

**Report on**  
**Internship Experience in the Editorial Department at *The Daily Star***

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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**  
**January, 2026**

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## 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.

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## **Acknowledgment**

“Dear Allah,

Thank you for always protecting me and showing me the right path in my life.”

First, I want to thank Allah SWT for guiding me through every step of my academic journey and for granting me the strength, patience, and resilience to successfully complete my undergraduate studies at BRAC University. His blessings have been far greater than I deserve, and without His guidance, this journey would not have been possible.

I am no one without my parents, my father Md. Rafiz Uddin Rana and my mother Selina Begum. I owe a special debt of gratitude to my father, whose daily habit of reading newspapers introduced me to the world of journalism from an early age. Watching him engage with news gradually sparked my interest in language, editing, and media, which later motivated me to pursue Media and Cultural Studies as my academic major. I am equally grateful to my mother for her constant emotional support, encouragement, and unwavering belief in me throughout this journey. Her reassurance and strength helped me remain focused and resilient during challenging times. I would also like to thank my little brother, who has been my biggest cheerleader.

With a deep sense of gratitude, I express my heartfelt thanks to all my faculty members and friends in my university. Especially, Dr. Tabassum Zaman, Roohi Huda, Atiya Tafannum, Jahin Kaiissar, Seema Amin, Anika Saba, Sabreena Ahmed, Dr. Mahruba Tasneem Mowtushi are those lights who always supported me and guided me throughout my undergraduate life.

My dear supervisor, Dr. Tabassum Zaman, whose teaching gives me more power to think and analyze independently. She is an example of being humble and extremely supportive towards her students.

Having struggled with depression over the last two years, which significantly affected my academic pursuits, I wish to thank those who made it possible for me to stand here today. I would like to thank my friends, especially Sayed, Priyangshu, Muna, Turjo, and Aranya, who were there for me from the beginning to the end of my university life, helping me believe in myself again.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge myself for persevering through the challenges I have faced. Despite the odds, I chose to continue and strive, and that has made all the difference in my life.

This internship report is a testament to the support of these individuals and my hard work. These have transformed my struggles into strength.

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## Glossary

**Lead-** The opening paragraph of a news story that presents the most important information, such as who, what, when, where, why, and how, to quickly inform and engage the reader.

**Star Reporter-** A staff journalist of *The Daily Star* who produces original news reports representing the institution rather than individual prominence.

**SEO Keywords-** Specific words or phrases strategically used in headlines and news content to improve a story's visibility and ranking on search engines and attract a wider online audience.

**Panopticon-** Jeremy Bentham, an English philosopher and social theorist, invented the panopticon, which is an institutional building design with an inbuilt control system





# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The habit of reading newspapers began early through observing my father, who regularly read *The Daily Star* each morning. Although I did not understand all the meanings at that time, the use of language and the structure of the news captured my interest. Over the years, this daily practice gradually sparked my curiosity in writing and editing.

My interest developed further after choosing Media and Cultural Studies as my major in the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University. Through different courses, I realized that I was more interested in the process of editing than writing. I often spent additional time refining my assignments to ensure clarity, accuracy, and coherence. This consistent habit strengthened my editing skills and made me more attentive to detail.

However, after enrolling for the Editing course, I came to understand that editing involves more than correcting mistakes. It requires judgment, responsibility to the reader, and the ability to enhance an already written text without altering its meaning. Editing also demands a balance between accuracy, tone, and the overall flow of a story. This realization motivated me to pursue editing as a professional path, as the process felt like solving a puzzle where each word must be placed carefully.

My connection with *The Daily Star* gradually shifted from being a regular reader to becoming part of the newsroom environment. Later, I joined the Online Desk as a Sub-Editor intern. In the 21st century, patterns of news consumption have changed significantly as readers shifted toward virtual platforms. With people having less time to sit in front of the television, digital news began to play a central role in everyday life. This shift became even more visible

after the Covid-19 pandemic, when online education, remote work, and increased screen time made internet-based news the most convenient option. Although printed newspapers still hold cultural and emotional value, many young people primarily rely on online news portals for quick updates. As a result, major newspapers, including *The Daily Star*, expanded their online presence to reach readers faster and more efficiently.

My professional journey expanded when I had the opportunity to work as an intern at *The Daily Star*. This experience introduced me to a fast-paced newsroom where accuracy, clarity, and responsibility were central to every task. At *The Daily Star*, I assisted with editing, rewriting, and preparing news stories for digital publication. I also observed how editorial decisions are made, how stories are verified, and how headlines are crafted to maintain both reader interest and journalistic integrity.

This internship allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge from my university courses while gaining practical exposure to the workflow of an established English daily. It strengthened my confidence as an emerging editor and deepened my understanding of the evolving nature of online journalism.

## Chapter 2

### A Brief Introduction to *The Daily Star*

#### 2.1 History

*The Daily Star* started its journey on January 14, 1991. It is a national English-language newspaper that emerged at a crucial time in Bangladesh's history when the country transitioned from a dictatorship to a democracy and opened a new era for Bangladeshi media. Its motto is "*Journalism without fear or favor.*"



Figure 1: Logo of The Daily Star

*The Daily Star* logo (**Figure 1**) features the newspaper's name written in a bold navy-blue typeface. The use of a Gothic or Old English-style font reflects seriousness, history, and authority. At the center, above the text, there is a stylized starburst that signifies guidance and knowledge. Like a star guiding travelers, it suggests the newspaper's aim to lead readers toward truth and increase public awareness with transparency. The star also symbolizes aspiration and high standards in journalism, representing its role as a leading newspaper. The dark navy color reinforces a sense of trust, seriousness, and professionalism.

Since its establishment, *The Daily Star* has been dedicated to ensuring its independence in the media and freedom of the press. It has emerged as the largest English daily newspaper in the

country over the years and has also been successful in earning the reputation of being among the most trustworthy news organizations in the South Asian country. Furthermore, *The Daily Star* has also been maintaining its policy of fairness and accuracy. It has been a proper and responsible model of journalism in the nation during the past three decades as well.

In 2023, *The Daily Star* was celebrating the Year of Print Recovery and Digital Growth for emphasizing its performance, innovation, and respect for culture.



Figure 2: The Daily Star celebrating 2023 as the Year of Print Recovery and Digital Expansion.

The entrance of *The Daily Star* office is decorated for its 2023 celebration of the “Year of Print Recovery and Digital Expansion” (**Figure 2**). After Covid-19, the newspaper became a top performer not only in print but also in its online version. To mark this achievement, the office was decorated with annual theme statements such as “*Practicing Culture of Mutual Respect*,” “*2023 year of Implementation*,” and “*Let’s Celebrate the Culture of Performance*.” The decoration highlights how the organization is focusing on both print and digital growth, adapting to new reading habits, and strengthening its position after the post-pandemic shift toward online news consumption.

*The Daily Star* has been significant in protecting democracy and ensuring that leaders are held accountable for their actions over the years. It has also been a powerful witness to Bangladesh's major political and media transformations, from the fall of Ershad in 1991 to the fall of the Hasina government in 2024 (**Figure 3**).



Figure 3: Witness to the fall of the Hasina government in 2024.

*The Daily Star* has established itself as a trusted and influential media organization in Bangladesh. Its commitment to ethical reporting, editorial independence, and digital innovation has allowed it to remain relevant in a rapidly changing media environment. The newspaper's history, values, and organizational structure help explain how its newsroom functions and how its journalists and editors work to ensure accuracy and credibility in daily reporting.

## 2.2 Governing Body

Mahfuz Anam and Syed Mohammad Ali started *The Daily Star* in 1991. It was supported by some of Bangladesh's well-known business entrepreneurs. *The Daily Star* was owned by Media world Limited. Mahfuz Anam became the editor and publisher after the death of Syed Mohammad Ali in 1993.

## 2.3 Organogram

The newspaper has several sections, such as News, Editorial, Opinion, Youth, Lifestyle, Technology, and Multimedia, to ensure diverse and dynamic content for its readers in both print and online versions. The newspaper has a very good digital presence in its online version and has many followers in social media. It also has approximately 5.1 million followers on Facebook, 111,000 on Instagram, and 165,000 on LinkedIn, and the numbers are continuously growing every day. It also maintains a Web portal of Bengali news called *The Daily Star বাংলা*. The print version is supervised by the News Editor, who works closely with the Chief Editor. They gather reports from various sources, including district correspondents. On the digital side, the Online Sub Editor reports to the Digital Editor, with the Central Desk team playing an important role in managing the web content. To ensure high-quality reporting, these teams often share information and collaborate.

## 2.4 Working Hours and Workplace Culture

*The Daily Star* operates on a continuous news cycle to ensure round-the-clock news production and publication. To support this 24-hour news production process, the newspaper follows a flexible, shift-based work schedule across its departments. While administrative and finance units generally maintain regular office hours from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, editorial, reporting, graphics, and production teams work in rotating shifts to ensure timely news coverage. Most newsroom employees work seven-hour shifts and receive one weekly day off, while national holidays are accommodated through a shift-based distribution system to ensure uninterrupted operations. Interns are required to work six-hour shifts and follow schedules assigned by their respective departments. Employees usually need to be present in the office to coordinate work, but sometimes limited flexibility such as adjusted hours or occasional remote work is allowed when necessary.

The reports, editorials, and features of *The Daily Star* followed six core values, which are freedom of expression, objectivity, public service, justice and equality, national interest, and transparency and accountability. In addition, it employs more than 300 people and has a no discriminative and supportive workplace. The organization also gives scope to the young journalists to gain actual newsroom experience with internship programs from the experts.

## Chapter 3

### Daily Activities at *The Daily Star*

#### 3.1 Joining *The Daily Star*

*The Daily Star* has several departments such as Online Desk, National Desk, Business, Sports, Opinion, Lifestyle, Entertainment and Social. In every department journalist, editors, and correspondents work together. Besides every department is well-organized and systematic so that all the employees or interns know clearly about their responsibilities. The work environment at *The Daily Star* is professional and interns do not have any problem with the work flow.

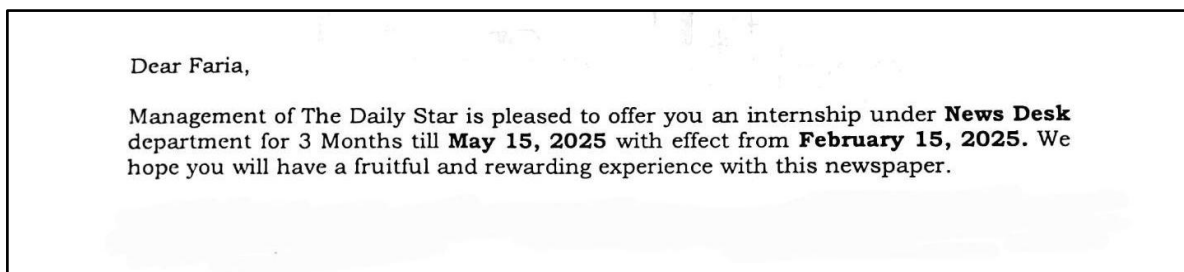


Figure 4: Joining Confirmation from The Daily Star

I joined *The Daily Star* on February 15, 2025, as a Sub-Editor Intern in the Online news Desk under Fanhana Hauque, digital news editor (**Figure 4**). My tasks were proofreading, editing, and rewriting news reports, especially the reports written by district correspondents. I was also assigned to translate some articles from Bangla to English.

#### 3.2 Work Schedule

I worked at *The Daily Star* six days a week in different shifts based on the workload and my university class schedule. I worked two shifts each day for five days a week. One from 11 AM to 2 PM and another from 5 PM to 8 PM. Friday was my work-from-home day, and Wednesday was my day off. I worked under two supervisors in two different shifts for six hours



each day. In total, I worked around 36 hours each week.

### **3.3 Daily Workflow**

During my internship, my main roles were proofreading, editing, rewriting, and translating news reports for the Online Desk. Each morning, the Online Desk received the stories of reporters in the various districts. District correspondents and reporters sent mail to the shared newsroom email. Most of the reports were draft-based, and my supervisors mailed me particular stories via email and WhatsApp and asked me to edit them.

My responsibility was to edit the reports by rewriting the lead and clear headlines, properly attributing the facts, and shortening and smoothing out the reports. When reports arrived in Bangla, I translated them into English while maintaining the cultural and journalistic balance of the language. I sent back the editing copy via email for final review. After submitting my work, I always informed my supervisor that I had completed it. I always rechecked the facts before I submitted the work. I also had to talk with the district correspondent whenever any confusion arose. After publication I usually had to do proofreading, as minor technical problems would occur during the uploading in the online portal. Sometimes I need to collect and collage picture for the news.

Google Docs are used for editing, and email and WhatsApp were used to communicate. Sometimes I had to use Canva for creating visuals, resizing images, or making layout adjustments. We also had two official phones with the contact numbers of all the district correspondents at the Online Desk, which we used to verify facts when required.

These responsibilities allowed me to support the desk's workflow and handle essential editorial tasks throughout the internship.

## Chapter 4

### Editing News

One of the core responsibilities assigned during the internship at the Online Desk of *The Daily Star* was editing and rewriting news stories. News comes from local and district correspondents as well as Star reporters, which are then subjected to review and editing before publication. Each article undergoes a careful review to ensure factual accuracy, clarity, and consistency with the editorial tone of *The Daily Star*. The editorial tone of *The Daily Star* emphasizes factual reporting, balanced language, and accountability with proper attribution. Editing plays a crucial role in maintaining the overall quality of news and upholding the credibility of the newspaper.

At the initial stage of the internship, assigned tasks primarily involved proofreading news articles. Proofreading focused on identifying grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and factual inconsistencies. The goal of this proofreading process was to familiarize interns with *The Daily Star* house style.

During proofreading, my supervisor asked me to identify several house style and writing conventions used in *The Daily Star*. I noted these styles and editorial practices and wrote them down for use in future editing assignments (**Figure 5**).

| The Daily Star House Style (Common Editing Guidelines)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <p><b>General Writing Style</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses <b>British English</b> spelling and grammar.</li> <li>• Language must be <b>neutral, factual, and balanced</b>.</li> <li>• Avoid sensational or emotional wording.</li> <li>• Ensure proper <b>attribution</b> for all claims and quotes.</li> <li>• Follow the <b>inverted pyramid structure</b>, placing the most important information first.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grammar and Mechanics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check spelling, punctuation, and subject-verb agreement carefully.</li> <li>• Avoid unnecessary adjectives and adverbs.</li> <li>• Keep sentences clear and concise.</li> <li>• Avoid repetition and ambiguity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Time Format</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time is written in <b>lowercase without spaces</b>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Example: <i>7pm, 2:30pm, 12 noon, 12am</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use <b>“early hours”</b> for incidents after midnight when appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Date Format</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date format: <b>February 1, 2025</b></li> <li>• Mention the <b>exact date instead of day</b> if there is a gap of three days or more.</li> <li>• Use “this morning”, “this afternoon” or “yesterday” without mentioning the day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Names and Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Titles such as <b>Dr, Prof, Md</b> are written <b>without full stops</b>.</li> <li>• “Md” is written <b>without a space</b>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Example: <i>Dr Md Kamrul Hasan</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• For minors, include the <b>father’s name</b>.</li> <li>• Do not repeat titles once a name has been introduced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Age Format</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A person’s age is written <b>after the name</b>, separated by commas:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Example: <i>Rahim Uddin, 25, said...</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Police and Law Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use <b>“police said”</b> instead of “police say”.</li> <li>• Correct formats:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>DMP said, RAB said, CID said</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Police station names are written in <b>lowercase</b>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Example: <i>Kalabagan police station, Sadar police station</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Place Names</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use <b>“at”</b> for specific locations and <b>“in”</b> for broader areas:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>at Dhanmondi, in Dhanmondi area</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Names of districts, upazilas, and unions should match <b>official government spellings</b>. Use <b>lowercase</b> for administrative units:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Karimganj upazila, Boalia upazila</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Numbers and Units</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers one to nine are written in words; 10 and above in figures.</li> <li>• Units are written <b>without spaces</b>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>2kg, 2mm, 2km</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Weight format:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>tons</i> (not tonnes or metric tons)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Currency Format</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Tk2, 2USD,</i></li> <li>◦ <i>Tk2 lakh, Tk2 crore</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Do not use commas in currency figures unless necessary for clarity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Quotes and Attribution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use double quotation marks for direct quotes.</li> <li>• Attribute quotes clearly and accurately.</li> <li>• Avoid anonymous sources.</li> </ul> <p><b>Headlines and Abbreviations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In headlines, <b>The Daily Star</b> uses <b>commonly recognised abbreviations</b> to shorten and tighten headlines.</li> <li>• Place names and institutions are often abbreviated:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Chattogram</i> is written as <b>CTG</b></li> <li>◦ <i>Juvenile Development Centre</i> is written as <b>JDC</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Abbreviations are used <b>only in headlines</b> for concise; in the body text, the <b>full form is written on first reference</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ethical Considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid naming rape or sexual assault victims.</li> <li>• Be careful when reporting on minors, suicides, or sensitive cases.</li> <li>• Maintain dignity and privacy of individuals involved.</li> </ul> |

Figure 5: The Daily Star house style.

News published by *The Daily Star* follows British English and adheres to a specific house style. For instance, a person’s age is written after their name, separated by commas, and a father’s name is included if the person is a minor. Moreover, time is written in lowercase without any space, such as “*The incident occurred at 10:15pm.*” Time should not be written as 8 pm, 3.45 pm, 8 p.m., or 3.45 p.m. News writing strictly avoids assumptions or personal opinions, and all statements must be factual and attributed to credible sources. These format and style are consistently applied during the editing process. At *The Daily Star*, the news editing process is conducted through a structured and professional workflow, rather than just simple corrections. Each report undergoes step by step editing stages to ensure accuracy, clarity, and consistency. The process begins with a newsworthiness of the report, during which the public relevance of the story is evaluated and the primary news angle is identified. Next, the lead paragraph is revised to emphasize the most important and timely information. All factual

details, including names, dates, figures, locations, and official designations, are verified. Attribution also is carefully handled, ensuring that all claims are linked to credible and identifiable sources. The content is then organized logically to maintain narrative coherence, and finally, the report is reviewed for compliance with the newspaper's house style, encompassing language, formatting, tone, and presentation. This systematic approach ensures the publication of reliable and coherent reports, consistent with standard professional newsroom practices.

The first editing assignment of my internship for editing was a report on the theft of a CCTV camera installed by the Barisal City Corporation (**Figure 6**). The news was significant because it concerned the loss of publicly funded infrastructure, so being accurate and clear was essential for public accountability. The copy received from the district correspondent was lengthy, loosely structured, and contained unnecessary background information.

## CCTV cameras meant to catch thieves stolen



Shushanta Ghosh

Fri Feb 28, 2025 12:00 AM Last update on: Fri Feb 28, 2025 12:42 AM



An inoperative CCTV camera in Barishal city. Photo: Titu Das

All CCTV cameras installed by the Barishal City Corporation (BCC) have either become inoperative or have been stolen, raising serious concerns about the city's security.

According to BCC sources, in 2017, 420 CCTV cameras were installed across 30 wards covering 58 square km of the city at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore.



For all latest news, follow The Daily Star's Google News channel.

Seventy monitoring booths were also set up; however, most of these booths are now in ruins, with cameras missing and cables stolen.

As a result, the entire city is currently without CCTV surveillance, complicating law enforcement efforts to solve crimes.



BCC's superintendent engineer, Humayun Kabir, said the CCTV project lacked logistical support, which led to the gradual deterioration of the cameras.

Some were stolen, and there was no proper maintenance system in place to keep them functional.

BCC sources revealed that after August 5, nearly all CCTV cameras and cables installed by the city corporation were stolen, including 70 cameras from the Nagar Bahan (City Hall) itself.

BCC Chief Executive Officer Md Rejaul Bari announced that an investigation would be conducted to determine if there was any negligence on the corporation's part.

He also mentioned that they are currently working to reinstall the cameras within the city corporation premises.

Meanwhile, the Barishal Metropolitan Police (BMP) have installed 207 CCTV cameras for crime prevention and traffic management.

According to BMP sources, CCTV footage helped identify 264 criminal incidents in 2021 alone.

The BMP operates through an Integrated Command and Control Section to manage crime and traffic. However, due to the lack of city corporation cameras, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam expressed concern over potential criminal activities during the upcoming Ramadan.

He said during a law and order meeting on Thursday, the importance of CCTV cameras was discussed. It was noted that over 3,000 privately owned CCTV cameras are currently in use, but more effective initiatives are needed to enhance crime control.

Professor Zahid Hossain, president of the Sacheton Nagorik Committee, highlighted the crucial role of CCTV in crime prevention in the city. He urged the authorities to swiftly reinstall the cameras to restore security and peace.

Figure 6: Edited Report on CCTV camera theft in Barishal.

The editing process began with identifying the core news value and prioritizing essential facts such as what was stolen, where it occurred, and who was responsible. The report was edited by

removing unnecessary details, reorganizing the content, and aligning it with standard newspaper writing style. The headline was rewritten for clarity, and long sentences were broken into shorter, more precise ones without altering the formal tone of *The Daily Star*. Figures, names, and spellings were verified, grammatical errors were corrected, and the report was edited in British English. Long and complex constructions were replaced with short, direct sentences to enhance readability. Direct quotations were converted into indirect speech where necessary, as interviews are conducted in Bangla and literal translation may alter meaning. Proper punctuation and attribution were ensured to maintain accuracy.

The edited report was published online, becoming my first news story published through editorial work during the internship. Although the headline was later modified by the supervisor, the overall structure and content remained largely intact. This experience demonstrated how concise wording and editorial judgment help transform raw reports into reader-friendly news stories.

Throughout the internship period, most edited reports were published with minimal or no revisions, reflecting adherence to the editorial standards of *The Daily Star*. This further strengthened practical understanding of newsroom editing and professional news presentation.

Another significant assignment involved editing a report on the killing of a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist in Narayanganj, submitted by a district correspondent via the newsroom email (**Figure 7**).

JCD activist stabbed to death in N'ganj

Our Correspondent, Narayanganj

A JCD activist was stabbed to death following an argument over a silly matter at Chashara in Narayanganj city last night.

The incident took place around 10:15pm on Sunday next to Shaheed Minar on Bhasha Sainik Road, confirmed Mohammad Nasir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Sadar Model Police Station.

The deceased, Md. Apurba, 25, was a resident of Masdair in the city and worked in a garment factory.

His family is from Srinagar, Munshiganj, police said.

The accused, a youth named Samrat Hossain, was beaten by JCD activists before being handed over to the police.

On Monday morning, Apurba's father, Khokon, filed a murder case, after which Samrat was shown arrested in the case, OC Nasir added.

Police also recovered a knife from the suspect.

According to police and eyewitnesses, Samrat worked at a fast-food shop on Bhasha Sainik Road. On Sunday night, a torch procession was held by BNP's student wing protesting incidents of rape and violence against women across the country. As the rally was dispersing, Samrat allegedly made an offensive remark from behind.

This led to a heated argument between Apurba, his fellow activists, and Samrat, which escalated into a physical altercation. At one point, Samrat stabbed Apurba in the chest with a knife, said police quoting witnesses.

Following the incident, JCD activists beat Samrat and another person who was with him. While his companion managed to escape, Samrat was caught and handed over to the police, said locals.

Azizul Islam Rajib, former joint secretary of JCD's city unit, said they had organized the torch procession from Masdair area and the incident happened shortly after it ended.

He claimed that Apurba was an active member of their organization.

Following the incident, JCD activists staged a immediate demonstration in front of the hospital at night, demanding a fair investigation and swift justice.

OC Nasir Ahmed said, "The argument started over an offensive remark about the procession. It escalated into a scuffle, leading to the stabbing. Apurba was rushed to Narayanganj 300-bed hospital, where doctors declared him dead."

"We have recovered the knife used in the crime, and the investigation is ongoing with utmost priority," he added.

Figure 7: Screenshot of assigned report on the killing of a JCD activist in Narayanganj.

The copy was repetitive, overly detailed, and inconsistent in tense usage. The editing process focused on preserving factual accuracy while ensuring compliance with the journalistic tone of *The Daily Star*. The original lead lacked essential information, so it was rewritten to highlight the most significant fact clearly and directly. Sentence length was reduced, unnecessary descriptions were removed, and grammatical errors were corrected. All references to time, designation, and identity were cross-checked, and the victim's name, age, and other details were attributed to relevant authorities.

Accuracy is a core value of *The Daily Star*. So, all factual claims were attributed to official or reliable sources using appropriate quotation marks while editing. Paragraph organization was also revised to improve clarity. Information related to the incident, official reactions, and investigation updates was reorganized into separate paragraphs to ensure a logical and systematic flow of information. And then submitted it to my supervisor for final approval (**Figure 8**).



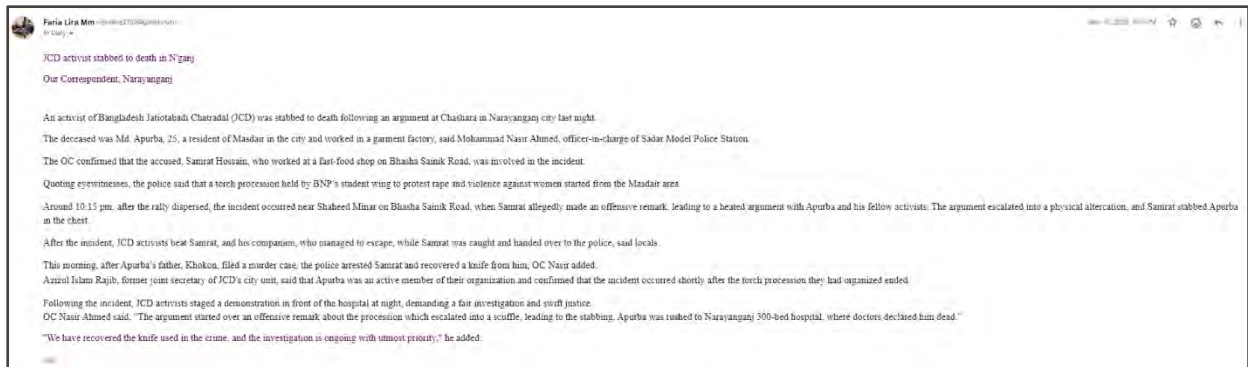


Figure 8: Edited and Submitted Report Sent for Final Approval

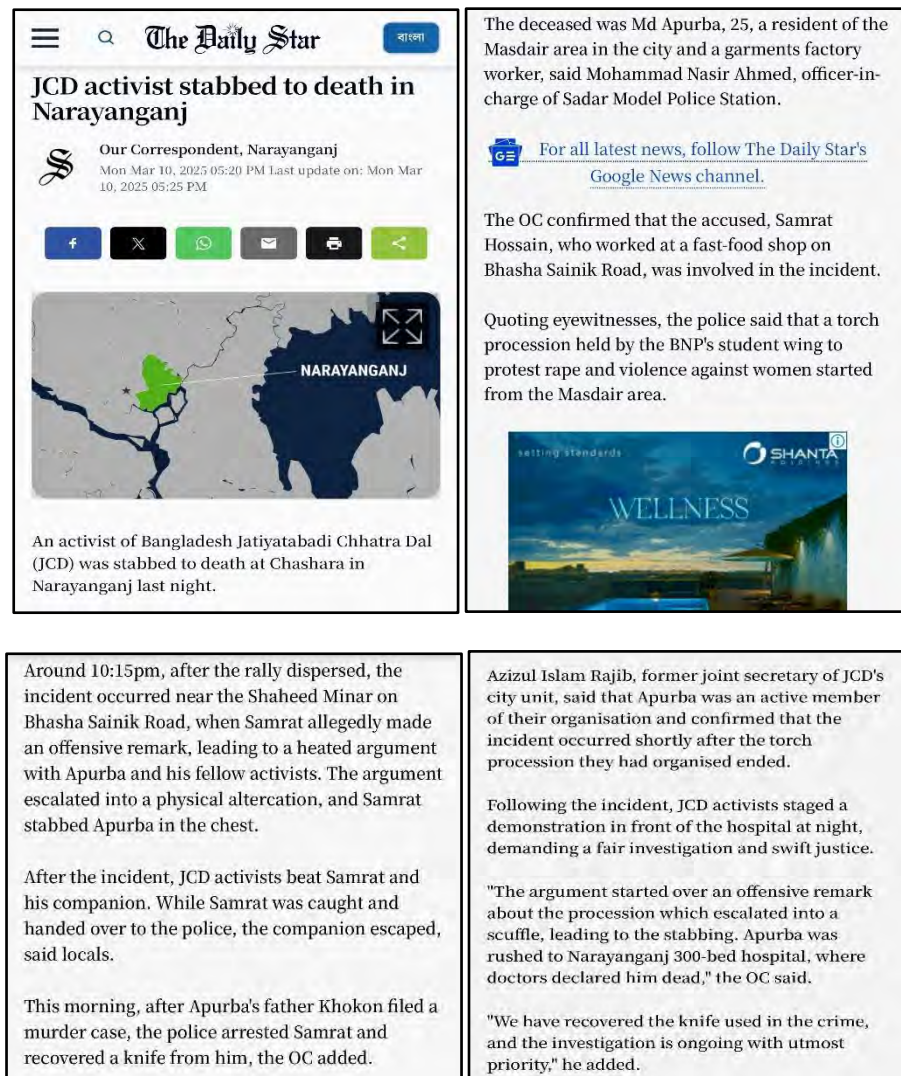


Figure 9: Published online version of the edited report on the killing of a JCD activist in Narayanganj.

The edited version of this report was published online without any further modification, reflecting compliance with newsroom editing standards and structured news presentation practices (Figure 9).



Together, these two editing assignments illustrate the practical application of newsroom editing principles at *The Daily Star*. In both cases, the editing process involved identifying the core news value, revising the lead to highlight the most significant information, and restructuring the body to ensure clarity and logical flow. Factual details such as names, dates, locations, and official statements were carefully verified, while unnecessary or repetitive information was removed. Consistent application of house style, accurate attribution, and concise language helped transform raw, unstructured reports into clear and publishable news stories. These experiences strengthened my understanding of editorial judgment and demonstrated how professional editing ensures accuracy, readability, and credibility in news reporting.

## Chapter 5

### **Combining and Writing News**

A regular responsibility at *The Daily Star* Online Desk involved producing a single, comprehensive news report by combining two or more short items, most commonly district-based road accident updates, into one combined story. This practice is used when multiple incidents share a similar theme (e.g., road accidents, deaths, body recoveries) and occur within a short time frame. Instead of publishing separate brief reports that repeat similar context, the Online Desk merges them to reduce repetition, improve readability, and provide a clearer overview for the audience.

#### **5.1 Combining multiple reports into one story**

The combining process begins with receiving two or more reports from district correspondents or Star reporters. These copies are often drafted quickly and may vary in structure, length, detail, and writing quality. The first step is identifying whether the items are suitable to be merged. The key factors include: (a) similarity of topic, (b) relevance to the same district or region, (c) how closely the events occurred in time, and (d) the presence of verified core facts (who/what/where/when/how). If any report lacks essential information such as exact location, identity, or confirmation from authorities, fact-checking is required before merging.

After confirming that the reports can be integrated, each report is reviewed separately to extract the essential elements. This includes identifying the type of incident, such as a road accident, body recovery, or death, and recording the exact location, including the district, upazila, and specific area. The victim's identity is carefully checked, including name, age, and role, ensuring consistency with house style. The time and date of the occurrence are verified to maintain accuracy and clarity. Attention is also given to the cause or mechanism of the incident, such as

a bus crash, motorcycle collision, or drowning. Finally, the source of confirmation is identified, usually the police, hospital authorities, fire service, or local administration, to ensure the information is credible.

Once the main facts are collected from the old reports, repeated information is removed. Many district reports contain similar background details that are not needed for every separate incident when they are combined into one story. The final report is then organized so that each incident appears as a short, complete section under one main story.

## **5.2 Headline writing and lead construction for combined reports**

A common structural method used at the Online Desk starts with writing a new headline that reflects all the reports included in the new story, because the original headlines are no longer sufficient once the reports are merged. Headline writing for combined accident reports typically follows three principles: clarity, conciseness, and accuracy. Since multiple incidents are included, the headline usually highlights the total number of deaths and uses phrases like “in separate accidents” or simply “accidents” to indicate more than one incident. This helps the reader that the story covers more than one event while avoiding unnecessary detail.

The lead is then written to present the most newsworthy summary in one or two sentences. In the case of combined reports, it must clearly mention the total number of deaths or injuries, identify the type of incidents such as accidents, separate incidents, or recoveries, and specify the locations by naming the districts and, when necessary, the key upazilas involved for ensuring that the opening clearly represents every event covered.

For example, a lead constructed for a combined road accident report was:

*“Two separated bus accidents killed 3 schoolboys in Katiadi, Kishoreganj, and Ruma, Bandarban.”*

And

*“Three individuals were killed in separat road accident in Jashore disitric yesterday” (Figure 10).*

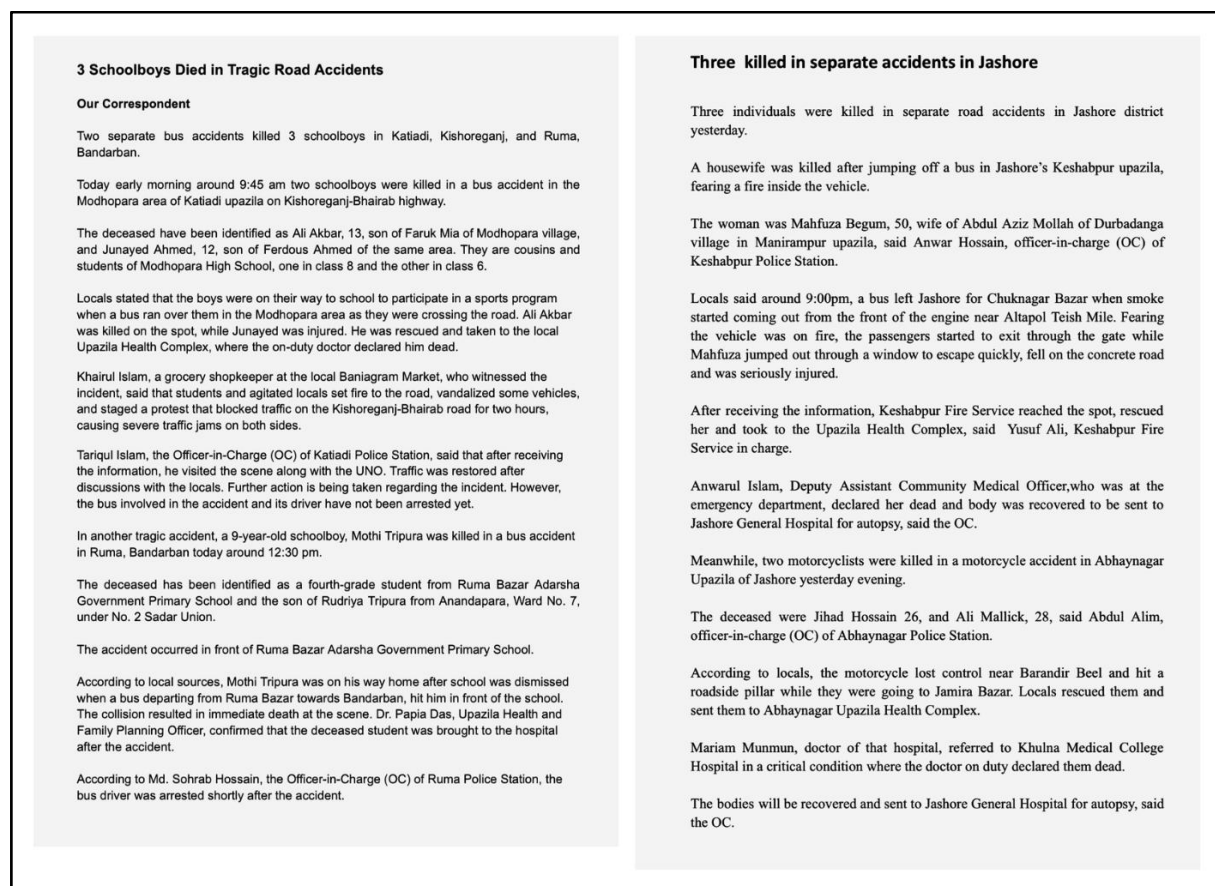


Figure 10: Combined district-level reports Edited as one news story.

After establishing the headline and lead, I combine the reports by going through each story one by one. The body paragraphs then present each incident separately with attribution to relevant sources (e.g., police or hospital authorities). The story usually concludes with updates on the investigation, the condition of the injured, or other procedural developments. This method allows different reports to be blended into a single, coherent news story rather than separate reports pasted together. This approach allows the story to remain concise while ensuring that each event is reported accurately and independently.

### 5.3 Writing a report during breaking news

In addition to combine reports, another core task involved writing news reports under pressure when breaking news arrived. Unlike routine district reports, breaking news requires rapid information collection, verification, and drafting, even often before full details are available. In such cases, accuracy depends on careful sourcing and clear language rather than speed alone.

An example of writing breaking news involved the government announcement that the name of Bangabandhu Satellite was changed to Bangladesh Satellite (**Figure 11**). The reporting process followed several steps. The reporting process began with immediate information gathering, with initial details taken from the official statement and confirmed by a person present at the press conference. This was followed by careful verification of names, designations, and the exact wording of the announcement to avoid misquoting or misrepresenting the decision. The first version of the report was then drafted in a short and direct structure, prioritizing the key fact in the lead by clearly stating what happened, who announced it, and when. Given the political sensitivity of renaming decisions, particular attention was paid to attribution and neutral language, without using personal opinions or judgments. Before publication, a final check was conducted to verify figures, spellings, and official titles, ensuring that my news writing met newsroom standards. This workflow reflects standard online journalism practice, which emphasizes publishing quickly while maintaining accountability through accurate sourcing, factual precision, and a neutral tone.

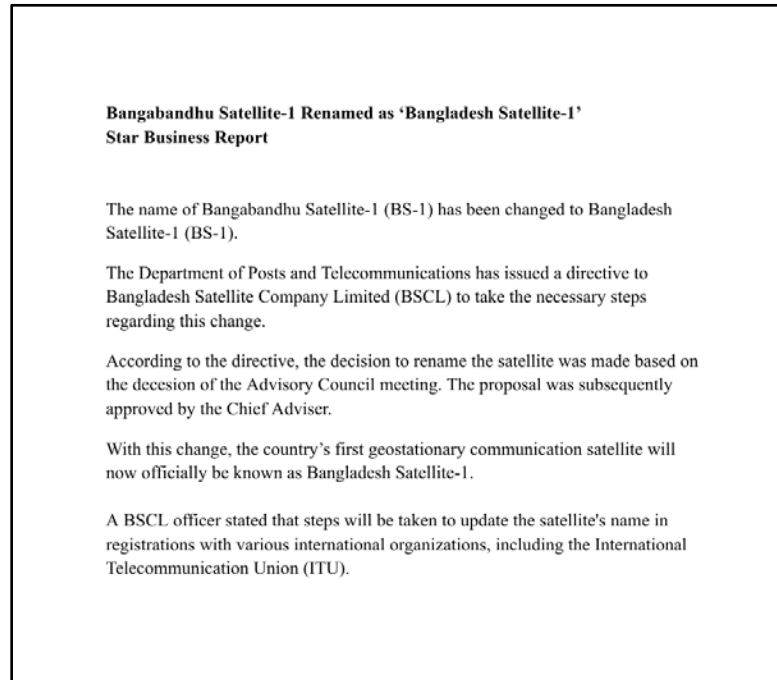


Figure 11: Writing Breaking News

During my internship, my responsibilities was (1) combining multiple short reports into a single story and (2) writing news reports independently during breaking news. Both tasks required editorial judgment, structured organization, accurate headline and lead writing, and consistent fact-checking. Overall, these practices demonstrate how online newsroom work transforms updates into coherent, reader-focused stories without compromising journalistic accuracy.

## Chapter 6

### **Image Selection and News Translation**

As a sub-editor at the Online Desk, my responsibilities extended beyond writing and editing news reports to include selecting appropriate images that accurately represented each story. Image selection is a crucial editorial task because visuals significantly influence how readers interpret news content. Editors must therefore ensure that images align with the story's tone, context, and factual focus.

#### **6.1 Image Selection**

As an editorial intern, I sometimes had to select, collect, and collage images for news stories. Images were selected based on several key criteria. First, relevance was the most important factor; the image had to directly relate to the subject of the news and support the core facts of the report. An irrelevant or misleading image could distort the meaning of the story and compromise journalistic accuracy. Second, the tone of the image had to match the nature of the news. For instance, sensitive stories such as accidents, protests, or crimes required careful image selection to avoid sensationalism or ethical violations. Third, clarity and quality were considered to ensure that images were visually clear, professional, and suitable for digital publication. When local or district reports lacked images, I had to coordinate with photographers or reporters to collect suitable visuals.

One notable instance involved a report on the BRAC University protest against rape, where no image was initially provided. Following my supervisor's instruction, I promptly collected appropriate photographs and shared them with the team so that the news could be published without delay (**Figure 12**). This experience highlighted the importance of quick decision-making and coordination in online journalism.

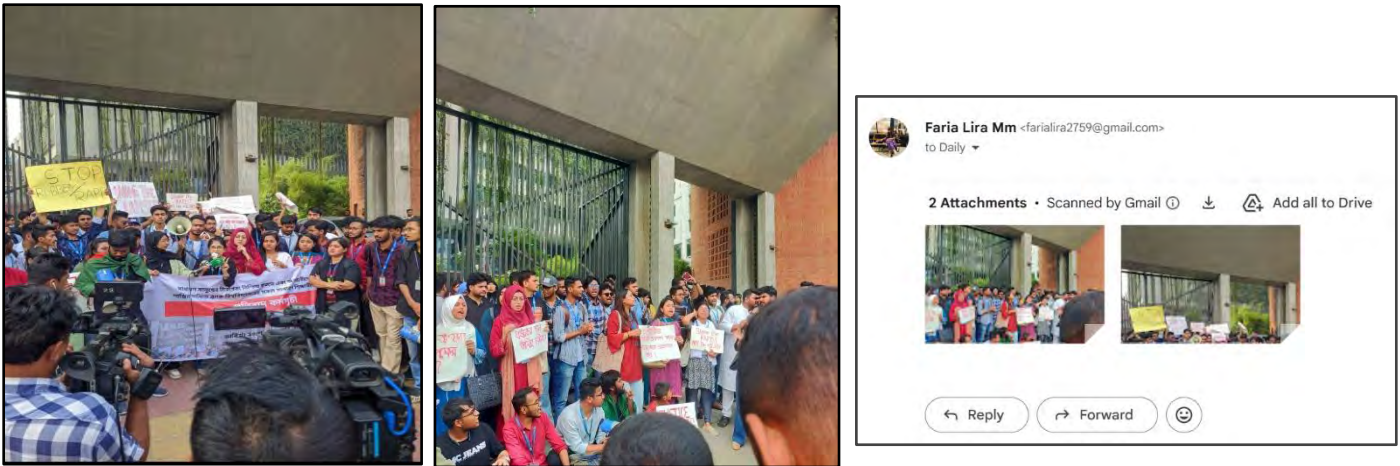


Figure 12: Collecting Image for news report

In cases where multiple individuals were involved in a report, I was required to create a collage by combining several photographs into a single frame. This process involved selecting images of everyone and collaging them according to the technical requirements of *The Daily Star*, which require a 16:9 ratio for proper display on the website (**Figure 13**).

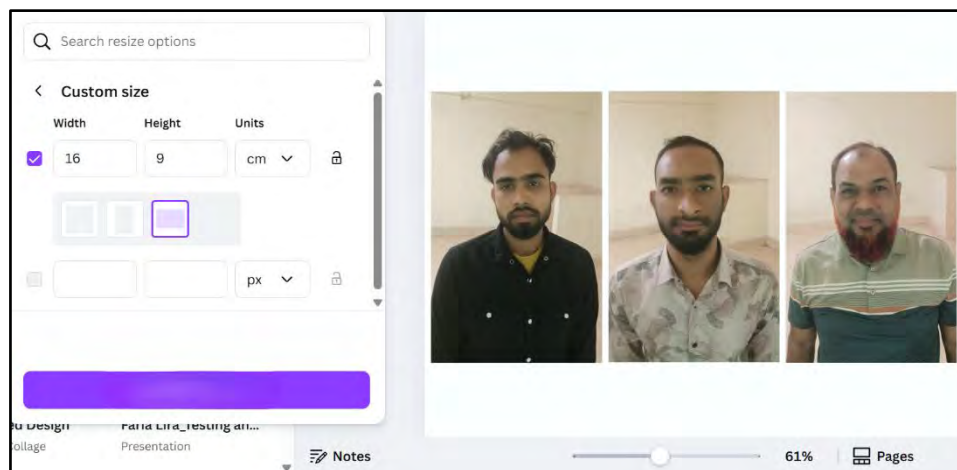


Figure 13: Collage Image in 16:9 Ratio

Additionally, when news reports were accompanied by video footage, I extracted images from the videos that best represented the event while maintaining visual clarity. The newspaper has access to international photo agencies such as *Getty Images* and *AFP*, which were used mainly for global news coverage. For international news I need to collect image from there.



## 6.2 News Translation

Another major responsibility of my role as a sub-editor was translating news reports from Bangla to English. Many district correspondents submitted their reports in Bangla, which required careful translation while preserving the original meaning, accuracy, and journalistic tone of *The Daily Star*. Translation was not a word-for-word process; rather, it involved adapting the content to suit English-language news writing conventions and the newspaper's house style.

In addition to district reports, some stories originally published on *The Daily Star বাংলা platform* were translated for the English portal. During translation, I ensured factual accuracy, neutral language, and clarity for an international audience. Special attention was given to names, quotations, official titles, and culturally specific references to avoid misinterpretation.

Translation was particularly important during breaking news situations. When public figures made significant statements in Bangla on social media platforms such as Facebook, it was the responsibility of the online desk to translate and publish the information quickly. For example, I translated a major Bangla statement posted by Sarjis Alam, an anti-quota movement activist. Due to the urgency of the news, the translation was completed immediately for online publication instead of waiting for an editorial or opinion.



Figure 14: Sarjis Alam's Social Media Post

The original post was long, personal, and emotional, which is common on social media (**Figure 14**). The translation was not done word for word. The translation followed journalistic principles with attribution, where only newsworthy information was selected rather than translating the entire text literally (**Figure 15**). The first step involved identifying the core news value of the Bangla statement. The original post included long background details, personal opinions, and ideological views. For the English news version, only information important to the public was kept. Repeated details and emotional language were removed to keep the report neutral and factual. Secondly, the tone was adjusted to match news writing standards. Emotional or personal expressions in the Bangla post were rewritten in neutral and factual language for an international audience. For example, Sarjis Alam's personal views about the army chief's tone

were presented as clarifications instead of personal opinions. The Bangla post was written as a personal story, while the English article followed standard news structure. The English report was organized with a clear headline and lead, followed by reactions, quotes, responses, and background information. Names, official titles, and sensitive political details were carefully checked to avoid mistakes or misrepresentation. As the statement was made during a sensitive political moment, the translation had to be done quickly while remaining accurate and balanced. This shows that news translation is not only about language but also about editorial decisions such as selecting information, checking facts, and adjusting tone. It highlights the importance of speed, accuracy, and avoiding misinterpretation when translating social media content into formal news reports.

**Sarjis clarifies stance, diverges from Hasnat's view**

Star Online Report  
Sun Mar 22, 2015 03:41 PM | Last updated on: Sun Mar 22, 2015 07:25 PM

430 Views

Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (northern region) of the National Citizen Party (NCP), today issued detailed clarifications regarding a meeting with the Army Chief Waker-uz-Zaman on March 11.

According to Sarjis, the army chief's remarks were not "proposals" but a "direct expression of opinion."

"There is a difference between expressing an opinion and giving a proposal. Indeed, the army chief was speaking in a significantly straightforward manner compared to before. Regarding the subject of exerting 'pressure' on a 'refined Awami League,' I did not sense that there was actual pressure. Instead, the chief confidently said that if a refined version of Awami League doesn't emerge, it would create long-term issues for the country and political parties," he said.

Sarjis acknowledged that topics mentioned in Hasnat's Facebook post—such as a "refined Awami League" and specific political figures—were discussed.

However, he added, "The tone portrayed in Hasnat's post seemed more extreme than the actual conversation, though certainly more straight-forward and so confident than usual. It was clearly stated that the participation of a refined Awami League in elections is essential for national stability."

In a Facebook post this afternoon, Sarjis explained that he and his party colleague Hasnat Abdullah met with the army chief. Another prominent party member was also scheduled to attend but was unable due to personal issues.

"First, I'd like to clarify that we were not summoned to the cantonment; rather, whenever needed, we exchanged questions and answers with the army chief's military adviser via messages," he said.

Hasnat posts on Facebook about 'refined Awami League' proposal

Citing Hasnat's Facebook post, Sarjis said: "At one point, I said—how can you forgive a party that hasn't apologised or acknowledged its crimes yet? From the other side came an irritated reply; 'You people know nothing. You lack wisdom and experience. We have been in this service for at least forty years, more than your age.'"

Clarifying the context, Sarjis added, "This conversation did happen, but it occurred when the army chief abruptly ended the meeting, stood up, and continued the conversation as he was leaving the room. While bidding farewell just before we got into our cars, this conversation took place standing. I didn't feel the chief was angry; rather, he spoke from the perspective of someone senior, emphasising his long experience compared to us juniors."

He also rejected attempts to pit individuals or institutions against each other.

"I do not endorse the narrative or slogan 'Hasnat vs Waker.' Their positions and contexts are entirely different.....Also, statements in some quarters calling for the army chief's resignation do not reflect our position," he said.

Referring to the army chief's speech on Pitkhana Massacre Day, where he remarked, "Enough is enough," Sarjis said he had asked the chief's military adviser whether the remarks signalled any concerning developments. In response, they were offered a direct discussion.

"He asked (military adviser) if we wanted to discuss this directly, to which I replied yes. Subsequently, we met with the army chief. Only the army chief, Hasnat, and I were present in that room," Sarjis said.

Sarjis also addressed differences in how Hasnat had described the meeting on Facebook.

Sarjis further said, "During interim governments, political parties typically maintain discreet communication with the Bangladesh army about national situations. These conversations maintain confidentiality. Even if we disagreed with points discussed with the army chief, we could have deliberated on them in our party forums, made decisions, and taken actions accordingly...."

He criticised Hasnat's decision to publicly disclose details of the discussion, saying, "Sharing these discussions directly via Facebook status, as happened, seems inappropriate to me. Such actions might create trust issues in future critical dialogues with any stakeholder."

Despite his disagreements, Sarjis reaffirmed his support for Hasnat.

"We remain committed to standing by Hasnat if he faces threats. Yet, when corrections from my perspective are necessary, I will provide them openly. This moral clarity guided us to stand at the forefront during the initial protests against the quota system at Shaheed Minar on June 6."

"Our fight will continue against any version of Awami League involved in the July massacres, BDR killings, or Shapla Square killings entering Bangladeshi politics," he added.

Figure 15: Translated News Report of Sarjis Alam's Social Media Post

Overall, the tasks of image selection and news translation enhanced my understanding of how editorial decisions shape news presentation in an online newsroom. These responsibilities required not only technical skills but also strong editorial judgment, ethical awareness, and the ability to work efficiently under time pressure.

## Chapter 7

### **Experience, Challenges and Learnings**

The internship at *The Daily Star* Online Desk provided valuable learning experiences. As a student of Media and Cultural Studies, there had always been a strong interest in observing how a real newsroom operates. The opportunity to intern at *The Daily Star* came with excitement as well as nervousness. Having read *The Daily Star* for years, becoming part of the organization felt significant.

#### **7.1 Experience and Learnings**

The first day was surprising, as the Online Desk operated at a very fast pace. All employees remained constantly engaged because online journalism depends heavily on timely and accurate news. The supervisor also provided an opportunity to observe the complete report flow system, including how reports were received from district correspondents, edited by editors, and finally published on the website. Witnessing the progression of a news story from source to readers was a fresh and insightful experience.

The internship enabled the development of several essential skills that will be useful in a professional career. The presence of a supportive and cooperative team contributed greatly to this learning process. Supervisors provided constructive feedback on mistakes and guided the correction of errors related to headlines, grammar, and structure. Over time, editing skills were strengthened, with a strong focus on ensuring factual accuracy. Coordination with reporters, photographers, and senior editors also improved, offering valuable lessons in communication and collaboration. Through these experiences, effective communication, acceptance of criticism, and professionalism in stressful situations were learned.

The internship further enhanced critical and adaptive thinking skills. Editors carry the responsibility of ensuring that every published article is accurate and trustworthy, as even minor errors can alter the meaning of a report. One of the most important lessons gained was the importance of honesty, accuracy, and fairness in journalism, reinforcing a commitment to ethical reporting. Gradually, confidence increased, and editing skills improved significantly.

Every moment matters at the Online Desk. Breaking news must be updated and published without delay, as even a slight delay can reduce the value of an article. The ability to write accurate information within tight deadlines was developed, while still rechecking names, numbers, and facts before submission. Reports with incomplete or unclear information were frequently encountered, requiring prompt editorial decisions. These situations helped build the ability to handle pressure calmly and responsibly.

In addition, balancing university studies with internship responsibilities contributed to learning discipline, time management, and patience. One of the most appreciated aspects of *The Daily Star* was the strong team spirit and courteous working environment. Senior editors valued interns' contributions and consistently encouraged learning and improvement. This positive atmosphere fostered a sense of responsibility and continuous growth in editing, judgment, and problem-solving skills.

Overall, the internship experience contributed significantly to both professional and personal growth. It also provided a clear understanding of the type of journalist aspired to become.

## **7.2 Challenges and Solutions**

During the internship period at *The Daily Star*, various challenges were experienced, and through these challenges, flexibility and problem-solving skills were developed. The newsroom required a constant balance between accuracy and speed in decision-making.

Some of the challenges encountered during the internship mainly involved dealing with incomplete or vague reports from district reporters, balancing university studies with office duties, and working under two different supervisors. These problems helped develop a sense of professionalism.

The most common issue was working with incomplete or vague reports. It was common to receive reports from district correspondents that lacked essential details. Information about where and when the event had taken place, as well as the people involved, was often missing. As a sub-editor, all facts had to be verified. In the absence of complete information, journalists needed to be contacted through different platforms to cross-check each piece of information before editing the story. Although time-consuming, this process was necessary to maintain the credibility and validity of the news. Over time, identifying missing information took less time, and facts were verified through official releases, Google Maps, past articles, or other published news.

Another significant challenge was managing time between academic responsibilities and newsroom workload. The internship required two shifts, amounting to six hours per day, alongside university classes and assignments. During the first few weeks, maintaining focus and attention was difficult. Editing often continued until 8:30 pm, after which university assignments were completed at night, followed by preparation for the next workday. At times, university classes were attended in the middle of office hours. Eventually, a proper routine helped balance both academic and professional responsibilities. This experience contributed to becoming a better multitasker, and learning to meet deadlines under pressure proved to be an essential skill for both journalism and university life.

Additionally, working under two supervisors with different editing styles presented another challenge. One preferred a more formal and detailed format, while the other favored short and

concise sentences. Initially, it was confusing to determine which style to follow, but adaptation to both styles became necessary. Final copies of edited stories were reviewed regularly, and previous news reports on *The Daily Star's* online website were closely followed. Over time, commonly used language, structure, and phrasing across the website became more noticeable. This process helped in learning where flexibility in editing was required while maintaining core principles such as accuracy, clarity, and neutrality, which should never be compromised. The experience provided an opportunity to understand and apply different editing styles.

Through these experiences, not only was a sense of responsibility developed at the beginning of a professional career, but also the ability to adapt to different editing approaches and manage communication challenges. Problems were gradually transformed into opportunities for improvement through patience and a willingness to learn.



## Chapter 8

### **Relevance of Theory in Workplace**

In university education, theories are mostly learned from textbooks, while opportunities to observe their real-life applications remain limited. One of the main motivations for pursuing an internship was to gain practical experience and observe how classroom learning is implemented in a professional setting. The internship at *The Daily Star* created a direct connection between academic knowledge and daily newsroom activities. This connection added significance to classroom learning, as theories could be related to real tasks and responsibilities, leading to a deeper understanding of academic lessons. Several courses proved particularly useful during the internship, including Cultural Studies (ENG-331), Globalization and the Media (ENG-333), Editing (ENG-401), English for the Print Media (ENG-440), and Translation Studies (ENG-465).

These courses introduced fundamental concepts of journalism, editing, media, and their interaction with society and culture, along with professional ethics and translation practices. This chapter explains how the knowledge and skills gained from these courses were applied in professional life while working as a Sub-Editor Intern at *The Daily Star*.

#### **8.1 Panopticons and Surveillance (Jeremy Bentham & Michel Foucault)**

One of the key theoretical concepts learned in Cultural Studies (ENG-331) was the idea of the “Panopticon.” This concept was introduced by English philosopher and theorist Jeremy Bentham, who imagined a circular institutional structure with a central watchtower surrounded by individual cells. From the tower, the watchman could observe all the cells due to the presence of light, while the occupants of the cells could never see the watchman. As a result, the residents were forced to believe that they were under constant observation. This idea was later expanded

by French philosopher Michel Foucault as a metaphor for modern systems of power and discipline. According to Foucault, control in contemporary society extends beyond prisons and operates through a constant awareness of possible observation (*Foucault 1970*). People follow rules not because they are always being watched, but because they believe they might be watched at any moment. This invisible form of control shapes behavior, responsibility, and discipline.

The internship experience at *The Daily Star* reflected a contemporary version of the Panopticon. In the newsroom, behavior remained disciplined regardless of direct supervision. The presence of CCTV cameras and the open desk setup created a continuous sense of observation. On occasions when supervisors observed the newsroom, employees immediately became more focused and attentive, reinforcing the idea that observation could occur at any time. This sense of visibility increased sincerity and accountability.

Even in the absence of supervisors, time was rarely wasted, as work performance and reports were constantly subject to monitoring through digital systems or editorial oversight. Although the chief editor's office was not located on the same floor, there was a shared understanding that performance could be reviewed at any moment. This awareness influenced behavior without requiring physical presence. The same applied to supervisory oversight, as edited stories could be reviewed later through shared emails and digital records. Individual performance indicators, such as editing speed, number of edited stories, and error correction, were subject to evaluation.

This constant sense of observation encouraged greater discipline, carefulness, and sincerity in work. In this way, the newsroom environment at *The Daily Star* closely mirrored the principles of the Panopticon. The invisible observation exercised by editors and supervisors did not create fear; instead, it fostered self-discipline, awareness, and responsibility. The experience

demonstrated how authority can exist without direct presence and how the possibility of being observed can motivate individuals toward improvement and professionalism.

## 8.2 Editing Theory

Secondly, the course *Editing (ENG 401)* provided extensive knowledge about news editing. This course covered concepts such as appositives, leads, headlines, and various editing techniques that support clarity, balance, and accuracy in news writing. These lessons were applied regularly during newsroom editing tasks.

In this course, it was emphasized that a news report must contain the five essential elements inverted pyramid structure, such as the 5Ws: who, what, when, where, and how. These elements ensure clarity, completeness, and accuracy in news writing. During the editing process, the first step involved identifying these 5Ws within a report. Locating them helped in quickly understanding the core of the story and made it easier to reorganize, clarify, or rewrite the news in a structured and reader-friendly manner.

Appositives are nouns or noun phrases that rename or provide additional information about another noun in a sentence. Nonessential appositives add extra information and should be set off by commas, whereas essential appositives do not require commas. For example: *M. Matiur Rahman, former chairman of Pirojpur's Indurkani upazila parishad; Khan Mohammad Abu Naser, superintendent of police (SP) in Pirojpur; Abul Kalam Akan, public prosecutor of Pirojpur Judges' Court; and his brother, former Chhatra League district unit president and Jubo League leader Irtiza Hasan Raju (Figure 16)*. Each of these appositive phrases provides additional identification of the noun, making the information clearer and more precise for readers.

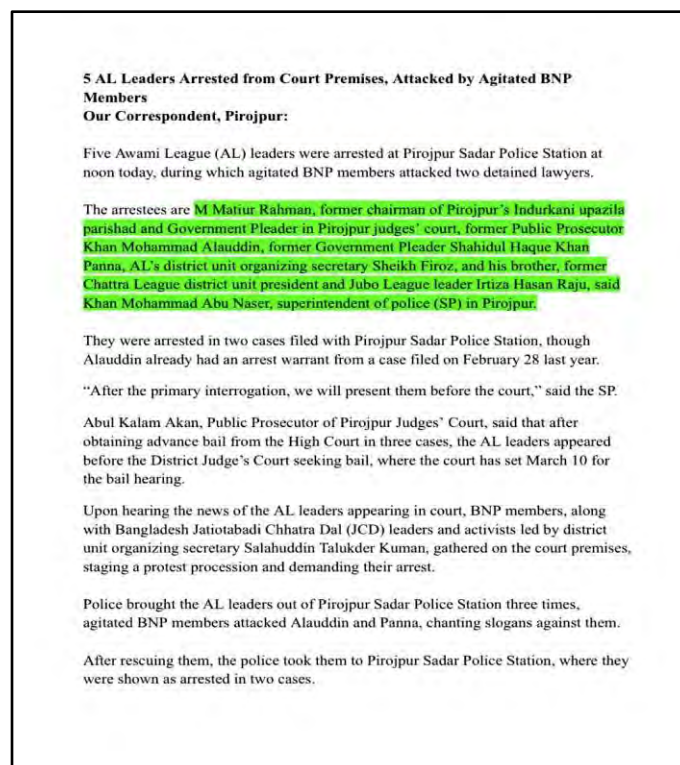


Figure 16: Applying Appositives in Edited News Reports

Several editing techniques were also learned from in the editing course from the chapter *"Helping Reporters Tell Their Story."* One of the key principles emphasized was preserving the writer's voice. During the editing of reports, care was taken to maintain each reporter's individual style rather than over-editing sentences. The rules related to editing voice and color, as well as trimming techniques, were also applied. These techniques help shorten lengthy stories without removing their essence or disrupting the narrative flow. They demonstrate how creativity and conciseness can be balanced, while ensuring that the final edited copy aligns with the newspaper's tone and retains the writer's original voice.

In the editing course, the chapter *Editor, Law, and Ethics* introduced the concepts of libel, fairness, and editorial ethics, all of which were applied during the internship at *The Daily Star*. Libel refers to the necessity of supporting reports with verified evidence before publication to prevent defamation. In practice, all reports were supported by official documents such as police reports, general diaries (GD), or hospital-issued death certificates, ensuring authenticity.

The principle of fairness was also applied, which requires presenting both sides of a story. In most accident or crime reports published by *The Daily Star*, police statements as well as responses from victims' family members were included. Ethical considerations were strictly followed to preserve the dignity and privacy of individuals. For example, while editing rape cases, it was clearly instructed that the victim's name must not be mentioned. Ethically, the identity of rape victims is always kept confidential, even though names and photographs may be sent as evidence. During editing, such identifying information must be removed. In one instance, the victim's name was deleted, but the mother's name was mistakenly left, which could still reveal the victim's identity. This was later corrected by a supervisor, highlighting the importance of ethical sensitivity in journalism. Overall, this experience reinforced the understanding that good editing is not about popularity alone, but about balancing reader engagement with ethical responsibility.

### **8.3 Headlines**

In the course *ENG 404: Copywriting*, the basic principles of writing effective news headlines were learned. A headline should attract readers' attention, spark interest, and clearly express the main idea of the news within 10–12 words. These rules were applied during the internship while writing and editing headlines. For instance, the term “housewife” was used instead of “woman” to make headlines more engaging. To keep headlines concise, shortened forms such as “Ctg” were used instead of “Chittagong,” following house style. It was also try to write headlines which is direct and factual by using strong action verbs without unnecessary or confusing terms. Headlines must match the tone of the story such as serious for hard news and lighter for feature articles. Clarity was always prioritized over being overly clever, ensuring headlines remained simple, strong, and reader-friendly.

### **8.4 News Values Theory**

Furthermore, the course *English for Print Media (ENG 440)* introduced five major news

values: timeliness, prominence, proximity, consequence, and oddity. These values were directly connected to internship work.

**Timeliness** refers to publishing news as soon as an event occurs. In online journalism, speed is crucial because readers expect immediate updates, and delays reduce news value. For example, I edited a news story titled “*Tarique Rahman acquitted in sedition case filed in Jashore court,*” it was essential to publish the news immediately after the verdict was announced (**Figure 17**). Each minute mattered, as multiple media outlets were covering the same development. Additionally, edited news reports always included specific time references, such as “yesterday,” “today,” or “10:30 pm,” to show when events occurred. Without timeliness, a news report loses both its value and audience interest.

**Prominence** refers to the significance or importance of a news item. Famous people, public figures, or major institutions add prominence news values to the stories. I worked on several reports involving prominent figures and national issues. For example, report on the acquittal of BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman in the sedition case filed in the Jashore court has nationwide attention (**Figure 17**). As the acting chairman of BNP had been unable to return to Bangladesh due to multiple cases, the court’s decision attracted strong interest from both political leaders and the public. Many were anxiously waiting for the verdict, making it a highly significant event.

**Proximity** refers to the distance between the readers and the location where the news takes place. People are more concerned with stories that are familiar to them either in location or emotion. Since *The Daily Star* is a Bangladeshi paper, local and national news are given more priority as compared to international news. Although it covered international stories, more attention was paid to district news of our own county, as these contain high proximity value. For example, the report on Tarique Rahman acquitted was newsworthy because it happened

inside our country (**Figure 17**). If the same story had occurred in another country, it would not have received equal value. The nearer to the audience the event is, the greater is its news value.

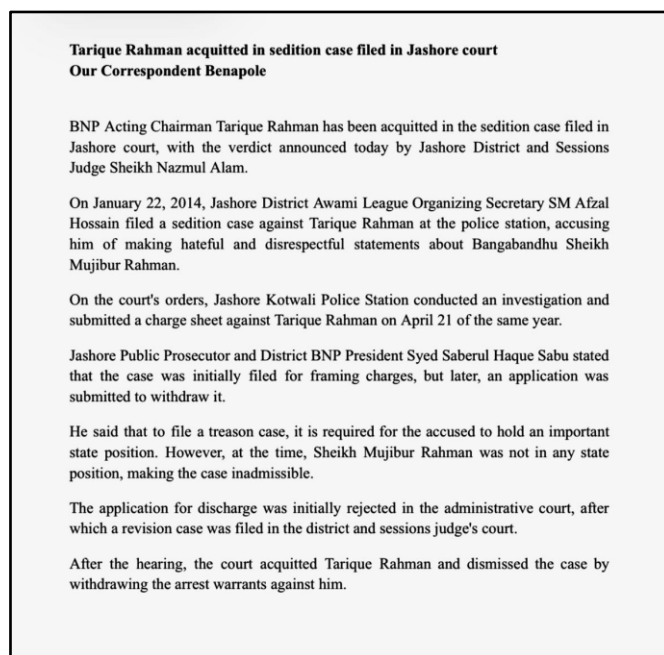


Figure 17: News Reports on News values

**Consequence** refers to the impact or effect of a news story on the lives of people. Socially, politically, or economically, high value lies in news that influences the society. One of the reports that I worked on during my internship was “*Worker’s block Dhaka-Mymensingh highway over sudden factory closure*,” where the death of a garment worker led to protests. The protest caused heavy traffic, affecting many lives and disrupting the economy of Bangladesh. Similarly, the report titled “*Tarique Rahman acquitted in sedition case filed in Jashore court*” carried high consequence because the verdict was going to determine the destiny of political leadership in Bangladesh and affects many people and wider social or political processes (**Figure 17**).

**Oddity** means unusual or unexpected events that attract attention because they are rare. Readers are naturally curious about strange or surprising stories. During my internship, I edited a report titled “Hotel worker killed in Joypurhat over paratha dispute, one arrested,” which gained attention because it was shocking that a simple argument over making paratha led to a

death. It showed me that odd or surprising incidents quickly capture public interest. Similarly, the report titled “*Tarique Rahman acquitted in sedition case filed in Jashore court*” contained an element of oddity because a long-pending sedition case filed almost ten years earlier was suddenly dismissed on legal grounds instead of going through a full trial (**Figure 17**). This unusual legal outcome made the verdict unexpected for many readers and increased public interest in the story.

### 8.5 John Berger’s Concept of Visual Framing

In addition, working as a sub-editor intern at *The Daily Star* highlighted how both images and words shape readers’ comprehension of news. This experience closely relates to John Berger’s concept of visual framing, discussed in *Ways of Seeing* (1972). Berger’s explain that “seeing comes before words” highlights the power of visual perception in shaping understanding before readers engage with written text.

Image selection further emphasized Berger’s argument. For instance, one assigned news story focused on a student protest in front of Jamuna, the residence of Chief Adviser Dr. Yunus. Several photographs showed police beating protesters. In one image, a student appeared to be biting a police officer, possibly as an act of self-defense. However, the supervisor advised not to using that image, as it could change public perception by portraying students as attacker rather than victims. This example demonstrated how images can drastically alter interpretation. Similarly, the inappropriate use of adjectives could mislead readers. As a result, close attention was required when selecting both language and visuals during editing.

### 8.6 Culture Industry Theory (Theodor Adorno)

Furthermore, working at *The Daily Star’s* Online Desk provided insight into how journalism operates within what Theodor Adorno described as the “culture industry.”



According to Adorno, media often transforms information into products designed to attract mass attention rather than encourage critical thinking. This concept was observable in newsroom practices, where story selection frequently depended on audience engagement. Political updates, crime reports, and celebrity news were often prioritized because they generated higher clicks and views. With the shift to digital journalism, attracting large audiences became closely linked to revenue and online ranking.

Adorno's concept of the culture industry finds in newsroom practice where media content, including serious social issues, can be shaped for mass consumption. Editors often emphasized the importance of writing eye-catching headlines to maximize readership in the digital space. My supervisor instructed me to consistently check and incorporate appropriate **SEO keywords** while writing headlines so that news reports could reach a wider online audience. For example, terms such as "*housewife*" were preferred over "*woman,*" and headlines like "*Couple dies in Naogaon road accident*" were considered more effective in attracting readers than simpler headlines such as "2 die in accident" (**Figure 18**). These choices illustrate how language was strategically used to capture audience attention rather than merely to inform.

This approach was also reflected in the increased coverage of rape cases. One report on the rape of an eight-year-old girl received nationwide coverage and sparked widespread protests, leading to increased reporting on similar cases. While such coverage raised public awareness, it also resulted introduced attention to other important issues, such as accidents or arrests.

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| <p><b>Couple dies in Naogaon road accident</b><br/>OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur</p> <p>A husband and wife died after their motorcycle was struck by a speeding truck in the Bypass area of Naogaon city this afternoon.</p> <p>The deceased were Afiaz Uddin, 55, and his wife Bilkis Banu, 50, residents of Kola Palsa village in Badalgachhi upazila, said Nure Alam Siddiqui, officer-in-charge (OC) of Naogaon Sadar Police Station.</p> <p>The OC stated that around 2:00pm, the couple was returning to their village home in Adamdighi upazila from Naogaon city on a motorcycle when a truck coming from the opposite direction fatally struck them at the Khalishakuri intersection on the Naogaon-Santahar road.</p> <p>The police and fire service personnel rushed to the scene, where the husband and wife were found dead on the spot, said police.</p> | <p><b>Housewife and teenager's bodies recovered from separate places in Faridpur</b><br/>Our Correspondent, Faridpur</p> <p>Police recovered the bodies of a woman and a teenage boy from two different locations in Bhanga upazila of Faridpur earlier today.</p> <p>The deceased were identified as Lima Akhter, 21, wife of Abu Mridha of Brahmananda village under Manikdah union, and Mamun Matubbor, 17, son of Mazed Matubbor of Chumurdi village under Chumurdi union in Bhanga, confirmed Lokman Hossain, inspector of Bhanga Police Station.</p> <p>According to police and family sources, Lima was living alone in a rented flat on the second floor of a four-storey building in Brahmananda. Her husband, who works in Saudi Arabia, had returned there in February after staying in Bangladesh for a few months.</p> <p>This morning, Abu made several attempts to contact Lima from Saudi Arabia, but she didn't respond. He then informed Lima's younger brother, Roman, who quickly rushed to her apartment from Sadarpur.</p> |
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Figure 18: Reflection of Adorno's Culture Industry

## 8.7 Globalization Theory (Manfred B. Steger)

In addition, my internship made me realize Globalization has also changed how journalism functions around the world. The audience of an English-language newspaper is both local and international. So, every report had to meet international standards of clarity, tone, and accuracy. This connects to James Paul and Stager B. Manfred's idea. In their article *"Globalization and Culture, Volume 4—Ideologies of Globalism,"* they wrote that *"cultural globalization involves the formation of shared norms and knowledge with which people associate their individual and collective cultural identities."* It brings increasing interconnectedness among different populations and cultures. I found this idea is relevant to my experience at the newsroom. I also used to edit the news, which was translated into the English language, and had to ensure that the cultural meaning was made clear to an international audience. My supervisor used to instruct me to read certain international newspapers, i.e., *UNB*, *Reuters*, and *AFP* newspapers, to understand the global style of writing. Working on local and international stories helped me to understand that journalism nowadays is an international bridge, which is connecting the reader and ideas across the borders. Through this process, I understood that editing is not only just a technical job but also a part of cultural exchange. It also made me discover that journalism now is not restricted by boundaries. Every edit, headline,

or word selection influences the ways in which Bangladesh is portrayed to the global audience.

## 8.8 Translation Theory

During the translation of news from Bangla to English, several translation theories from Translation Studies (ENG 465) were applied to ensure accuracy, readability, and professionalism. For instance, the Bangla sentence “ফরিদপুরের ভাঙ্গায় আধিপত্যের বিরোধে রাতের আঁধারে একজনকে কুপিয়ে হত্যা” was translated as “*Rival group clash in Faridpur leads to murder and vandalism*” (**Figure 19**). This translation applied Catford’s Translation Shift theory, which explains structural and grammatical changes between the source language (SL) and target language (TL). Since Bangla follows a subject-object-verb structure, the sentence was reorganized into a subject-verb-object pattern to maintain fluency in English.

Structural and unit (rank) shifts were also applied by breaking long Bangla sentences into shorter English sentences, ensuring conciseness without sacrificing accuracy. Class shifts were used as well, such as converting “কুপিয়ে হত্যা” into “*hacked to death*,” changing a Bangla noun phrase into an English verb phrase. Additionally, adaptation theory was employed to replace culturally specific expressions with terms more familiar to an international audience. For example, “আধিপত্যের বিরোধ” was translated as “*rival group clash*” rather than the literal “*conflict of dominance*,” making the meaning clearer and more accessible to global readers.

Nida’s Dynamic Equivalence theory was also applied, emphasizing the translation of meaning and effect rather than word-for-word accuracy. The translated headline “*Rival group clash in Faridpur leads to murder*” effectively captured the essence of the original Bangla text in a concise and natural journalistic tone. To further enhance readability for international audiences, Lawrence Venuti’s domestication strategy was followed by replacing culturally specific expressions with standard English journalistic language. At the same time, the



that newsroom practices are not separate from academic theory; rather, they are deeply informed by it, allowing theory and practice to function together in meaningful ways.

## Chapter 9

### Conclusion

I had the exceptional opportunity to apply the theories and skills I had learned in the classroom to a real-world situation during my internship at *The Daily Star*. Interning with skilled journalists and editors helped me see the daily functioning of a newsroom. This made me see with my own eyes the qualities and the skills required for pursuing a career in journalism. This also improved my skills in editing, feature writing, and translation. This experience gave me a first-hand understanding of how news is produced, edited, translated, and published to fulfill the expectations of a diverse readership.

Additionally, the internship increased my appreciation for journalism's role in society. This internship experience also helped me to understand how important it is to make news relevant and appealing for readers of different backgrounds. My confidence in pursuing a career in media has increased as a result of the opportunity to witness and participate in the newsroom activities of *The Daily Star*.

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Department of English and Humanities for providing me with the academic foundation and the opportunity to explore my interests beyond the classroom. I am thankful to my faculty members whose guidance and encouragement helped me understand the importance of applying theoretical knowledge in real-life professional settings. Before this internship, my understanding of journalism was largely limited to academic discussions; however, working at *The Daily Star* allowed me to realize how different and demanding practical life is compared to being a university student.

I am especially grateful to my supervisor, Fanhana Hauque, Digital News Editor at *The Daily*

*Star*, whose guidance, patience, and constructive feedback played a crucial role in my learning process. Through her supervision, I was able to understand newsroom discipline, professional ethics, and the responsibility that comes with editing and publishing news for a wide audience. This internship taught me the value of time management, punctuality, accuracy, and respect for colleagues. These qualities are essential in both journalism and everyday professional life. I now understand more clearly that even small editorial decisions can have a significant impact on how information is perceived by the public.

Choosing Media and Cultural Studies as my major has proven to be a meaningful decision, as it helped me connect concepts of culture, communication, and society with real newsroom practices. Working at *The Daily Star* introduced me to professionalism, teamwork, and humility in a fast-paced media environment. I am grateful to my co-workers at the Online Desk for their support and cooperation, which made my internship experience both educational and encouraging. This internship was my first experience working in a professional newsroom, and it marked an important step toward my future career in journalism. Rather than an ending, this experience represents the beginning of my journey as a responsible editor and journalist, and the lessons learned during this period will continue to guide me in the years ahead.

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