

Report On
Internship as a Consultant at *Netra News*

By

Tanjima Rahman

22103057

An internship report submitted to the Department of English and
Humanities in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts in English

Department of English and Humanities

BRAC University

January 2026

© 2026. BRAC University

All rights reserved.

Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The internship report submitted is my/our own original work while completing degree at BRAC University.
2. The report does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The report does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I/We have acknowledged all main sources of help.

Student's Full Name & Signature:

Tanjima Rahman
22103057

Supervisor's Full Name & Signature:

Dr. Tabassum Zaman

Associate Professor, Department of English and Humanities
BRAC University

Letter of Transmittal

Dr. Tabassum Zaman

Associate Professor

Department of English and Humanities

BRAC University

Kha 224, Bir Uttam Rafiqul Islam Ave, Dhaka 1212

Subject: Submission of Internship Report

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to submit my internship report, “Report on Internship as a Consultant at *Netra News*” prepared as part of my academic requirement under your guidance. I have tried my best to complete the report with accurate information, relevant analysis, and a clear presentation of my tasks, learning experiences, and practical applications during my internship.

I sincerely hope this report meets your expectations and provides a meaningful overview of my internship experience.

Sincerely yours,

Tanjima Rahman

22103057

Department of English and Humanities

BRAC University

Date:

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement

Glossary

Chapter 1-Introduction.....	1
Chapter 2 A Brief Overview of Netra News.....	3
Chapter 3 Daily Activities at Netra News.....	7
Chapter 4 Development of The Expert Sources Database.....	11
Chapter 5 Research Work: Identifying Regional Leading Newspapers Across Divisions.....	23
CHAPTER 6 Report on Blasphemy.....	29
CHAPTER 7 Creating Video Story.....	35
Chapter 8 Theories and Practice.....	42
Conclusion.....	55
WORKS CITED.....	57

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Tasneem Khalil, Editor-in-Chief of *Netra News*, and my on-site supervisor for the opportunity to intern at *Netra News*. Throughout my internship, his co-operativeness and guidance helped me to understand various aspects of journalistic work and the functions of a news organisation. Because of his support and valuable guidance, I successfully navigated the responsibilities and challenges of this internship. His professionalism and unwavering commitment to his work have been truly inspiring.

I would also like to acknowledge the love, support, and encouragement I have received throughout this journey from my colleagues, my friends, peers, as well as classmates. Their advice, their kindness, and their motivation have been instrumental in helping me navigate both my academic and professional experiences. I know that my accomplishments are not only my own but also reflect their support, engagement, and encouragement. I am not me, but also the fragments of their love, support, kindness, encouragement, and their reflections. Without their presence and assistance, my academic journey at BRAC University would not have been as meaningful, enjoyable, and fulfilling as it has been. I consider myself fortunate to carry fragments of their inspiration and guidance, which have contributed to who I am today.

Lastly, I would like to thank my bureau manager, Prantosh Boidya, and deputy editor Nusmila Lohani for their guidance and support throughout my internship. In the beginning, I was extremely nervous and unsure about working in a professional newsroom and the challenges it

might entail. Their encouragement and patient guidance helped me overcome these concerns and approach my work with confidence. I am extremely grateful for their comforting presence, which made my internship enriching and memorable.

Glossary

RoR- Right of Reply. The right of reply ensures fair reporting, allowing the alleged person or institution to explain, clarify, or deny the claims that were made against them. Right of reply also reduces the risk of defamation, giving the mentioned people or institutions a fair opportunity to respond.

MoJo - MoJo is short for Mobile Journalism. It is a storytelling technique in which reporters use mobile phones to film, edit, and publish news.

SocialBlade - It is a website that analyses social media. It tracks and displays user statistics across multiple platforms. It is a third-party tool that provides insights into the rankings of different social media accounts.

B-roll footage - Extra video clips that are taken to support the main footage. Oftentimes, it refers to footage that shows the audience what the videographer is noticing.

Chapter 1

Introduction

In the evening of February 1st, 2021, I was preparing for another round of interviews with the Inter-Service Selection Board, the board responsible for selecting candidates for the armed forces, and I was primarily chosen as a potential candidate for the Bangladesh Army. That evening, I was browsing through YouTube for Army interview guidelines when something caught my eye. A video thumbnail with a heading “#1 ON TRENDING”.

It was a documentary by Al Jazeera’s Investigative Unit, titled “All the Prime Ministers' Men”. The documentary was about how a former high-ranking army personnel and his brothers created an empire through criminal activities, allegedly endorsed by the then prime minister.

I was highly intrigued by that documentary; that video made me question everything I knew. It raised critical questions about accountability, power, and the gap between official narratives and lived reality. Although I was preparing for the final round of the Inter-Service Selection Board exam to join the army, I did not qualify. Still, the documentary offered me a new perspective on our military organisation. The documentary by Al Jazeera’s Investigative unit was my first introduction to *Netra News* or its editor-in-chief, Tasneem Khalil, who, by a twist of fate, became my instructor in one of my academic courses and my internship office supervisor four years later.

The documentary made me realise that more was happening in our country than our traditional Bangladeshi media was portraying. It also made me realise the importance of public-interest journalism and investigative journalism.

To understand more about public interest journalism and investigative journalism, *Netra News* was an excellent platform for me. Although I was primarily responsible for creating an expert sources database for *Netra News*, I had the opportunity to observe and learn how a news agency focused on public-interest and investigative journalism operates.

Chapter 2

A Brief Overview of *Netra News*

“Comforting the afflicted and confronting power” is the motto of *Netra News*. Unlike other news agencies and media outlets in our country that report on topics such as entertainment, sports, business, economy, lifestyle, celebrity gossip, or miscellaneous events from around the country, *Netra News*, a Sweden-based independent platform, focuses mainly on public-interest journalism. It serves the needs and rights of the general public rather than the interests of political groups, governments, or individuals with capitalist interests. It publishes reports, analyses, and discussions about politics, society, and culture in Bangladesh.

According to Media Landscape, an organisation created by the European Journalism Centre (EJC) in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), 2,018 digital news portals had applied for registration in Bangladesh in 2018. They have also stated that, in January of 2018, there were 3,025 registered print media in Bangladesh, of which 1,191 were daily newspapers, and among them, 470 were based in the capital city, Dhaka. A question arises: why create another digital news media outlet that is not even based in Bangladesh?

The founder and the editor-in-chief of *Netra News*, Tasneem Khalil, was arrested by the Bangladeshi army security officers in 2007 and tortured for 24 hours, and later he was sent into exile with his family. This was not an isolated incident; it was part of the pattern of intimidation,

surveillance, and repression of journalists and targeting media workers in our country. Over the years, hundreds of cases have been reported where the government, security agencies, and military forces have pressured, harassed, and/ or physically harmed journalists for reporting on sensitive materials such as political issues, corruption, human rights abuse, etc.

After the government passed the **Digital Security Act** in 2018 and later the **Cyber Security Act** in 2023, conducting proper journalism became even more difficult. Cases were being filed against journalists, and, due to legal risks, media outlets and journalists self-censored. There were intimidation, arrests, and even violence committed against journalists; not to mention that major media outlets became politically aligned at that time. A lack of strong legal protections for journalists made it harder for independent journalism to thrive.

Because of this, it became essential to establish a media organisation outside Bangladesh that focuses on Bangladesh, an organisation free from political influence, governmental monitoring, and legal threats. In Sweden, freedom of speech and freedom of the press are strongly protected, providing a safe environment for journalistic work.

Netra News was founded on 26th December 2019. It is based in Malmö, Sweden, and is registered with the Swedish Press and Broadcasting Authority as an online publication. The name “Netra” means “eye” in Bangla, symbolising its role as a watchdog keeping a close eye on those in power.

Netra News is a project of the Bangladesh Media Network, a nonprofit organisation managed by experienced journalists and academics. The news portal receives financial support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the Fojo Media Institute, and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. All the editorial decisions are entirely independent. The newsroom does not accept any type of direction from the donors, government, or outside parties.

Netra News is divided into three central departments: the editorial board, the photography and videography department, and the reporters' team. A Bureau Manager ensures communication and coordination among all three departments and that everyone receives the support and resources necessary to complete their tasks. Since *Netra News* is an online news portal, it does not produce printed editions. All of its reports and content are published digitally on its website and social media platforms.

Unlike many media organisations that are influenced by political or corporate interests, *Netra News* operates independently and focuses on truth, accuracy, and fairness. Due to the absence of freedom of speech as well as freedom of the press in our country because of the political suppression, dictatorship of the Awami League regime, restrictive laws that played a significant role in suppressing freedom of speech such as The Digital Security Act (2018), and later the Cyber Security Act (2023), many journalists were unable to report on public figures freely. To make sure that all reports are fair, balanced, and factual while maintaining the safety of its journalists, *Netra News*, in some cases, does not reveal the names of its journalists in some of its reports. In this way, reporters can practice ethical journalism without fearing for their lives. It is also important to note that any institution or individual mentioned in the report has the right of

reply (RoR). Right to reply reduces the risk of defamation by giving the named people or institutions a fair opportunity to respond.

Chapter 3

Daily Activities at *Netra News*

At *Netra News*, reporters are encouraged to approach stories with depth and balance; they have to make sure that both sides, the ones who are affected and the ones who are deemed responsible, are represented. No story is published without hearing from all parties involved with all types of facts and necessary evidence. Reporters are given as much time as they need to research, verify facts, gather information, as well as relevant evidence to maintain this standard. Unlike many newspapers in our country that focus on publishing major stories daily, *Netra News* prioritises quality over quantity. That's why they publish one well-researched story every Thursday to confirm that each report is fully polished, fact - checked, and supported by necessary evidence, data, statistics.

I joined *Netra News* on July 10, 2025. Even though my official designation was consultant, my role involved working closely with the supervisor as a personal assistant, supporting research, coordination, documentation, and communication-related tasks. I worked five days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. My schedule was slightly different on Thursdays. During the internship, I was also taking two academic courses at BRAC University. With the support of my editor-in-chief, who also served as my office supervisor, I managed my time effectively and balanced my academic and professional responsibilities. On regular workdays, my

responsibilities included assisting the editor-in-chief with daily tasks, coordinating communication, organising data, and researching various topics. I also participated in the editorial meetings and observed coordination among departments to understand how online journalism operates in a newsroom.

My internship period coincided with a very unpredictable and unstable political situation in the country, resulting in frequent city-wide protests, demonstrations, and roadblocks. This affected my commute. Whenever such a situation came up, I was officially advised to work from home or take short leaves. My supervisor and the bureau manager were both extremely cooperative in this matter. My daily responsibilities at *Netra News* included assisting with research support, organising documents, creating and maintaining the expert sources database and supporting communication between departments. I regularly attended the editorial meeting, there I observed reporters present their stories, discuss updates and research progress, and receive editorial feedback.

My main task was to develop a directory of expert sources who can provide professional opinions, information, and analysis. The purpose of this expert sources directory was to make sure that reporters had access to individuals who could help them collect accurate information, provide context, and explain complex issues, while also allowing the experts to communicate with us freely without legal or professional risks.

To create the database, I first made an Excel spreadsheet containing each expert's name, contact details, profession, area of expertise, workplace designation, and the staff member who provided

the information. I chose to create the database in Google Sheets in an Excel format so it is easily searchable by the *Netra News* team and remains accessible. I classified the experts into categories such as the judiciary, civil society, academia, business, and politics, making it easier to identify appropriate contacts. For the first few weeks, I collected and organised hundreds of entries from the Dhaka staff, establishing the foundation for the expert sources directory.

I also assisted in researching the officers in charge of several police stations and tracking their transfers for an investigative report titled “Counting the Monsoon Massacre.” This was a report on the analysis of the 2024 student uprising. I also assisted in the launch of Jibon Ahmed's photobook “ Witness to the Uprising ”. I created the guest lists using the database that I had initially created. Because the reporters were often occupied with other tasks, I continued to network with my colleagues, update contacts, and conduct background research on expert sources to ensure all information was up to date.

While I was developing the expert sources database, I received more than 250 physical visiting cards, which I initially sorted into categories such as police, judiciary, academia, and the entertainment industry, and then entered them manually. Later, I switched to scanning the cards using Gemini for more efficient data entry. I also had the opportunity to visit the Alliance Française de Dhaka, where I attended an event titled “Rant and Vent with Papabear,” in which Sam Jahan invited journalists to discuss their experiences. In this event, I had the opportunity to hear from some of the finest journalists in our country. I also got to hear about discussions that touched on the many faults in the journalism field, such as a lack of ethics, favouritism, weak guidelines, flattery, and many more issues that the journalists of our country face.

As my internship progressed, I was given more responsibility in research-oriented tasks. I was asked to identify the leading news agencies in each of our country's eight divisions. The goal was to focus on the division-specific newspapers rather than national outlets. To complete this, I conducted extensive online research, consulted several government and non-governmental databases, analysed 10-50 agencies per day, verified contact details and official websites, and assessed social media activity for authenticity and engagement using several marketing tools.

During this period, I observed several video interviews and saw how reporters maintained an ethical and balanced approach while making meaningful reports. I also received hands - on training in conducting video interviews, video production, and scriptwriting. At the end of my internship, I researched incidents related to blasphemy and communal violence. My research focused on cases where homes, temples, or properties related to the non-Muslim community were damaged after 5 August 2024. My task involved compiling incident data and organising it in an instructed format for further investigation. This included identifying dates, sources, headlines, and links to the original news report using Google's advanced search tools.

At the end of my internship, I learned how to record professional voice-overs and attempted to record a few under supervision for a video story. But because I had no prior experience, another reporter with a previous experience record them. This process helped me understand the technical and professional standards that are required for digital journalism.

Chapter 4

Development of the Expert Sources Database

My main responsibility was to compile and develop a comprehensive database of expert sources. Here, expert sources are individuals or professionals with expertise in their fields, such as politicians, doctors, lawyers, academics, and industry specialists. They are individuals who can safely provide information, expert opinion, insight, and analysis responsibly, without legal complications or conflicts.

The purpose of creating this database was to make sure that reporters and editors could quickly identify reliable experts for ongoing and future stories. A structured, accessible, and easily searchable database makes the research process effortless, demonstrating that the experts cited in the report are credible and verifiable.

I decided to keep the database structure simple so that it can be easily modified later to reflect the *Netra News* team's preferences. As an intern, I was not fully familiar with their preferred format. Because of this, I focused on creating a clear, easy-to-understand, and well-organised layout that the *Netra News* team can modify later. The database included six basic categories: Full Name, Phone Number, Email, Profession/Area of Expertise, Collected From, and Category. I adopted

this structure to confirm clarity, so anyone can easily navigate the database, and to maintain consistency across the entries.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Full name	Phone Number	Email	Profession/ Workplace/Area of Expertise	Collected From	Category
2				Barriester	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Judiciary
3				Professor at the University of Dhaka	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia
4				Student Against Discrimination (SAD)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Politics
5				Film Maker	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Culture
6				Indigenous Queen of Chakma Circle in Chittagong Hill tracts	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
7				LGBTQ Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
8				Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Politics
9				Feminist, Naripokkho	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
10				Professor at the University of Rajshahi	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
11				MuktiForum, Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
12				Leftist, Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
13				Professor at the University of Rajshahi	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia
14				National Citizen Party (NCP)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Politics
15				Social activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
16				Prof. at Dept of Mass Communication & Journalism at DU	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia
17				Trans Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society, Activist
18				Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
19				Teacher at the University of Dhaka	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia, Civil Society
20				Economist, Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia, Civil Society
21				UPL Publisher	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
22						*
23				Centre for Policy Dialogue-CPD	Nusmilla Lohani	Civil Society

Figure 1: Creating the expert sources directory for *Netra News*

To begin my work, I first collected all the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the *Netra News* Dhaka team from the bureau manager at the office. I sent everyone an email explaining the task I was assigned, the information I needed from them, and asking for their assistance in completing the task properly. I also met all the members in person to explain the purpose of my work and how I would be conducting it. I informed them that I would need their assistance and scheduled appointments based on their availability to collect the necessary contact information.

To avoid any mistakes while I collect all the necessary information for the database, I actively communicated with reporters, editors, technical staff, and other personnel at *Netra News*. Due to their demanding work, they frequently travel outside Dhaka. Due to continuous reporting, many staff members were not always available. Because of this, I followed up via text messages, emails, and phone calls to request details. To complete this process, I had to be patient and persistent, and confirm that effective communication was taking place, as timely responses were not always available. I made sure that my requests were respectful and professional, emphasising the importance of their contributions to the database. By being extremely consistent in networking and coordination, I gradually gathered all the necessary information. This experience made me realise the importance of collaboration in a fast-paced newsroom environment. It also helped me to strengthen my communication and organisational skills.

While creating the expert sources database, I was responsible for several tasks. Including data collection, data entry, data organisation, and data management. I gathered all the information from the *Netra News* team and did my best to make sure that all the entries were accurate and up to date. To verify the data, I used multiple publicly available platforms and tools. Google searches were used to confirm an individual's professional background, institutional affiliations, and public presence through news articles, video interviews, or official mentions. LinkedIn was used to verify work experience, career history, as well as professional expertise. In some cases, I also used Instagram posts and engagement patterns to confirm whether or not the individual was actively involved in relevant professional activities. I also used Truecaller whenever it was necessary to verify phone numbers and ensure that the contact details matched the individual's identity.

This multi-layer verification process helped me reduce errors and ensure that every entry in the database was valid, reliable, and trustworthy. When needed, I added notes to the entry to improve clarity. All verification was conducted using only publicly available information.

While making the database, I realised that it is important to maintain accuracy and the security of information about expert sources, as wrong information can discredit a report within minutes.

Reporters often speak with individuals who can provide critical insights, data, analysis, and firsthand accounts, and it is the journalist's responsibility to carefully retain the contact details of such experts. Although the majority of such information, such as phone numbers, emails, designations, place of work, etc, can be stored digitally, many journalists still prefer to keep a physical card. These visiting cards serve as a tangible record that is easy to access, verify, and organise. In some cases, they function as evidentiary support, establishing the authenticity of a contact, because even though information can be stored digitally, it can also be easily manipulated and/or removed.

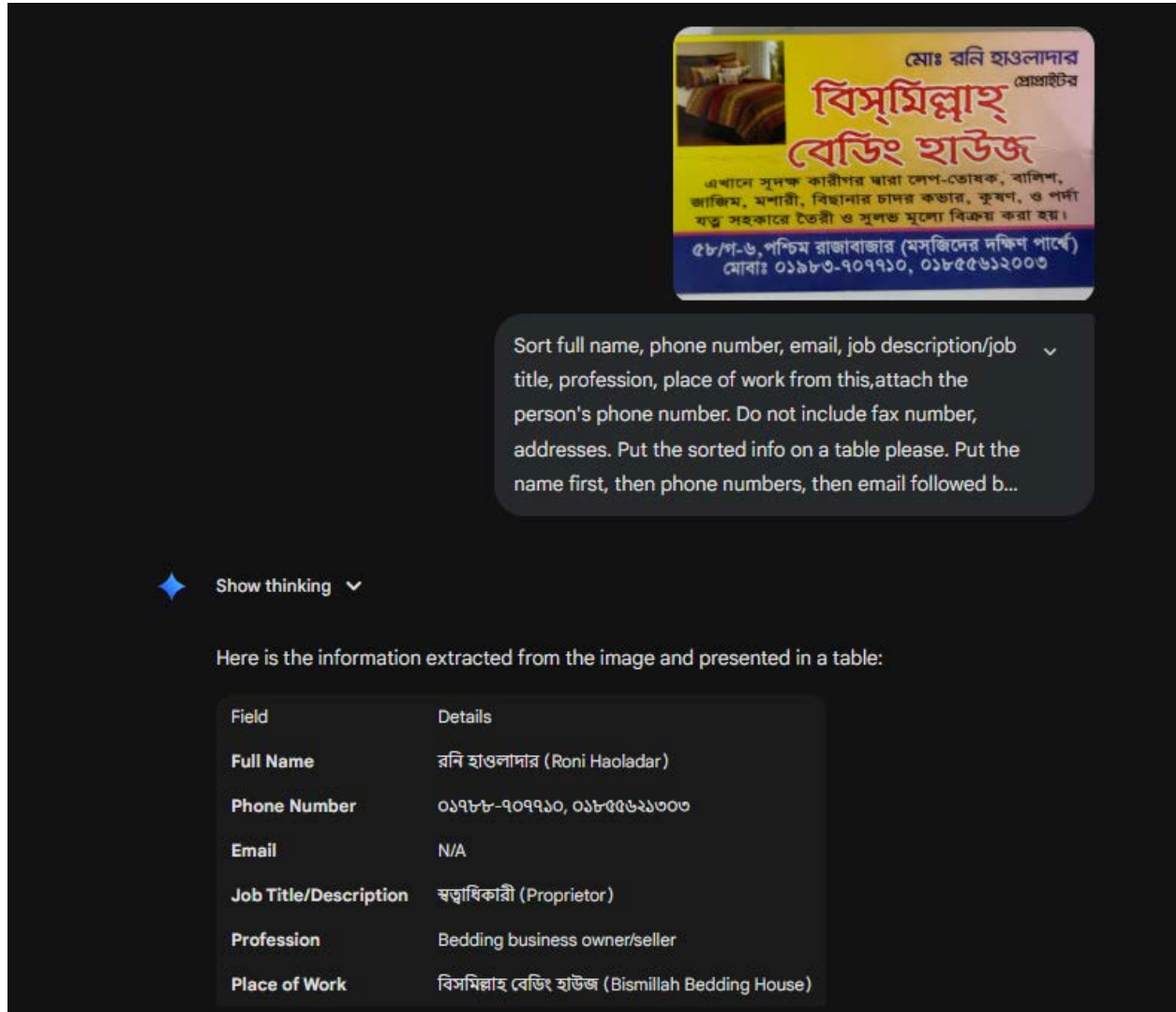
As I was assigned the task of creating their internal contact database, I was given more than 250 visiting cards. Each card belongs to a different expert across categories such as academia, judiciary, business, politics, etc. It was my responsibility to carefully examine each card, categorise them, extract all the relevant information, and then enter the necessary details into the database.

At first, I started to manually input all the necessary information. First, I would read each card separately, then type the information into the database by hand. As I continued working, I realised that manually entering the information was not productive. It took me hours to complete a few cards, since every detail had to be typed by hand, and I had to type four different kinds of information for each card. I realised that this process was slow, repetitive, and inefficient. Especially considering the volume of cards I was given. This led me to consider Gemini Flash 2.5, a general AI model publicly accessible at no cost. At first, I was hesitant to rely on AI, as in academic environments, the use of AI tools is discouraged, and I did not want to compromise the integrity of my work in any way, shape or form.

Because of this, I consulted with my supervisor before making any decision, and he assured me that using AI was acceptable as long as the accuracy of both the inputs and the outputs was ensured. He gave me directions to double-check all the extracted information, verify the prompts before giving them to the AI model, and make sure that nothing generated by Gemini was misleading or incorrect. With his approval, I began taking clear photographs of each visiting card and uploading them to Gemini. To get the necessary information, I used a very specific extraction command prompt. Using that very specific extraction command prompt, the model generated the structured information that was needed: names, designations, phone numbers, email addresses, and organisational affiliations. This approach significantly reduced data entry time while still allowing me to maintain accuracy through careful review of each AI-generated result.

At the beginning of the process, I categorised and sorted cards into different groups such as politics, judiciary, law enforcement academy, business, diplomatic cooperations, and so on. I kept each category bundle separately. Each day, I worked with a specific bundle, making sure the order in which I entered the cards into Gemini matched the physical order of the cards. This systematic approach helped maintain consistency and minimise error throughout the process.

To ensure accuracy, I cross-checked every output Gemini generated with the corresponding visiting card. I compared them one by one in chronological order. While working with the Gemini model, I observed that some of its outputs were not fully accurate. After putting in more visiting cards, it became evident that although Gemini was able to detect English alphabets easily, it struggled significantly with Bangla numbers or letters. Several of the visiting cards contain information written entirely or partially in Bangla, and Gemini was not able to correctly recognise or process those Bangla characters. For this, I had to manually type the Bangla portions myself.



Sort full name, phone number, email, job description/job title, profession, place of work from this, attach the person's phone number. Do not include fax number, addresses. Put the sorted info on a table please. Put the name first, then phone numbers, then email followed b...

◆ Show thinking ▾

Here is the information extracted from the image and presented in a table:

Field	Details
Full Name	রনি হাওলাদার (Roni Haoladar)
Phone Number	০১৭৮৮-৭০৭৭১০, ০১৮৫৫৬১১৩০৩
Email	N/A
Job Title/Description	স্বত্বাধিকারী (Proprietor)
Profession	Bedding business owner/seller
Place of Work	বিসমিল্লাহ বেডিং হাউজ (Bismillah Bedding House)

Figure 2: Example of Gemini Misreading Bangla Text and Numbers

Above, Figure 2 shows an example of an error that occurred during the scanning process. The visiting card shown here is from a local business that I have included as a test sample and is not part of the expert sources database. The visiting card shown here belongs to a local business called “Bismillah Boarding House”. Gemini was able to capture the business name, the Bangla name, and translate it into English. It made an error while extracting the contact number.

If we take a close look at the phone numbers printed on the visiting card and those generated by the Gemini, we can see that the original card lists 01983707710 and 01855612003, whereas the scanned output shows 01788707710 and 01855621303. This highlights the limitations of automated scanning tools, particularly in accurately recognising numerical data in a different language from printed material.

Because of this, I realised that manual verification is a necessary part. From then, I started to compare and correct before entering any information into the database, and it made me realise the importance of human oversight in data management. After identifying this error in the Gemini scanning process, I revised my data entry method to minimise mistakes. I first scanned the visiting cards, then manually reviewed each card for every entry, carefully reading the information on the back and cross-checking it against the scan output before entering it into the database. To maintain accuracy and consistency, I organised the cards in the order of the data entry to match the physical order of each stack. This systematic approach helped me to cross-reference every scanned entry with its original card, ensuring that the names, phone numbers, and other contact details were recorded properly. Through this process, I was able to identify and correct mistakes, which reinforced the reliability and accuracy of the expert sources database.

While I was sorting through the visiting cards, I noticed that a lot of the visiting cards were extremely old, and it was not possible to research every contact due to the sheer volume of cards and the limited availability of updated information. Since it was clear to me that some details had

changed over time, I created a separate Excel sheet within the same database to keep the information on the visiting cards separate from the updated information. On top of the Excel sheet, I added a clear heading explaining that these cards were old, and some information may have changed, and users should confirm availability and verify the details before reaching out to these contacts. This allowed me to maintain transparency and accuracy where possible, and to provide a responsible warning to anyone using that database.

The following contacts were compiled from existing sources, including older visiting cards. Some details may have changed. Kindly confirm availability and accuracy before reaching out.				
Name	Phone Number	Email	Job Description/Profession/Title	Catagory
			Advocacy & Documentation Manager at phulki	Judiciary
			Senior Staff Lawyer, Legal Aid Services	Judiciary
			Barrister	Judiciary
			Managing Partner at Wolra Ashfaq and associates, Bar	Judiciary
			Member of Khurshid & associates, Senior Advocate of Su	Judiciary
			Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court	Judiciary
			Administrative Officer at BELA	Judiciary
			Advocate, Dhaka Bar Association	Judiciary
			Head of Programme at BELA	Judiciary
			Advocate, Additional P. P., Judge Court, Noakhali	Judiciary
			Advocate at Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Additional At	Judiciary
			Prosecutor (Assistant Attorney General), International Cri	Judiciary

Figure 3: Separate Excel Sheet for Outdated Visiting Card Information

Since my main responsibility was creating the database and collecting contact information for all expert sources, I reviewed hundreds of individuals' research and background, and identified their areas of expertise. This process helped me to develop a strong understanding of who specialises in what field and where they can be used. Because of that, I often supported my colleagues at *Netra News* as they worked on their stories. If a reporter needed to reach out to an expert source, they would come to me for suggestions. I would check the database or recall ones I had already researched and recommend the most suitable person or persons based on their expertise.



Figure 4: Jibon Ahmed's Exhibition and Book Launch

The data management and organizational skills I gained, I applied them to tasks beyond reporting. During the launch of “Witness to The Uprising” (Figure 4), a photo book by Jibon Ahmed, the head of photography at *Netra News*, I assisted in compiling and organising the guest list for both the photo exhibition and the book launch. I used the expert sources database I had been developing, identified potential invitees, and organised their contact information. This task allowed me to use the existing database as a reference tool and demonstrated how the information I had collected could support coordination and logistical tasks within the newsroom.

In addition to creating the expert sources database and conducting research as needed, I assisted the editor-in-chief with his daily responsibilities. I kept a record of his schedule and helped him

stay organised throughout the day. I also attended the weekly editorial meetings, and they gave me an opportunity to see how the *Netra News* editorial process works.

As the editor-in-chief had to attend several meetings, I would help him gather the necessary information for each meeting. I also attended an event with my supervisor at Alliance Française de Dhaka (Figure 5). The event was called “Rant and Vent with Papabear”, where Sam Jahan invited journalists who talked about their experiences. I attended this event with two of my colleagues, as my supervisor was the main guest. I also got a chance to hear from some of the finest journalists in our country. I got to hear about the discussion that touched on the many faults in the field, such as a lack of ethics, favouritism, weak guidelines, and extreme flattery towards people with higher rank or power. Important points were also discussed, such as including the need for stronger training, proper crisis protocols, and sensitivity when covering vulnerable subjects such as children, rape, and many more.



Figure 5: Attending the Event “Rant and Vent” with my Editor-in-Chief

I also participated in several video stories as the narrator, but because I lacked prior experience in voice work, singing, or other vocal performances, my delivery fell short of expectations.

Nonetheless, the experience was quite insightful, helping me understand the importance of clear pronunciation, proper breathing techniques, and maintaining an even tone during narration. I also acquired crucial skills that were required for this type of work.

Chapter 5

Research Work: Identifying Regional Leading Newspapers Across Divisions

I was assigned a research task to identify leading divisional newspapers across the country as part of my internship responsibilities. Because of the sensitive nature of this broader project for which the research was conducted, specific details regarding this application cannot be disclosed. The primary objective of this task was to identify and document division-specific newspapers primarily consumed by local audiences, rather than large, widely known national newspapers such as *Prothom Alo*, *The Daily Star*, etc. The focus was on identifying news organisations that primarily serve readers in the divisions of our country.

Division wise lead newspapers ☆ 📁 ☁

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Extensions Help

100% Normal text Times ... 13 B I U A

Chottogram Division:

Name	Website	Facebook	Youtube	Traffic Analysis
Cplus TV	https://chatgane.ws.com/	1.5M likes 2.7M followers Uploads Regularly Facebook link: https://www.facebook.com/cplustv/	1.56M subscribers 36K videos Uploads Regularly YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/@Cplustv/videos	Facebook analysis: https://socialblade.com/facebook/user/cplustv YouTube analysis: https://socialblade.com/youtube/channel/UC3aNZXndc9tRpYKYKSYUbrg
দৈনিক পূর্বকোণ	https://dainikpurbokone.net/	386K followers 383 following Uploads regularly Facebook link: https://www.facebook.com/dainikpurbokone/	9.19K subscribers 5.1K videos Uploads Regularly YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPczg8v8G_NiXh8vbtUOh6Q	YouTube: https://socialblade.com/youtube/channel/UCPczg8v8G_NiXh8vbtUOh6Q Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/dainikpurbokone/

Figure 6: Screenshot of the Regional Newspaper Identification Report

For this task, I created a report (Figure 6). I conducted extensive online research across multiple websites and consulted relevant government databases to ensure accuracy. For each division, I examined between 10 to 50 news agencies per day, depending on the information that was available online. Here I focused on news outlets that focuses on regional coverage and showed consistent engagement with local issues that are relevant to that particular division.

To make sure that the newspapers I include in my research are credible, I developed a systematic verification process. I first check whether the newspaper publishes content regularly and maintains consistent activity, rather than posting randomly. I examined online activity and engagement indicators, such as the number of likes, comments, shares, subscribers, and followers across different platforms. I focused on the quality of the content to ensure these news organisations publish fact-based stories, with proper reporting rather than sensationalised content with misleading information.

During this process, I contacted numerous newspaper agencies to request information about that was not available online. While conducting my research, I found that although many news outlets maintained professional journalistic standards, their information was either missing or difficult to access. In many cases, the website's structure was overly complex and poorly organised, making it very challenging to locate accurate and relevant information. Important information such as office addresses, contact phone numbers, official email addresses, the names of the editor and co-editors, ownership details, publication history, organisational goals, etc., was absent or unclear. Because of these problems, I tried to contact the outlets directly to request

clarification, but the majority of the organisations did not reply within the required deadline. Because of this, I continued to work with publicly available, verified information.

I also reviewed each newspaper's digital presence across different platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and the official websites to confirm their authenticity as well as their consistent presence in the virtual world. I analysed posting patterns to determine whether content was shared daily, weekly, or monthly, and I verified if these platforms were actually maintained. I also visited different public online groups and forums where national news from different divisions is discussed. I did that to double-check visibility and to see whether these news outlets were recognised among the local audience. I did not rely solely on the government-provided list of division-based news agencies, as the majority of those were outdated, so I used non-government websites as well to ensure I looked at every possible news outlet. This approach helped me to ensure that the news outlets identified in my research were legitimate, active, and relevant to their respective divisions.

When analysing the audience engagement, I understood that the number of likes, followers, and shared comments is not sufficient to fully understand a news outlet's reach and influence.

Although they are visible indicators, they do not accurately reflect the actual audience behaviour, audience engagement page visits, etc., so it became necessary to examine metrics such as estimated website traffic, average number of visitors, engagement duration, traffic source, number of organic views, and number of paid views. I also considered indicators such as audience retention, visit frequency, monetisation, and consistent audience growth.

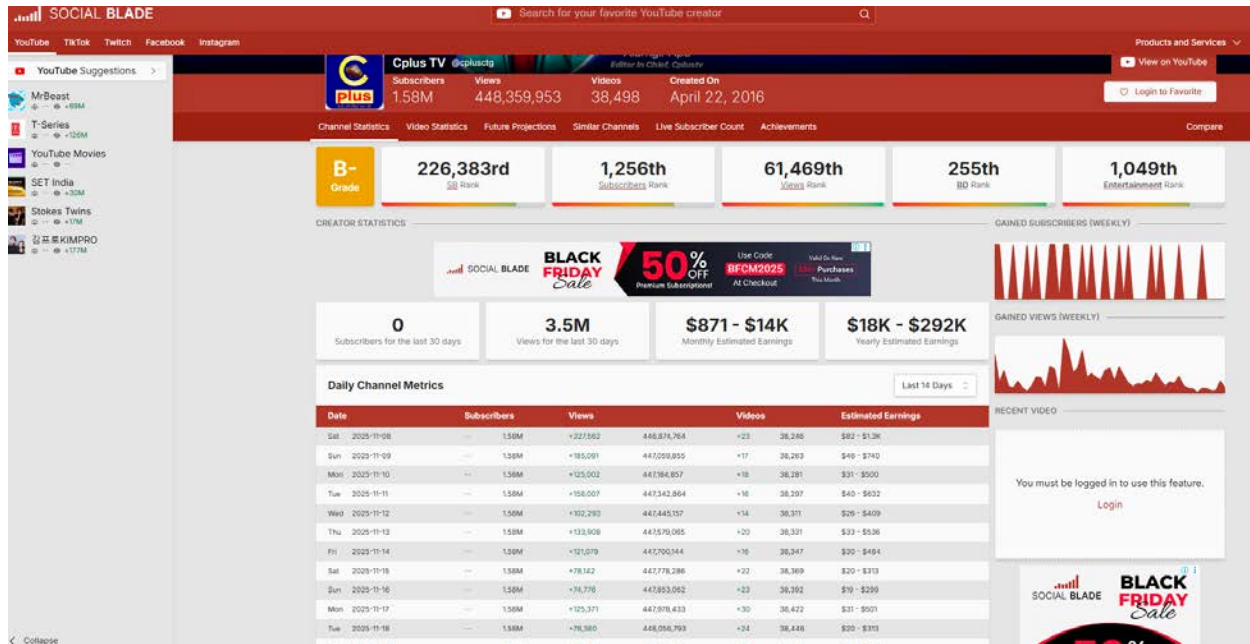


Figure 7: Audience Engagement Analysis via SocialBlade

To gather this data, I tested various online digital marketing and analytical tools. After comparing and testing nearly seven to ten analytical tools, I found SocialBlade to be the most effective, efficient, and user-friendly tool for this purpose. SocialBlade operates by tracking publicly available data from platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media networks to provide estimates of audience growth, engagement trends, and content performance (Figure 7). SocialBlade provides insights into follower growth over time, average views, posting frequency, and estimated reach, which makes it easy to evaluate whether a platform has an active and genuine audience. Its significant advantage is accessibility, as it does not require creating an account for basic analysis. By simply entering a website or platform on SocialBlade, I was able to obtain a comprehensive overview of engagement data, including growth trends and performance estimates. I used SocialBlade as my primary tool for analysing

audience engagement. By incorporating its insights into my research, I included the Social Blade links in my report so that anyone is able to easily review the engagement statistics.

After getting all the necessary details, I created a list. The list included the names of the leading newspapers in every eight divisions as well as links to their social media pages, official websites, and data on their audience engagement, such as likes, how many likes they have, and how many followers they have, and whether there are frequent activities in that division. I also added the link to the website named Socialblade, so that it is easy to find out the audience engagement rate. After completing the research, I created a detailed list. The list contained the names and information of leading newspapers from every eight divisions, highlighting which outlets hold the top positions in their respective regions. It also included data on their audience number of followers, the number of likes, and the number of followers they have across social media platforms. After extensive research on Google, Facebook, and YouTube, I found that there were 20 news agencies in total, each specific to a division.

Additionally, I assisted with the investigative report on the July 2024 student uprising in our country and the subsequent massacre. The report required extensive research, and I, along with a few colleagues, helped gather essential information. My primary task involved researching the officers in charge (OCs) of several police stations, including Jatra Bari, Kodomtoli, Uttara East, Uttara West, Mirpur Model, Kafrul, Darus Salam, Badda, and tracking their transfers following the downfall of Sheikh Hasina. This work contributed to the investigative report titled “Counting the Monsoon Massacre,” which analysed the events of the 2024 student uprising.



Netra News interviewed hundreds of families and examined over 2,000 reports to map the killings during Bangladesh's 2024 crackdown. Of 750 verified deaths, at least 705 were likely caused by security forces or ruling party cadres.

Figure 8: Screenshot of the investigative report Counting the Monsoon Massacre

CHAPTER 6

Report on Blasphemy

This chapter focuses on collecting, organising, and preparing incident-based reports during my internship. This task involved systematically collecting information from verified news sources, filtering relevant data, and presenting the findings in a structured format. This report, which talks about blasphemy, is discussed in this chapter and serves as an example of my research and data collection, and the combining process during my internship.

At the time of writing this report, a violent incident occurred less than 24 hours ago. A Hindu man named Dipu Chandra Das, a factory worker in Mymensingh city, was beaten up by an angry mob over blasphemy allegations and then hanged from a tree. Later, they placed the body on the side of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and set it on fire.

In the past, Bangladesh was often seen as a society where people of diverse ethnicity and religion, Bengali, non-Bengali, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, and others could coexist without any fear or discrimination. However, in recent days, especially after 5 August 2024, right after the fall of the Awami League regime, this sense of harmony has decreased significantly. Various incidents and reports have suggested a rise in targeted hostility against minority religious communities; in most cases, people or communities who were part of the Hindu, Christian, or

Buddhist community faced intimidation and violence. This suggests that accusations of blasphemy are currently on the rise in our country.

সমকাল

সর্বশেষ বাংলাদেশ রাজনীতি অর্থনীতি বিশ্ব খেলা বিনোদন সারাদেশ ▾ অপরাধ মতামত রাজধানী লাইফস্টাইল

গাজীপুরে মন্দিরে দুকে ৬টি প্রতিমা ভাঙচুর



গাজীপুর মহানগরের কাশিমপুর এলাকায় শ্রীশান মন্দিরের অগ্রগামী যুব সংঘ সার্বজনীন দুর্গাপূজা মণ্ডপে দুর্ভেদ্য ছয়টি প্রতিমা ভাঙচুর করে সমকাল

Figure 9: Example of a Blasphemy-Related News Report

The institutional response to minority communities has appeared inadequate. All the members of the Muslim community have also faced tensions at times, and law enforcement agencies have been more responsive to threats that were directed at the Muslim community. But when the violence has been directed towards the minority groups, the response has been insufficient,

making these communities even more vulnerable to violence and other risks. This goes on to show that minorities are in a vulnerable social and cultural position.

To better understand the situation, I was asked to prepare a report on incidents that occurred after 5 August 2024 and up to the present day (October 2025) that indicate blasphemy against minority communities. The report is primarily focused on the number of cases where it was reported that homes, temples, or churches, or properties belonging to non-Muslim communities, were attacked or destroyed. The police assured many victims that action would be taken, but no further updates were provided afterwards. Although there were cases where Muslim homes or businesses were attacked, most of the time it was done out of personal grudges, but the non-Muslim communities remained under threat of communal violence.

Report on Blasphemy after 5th August

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Extensions Help

Keywords used: ধর্মীয় অনুভূতিতে আঘাত, ধর্ম অরমাননা, মন্দিরে হামলা, মন্দিরে ভাঙচুর, হিন্দুদের বাড়িতে হামলা, হিন্দুদের বাড়িতে ভাঙচুর, সংখ্যালঘুদের উপর হামলা, সংখ্যালঘুদের বাড়িতে হামলা/ ভাঙচুর, ধর্মীয় স্থাপনা ভাঙচুর, মাজার ভাঙচুর, মাজারে হামলা,

AUGUST 2024

Publishing Date	News Title	Link
০৭ আগস্ট ২০২৪	মেহেরপুর ও ভাঙ্গায় হিন্দুদের বাড়ি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানে আগুন ও ভাঙচুর	https://www.khaborkagoj.com/country/823903
30 Aug 2024	‘জমি দখলের চেষ্টা’ গাজীপুরে মন্দির ভাঙচুর, প্রতিবাদে বিক্ষোভ	https://bangla.bdnews24.com/samagrabangladesh/cafa161ae44b

Figure 10: Screenshot of the Blasphemy Report

The report (Figure 10) covered the incidents from August 5th, 2024, to October 2025. I compiled the incidence by using Google's advanced search tools. It included the dates and months of the incidents, the names of the newspapers, the corresponding headlines, and a direct link to the original reports. To prepare this report, I have identified a set of relevant keywords such as “dharmiyo anubhuti te hamla”(Attack on religious sentiments), “mondire hamla” (Attack on a temple/s), “mondire bhangchur”(Vandalism of a temple/s), “Hindu der barite hamla”(Attack on Hindu homes), “Hindu der barite bhangchur”(Vandalism towards Hindu homes), “shankhaloguder upor hamla”(Attack on minority communities), and many more relevant keywords.

I intentionally used Bangla keywords because the majority of the news outlets that published the content in Bangla. By using Bangla, I was able to effectively filter and identify locally produced look reports directly related to incidents within the country. This helped me distinguish Bangladeshi news reporting from international news reporting, as international reporting is typically published in English or other languages and often does not use any Bangla terminology. This helped me to accurately locate local/ national news outlets that reported this incident on specific dates and ensure that the collected data was relevant, localised, and contextually accurate.

Google

Advanced Search

Find pages with...

all these words:

this exact word or phrase:

any of these words:

none of these words:

numbers ranging from: to

To do this in the search box.

Type the important words: tri-colour rat terrier

Put exact words in quotes: "rat terrier"

Type OR between all the words you want: miniature OR standard

Put a minus sign just before words that you don't want: -rodent, -"Jack Russell"

Put two full stops between the numbers and add a unit of measurement: 10..35 kg, £300..£500, 2010..2011

Then narrow your results by...

language: Find pages in the language that you select.

region: Find pages published in a particular region.

last update: Find pages updated within the time that you specify.

site or domain: Search one site (like wikipedia.org) or limit your results to a domain like .edu .org or .gov

terms appearing: Search for terms in the whole page, page title or web address, or links to the page you're looking for.

file type: Find pages in the format that you prefer.

usage rights: Find pages that you are free to use yourself.

Advanced Search

Figure 11: Using Google Advanced Search for Blasphemy Report Research

After I finalised the keywords, I used the Google Advanced Search tool to systematically collect relevant news reports. I first conducted a general Google search, then I went to the news section, where I used the advanced search option. By using the advanced search, I entered the selected keywords and refined the results by setting the language to Bangla and region to Bangladesh. I narrowed the time range to results published within the past year, covering 2024 to 2025.

After applying these filters, the advanced search tool generator returned a refined set of results directly relevant to my research. This allowed me to properly identify credible locally/nationally produced news reports related to selected keywords and ensure that the data I collected was both

contextually accurate and up to date. After obtaining the search results, I carefully reviewed all the news reports that appeared. During this process, I identified several misleading and false reports originating from neighbouring countries that claimed some horrific blasphemy-related incidents that had occurred in our country. Using reverse searches and cross-verification, I found that the majority of these reports were outdated, published by unreliable sources, or designed as clickbait or ragebait.

After reading through a large volume of articles, I realised that multiple outlets often reported the same incidents. To ensure I did not repeat any incidents, I selected each incident only once, then organised the verified reports into a monthly list. In that list, I first added the headline, then the publication date, and the direct link to the original article. The data set covered from August 2024 to October 2025 includes reports of violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, displacement, destruction of property, as well as other forms of targeted harm against non-Muslim and non-Bengali communities. I shared this research report with my colleagues to further support their investigation and to guide their field work with accurate, verified background information.

CHAPTER 7

Creating Video Story

During my internship period, I received training on how to create a video story. I gradually learned that while creating a video story, it is important to capture as much visual as well as audio material as possible because it can be needed in various cases. I observed that the more material you have, the more effectively the visual can be constructed. It is important to take multiple videos and images from different angles and perspectives to create a variety that helps to maintain audience engagement and ensure that the camera position is steady and not distracting. It is also important to capture the facial expressions of the interviewee; this can add an emotional depth to the story.



Figure 12: Hands-on learning about the Video Editing process

For video-making scripts, it is essential to maintain clear distinctions between elements intended for audio and those intended for video. To create a video story, we have to divide it into two parts: one side containing the audio, including where the narrator will speak, along with statements from witnesses or experts. On the other side, it should contain time stamps and links of the video clips. Each video clip to be used must be time-stamped to the section to be used. For example, from an entire video clip, we need only need footage from 2.5 minutes to 3.44 minutes, so it needs to be mentioned to ensure accurate synchronisation during editing. The first step to create a video story is to visualise how the final story would look and then structure it accordingly, even if the outcome is different from the initial version.

I discovered that it is important to include B-roll footage. B-roll footage refers to shots of the surroundings of the videographer that will help the audience understand what the videographer is seeing. It is essential to take still photos of the person and pictures of the person's day-to-day life. The photos do not need to be polished, but they need to be real. They need to show the reality the subject lives in every day. When interviewing, we have to capture scenes of daily life that show the subject's world in detail, making the experience immersive enough for the audience to feel connected to it.

I have also learned that while shooting the video, make sure to always check the audio, as the audio is an important part. Always check the audio at first, then check it after asking a few questions or taking a few videos. I learned as part of the process to try to include natural elements in the person's immediate environment, such as their home, workplace, or community

setting, to make the story appear authentic. To keep the shot properly aligned, use an imaginary straight line that focuses on the first interviewee's face, and the background context appears naturally in the frame. There will be cases where the subject does not want to reveal their identity or the subject does not wish to reveal their surroundings. While shooting these types of cases, we have to remember their wishes and make sure to remove any kind of identifying markers.

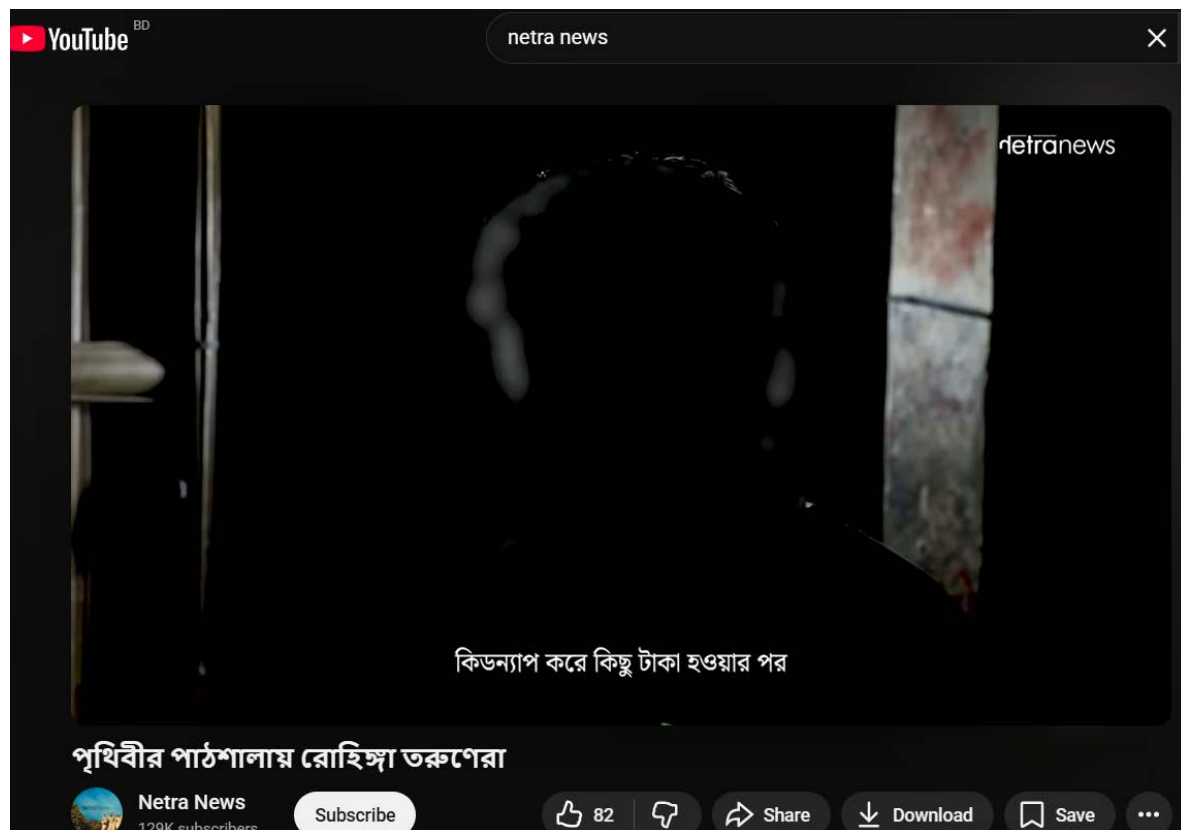


Figure 13: Respecting Privacy During Interviews – Source Anonymity

The above picture (Figure 16) is from a report of *Netra News*, the title says “Rohingya youths in world's education”. Here, the above screenshot is of a Rohingya youth who has turned to kidnapping and committing other crimes to earn money. Since he wishes to remain

anonymous, his entire face is blurred out by a blurry circle, and the environment is set in a way that ensures that nothing around him or about him can be identifiable.

I realised that while editing the video, we have to make sure the statements that are given are not edited in a way that misrepresents what the person actually said. It is our responsibility to make sure not to distort or change the original meaning. Finally, while writing the video scripts, first we have to visualise the story we want to tell. Then, structure the script in a way that can be clearly understood by the video editor. This makes the editing process more easily manageable, since it is already a very lengthy and time - consuming process.

During my training, I also learned about mobile journalism, which is also known as MoJo.

Mobile journalism refers to the practice of using mobile phones rather than traditional professional cameras and recording equipment to capture photographs, videos, audio recordings, and interviews. These days, smartphones are capable of producing high - quality visual and audio content. This makes them an effective tool for reporting. Mobile journalism is particularly important in situations where carrying heavy cameras, microphones, and other professional equipment is impractical or unsafe. Reporters often need to respond quickly to unfolding events. Mobile devices help them capture footage immediately because they're widely accessible and discreet, enabling journalists to work more easily in fast-paced or sensitive environments.



Figure 14: A still from the video report on the Bawm community that was done using Mobile Journalism

In this picture (Figure 14), we see a grieving mother of a 13-year-old Bawm child who was killed by the military in their own backyard. This interview was part of a report that was about the indigenous Bawm community, how they are under siege by the army every day, and how it is affecting their everyday life. This video was taken in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, as the participants were unable to travel to Dhaka due to military-imposed travel restrictions, which required a very strict justification for leaving the area. Given the sensitivity of this case in which a 13-year-old child was killed by military personnel, the reporters were required to operate with extreme caution. To avoid drawing attention, the reporter was unable to use professional cameras

or recording equipment, as this could have made their presence noticeable and placed both their life and the safety of local participants at risk.

Because of this, the reporter relied entirely on mobile journalism to conduct the interview and document the entire report through her phone. This allowed her to work discreetly while ensuring that the audio was clear, the video was visible, and the emotional weight of the participant's testimony was effectively conveyed. This made me realise how mobile journalism can be essential in a high-paced, restricted environment. This taught me that mobile journalism can be essential in high-risk, restricted environments, enabling journalists to report responsibly while prioritising safety as well as ethical considerations.

I found that video stories are the most effective and popular form of news reporting as they contain both audio and visual elements. In a video story, the narrator plays a crucial role in shaping the viewer's experience. The voiceover must be clear, precise, and engaging so that the audience feels engaged and wants to keep watching. A well-written and well-delivered narration should make viewers think, “This is interesting, I want to know more about this.” Voiceover needs to be both attention-grabbing as well as easy to follow, soothing to the ear, effective at communicating the message.

I also worked on a few video stories where I served as the narrator, but since I had no prior experience with voice work, singing, or any other form of vocal performance, my delivery did not meet the expected standards. Despite this, the experience was very educational, teaching me the importance of clear pronunciation, proper breathing, and maintaining an even tone throughout the narration. I also learned some essential techniques for doing voice-over.

Chapter 8

Theories and Practice

In the course of my academic journey, I was introduced to a variety of theories that helped me view the world more clearly. Now I understand their practical implications through various tasks I have done during my internship. Several courses contributed to this process, including ENG 331 - Cultural Studies, ENG 333 - Globalisation and Media, ENG 205 - Introduction to Media Studies, ENG 320 - Arts and Visual Literacy, and many others. This section outlines the theoretical ideas from courses that were most relevant and explains how they helped me understand my tasks more effectively.

During my internship, I realised that not every theoretical idea was useful in practical newsroom work. The tasks I was assigned required quick verification, ethical judgment, and contextual understanding rather than the direct application of theories. Some ideas became relevant when they helped me to understand power structures and media responsibility, while others remained unused. This experience showed me that in professional journalism, ideas are valuable as they can help interpret reality.

The first ideas or concepts that I found applicable in my internship were the theory of the classical Marxist Approach and the Frankfurt School's Culture Industry, which I have studied in one of my academic courses. During my time at *Netra News*, these theories became more

evident. I observed how the mainstream media often prioritises profit, popularity, and political alignment over actual issues like class inequality, state violence, and marginalisation. Although many commercial outlets frame news in ways that maintain the existing power structure, *Netra News* positions itself against this model by focusing on investigative and public-interest journalism that challenges dominant narratives rather than reproducing them. Through this contrast, I was able to bridge the gap between theory and practice as concepts that once felt abstract were reflected in reality.

During my internship, I found that Frankfurt School's theory of the culture industry is widely present in our media. The Frankfurt School refers to a group of German scholars, including Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, and others. In 1944, Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer coined the term "Culture Industry". The culture industry refers to the process and production of mass culture. The Frankfurt School saw it as a way to conform to the system and manipulate the masses through a dominant ideology, whilst providing the illusion of control (Storey 66-68).

In the classical Marxist approach, the base and superstructure theory refers to how a society's economic system shapes its culture, ideology, institutions, etc. The base refers to the economic foundation of society, its forces of production (raw materials, tools, technology, workers, skills, etc.) and relations of production (the class relationships of people involved in production). The superstructure refers to the collection of social institutions, ideas, and beliefs that are built on the base. This theory helped me understand why the media often reflects the interests of powerful people and groups, and why they try to control the majority of the media during their regime. The base refers to the economic structure, in this case, parties or people who are in the media. If

large businesses or powerful people merge, especially those with political connections, they control the media outlets, the funding, the resources, the public perception, and the overall direction. The superstructure in this case refers to the media's ideological output, such as content, editorials, and coverage of only news aligned with the ruling party (Storey 61-62).

Traditional Bangladeshi media operates as a culture industry, producing standardised, repetitive content designed to attract the masses rather than encourage critical thinking. The majority of the time, the media follows predictable formulas like sensational crime reporting, celebrity, and politically charged debate that favour spectacle over critical thinking. This alliance with the culture industry model, where the goal is not to challenge the viewers but to keep them consuming content passively. Not to mention the ownership structure of our media that contributes to the cultural industry, as major television news channels, newspapers, and media agencies are controlled by people with political affiliations or capitalist interests, which leads to content that reflects the dominant ideological positions, if we look at a certain newspaper or news agencies' past decade of media reporting, we will see that the majority of the news channels will talk in favour of the ruling party. The media environment produced cultural products that supported the existing power structure rather than questioning it.

During my internship, I came to realise that there are only a few media outlets that challenge pre-determined media standards that were created by powerful groups or people in power. *Netra News* challenges the culture industry model by producing in the public interest, journalism, long-form reporting, and evidence-based analysis. *Netra News's* structure of publishing one thoroughly researched story at the end of the week is a deliberate rejection of this model. At the

same time, the culture industry thrives on media outlets influenced by powerful economic groups, people, or political groups. *Netra News* positions itself outside of this structure. Because their platform can publish stories that challenge authority, expose the wrongful actions of those in power, and question dominant ideologies, an example of this is publishing the story of “Aynaghor”, a secret detention centre that was used to hold people of enforced disappearance. By emphasising public interest accountability over profit, *Netra News* breaks away from the culture industry model of maintaining conformity and protecting the higher class.

I also studied the Panopticon. The Panopticon is an architectural and technical design for surveillance conceived by Jeremy Bentham. It consists of a ring-shaped building with cells on the perimeter and a central tower from which an overseer or a guard can see into every cell. Its principle is to effect an all-seeing power by using light and visibility to locate each inmate. Panopticon's effect is that the inmate never knows when they are being watched, but has a sense they are always being watched, which eventually leads them to internalise the gaze within themselves and become their own overseer. According to Michel Foucault, it is a technology of power designed to solve the problems of surveillance over large numbers of people at minimal cost and maximum efficiency (Foucault 01).

Over more than a decade, the media sector of our country has been heavily surveilled by the government, the politicians who hold power, the military, and many other surveillance agencies. The founder, as well as the editor-in-chief, Tasneem Khalil, has faced this surveillance in an extreme manner and was exiled later on. *Netra News* was created in Malmö, Sweden, to ensure it can operate without the surveillance of those who are in power. Although it is true that it is

nearly impossible to completely avoid their surveilling gaze, *Netra News* remains committed to public-interest journalism. Even in our meetings, we made sure to keep our confidential information from being said out loud, and whenever we had a meeting with non-Bangladeshi participants, we made sure to take extreme measures to make sure that none of the information from the meeting could get leaked, even if we were being surveilled.

I also learned about Roland Barthes' works on semiotics, the study of signs, and the application of this framework to popular culture. Barthes' primary interest lies in how meanings are produced and circulated through science, such as images, and how these meanings are circulated in society (Barthes 123-131).



Figure 15: The official logo of *Netra News* reflecting its Bangladeshi identity

Through this, I am able to identify several meanings in the name and logo of *Netra News* (Figure 17). The name “*Netra News*”, the first word “Netra” is a Bangla word that means “Eye”, we use our eyes to observe our surroundings. By using this specific Bangla word, *Netra News* indirectly tells the audience that they have actively taken on the role of the watchdog of our society, ensuring that those in power are held accountable for their actions. It is also important to mention that the use of the Bangla alphabet “নে” instead of the English letter “N” in the official logo, by using a Bangla alphabet at the beginning, *Netra News* asserts a core Bangladeshi identity, and a connection to Bangladeshi people, society, culture, as well as the Bangla language, even though it is based in Malmö, Sweden.

While studying Editing, I learnt about the 5W and 1H framework: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How. A very common method that is used in journalism is to provide complete and accurate information. I applied this method while creating the expert sources database. It helps me to organise the information in a systematic and comprehensive way. I started to create the database by explaining what I was creating, an expert sources database for *Netra News*. Then I identified who the individuals were by listing their names. I followed this with where they work, their areas of expertise, their professional designation, etc. Lastly, I included how I collected this information, whether it came from any event or from the members of the *Netra News* team.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Full name	Phone Number	Email	Profession/ Workplace/Area of Expertise	Collected From	Category
2				Barrister	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Judiciary
3				Professor at the University of Dhaka	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia
4				Student Against Discrimination (SAD)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Politics
5				Film Maker	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Culture
6				Indigenous Queen of Chakma Circle in Chittagong Hill tracts	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
7				LGBTQ Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
8				Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Politics
9				Feminist, Naripokkho	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
10				Professor at the University of Rajshahi	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
11				Muktiforum, Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
12				Leftist, Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
13				Professor at the University of Rajshahi	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia
14				National Citizen Party (NCP)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Politics
15				Social activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
16				Prof. at Dept of Mass Communication & Journalism at DU	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia
17				Trans Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society, Activist
18				Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
19				Teacher at the University of Dhaka	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia, Civil Society
20				Economist, Activist	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Academia, Civil Society
21				UPL Publisher	Suraiya Sultana Bithy	Civil Society
22						
23				Centre for Policy Dialogue-CPD	Nusmila Lohani	Civil Society

Figure 16: Practical Application of 5 W's and 1 H

During studying copywriting and editing, I learnt about headlines and how to use them. While I was creating the database, I used headline-writing techniques in the top section, which I learnt in editing and copywriting. In both courses, the emphasis is on getting the audience's attention by using appropriate appeals, speaking directly to the readers, and delivering a meaningful message. I applied those principles by writing headlines that immediately tell the user what they need to know and what action they should take. In the picture below (Figure 17), we can see that a red banner states, “The following contacts were compiled from existing sources, including older visiting cards. Some details may have changed. Kindly confirm availability and accuracy before reaching out.” This follows the “reason-why” approach by explaining why the readers should be cautious and directly telling them what to do. It also injects news value by informing that some

of the information is outdated. Below the headline, the table headers consist of Name, Phone Number, Email, Job Description/Profession/Title, and Category. This demonstrates the rule of avoiding unnecessary cleverness. Using the headline and the table layout guides the user on what to expect.

The following contacts were compiled from existing sources, including older visiting cards. Some details may have changed. Kindly confirm availability and accuracy before reaching out.				
Name	Phone Number	Email	Job Description/Profession/Title	Category
			Advocacy & Documentation Manager at phulki	Judiciary
			Senior Staff Lawyer, Legal Aid Services	Judiciary
			Barrister	Judiciary
			Managing Partner at Wolera Ashfaq and associates, Bar	Judiciary
			Member of Khurshid & associates, Senior Advocate of Su	Judiciary
			Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court	Judiciary
			Administrative Officer at BELA	Judiciary
			Advocate, Dhaka Bar Association	Judiciary
			Head of Programme at BELA	Judiciary
			Advocate, Additional P. P., Judge Court, Noakhali	Judiciary
			Advocate at Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Additional Att	Judiciary
			Prosecutor (Assistant Attorney General), International Cri	Judiciary

Figure 17: Practical Application of Effective Headlines

In Editing, I learned how punctuation helps in organising information and improving clarity. I applied those skills while working on the database. Punctuation was mainly used to separate titles, professions, organisations, and descriptions of the individual. For example, commas were used to list multiple roles belonging to the same person, such as “economist, activist” or “lawyer, human rights activist”. This helps the reader to understand that each term refers to a different aspect of the individual's identity. Slashes were used in entries like “Profession/ Workplace/Area of Expertise “ as it was a quicker way to show alternatives or multiple identities within the same field. Quotation marks were placed around formal titles or institutions to highlight official designations and distinguish them from surrounding text. Full stops or periods mark the end of complete entries, giving each category a stopping point. In a few cases, Dashes or hyphens were

used to indicate missing, incomplete, or unspecified information. Punctuation helped structure the long list of roles and titles in a way that made information easier to navigate, reducing confusion as well as supporting accuracy, as showcased in the ENG401 course.

While completing my internship at *Netra News*, I attempted to record voice-overs for several video stories; however, my performance did not meet the standard because I had no prior experience with voice-overs or related activities, such as singing, debating, or public speaking. Whenever I attempted to record the voiceover, I applied the principles of audiovisual promotion that I had learnt in Copywriting, where I have understood that it is important to create a single selling point and delivery in a memorable way, with that in mind, whenever I tried to give a voiceover, I focused on emphasising the central message. I also experimented with subtle tonal rhythm, not childish rhyming, but I tried to maintain a controlled melodic flow to keep the listener engaged. I tried to create a mental image of the report through the sound. As the narration scripts were written by another reporter, I tried my best to convey the information clearly and highlight the key details important to the audience. I also made sure to repeat vital information to reinforce the central idea and the actions needed to be taken.

Interviews are an important part of journalism because, without them, reporting would be biased, incomplete, and inaccurate for the audience that depends on accurate information. In class, I have learned about interviews, but here I saw firsthand how interviewing is an essential part of journalism. It allows reporters to gather accurate first-hand information directly from the people who were involved or have knowledge about a particular issue. Although documents, data,

online sources, and other resources can provide the necessary information, interviews allow clarification and context from the person who has gone through the incident.

During my internship, I did not have the opportunity to conduct interviews, as my primary responsibility was creating the database. I closely observed my coworkers during interviews and connected these observations with what I have learnt in English for the Print Media. There, I saw that the interviews were a blend of unstructured interviews, individual interviews, and both informal and formal interviews. Based on my observations, the majority of interviews were unstructured: they were flexible, not overly planned, and allowed the interviewee to express themselves more freely. This helped the interviewer to make a better judgment about the interviewee's intention, experience, as well as their overall perspective. The interviews were mostly individual, consisting of one interviewer and one interviewee, making for a direct verbal and visual interaction between two people.

I also noticed that many of the interviews were informal in nature as they often took place in casual settings, such as outside in public spaces, or even sometimes in the interviewee's home. Sometimes interviews were conducted over the phone, Zoom, or Google Meet, and the questions varied depending on the situation. There was no strict organisational structure, and because of that, it created an atmosphere of friendly conversation. However, when reporters interviewed a highly respected expert or specialist, the interviews shifted to a more formal format. In case of these interviews, they were planned in advance, conducted in a formal setting, and followed a detailed list of questions. Observing these different styles allowed me to understand how interview techniques depend on the purpose, the audience, and the context, and because of that, it helped me connect to my course learning in real-life practice.

During my internship at *Netra News*, I realised they practice high journalism through their strong commitment to accuracy, integrity, and public-interest journalism. In English for the Print Media, I learned that high journalism refers to reporting events and presenting them in a way that is honest, helpful, and meaningful to society. *Netra News* practices high journalism in every story they produce. Reporters take as much time to investigate stories. They avoid sensationalism and instead focus on clarity and produce narratives that are based on evidence. Their editorial process is rigorous; everything goes through fact-checking, verification, and ethical review before publication, so that there is no room for error. *Netra News* maintains transparency by presenting documents and data sources to support their claims and gives the accused a right to respond. They make sure that the readers can trust the information, making *Netra News* a strong example of high journalism in today's media landscape.

As mentioned earlier, I had the opportunity to attend an event featuring the work and the book release of Jibon Ahmed, the head photographer of *Netra News* and the person behind the iconic photograph of martyr Golam Nafis. The exhibition featured photographs of the July revolution through a photojournalist's eyes. Observing his exhibition allows me to see how Walter Benjamin's theory, “the work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction,” which I have studied in my ENG 333 class, becomes visible.



Figure 18: Part of Jibon Ahmed's Exhibition and Book Launch

The photographs of the July Revolution show Walter Benjamin's concept of the decay of aura and the resulting shift in the arts' function from ritual to politics. The aura refers to the unique presence, history, and authenticity that an artwork possesses (Benjamin 217–252). If we take Nafis's image as an example, it immediately loses its aura upon being captured and distributed. Because it is a digital photo, it can be instantly multiplied through mechanical reproduction. The Photos of the July Revolution, instead of being held in galleries, exhibition centres, or museum places that are tied to ritualistic cult value, these images appear everywhere on phones,

newspapers, social media, etc. The photographs of the July revolution are not in aesthetic uniqueness but in their political function as an immediately accessible evidence of the historical oppression of the Awami League regime and the resistance of Generation Z.

According to Benjamin's framework, the photos Jibon Ahmed took have their true power in their exhibition value and in the politicisation of art they enable. For example, the photos of Nafis being rescued by an ordinary rickshaw puller are a clear political directive that demands a critical as well as collective response from the masses. It serves as evidence as well as a reminder of the police and military brutality that our generation has faced, therefore fueling a revolutionary cause. Exhibiting the photos of the July Revolution proves that the message is less about the technical beauty of photographs, but it's about their function as an instrument of mass awareness and political mobilisation.

Conclusion

My internship at *Netra News* has been enriching. This experience allowed me to explore practical aspects of investigative journalism, media research, as well as responsible reporting while also giving me the chance to apply my theoretical knowledge that I have gained during my studies at BRAC University on Media and Cultural Studies.

Throughout my time at *Netra News*, I observed and participated in a wide range of journalistic processes. I have come to realise the importance of ethical reporting, empathy, and sensitivity is extremely important when dealing with personal narratives. I noticed how reporters verify information from multiple sources and present a balanced perspective. This helped me gain an understanding of the responsibilities and challenges journalists face every day.

This internship also helped me gain practical experience. I learned a lot about research-based as well as modern reporting techniques, conducting mobile journalism, and advanced online research for audience engagement. I also learned to use various online tools to support the investigative process, including verifying data in news reports in local newspapers across divisions. It also taught me the art of storytelling. It taught me that reporting is not limited to describing events. It's more about capturing the human experience behind the story. Effective storytelling can convey the struggles of affected individuals and give voice to a community whose experience is often overlooked. Whether reporting on blasphemy-related incidents, systemic marginalisation of minority communities, or political unrest, I realised the profound

impact that careful, respectful, and narrative-driven journalism can have on public awareness and social discourse.

This internship also allowed me to reflect on my own professional growth. It helps me to understand how to navigate the office environment and communicate effectively with colleagues. It also taught me to maintain my perseverance while managing complex and sensitive tasks. It helped me to understand my own limitations and strengths. I realised that, despite the many responsibilities we carry, in the end, we are all human. It is natural and necessary to acknowledge as well as express our humanity.

During my internship, I have gained an understanding that connecting with colleagues is not just about communication but also about mutual respect, understanding, and shared purposes. Even if I were only there for a few weeks, it taught me the importance of appreciating their work and recognising that these individuals play a crucial role as the watchdog of our society, ensuring that those in power are held accountable.

In conclusion, working at *Netra News* enhanced my skills, helped me to expand my understanding of media practices, and strengthened my commitment to ethical and impactful reporting. The knowledge and the insights I have gained during the internship will continue to guide me. I believe the experience and memories I have created with *Netra News* will be an invaluable part of my professional journey.

WORKS CITED

Adorno, Theodor W. *The Culture Industry*, Routledge, 1991,

irp.cdn-website.com/e401e78b/files/uploaded/adorno_culture_industry.pdf.

Azad, M. Abul Kalam. "Bangladesh." *Media Landscapes*, Media Landscapes, \

European Journalism Centre, 2018,

[medialandscapes.org/static/country/bangladesh/media/digital-media.html#:~:text=The%20](http://medialandscapes.org/static/country/bangladesh/media/digital-media.html#:~:text=The%20amount%20of%20revenue%20the,so%20far%20applied%20for%20registration)

[amount%20of%20revenue%20the,so%20far%20applied%20for%20registration](http://medialandscapes.org/static/country/bangladesh/media/digital-media.html#:~:text=The%20amount%20of%20revenue%20the,so%20far%20applied%20for%20registration).

Barthes, Roland. *Mythologies*, THE NOONDAY PRESS - NEW YORK FARRAR, STRAUS

AND GIROUX, 1972,

<https://soundenvironments.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/roland-bart>

[hes-mythologies.pdf](https://soundenvironments.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/roland-bart)

Benjamin, Walter. "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction." *Illuminations*,

edited by Hannah Arendt, translated by Harry Zohn, Schocken Books, 1969, pp.

217–252.

Foucault, Michel. "The Eye of Power: A Conversation with Jean-Pierre Barou and Michelle Perrot." *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972–1977*, edited by Colin Gordon, Pantheon Books, 1980, pp. 146–165.

Marx, Karl. *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*. Loudly, 2024.

Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*, Eighth Edition, Routledge, 2018.