

Working at Star Campus

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Introduction

The newspaper is playing a vital role in human affairs. Its significance has not been decreased by the manifestation of the electronic media. The newspaper has always been the main source of information about local and international affairs. Though we have numerous radio and television channels that keep us updated about local and international events almost every hour, the newspaper is still one of the most favorite medium for news-loving people for a number of reasons. Firstly, electronic media cannot provide us any news during a power cut. Secondly, many readers are more comfortable with reading news themselves rather than listening to it from radio or watching TV. Thirdly, unlike radio and TV channels, newspapers give us detailed analyses about specific issues. Fourthly, its demand has increased because of an increasing literacy rate in our present day Bangladesh. Because of the second reason, many newspapers have their online editions as well.

I majored in *Media and Cultural Studies* for a couple of reasons. It is a relatively new field and has a lot of practical job opportunities. And I always dreamed to be a journalist.

As *The Daily Star* is the leading circulating English daily newspaper in Bangladesh, I have always had dreamed to work as a journalist for this prominent newspaper. For the same reason, I decided to do my internship at *The Daily Star*. Then, I had to make a phone call to confirm whether they will offer me the opportunity.

The Daily Star has several segments such as *The Star*, *Lifestyle*, *Rising Stars*, *Law and Our Rights*, *Star Campus*, and *Forum*. I preferred to do my internship at the weekly magazine *Star Campus* because it is one of the most spectacular weekly youngsters' magazines in our country. During my three months of internship, I had to do different activities such as editing, covering events,

interviewing people, article writing, attending to the weekly meeting etc. Basically in the office I had to edit Features and Newsroom articles, download different interesting news, funny factors, jokes, etc. Sometimes I had to download biographies or pictures of different famous personalities such as singers, poets, actors, actresses, and even makeup artists in Bangladesh. I had to jot down different pieces of background information through surfing the internet about any given cases. I had to go to different places for covering events and also for interviewing people.

During my internship I got to realize that working as a journalist is not an easy job. However, I was fortunate as I learnt many things from the courses of my Department before entering the practical field. From *Media and Cultural Studies* stream, I did five courses. They are *Copy Editing*, *Copy Writing*, *English for Print Media*, *Cultural Studies*, and *Translation Studies*. Among them *Copy Editing*, *English for Print Media*, and *Translation Studies* helped me much throughout my internship.

Brief History of *The Daily Star*

The Daily Star is one of the most widely-read English daily newspapers in Bangladesh. It was established on 14th of January in 1991 by Syed Mohammed Ali who is popularly known as SM Ali. It initiated its voyage with a feel of confront and a sense of modesty to provide this country as a genuinely independent newspaper. The newspaper started its journey when, with the fall of an autocratic regime, Bangladesh began a new era towards establishing a democratic system of government. The newspaper is possessed by Mediastar which is a speculation of the Transcom Group, led by Latifur Rahman. Transcom has the leading broadcasting Bengali daily newspaper the *Prothom Alo* too, a movement that is accompanied by other foremost manufacturing groups in Bangladesh. For example, the Jamuna Group runs the daily *Jugantor*; the Hamim Group publishes the *Samakal* and the Globe Group runs *Janakantha*.

The Daily Star is moderated by Mahfuz Anam who is the editor and publisher of this newspaper. He is also a member of the six-member Board of Directors dealing with monetary affairs. Rokia Afzal Rahman is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. There are also some other sections of the newspaper like human resources, production, circulation, advertisement, the finance, information technology, and the institution sector which is conducted by Muhammad Abdul Azim, the Deputy Managing Editor. There are also some sections dealing with latest events. They are Editorial, Metropolitan, National, International, Op-Ed, Letters, Literature, Prod cast, Life Style, Witness, Business, Sports, Arts & Entertainment, Travel, IT & Telecom, Science, etc.

The newspaper brings out a quantity of supplementations beside its twenty four pages usual publication. They are *The Star*, *Lifestyle*, *Rising Stars*, *Law and Our Rights*, *Star Campus*, and

Forum. *The Star* is a weekly magazine issued every Friday. *Lifestyle* is a weekly lifestyle and fashion tabloid available on every Tuesday. *Rising Stars*, a weekly tabloid-size addition for young people, is published on every Thursday. *Law and Our Rights* is a weekly postscript based on legal consequences published on every Saturday. *Forum* is a monthly magazine, edited by Shah Husain Imam, brought out by the newspaper.

Now I am giving a brief idea about *Star Campus*, where I did my internship. *The Daily Star* offers campus-based weekly magazine '*Star Campus*' which is the ultimate magazine for the young generation. Basically this magazine is a widespread platform for the college and university students and academicians to share their thoughts, ideas, views, dreams, opinions, etc. *Star Campus* is an endeavor to bring into the centre stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends, and their multidimensional talents. *Star Campus* is a magazine broadly based on campus life. It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, jokes, cartoons, photographs, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campuses, and much more. This is a magazine "Of the Students, by the Students and for the Students." *Star Campus* helps to link young minds together. *Star Campus* is published with thirty two pages on every Sunday. The Editor and publisher of *Star Campus* is Dilshad Elita Karim. Sarah Z Haque, Sumaiya Ahsan Bushra, Yamin Tauseef Jahangir and Sameeha Suraiya work there as sub-editors in the *Star Campus* Team. There are also some other people who contribute to this magazine. For example, SK. Enamul Haque works as a photographer; Nuruzzaman Noor works for Graphics and Layout; Hasan Imam Shiplu works as a graphic editor; and Sagar Sen Gupta is the Graphic Operator. Also, Sher Ali works there as an Advertisement Manger, Abu Masud Bulbul is the Circulation Manger and Selim S.H. Chowdhury is the Production Manger.

Working for *Star Campus*

My dream came true while I got the opportunity to work at *Star Campus*. There my onside supervisor was Dilshad Elita Karim who is the editor and publisher of *Star Campus*. Throughout my internship the editor encouraged and appreciated my work that raised my confidence level. She always suggested me how to make a story or article in an interesting and innovative way. She also helped me in case of editing any article. My colleagues from *Star Campus* Team also helped me a lot during my internship. They introduced me with the members from the other departments of *The Daily Star*. I was the only intern in *Star Campus*. There were also some people who work as contributors. During my internship, all of these people supported and helped me so much. During our leisure time we shared our opinion and ideologies to each other. We always discussed about how to make the upcoming issues in a more innovative and eye-catching way. From the sub-editors I got to know the difference between photo credit and photo courtesy. Like the other members from *Star Campus*, the editor also told me to go and see the making procedure of *Star Campus*. It was quite interesting to me because before my internship I did not get the opportunity to see the making of any newspaper or magazine. One of the sub-editors Sumaiya Ahsan Bushra always asked me for my opinion about the color, photographs, background, title, page setting, and so on for the making procedure. During the making session, sometimes we had to edit and cut down some paragraphs in order to set them in one page. Sometimes the Editor asked me to write any article which comes from my mind immediately. In that situation I had to keep in mind the topics relevant to university campuses.

Similarities between Theoretical Knowledge in Books and Practical

Experience at *Star Campus*

During my internship, I had to do different types of activities such as editing, interviewing people, article writing, report covering in case of any assignments etc. For these activities I had to keep in mind the theories that I have learned in my media courses. These courses helped me much in my work place.

I did six major courses. They are *Copy Editing*, *Copy Writing*, *English for Print Media*, *Translation Studies*, *Cultural Studies*, and *Globalization*. From these courses *Copy Editing*, *English for Print Media*, and *Translation Studies* helped me most. There were some theories relevant to my internship activities. For example in our *Copy Editing* and *English for Print Media* courses, our instructor Mr. Mahtab Haider told us about “lead” whilst writing any article. By lead we understand five Ws and one H which are **who, what, when, where** and sometimes **why** and **how** of the story. From Wynford Hicks’ book *Writing for Journalists* we can see that there are six questions in case of news writing. They are:

“Kipling’s six questions - who, what, how, where, when, why – are a useful checklist for news stories, and it’s certainly possible to write an intro that includes them all. The much-quoted textbook example is:

Lady Godiva (WHO) rode (WHAT) naked (HOW) through the streets of Coventry (WHERE) yesterday (WHEN) in a bid to cut taxes (WHY).

This is facetiously called the clothesline intro – because you can hang everything on it.” (Wynford 15)

In general, the six questions should all be answered somewhere in the story. But there are exceptions. For instance, “in a daily paper a reporter may have uncovered a story several days late. They will try to support it with quotes obtained ‘yesterday’; but there is no point in emphasizing to readers that they are getting the story late. So the exact date on which an event took place should not be given unless it is relevant” (Wynford 15).

So our instructor Mr. Mahtab Haider advised us that the six questions should be kept as a checklist. He told us that, “when you have written a news story, check whether you have failed to answer one of the questions that weakened your story.” But if there is no point in answering a particular question, do not bother to answer it. But from all these six questions “who and what” are obviously essential. For example one of my articles, which was published on 30th of January, was about “Inauguration of HSBC Young Entrepreneurship Awards 2011.” In this article I applied the six questions, given as follows:

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited (What) in Bangladesh (Where) inaugurated the Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA) 2011 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, in Dhaka (Where) on January 19, 2011(When). Essentially this is a business plan competition for undergraduate students (Why).

There are also some other theories which I found relevant for my internship, “Inverted Pyramid” is one of them. From Hicks’ book, we learnt that:

“The purpose of the pyramid is to show that the points in a news story are made in descending order of importance. News is written so that readers can stop reading when they have satisfied their curiosity - without worrying that something important is being

held back. To put it another way, news is written so that sub-editors can cut stories from the bottom up – again, without losing something important.”(Wynford 16)

In our Print Media course our instructor Mr. Mahtab Haider let us know that some stories do not fit the pyramid idea like others, but it remains a useful starting point for news writing.

During my internship, I had to write some articles as well as editing the contributor’s articles. On that case, the “Inverted Pyramid” helped me greatly.

By “Inverted Pyramid”, we understand that, in this style of writing an article, the vital information comes at the top, the less important information comes at the middle, and the least essential information comes at the bottom of an article. Thus, through keeping these things in my mind, I also applied these lessons in the practical field while writing or editing any articles.

In our Print Media course, we also learnt about how to write “Names and Titles” in a piece of news or a story. From the book of Sally Adams we learnt that,

“The convention in journalism is full name (‘John/ John Smith’) for the first use, then either courtesy title (‘Mr/ Mrs/ Miss/ Ms Smith’) or surname or first name for the rest of the story. Remember, be consistent: never follow ‘John Smith’ by ‘Mr Smith’ then ‘John’. Again, variation for its own sake irritates the reader.” (Sally 42)

Though I did not write any features, I had to edit them. In that case Print Media course helped me a lot. From the books by Wynford Hicks and Sally Adams we learnt that the features can be of four categories:

“1. Profiles

(a) Of individual people, usually based on interviews, which can be written in the first person, ghosted or reported (third person) edited down from atapeinto Q & As in reply to set questions.

If the subject is dead, these become obits (written by acquaintance, admirer, or cobbled together from clippings).

(b) Of two or more people or groups; again these can be from interviews, or clippings-assisted.

2. Product Stories: about one product/ round up of many, described, compared, tested.

3. Background feature: This puts news in context.

4. Opinion Pieces: leaders/ editorials think pieces, columns, diaries.” (Sally 49)

Another important thing for writing stories and editing is trimming sentences. In the Copy Editing course I learnt how to trim wordy phrases in a concise way. This helped me a lot in case of editing newsroom articles because *Star Campus* follows a word limit for the newsroom articles.

Wordy Phrase	Concise
12 noon	Noon
3 am in the morning	3 am
A total of 14 birds	14 birds
Biography of her life	Biography

Circle around	Circle
Close proximity	Proximity
Consensus of opinion	Consensus
Cooperate together	Cooperate
Each and every	Each
Enclosed herewith	Enclosed
End result	Result
Exactly the same	the same
In spite of the fact that	Although
New innovations	Innovations
There is no doubt but that	No doubt

There are also some other theories which are relevant to my practical field activities. I am incorporating them in my further work.

My Published Work

Like all the magazines, there are also some segments in the “*Star Campus*” magazine like News Room, Spotlight Writing, Feature Writing, News Snap, Trends, Workshop, Seminar, Debate, Campus Edibles, Lifestyle, Silly Tales, Star Chat, etc. However, these segments do not always remain the same. They change to reflect contemporary issues. As it might bore people to see the same section of writing, “*Star Campus*” always tries to come with some new ideas including the segments such as star chat, silly tales, experience, distant diary, campus edibles and so on.

During my internship I was assigned for report covering and writing on seminars, competitions, exhibitions, campus edibles and convocation sections.

My first two assignments for competition sections were on “Inauguration of HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards 2011” and “The Art of Fearless Speaking”. In case of writing these two articles at first I had to go to Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, and Democracywatch, in Dhaka for covering the whole events as well as interviewing people. Moreover, I had to go there to ask them for the photographs of the event because without photographs “*Star Campus*” does not publish any article.

In our *Copy Editing* and *English for Print Media* courses, our instructor Mr. Mahtab Haider told us about lead while writing any article. By lead we understand the five Ws and One H which are “who, what, when, where and often why and how of the story. Another important lesson I learnt from these courses is “Inverted Pyramid”. By “Inverted Pyramid” we understand that, in this style of writing an article, the vital information comes at the top, the less important information comes at the middle and the least essential information comes at the bottom of the article. So

through keeping in mind I also applied these lessons in the practical field while writing the articles. The articles that I wrote are given as follows:

Example 1:

Inauguration of HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards 2011

Tahmina Bintey Ahmed

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited in Bangladesh inaugurated the Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA) 2011 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, in Dhaka on January 19, 2011. Essentially this is a business plan competition for undergraduate students.



Photo:HSBC

YEA 2011 aims to promote “creativity and innovation sharpen the business knowledge of young students beyond their borders.” The conference started with a welcome address by Mr Sami A Hafij, Corporate Sustainability and Sponsorships Manager of HSBC, Bangladesh. Mr Iftekhar Hasan, Manager, Public Affairs, Mr Aditya Narayan Singh Deo, Head of Human Resources, Mr Sanjay Prakash, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh and Sababa Islam, from the winning team of YEA 2010 were present.

“I am delighted that one of our dreams came true. YEA will harness creative ideas and provide real-life exposure to the future entrepreneurs of the country,” said Sanjay Prakash, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh. “HSBC, Bangladesh has been organising the competition in the country since 2006. Every year, teams from Bangladesh have done exceptionally well at the Asia regional finale,” he added.

YEA is a yearly, provincial contest intended to promote young people to exhibit their originality, attain an extensive series of practical business knowledge and skills, and gives a free rein to the power of their prospective.

“Conquering YEA is a life changing experience for me,” commented Sababa Islam, subjugator of YEA 2010.

Contestants form teams of two or three, present their indispensable business schemes online, and then get through a string of workshops and competitive rounds. Apart from being adjudicator on their resourcefulness, business planning and presentation skills, competitors are sanctioned with crucial proficiencies in the workplace and habitual life, such as business plan writing skills, communication and presentation skills, creative thinking and public speaking procedures.

The contest is untied to permanent Bangladeshi undergraduate students. Applicants must form teams of two or three members. One partaker cannot be a member of more than one team. Each team is permitted to present only one proposal.

The regional finale of YEA 2011 will be graded by the involvement of winners from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Shanghai, Philippines, Brunei and Bangladesh.

The competition commences with each team of two or three members submitting a business plan at the YEA website (www.asiayea.com) by 10 February 2011. After the first two levels of screening and workshops on entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, seven paramount teams will go on to demonstrate their plans to a jury of experts.

Seven best ideas from seven preeminent teams will be trained and groomed by communication experts. They will be tempted to formally present their business plans in front of a panel of judges. In this round, final estimations will be made and the Bangladeshi level winners will be proclaimed.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze winners from Bangladesh will win prize money of BDT 75000, 45000 and 34000 respectively. The three teams will also take part in a study tour to Hong Kong where the best team will contend in the regional grand finale in June 2011. The Gold team from Bangladesh will compete against the Gold teams from other Asian countries.

YEA winners from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Shanghai, Philippines and Brunei will also participate in the finale.

My second published article was about an orientation program which was called English Speaking Union (ESU) Public Speaking Competition 2011, held on 29th January at Democracywatch in Dhaka. Basically it was a briefing session for International Public Speaking Competition 2011 arranged by ESU Bangladesh. The program sustained for three hours. I covered the whole event and after the program I took interview from Ms. Asma Ali, Member of Executive Committee ESU, Bangladesh and Mr. Shahidul Mamun, Director of Pracchyanat School of Acting and Design and also the trainer of the last year competition. The article is given as follows:

Example 2:

The Art of Fearless Speaking

Tahmina Bintey Ahmed

“There can be no fairer ambition than to excel in talk; to be affable, gay, ready, clear, and welcome” said Robert Louis Stevenson, the Scottish novelist. For some people are very apprehensive when it comes to public speaking. However public speaking can develop personal confidence that promotes self-worth and for this to happen, one needs a lot of practice and self-belief. Through practice a person will be able to stand in front of people, express him or her thoughts in an organised and fluent manner. The English Speaking Union (ESU) is providing the opportunity to young people across the country to participate in a Public Speaking Competition and showcase their talent.



courtesy : Democracywatch

According to the ESU International office, the International Public-Speaking Competition (IPSC) will be held in London this year from May 23 to 27. Hence, ESU Bangladesh has decided to organise this competition at the national level. This time the theme of the five minute public speaking competition is “Lessons for the Future”. The participants will be trained at Democracy Watch in Dhaka, which is a non political and a non profit-making trust, established in 1995.

The orientation of ESU Public Speaking Competition was held on January 29, 2011 at the Democracy Watch in Dhaka. The programme started with a welcome address by Asma Ali, member of the executive committee of ESU. The briefing session was conducted by Shahidul Mamun, director of Pracchyanat School of Acting and Design. Mizanur Rahman, student of Bangladesh Institute of Military Studies (BIMS) and also one of the two finalists from Bangladesh who presented his speech in the United Kingdom in 2010, gave a well-presented description of his experience in public speaking and his visit to the UK in the summer of 2010. Participants from BRAC University, North-South University, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, State University of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Institute of Military Studies (BIMS), Mastermind School and Cephalon International School also attended the event.

ESU is dedicated to creating international understanding and to endorse human triumph through the worldwide use of English language. “The ESU was set up with the understanding that English is an International language and also the most communicative means of interaction throughout the world,” said Asma Ali.

ESU also focuses on key current affairs issues through regular international conference, seminars and meetings. It also provides and creates cultural activities. “If you are a speaker, you will be welcomed for public speaking,” said Shahidul Mamun during the briefing session. “Gesture is

very important for public speaking," he elaborated. Asma Ali also made suggestions to the participants. "Stick to your accent. The judges must know that you are from Bangladesh".

The speech will be abided by a two minute question and answer round. ESU Bangladesh will send two candidates to participate at the international event in London for the competition. The eventual winners will receive the prizes from the HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at the Buckingham Palace in mid-November 2011.

The national level competition 2011 will be a one day event to be held on Saturday, February 26, 2011. The programme will begin at 10 am and may require three to four hours depending upon the number of participants. The Participants will have to register their names by 15 February 2011.

The competition is open to all Bangladeshi students aged between 16 to 20 year old full time students. The competitor will be spared by his or her institution in order to participate in the international meet in London from 23rd to 27th May, 2011.

So in case of writing these two articles, the lesson I learnt from my *Copy Editing*, *Copy Writing* and *English for Print Media* helped me a lot to solve the difficulties of writing an article. Especially "Inverted Pyramid" and "lead writing" help me to write in a structured way.

My third published work was "6th Convocation of BRAC University". It was a great experience for me to cover the convocation of my University. As the surrounding and most of the people was known to me, it was quite an easy job to cover such a great occasion. I was so excited since the Editor, Elita Karim assigned me to cover the convocation, and so I started thinking about the title of the article before going there. The article is given as follows:

Example 3

Entering a New World

Tahmina Bintey Ahmed

“So why would you care, to get out of this place, you and me and all our friends, such a happy human race ... As we all go our separate ways” - Dave Mathews Band.

Graduation is the time to look fondly upon memories made over the past four years. All of us have our own memories which we hold close to our hearts; some make us grin whenever reflected upon. Graduation is also the time to look ahead with anticipation at what the future may have in store for us. It is also a time to stop and think about the next destination. Once the hats and gowns are taken off, one is thrust into a world that is largely unfamiliar to a graduating student.



Courtesy : BRAC

The sixth convocation of BRAC University, held on February 7, 2011 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre was the culmination of many heartfelt dreams. Minister, Education, Nurul Islam Nahid, was present as the chief guest while Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and an environmental activist, was the convocation speaker. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed was present as special guest. BRAC University Vice Chancellor, Prof Ainun Nishat inaugurated the event whereas BRAC University Pro-VC Prof Md Golam Samdani Fakir delivered the welcome address. Students along with their proud parents, faculty members and guests also attended the convocation ceremony. The programme began with the national anthem and the BRAC University anthem.

Nurul Islam Nahid, in his speech, foregrounded the magnitude of tertiary education. “The top priority for universities, along with giving a quality education, is that of 'creating values' and this is where I am very impressed with BRAC University's stated goal of 'creating ethical leaders'. Excellence in education means conducting research in all the fields,” he said. He highlighted several steps taken by the present government, admitting the endorsement of the Private University Act 2010, which aimed to improve the quality of education in the country.

Mary Robinson focused on climate justice while delivering her speech. Addressing to the graduates she said, “As you have been studying in a country regarded as highly vulnerable to climate change, you are of the generation which will need to grapple with this huge 21st century challenge in a way that my generation and generations before me have failed to do.” She added, “I would hope that BRAC University will be seen over time as one of the leading universities in the world on climate justice.”

The chairperson, Board of Trustees, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said, "Our vision behind setting up BRAC University was to provide broad-based learning that leads to critical thinking and the ability to accommodate a diversity of perspectives. Over the course of the last decade, the university has made remarkable progress in fulfilling that vision."

A total of 497 students including 309 in undergraduate and 188 in postgraduate were given certificates at the 6th convocation. Shammur Absar Chowdhury from Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Electrical Engineering and Morsheda Chowdhury from Master of Public Health obtained the Award of Chancellor's Gold Medal. By permission of the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor then commanded over the second session, where the highest CGPA holders from each department were presented with the Vice Chancellor's gold medal, and individual students were handed their degree certificates. A few graduates gushed about the immense joy they were feeling and simultaneously said how much they were going to miss their campus where they had spent four cherished years and had made countless memories and numerous close friends. For the parents, it was a proud moment to see their children walk up to the stage, amidst loud cheers from their peers and much adulation from their mentors, to receive their degrees from the honourable Vice Chancellor.

Once Elita Karim told me that she wanted to add a new section in "*Star Campus*", which is called "Campus Edibles". In this section she asked me and my other colleagues to write stories about the campus food provided by different university cafeterias. As I am a student of BRAC University, she asked me to write an article about BRAC University Café amid its food. She also asked me to take some really good pictures of the café along with the food. This assignment was quite interesting because after a while I got the opportunity to write an article about my University surroundings. I went to BRAC University as I needed to take some information as well as interview some people. First of all I took some vital information from the Mamas (who serve the food) about the food. Elita Karim sent a photographer Rezoan Hossain Ratul to capture photos of the cafeteria. Then I interviewed some students and asked for permission to take their photos while they were having food. I asked them some questions about the food, the decoration and environment of the cafeteria, the price of the food (whether they are reasonable or not?), etc. After taking all these pieces of information I wrote an article and titled it "BRACU Cafe: A

Foodie's Haven". Both the articles and photos were highly appreciated by the Editor, Elita Karim. "*Star Campus*" published my article "BRACU Cafe: A Foodie's Haven" in their 10th April's issue. The article is given below:

Example 4

BRACU Cafe: A Foodie's Haven

Tahmina Bintey Ahmed



The famous bhuna khichuri and shingara are specially liked by BRACU students.
Photo: Rezoan Hossain Ratul

The cafeteria is a place to relax after dragging hours of classes. Filled with a lot of drama and action, a cafeteria is a part and parcel of a student's life. The BRAC University Cafeteria or the BRACU Cafeteria bustles with students and activities all day and most of the times, late into the evenings as well. Adjacent to it is the Indoor Games Room, with provisions to play table tennis, carom and chess.

BRACU Café offers munchies starting from fast food to filling meals. For breakfast, the café whips up parata, chana daal, aloo dum, halua, bhaji, vegetables, omelette, and much more.

During the breaks between classes, there are always those delicious snacks such as shingara, samosa, dim aloo chop, jali kabab and much more.



The daily fast bites
Photo: Rezoan Hossain Ratul



Scrumptious pakoras
Photo: Rezoan Hossain Ratul

During lunch hour, a busy time, students eat plain rice, bhuna kichuri, chicken curry, tanduri chicken, plain naan, garlic naan, dal, vegetables, mutton curry, plain pulao, fried rice, beef tehari, fried chicken, noodles, mixed vegetables, chicken bhuna, roast and so much more. Besides, Bracu café arranges set menus at reasonable prices. Wonthon, khejur roll, dal puri, keema puri, vegetable rolls, chicken sandwich, club sandwich, chicken burgers, beef burgers, chicken drumsticks, hotdogs, muglai parata, plain cake, firni, chatpati, fuchka, halim and much more are available for evening snacks. The famous bhuna khichuri and shingara are specially liked by the students due to their unique tastes and easy-to-handle nature. Moreover, one can also enjoy soft drinks and ice-creams at the café. Tea, masala tea and coffee are the all time favorite drinks that you can sip on your way back to class. "I usually prefer coming here (Bracu Café) for lunch because I think it is the most suitable place in the whole area of Mohakhali!" says Saad M Ehsan, a student of BRAC Business School. "The food is hygienic and also priced reasonably."



The snacks that keep a student going
Photo: Rezoan Hossain Ratul

Surrounded by trees, a canteen called Prangon” is also present in this impressive environment providing a variety of snacks to the students at reasonable rates. Here, students can spend their leisure time by playing guitar or playing carom. They also come here to do their assignments or group projects while having tea or coffee. There is also another canteen located at another building of the university. Here, the tiny shingaras are extremely popular with the students. Dim alu chop, rolls of many kinds, jali kabab, tea and coffee are also available here. An ex-student of BRAC University, Arafat Shuvo, exclaimed with excitement when asked about the environment of Prangon, "I have never found such a place anywhere -- a variety of food is available for us at a very reasonable price. I love to have tea or coffee under the shadow of these trees".



Conversations flow freely around plates of steaming khichuri

Photo: Rezoan Hossain Ratul

“I like to have daal puri with tea during the afternoon. But mostly, I like the 'Mamas' (who serve the food) here. They are very friendly and most importantly trustworthy,” says Mushira Habib, Teaching Assistant and also an ex-student of BRAC University.

Generally during the lunch time, the café remains over crowded with both teachers and students. While some are busy with assignments and projects, other are busy browsing on their laptops, thanks to the wi-fi zone inside the café.

Most of the students opine that the cafeteria is the only place where they can feel free to share their feelings with their friends. The café assists to ramp up unity within them. During the world cup seasons, for both cricket and football, they all come and sit together to watch the game. Despite the crowds and the crammed-up environment inside, the café seems to be celebrating the power of youth at all times.

My next published article was “IFAD IUB Inter-Varsity Debating Championship 2011”. The article is given below:

Example 5

IFAD IUB Inter-Varsity Debating Championship 2011

Tahmina Bintey Ahmed

Debating is probably one of the best learning tools that you could possibly have. No matter what profession you choose, you will need to know how to debate. Even for an entrepreneur, advertisements are nothing more than a form of debate with competitors. Constructive disagreement is classified as a serious skill, one that few truly possess. Groups of people with varying perspectives, experiences and ideas are time after time found to be more effective at solving problems than groups of homogeneous experts.



Courtesy : IUB

Independent University Bangladesh Debate Club (IUBDC) organised a three-day inter-varsity debate tournament, titled the 'IFAD IUB Inter-Varsity Debating Championship 2011,' which began last Friday with 24 university teams. A total of 66 debaters from IBA, IUT, BUET, NSU, UIU and IUB took part in the tournament that was sponsored by the IFAD group.

“Debate is one of the most powerful learning tools. To me, debates do not imply anger or personal attacks, but rather passionate and civil discussions on issues that concern us all,” stressed the University's Vice Chancellor, Professor M. Omar Rahman, chief guest at the launching ceremony. “The objective of debate is to create a rational society where all would be able to exercise free thinking. With this objective in mind, we organised this event and we hope debaters of this tournament will advance this process.” He added.

The campus bore a festive look while teachers and students from different departments also participated in the programme. Dr. M. Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor In-charge, Shaiful Islam, Moderator and Ipshitt Tarafdar, Convenor IUB IV, President IUBDC were present, delivering their respective speeches.

The club provided workshops on Asians format debating practices and all the rules that the Asian format debating follows. The committee comprises of students under the moderation of Mr. Shaiful Islam, Lecturer at the Department of English at IUB.

The motion of the semifinal was West should arm Burmese militia and for the final was form an ethical commission with legal enforcement authority for violation of ethical conducts by politicians.

The finale was held on April 24 at Multi Purpose Hall, IUB campus. The teams who won their way to the final round were NSU 3 and NSU 1. Nabil Azad Chowdhury, Jasia Haider and Naveed Adnan represented NSU 3 while Faria Ahmed, Javed Adnan, Kaiser Kabir represented NSU 1.

Dr M. Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor In-charge, Mr Taskeen Ahmed, DMD IFAD Group, all top IUB management and faculty were Chief Guests in the final round.

The competition was adjudicated by a panel of seven judges who elected the teams on ballot. The judges cast their votes to the respective teams on the basis of the justification of their stand, speaking ability of the debaters, promptness, etc. The tournament used TABIT (BDC tabteam) to run the software that determines the matchups of the teams. Tanvir Hafiz was the leading Tab Director of the tournament.

After the most exciting and thrilling final round, NSU3 became the conqueror. Nabil Azad Chowdhury, Jasia Haider and Naveed Adnan are the people who had been constantly on their toes throughout the tournament. Best Speaker of the Final was Kasier Kabir. The media partner of the event was "The Independent".

Such kinds of competitions can be a strong platform for the young creative thinkers to approach collectively and split knowledge. These types of healthy competitions not only encourage the young students, but also unveil the best thinkers in the country, in turn prompting others to move forward.

My next published work was "Inter School Science Fair & Art Competition 2011" organized by Gregorian Science and Art Club at St. Gregory's High School, which continued for three days (March 27 to 29, 2011). Elita Karim told me to cover only the Prize Giving Ceremony, which was held on 29th of March. This time Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest. The Special Guest was Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Former Hon'ble Adviser to the Caretaker Government and also Former Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. I got the chance to see the science projects made by the young scientists. I interviewed some of the students. I covered the event till the prize giving ceremony. It was a great experience for me to attend and cover such an event. After covering the event I wrote an article. But this time I faced some trouble while translating the

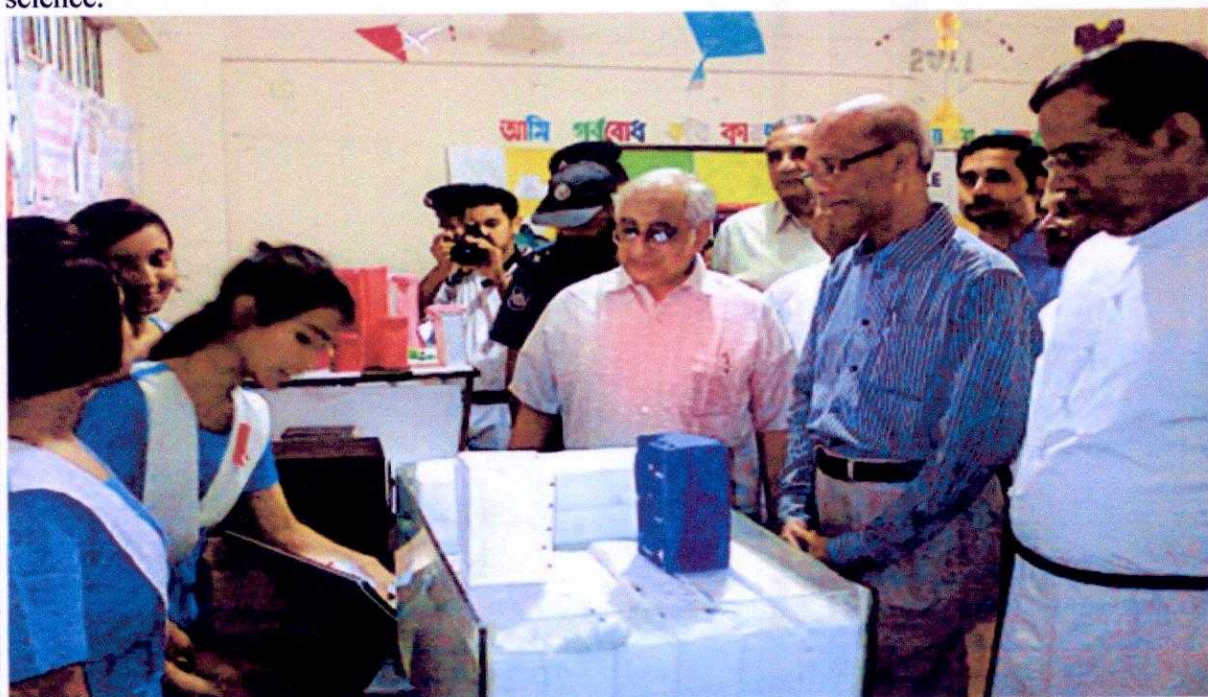
speeches given by the guests because they gave their speeches in Bangla. So I had to translate their speeches from Bangla to English. The article is given as follows:

Example 6

Exhibiting the Young Scientists

Tahmina Bintey Ahmed

Every year, the Gregorian Science Club (GS) organised a grand science fair, which began in 1964. There was a time when the whole city of Dhaka would blend into the festive mood at St. Gregory's. A huge number of people visit the fair every year. More than half the number of students gets busy with their science projects and preparing their displays to the guests and visitors. Every year, the fair is organised after the first terminal exams and before the summer vacations to give students an ample amount of time to prepare their projects. The fair usually kicks off for three days where the projects are judged by science teachers of other schools and colleges on the second day. GSC is one of the oldest and active clubs of St. Gregory. It was founded by Brother Donald Becker followed by Brother Hobart and Mrinal Kanti Dey, who was the moderator during that period. Brother Donald, with his single laboratory, but a powerhouse of energy and boost, would encourage the students towards learning more science.



Participants explaining their project to the guests, *Courtesy: ST. Gregory High School*

After the three-day long inter-school festival, the prize giving ceremony of St. Gregory's Inter School Science Fair and Art Exhibition 2011 was held on March 29 in the school premises. The Education Minister, Nurul Islam Nahid distributed prizes as the chief guest among the winners. Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, former adviser to the Caretaker Government was present as a special guest. Reverend Paulinus Costa, Archbishop of Dhaka Archdiocese presided over the programme. The fair was inaugurated by Brother Robi Purification, Headmaster and Secretary of St. Gregory's High School on March 27.

This time from 735 young scientists, 205 science projects were selected from St. Gregory High School, St. Francis Xavier's Girls' High School, Central Girls' High School, Kamrunnesa Girls' High School, Hasnabad High School, Bangla Bazaar Government Girls' High School, Dhaka Collegiate School and from other renowned schools. These projects were divided into groups as Kids Group (Class 3 to 4), Junior Group (Class 5 to 6), Intermediate Group (Class 7 to 8) and Senior Group (Class 9 to 10).

The management committee arranged 188 prizes for the competitors. The fair was untied for the audience from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Besides the fair, Mathematics Olympiad, Chemistry Olympiad, Physics Olympiad and Biology Olympiad were also organised from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm.



Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid speaking to the participants, *Courtesy: ST. Gregory High School*

Interviewing

Interviewing is one of the most crucial and often the most threatening jobs in journalism. According to Wynford Hicks, "Interviewing is the central activity in modern journalism. It is now the main means by which reporters and feature writers gather their material" (Wynford 1). In our Print Media course we learnt that most interviewers try to achieve one or more of the following goals:

1. Obtain the interviewees' knowledge about the topic
2. Obtain the interviewees' opinion or feelings about the topic
3. Feature the interviewee as the subject

Our instructor told us that it is important to know exactly why someone is conducting an interview and which goal he or she is aiming for. He also suggested us to stay focused on questions and techniques in case of achieving the goal of interviewing.

From the book *Interviewing for Journalists* by Sally Adams and Wynford Hicks I also learnt that, "Successful interviewing is based on preparedness – being ready for anything and everything that might happen. This is a state of mind that comes from confidence: confidence based firmly on forethought, planning and research" (Sally 17).

Taking interviews for news stories is an important skill for any journalist. In our Print Media course our instructor Mr Mahtab Haider told us "to start for taking an interview, do as much research as you can and organize a list of questions to ask. Once the interview starts, try to set up a link with your source, but don't waste your time. If your source starts to roam on about things

that are clearly of no use to you, don't be afraid to gently but confidently push the discussion back to the topic at hand." There are some tools that can help anyone before going to take interview:

Using of notebooks and recorders:

A reporter's notebook and a pen or pencil are the easy-to-use, conventional tools of the interviewing job, while recorders enable someone to get literally everything someone says, such as word-for-word. According to Wynford Hicks, "Tape makes a verbatim record possible and also enables the interviewer to concentrate on what the interviewee is actually saying, keeping eye contact" (Wynford 3).

Using of different approaches for different types of interviews:

As there are many diverse kinds of news stories, there are many different kinds of interviews. It is essential to get the right approach or tone, depending on the type of the interview. The casual and relaxed approach is best while someone is doing a "man-on-the-street" interview. Regular people are often nervous when approached by a reporter. But an "all-business" attitude is useful when interviewing people who are familiar to conduct with reporters.

Taking outstanding notes:

Many beginning reporters claim that with a notebook and pen they can never take down everything a source says in an interview and thus they become exhausted about writing swift enough in order to get quotes accurately. To avoid such kinds of dilemmas our instructor Mr Mahtab Haider told us "you always want to obtain the most detailed notes possible. But remember, you are not a stenographer. You don't have to take down completely everything a source says. Keep in mind that you are possibly not going to use everything they say in your story. So don't be anxious if you miss some things here and there."

Selecting best quotations:

From Wynford Hicks' book I got to know that, "Recognize that quotes- and luck- count. Learn to ask good questions in a way that encourages good quotes" (Wynford 9). After taking interviews a journalists' duty is to write down the article or story including the quotes taken from the source. As there are limitations in using quotations he or she has to pick up some really good quotes which are relevant to the topic of the article. A journalist or reporter can add lengthy quotation if he or she thinks that it's really interesting and eye-catching to the readers.

I was fortunate that before entering the practical job, I had some experience about how to take interviews. In our *English for Print Media* course, our instructor Mahtab Haider took us for visits as well as assigned us to interview people. He gave us several assignments regarding some practical issues on article writing through interviewing administrative level people as well as general people. For this reason, during my internship I did not have to worry about interviewing people. Before going to any event I jotted some basic questions in my notebook. But sometimes I got the answers to my questions through the speakers' speeches in the events. I collected answers to the remaining questions through interviewing the target people.

During our Print media course our instructor Mr Mahtab Haider told us about writing negative things in positive ways. The reason is that often it is not possible to represent the truth in case of some articles. For example, while I was assigned to write about BRAC University cafeteria, I had to interview some students. Unfortunately many of them were expressing their extreme dislike about the cafeteria. They were very depressed about the food, service, atmosphere, price, etc. As the article was supposed to represent BRAC University cafeteria I could not simply write

down the negative statements or quotations in my article. So I had to present the negative comments in positive ways while writing my article.

During my internship I had to take several interviews. Once I interviewed one student of Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) for a story titled "IFAD IUB Inter-Varsity Debating Championship 2011". This article was on the debating competition, which was organized by the Independent University Bangladesh Debate Club (IUBDC). I interviewed Ipsitt Tarafdar, Convenor IUB IV, and President IUBDC for this debating competition. The interview part is given below

Interview of the President of IUBDC

Question: Which institutions were participated in this competition?

Answer: The participating institutions were IUB, NSU, IBA, IUT, BUET, and UIU.

Question: Which team or University won?

Answer: NSU 3 is the winning team.

Question: What were the motions?

Answer: The motions were based on recent social, political, economical, war and environmental issues.

Question: Which debating format was applied?

Answer: Workshop had Asians format debating practices and all the rules that the Asian

format debating follows.

Question: What were the procedures to select the winning team?

Answer: The tournament used TABIT (BDC tabteam) to run the software that determines the matchups of the teams. Tanvir Hafiz was the leading Tab Director of the tournament. The selection was based on the merit of the speeches by both the judges gives there verdict.

Editing

Editing implicates fast and exact detail checking. Editing a newspaper or magazine article is a major task that necessitates an enthusiastic eye for detail and a well-built grasp of how words and phrases should be appropriately applied. Anyone who is editing an article should also be aware of likely factual mistakes. In our *English for Print Media* class our instructor Mr Mahtab Haider taught us some tricks and techniques about editing articles. He told us to run the article by a spell check program, if possible, to check the article for spelling errors. If there's no spell check available, use a dictionary to find doubtful words. Incorrect spellings can take place in all types of words, from ones with difficult spellings, like daiquiri, to simple ones like cemetery. Even miniature conjunctions like 'and' and 'but' can rarely be misspelled if the writer is stepping up or does not proofread his or her work. A general rule of checking or editing is, if the word doesn't look right, look it up.

He also told us to read the story for grammatical errors. No matter how minor the grammatical errors are, they can weaken a story's reliability and divert from the overall message a story is attempting to express. While reading the story, one should make sure that there is no confusing words, such as unacceptable use of general terms like 'their,' 'they're,' 'affect,' 'effect,' 'your' and 'you're,' etc. He also told us to pay particular attention to words with apostrophes.

He also gave us some advice to look for syntax errors in the story. Prolonged sentences, sentence fragments and other types of dreadful sentence structures can not only confuse readers, but also give a false or misleading notion about the article. If a sentence is so confusing that it needs several readings to make sense, it should be edited for briefness and transparency.

He also instructed us to check the article for realistic faults. If anything in an article leaps out as being unusual or doubtful, one should confirm the facts by talking to the reporter.

He also instructed us about editing direct and indirect quotations. From the book *The Copyeditor's Handbook* by Amy Einsohn I learnt that, "The author of a manuscript is responsible for the accuracy of direct quotations from printed matter, interviews, and speeches. Rarely are copyeditors provided with the original documents and asked to verify (or spot-check) the word-by-word accuracy of quotations in a manuscript" (Einshon 196).

Whenever a direct quotation appears in a manuscript, copyeditors are expected to –

- "1. Query or correct any obvious spelling errors in the quotation
2. Call to the author's attention any odd wording within the quotation that suggests that words were mistyped, deleted, or otherwise miscopied
3. Enforce consistency in deciding which quotations are run into the text and which quotations are set off as extracts (block quotations)
4. Make sure that opening quotation marks have closing mates and that quotation marks within quotation marks are handled correctly
5. Make sure that the syntax of the quoted matter fits the surrounding text
6. Mark ellipsis points correctly and delete unnecessary ellipsis points ensure that the quotation is attributed to its source" (Einshon 196).

Throughout my internship, editing was my part of job. Through this job I got to know that editing is not an easy job, because an editor has to keep various aspects of writing in mind. During my internship period I edited different types of articles such as newsroom article,

spotlight article, feature, etc. On the first day of the second week, Elita Karim gave me some articles written by the contributors and told me to check the articles. I edited three articles; first one was "Enlightenment of young minds at LCBS", second one was "Attraction: Don't Blame Gravity" and the last one was "Knowledge is Admitting Ignorance- Quantum Perspective". All of the articles were well-written. So it was not that difficult to edit them. On the 5th week, I edited two features. One was "Discussion on 'Independence and National Day-2011' and Performance of a 'Street Drama'" and another was "Independence Day Blood Donation Programme at IUB". There were some problems in syntax in the first feature, which I had edited. In the second feature, there were many mistakes in syntax, spelling and semantics. On the 27th of February of the 7th week, I edited three articles. First one was "The Importance of Being Earnest", second one was "Making Breakthroughs" and another one was a newsroom article called "Fresher's Reception and Farewell". There were some grammatical and spelling mistakes in the newsroom article. I double-checked and corrected them. On the 1st of March, I edited two features; one was "An Anecdote of the Best Part of My Life" and another one was "Say Hello to Canada's West Coast". It was not that difficult to edit them because both of them were well written despite some mistakes in punctuation. I edited two newsroom articles. First one was "Reception and farewell held at JU" and the second one was "Orientation of BBA Spring Semester". The second one was not that difficult to correct. But the first one was quite difficult for me to edit because the correspondence wrote the article in Bangla. I especially had trouble in translating the designations of the guests from Bangla to English. One of the news room articles, edited by me, which was published is shown below:

Inter-School English Debate Competition

To encourage independent learning amongst students, Summerfield International School hosted a two day "Inter-School English Debate Competition" on February 5 and 6, 2011. The schools which participated in this competition were Maple Leaf, ESS, Dhanmondi Tutorial, Aga Khan, Scholastica, Universal Tutorial, Turkish Hope, St. Joseph, BIS, Siddiquis, Playpen, Vertical Horizon, Sunnysdale, Academia, and Summerfield International School.

The motions included concerns from various segments of the society such as social concerns under which the topic was related to women's rights and quotas for women in job; broader concerns was related with conducting posthumous trials and allowing placebo effects and the last motion was associated with the tyranny of Hosni Mubarak.

Tanvir Hafiz, of Bangladesh Debating Council was the chief adjudicator while the deputy chief adjudicators included Nayeem Kashem, also of Bangladesh debating Council and NSU, Tahsin Mahmood Jihad from IUT, and Gulsetyne Ahmed from BRAC. There were around 40 other adjudicators from different reputed universities of the city adding academic value to the event.

With a six to one split in the panel, the title went to The Aga Khan School, the five debaters being Sajeed Alam, Fahad Al Amer Khan, Zefroon Afsary, Suaida Firoze and Maisha Maliha Badhon. The Runners-Up title was earned by Dhanmondi Tutorial.

Mabroor Wassey, Chair of Bangladesh Debating Council graced the event as the chief guest and gave away the awards with Anjum Husain, Principal of Summerfield International School.

During my internship period I also edited some spotlight articles. One of the articles, which was published, is shown below:

Learning through Research

Zahidul Naim Zakaria

Everything is relative, including that which is considered common knowledge. Education evolves with time as theorists and academicians improve and build on existing knowledge and each discipline becomes richer and more diverse. Their findings are internalised in curricula and new knowledge, over time, becomes commonplace. And this enrichment is only possible through academic research. What we know today is not even remotely comparable to what we knew two decades ago, and over time, research tools, methods and data analysis software have become more sophisticated and in many cases, more easy to use. With newer areas of multidisciplinary work and newer global problems, the scope of research is expanding. Research output can serve as crucial input in policy making, and in simply testing which strategies are better than others. Universities and independent research bodies globally share such beliefs, and they support those that pursue research and knowledge building.

The South Asian Network on Development & Environmental Economics (SANDEE) and Economic Research Group (ERG) are two such organisations who jointly organised a research workshop on Natural Resource and Environmental Economics in Bangladesh. The workshop was held on a cruise boat travelling towards the Sundarbans. It was for five days, 2-6 March 2011, and one day was spent in sightseeing and exploring the forest. Sundarbans being simply the venue and not the focus of the workshop, the workshop was about environmental economics in general. It was truly a meeting of intellectual minds, teachers and students where research concepts were stripped to their bones and their impracticalities were revealed. SANDEE funds research work that is internationally competitive and assists researchers to develop their research ideas for funding and for publishing the output in journals. Researchers from various South Asian countries including Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan have carried out research under SANDEE grants.

The primary purpose of the workshop in Bangladesh was to build capacity in Bangladeshi researchers so that they can compete in the international arena, defend research concepts and win research grants. The workshop had a special emphasis on proposal writing.

The workshop began with Dr. A. K. Enamul Haque, Research Director at ERG and Professor at United International University, discussing the basic premise of research in Economics. He discussed the importance of underlying Economic theory since research methodology has to be built upon theory and it has to correspond to relevant literature. Economics as a subject uses a framework of analysis based on transactions between consumers and producers and so the analytical framework for a good research concept must be linked to this framework. Economics usually starts from the point of view of consumers or from the point of view of producers. However, this does not mean that research is restricted within the parameters of demand and supply.

The proposal writing process and the overall do-s and don't-s of research work was discussed at the workshop. Dr. Priya Shyamsundar, Programme Director of SANDEE, stressed the need to make the research interesting and for it to have a clear message or question that is logical and succinct. Above all, she urged researchers to try to tell a story, and not present facts without being able to connect them and develop the context. She stressed the need for good English in order to be able to communicate ideas coherently for international reviewers to comprehend.

Prior to the workshop, interested participants were asked to submit research concept notes within the boundaries of Natural Resource and Environmental Economics. Fourteen participants were selected for the workshops, who were either faculty members at public and private universities or research associates at research organisations and think-tanks. Research concepts selected for the workshop dealt with migration, soil salinity, value lost due to environmental pollution, fisheries, and various issues connected to climate change (such as intra-household food allocation, firm/labour productivity and food security).

Dr. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor at Goa University of India, discussed the Literature Review process with the participants. Before the review of relevant literature begins, researchers must choose wisely as to what is 'relevant'. And a paper is relevant not only for the issue that they deal with, but more importantly, for the methodology used. The existing literature is what provides the basis for arguing the viability of a research concept.

Survey methods were discussed by Dr. Mohammed Ziaul Haider, Associate Professor and Head of Economics, Khulna University. He also presented the elements of a good questionnaire. Sampling techniques were also talked about. He urged everyone to train enumerators properly since, in a research work using primary data, the lack of accuracy of the survey will make the research results void.

It was very interesting to hear about an actual research project from Dr. Mani Nepal, Sr. Environmental Economist of SANDEE and Associate Professor at Tribhuvan University of Nepal. He discussed minute details regarding econometric modelling, estimation and interpretation of results. The paper looked into finding the value of information in making a distinction between tube wells in Bangladesh that are arsenic contaminated and those that are not (red wells and green wells). As the research found, information did make a difference to many families and knowing the difference pushed them to switch, often at a greater cost. But, the research also discovered that many families still do not fully understand the distinction between red and green tube wells and some families simply don't react as they do not have alternative water sources. The problem with arsenic is that the impact is not instantaneous, and many villagers often don't worry too much about long-term risks.

The fourteen participants were led through the Sundarban forests after the first session of the workshop, which was held during the two day journey from Narayanganj to the Sundarban forest on a cruise ship. One day was spent in sightseeing and exploring the wilderness in the company of two forest guards and a very well-informed guide. As the participants walked through the forest and marveled at the greenery, birds and animals of the Sundarbans, they had the time to think and redesign their research concepts in their minds. On return to the ship after a recreational day, everyone went straight back to work. The next day, the ship would start its journey back and the second phase of the workshop would be underway where each member would present their concepts again. Armed with comments and suggestions, each concept was revised. The second round of presentations was much better, with greater confidence and with more practical ideas. But, as the resource persons reckoned, there was still a lot of work left to be done. The participants were encouraged to send in full-fledged proposals to SANDEE in the future.

Above all, the most important learning that participants took away from the workshop was the appropriate dimension of academic research. Understanding how specific the research question needs to be appeared to be a perennial problem with almost every single one of the participants. Mostly, they attempted to answer a question that was either too broad or too vague. For example, one study cannot investigate the impact of a given natural calamity on tourism, agriculture and fishing, unless it is undertaken by a large team with considerable resources.

This topic includes three studies at least, if not more! Research, in order to produce incontrovertible results, needs to answer specific and sharp questions. The research question needs to be appropriate given the context, it should be answerable given an understanding of theory and the methods to undertake the research need to be clear. Above all, these different components have to come together and tell a cohesive story. Research should ideally be specific enough to have a policy handle.

There is a tremendous need to build both the will and the capacity to do research in Bangladesh. Private Universities in our country hardly stress on research work. State regulation could play a vital role in this regard. But, unfortunately in Bangladesh, the regulator would rather push universities to gather more land and build their own campuses rather than push faculty members to engage in research. In a competitive world, acquisition and creation of new knowledge is an important requirement of economic progress. This can only be done if universities are required to publish research works regularly. Universities could be made to have a financial requirement that they must pledge as research funds. But until such actions are taken, we can only hope that independent research bodies such as SANDEE, ERG and others can give Bangladeshi and South Asians researchers a fighting chance to catch up with the academics of the rest of the world.

Some Formats that *Star Campus* Follows

After entering the practical field I got to know that there are some do's and don'ts in *Star Campus*. The editor and the sub-editors told me about some formats they follow in case of writing articles or editing. *Star Campus* always maintains British Spelling for example they use "organised" instead of "organized". In case of writing dates, they use February 7 instead of 7th February. They do not use 6th, they use sixth. For example: The sixth convocation of BRAC University. They do not begin a sentence with digits. They use approximately, nearly, around, about, roughly, etc. preceding the digits whenever they have to use digits before beginning a sentence. For newsroom article they always try to finish within 300 words. Within the writing they usually do not use bold or italic. They only use italic at the end of the features where they have to give the author's name and his or her membership or student identity. In newsroom article they eliminate all the quotations. Another important thing is designation. Most of the writers did common mistakes in case of writing designation. For example most of them wrote Prof. Dr. X. In that case the editor suggested me to keep either Prof. or Dr. with the names of the persons.

Making of *Star Campus*

As “*Star Campus*” is published on every Sunday, the *Star Campus* Team is always tied up with all their stuffs for preparing their upcoming issues. From my internship experience I observed that they prepare all the materials needed for the next issue by Tuesday. After the Sub-Editors submit their edited versions, Miss Dilshad Elita Karim the editor of *Star Campus* does the final checking of the articles, photos, etc. As I was also a part of the *Star Campus* Team during my internship, I could observe the making of the upcoming *Star Campus* magazine. The team of the *Star Campus* calls this process as “Make Up”. This procedure is called as such because this is the finishing touch of the magazine. There is a man called Mr Shoyeb who makes the final layout of the magazine. We gave him direction about the page set up, color, selection of pictures, etc. In that progression I noticed they selected photos very critically by focusing on color, resolution, etc. They also emphasized on photo credit and photo courtesy. They had to pay attention to the page setting and color. The most imperative thing was the making of the magazine cover. For some articles, I faced some problems. For instance some articles were required to be set in one page with a picture but they were too long to fit in one page. However, for this reason we had to check the article to remove the less important lines. Moreover, there were some newsroom articles that required similar work as the Editor wanted to arrange three newsroom articles in one page in the magazine. For illustration, one title was “The Annual Sports day of Dhaka Cantonment Girls’ Public School and College”. As there is no acronym of this College, we cannot write it like DCGPSC. So we decided to write the title as “The Annual Sports Day!” I also faced trouble with the articles that were too short to cover two pages. For this reason I had to

add more pictures to cover the two pages. After observing these activities I got to know that the making of a magazine is not an easy job.

Weekly Meeting

Before my joining the *Star Campus* as an intern, Elita Karim told me to attend their weekly meetings which take place usually on every Thursday. During the meeting session she shared her ideas with all the members of *Star Campus* about the upcoming subject matter of the magazine. As she was trying to bestow something different she also asked us for our suggestions. Before every weekly meeting she told us to come with some new thoughts as *Star Campus* always tries to add something innovative. In every meeting she asked us whether we have innovative ideas about programs, events, etc. In the end of every meeting she gave us tasks for the next issues. In the weekly meeting she also gave us the deadline of submitting. During the weekly meeting she also gave us feedback for our previous work and gave us advice for improving our upcoming work.

Challenges I Faced

While working at *Star Campus* I had to go to different places in case of covering any event. I also had to go to several places for interviewing people. Some of the places were familiar to me and some of the places were quite unknown to me. My editor always told me to reach in time before going for any assignments. As our city is jam-packed by traffic jam I had to maintain time. For instance if an event was supposed to begin at 5 pm I had to leave my home or university at 3 pm for my destination. I had to go to several places like Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Democracy Watch in Kakrail, Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB), Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, St. Gregory's High School, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, etc. to cover the events. In case of some assignments I was in trouble. For example, on the first day of the second week Elita Karim told me about the 4th Children Film Festival. Different organizations or institutions were showing these films. She asked me to select a convenient venue and time for watching the movie. As I was occupied for the whole week because of my classes and office, I decided to watch the film on Thursday at 6:30 pm at Bangladesh Shishu Academy. The movie I selected was called "Pasanga" and it was a Tamil film. She told me to watch the movie and interview the audience. She also asked me to write a review on "Pasanga". On Thursday I had to attend the weekly meeting and as I was assigned to watch the movie I had to leave from the office quickly. I was feeling a bit nervous because before the assignment I had never been there alone. But after going there I came to know that the authority decided to cancel the movie show. I did not understand why the movie show was cancelled. So I called and informed the editor and she told me to leave the place and go back home.

There were other assignments where I faced problem. For example, Elita Karim assigned me to cover “Children’s Painting Competition” at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka. I went at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre to cover “Children’s Painting Competition”. It was a great opportunity for me to see such great personalities like Hon’ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Mrs. Dipu Moni, the chief guest of the event, the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Mr. Rajeet Mitter. I also got the chance to see the paintings done by the children. But there I did not get the opportunity to interview the people because they were too busy with their works. They only gave me the press release. I had to cover the whole event by standing for some hours because there was no seat for the journalists. I asked the people in charge of that event for photographs but they were not interested. Their behavior was also unpleasant to me. Then I requested a lady to email me the photos. But that lady did not send me any email. As *Star Campus* does not publish any article without photos, my article was not published. The editor told me that she also asked them for photos but they neglected. So, the editor decided not to publish their news.

A Personal Account

Working for *Star Campus* was really a great experience for me. I got to learn many important things from the editor, sub- editors, and my colleagues. Throughout my internship they supported and helped me a lot. Their appreciation for my work made me strong-minded to work more with uninterrupted concentration for later assignments.

Though I was an intern, I had to attend the weekly meetings. The *Star Campus* Team always treated me as a member of *Star Campus* Team. During the meeting we shared our ideologies, views, opinions, etc. The editor always asked for my comment on any upcoming issues.

During the 12 weeks of my internship I learned how to manage time, how to cope up with colleagues and how to adjust with new surrounding. Another important thing I learnt from *Star Campus* is "Submission within time". It is really important to submit articles in time. The editor always got in touch with me to know the updates.

It was a great opportunity for me to see such great personalities like Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Mrs. Dipu Moni, H.E. Mr. Rajeet Mitter, The Education Minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, Mary Robinson and lots of other great personalities. I got the chance to see the science projects made by the young scientists. I also got the chance to see the paintings done by the children. I went to cover the "6th Convocation of BRAC University" as I was assigned to do. It was a great experience for me to cover the convocation of my University. As the surroundings and the people were known to me, it was quite an easy job to cover such a great occasion. It was also a great opportunity for me to interview not only the general people but also some administrative officials.

Conclusion

Working at *Star Campus* was such a great opportunity for me. Though I worked there only for 12 weeks, I experienced the difficulty that journalists have to deal with. I feel so lucky that though I was an intern I had responsibilities like the members of *Star Campus* team. I got the opportunity to share my ideas and views in case of any upcoming issues. During the make up session of *Star Campus* I also got the opportunity to give direction. From my internship experience I learnt how to cope up with people. I also learnt how to face challenges of journalism.

During my internship I got to realize the value of the Media Courses that I did at BRAC University. But for the knowledge that I acquired in those courses, it would not had been easy for me to deal with my work at *Star Campus*. The Media courses such as *Copy Editing*, *English for Print Media* and *Translation Studies* helped me a lot during my internship because what I learnt from these courses was related in the practical phase of work.

I was so lucky that my editor and colleagues were really helpful to me. Whenever I faced any problem I shared with them and they always tried to come up with a solution. They never let me feel that I was an intern. My 12 weeks work experience at *Star Campus* will help me to be successful as a journalist in near future.

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