea-step-closer-1365985>

5. **Interviewing**

During my internship period at the *Star Weekend Magazine*, I was asked to interview different people in order to write and reflect on their achievements.

To conduct these assignments, I followed the lessons that I had learnt from the courses ENG 440: English for Print Media and ENG 404: Copywriting.

Before interviewing, I always carried out background research on the person I was asked to interview. I would mostly take the help of websites such as Google, LinkedIn and Facebook to have a better understanding of their work and achievements. This also made me feel well prepared for the task and I would prepare a set of questions accordingly.

Before starting the interview session, the very first thing that I would do was to acknowledge myself as a reporter to the interviewee. Then, I would ask for their permission to record the conversation. Alongside, I would also question whether I was allowed to reveal their names in the article. I learnt about these formalities from the ENG 440: English for Print Media course.

Next, I would make sure my interviewee was comfortable enough. I would try to initiate the conversation with easy, open-ended questions that dealt with how they were doing in life and such. Gradually, I would navigate the conversation towards my goal, i.e. I would start gathering the required information to write the article. This is also something that I learnt in the ENG 440: English for Print Media course. What I noticed is that, the more comfortable my interviewee felt, the easier it was for them to open-up and continue the interview. I usually tried not to interrupt while they spoke as it hampers the flow of conversation.

However, I always tried to verify the information gathered during the interview with an expert or someone from the same field of work, afterwards. Being a reporter, I utilized my networking capacity, observation and analytical skills to deduce and verify my work.

Here are two of my interviews published in the *Star Weekend Magazine* along with their links:

MUKTODHARA PROKASHONI THE PIONEER BEHIND EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

Muktodhara Prokashoni is the very first reason for us to be able to take part in and celebrate today's Ekushey Bôj Mela. On 21st February, 1972, Chittaranjan Saha, an avid lover of books and a graduate from Chaumohani College, laid a mat under a mango tree of the Bangla Academy and put on display 33 publications of his publishing house called Muktohdhara Prokashoni to pay homage to the 1952 Language movement martyrs. Needless to say, the rest is history.

But the journey has not been an easy one. "Chittaranjan Saha was born in 1927 in the Noakhali district. Although his family business revolved around trading of clothing materials, Chittaranjan had other aspirations," says Jahar Lal Saha, the current director of Muktohdhara Prokashoni and brother-in-law of Chittaranjan Saha.

Initially, a publishing house named Punthighar Prokashoni was established by Chittaranjan in his home district which became popular for printing notebooks and test papers. Later in the year 1956, he moved to Dhaka along with his business. The publication house was first setup in Patuatuli and later in Banglabazar. In 1967, Punthighar Private Ltd. was established which sold textbooks, notebooks and reference books as well.

"When the war started in 1971, the publishing house was completely burnt down," says Jahar Lal Saha. After 26th of March, Chittaranjan Saha left Dhaka and initially took shelter in Agartala and later crossed over to Calcutta. On 28th May, 1971, Chittaranjan arranged a meeting with the top literature heads residing in Calcutta. They decided on writing and publishing about the injustice and war that was raging in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). And that was the birth of Muktohdhara Prokashoni. The very first book published under this publishing house was *Roktakto Bangla* which included writings by various writers such as Late Jahir Raihan, Late Ahmed Sofa and more and was edited by Anisuzzaman.

"After the war ended, all the publications under Muktohdhara Prokashoni were brought to Dhaka and put on display on 21st February, 1972," says Jahar Lal Saha. "There were 33 in total."

In 1974, books were no more displayed over mats. Rather, the very first stall was established by Muktohdhara, which measured 8 by 8 feet. "In 1975, four to five stalls were built by different publishers and books were being sold, although unofficially. The number of book lovers



year by year," added Jahar Lal Saha. In 1979, with the collaboration of Bangladesh Pustok Porokasok O Bikreta Somiti and the Bangla Academy authority in the Bangla academy courtyard, a book fair was held. In the year 1984, a guideline was made and the first ever *Amar Ekushe Grantha Mela* was held. "This one time, Maitreyi Devi had come and visited our stall and even praised us for our work," expressed the smiling Jahar Lal Saha. Chittaranjan Saha is recognised nationally for his initiative and has even



been awarded with the Ekushey Padak and the Vidyasagar Puraskar in 2005, a gold medal for being the best publisher in 1997 and also with the Natyasabha Puraskar in 1988.

Jahar Lal Saha expressed the need of building an adequate library and a research center accompanied by food stalls or a cafeteria near the Bangla Academy premise. "It would help enhance people's love and experience of reading books," he says.

Till this date, Muktohdhara Prokashoni

has published over 2,000 books. They have even taken an initiative to publish books written especially for young minds and have succeeded in publishing 300 of the like. By arranging book fairs throughout the country, Muktohdhara Prokashoni has taken a healthy initiative of encouraging children and youth into developing the habit of reading. It also encourages authorities to establish libraries throughout the country. Since 1974, the publishing house exports books overseas as well. ■

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/heritage/the-pioneer-behind-ekushey-book-fair-1347688>

INITIATIVE

A LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

During the fall of 2009, a young 20-year-old participated in a winter cloth distribution campaign in his hometown Saidpur and was left baffled. He came across families who did not send their children to schools run by different NGOs, even though they were free. "I spoke to these parents and asked for the reason. What I heard in reply left me perplexed and somewhat in pain," expresses Adnan Hossain, the founder and chairman of It's Humanity Foundation (IHF).

"These underprivileged children were being sent to work in exchange of Tk. 80 a week!" exclaims Adnan. He was left speechless as the income was not even equal to the price of a burger.

It was then that he decided to do something to change the plight of these children.

"After coming back to Dhaka, I shared my thoughts with my friend and colleague, Syed Fazle Niaz," says Adnan. The two of them had met when Adnan, while pursuing his undergrad at Brac University, was working as a personal assistant to Tim Steel, a British consultant in Dhaka who was researching the history and culture of Bangladesh.

The solution they came up with was to establish a free school but with a difference. "We decided to not only provide free education to underprivileged children, but also change the mindset of their parents by conducting workshops or counseling sessions and encouraging them to send their children to school," he says.

On June 4, 2010, Adnan finally gathered the courage to initiate the project. He took a semester off and

started teaching 17 children in a small corridor in Saidpur which he rented for Tk. 500 per month.

Eventually, however, Adnan was pressurised to return to Dhaka by his family members. For the next six months, Adnan would take a bus on Wednesday nights and ride for 7 hours to reach Saidpur. On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, he would teach the children and then take a bus back home.

However, Adnan soon realised that, despite his best efforts, his part-time contribution was not enough for the students. It was then that Wahida Zaman Moni, a medical student back then, offered to help teach five days a week. She worked for a year as a teacher until she obtained her medical degree.

In January 2011, the first teacher recruitment began and three teachers were hired.

On asking Adnan how he managed the funding, he replies, "I paid for the rent, stationeries, salary of the three teachers and other costs from my pocket money and the money I earned by working as a model back then."

Towards the end of 2011, Adnan realised that most of his students were dropping out of school. "We conducted a survey and found out that families in

the rural areas tend to find education a luxury and not a necessity," says Adnan.

That's when Adnan and his team began to wonder if there were some ways to encourage parents to send their children to schools. "We thought that the women from our region know handicrafts by birth. Could we make something out of their talent? They know work, but, could we turn them into masters of their art?"

At the end of 2011, two more members, Afsana Huda Chowdhury and Arman Ahmed, joined the team. They decided to revamp the project. "From 2012, we decided to conduct free professional crafts training. Afsana took the responsibility to raise funds from her friends and family," shares Adnan. "We spoke to 20 families and only five of them agreed to join the training and send their children to our school regularly. In return, we would sell their works and the profit would be shared between the craftsman and the school fund," informs Adnan.

In June 2012, they named their free professional crafts training programme, "Protibha Crafting Training." It made women who already had the talent more resourceful.

Towards the middle of 2012, Tim Steel

and his friends decided to contribute to the project every month, and thus, Adnan and his team could rent a bigger room in Saidpur and begin a new journey. "Today, the large Saidpur campus provides free education to 383 children, and 255 women have received training so far under Protibha," says Adnan.

At this point, Niaz and Adnan decided to name their school, "It's Humanity Foundation."

In 2014, IHF opened their second school in Tongi with 60 students. Currently, they provide free education to 94 underprivileged students in the area. "Steve Wills, our chief advisor, provided us with the money to build the Tongi campus and with his generous help every month, we are able to run the school," says Adnan.

In 2015, the third campus in Birampur was launched where currently 172 students are accommodated. In the same year, IHF successfully registered itself as an NPO.

In April 2015, Adnan was awarded the "Most Promising Young Social Entrepreneur" title by Jolkona Catalyst that is hosted and funded by US Department of State.

So far, 1700 volunteers have worked for IHF and there are 11 members on the team. The renowned media personality Sharmin Nahar Lucky is the brand ambassador for IHF.

When Adnan is asked about his feelings, he replies, "If I die, then I would do so without regrets. I started It's Humanity Foundation when I was 20 or 21 years old. Today, at the age of 27, I am a proud father of 649 kids."



PHOTO: COURTESY



6. **Features**

The *Star Weekend Magazine* is popular for publishing feature stories mainly. I was fortunate to have a feature article published there while I was interning.

My editor had assigned me to write a feature on a heritage site. I chose to write on my great-great maternal grandfather's residence at Keraniganj, Dhaka. To write the feature article, I visited the site of the house. Then, I tried to gather information on the heritage site by talking to the local residents. Next, I tried to gather information from family documents and photographs.

I used a personal anecdote to begin the article. This helped me to grab the attention of the readers. I made sure that the narration had a conversational style to it because I wanted to guide the readers with my own experience regarding the ancient house.

I tried to include facts into my story to make it sound credible to the audience. Also, there were surprise elements about my great-great grandfather added in the article to help create an impact on the readers. One of the surprise elements was that he was a self-made Zamindar, unlike many of his time.

My story was found to be credible, interesting and informative. It was shared 400 times from *The Daily Star's* website. Surprisingly, the article also helped me reconnect with a distant family member I was not aware of.

Here is the feature that was published in the *Star Weekend Magazine* along with the link:

PERSONALITY |



RECALLING ROOTS

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTO: COURTESY

During my childhood years, whenever my family would plan on visiting my family would plan on visiting my great-great-grandfather's *zamindar* house (also famously known as *Boro Basha* locally) situated just beside the *Eid'gah Maath* in Jinjira, Keraniganj, deeply rooted memories come rushing from within. Back in the '90's, travelling to our *zamindar* house included a part where we had to cross over to the other side of the Buriganga River by ferry. A bridge had not been built yet. From the fear of drowning, crossing the river was the only part I dreaded about in the whole journey. Otherwise, with every visit to my root, with every experience, I always learnt something new about the history behind my lineage.

Zamindar Khan Shaheb Haji Emdad Ali, my great-great-grandfather, was a self made man. He became a *zamindar* not through lineage. Rather, back in the British era, he bought a handsome amount of land to acquire his position as a *zamindar*. He also maintained good contact with the governors of the British Empire and was awarded with the "Khan Shaheb" title. Some of the estates owned by Zamindar Khan Shaheb included the prominent *Gonimiyar haat* in Jinjira, a portion of the Dhaka's Moulvibazaar, the haat-bazaars and more. Most of these properties are still owned and looked after by our family. There were ups-and-downs as well. At one point, my great-great-grandfather tried to establish his own business in Assam. However, incurring loss, he had to come back.

The *Boro Basha* is two storied itself and



covers a huge area. There was a pond too. Although a lot of it has been refurbished, but most of the original style and architecture of the *zamindar* house still exists today. There is a controversy regarding the exact date on which the house was established. However, since the beginning, exteriors have always maintained its pink color. I heard my elders mention that once, a banyan tree got uprooted during a heavy storm and fell upon the house, causing damage to a huge portion of it. During the monsoon



season, the canals around the house would fill up with water and the house would appear to be ship-like. Zamindar Khan Shaheb was scared of earthquakes. To deal with his phobia, a large and lavish teakwood house was built on the porch and he would reside on its first floor.

Back in those days, my great-great-grandfather also dealt with the leather business and flourished in this arena. Even though Zamindar Khan Shaheb Haji Emdad Ali was a well-off and powerful *zamindar* in and around the Jinjira area,

my great-great-grandfather was a generous man by heart. There was a *Musalir Khana* within the *Boro Basha* where he would often distribute seasonal fruits and feed the needy. The people under him were fond of my great-great-grandfather as whatever land he owned, most of it were given away free of cost. And the other interesting fact which made me respect my great-great-grandfather even more is that, instead of following the usual ritual of asking people to come to the *Musalir Khana*, he would send gifts to their houses. I look at it as a kind gesture from his part. Also, one third of the earnings from his estates were sent to a charity fund and he ensured this process throughout his lifetime. Zamindar Khan Shaheb was especially fond of helping students continue their studies.

If I were asked what made my great-great-grandfather feel concerned and wish for the well-being of the people under him, then perhaps I would say, it was because, he never forgot about his own humble beginning. ■

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/recalling-roots-1351330>

7. **Five Things**

During my internship at the *Star Weekend Magazine*, I got the chance to write experimental articles along with writing event reviews, interviews and features. Under the *Five Things* panel, I had to research and write on trending subject matters. The main aim of these articles was to make readers aware of five key-points about commonly discussed topics. While choosing the topics, I made sure they had elements of newsworthiness like prominence, proximity, and timeliness.

- i. **Prominence:** The topic needed to be prominent among the readers or else many would not pay attention to the news story.

For example, in my article “Five Factors to Consider Before you say I Do,” I mentioned five important questions that need to be discussed while fixing a marriage. The ‘marriage’ topic is always prominent among readers. This article was shared 599 times from *The Daily Star’s* website.

- ii. **Proximity:** The readers were required to be able to relate to the selected topic so that they found the article interesting and useful.

For example, in my article titled “Five Side Effects of Staying Up Late,” I mentioned five adverse effects of staying awake during the nighttime. In recent times, we see a trend among people in Dhaka not sleeping during the nights. The topic of this article ensures prominence. It was shared 2.0 K times from *The Daily Star’s* website.

- iii. **Timeliness:** To ensure timeliness, I chose a topic that was discussed frequently at the time of it being published.

For example, in my article “5 Ways to Make Your Child Love Bangla More,” I mentioned five ways to generate curiosity among the Bangladeshi children about Bangla language. It was published in the month of February. 21st February is International Mother Language Day. Thus, this article was timed perfectly, and gave the guardians nice ideas of drawing their child’s interest towards learning Bangla, our mother tongue.

Under the *Five Things* panel of the *Star Weekend Magazine*, I published five articles in total. They are as follows along with the links:

FIVE SIDE EFFECTS OF STAYING UP LATE

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

Most of us have had to stay awake throughout the night a number of times in our lifetime. But, if you have adopted this habit and tend to feel good calling yourself a “night-owl”, here are five reasons why you may want to consider quitting that title.



1 Developing Psychiatric Disorders:
Studies have suggested that people who regularly stay awake throughout the night are more prone to developing psychiatric disorders like anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, etc. Even suicidal tendencies have a link with sleepless nights.

2 Not Looking Too Great?
Are you wondering from where those pimples or dark-circles appeared even though you've been maintaining a clean and sober self? Well, staying awake regularly during the night may be the reason. It can also cause premature aging and result in dry skin.

3 Lessens Productivity:
Doctors have suggested that humans need to have enough sleep (6 to 8 hours) during the night so that our minds and bodies can function properly during the daytime. Bad sleeping patterns can cause one to be less productive and in fact, you are more prone to making poor decisions when lacking sleep.

4 In War With Your Own Immune System:
Studies have suggested that the rate of heart disease, diabetes, obesity and even stroke is high amongst people who have a habit of missing their daily night's sleep. Scientists conducted numerous researches and concluded that our immune system weakens once we strengthen our bond with sleepless nights.

5 Body Clock Gone Haywire:
Our body is functioned in a manner which follows its own internal-clock and carries out certain tasks at certain times. Humans are meant to have their “deepest sleep” at 2:00 am. Sleepless nights can trigger our body-clock to malfunction and cause hormonal imbalance.

Since the beginning of evolution, humans have been designed to utilise darkness as a source of recharging the brain and body. Let's not fight nature.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/five-things/five-side-effects-staying-late-1354954>

FIVE FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU SAY "I DO"

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTO: KAZI TAHISIN AGAZ APURBO

Are you deciding on whether to tie the knot with a particular somebody? Here are a few basic (and some startling) factors to consider discussing with your probable future better-half before believing they are "The One":



1

The Residing Factor

Before getting married, try discussing amongst yourselves about where you two would love to build your home (if not a house). Is he/she is comfortable living with their in-laws or would both of you prefer living on your own? Does one of you have to stay away for a while to pursue educational or career opportunities? Do both of you wish to settle down in your home country or somewhere abroad?

2

Religious Commitment

Getting to know their religious perspectives beforehand could help you better understand their personality traits. Discussing about each other's level of religious practice will tell you a lot about their lifestyle and what you can look forward to as well.

3

About Responsibilities and Income

There is a clichéd saying that, once the honeymoon phase is over, adjusting to each other's "real-self" and "real-issues" could be quite excruciating. However, discussing and deciding beforehand on issues you both find important could help save your marriage from taking a toll. Some of the probable questions which could be asked are: Would the income be shared? Does one of you not wish to work? Would a helping-hand be available? Who would take care of the finances?

4

Kids: When and How Many

Although this subject-matter could sound a bit uncomfortable to discuss initially, however, during the courtship, you might want to get to know about their plans regarding having just one child or more or none at all and at what point of life they see themselves starting a family.

5

Future Goals

For predicting or planning the future, try to get to know each other's goals in the first two years of marriage. In fact, if both of you find this subject matter important, try sharing where you see yourself in the next five to ten years.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/five-things/five-factors-consider-you-say-i-do-1351315>

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| FIVE THINGS |



5 THINGS TO DO FOR A BETTER YOU!

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN
PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Here are five simple guidelines to help you have more (if not most) out of 2017:

1

Drink Water for a Healthier Future

Yes, you heard it right. It is not just to ease in digestion, drinking 2 liters of water everyday helps protect you against cancer too. You can make a habit of drinking a glass of water before every meal. Not only would you feel full so you eat less (and thus help you in weight loss), it promises you better skin and obviously, who does not want to look better in 2017?

2

Declutter that Mess!

Sort out your wardrobe, arrange those books or files or both from your table, give away items you no longer need, organise your email inbox and find yourself feeling organised and relaxed. Decluttering does not only help you find your belongings quicker, it helps improve your lifestyle and mood.

3

Let Go and let God Decide

Still angry over your school best friend for not inviting you to their wedding? Do you still despise one of your relatives for complaining about you to your mother ten years back? Are you still recovering from a fallout? Well, let 2017 be the year where you are finally able to break through these "mental shackles" and surround yourself with positive energy. Read a self help book, try to be more generous, be forgiving. Try to let go. Remember, when you hold a grudge, you're only holding yourself back.

4

Exercise to Feel Energised

Try to incorporate half an hour of exercise into your lifestyle, at least five days every week. It would not only assist you in weight loss, exercising can result in building your stamina and it also helps elevate your mood.

5

Proper Sleep and Breakfast

Nothing beats a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Ensure yourself with six to eight hours of snooze time, everyday. Make a habit of going to bed early and getting up early. Start your day by having a balanced, nutritious and fulfilling breakfast. It would not only keep your energy level balanced but help you control your appetite as well.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/five-things/5-things-do-better-you-1344307>

5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR CHILD LOVE BANGLA MORE

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The Language Movement Shaheeds Mohammad Salauddin, Abdul Jabbar, Abul Barkat, Rafiquddin Ahmed and Abdus Salam had given up their lives to protect the Bangla language from getting lost from the pages of history. Again, our time has come to preserve the dignity of Bangla and implant its true authenticity within our children, within the new generation. Here are five ways for you to make your child love Bangla even more:



1

Introduce your child to the history behind "21st February, 1952"

Even though your child would come across and study the history behind "Ekushey February" from their school's textbooks, however, don't let that confine their intake of this knowledge only to pass exams or get good grades. Introduce "21st February, 1952" to your child's little heart from an early age to help instill the significance of *Bangla Bhasha* in them for a lifetime.

2

Encourage them to practice speaking in "Shuddho Bangla"

You could allocate a certain time of day and converse in *Shuddho Bangla* (formal Bangla) with your child to help them inherit the right art of speaking. These practice sessions could be conducted over family dinners or while you and your family are stuck in traffic or even during evening chit-chats. You could also try incorporating Bangla songs sung with proper accent into your child's playlist.

3

How Bangla gave rise to the International Mother Language Day (IMLD)

UNESCO declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day in the year 1999. To help your child realise the sheer amount of struggle and sacrifice undergone in order to give Bangla the status it deserves, teach them also how IMLD came into existence. Let them know that on 21st February, the whole world pays tribute to the Language Movement of 1952 and also celebrates every language existing worldwide.

4

Take them to *Amar Ekushe Grantha Mela* each year

Encourage your child into building the habit of reading a wide range of Bangla literature. Do not let go of the chance to take them to the Ekushey Book Fair every year. Help them choose Bangla books of their interest. You could also pick-up one or two of your own taste.

5

Instill Respect for Bangla language

Guide your child into being a proper and proud user of the Bangla language. Show them how to respect the language we have shed blood for. Remember, no matter what you say to your child, they learn best by following your footsteps. So, before you keep a tag on your child, be sure of your own beliefs and motives.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/five-things/5-ways-make-your-child-love-bangla-more-1365952>

FIVE WAYS TO CURB YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA DEPENDENCE

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

Do you often find yourself fidgeting with your smart phone or tab when in fact you are supposed to be sound asleep? Or, do you get the constant urge to check your notifications or play games in the middle of a class or during a meeting or simply, when you're not supposed to? Well, here are five ways to curb your dependence on social media platforms:

- 1 Admit and Accept:**
The first step towards letting go of this habit is to acknowledge the fact that you maybe spending more than enough time behind social media platforms. Admitting and acknowledging a problem is the first step towards finding its solution.
- 2 Limit Usage:**
Set a time limit. Decide on spending no more than an hour or two, each day, behind social media platforms. Initially, holding on to your resolution could look like a challenge. However, stick to that limit. It gets easier with time.
- 3 Put Aside Those Gadgets:**
On your way to recovery, put aside those smartphones or tabs or any other gadgets that help you engage with social media platforms during family dinners or while commuting or when you are amongst your friends and family. Divert your attention towards other productive and healthy habits such as reading books or learning something new or simply, plan activities that include real-time interaction with your near and dear ones.
- 4 Nullify Those Notifications:**
Another way to curb your association with social media platforms is to disable those notifications from reaching you. Make a habit of checking on your social media accounts only at a certain time of the day. Also, do not let your notifications reach you through SMS.
- 5 If Nothing Works, Seek Help:**
If you feel that letting go of your dependence over social media platforms is not too easy and is taking a toll on you and your life, then perhaps, you might want to consult with a professional to help you break out of the cycle.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/five-ways-curb-your-social-media-dependence-1362199>

8. **Editing and Page Setup**

While interning at the *Star Weekend Magazine*, from time to time I had to proofread. The lessons from the ENG 401: Editing course helped me carry out these tasks.

As a copyeditor, I had to ensure that the articles maintained in-house style standards like following British spelling and the Times New Roman font style. I corrected spelling and grammatical error/s, ensured proper use of punctuation, verified facts, ensured correct headings and avoided redundancy.

As a proofreader, I had to compare one version of the manuscript against another and eliminate error/s from the newest version.

a. Editing Newspaper Headline:

While editing newspaper headlines, I kept in mind that they have to be:

- factually correct
- connectable to the ordinary readers
- drawing attraction by the use of active words
- using words that match the tone of the article

I also applied the following techniques while editing headlines that I had learnt from ENG 401: Editing course:

1. I kept the headline within eight to ten words and even less whenever possible.

2. I used action words in the headline.
3. I wrote the headline in active voice.
4. I kept the headline related to the report so that readers could get an idea of the news story by reading the headline.

b. Common Spelling Errors:

Here are a few common spelling errors that I noticed during my internship:

Correct

Incorrect

Judgment

Judgement

Control

Controll

Labour

Labor

I also ensured that the articles did not carry vague content.

9. *Changemakers*

During my internship at *The Daily Star*, besides interning for the *Star Weekend Magazine*, I also had the opportunity to intern for a brand new platform called *Changemakers*.

Changemakers is a new project of *The Daily Star*. It was launched in April, 2017. The objective of the project is to locate, identify and recognize those individuals, organizations, activities, and projects in and outside Bangladesh that are trying to bring about a positive difference in our society.

Using the platforms of *The Daily Star* newspaper, its weekly publications, *The Daily Star's* video department (*Star Live*) and its digital stage, the *Changemakers* team collaborates and partners with various other running projects and corporate missions to reach out to the people of Bangladesh. *Changemakers* is a platform that celebrates stories that inspire others to act and do more.

While interning at the *Changemakers*, I was assigned to create dummy supplements for the platform.

Creating Dummy Supplements:

To prepare three dummy supplements for the *Changemakers*, the editor, Ms. Elita Karim, asked me to hand-pick the best twenty stories from the *Star Weekend Magazine's* 2016 issues. Before doing so, I had to understand some points about its brand position. The following steps to come up with brand positioning were taught in the ENG 404: Copywriting course. I elaborated six out of eight points taught in the course. While the six points remain the same, the elaboration has been customized to fit the agenda of the *Changemakers*. They are as follows:

- a. **Pin-point the brand's meaning:** The *Changemakers* platform wants to highlight success stories that make the community a better place to live.
- b. **Identify the audience's demographics:** The target audience for this platform is mainly the youth of Bangladesh.
- c. **How does the competition address this:** No other newspaper in Bangladesh took such an initiative. Thus, there is no competition.
- d. **Target the benefit:** *Changemakers* targets to inspire a positive change in the society.
- e. **How can the benefit be supported:** The success stories and projects covered by the *Changemakers* platform can help people who are already making the change happen.
- f. **Searching for the brand personality:** *The Daily Star* being the leading English daily in Bangladesh already has a high brand value. Thus, people would easily hold the *Changemakers* platform to be credible and authentic.

After analyzing these points, I carefully chose twenty stories that speak about 'The Change-Makers' of Bangladesh, i.e. stories involving people or projects that are making an effort to help change Bangladesh for its betterment. After a careful screening, the list was narrowed down to nine stories.

Next, these nine stories were sent to the Graphics Department of *The Daily Star* where three dummy supplements were designed under the *Changemakers* banner by the graphics experts. Later, these dummy editions were shown to Mr. Mahfuz Anam, the Editor of *The Daily Star*. He approved the new project, *Changemakers*.

10. **Relating Theories in Real Life Work Experience**

When I declared a concentration in Media and Cultural Studies for my undergraduate program, I was taught several theories related to media. During my university years, initially, I could not draw a connection in terms of the application of these theories to the real world. However, eventually, when I began interning, I felt that the theories were making more sense to me. The experience of working first-hand in the media world made me connect the dots to the theories that I learnt in the course ENG 331: Introduction to Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice. These textual ideas are a mere reflection of the reality in the world of media. In this chapter, I will be drawing a parallel between the theories I learnt and my experience in the media world.

The first part of this chapter will detail how Michelle Foucault's take on 'Panopticon' and 'Gaze' can be held true in case of the media industry. In the second part, I will discuss about my experience with Jean Baudrillard's theory on images and reality.

a. Panopticon and Gaze:

The term 'Panopticon' was first coined by Jeremy Bentham. He was an English philosopher, jurist, and social reformer who was born in 1748 and died in 1832. Bentham published it as one of his works towards the end of the eighteenth century. Later, Michelle Foucault, a French philosopher, historian, social theorist, and literary critic, discussed Panopticon in the article titled "The Eye of Power."

Panopticon refers to an architectural structure that allows every single entity to be under surveillance by a supervisor. Panopticon arises from the idea of control. Hospitals, jails, schools and even houses are structured accordingly, to govern or control us. In the medieval times,

prisoners were held in dungeons in the dark. However, today, the best form of punishment is when criminals are always under supervision (for example – the architectural structure of the infamous Guantanamo Bay prison). Foucault also refers to a term ‘Gaze’ and describes it as “the technique of power used within the Panopticon” (154). Panopticon is designed in such a manner that it leads the Gaze to be interiorized within the subject under surveillance. It is the process through which every citizen in the society is under full control of the dominating powerful group, i.e. the state.

In a jail, when Gaze is interiorized by the prisoners, they feel being watched every moment even without the presence of a watchman. Thus, this causes them to mend their behavior and stay sober, and civil. For the state, this is a way to avoid resistance from the citizens and keep law and order intact. Foucault says that power is decentered, and it is not fixed at any given point. Everyone is participating in power play. It runs like the capillary. To keep this power in the favor of the state, the Gaze is interiorized among the citizens. To think one is being watched is the main form of control.

We can consider religion to be a major Panopticon that interiorizes ‘God’s Gaze’ within subjects to control them. Similarly, in today’s world, the media can be considered as a tool of Panopticon. For example, when crime stories are published in *The Daily Star*, the readers are constantly reminded that no unlawful act is going unnoticed. It is reinforced within the minds of the citizens that their crimes are being recorded by the media, and is being published for the masses to read and know. So, ‘fear of getting caught’ is instilled within people, i.e. it instills fear in the majority and stop them from committing murder, rape, theft or likewise. For example, *The Daily Star* published a wide array of stories on The Rain Tree Hotel rape incident. On reading these news stories the citizens understood that most of the times even if a criminal belongs to a

rich family or has an influential background, he or she will not always be able to get away after committing a crime. The media leads to interiorization of 'fear' amongst the majority of the population. This helps keep the state stable and under control. The media reminds us that we need to follow law and order, or else, we would be caught and punished.

On the other hand, the type of news reports covered by the media also influences the position of the state. For example, whenever the media chooses to report news stories that highlight the shortcomings of the state, the citizens of the country indulge in debates and the nation experiences unrest. The citizens of the nation question the authority. As a result, the state in turn tries to control the media to prevent resistance towards them. In contemporary times, the social media is acting as the Panopticon. This is because news can reach faster through the social media to anyone. They social media users can participate by expressing their opinions. Also, by the widespread use of social media, the citizens can judge which news to follow or believe and which to reject. Foucault mentions in the essay that Panopticon is a, "diabolic piece of machinery sparing no one" (158). The press media is no more the most powerful tool to control the citizens. The social media is employing the Gaze, i.e., the state is constantly reminded that the citizens are in the position to know what is happening. Also, any breaking news does not have to be received only through the print media. In current times, the social media is the number one source of receiving news as fast as possible. As a result, *The Daily Star* has launched a Facebook Messenger Bot in February, 2017. This app allows the readers to receive breaking news on their smartphones.

While interning at the *Star Weekend Magazine*, one day, a co-worker asked me to write a diary-like short article on any issue. Since I had the liberty to choose any topic of my choice, I began writing on my perspective of the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and on how the

Bangladesh Army was being accused of torturing the indigenous people. Once I finished writing the article, I submitted it to my editor for proofreading. A few moments later, I was instantly met with anger and criticism. My editor was upset about the fact that I chose to write on an issue that might put *The Daily Star* in jeopardy. It was on that day that I learnt how the state had censored particular issues.

So, the media (especially the social media) can play a diabolic role by either revealing issues that might upset the citizens, or it can be used to keep the citizens in the dark by choosing to not report certain issues.

b. Images and Reality:

Jean Baudrillard has been associated with the loss of the real. According to this major French post-modernism theorist, “[...] the modern media images fascinate us so much that it is not because they are sites of the production of meaning and representation [...] but are actually sites of the disappearance of the meaning and representation” (194). Baudrillard suggested four stages through which the modern media images are creating an impression on our minds.

In the first stage, the image represents a basic reality and portrays the truth. In the second stage, the image is modified a little and reality is masked. In the third stage, the image is able to hide a striking reality. Also, it makes us believe that it represents a certain idea, whereas in reality, it does not. Finally, in the fourth stage, the image is an abstract form to which the observers cannot make any sense using their schema or background knowledge. The observer cannot judge this piece of art or image.

While interning at the *Star Weekend Magazine*, I was once tasked to write a short note on a few photographs taken by our staff photographer. It was for the *Shutter Stories* panel. While looking at those images, I instantly recalled how Baudrillard explained modern media images.

From the photograph of a flower stick and concrete buildings, I could relate it to the current architectural structure of Dhaka city. Here, the image depicts the truth. Reality is not lost from the image. This is the first stage of modern media images as suggested by Baudrillard.

The other photograph shows crowds of purple petals lying above green leaves. By looking at the image, one realizes that a reality has been masked: the accumulated weight of the petals would not let them stay spread above the leaves in real life. This is the second stage of modern media images.

In another, a flower tub is photographed above a floral-printed cloth on a floor. After looking at it, I found the image aesthetically pleasing. However, once I started thinking, I realized that the image did manage to hide a striking reality: we usually do not put cloths underneath a flower tub! This is the third stage.

I was shown another image that was created by superimposing three other photographs. Here, I could see the impressions of a male being overshadowed by colorful, abstract, haphazard bursts. The image bears no relationship to any reality at all. In other words, hyper-reality is created. The image does not resemble reality. In hyper-reality, the very thin line between what is real and what is not is blurred. The image here is a representation of the fourth stage of modern media images as suggested by Baudrillard.

Finally, after analyzing all these variety of images, I had come up with the following quote:

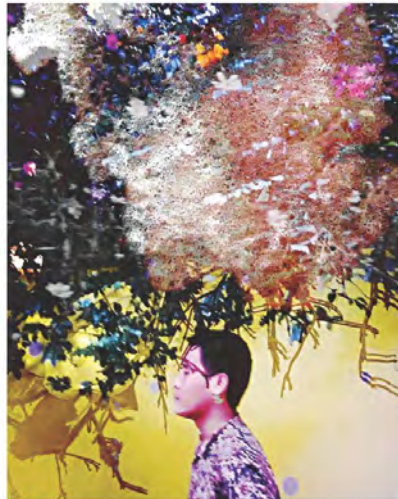
“There are moments when one needs to escape from the clutches of this concrete city and find themselves admiring nature- the sky, shadows, greenery and more. Once in a while, getting in touch with the inner-child always helps to fill in the inner-void.”



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO
TEXT: RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

There are moments when one needs to escape from the clutches of this concrete city and find themselves admiring nature- the sky, shadows, greenery and more. Once in a while, getting in touch with the inner-child always helps to fill in the inner-void.

RELIEF



11.

A Personal Account

Interning at *The Daily Star* helped me mold into an ‘active’, ‘alert’, and ‘attentive’ journalist. I consider myself ‘active’ in terms of meeting deadlines and handing in work on time because I consciously push myself to finish the assignments I was responsible for. I was ‘alert’ in terms of being aware of the sources any news might generate from. I was also ‘attentive’ in terms of paying attention to even minute details in the news stories that I wrote. I also kept in mind that I had to cross-check facts so that I could present authentic news.

I made two mistakes during the initial weeks of my internship: printing a wrong date in one article, and referring to a wrong photo in the other. Both of these incidents triggered into making me even more cautious about my work. I made a pledge to myself that I will not make the same mistakes again, and I did not.


My supervisor, Ms. Elita Karim, acted as a great source of knowledge, experience and motivation. I also had the pressure of doing well in a course that I had taken along with the internship. My colleagues at the *Star Weekend Magazine* were very cooperative and welcoming.

12.

Special Achievement

On completion of my internship at *The Daily Star*, I was met with a surprise when my editor, Ms. Elita Karim, offered me to join her team as a trainee reporter. She had mentioned about me to the editor of *The Daily Star*, Mr. Mahfuz Anam, who gave the final nod.

Below is a copy of the original contract between me and *The Daily Star*:



The Daily Star
Committed to People's Right To Know

Address: 83/2 Nazim Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Telephone: 9144130 (Hunting), 8124944 Fax: 880-2-8125155, 8126154, 9144332
www.thedailystar.net, E-mail: editor@thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net

Date: July 18, 2017
Ref: TDS/HRD/2017/

Rasmia Rahman Amreen
House 10, Road 8, Gulshan 1,
Dhaka.

Subject: Appointment on Contract

Dear Ms. Amreen,

Management of The Daily Star is pleased to appoint you as **Trainee Reporter, Star Youth** on contract, initially for 1 (one) year, **with effect from May 01, 2017**, at a monthly consolidated salary of **Tk. 15,000/-** (Taka Fifteen Thousand) only, all inclusive, the break-up of which is given below:

a) Basic Pay:	Tk.	6,000.00
b) House Rent :	Tk.	4,200.00
c) Conveyance Allowance:	Tk.	2,500.00
d) Medical Allowance:	Tk.	1,500.00
e) Other Allowance:	Tk.	800.00
Total	Tk.	15,000.00


During this 01 (one) year contract period you will be entitled to 15 days Casual Leave (CL) and 15 days paid leave in a Calendar year. You will also be entitled to Festival Bonus and Incentive Bonus during the two Eids as per our office rules.

However, this contract may be discontinued by either party with 30 days prior notice or payment of one month salary in lieu thereof.


Please sign a copy of this letter in acknowledgement of this understanding.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Mahfuz Anam
Editor & Publisher

Accepted: 

Date: 19th July, 2017

Copy to: a) GM-Finance, HR & Admin
b) Personnel Confidential File

The **Largest** and the **Most Trusted** English Daily

13.

Conclusion

This report is focused on event reviews, interviews, features, experimental writing, editing, and page setup. It also focuses on my learnings while launching the brand new platform, *Changemakers*. Besides, different media related theories have been used to relate to my experience as an intern at *The Daily Star*.

Interning at *The Daily Star* did not only provide me with the chance of putting my knowledge into practice, the whole experience also helped me evolve into a professional and responsible individual. I was allowed the opportunity to learn how to function as a team and to cooperate. I also learnt the importance of punctuality and mutual respect, and how important it is to maintain workplace ethics. Moreover, I felt honored when my contributions were published in *The Daily Star*. To be able to reach out to the masses through my publications gave me a sense of empowerment, and the zeal to choose journalism as my career.

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Pictures Cited

Logo of BRAC University:

<http://www.bracu.ac.bd/sites/default/files/resources/media/bracu_logo.png>

Logo of *The Daily Star* newspaper:

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/b/b4/The_Daily_Star_%28Bangladesh%29.svg/1280px-The_Daily_Star_%28Bangladesh%29.svg.png>