

Report on
Experiencing the World of Print Media at *The Daily Star*

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
Bachelors of Arts in English

Department of English and Humanities
BRAC University
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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The internship report submitted is my original work while completing degree at BRAC University.
2. The internship 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 internship report does not contain material that has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Letter of Transmittal

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Subject: Submission of Internship Report

Dear Madam,

I am hereby pleased to submit my Internship report on, “Experiencing the World of Print Media at *The Daily Star*”. I have completed my three months internship there.

I have tried to explain my learning and experience briefly, throughout my report. All of my works and information presented in this report is done with utmost sincerity and honesty.

In this regard, I also want to assure you that I will be always available if you want to make any conversation regarding this report. Thank You.

Sincerely yours,

Rubaiat Tasnia Alam
20203042
Department of English and Humanities
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Date: January 18, 2022

Non-Disclosure Agreement

This agreement is made and entered into by and between *The Daily Star* and the undersigned student of the Department of English and Humanities, Brac University.

Rubaiat Tasnia Alam
20203042
Department of English and Humanities
BRAC University
Date: January 18, 2022

Acknowledgement

There's an old saying, "*Life is not a bed of Roses!*" It is True indeed, as life is full of ups and downs. It can throw the most unexpected things at you when you least expect it! Nevertheless, no matter how impossible things might seem, there's always a solution to every problem! The way the sun always comes up to shine brightly when the night time is over, the same way after every bad time, good time is bound to come! Nothing lasts forever and that's the harsh reality but most importantly the beauty of life! Which is why whenever there's a difficult situation we have hopes in our hearts as deep down we firmly believe that sooner or later it will pass!

My university life was quite adventurous and dramatic as, here I have faced some thrilling situations which taught me many lessons! This is the place I made countless mistakes, felt broken, sometimes even betrayed but finally I learned from my mistakes and learned how to choose my path & friends carefully! This is where I fell down but I again picked myself up to move forward. However, I couldn't have done this on my own!

I would like to thank the Almighty Allah for everything in my life, especially for all the positive things. Next I would like to convey my gratitude to my encouraging family members, my good friends, my supportive peers and to my motivational faculty members. Special thanks to my supervisor, Seema Nusrat Amin who helped and guided me in every possible way. She is an excellent teacher who is always in favor of her student's best interest. She has always been my inspiration. Furthermore, I would like to say thank you to my honorable faculty members: Ms. Anika Saba (Lecturer), Roohi Huda (Assistant Professor), Dr. Abu Sayeed Mohammad Noman (Assistant Professor), Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed (Associate Professor and Researcher), Md.

Mamunur Rashid (Lecturer), Ms. Adiba Sultana Mim (Lecturer) and Ms. Tamoha Binte Siddique (Lecturer) as throughout their lessons they have always pulled out my skills and have made me a better person!

Further, I would like to show my thankfulness to the whole team of *The Daily Star* publishing house who made my internship journey smooth and easy with their guidance and support. I would like to convey a very special thanks to the Executive Editor of *The Daily Star*, Syed Ashfaqul Haque, who granted my internship application and gave me the chance to work under the guidance of the experts. He has been an excellent mentor throughout my internship and encouraged me to pursue my dreams!

Executive Summary

The Daily Star is the largest circulating daily English-language newspaper in Bangladesh. The daily has a reputation for fair and accountable journalism. Moreover, it has gained widespread popularity and public support, which is why it is Bangladesh's most popular newspaper. It is owned by Mediaworld, in which a major share is held by Latifur Rahman's Transcom Group. The newspaper is led by Bangladeshi journalist Mahfuz Anam, who serves as the Editor and Publisher of *The Daily Star*.

The press was founded by Syed Mohammed Ali, on January 14, 1991. He was the mentor of Mahfuz Anam. Anam co-founded the newspaper with his mentor. It began its journey with a spirit of challenge and humility, with the goal of serving the country as a truly independent newspaper.

I have accomplished a three months journey in “*The Daily Star*” newspaper as an Intern and it was a wonderful learning experience for me. This was the very first time when I worked in an office. I had the opportunity to meet new people, do new tasks, take an official responsibility to submit a certain task in time and all of it seemed very exciting. Moreover, I had the wonderful opportunity to work under the supervision of the Executive Editor of *The Daily Star*, Syed Ashfaqul Haque. He has been an amazing boss and an outstanding mentor. The official environment too was very friendly & healthy. I honestly and sincerely consider myself lucky for having being able to work within such a tremendous environment, under such an enormous boss who always thinks about the best interest of his employees.

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Chapter 01

Introduction

Ever since my childhood, I have always been really good in English! I used to write small rhymes and was very fluent while speaking in that language. My parents were really proud of that fact and I remembered them telling me that when I'll grow up they will let me do honors in English, so that I could become an interpreter or maybe work in an international NGO where I'll get to meet these foreign people and would get to roam around in different countries by boarding a plane. I used to find that pretty fascinating as my favorite aunt used to live in U.K back then and I used to idolize her as a role model! You know to be in a foreign country, speaking in English with these foreign people. It was my dream to become like her one day!

As time passed by it was finally time for me to give admission tests in to different universities and I got admitted in Brac University! Though my father for some reason changed his mind later and wanted me to study Law instead of English but seeing my love for the subject he eventually decided to let me pursue my dreams.

I still remember that day very clearly when I was taken for a visit to, "*The Daily Star*" office as a part of the course, ENG440: English for the Print Media. It was Spring 2020. Our course instructor was Miss Roohi Huda. She took us to visit there. She is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English and Humanities of Brac University. We were taken to the 7th floor of the office where we visited several units like: Life Style, Sports, SHOUT and so on. Later we were served with refreshments in the canteen. We even had the chance to meet Mr. Mahfuz Anam. He is the Editor and Publisher of, "*The Daily Star*". The newspaper is led by him. As we were being shown around I decided within myself that, "One day I'll work here" because the atmosphere of

the office seemed quite friendly. It seemed more like a home than an office where even while working under extreme pressure one would still enjoy himself or herself to the fullest and that's something quite rare to find these days in an office. At long last, I was able to secure an internship in this publishing house. I was offered to work in the, "Digital Media" sector. This sector was a crucial part of the news room which helped the news team to collect & spread information from the public and to the public. Syed Ashfaul Haque, Executive Editor led the News Team. I started my 3 month internship on 13th June, 2021 and finished it on 13th September, 2021. In these 3 months I was able to see and learn lot.

The Daily Star is the largest circulating daily English-language newspaper in Bangladesh. The daily pays a fair wage and gives other privileges, as well as having a reputation for fair and accountable journalism. Moreover, it has gained widespread popularity and public support, which is why it is Bangladesh's most popular newspaper. It is owned by Mediaworld, in which a major share is held by Latifur Rahman's Transcom Group. The Transcom Group also owns Prothom Alo, one of the most widely read Bengali newspapers in the world. As mentioned earlier, the newspaper is led by Bangladeshi journalist Mahfuz Anam, who serves as the Editor and Publisher of *The Daily Star*.

Chapter 2

About “*The Daily Star*”:



Picture: “*The Daily Star*” newspaper Logo

2.1 History of “*The Daily Star*”

On January 14, 1991, *The Daily Star* made its debut in the landscape of the media of Bangladesh. It was regarded a newspaper of record for Bangladesh as it transitioned and restored parliamentary democracy. The press was founded by Syed Mohammed Ali. He was the mentor of Mahfuz Anam. After working in the United Nations for 14 years, Anam co-founded the newspaper with his mentor in 1991 during Bangladesh's democratic transition. It began its journey with a spirit of challenge and humility, with the goal of serving the country as a truly independent newspaper. The publication of the journal came at a crucial moment in Bangladesh's history, when the country was poised to usher in a new era marked by the fall of an autocratic dictatorship and the establishment of a democratic government that had eluded the country for far too long.

2.2 Objective & Values

The Daily Star's long-term mission is to strengthen public opinion on how the democratic system should function and how to effectively maintain and nurture democratic principles. It was an honor for *The Daily Star* to be a part of the changing environment following the demise of the

military dictatorship in the early 1990s. With this privilege came an enormous responsibility to uphold the duties of a free press. The newspaper prides itself on pursuing this policy relentlessly for 23 years. Its motto, "Your Right to Know", appears above the fold middle section of the front page. The motto is also known as, "Committed to People's Right to Know".

The theme of *The Daily Star* newspaper is, "Journalism Without Fear or Favour". This phrase was coined by Adolph S. Ochs, founder of the modern *New York Times*.

The unique feature of the newspaper is its unbiased political position, as well as the purported freedom it has from political parties and vested interests, although, like all media, it too needs advertisements and financial support and faces backlash from time to time. Its power lies in taking a strong & neutral stand in clashes between good & evil, justice & injustice, right & wrong, regardless of any group's or alliance's viewpoints.

The newspaper is dedicated to reporting events objectively, as they are, and without fear or favor. It is dedicated to serving the public. That is why people respect *The Daily Star*, whether they are in power or not.

The Daily Star advocates the rule of law, human rights, gender issues, national interests, press freedom, transparency and accountability of people in the administration and in the business world, all of which the newspaper has never compromised on, no matter what the cost. It cannot be taken for granted by political powers, and few are given reason to doubt its impartiality.

2.3 Social & Economic Commitment

The newspaper, aware of its social responsibilities and duties seeks to ensure human rights to all, remove gender discrimination, advocate rule of law, press freedom, transparency and accountability in the administration and in the world of trade and industry and above all to uphold national interests. While working toward these goals, *The Daily Star* strives to serve the nation with the utmost honesty and accountability, as dictated by its values and norms. In addition to news coverage on these topics, the press carries special reports, human-interest stories, features, articles and essays written by its staffs and other professionals and talents from across the country and abroad. During several national crises, the newspaper played a vital part in fixing them and easing people's suffering. *The Daily Star* organizes round-tables, seminars and discussions on the issues. It also collaborates closely with civil society to achieve this goal. It also organizes discussions and various competitions at school and college-levels to promote young talents, and rewards individuals who achieve in various sectors.

2.4 Governing Body

The newspaper is managed by a six-member Board of Directors. Head of the body is called Chairman while other members Directors. The Board of Directors is solely responsible for the newspaper's income and investment, but have nothing to do with policy-making. The Editor, who is also one of the Directors, is responsible for policy-making.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of *The Daily Star*, is also on its six-member board of directors, of which Rokeya Afzal Rahman is chairman. The general section of the newspaper is headed by Salehuddin Ahmed, who is the managing editor. While the news team is led by Syed Ashfaqul Haque, Executive Editor. Ahmed Ali is in charge of the Metro. Other leaders are AFM Jamaluddin, who is the Establishment manager. Mizanur Rahman is the Head of Operations &

CFO. Selim S.H. Chowdhury is the production and events manager. Sher Ali is the Advertising manager.

2.5 Organogram

The news, reporting, and editing sections are led by the Editor, who is also the newspaper's Publisher. An associate editor and assistant editors support him. Under the guidance of the Editor, an editorial board consisting of the associate editor and assistant editors is in charge of composing editorials. In the absence of the Editor, the associate editor assists the Editor in leading all of the units and acts as acting editor. The assistant editors are in charge of writing editorials according to the Editor's instructions. They also manage the editorial and post-editorial pages, while also writing and collecting post-editorials from other writers. They are also in charge of the features and articles, as well as the website layout.

The Managing Editor is in charge of the newspaper's management. He is in charge of supervising the entire management, which includes the accounts, production, store, and establishment units.

In the meantime, the Establishment is in charge of all establishment affairs, including human resource development and administrative tasks. An Establishment Manager is the head of the department and works under the guidance of the managing editor.

The Finance Manager is in charge of the finance and accounting departments. The Circulation Manager is in charge of the newspaper's whole circulation across the country, as well as taking any required actions to enhance circulation. The Advertisement Manager is in charge of the advertisement department and is in charge of handling adverts.

The chief reporter is in charge of supervising the whole reporting staff, the newspaper's most important unit. He appoints reporters to cover events and write special reports, as well as receiving reports from correspondents all around the country. He sends the reports to the news editors after receiving them. In *The Daily Star*, there are two main reporters, one for current events and the other for special events.

The news section, which consists of news editors and sub-editors, is led by the Chief News Editor. There are multiple sub-editors in addition to two news editors and a joint news editor. Page make-up is the responsibility of the News Editors. They also write the report's headlines. The reports are edited by the sub-editors before being sent to the news editors. After that, the news editors transmit the reports to Modification Editor for revision.

The Daily Star also has a City Editor who is in charge of coordinating all of the city's events. He also supervises reporters covering special events and directs the crew responsible for producing special pages on various occasions. Meanwhile, the newspaper employs rewrite men and translators to create copies.

2.6 Decision making practices

The newspaper is running according to set of a policies composed in line with its objective and values. The managing editor, news editors, and chief reporters, in addition to the editorial board, play a key role in decision-making. The weekly meeting of reporters and sub-editors also makes important decisions.

2.7 Number of Sections in the newspaper copy

There are several sections in the newspaper — News, Reporting, Sports, Business, Editorial, Metropolitan, National Page, Star Weekend Magazine, Law and Our Rights, Lifestyle, Culture, Online, Establishment, Circulation, Advertisement, Computer Operator and Reading Section. Among these sections Magazine, Law and Our Rights, Life Style, Culture, and Computer Section are headed by women staffs. Besides, a number of women are working in different policy making positions of these sections.

[illegible]

2.8 Room for Variation

To cater to the widest spectrum of the reading public, regular 20-page issue contains 2-page Sports round-up, 4-page Business news, 3-page City news, one-page Arts & Entertainment, Country and International news, plus many more varied, informative and interesting pages on weekly basis including 2-page Star Literature, Law etc.

In addition *The Daily Star* has a weekly Special Magazine on Friday (*The Star*), a 4-colour tabloid-size publication for the young on Thursday (*Shout*) and (*Lifestyle*) on Tuesday. To be more of the readers, the daily carries a Holiday page, City-in-Frame and introduced a few months ago Star Insight and Star Campus.

Its internet edition is currently the most widely read web page by Bangladeshi citizens living abroad, and it is frequently cited as the most reliable and authentic source of news in national and international journals, seminars, and research papers. For *The Daily Star* and all who work here, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that should be cherished by everybody.

2.9 Space & Time Constraint

Since the newspaper is published daily, the reporters and sub-editors are under pressure to complete their work before the deadline. As reporters must cover multiple events per day, they must submit their reports as quickly as possible to meet the deadline.

Space constraint is another concern as the daily gets and carries a considerable amount of adverts due to its popularity. Important reports, on the other hand, are always well-represented in the newspaper.

2.10 Training

The Daily Star holds regular in-house training sessions for its employees, particularly trainee reporters and sub-editors. The newspaper hires professionals from home and abroad and organizes in-house courses to develop journalistic skills and writing ability.

Members of the organization also participate in various training programs and workshops in both home and abroad. The media house sends its reporters and sub-editors abroad for interns in addition to receiving international interns through its exchange programs.

The newspaper also encourages its reporters to pursue international fellowships in order to develop their journalistic skills, which in turn helps other employees improve their talents when they return home.

Chapter 3

Walking while Observing the insides of, “*The Daily Star*”

3.1 The online news program, “Straight from Star Newsroom”

On the floor where I used to work I was able to see the shooting of, “Straight from Star Newsroom” which used to take place everyday. “Straight from Star Newsroom” is an online news program by, “*The Daily Star*” newspaper which they upload on their website, on Facebook and on Youtube. They usually discuss about a certain topic in each episode of the program. I saw that the online journalists who worked in *The Daily Star* would usually take the interviews of the guests. The guests are usually reporting journalists of the newspaper. I have seen the following online journalists: Jaima Islam, Farhana Ahmed & Debjani Shyma taking the interviews and discussing about some certain topics, in that program. As I mentioned earlier Debjani Shyma was

my mentor. My supervisor Mr. Karim Waheed too was once in this program. As mentioned earlier Mr. Wahed was the Digital Editor of *The Daily Star* newspaper. Another interesting part was that the entire conversation in the interview was always spoken in Bangla. This was quite interesting because, “*The Daily Star*” is an English newspaper but every time the interviews here were taken in Bangla.

3.2 Context of Organization’s Working Hour

As an intern my working hours were very flexible in *The Daily Star*. Most of the time I used to be there by 12:00- 12:30 p.m. and would get done by 5:00- 6:00 p.m. However, I went to the press earlier than my given time and left much more later just to see the atmosphere of the newsroom.

By doing that I noticed that the newspaper staff work in various shifts depending on the nature of their work. While the administration, establishing, and finance departments operate from morning until afternoon, other departments such as reporting, news, editorial, graphics, and production work at night.

Although the staff of administrative unit, establishment section and some other sections have to do a 9:00am-5:00pm office like service-holders at other organizations, many staffs have to stay in the office till 2:00 in the night.

In fact, because reporters must rush to any part of the country to cover events, there is no fixed working hour for them. Some reporters are required to work on the city edition after the majority of the reporters have left the office by 10:00 p.m.

News editors and sub-editors working on the first edition must work at least until 11:00 p.m., while those working on the city edition can depart after 2:00 a.m. Those who work in the graphics department follow the same routine.

Except for reporting, news, editorial, reading, star city, graphics, and production, most of the sections have a weekly holiday on Friday. The staffs of the mentioned sections get their day off on different days of the week.

3.3 Working Environment

While working there, I noticed that the newspaper offers a very healthy working environment to its staff as it thinks a good working environment is the prerequisite of better output. *The Daily Star* concentrates on improving inter-personal relationship among its staffs and holds different programs for this end. Besides founding anniversary, the newspaper holds annual cultural programme where its staffs join with their families and get to know each other better. Though, no such programme was held there within those 3 months when I worked there but I learned this info while talking to the existing staff members.



Picture: Celebrating Victory Day on 16th December, 2021 (picture collected from Debjani Shyama's facebook profile)

Moreover, I saw that the staff members try to make the environment more flexible by sharing and celebrating small events unofficially. Like, I remember once an employee's wife gave birth to a baby girl and he distributed sweets to everyone. Then there was this other time when it was Shyma Apu's birthday and her whole team celebrated it in the office cafeteria by cutting a cake.



Picture: Celebrating Shyma Apu's Birthday in, "*The Daily Star*" Cafeteria (picture collected from Debjani Shyama's facebook profile)

3.4 Wage & Facilities

The Wage Board, announced by the government for newspaper employees, is followed by *The Daily Star*. The newspaper pays its employees on time and has a good reputation for paying its employees on time.

The Daily Star is indeed do make the payments right on time. Moreover, I remembered my time there as an Intern they offered me an honorarium of Tk. 5000, which was a rare and also the highest amount usually offered to an intern anywhere around the city.

It also pays all employees gratuity and provident funds. Every year, the daily also awards all members two additional festival bonuses. Every member of the daily staff is covered by the office's health insurance. Employees are rewarded for good performance with raises in pay and special bonuses by the management.

While all employees receive a transportation allowance, policymakers and heads of several departments are given automobiles from the office and pay for fuel costs. The majority of the reporters ride motorcycles provided by the office and are paid for their fuel expenses.

In the meantime, the newspaper office provides various services that the employees require during their shifts. It has a canteen for the employees that is open from the start of the day until the office closes for their convenience. As a result, the employees don't need to go out to eat.

Almost every employee has access to the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The newspaper house has also modern sitting arrangements, air-conditioning and toilet facilities.

3.5 Staff Lifestyle

Employees at *The Daily Star* are well paid and enjoy a comfortable lifestyle if compared to other organizations. During my time there as an Intern I have seen most of the staff bringing their own automobiles, which proves the statement above to be true. I even talked to some of the staff members who have agreed to the statement given above.

3.6 Models of, “*The Daily Star*” newspaper

I had the wonderful opportunity to see the regular models of the newsprint. They were preparing for a shoot. I heard them talking in the cafeteria later. Listening to their conversation I

realized that it is not their talent that makes them special but it's something else. Of course, I wasn't exactly eavesdropping on their conversation. I just happened to have heard a few things they were chatting about and to me they seemed like extrovert people who tried to explore their everyday casual life in a different way which makes them special.



Picture: One of the models of, “The Daily Star” newspaper

3.7 Gender Policy

The newspaper has a policy of promoting female journalists and works closely with recent journalism graduates to train them. Despite the fact that *The Daily Star* has no explicit gender

policy when it comes to hiring new employees, the publication favors qualified female candidates. The Editor has told top staff to encourage female employees on several occasions, stating that he wants the male-female worker ratio to be balanced.

I can recall my time there as an Intern where most of the staff members around me were female, which was a very inspiring scenario, indeed. It used to represent women power wonderfully as all of them were playing vital roles from their place in the daily.

Women employees are entitled to a four-month maternity leave. "There is no gender discrimination here," stated a female staff of, "*Star Weekend Magazine*" who joined *The Daily Star* two years ago. The newspaper has an unwritten policy of zero tolerance for gender discrimination and has set a good example in this area. "After observing the status of women employment in the media industry in Bangladesh and learning about women's treatment at different newspaper and electronic media houses, I conceived a very pessimistic idea and was quite disappointed," a woman reporter remarked as she shared her experience. However, when she first met the Editor and applied for a job at the newspaper, his remarks changed her mind, and she found it quite encouraging, she said. "I've never got any objectionable or rude comments or any sort of maltreatment from any of my male colleagues in *The Daily Star*," claimed a woman employee of the computer department who has been with the newspaper for seven years. "During my works, I've never felt that I am of a different gender. You know, I work at ease here," she added. The house never received a sexual harassment complaint from any of its female employees, either verbally or in writing.

3.8 Career Possibilities

The Daily Star has grown from small start in 1991 with a circulation of a few thousand towards becoming Bangladesh's most widely circulated and trusted English daily.

The Internet version is currently the most widely visited Web page among Bangladeshi nationals residing abroad, and it is frequently cited as the most reliable and legitimate source of news in national and international journals, seminars, and research papers. It is the highest taxpayer media organization.

The Daily Star is the most sought-after and respected media organization in the country for journalists, and it is the first choice of journalism graduates. The newspaper also encourages talented journalism graduates to pursue journalism as a career and advocates for strict adherence to journalistic ethics and social responsibilities while pursuing journalistic goals. Many of the university interns and university correspondents who worked for *The Daily Star* for a few months later joined the newspaper and are now full-time employees.

I myself was asked by the Executive Editor, Syed Ashfaul Haque to officially apply for a vacant position in the daily. Of course, I hurriedly agreed and did what I was asked to do.

Chapter 4

Tasks that I was assigned to do

4.1 Writing Op-Eds

The Daily Star newspaper has different sections. I have worked in the, “Digital Media” section. My supervisor was Mr. Karim Waheed. He is the Digital Editor of *The Daily Star* newspaper. On my first day Mr. Waheed showed me a desk to sit and asked me to wait. 10 minutes later he came to me and asked me my name and which sectors am I interested to work on. I told him that I was fine with anything. Hearing so he gave me a few options, like: Writing, Content and so on. I choose writing. He then told me to look at, “*The Daily Star*” newspaper and

to read a few stories from it to understand their writing pattern. I read a few stories. While going through the website of “*The Daily Star*”, I saw that they have a section named Book Review in their newspaper. Seeing so I wrote a book review report on a novel called, “365 Days” and submitted to my supervisor. Later, my supervisor introduced me to my mentor, Debjani Shyma and told me that I will be learning from her, under his supervision. Debjani Shyma is an online journalist of the newspaper. I used to come every day and sat on that very desk and would complete my work.

On my first day I wrote a book review but from the second days I started to write, “Op-Eds”. Mr. Wahed told me to read their newspaper every day, choose a news and write an, “Op-Ed” on it, every day. The op-ed should be within 150-200 words.

4.2 Picture Captioning

I also did picture captioning too but only twice! The first time I was assigned to do a picture captioning. My mentor, Shyma Apu came over to me on my second day and collected my email. Then she told me that she has a task for me and will send it through email. She then sent me a picture with a Bengali caption and told me to write an English caption for it. I did so and submitted the task to her through email.

A few days later, I choose some random pictures from the Bangla newspaper, “Jugantor” and then did picture captioning on them. I did it by translating the Bangla captions to English.

4.3 Content Writings

As my days passed in *The Daily Star* as an Intern, writing op-eds became an everyday task of mine. However, for a change I sometimes even did content writing too.

I choose the following topics randomly and wrote reports on them: “Creative or Copycat?”, “The Aura of Bailey Road”, “Friends, Good Friends & Best Friends”, “Cafes of Entertainment” and “Siberian Husky Kennel”. These were content writings basically.

“Creative or Copycat?” this piece of writing was about how people of our country tries to copy contents, trends, themes from foreign countries without understanding them and ends up humiliating themselves and destroying the true meaning of those borrowed contents, trends or themes. Movies, stories, music, short videos etc. these usually fall under creative contents. People use their talent & creativity to create something unique in order to entertain their audience. However, the people of Bangladesh aren’t so innovative regarding their ideas about these contents. Most of the times their ideas are copied from the foreign countries. Moreover, to make it worst while copying the ideas they forget that, just because it created a good vibe on the foreign audience that doesn’t mean it’s suitable for our country too. Most of the time these copied ideas are just simply implied and not understood at all, for which these ideas finally give the audience disappointment rather than entertainment and often also hampers with the culture of the continent.

“The Aura of Bailey Road” was basically about how, “Baily Road” holds thousands of memories within the mind of the ones who reside here or have made this particular road their own little spot. Countless friendships have been built here and many love stories have blossomed on this street. Moreover, many hearts too were broken but even the losses were somehow or so fulfilled.

“Friends, Good Friends & Best Friends”, was written by me keeping, “Friendship Day” in my mind. Whenever, I used to write features I tried to make sure to look up if there are any special occasions ahead or not.

“Cafes of Entertainment”, while writing this piece I was thinking about introducing the readers to some different cafes where the consumers can not only have food but can entertain themselves in different ways too. In my writing “Cafes of Entertainment” I talked about the following cafes: Capawcino Cat Café, Kabita Café, DipanPur and Bengal Boi. I believe the names of these cafes are quite familiar for their different features of entertainment.

On the other hand, while writing “Siberian Husky Kennel” I was thinking about the animal lovers, more specifically dog lovers. In foreign country there are many places where people can directly come in contact with the animals but there isn’t any such place in our country. So, this is technically the first ever unique place where people can spent entire day with dogs and can also have refreshments in the process. It is actually a Doghouse where you can play with Huskys. Huskys are foreign breed dogs. The area is quite huge and far from the main city so the kennel has a restaurant of its own for the visitors.



Picture: A visitor playing with the dogs in the “Siberian Husky Kennel” (collected from “Siberian Husky Kennel” Facebook page)

All the discussed topics above are basically content writings.

4.4 Feature Writing and News Items

I however, did only one feature writing while I did my internship there. My first and only ever feature was, “Time Passers for a Rainy Day”. I remembered when I wrote this feature back in that time it was raining a lot, so seeing that this topic popped in my mind.

Later I wrote my only news item, “6 years of Holey Artisan Bakery Attack: In memory of the lost souls in the massacre”. The death anniversary of the Holey Artisan Bakery tragedy was coming up soon, so I wrote this piece keeping that in mind.

4.5 The Liberation War Project

It was the month of August. The social media team started a new project called, “The Liberation War Project”. Fortunately, I got the opportunity to work in this new project. As, I mentioned earlier, it was handled by the newspaper’s social media team. My mentor Debjani Shyma added me in this project.

In the project, I basically had to summarize a news article into 7 lines. I was told to keep the lines as short as possible. After summarizing I had to Bold the keywords in the summarized lines. The news articles were basically about what happened in that very date of 1971. After summarizing them I would first send them to Shyma Apu. She would give me feedback about it and if everything were okay I would send them to Mr. Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan (Sohel). He was the graphic designer of the social media team of the newspaper. After receiving my email he would make a video with 7 slides in it. In each slide he would put a line from the summary that I sent him earlier and finally he would release that video in *the Daily Star* Facebook page. I started my work on this project from 11th August, 2021 and did it until 13th September, 2021. 13th September, 2021 was the last day of my Internship.

4.6 Creative Writing

After a few days of my joining I was able to meet and chat with Mr. Syed Ashfaque Haque. As mentioned earlier, he is the Executive Editor of *the Daily Star* newspaper. He asked me about my goal and I told him that I want to become a writer one day. Hearing so, he told me

that it's a noble profession which can give me fame but not money, at least not immediately. Moreover, the fame too can be achieved after a lot of struggle because creating a good piece of writing is no less than giving birth to a baby. His words truly inspired me and I decided to try my best to create a piece worth reading.

Keeping my dream of becoming a writer in mind, the Executive Editor, Mr. Ashfaq told me to send him a poem or a short story everyday. So, I used to write a poem or a short story everyday and would send it to him. I wrote and submitted about 10 poems & 6 short stories to him. Later Ashfaq Sir even gave me feedback saying, "Dear Rubaiat, I'm really impressed! Well done!" Seeing that feedback I was over the moon. I believe I had the capability to create a piece of writing worth reading.

4.7 Final Project Submission to the Executive Editor

As time passed by the month of August was going to end soon and September was at the verge of starting. I told Ashfaq Sir that my last day was coming up, as according to the offer letter 3 months of my internship will be completed on 13th September, 2021. So, the Executive Editor, Ashfaq Sir told me to submit him a final paper about any problem in Bangladesh. He assigned me with the task on 29th August, 2021 and told me to submit it on 9th September, 2021. I wrote my final report on, "Necessity of Breastfeeding Booths in Bangladesh". I did my research and interviewed a few old mothers and some new mothers for my report. I finally put them altogether and even gave references at the end of the report. Finally I submitted it on the given date.

I was then told to meet Mr. Ashfaq on 12th September, 2021. I did so and on that meeting he asked me to submit him and to the HR an application regarding, "a vacant position". I did as I

was told to do so. I finally met Ashfaq Sir on my last day at the office, which was 13th September, 2021. He told me that the HR will call me later.

Chapter 5

My Executive Editor, an excellent mentor regarding my dreams and skills

As mentioned earlier after a few days of joining, “*The Daily Star*” newsprint as an Intern I was able to meet and chat with Mr. Syed Ashfaquul Haque. As I have mentioned before he is the Executive Editor of *the Daily Star* newspaper. He is one of the directors of the six-member board. The news team is led by him.

Ashfaq Sir, asked me about my goal and I told him that I want to become a writer one day. Hearing so, he asked me to submit him a piece of writing everyday. He said that it could be anything like: a short story, a poem or maybe a feature and so on. He also said that he wants to help me figure out my skills while I complete my internship here. His words inspired me and felt quite strong because I remembered when for the first time I decided to become a writer I was quite scared. Though, I had the passion and skill of becoming a successful writer but I was anxious because I wasn’t able to find any kind of support from my family. According to them there’s no future in that profession, unless I have excellent writing skills! Hearing such words from them I felt quite hurt and nervous about my decision. Nevertheless, Ashfaq Sir’s inspiring words encouraged me to follow my dreams without any fear or hesitation! He was like a light of guidance for me as before meeting him all I could see was darkness but now I was confidence about my decision and about my dream. I became even more certain and hopeful about pursuing my aspiration when after seeing my first two writings he gave the following feedback, “Dear Rubaiat, I'm really impressed! Well done!” This statement was a push to my dreams and to my

self-confidence. I became even more enliven when he asked me to submit a final report in-order to see if I were a fit for, “*The Daily Star*”, as a permanent staff member.

As from the discussion above it can be seen very clearly that the Executive Editor of “*The Daily Star*” newspaper, Syed Ashfaul Haque was an excellent mentor. He always looks out for the best interest of his employees. He has all the wonderful qualities of a boss, a mentor and a leader. I would consider myself absolutely lucky for being able to work under his guidance.

Chapter 6

An unpleasant experience

The three months that I worked in the “*The Daily Star*” newspaper as an Intern, I enjoyed every moment of it fully. The people I worked with and the people who guided and supervised me, everyone was very friendly, patient and considerate. Even the Pink Collar employees who worked there were very well behaved, humble and generous.

However, there was this particular staff member who for some reason wasn’t exactly happy with me, I suppose. Though, I still can’t seem to figure out why but I am quite certain about what I stated. I remembered one day after coming to the office I saw that my PC wasn’t working. I was looking around to ask for some assistance regarding where should I contact to solve this problem of mine. Since it was lunch hour so most of the staff members weren’t around. However, I saw a staff member named, Farhana Ahmed. I have mentioned about her earlier. She was one of the hosts who has hosted the online news program, “Straight from Star Newsroom”. “She sat a little far from where I used to sit, so we didn’t get much chance to talk. However, she knew me as Shyma Apu has introduced us before. In fact we even had lunch together, a few

times. Anyway, I went to her and told her about my problem and asked her what should I do about it? Her answer disappointed me. She said that she doesn't know anything and told me to ask my supervisor about it! Now, it might seem like that she only stating that she doesn't know anything but the problem was it wasn't true that she didn't know how to solve the problem because she has spent 15 years of her life here in this office. So, no one else knows about this place better than her! Anyhow, hearing her reply I came back to my desk and kept thinking what to do! Just then Sadia Apu came to me. She sits in the desk that's behind me. Seeing her I told her about my problem and she immediately solved it. She called the IT department to send someone over to take a look at it. In a few minutes the problem was solved.

This incident was small but very unpleasant for me. Especially because such behaviour came from such a senior staff member. As a newbie, it was very upsetting for me. Though I put it behind me and moved on, yet such behaviour was very unprofessional and unexpected from such a senior employee.

Chapter 7

Implying the Theory of Sensationalism

As mentioned before, I did my internship in the “Digital Media” section of *The Daily Star*. In that section I used to see the Social Media team collecting information from Facebook, Instagram or Twitter in order to publish it as the first among the other media houses. As according to them when an incident takes place it is important to collect information about it as soon as possible and let the public know about it. Moreover, if the information is incomplete or so for the time being even then it's okay because the value of a fresh news is a lot. However, I didn't found this tactic of theirs to be very good because when they publish a news about

something or someone, people would definitely read it, as something being published in the news is undoubtedly important. However, if the information about that news is from unreliable sources like the social media then I believe that is quite concerning because social media is a free platform where anyone can post anything and not everything is authentic there. Though, they say that they later add information to that news from available authentic sources when they find out more about it but I believe that can't be a justified reason to collect information from unreliable sources.

I believe this competition among different print media of who can collect news faster and can publish it first can be very misleading for the public because when a news is published about something or someone, the information that has reached the common people can be misleading for them. Since the news is only half and has been collected from the social media which isn't a reliable source at all. Furthermore, there's a high risk of image damage for the person or the object that has reached the news print, as the information about the news isn't from an authentic source and even if it is, then there's only half of the information here and that's not right either.

Seeing this, I believe the theory of Sensationalism can be related to the situation stated above. In journalism and mass media it is a type of editorial tactic. It has been throughout history to sell papers by creating stories that will get an audience's attention. It is used today to gain readership ratings and to make money. This tactic of news reporting encourages biased or emotionally loaded impressions of events rather than neutrality and may cause a manipulation to the truth of a story.

As we can see that in the newsroom of *The Daily Star* that their first priority is to grab the attention of their readers and they do that by publishing news about a certain topic by, by-

passing the fact of authenticity of the information, which is indeed very disappointing from such an elite media house.

Chapter 8

Conclusion

The three months journey in “*The Daily Star*” newspaper as an Intern was a wonderful learning experience for me. This was the very first time where I worked in an office within an official environment. Meeting new people, doing new tasks, taking an official responsibility to submit a certain task in time all of it seemed very exciting. Moreover, the official environment was a very friendly & healthy environment where while working every moment could be enjoyed to the fullest and jobs can get done without any stress. However, such environment could have never been possible if the boss wasn’t caring towards his staff. Furthermore, the boss had to be keen enough to appoint such staffs who are well adjusted with their colleagues. So, the Executive Editor of “*The Daily Star*” newspaper, Syed Ashfaqul Haque played a vital role in maintaining such a wonderful atmosphere. I honestly and sincerely consider myself lucky for having being able to work within such a tremendous environment and under the supervision of such a fantastic boss.

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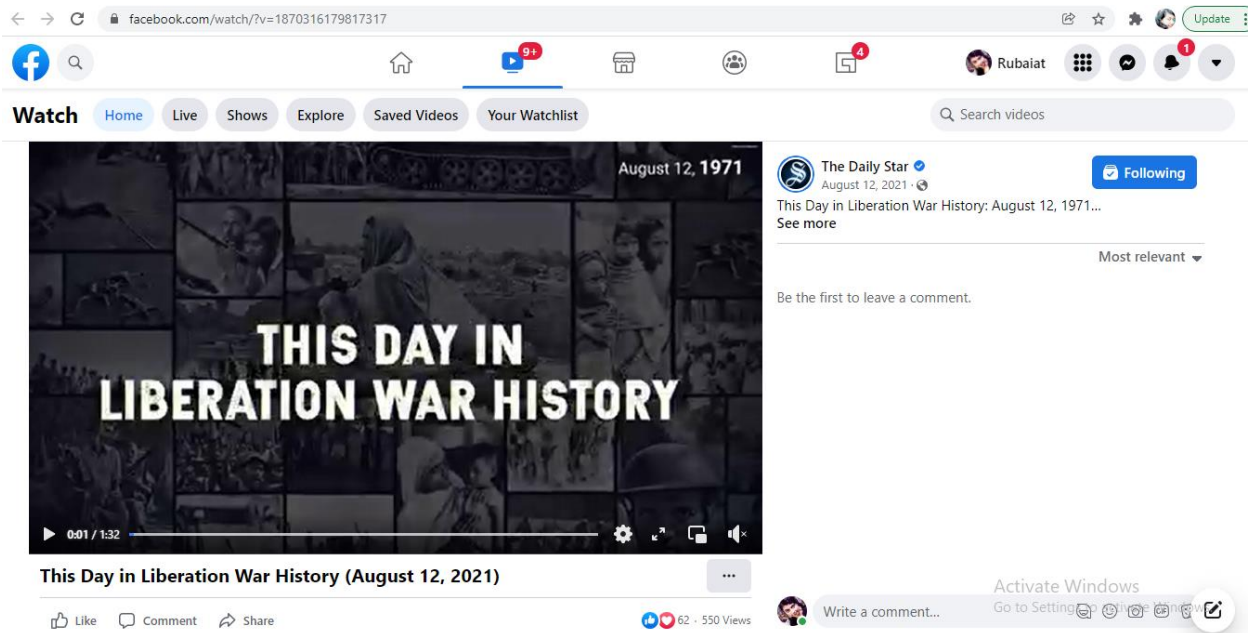
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Appendix

Appendix- 1



Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1870316179817317>

Appendix- 2



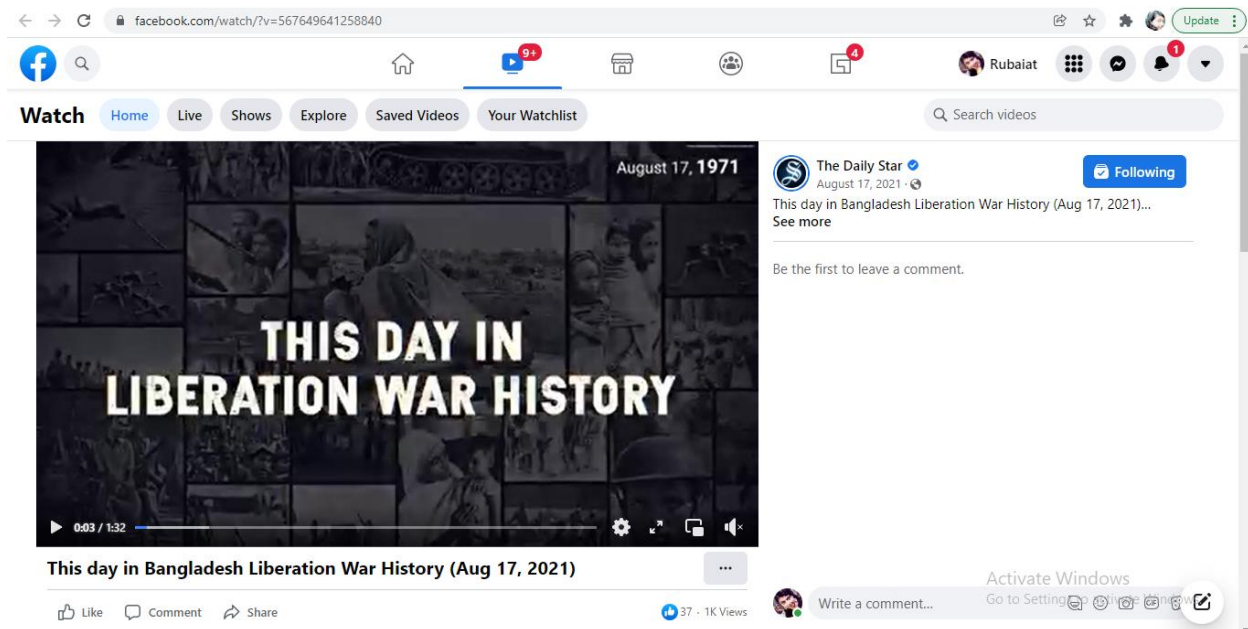
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Appendix- 3



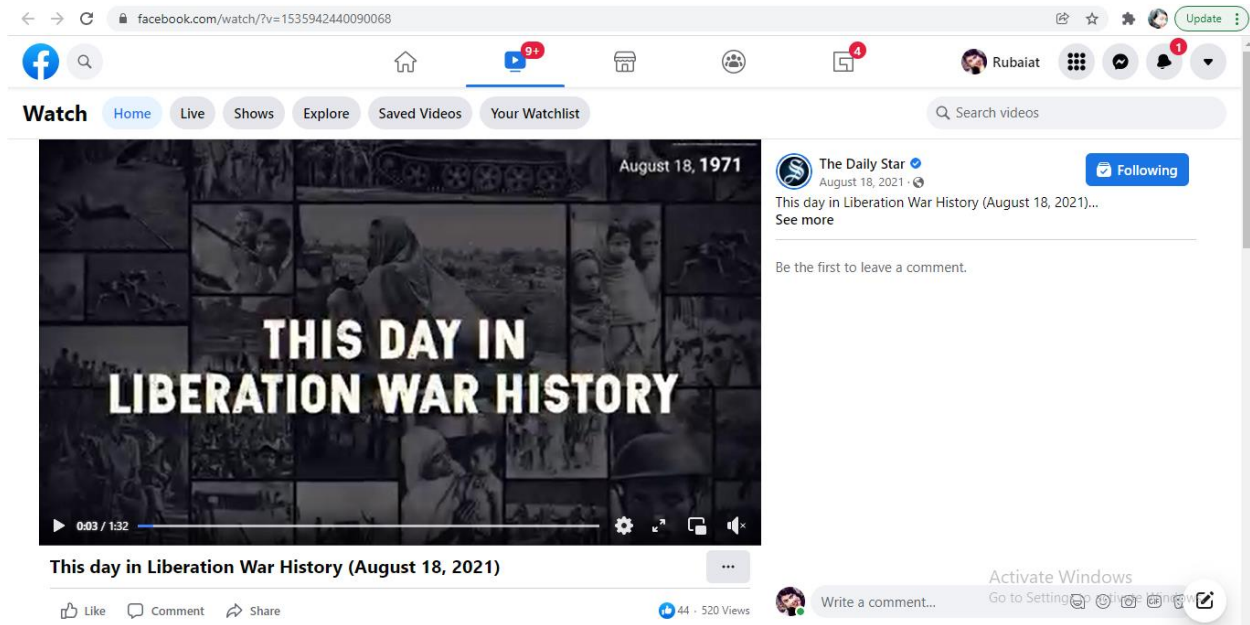
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Appendix- 4



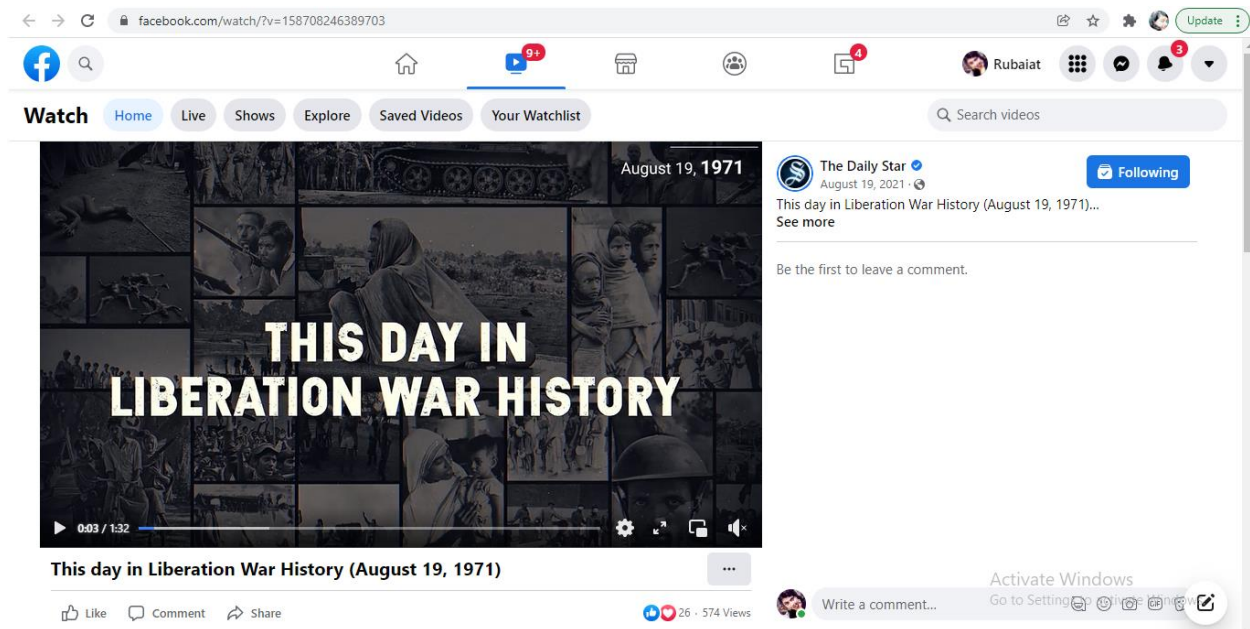
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Appendix- 5



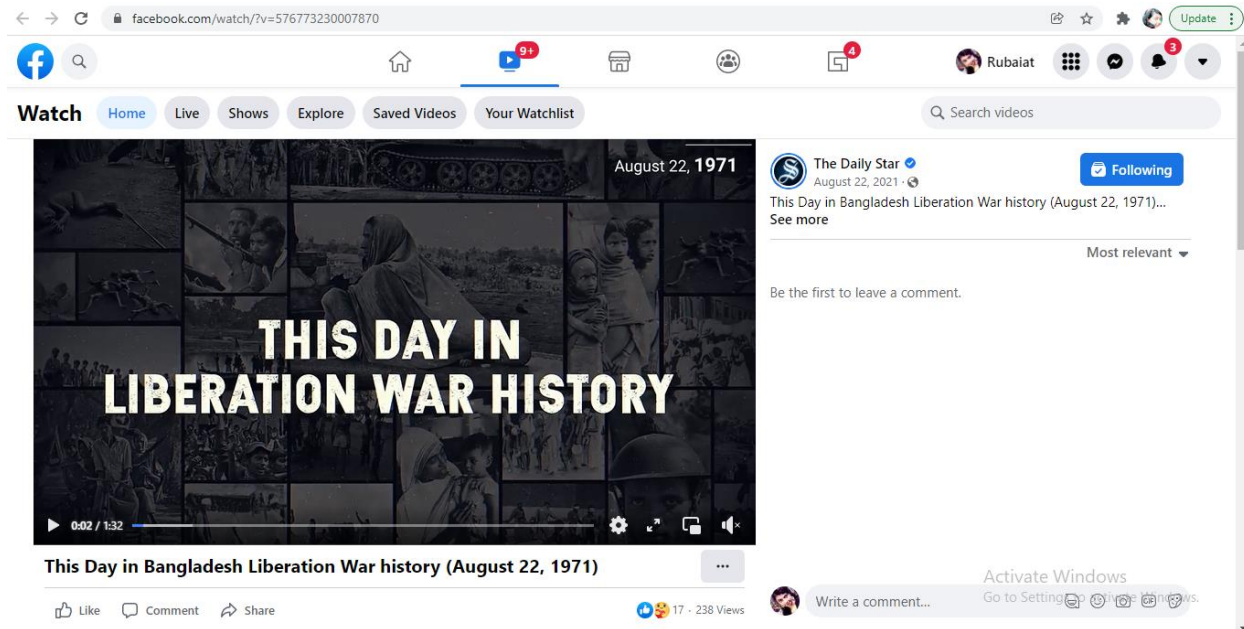
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Appendix- 6



Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=158708246389703>

Appendix- 7



Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=576773230007870>

Appendix- 8

The screenshot shows a Facebook video player interface. The video is titled "THIS DAY IN LIBERATION WAR HISTORY" and is from "The Daily Star", posted on August 25, 2021. The video player shows a timestamp of 0:04 / 1:32. Below the video, the title "This Day in Bangladesh Liberation War History (August 25, 1971)" is displayed. The video has 6 comments and 718 views. The comments section shows two comments: one from "IELTS & English Tips" and another from "Sumon Ahmed Rahman". The Facebook navigation bar at the top includes options like Home, Live, Shows, Explore, Saved Videos, and Your Watchlist. The right side of the page shows the user's profile "Rubaia" and various notification icons.

Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=400574401420475>

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facebook.com/watch/?v=515438066225869

Watch Home Live Shows Explore Saved Videos Your Watchlist

Search videos

THIS DAY IN LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

August 26, 1971

The Daily Star August 26, 2021 · Following

This Day in Liberation War History (august 26, 2021)...
See more

Most relevant

Mustafa Ahmed
This day of touching our heart. Our grim struggle broke out. In lieu of millions of lives and an ocean of blood finally we reached to the victory. I always remember with high honour and respect our real freedom fighters and with homage our martyrs. Hi... See more

Like · Reply · 19w

This Day in Liberation War History (august 26, 2021)

Like Comment Share

42 · 1 Comment · 736 Views

Write a comment...

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=515438066225869>

Appendix- 10



Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=215715340570188>

Appendix- 11



Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=959169451327057>

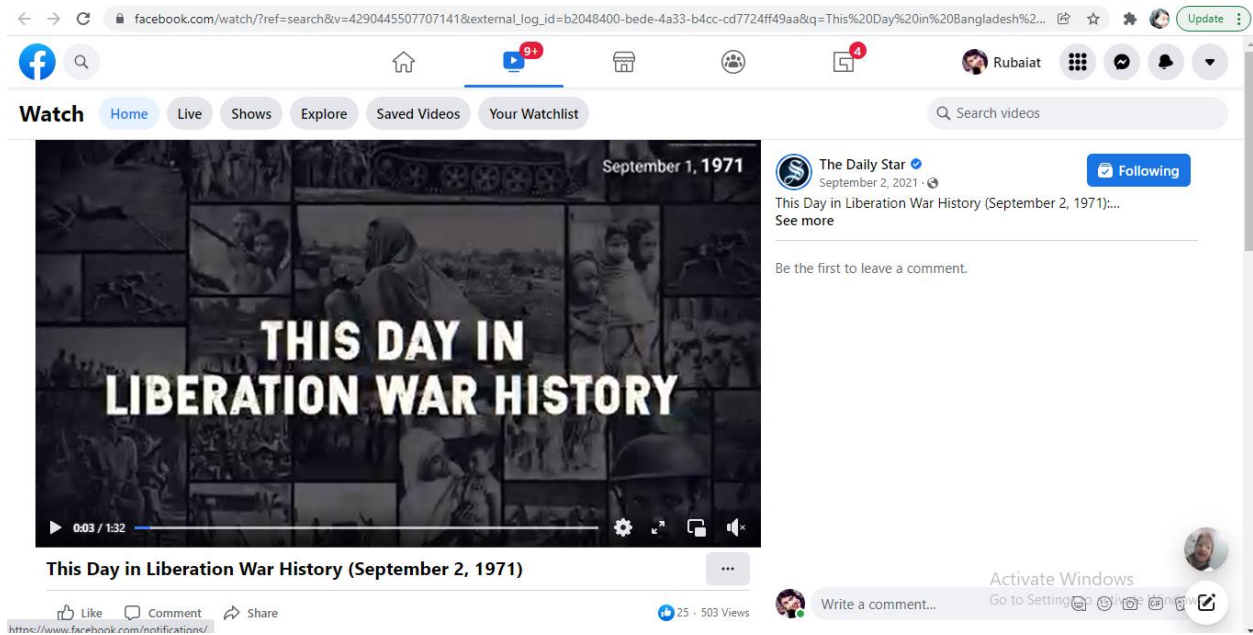
Appendix- 12

The screenshot shows a Facebook Watch interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays 'facebook.com/watch/?v=386627039729390'. The Facebook navigation bar includes the logo, a search icon, and icons for home, notifications (9+), video uploads, groups, and messages. Below this is the 'Watch' section with tabs for Home, Live, Shows, Explore, Saved Videos, and Your Watchlist. A search bar for videos is also present.

The main video player displays a collage of historical war images with the text 'THIS DAY IN LIBERATION WAR HISTORY' and the date 'September 1, 1971'. The video is from 'The Daily Star', posted on 'September 1, 2021'. The video title is 'This Day in Liberation War History (September 1, 1971):...'. The video has 25 views and 594 views. The interface includes options to Like, Comment, and Share. A comment box is visible with the text 'Write a comment...'. An 'Activate Windows' watermark is present in the bottom right corner.

Full Video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=386627039729390>

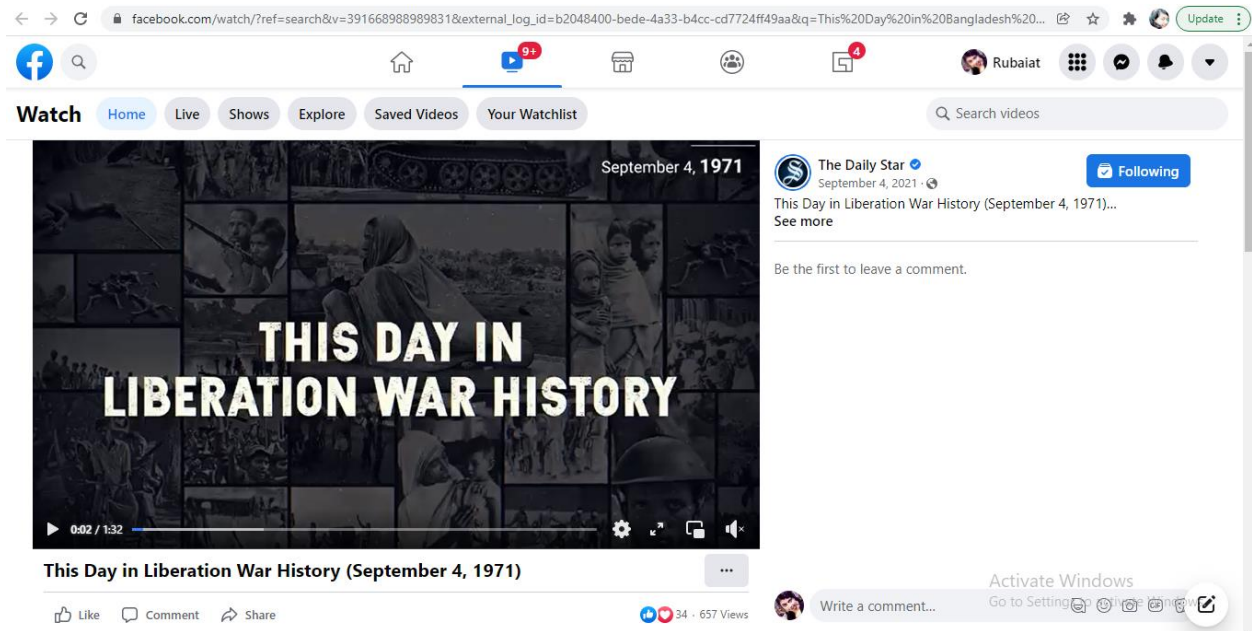
Appendix- 13



Full Video at

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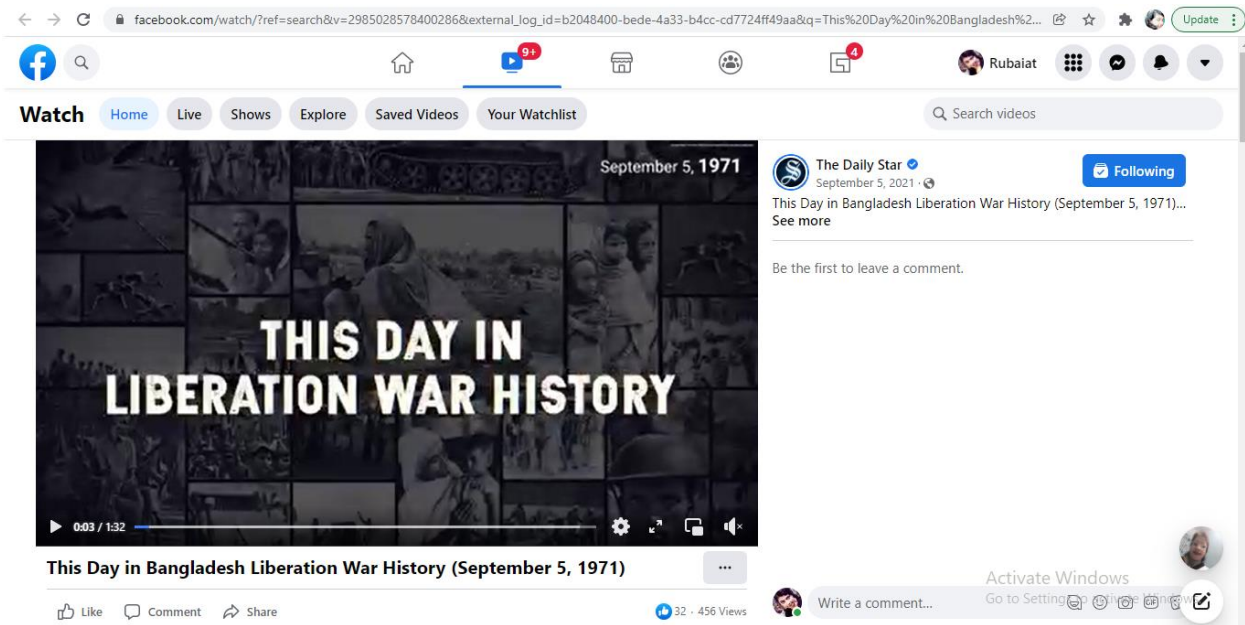
Appendix- 14



Full Video at

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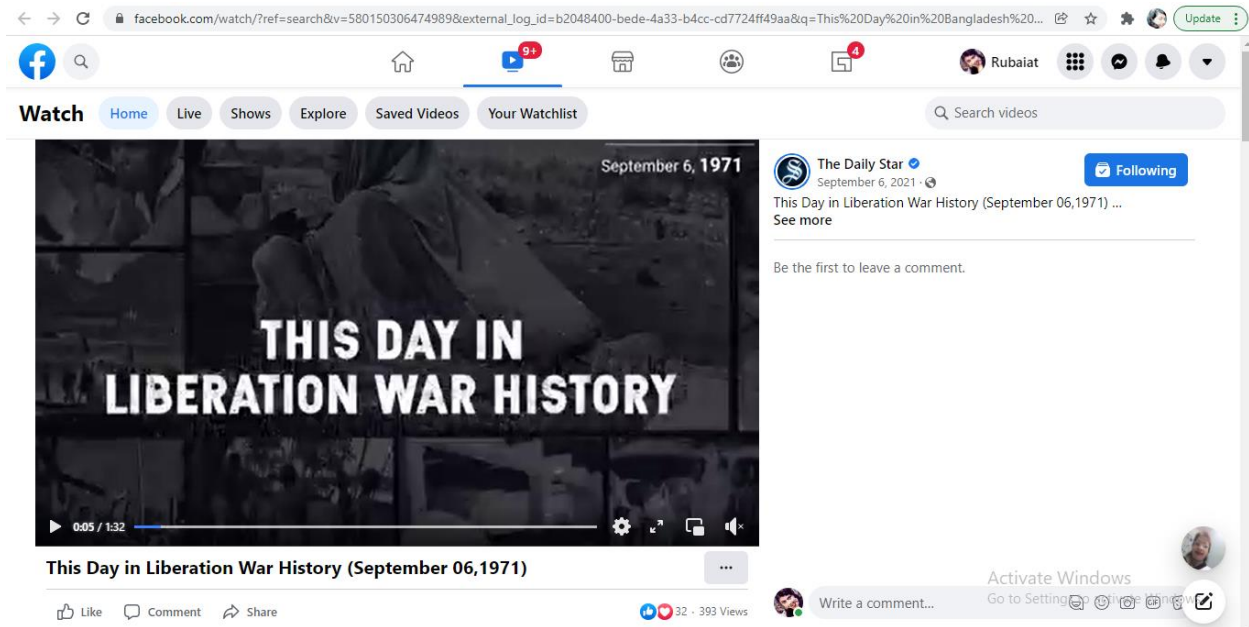
Appendix- 15



Full Video at

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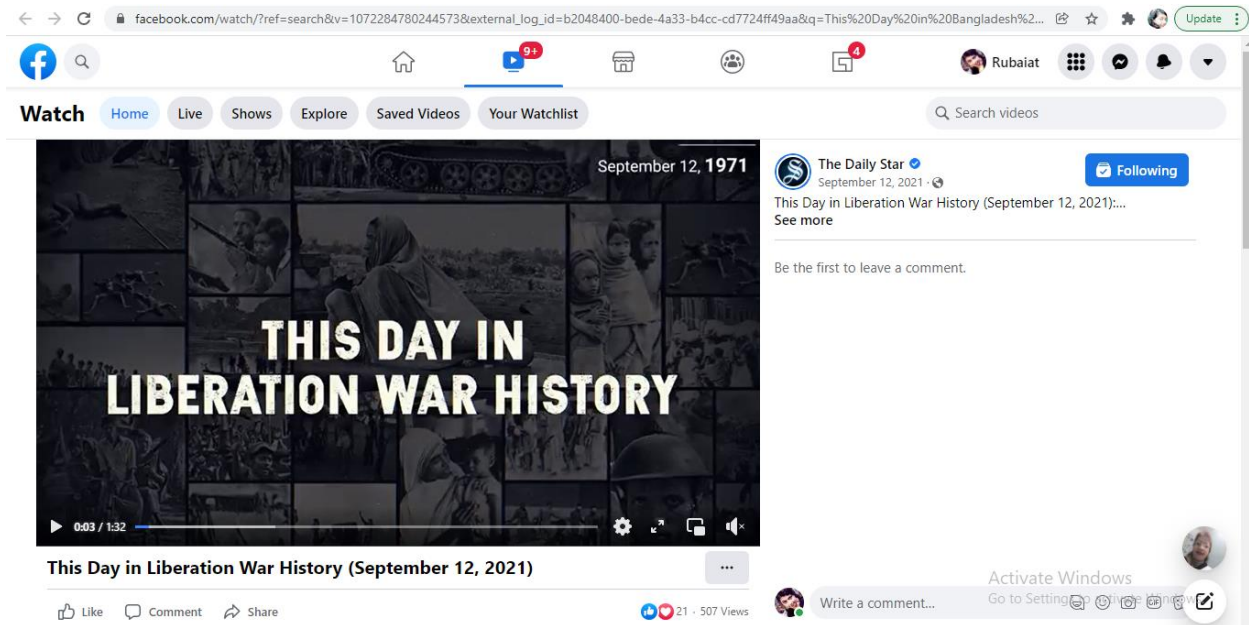
Appendix- 16



Full Video at

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Appendix- 17



Full Video at

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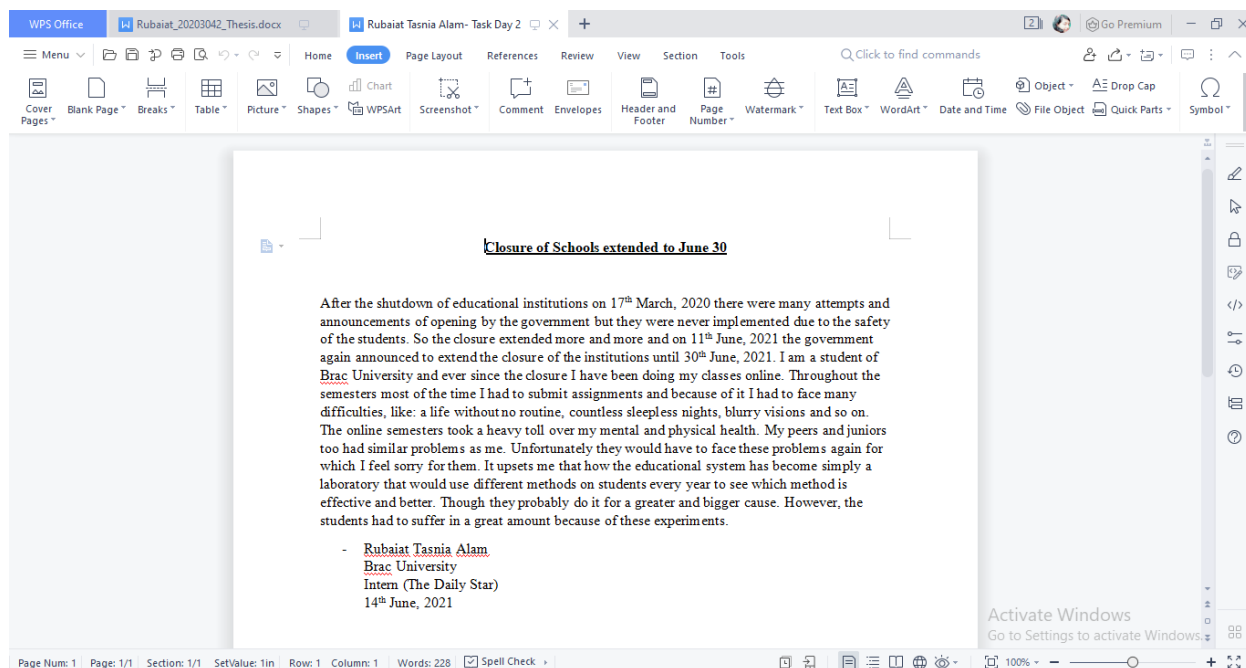
Appendix- 18



Full Video at

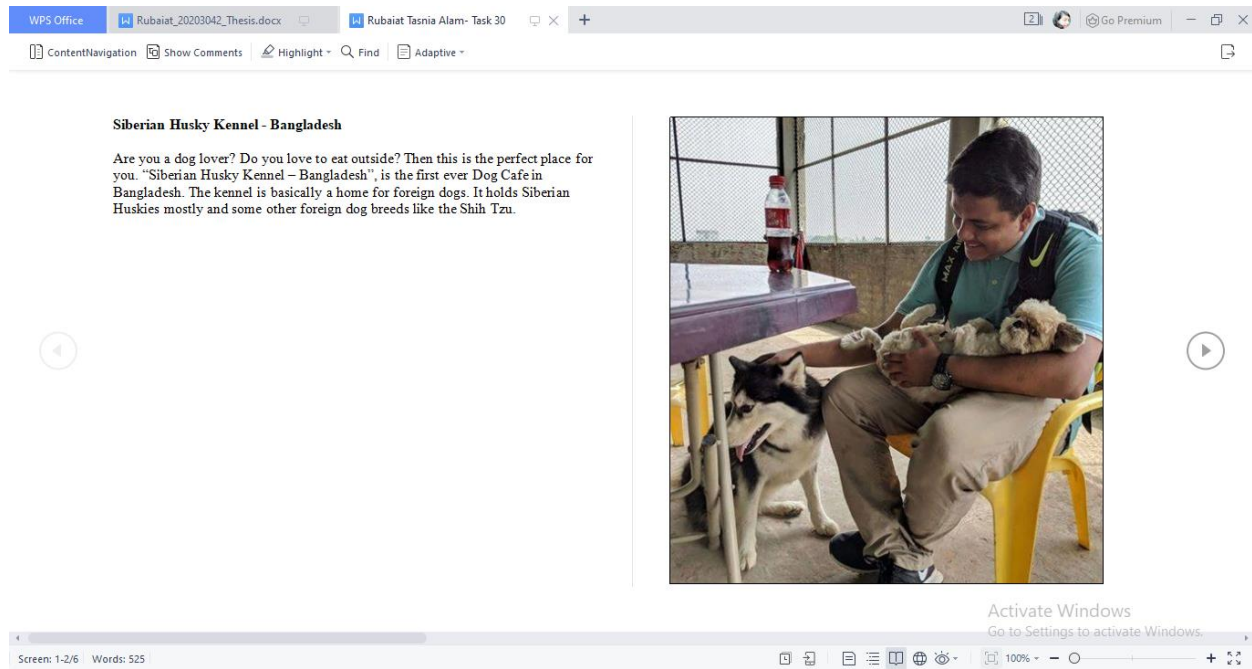
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Appendix- 19



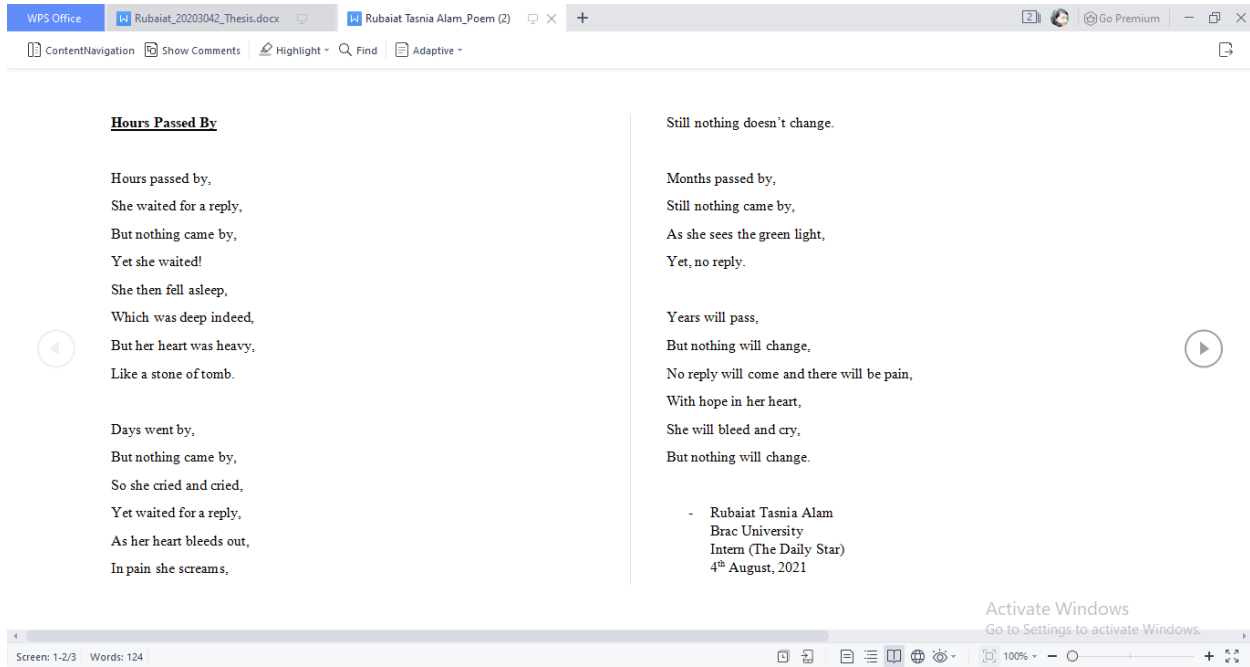
One of the Op-Eds that I submitted on 14th June, 2021.

Appendix- 21



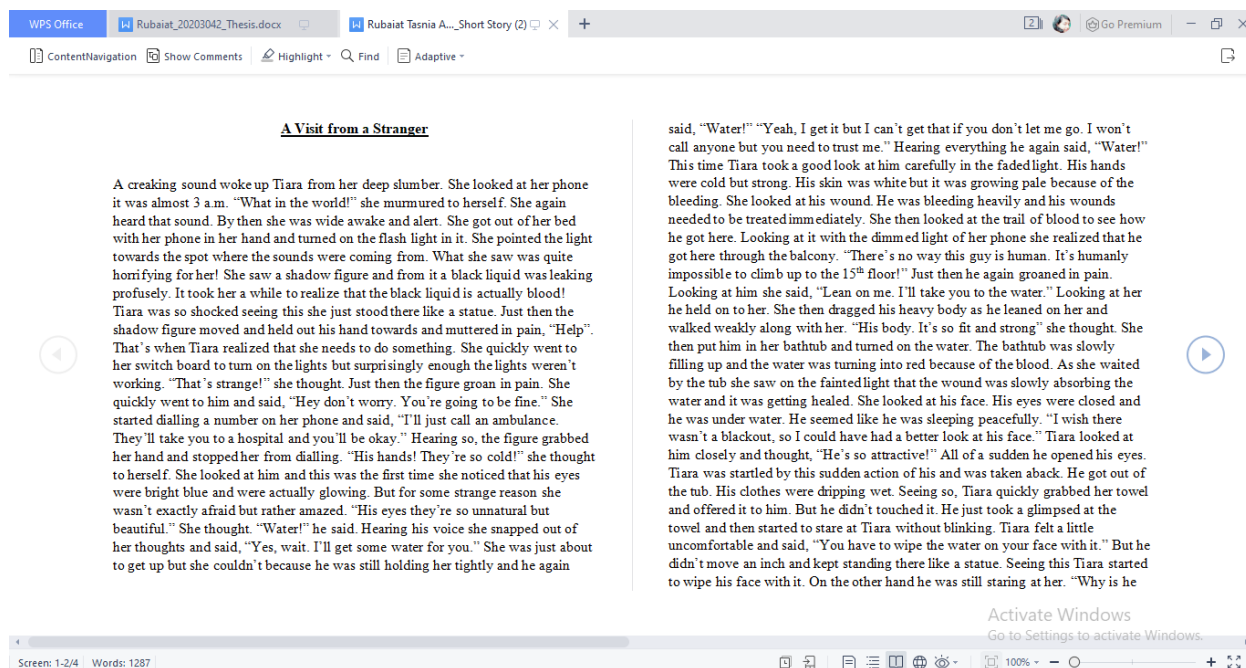
One of the Content Writings that I submitted on 25th August, 2021.

Appendix- 22



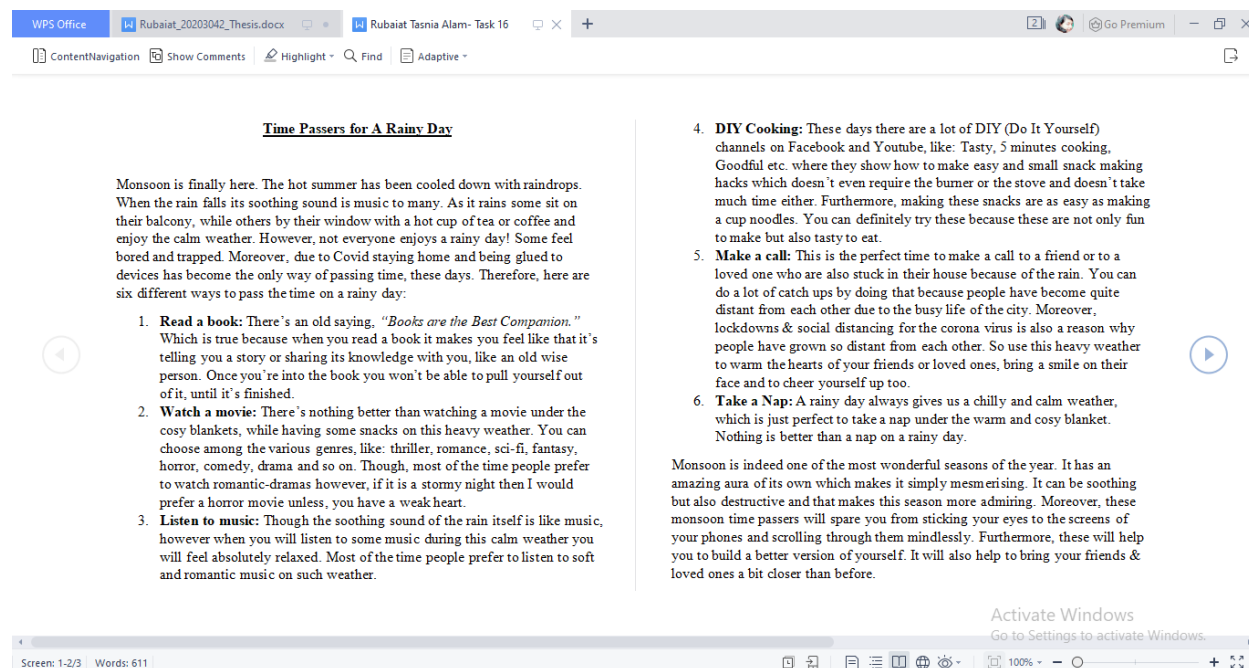
One of the Poems among my Creative Writings that I submitted on 4th August, 2021.

Appendix- 23



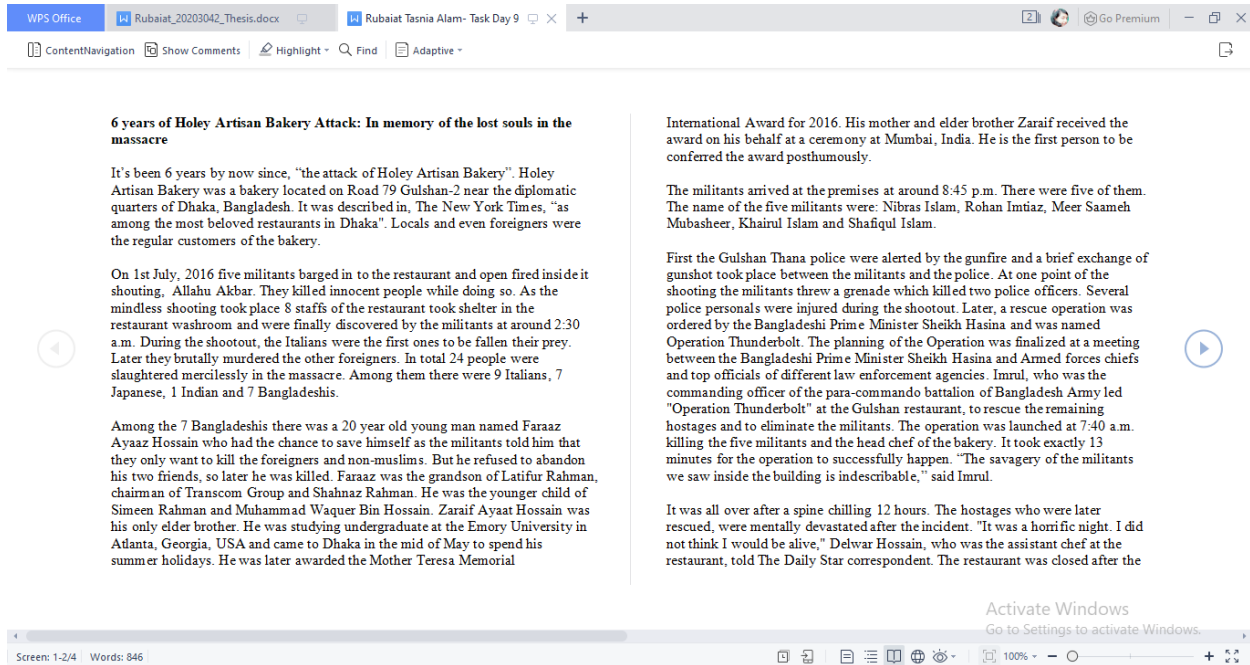
One of the Short Stories among my Creative Writings that I submitted on 4th August, 2021.

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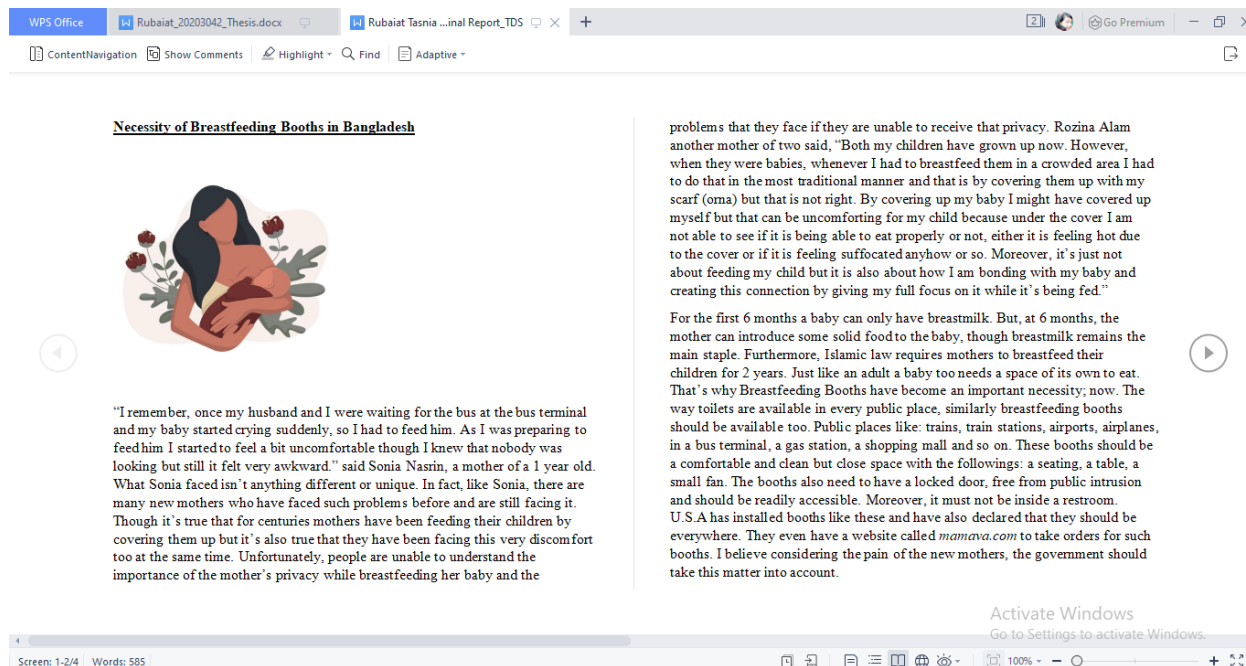
This is the Feature that I submitted on 4th August, 2021

Appendix- 25



This is the News Item that I submitted on 23rd June, 2021

Appendix- 26



This is the Final Report that I submitted on 9th August, 2021 to Syed Ashfaqul Haque, the Executive Editor of *The Daily Star* newspaper.