

Report On

Inside the Editorial Desk: A Media and Cultural Studies Internship at
The New Nation

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

Department of English and Humanities
BRAC University
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Declaration

I hereby declared that,

1. The internship report submitted is my original work while completing a degree at BRAC University.
2. The report does not contain material previously published or written by anyone; some of the texts are appropriately cited through accurate referencing.
3. This report does not have materials that were previously accepted or submitted for any other degree at any university.
4. I have appropriately mentioned all of the sources I have referred to for help.

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Letter of Transmittal

Roohi Andalib Huda

Assistant Professor,

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Kha 224, Merul Badda. Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.

Subject: Internship report on Inside the Editorial Desk: A Media and Cultural Studies Internship at *The New Nation*

Dear Ma'am,

I am excited to present my internship report titled "Inside the Editorial Desk: A Media and Cultural Studies Internship at *The New Nation*." I would also like to acknowledge that it would have been impossible to complete this report effectively without your guidance and help. To write this report to the best of my ability, I have included everything noteworthy that I have learned while interning at *The New Nation*. I also incorporated some of the theories that I have studied in various media courses over the past four years.

Cordially,

Mst Noushin Sharmily

21203002

Department of English and Humanities,

BRAC University.

Non-Disclosure Agreement

This agreement is made and signed by the undersigned student, Mst Noushin Sharmily, at BRAC University and *The New Nation*. The purpose of this agreement is to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of the organisation's confidential data.

মস্ত নুশিন শর্মিলি

The New Nation

Mst Noushin Sharmily

Acknowledgement

I would like to start with the greatest gratitude to Allah, who allowed me to pursue my studies at BRAC University. He has always guided and blessed me. I would like to greatly appreciate my sister and my chachi, who always believed in me, supported me, and encouraged me to take a step in this path.

My best friend and my husband, Oli, in particular, have been of great help to me. He has always motivated me, remained patient, and helped me feel better during hard moments. Also, I am grateful to my university friends Nishat, Sadia, Mahzabin, Tanzim, and Neha, who have taught and helped me a lot. Last, but not least, I would like to say my heartfelt gratitude to my internship supervisor, Roohi Miss, and her guidance, support, and useful feedback, which helped to complete this report to a great extent.

Executive Summary

This report is based on my internship experience at *The New Nation*, which is one of the oldest English-language daily newspapers in Bangladesh. It is known to influence the knowledgeable discussion of the population and the ethical principles of journalism. The internship in such a highly regarded organization gave me the experience to learn more about and engage in the daily operations of a professional newsroom.

Some of the desk-based activities I did during the internship included editing and proofreading news reports, helping to prepare headlines, and arranging content to be published. These duties made me realize that accuracy, clarity, and ethical responsibility are essential in journalism. It was also a good experience that enabled me to use theoretical concepts from my academic background in actual practice in the newsroom.

The internship at *The New Nation* was an effective learning process that enhanced my editorial abilities, optimized my cognition of the operations of the media, and led me to other future professional interactions in the media and communication sector.

Table of Contents

Declaration.....	ii
Letter of Transmittal.....	iii
Non-Disclosure Agreement.....	iv
Acknowledgement.....	v
Executive Summary.....	vi
Table of Contents.....	vii
Glossary.....	ix
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
1.1 What is Journalism?.....	1
1.2 Media and Cultural Studies Concentration.....	1
1.3 History of Newspapers in Bangladesh.....	2
1.4 Academic and Organisational Choice.....	3
Chapter 2: Historical Background of <i>The New Nation</i>.....	6
2.1 Introduction to the Newspaper.....	6
2.2 Founding and Establishment.....	6
2.3 Evolution and Growth.....	7
2.4 Editorial Focus and Philosophy.....	8
2.5 Structure and Departments.....	8
2.6 The Newspaper's Role in Bangladesh's Media Landscape.....	8
2.7 Relevance to Internship.....	9
Chapter 3: Responsibilities as an Intern at <i>The New Nation</i>.....	10
3.1 Monitoring and Collecting News Stories.....	10
3.2 International News Sourcing.....	11
3.3 Understanding the Structure of the Newspaper.....	12
3.4 The Inverted Pyramid Structure.....	13
3.5 Writing a Press Release.....	14
Chapter 4: Editing and Finding News for Page 3.....	16
4.1 Page 3 Coverage and News Finding Process.....	16
4.2 Editing Process.....	17
Chapter 5: Translation of News Stories.....	18
5.1 Translation and its definition.....	18
5.2 Translation process at <i>The New Nation</i>	19
5.3 Challenges in Translation.....	20
Chapter 6: Working with Press Releases.....	21
6.1 Understanding Press Release.....	21

6.2 Writing a Press Release.....	21
Chapter 7: Published Work – Movie Review, Op-Ed, and Editorial.....	24
7.1 Movie Review: ‘The Lord of the Rings Trilogy’	24
7.2 Op-Ed: ‘Reflection in the Face of Difficulties — Durga Puja and Religious Harmony.’	25
7.3 Unpublished Editorial: ‘The Tk 2 Lakh Bhoi Shock — Bangladesh’s Gold Rush or Economic Red Flag?’	27
Chapter 8: Photojournalism and Visual Storytelling.....	28
8.1 Definition and Importance of Photojournalism.....	28
8.2 Writing Photo Captions as an Intern.....	29
Chapter 9: Application of Media Theories.....	31
9.1 Introduction to Media Theories.....	31
9.2 Globalization Theory.....	31
9.3 Cultural Homogenization Theory.....	32
9.4 Power of Visual Theory.....	33
9.5 Panopticon and Gaze Theory.....	34
Chapter 10: My Experience and Learning.....	36
10.1 Personal Growth and Challenges.....	36
Chapter 11: Conclusion.....	38
Works Cited.....	40

Glossary

E-Paper: Digital edition of a newspaper, published on a newspaper's website

Gaze: The gaze is a way of exercising power through observation, leading individuals to self-discipline themselves.

Panopticon: An English Philosopher and Jurist, Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon is a prison cell design with a central watchtower that allows guards to observe the prisoners without the prisoners knowing whether they are being watched.

Gatekeeping: The editorial decision-making process whereby editors determine which news items get translated, what content is emphasized, or omitted.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 What is Journalism?

“The job of the newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable,” remarked Mr Dooley, a satirical character constructed by the famous American journalist and humorist Finley Peter Dunne.

This quote will always be relevant in describing the spirit of journalism to provide a voice to the voiceless and keep the authorities answerable. The process of collecting, interpreting, and reporting news and information to brief the population on the events of the day and issues at hand is described as journalism. This field of study is the guarantor of social transparency by exposing evil. It further assists in building democratic consciousness, where citizens can make well-informed decisions. Over the years, journalism has grown through a number of technological phases. The print was overtaken by the radio, then the television, and eventually in the digital age, information being transmitted throughout the world within the blink of an eye. Nevertheless, the principles of journalism have not changed to serve the will of the people by disclosing the truth and bringing civic life.

1.2 Media and Cultural Studies Concentration

The Media and Cultural Studies concentration at the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University is a set of courses that provides an insight into how the media can be viewed as a cultural and communicative force. It aims to educate students about media literacy and representation. It makes students aware of how media messages are produced, distributed, and decoded by various audiences. With this focus, students can know the production and construction of media texts and

meanings. It also shows how viewers move and perceive those messages in the wider social and cultural conditions.

This concentration develops both academic and professional skills such as writing, editing, proofreading, and effective communication that aspiring journalists and media professionals need. It makes students think critically about the way in which the media functions, affects the general perceptions, creates identities, and either upholds or attacks existing social norms. For example, repeated inclusion of women leaders in the newspaper in terms of their personal qualities, appearance, marital status, emotional expression, etc., instead of their professional accomplishments, affects the way the audience views gender roles and supports the existing status quo.

In essence, the Media and Cultural Studies concentration confronts the students to peer beyond the texts. It can make the students perceive media as a vibrant cultural element that transforms and reproduces the collective consciousness. The field welcomes the critical approach to the way stories are narrated, voices are represented, and cultural meanings are disseminated in daily life. This field can encourage students to create a more powerful sense of the influence of the media to build values and identities by combining theory with the practical understanding of the cultural context. Thus, students get to learn how not only to interpret, but also to be involved in changing the way they think, to become storytellers, able to challenge, imaginative, and productive thinkers of a more inclusive and diverse cultural world.

1.3 History of Newspapers in Bangladesh

Newspapers in Bangladesh have a long history and have been published in this country since the 1960s. The history of journalism in Bangladesh reveals the origins of the people's struggle to gain a political voice, self-governance, and democracy. Prior to independence, newspapers such as *The Azad*

and *The Pakistan Observer* played important roles in increasing political awareness and uniting people on social issues. Following the independence in 1971, journalism in Bangladesh experienced a fast evolution process, and newspapers like *The Daily Ittefaq* and *The Daily Sangbad* turned out to be a strong instrument of expression by people and the reconstruction of the nation.

The leading newspapers, such as *The Daily Star*, *The New Nation*, or *Dainik Ajadi*, established standards of reliable news and editorial quality. These newspapers facilitated the mass participation of people through offering the correct information and providing terms of governance accountability. The past years, as a result of technological advancements, the newspaper industry has undergone a radical change. They have also adopted the technology role, now incorporating online editions and multimedia formats that best suit the digital needs of the changing audience. Through all these hurdles, such as misinformation and political pressure, the print and electronic media in Bangladesh still fulfill an important role in changing the opinion of the masses. The experience of my internship is part of this tradition that is still going on, adding to a long-term journalistic culture of valuing truth and serving the people.

1.4 Academic and Organisational Choice

I was admitted to BRAC University with an undecided mind, having no idea of what I would study and achieve in life. I did not give a second thought to BRAC University because it was too high for me. However, this was a turning point in my life since I was chosen by this university. I like reading, and therefore I enrolled in the Department of English and Humanities (ENH). Moreover, the ENH Department made me interested in the world of ideation and expression. This department enabled me to restore my trust and acquire my intellectual interest.

When I first enrolled at university, I was going to declare my major in literature just as a means of reading more books and learning stories. Nonetheless, with further courses I took, I learned how the ‘Media and Cultural Studies’ concentration can make students think critically about the application of language, culture, and media. The interest grew when I enrolled in some of the required media courses to understand culture as constructed by society. Besides, frames of media that influence shared thought in daily life helped me to think differently about common practices and statements. The focus on how theory describes the way one goes about their everyday experience, be it by reading headlines or forming views, allowed the concentration to have a deeper meaning to me. This specific focus also prepares students to read beyond the surface, to decode narratives, interpret meanings, and think critically about the surrounding world.

I decided not to go for a thesis and opted for an internship to have the practical application of the theory taught in the classroom. Although a thesis enables one to explore at a thorough theoretical level, I decided to get involved in the practical world of professional journalism. This internship helped me to experience the newsroom dynamics directly, beginning with the editorial planning process to the content production process and decision-making. This experience helped me to gain practical skills such as writing within deadlines, communicating with the editors, and writing stories to be published. It also helped me to become more aware of ethical and structural issues that affect media work. In general, the internship served to assist me in realizing how theories that I studied during classes may be implemented in the real world. I also got professional experience and developed confidence in the world of journalism, which moves at high speed.

The reason I selected *The Daily New Nation* is that it is the oldest newspaper in the country with a tangible commitment to reporting in the interest of the people. The values of the organisation are closely related to my academic values. It has an editorial philosophy that prizes depth and authenticity, as

opposed to sensationalism. I was able to observe how the teams of the various departments cooperate to check the sources in order to keep the integrity even in tense situations during my internship. This work environment helped me relate the academic ideas to the practical experiences, such as choosing what news is significant, and its presentation.

Chapter 2: Historical Background of *The New Nation*



Figure 1: The logo of *The New Nation*

2.1 Introduction to the Newspaper

The New Nation is a newspaper that is among the oldest in Bangladesh. It is a leading daily paper in the English language. It was founded as a broadsheet, and it remains a crucial source of news and information to both the Banglali and English-speaking readers in the country. The key principle of the newspaper has been the need to report without bias and adherence to the truth. It strives to deliver accurate and balanced news coverage to the audience.

2.2 Founding and Establishment

The New Nation started its journey on October 15, 1981, immediately after the independence of Bangladesh. The newspaper began as a weekly paper. The paper, however, became a daily after three years, becoming the only independent English daily in Dhaka city. The idea behind the establishment of the newspaper was the establishment of a platform to address the rising demands of post-independent Bangladesh by Barrister Mainul Hosein. The initial editorial agenda of the newspaper consisted of reflecting the national concerns to the local and international audiences, and closing the divide between Bangladesh and the world.

The New Nation belongs to Ittefaq Group of Publications Limited. There are numerous legendary personalities of Bangladeshi journalism that has helped The New Nation to remain successful, and these include the late Hasan Sayeed, Mahbubul Alam, Amanullah, ABM Musa, Alamgir Mohiuddin, Enamul Huq, Fazle Rasheed, and many others. The present staff is performing under the watchful eyes of Mokarram Hossain, who is the editor of the newspaper.



Figure 2: *The New Nation* newspaper (Source: Google image)

2.3 Evolution and Growth

The New Nation has experienced a lot of transformation since its establishment to satisfy its audience. The newspaper has diversified its editions to take up different sections of the newspaper, including National, International, Sports, Entertainment, Business, and Economics. It has distinguished editors and journalists who have helped in making it a credible source of news. The newspaper has also established its online presence that has enhanced the growth of the newspaper. The contents of this

digital version are now more accessible. Its official site provides the recent news, e-paper editions, and multimedia content to the developing digital audience.

2.4 Editorial Focus and Philosophy

The New Nation's editorial policy rests on national development, socio-political awareness, and balanced reporting. The main focus of the target is the urban readers fluent in English. The journalistic ethics practiced by the newspaper include accuracy, fairness, and impartiality. It also reflects various voices, which makes informed popular dialogue in Bangladesh.

2.5 Structure and Departments

The New Nation is subdivided into different departments such as Editorial Team, City Desk, National Desk, International Desk, Sports and Entertainment Team, and Reporting Section. All the departments work together to come up with the final publication. During my internship period, I was not assigned to a specific department. I was, however, permitted to work with virtually all the departments. This exposure gave me some good knowledge about the working dynamics of a professional newsroom.

2.6 The Newspaper's Role in Bangladesh's Media Landscape

The New Nation is one of the oldest English dailies in Bangladesh and has contributed immensely to the media market in the country. The way this newspaper presents news is what makes it stand out from the rest of the leading newspapers, such as *The Daily Star* and *Dhaka Tribune*. *The New Nation* has been able to sustain its niche market by focusing on thorough coverage and commentary as part of its national issues, as opposed to other newspapers that are on the path of capturing a wider audience. For

example, it gives priority to analytical editorials that cover national matters and not news that is sensational or based on headlines.

2.7 Relevance to Internship

Looking back at my experience, my internship at *The New Nation* has given me an opportunity to see the practical application of journalistic principles to a newspaper with a long history and an articulated editorial philosophy. The opportunity to work on a publication that is concerned with truth, impartiality, and national interest allowed me to have a more profound insight into the role of the media in society. This experience has proved to be priceless in the gap between theory and practice.

Chapter 3: Responsibilities as an Intern at *The New Nation*

The main goal of the three-month internship was to train the students in the ways a newsroom functions and how the newsstories are gathered, edited, and delivered to a national as well as international audience. This was an internship where I got to have the first hand experience in a newsroom. My supervisor, Mr. Farrukh Khosru, helped me in the entire process of collecting and processing stories and publishing them to the audience.

3.1 Monitoring and Collecting News Stories

In the initial stage of my internship, I was trained on news story gathering. I have acquired skills on how to track different platforms such as national websites, government and non-governmental agencies, television broadcasts, and press releases to keep track of current events. This was the simple news selection criteria at *The New Nation*. To be published in the stories, the stories had to be up to certain editorial standards in terms of accuracy, relevancy, and impact. I realized that a journalist must have the capability of recognizing the possible news items as soon as possible before they become outdated.

At *The New Nation*, stories are selected based on the five news value factors-

- Timeliness or the urgency of the event,
- Consequences or the effect the news may have on the public,
- Proximity or the geographical relevance of the news to the target audience,
- Prominence or the significance of the news or individuals involved,
- Oddity or the unusual or rare nature of the event being reported.

These are some of the factors that help editors to select the stories that are not only relevant but also impactful to the audience. By being increasingly engaged in the process, I developed an

understanding of how the senior editors evaluate the relevance of a story, and where it would best fit. One of the lessons was that the editors had to give more weight to the national stories than to the local ones. It is because of the level of public interest, and they select news by monitoring sources like *BSS* (Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha) and *UNB* (United News of Bangladesh). For example, both a local road accident and a national budget policy update were released by the *BSS* and *UNB* on the same day, and the editors ordered me to focus on the budget story due to its broader implications on the economy and the people of the country. This experience taught me to have a good eye for what is really considered a publish-worthy story.

Moreover, I used to scan through the Bangla and English newspapers daily to keep track of the national and international happenings. This habit helped me in the analysis of various media houses reporting the same news and manipulating their audience. On the other hand, the newspaper correspondents of various districts, and the field reporters are continuously gathering news and informing the newsroom about the various breaking news and occurrences in the country. They transfer and track news using the official email of *The New Nation* (thenewnation6@gmail.com). The news is then edited and transformed by the respective news desk.

3.2 International News Sourcing

As I interned in *The New Nation*, a part of my job was to source international and global news. My supervisor also introduced me to different reputable news outlets such as *Reuters*, *BBC*, *The Wire India*, *VOA* (*Voice of America*), and *Al Jazeera*, among others. These are considered to be authentic providers of world news. As I worked on the international section, I was able to see how the editors summarized those stories and still managed to keep the content to the bare minimum required to attract the local audience. Moreover, they were subscribing to news sites like *Noya Diganto*, *Prothom Alo*, and

The Daily Star, as well, to be covered internally. Moreover, *The New Nation* makes sure that the copyright laws are observed to the letter to encourage the ethical use of news content.

3.3 Understanding the Structure of the Newspaper

During the first phase of the internship, my supervisor taught me the process of editing, laying out, and formatting the articles that are to be printed. The news is chosen and arranged carefully under different sections to ensure that the paper is interesting to the readers. 1C, a story that is often written in one column, is chosen according to the capacity to present brief information that is more light and easy to read. On the one hand, 3C is a three-column story, where the main evidence is in-depth news, accentuating events, breaking news, or feature stories. Moreover, the most significant one is the lead news of the day. It is selected because of its relevance, timeliness, and importance. These are the most conspicuous stories in their respective sections in the newspaper. Images are also chosen to accompany these narratives. It also assures relatability and great participation of the audience as it gives the context of the visuals. The captions have been carefully developed to bring out the main message of the story to be understood.

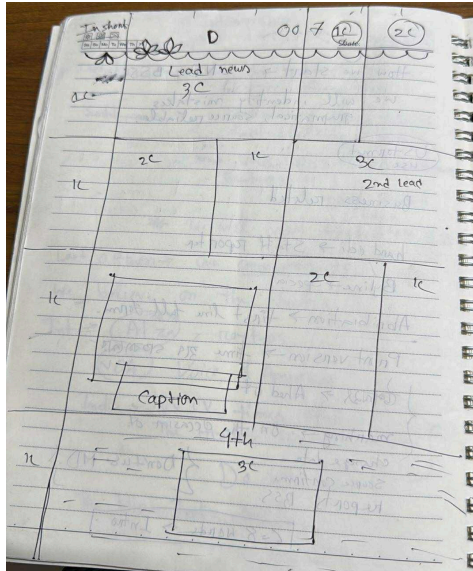


Figure 3: Notes of the lecture

3.4 The Inverted Pyramid Structure

The practical uses of the inverted pyramid structure were the best techniques that I acquired during my internship period. Throughout week one, my supervisor told me how this structure makes the readers have the understanding on what information is required, and the less critical information comes after. In the inverted pyramid structure, the most important information will be put in the first paragraph. The introductory part of a paragraph must answer all **5 Ws** and **1H**: **Who, What, When, Where, Why,** and **How** one can do it. The news body provides different details, including the background information, and gives the context of the incident. The conclusion paragraph contains the most redundant information that is not necessary to include in the story, in case there are limitations of space.

Besides, I also learned the division of hard news leads and soft news leads. Hard news is factual and presents important events that demand urgent attention and action. Soft news, on the other hand, is feature-based and is more oriented to the emotional appeal of the readers.

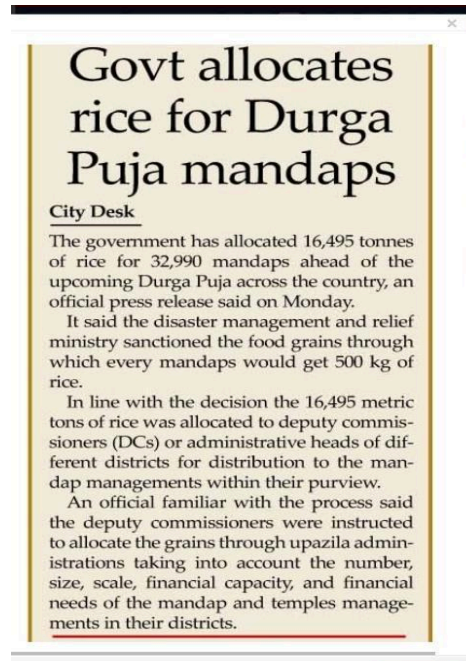


Figure 4: The news that I have edited, applying the inverted pyramid structure

3.5 Writing a Press Release

Another necessary part of my internship was writing a press release. Most of the time, I was requested to translate and edit press releases by different organisations, non-governmental organisations, and universities. For example, I was asked to translate and edit a press release of a university stating the opening of an academic program to make sure that it was clear and accurate. Among the things that I learned when I was working on press releases is that they are not similar to news reporting. The press releases are usually structured to communicate to the masses in a highly impartial and objective fashion. To do this, one needs to make the writing clear, concise, and factual, with the important points being brought to the forefront. The press release edited by me is given below in Figure 5. First, it was in Bangla, and I translated the press release to English. I also did editing of the press release as per the guidelines of *The New Nation*. This was published subsequently on the city page 3.

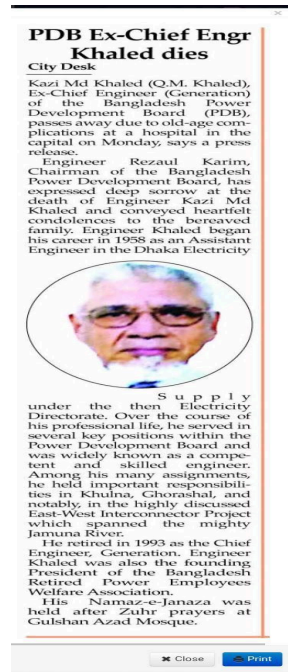


Figure 5: Press release that I translated from Bangla to English

Chapter 4: Editing and Finding News for Page 3

News on *The New Nation*, page 3, covers mostly news on metropolitan Dhaka. The write-ups that are present on this page are primarily about special events, weather, and the daily activities of the key personalities in Dhaka. My task in this part was to locate and edit the news in this city, keeping the interests of the readers in consideration.

4.1 Page 3 Coverage and News Finding Process

The entire page 3 is devoted to news only in the city of Dhaka. The essential purpose of this page is to keep the reader posted on the local and global events and developments that could take place around the city. This section mostly includes special events, like public festivals, exhibitions, collaborations, ambassador meetings, and weather, as well as announcements involving dengue or other health matters of the public. This section is informative to the readers and keeps them updated on the conditions that may affect their day-to-day activities. The senior editor of this page, Ms Sinthia Sharmin, also attempts to make this page lively and interesting. She does not enjoy publishing news pertaining to accidents since it is very heartbreaking. She keeps on rotating the page design, and her content is not static. She helped me to identify the appropriate stories that should fill the section daily. She would ask me to look after lead news some days, and in other instances, I would work on locating a conspectus and smaller snippets to fill up the one-column area where readers would be entertained. The news is normally gathered through sites such as *BSS* and *UNB*. The following page has significant press releases, which are in the form of news.

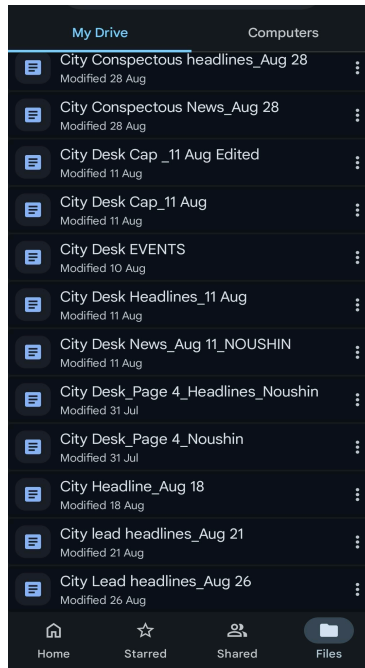


Figure 6: Google Drive picture of the assigned city page work

4.2 Editing Process

Editing page 3 at *The New Nation* was done systematically and accurately. To be clear and professional is the primary requirement. Once the story has been picked, the first thing is to remove the irrelevant information that does not contribute value to the core news. The page editor Ms Sinthia, is concerned with ensuring that the story is as short as possible and all the facts needed are included. Abbreviations are also employed in longer or more frequent terms to reduce the area and uniformity. For example, the honorifics such as Mr. or Md. before the name are strictly prohibited since it is the only way to stay neutral and still use modern journalistic language. The editing of the stories is in the inverted pyramid format, where the most significant information is at the head end, and then other supportive information comes. Since this page aims at maintaining a light tone, it is interesting to locate and edit news in this specific section.

Chapter 5: Translation of News Stories

Translation is essential in making news accessible to a wide audience. The editors in *The New Nation* translate Bangla news into English to attract the English-speaking customers. My task during my internship was to translate news and ensure that the quality and accuracy of the original content remained.

5.1 Translation and its definition

According to the Scottish linguist and phonetician J. C. Catford, translation entails the process of converting a text in a certain language into a different language. However, it is done in a way that the text retains its meaning, tone, and message. Translation brings the content into the context of the target audience of a particular culture. Translation has, however, transcended its use in print media. Translating does help newspapers in establishing a bridge that breaks the language barrier. It provides the correct news to a wider audience. There are various forms of translation that are normally employed in the print media:

- **Literal or Direct Translation:** This method is aimed at translating the text in the target language, keeping the structure and words of the original. It is also referred to as word-to-word translation. It is mostly applied in cases where the text is straightforward and factual.
- **Sense-for-Sense Translation:** In this process, emphasis is laid on the sense of the text instead of the text itself. It can also be referred to as free translation. The objective is to bring the main idea into the picture and use other words, but the meaning is not to be changed.

- **Adaptation:** It is a process of translation that is altered a little bit to ensure that the content is culturally acceptable to the target audience. It is mostly applied to local references or terms that are not directly synonymous in the target language.
- **Summarization:** This is a translation process, where long news is decreased or made into a shorter and much more concise text.

Each of these approaches is aimed at a particular purpose depending on the character of the content. In order to produce the proper and interesting news, it is important to know various forms of translation.

5.2 Translation process at *The New Nation*

The translation work at *The New Nation* is rather systematic. It is also important that news reports are properly translated into English from Bangla. The stories chosen by the editors to translate are from the reputed and authentic Bangla newspapers, such as *Prothom Alo*, *Noya Diganta*, and *Kaler Khontho*. The next step is to translate the news of interest, where editors concentrate on the translation meaning and ensure that the facts are not distorted due to space constraints. The converted text is edited and proofread many times by the editors to provide the text in the correct format and to preserve the essence of the story. They make some adjustments, which make the local references understandable not only to the English audience but also to the readers of other languages. The editors of *The New Nation* make the translation of news articles accurate and appealing to the audience.

One of my tasks during my time in the internship was to ensure that the original message was not lost in the process of translating the news. The news stories to be translated were mostly chosen by the chief reporter, Mr. Reza, and he directed me through the entire process. I had a job that did not just mean a translation of words in one language into the other but also entailed giving the words the proper meaning, tone, and context. The stories I worked on were normally forced to be shortened in order to be

able to fit into the space of the paper. Hence, I needed to be more attentive to the fact that I could not lose any critical information. Moreover, I was obliged to ensure the English version of the text is conversational and comprehensible. This was my lesson on having a balance between literal and cultural adaptation.

5.3 Challenges in Translation

My experience while translating at *The New Nation* was quite challenging. The process of translation is not necessarily a simple one. The major difficulty for me was coping with the references that had no English synonyms. For example, in the political and organizational discourse, the term ‘কর্মসূচি’ tends to mean a certain program or agenda. Nevertheless, there is no direct English counterpart to this word, and it must be adapted with care to retain its cultural and contextual meaning. In this case, it proved very difficult when I needed to come up with an appropriate word that would convey the intended message without sacrificing the cultural meaning behind it. The other problem I faced was the need to keep the tone of the news. News articles are written urgently but in a neutral, impartial way. I did not find it easy to make sure that the news is factual and in the same tone as the original one.

Mr Khalid, the National Desk Editor, repeatedly read through my translation drafts and reprimanded me on the use of more professional words. In order to achieve consistency, he taught me to be attentive to the details. Additionally, it was also my lesson that where the names, institution or events are concerned, it is always required to check the facts twice and confirm the spelling by using various databases or checking the original reports to ensure that the news is accurate and original.

Chapter 6: Working with Press Releases

6.1 Understanding Press Release

A press release is a written statement that is normally employed by organizations, businesses, or even government agencies to inform the media of something newsworthy in an attempt to generate publicity. These documents are designed in such a manner that they do not simply include the information, but also appeal to the media and the masses. Such reports are generally short, factual, and they comprise the required information that the organization would wish people to know. Press releases are of various kinds about announcements-

- **Event Press Release:** They are employed just to promote any events to the general public, like exhibitions, fairs, and the release of a new product. It gives information like time, venue, and date.
- **Corporate Announcement Press Release:** This one is a type of press release that is used to enlighten the people about a major internal update or the introduction of a new product to the market.
- **Crisis Press Release:** The crisis press release is usually released in case of a national emergency. They touch on issues and update the readers on the matter.

These are the most frequent press releases that were printed in Bangladeshi newspapers.

6.2 Writing a Press Release

At *The New Nation*, the press releases are published regularly. They are sent directly to the official emails. The editors also have to go through the materials and decide whether they are worth publishing or not. Being an intern, I had to translate a press release into a news article and make the necessary

changes often. However, before translating them, I was instructed to verify the identity of the sender. I was also asked to perform a fact check of the date and interest of the public in the news. It is important to have a comprehensive grasp of the subject and pertinent information from credible sources. The majority of the press releases were in Bangla, especially the governmental and university press releases in the country. During the process of preparing those reports, a professional voice was an important challenge that I encountered. The following step involved the identification of the core message of the report and writing an article based on that. My supervisor at the location prohibited me from writing the headline first. The aspect that I mainly concentrated on following his instructions was the writing of the body of the news, which would follow the structure of the 5Ws: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.

In the process of writing the first paragraph, I attempted to add the most crucial and needed information, then the supporting one. Secondly, in translating a press release, I deleted honorifics and local nicknames that are mostly used in official Bangla releases to neutralize them. As an example, I substituted honorifics such as Dr. Rahman Bhai and local nicknames with Dr. Rahman to make the press release impartial to English readers. Also, to suit the clarity of the paper, I used shorter and simpler sentences. To make it even more interesting, I occasionally included a quote from the attendee or spokesperson. Quotations help in making a press release livelier since it provides human touch to the press release.

Just as in a press release, the critical information is only edited and published. That is why it was necessary to make the piece short but informative, which was not so easy for me at first. However, I was later capable of writing some articles that were up to the standards of the newspaper.

Adviser Mahfuz meets UNESCO BD representative

City Desk

Information and Broadcasting Adviser Md. Mahfuz Alam held a meeting with Sumana Bhattacharya, the Representative of UNESCO Bangladesh, on Tuesday.

The meeting took place at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, says a press release.

During the discussion, Adviser stated that the Ministry is working to safeguard the rights of journalists and ensure the responsible coverage of public events, especially in the context of the upcoming National Parliamentary Elections. He emphasised that a fair and neutral media environment is cru-

cial for free and independent elections.

He assured that the government is committed to providing all necessary support to the media. He added that,

currently, there is no government censorship of media questions and that the government values responsible journalism.

The meeting also addressed

collaboration with UNESCO on media protection, professional capacity building, and training initiatives. The Ministry's efforts to support ethical journalism and counter misinformation were discussed. The head of UNESCO's Bangladesh Cultural Division was also present during the meeting.



Figure 7: Press Release translated by me

Chapter 7: Published Work – Movie Review, Op-Ed, and Editorial

During my internship at *The New Nation*, I got the chance to publish a few of my pieces of writing in the paper. The works are indicative of my creative writing and analytical skills, which I honed during my stay there. As a whole, through this whole publishing process, I was enlightened about the entire process of editing and publishing.

7.1 Movie Review: ‘The Lord of the Rings Trilogy’

The first work published was a movie review titled ‘The Lord of the Rings Trilogy’. It is thrilling and frightening to write a review of such an iconic series. It was a combination of subjective and critical work. To achieve the purpose of making this review informative, I have had to re-watch the entire series several times, and I searched for clues that I had not noticed before. This series demanded a more sophisticated interpretation of cinematographic art because of the legendary plot and complicated characters. The challenge that I had to endure was to be able to develop a brief and interesting work for the ‘Rangers’ fan reading this newspaper. The second challenge was the tone of writing. As this is a story that had to be written in a professional voice that conveyed a critical analysis, tone is important. Moreover, to mention certain technical issues, like cinematography and music, requires correct information. I also needed to make sure that there was clarity and flow in my writing about the origin of the film, which is founded upon the classic novels of J.R.R. Tolkien. My supervisor assisted me in making the writing more precise by removing adjectives, cliches, and jargon. He also edited the heading of the writing to suit as a headline in a newspaper. In the entire process of this writing, I was taught how to write in a concise but professional manner that will assist me in my professional life in the future.

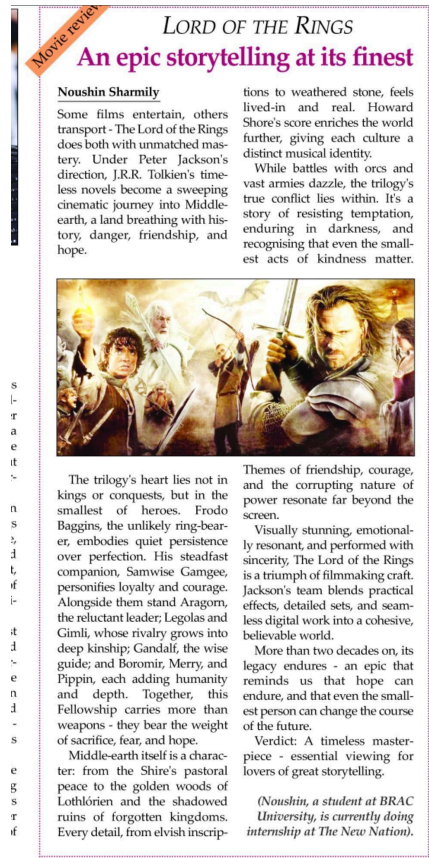


Figure 8: Published movie review written by me

7.2 Op-Ed: 'Reflection in the Face of Difficulties — Durga Puja and Religious Harmony.'

The other major opportunity that I received during my internship at *The New Nation* was writing a published op-ed. My op-ed was called 'Reflection in the Face of Difficulties: Durga Puja and Religious Harmony'. This paper discussed the issues experienced by the Hindu minorities in Bangladesh during Durga Puja. This writing was not easy, as, by this writing, I meant to underline the sensitivity that is deeply embedded in the social problem. To begin with, I gathered the incidents that had occurred in previous puja festivals to establish the facts. This was a sensitive matter since it dealt with religious feelings, and I was required to adopt a respectful and balanced relationship when discussing the

sufferings that the community had to put up with. My editor also told me that I should not dwell too much on the difficulties, but also emphasize the unity that this festival symbolizes. I prepared a draft that gave the reader an insight into the history of this festival, and then discussed the issues that the community has experienced. In the last part, I tried to mirror the present attitude of the government toward the solution of this problem. It was done to establish empathy and not conflict. The greatest lesson I learned was that it is important to create a perfect balance between critique and compassion. Luckily, the editors did not detect anything seriously wrong, and the article was printed as it was written, with the same headline. The article was published on *The New Nation*, page 5, and to read it was one of the most satisfying events of my whole journey.

Reflection in the Face of Difficulties: Durga Puja and Religious Harmony

Noushin Sharmily



Durga Puja, a festival that has been celebrated in Bangladesh for centuries, stands as a testament to the nation's rich cultural and religious tapestry. From the banks of the Bariganga River to the bustling streets of Dhaka, the rhythmic beats of the dhak (traditional drum) have long heralded the arrival of the Goddess Durga, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. According to historical records, Durga Puja was first celebrated in Dhaka during the Mughal era in 1610, when Subadar Islam Khan witnessed the celebrations on the banks of the river.

Over the centuries, the festival has evolved, intertwining religious rituals

with cultural expressions. Elaborate rituals, cultural performances, and community gatherings mark the five-day celebration, which encompasses Mahalaya, Shashthi, Saptami, Ashtami, Navami, and Dashami.

However, recent years in Bangladesh have seen a disturbing trend of communal tensions and attacks during the Durga Puja celebrations. Several districts, including Netrokona and Gangachara, reported incidents of vandalism and idol desecration in 2024. These acts not only disrupted the sanctity of the festival but also instilled fear among the Hindu community.

In response to these challenges, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus visited the historic Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka on September 16, 2025, to oversee preparations for the upcoming Durga Puja. During his visit, he met with Hindu religious leaders and emphasized the state's commitment to ensuring equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliations. He further urged vigilance against any conspiracies that might seek to disrupt the communal harmony during the festival.

Despite these assurances, the path to lasting religious harmony requires collective effort. It is imperative for all segments of society—government officials, religious leaders, and citizens—to actively promote interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and understanding.

The upcoming Durga Puja presents an opportunity to reaffirm the nation's commitment to these values and to celebrate the rich diversity that defines Bangladesh.

As the festival approaches, let us remember that the essence of Durga Puja lies not just in rituals and celebrations but in fostering unity and peace among all communities. By embracing our shared values and heritage, we can ensure that the spirit of Durga Puja continues to illuminate the path toward a harmonious and inclusive Bangladesh.

(The writer is a student of Brac University and an intern of this newspaper)

Figure 9: My published Op-Ed

7.3 Unpublished Editorial: ‘The Tk 2 Lakh Bhorì Shock — Bangladesh’s Gold Rush or Economic Red Flag?’

I also had a task of writing an editorial. Regrettably, it was not published at that time because of the earlier engagements of the newspaper, since an investigative report needed space of precedence. This was not the easiest of all the writings, since it involved deep research on the subject. The editorial was regarding the increase of gold prices in Bangladesh, where per bhorì was up to 2 lakh taka. To write on this topic, I did market research so that all the facts could be clearly and accurately identified. The most difficult task that I had to deal with was to make the topic easy to understand by the readers, and at the same time not to reduce its accuracy. Moreover, it was also very difficult to remain neutral on this scandalous subject matter. I was also required to make a good impression on the investors and overcome possible political risks. This is another thing that I encountered in the process of conducting this project. To focus on the issue, my editor assisted me in drawing out an outline to help me reduce my focus. He further gave me the data needed to analyze the instability.

Even though this writing was not published, this whole process gave me a beneficial experience of writing about economics. It also enabled me to become a better researcher. I also learned a great lesson about the need to write a financial report and present it in a manner that will be informative and easily understandable by the readers.

Chapter 8: Photojournalism and Visual Storytelling

Photojournalism is an essential part of contemporary journalism. It forms an interface between the verbal and the visual narration. Photographs are used to capture decisive moments in a story, hence making the story more alive to its audience. Visual narrations have the ability to express complex feelings and circumstances that cannot be explained solely in words. Such images make the text personable as they present real-life scenarios that go hand in hand with the editorial tone of the newspaper. The activities I performed during my internship primarily involved writing captions for images that would be published across various sections of the publication. My supervisor says that people who are capable of writing a photo caption can write a whole news story.

8.1 Definition and Importance of Photojournalism

Photojournalism is a visual form of telling stories. The newspaper cannot do without it. Taking pictures is not what is meant by photojournalism; this is the act of capturing moments that contain treasured stories of any incident. They are emotional, capturing history, and they are the core of the newspaper. With photos, the readers can understand the seriousness of any event. Hartsock argues that words combined with images make the news more complete, in case the image is able to give more context and diversification. Visual representation of news helps to simplify the issues. It makes news more familiar and authentic. Photojournalism, in a sense, is an influential device and adds to the story not only the context, but also the emotion and the atmosphere, which are usually absent in a written form.

8.2 Writing Photo Captions as an Intern

During my internship at *The New Nation*, I was responsible for writing captions for photos. This position enabled me to learn how important images and words are to one another. Where the news item was too emotive, it would fall short of words. Where words were not sufficient, pictures came into play and gave the readers a precise picture of what was happening. The captions that I received were usually on page 3; though, some of my work appeared on the front page as well as the national section of the paper. This was among my greatest accomplishments. My captions were much enjoyed by the editors, who, on occasion, keep them even after reading them. This made me keep perfecting my writing skills in this field.

Among the things that I found to be the most important during the time of the internship was the issue of writing effective photo captions. My supervisor taught me to make the captions short. He would tell me to make the caption as bare as possible and provide all the necessary details. He has taught me to be concise, as a good caption must be informative but not long. In the case of well-developed organizations, it is possible to make captions short with the help of abbreviations. For example, the ‘Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee’ is abbreviated as ‘BRAC’; the ‘Bangladesh Investment Development Authority’ is known as ‘BIDA’ after it is mentioned in the beginning. Nonetheless, to eliminate confusion, I was advised to use the complete name of the institutions. I also got acquainted with the conventions of caption format. In drafting captions to describe the events that occurred in Dhaka, I was advised to never leave out the word ‘in the capital’ to indicate where it took place. The caption does not state the dates, instead, the day is used to make it more specific. The pictures about the government, particularly those about the Advisors, I was instructed to write ‘PID Photos’ (Press Information Department) to recognize the source of the photograph. The photos by the office photojournalists, Mr. Mohin and Mr. Shamim, were attributed to their names. In addition, the pictures

that the correspondents would send would contain the phrase ‘New Nation Photos’ as a credit to them. These parameters assisted me in being consistent and accurate in my tasks as a photo captionist.



Figure 10: My written caption was published on the front page.



Figure 11: My written caption for page 3

Chapter 9: Application of Media Theories

9.1 Introduction to Media Theories

During the internship, I was able to put into practice some of the media theories that I studied at BRAC University. The theories helped me realize how the editing process works. The theories are also applicable in preparing news content and creating an audience base. Media theories play a critical role in offering a basis for how media practices, communication, and various cultural dynamics contribute to the way the audience perceives and how society behaves. The use of the media to shape the agenda, frame a narrative, and construct reality is extensively discussed by these theories. The theories also enable us to make a critical analysis of media content production. They further go into depth of the consumption and interpretation of the story to reveal how the structures of power and other cultural forces that are underlying the story are very important in influencing the perception of the people.

9.2 Globalization Theory

The theory of globalization was developed by Arjun Appadurai, who is an American anthropologist, in 1996. It demonstrates a multi-dimensional and complicated process of globalization. According to this theory, globalization does not respect national borders and influences local cultures, economies, and media systems. According to Appadurai, globalization has been marked by the movement of people, ideas, and information around the globe, resulting in the establishment of a global cultural landscape. In the 'ENG 333: Globalization Theories' course, I came to know about this theory. In my internship, I was required to translate news written in the local and international newspapers, including *Prothom Alo* and *BBC*. The manner in which global news was reported locally was also one of the most interesting things about my work. For example, the global news, such as the political events or

the world economic crises of the United States, is frequently mentioned in the local paper, and this indicates that the global information flow influences the way individuals perceive and interpret things in the global context. Through the localization and translation of these stories, I assisted in bridging the local and international discourse of stories.

The translation activity that I carried out was a first-hand experience of the influence of globalization on media practices in the local context. The internationalization of international stories to a local audience not only emphasized global interconnections, but it also indicated the way of how local media companies have to find their way in the global world. The given theory allowed me to realize how the circulation of information on the global level influences the local editorial decisions, and how *The New Nation* makes a difference in the global media environment.

9.3 Cultural Homogenization Theory

The Cultural Homogenization Theory is the process by which local culture and global culture become more similar or are influenced by global cultures, mostly due to the media and globalization. Ronald Robertson, a sociologist and theorist of globalization, talks about the impact of the media through the extensive dissemination of material. It results in the death of cultural diversity and the rise of the globalized world culture. As a translator during the internship, I witnessed that the process of globalization of news results in uniformity of cultural narratives in the press. Stories of international origin were frequently re-told with a certain focus to diminish the local cultural differences in favor of a more generalized, globalized story. In one instance, the local aspect of global issues like climate change policies or the economic crises that shook the world often went unaddressed in terms of their impact on the communities, education, and culture. This leads to a coverage that discusses the world problem and does not look at its impact on local individuals and communities. Through the translation of these

stories, I used the cultural homogenization process whereby the local audiences were subjected to globalized works that simply failed to address the intricacies of local cultural realities. By doing my translation work, I was involved in the formation of the interpretation and presentation of global events to a local audience. Through translation of international stories, I was able to witness firsthand how practices of going global with media might result in the disappearance of cultural specificity, as the local story is absorbed in the more generalized, global media culture. For example, during the process of translation of an international piece on climate change, I noticed that the experiences of local farmers and the common ways they used to cope with climate change were not included in the report, and the only thing the report discussed was general statistics and trends related to climate change across the globe, which made the story less cultural.

9.4 Power of Visual Theory

The Power of Visual theory was taught in the ENG 333: Globalization and Media Course, which focused on the role of images in media in terms of developing meaning and the ability to impact societal perception to a large extent. The theory of media mythologies was put forward by Roland Barthes, a French Philosopher and Essayist, in which images are utilized to encode certain meanings that transcend their direct meaning. Kress and van Leeuwen, the authors of *Multimodal Discourse Analysis*, continued to examine the impact of visual representation, such as photographs and infographics, on the manner of information consumption. The presentation of news by use of visuals was very important at *The New Nation*. The editorial team tended to include photos to supplement the news stories and make them more appealing, and affect the emotional reaction of the reader. For example, in political stories, photographic images of rallies or protests were provided to enhance the mood of the article, and the political speech was more effective. During my internship, I also got to

observe the process of selecting and including images in news items. The tone and interpretation of news depended on the choice of an image that was accompanied by a certain story. For instance, a news article that reported on a new community health program included a photo of local volunteers assisting the patients, generating the image of positive changes in the societal health among readers. I also noticed the role played by choice and framing of pictures in influencing the way the readers comprehended and responded to the news. Images were not merely ornamental, they form a component of the story, and they influence the sentiments and thoughts of viewers. This strengthened the fact that visual media can be very strong in shaping the minds of people.

9.5 Panopticon and Gaze Theory

The development of the Panopticon and Gaze Theory, which was developed by Michel Foucault, a French Historian, explains the manner in which power is exercised in contemporary societies by means of surveillance. According to the theory, people control their behavior since they are conscious of being observed, despite the fact that they are not being actively observed. This concept can be applied in the media industry to demonstrate how media organizations watch the behavior of people by presenting content. In *The New Nation*, I saw how the editorial processes were viewed as a type of surveillance whereby the stories were well crafted and represented to influence the way the audience thinks. For example, I observed that the news about economic policies usually emphasized the achievements of the government and minimized the difficulties. As a result, it manipulates the perception of the readers about the state of development in the country. The manner in which the editorial staff makes decisions on the choice of the news and how it is framed to be published reflects the Panopticon theory. The media, similar to the Panopticon, is an everyday companion to the life of the masses, and in the manner

in which it is thought to influence their actions and their mode of thinking in the stories it decides to bring to light.

During my internship, I was included in this surveillance machine, which allowed regulating the manner in which stories were delivered to the audience. The editorial decisions of the newsroom directly affected how the population perceived the most important events and influenced the way in which they thought about the political issues, social problems, and international relations. The nature of the media as a viewer of society is in line with the concept of surveillance as developed by Foucault. By translating the news articles in Bangla to English, I contributed to strengthening the media in its role of influencing the perception of the audience of the world. The fact that the media constantly monitors the opinion of the people is one of the mechanisms that dictate how the people relate to and respond to the issues in society.

Chapter 10: My Experience and Learning

10.1 Personal Growth and Challenges

The New Nation offered me a great chance and experience as an intern that helped me achieve personal and professional growth. My capability to work under a tight schedule is one of the most valuable skills that I managed to acquire. The hectic newsroom environment required me to be able to manage my time in order to meet the deadline and do quality work. I also had a chance to develop my writing skills, especially in editorials, photo caption, and translations. I was able to change my writing style to suit the tone of the publication. In addition, I also collaborated with editors, reporters, and photographers, among other members of staff, which made me learn more about teamwork that is essential in a newsroom. The employees made me realize the value of being a team player, which is critical in the delivery of good news content in a respected news outlet, such as *The New Nation*.

The working atmosphere in the office was professional, quite supportive, and respectful. All the people I have communicated with were friendly and pleasant. Their professionalism was also high. The peers frequently checked my work, made mistakes, and found inconsistencies. They also provided me with positive feedback that helped me a lot in learning. The office was a comfortable place where I could learn and ask questions with no fear due to the friendly attitude. Another fact that challenged me greatly during my internship was dealing with tight deadlines. Since news keeps on changing, I was forced to learn how I should adjust to these circumstances. I was taught how to work effectively and be focused on the given task with the help of my supervisor, Mr Farrukh Khosru. The second problem that I had to encounter was the ability to translate complicated articles in one language correctly to another. Practice enabled me to overcome this challenge since my main concern during this practice was to explain and simplify to the audience without distorting the original message.

The internship offered me the opportunity to have a direct glimpse into what the media industry is all about. I was able to know that journalism is not only about conveying the facts, but it is also about the process of creating the narrative, editing it, and making it interesting to the audience. I also got to know about the editorial decision-making process, how media houses decide which stories they should report on, and the way they should present them.

Chapter 11: Conclusion

My experience at the internship at *The New Nation* has enabled me to do diverse activities, which not only have enhanced my academic background but also equipped me with various journalistic skills. Apart from tracking every minute tweet to the process of brainstorming over descriptions of pictures, I found out that it is essential to provide genuine facts that can touch a larger audience. Full of writing assignments, one of which involved a movie review, op-ed, and news translation, I received a great experience in all types of the editorial process. I got to know how to write under stress, how to write in accordance with the editorial voice, and how to make the final product correct and interesting to the readers. This was an experience that provided close insight into how a professional newsroom runs. My experience as a newsroom intern, translating the news stories and helping with the editorial processes, has given me first-hand experience of how theoretical knowledge is put into practice. This has enabled me to relate the theories I have learned in the English and humanities department. I also saw the real-life difficulties that journalists are exposed to in a dynamic, fast-paced environment.

As an intern, I learnt the significance of clarity, precision, and paying attention to detail in communication. These are the skills that I have gained in the process of translating the articles and which I require of the professional world where time is limited, and success is of the highest priority. I also got to know how to be an effective team player who can balance between individual work and teamwork to meet the demands of daily publishing. This team spirit and group accountability were invaluable to my organizational and time management abilities. In addition, the internship helped me understand the influence of the media on the opinions of people and the discussion in society. Having been an eyewitness to the editorial process on the editorial decisions and the editorial discussions, I was able to comprehend better the editorial process and the role that the journalists play in framing

narratives. The feedback provided by the skilled editors in real time assisted me in honing my writing and critical thinking skills and also gave me a great deal of confidence in my skills as a professional.

In addition to enhancing my technical and interpersonal skills, this internship has also made me want to venture into becoming a professional in the sphere of media and communication. It has placed in my hands an experience of the world of the profession in a broader sense, showing me the necessity of internships in the professional development of journalism students. This experience has become a significant addition to my professional career, as the chance to use the knowledge gained at school in the workplace has been a significant milestone in my growth.

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