

**A NEWS ROOM IN A PRIVATE TV CHANNEL IN BANGLADESH:
ITS STRUCTURE AND OPERATION**

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Table of content

Acknowledgement.....	1
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Literature review.....	5
i. What is news.....	5
ii. Selection of news.....	5
iii. Six questions.....	7
iv. PASS Chart.....	8
v. Culture.....	9
vi. Ideology.....	10
vii. Hegemony.....	12
viii. Power.....	13
3. International desk.....	16
4. National desk.....	25
5. Reporting.....	27
6. Conclusion.....	32
7. Bibliography.....	33

I. Introduction

Time changes very frequently and the changes affect the way of looking at our life, culture, life style, thoughts, education, career and prospects etc in every way. The way we used to talk, think a few years back, we do not anymore. There was a time when one of the most sought after profession was being a doctor or an engineer for the youngsters as well as their guardians. Subsequently with the alteration of time and technology we witness a change in the future planning and choice of the career of the students. At the moment, working in a digital media has become one of the most popular professions. Keeping this train of change, there are some digital TV channels now in Bangladesh and one of their prime concerns is covering news from every possible field from inside and outside the country. A massive part of the people are working on these TV channels now in Bangladesh and taking challenges to get the authentic news from the core of the incidents. A presenter presents news in a very organized way. All sorts of news are been brought together and presented to the audience. Do people actually get all these news as organized as they see on TV? How's it possible to cover news and important incidents of the country or outside the country? How do they get news of every single division of the country in these very few hours? Do we think ever about these things? Not really. These questions led me to choose a digital TV channel-ATN Bangla to do my internship. I chose to work in the news section of ATN Bangla because of my fascination in the news world. I worked in the individual desks of ATN Bangla newsroom with the respective responsible people. My report would be on this experience-- how a newsroom is structured and how it operates.

I worked in the news section of ATN Bangla for three months and tried to enrich my knowledge on how actually a newsroom in a digital TV channel works. I divided my total internship period into three parts and worked individually in

three major areas: National desk, International desk and in Reporting section. While working over there I found many theories that we studied-to be relevant with my job and responsibilities in ATN Bangla. Being a Media and Communication major student I took courses on Editing, Print Media, Copywriting, Translation Studies, Cultural studies and so on. I was very happy to see the theories that we learnt so far in our relevant courses being reflected in my experience. There were a lot of things that matched with my academic knowledge and there were things again that added new perspectives to my acquired academic knowledge. In this report of my internship, I tried to make a bridge between my academic knowledge and practical experience. While doing my internship there were some questions in my mind, which I tried to answer, and my report will address those issues.

Before outlining my experience in the news section of ATN Bangla, I would like to define first the theories that I found reflecting on my experience.

2 Literature Review

2. a. What is news?

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language defines news as "a report of a recent event, intelligence information and the presentation of a report on current events in a newspaper or other periodical or on radio or television which has taken collectively and a choice subject for journalistic treatment" (Webster- 963).

In simpler term news is new information about specific and timely events, information that is reported in a newspaper, news magazines or in digital media like television channels. Reporters, editors, photographers and all members of the news staff of a newsroom – be it in print or digital media-share a common and essential interest to make information presentable or acceptable as news.

To be news, there must be some facts or happening incidents. The fact must be new to the readers and likely interested to the readers. All information can not be regarded as news. News should contain certain basic rules to be followed. To map the idea of a report the news writers should come out with some 'Quick words'-the main points of the news which should be answered first-which will lead them to continue the respective report. Other than that news follows some formulas as well, which make a report or news more compact and more meaningful. The quick words are basically some questions that should be answered first while preparing a report. And once those questions are answered, the news story gets a shape automatically. [Wynford Hicks, with sally Adams and Harriett Gilbert, 1999, Writing for Journalists, p.p11]

2. b. Selection of news:

On the other hand news professionals agree on at least seven main factors that help them determine if an event has consequence, if it is news.

- i. **Impact:** How many people does the event affect? How seriously does it affect them? – Here, the news writer or the reporter has to think about the importance of the news to the audience. They will have to think about the acceptance of the audience, what they want to know and to be informed. Like, when there is a devastating flood in our country, the mass people wouldn't be interested to know what is happening, or what day is being celebrated outside the country.
- ii. **Proximity:** An event will be more important if it is closer to the readers. An earthquake in a far-off land is not as interesting as one that is close to home. For more instance, the mass audience of our country would be eager to know about the most recent facts and happenings about the Asian countries-Pakistan, India, and Nepal etc.
- iii. **Timeliness:** Is the event fresh? Is it new? The news must be timely to be of use to readers. The news should be news as mentioned before. The news of Sheikh Hasina arrest is not as popular right now as it was when the arrest happened. So the news writer will have to be updated about the recent news all the time.
- iv. **Prominence:** Names make news, and big names make big news. Ordinary people are intrigued by the doings of the rich and famous. The news coverage we see about the penalty of the owner of Boshundhora City Market can be an example of prominence.
- v. **Novelty:** This is a new part in news, the unusual. The 'first', 'last' and 'only' has been the staple of the news business for many years. Like, for the first time in the history of Bangladesh, Dr. Yunus has got the Noble

Prize for his outstanding contribution to the needy people. So this news was highly appreciated by the media.

- vi. **Conflict:** Conflict has been the currency of great literature, drama and movies for all time. From the stories of Shakespeare to those of Disney, conflict has played a crucial role. Newspapers are no different.
- vii. **Audience:** Who is the audience? The answer to that question helps determine whether an event is news at all, and if it is, where it will be played in the paper. [Buck and Michael O'Donnel, 2005, The Editor's Toolbox, p.p50-52]

To shape the news more easily and to get a hold of the most important information first, before organizing it, a news writer follows certain questions. They first try to answer those questions that make their report or news more acceptable to the readers without making them tired of that particular news. In most of the cases, the news writers try to put the whole report within a nutshell—in the very first line of the news. And the rest is given in details into the subsequent lines according to the importance. [Wynford Hicks, with sally Adams and Harriett Gilbert, 1999, Writing for Journalists, p.p27]

2. c. Six questions

Rudyard Kiplings has introduced six questions-- who, what, how, where, when, how--which should be answered first to make a report. These are useful checklist for news stories, and it is certainly possible to write an introduction—generally known as Intro—that includes them all. The much quoted textbook example is- 'Lady Godiva (who) rode (what) naked (how) through the streets of Coventry (where) yesterday (when) in a bid to cut taxes (why)'.

The six questions should all be answered somewhere in the story. When a new story is written, a news writer have to check whether they have failed to answer one of the questions- and so weakened the story but if there is no point in answering a particular question, don't need to bother to answer it.

According to-Rudyard Kipling

'I keep six honest serving-men

(They taught me all I knew);

Their names are What and When and Why

And How and Where and Who.'

Two of these questions—who and what—are very essential. One useful distinction can be made between 'who' stories, in which the focus is on the person concerned, and 'what' stories, which are dominated by what happens [Wynford Hicks, with Sally Adams and Harriett Gilbert, 1999, *Writing for Journalists*, p.p15].

Once these six questions are been answered, the news writer has to become more cautious about shaping the body information of the news. There are some other important issues that they keep in mind while making the news. Such as-why they are transforming these information into news, for which they are doing, who are the target audience, what the main subject of the news is or about what the news is evoking for etc. A news writer can never speak for their own voice or use 'I' when writing news. They have to speak in an objectified voice since they are expected to be the most neutral person.

2. d. PASS chart

Moreover, a news writer follows a chart, known as PASS chart while making news. It includes—

- Purpose of the news
- Pathos-Who are the audience

- Logos-Subject of the news
- Ethos-Self, the editor or journalist

Apart from the values and norms discussed above, there are some other factors as—culture, ideology, power and knowledge etc that determine the selection and nature of news.

2. e. Culture

When selecting news for the audience, culture reflects mostly on the news writer. Sometimes, unconsciously, they give importance most to that news which matches with his or her respective culture.

Raymond Williams defines culture as, “ a general state or habit of mind, a general process of intellectual and aesthetic development, a particular way of life, whether of a people, a period or group, the works and practice of intellectual and especially artistic activity”. “[John Storey, 2001, Cultural theory and Popular Culture, p.p2]

He also observes culture as, “relationships between elements in a whole way of life. The analysis of culture is the attempt to discover the nature of the organization, which is the complex of these relationships. Analysis of particular works or institutions is, in this context, analysis of their essential kind of organization, the relationships which works or institutions embody as parts of the organization as whole.” [Ibid p.p45]

So, generally culture is people’s way of life, the way they do things. Every group of people has a particular way of life, a separate culture. Culture also includes the way people think about and understand the world and their own lives. It is reflected in their language, literature, religion, music, dress, cooking etc. For example, the celebration of any religious festival specially Eid in our country,

celebration of 'pohela boishakh', 'pohela falgun' etc. these are usually referred to as lived cultures or cultural practice. Culture is something that makes a country, a group or a person unique. For instance, there are some individual norms, values and lifestyle that make each place unique.

Culture can also differ within a region, society or sub group. The way of living life and looking at the same things will be dissimilar between the people of Chittagong and Sylhet. A family has specific sets of values, morals or beliefs that differ from other families of the same ethnic background. In the same way, a workplace may have specific cultures that make it unique from similar workplaces. These differences stand for individual identity of each culture involved in different activities. Similarly TV channels of our country are also a product of a culture.

When a news writer comes out with a report we see the reflection of his or her culture. They try to focus on those information most which are related to their culture. We see a huge coverage of news on the festival of 'pohela boishakh' rather than a festival significant to the indigenous people.

2. f. Ideology

Sometimes, some ideas or values seem to arise more commonly than others. It can occur within a society, within a group, within countries even within two people. Totally different people from different environments can find things in common and this is why people can have relationship with each other. This similarity of looking at things in the same way is known as ideology. Each and every society has an ideology that forms the basis of its public opinion. But in most cases this "ideology" does not work as a neutral factor. Rather than forming the basis of public opinion, ideology remains invisible to most people within the society. It appears as "dominant" and "unchallenged" besides being "neutral". The same things go with the selection of news. Sometimes we give emphasis on

the incidents of the most leading or powerful countries or the authorities of the country as the lead news and those become the "ideology" while selecting news.

While defining 'ideology' Karl Marx focuses on the ruling class and addresses them as the superstructure of the society. According to him, "As the ruling class is in power, they are determining the ideologies according to their interest, and thus the ideologies determined by dominant groups can create a false consciousness in common people".

More specifically, ideology is a body of ideas that reflect the belief and interests of an individual, a social institution etc and that ultimately finds expression in language. In general, ideology can be defined as a set or collection of ideas. An ideology can be thought of as a way of looking at things as in common sense. This can also be seen as a set of ideas proposed by the dominant class of a society to all members of that society. The main purpose behind an ideology is to offer a change in the society through a normative thought process. In this thought process the change is expected to be in an ideal way, the way the world or the particular society ought to be.

Very often some cultural texts and practices present distorted images of reality. They produce what is called 'false consciousnesses'. Such distortions, it is argued, work in the interests of the powerful against the interests of powerless. What would be intimated by this use would be the way in which ideology conceals the reality of domination from those in power: the dominant class do not see themselves as oppressed or exploited. This definition derives from certain assumptions about the circumstances of the production of cultural texts and practices. It is argued that they are the super structural 'reflections' or 'expressions' of the power relations of the economic base of society.

News itself is a creation that goes through a lengthy process of selection; writing, presentation etc, and ideology of news writers, editors, and reporters play an important role in determining the nature of news.

Culture can be seen best in the projection and creation of image of a country, of a person, in values and norms etc and this values and norms are the reflection of hegemony.

2. g. Hegemony

According to Antonio Gramsci- hegemony is used to refer to the way in which dominant groups in the society through a process of intellectual and moral leadership win the consent of the subordinate groups in the society. ."[John Storey, 2001, Cultural theory and Popular Culture, p.p190]

In every sphere of our life, we see the existence of two separate groups, self and other or dominant and the dominated one. When a person, a social group or a country acts as 'self' or 'dominant' group, they always try to impose their thoughts, style and ideology on the 'other' or the 'dominated' group. Thereby the dominant group becomes successful in imposing their ideologies on the dominated group and makes them look at thing from their perspective. In this situation, the dominated group feels an urge of being like the dominant group or to follow their ideologies instead of their own native ideologies. So the concept, hegemony is used to describe these false desires to be like others---the dominant group---rather than being themselves. And when this hegemony is seen to be reflected on culture, we call them cultural hegemony.

An example: Now days, we celebrate many occasions or festivals in our country, like-new year, mother's day, father's day, friendship day, valentine's day and so on. And all of these occasions are widely celebrated in the western countries. If we think carefully once, we will see that these festivals have been introduced to

our country just a few years back. There weren't so many occasions to celebrate that we do now. Gift shops like, 'Hallmark' and 'Archies', are hugely advertising about all the festivals and welcoming everyone warmly to celebrate them. Newspapers and TV channels are covering all these special days hugely and our thoughts are being influenced by these projection. Here, countries like ours, become the 'other' or the 'dominated' country who follows the culture of western country and take those culture as ours as they—the 'self' or the 'dominant' country—wants us to. It's a kind of one-way relationship, as we will never see them celebrate any of our occasions as the way we do theirs.

The existence of this dominant group can not be ignored in any way. They are leading the society by their power.

2. h. Power & knowledge

News is a combination of gathered information and information refers to knowledge. Knowledge is related to power as observed by Foucault. Foucault's concern is basically on knowledge of human being and power that acts on human being. According to him knowledge is power over others, the power to define others. He talks about the forces and the technologies of power by which the production of discourse and knowledge is surveyed and controlled. More concisely, Foucault's 'genealogical' analysis is concerned with the relationship between power and knowledge and how this relationship operates within what he calls discursive formations, the conceptual frameworks that allow some modes of thoughts and deny others.

According to Michael Foucault,

"Power must be understood in the first instance as the multiplicity of force relations immanent in the sphere in which they operate and which constitute their own organization: as the process which, through ceaseless struggle and confrontations, transforms, strengthens, or even reverses them; as the support

which these force relations find in one another, thus forming a chain or a system, or on the contrary, the disjunctions and contradictions which isolate them from one another; and lastly, as the strategies in which they take effect, whose general design or institutional crystallization is embodied in the state apparatus, in the formulation of the law, in the various social hegemonies.”[Michael Foucault, Power in the History of Sexuality, 1976, pp. 92-93]

Foucault's main interest is in power and knowledge and how they work together, knowledge of human beings and power that acts on human beings. Power relations constitute individuals, power being the ultimate principle of social reality.

These power relations are reflected on news which is a construction. In this process news at times becomes an agent of power. Like, we consider the western countries as the most powerful countries. We have already started to believe that there is no one who can compete with their 'great' knowledge. We don't question them in any situation rather than we believe and idealize them to be the best.

An example: If we observe carefully, we will see that, news or issues of the western countries—USA, Uk, Canada for example— are getting more importance rather than news of South Africa, Malaysia or Singapore. People consider the western countries as the most powerful and wealthy one in the field of technology and knowledge. So, here, they are leading the world with their power and knowledge. As they are assumed to have a great hold on knowledge, they got the power to control others. And thus they use their power to control the ideology thoughts, norms and values and moreover culture of others. To the rest of the world, specially to the western countries, Bangladesh is an underdeveloped country. Whenever they cover any news about us—which does not happen very often though—they just portray a negative image of our

country. They show the world, how poor and in need of their support and help we are, even whenever any crucial situation occurs into our country, either political or any other thing, we seek aid advice to solve the problem. Thus news by the power of representation helps to form and sustain a stereotypical image of our country.

Experience in ATN Bangla News section

As a part of my learning process I worked as an intern in the digital news section of ATN Bangla for three months to gain practical knowledge about how actually a newsroom in a digital TV channel work. I divided my total internship period into three parts and work individually in three major areas: National desk, International desk and in Reporting section.

3. International desk

What is an international desk: Like any other news, international or foreign news occupies an important position in a newsroom. There is an individual desk to meet up all the tasks and to prepare structured news. International news refers to information concerning the affairs of other nation (other than our own), related to or originating in or characteristics of another place or part of the world. International desk in a digital media deals with the entire significant phenomenon over the worldwide happening around in each and every split second.

Sources of news: As observed in ATN Bangla news section, on a daily basis, two reporters—according to their deliberated schedule—get information about thousands of international news from diverse wire services like ATPN, BBC or Dawn. Channels who take the prevalence of ATPN are obliged to be clients of them, which is principally a part of AP (Associate press). AP deals with print media sector on the contrary APTN deals with Tele news. There is a representer of ATPN in Bangladesh who upholds all kinds' official works with the native clients. Some of this information is of extreme importance, vital to the resolution of a crisis, some are less significant and some are not at all important to be considered as international news. But it's really very difficult to come to a

decision that which news is important and should be selected for the international news section. The information that is taken from the wire services is found in a very huge form and can not be presented as they are found.

Who work there: There are two-time slot for the people who work there. Two reporters and one editor are there to look after the updated news that are served by ATPN or BBC

Word and time limitations: There is a word and time limitation of news and for the international news section the time restriction is only about 10 minutes. So the news writer has to be conscious about the time limitation and at the same point he/she has to think about the number or quantity of the news as well. This effective time management is known as 'mathematic relation' among the people who are involved in news.

Required technical support: As the international desk mostly depends on the wire services so the technical components play a very important role at this juncture. Two computers and two sets of TV are compulsory for the International desk. One TV is to update oneself with upcoming and running news and the other TV is to see the video clips provided by ATPN. One computer is used to compose the news and the other computer is to capture the latest news by ATPN. In case of emergency news, a little icon is shown in the computer screen of ATPN telling about the emergency of news alert.

To support the news or to make it more attractive and visible, certain pictures, maps, video are added to the news. There is a cassette library – known as archive desk-- which keeps all the documents and records like pictures or videos that are known as file photo as well. Video editor cut and paste the footage, send to the control room—master room—to make those to be attached with the news. The room is known as 'restricted area' as well.

Selection of news

International news selections mainly depend on ATPN and BBC and both of them are western wire services or institutes. Because of their (ATPN and BBC) technological advancement we think them powerful and idealize everything in their own way, as they want us to do. And we think that news important for the international news sections, what ATPN or BBC, want us to think of. Every morning when we open a newspaper there are some news in the front page with the big, bold headline and we are informed about the importance of the news. So it can be said that the newspaper made us think those news to be important. And in the same way, when news writers go through the western wire services there are some news with in the big boxes with bold headlines and we idealize them as the most important and significant issues to be input in international news section. The westerns have the 'gaze' and based on their selections, we select our own news. So we can say that our relationship with the westerns is like one way. And for these reasons our news becomes Eurocentric. Overall the editors are guided by the seven main factors mentioned in the literature review section.

My task at foreign desk was to get every updates of news of each single minute. The editors in international desk used to look in to three most significant websites for the most updated news. They are ATPN, BBC and DAWN as mentioned before. The editors are most concerned to find out the most relevant issues for news, which will grab the attention of Bangladeshi audience most, which was quite tough though. There is more than thousand of news coming in every 5 minutes in the websites that we used to follow. So editors had to be more cautious in selecting the news. For the first time I marked Foucault's 'power and knowledge' theory reflecting in my practical work while selecting news for the foreign desk.

There are updated news of hundreds of the countries in the websites that the editors looking for. The news of those countries is given more importance that is

leading the world right now by their power. Like, if there any news of UK or USA, we directly select that for the foreign news. As people like our country (alike other countries) are in the flow of hegemony that they – the westerns—are the best, their news gets the most importance from our country. On the other hand, that news was not given that much emphasis on the news of the other countries that is in the leading position in the world. Again, the source from which we get news is either ATPN or BBC and both of them are western wire services. As it is assumed that the west is the most powerful country of the world people do not question them. We do not enquire of their news whether that is true or not. So here Foucault's power theory reflects very clearly while selection of news. We are giving importance to those people who are in power by their knowledge or for their knowledge.

So after selecting the news, the editors decide that in which types of news the collected information set for. If the news is very important, carries recent value judgment, and the editor has enough audio or especially video footage, that news is assumed to be ready for being Package (one of the ways of presenting news).

Presentation of news:

News can be presented in four ways. They are-

OOV (out of vision): It's a kind of presenting news consisting of map, still pictures, graphics and so on. It's known as 'out of vision'. The news presenter remains outside of the screen and reads the news. At the same time a video footage related to that news is shown. An OOV is about 60 to 75 words long. The time limit is very important here. Such as: If there is a serious road accident or plane crash where so many details are available, reports and editors may prefer to make the news as OOV with graphic images and footage if possible.

It's very difficult to make an OOV out of the raw information that is found in the wire services. Such as-

Raw information of news:AP-APTN-0330: US North Korea

Wednesday, 18 April 2007

STORY:US North Korea- REPLAY State Dept spox says US no notification NKorea shutting down nuclear plant

LENGTH: 00:39

FIRST RUN: 2330

RESTRICTIONS: AP Clients Only

TYPE: English/Natsound

SOURCE: DOS TV

STORY NUMBER: 519644

DATELINE: Washington DC, 17 April 2007

LENGTH: 00:39

SHOTLIST:

1. US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack walks to podium

2. SOUNDBITE (english) Sean McCormack - US State Department spokesman:

"The ball is in the North Koreans court. Any issues that may exist, or that may be perceived as being there are issues between the North Koreans and their bankers. We have done everything that we possibly can to resolve this. And we would like very much to get back to the point of focusing on the main topic of the six-party talks, and that is a denuclearised Korean peninsula. And we hope that we are able to get back to that point in the very near future.

3. Cutaway of reporter

STORYLINE:The United States said on Tuesday it had received no formal notification that North Korea was taking steps to shut down its main nuclear plant as part of a disarmament agreement.

US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack declined to comment about what US intelligence might be seeing at North Korea's nuclear reactor.

He was responding to reporters questions about South Korean news reports which cited an unnamed intelligence official as indicating a high possibility that activity at the reactor could be linked to a shutdown.

An official at South Korea's main intelligence agency told the Associated Press that officials were following and analyzing some peculiar movements around the reactor, without elaborating.

North Korea missed last Saturday's deadline for shuttering the reactor because of a dispute over 25 million US dollars in North Korean deposits frozen in a bank blacklisted by Washington.

The funds were allegedly linked to money laundering and counterfeiting.

McCormack said the United States was willing to give North Korea a little bit more time to act on its pledge to shut down the reactor because of technical issues that delayed the release of the money.

US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, discussed the question on Monday night in a telephone call with her South Korean counterpart, Foreign Minister Song Min-soon.

And the OOV that was made out of this information is given below-

যুক্তরাষ্ট্র-উত্তর কোরিয়া-----উত্ত

যুক্তরাষ্ট্র বলেছে, প্রধান পারমানবিক চুক্তি বিয়ং ইয়ং বন্ধ করার জন্য উত্তর কোরিয় কোন পদক্ষেপ নেওয়ার নিশ্চয়তা দেয়নি। দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ায় সাংবাদিকদের কাছে এ মন্তব্য করেন মার্কিন স্টেট ডিপার্টমেন্ট মুখপাত্র ম্যাক করম্যাক। তিনি বলেন, উত্তর কোরিয়ার এ মুহুর্তে উচিত তার বিয়ং ইয়ং পারমানবিক স্থাপনা বন্ধ করা। আর বেশী সময় দেওয়া হবে না বলেও তিনি উত্তর কোরিয়াকে সতর্ক করে দেন। এর আগে বাজেয়াপ্ত করা পঁচিশ মিলিয়ন ডলার সিউলের কাছে হস্তান্তর করতে দেয়া হওয়ায় দেশটি শনিবারের সময়সীমার মধ্যে বিয়ং ইয়ং চুক্তি বন্ধ করতে ব্যর্থ হয়।

Package: it's a kind of news with more detail. The length of the news is about more than 125 words. 'Package' depends on the importance and gathered video or audio footage. It includes most recent and significant happening in the country or outside the country. This is the most important category of the entire broadcast criterion. Reporters make packages of certain news which has greater importance and which has much more important information along with footage and still pictures. Mostly presenters start the news with two or three important sentences and then reporters start their packages and they describe each and every important information. Presenters are out of in-vision and reporters continue with their own voice and sometimes at the end of the packages

reporters give PTC (piece to camera) where reporter is visible and concludes the package with an overall opinion. Mostly for international news it is not possible for reporters to give PTC if he or she is not present at the event place. For example: if any famous personality especially an internationally known figure dies, it is possible to make a package describing how and when that happened followed by his or her achievements.

For instance,

উচ্ছেদ ----- প্যাকেজ/মাহমুদ

রাজধানীতে যৌথবাহিনীর অবৈধ স্থাপনা উচ্ছেদ অভিযান অব্যাহত রয়েছে। সকালে রেলওয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষ কাওরান বাজার রেলগেটের দু'পাশের আধা পাকা একাধিক অবৈধ স্থাপনা উচ্ছেদ করেছে। মাহমুদুর রহমানের রিপোর্ট।

----- প্যাকেজ -----

OOV sink: It's another form of OOV along with significant interviews of correlated people. Sink is some thing to support anyone's word whether by video or audio footage. If there is any video or audio footage of interviewee and that significant people or related people to the respective news, the editor adds that with the OOV and that footage is known as sink. This is why that form of news is called as 'OOV and Sink'. Such as-

নির্বাচন কমিশন ----- উভ + সিঙ্ক

আগামী নির্বাচনে ব্যালট বাক্সসহ সব ধরনের কারিগরি সহযোগিতা দেয়ার আশ্বাস দিয়েছে কানাডা। আজ কানাডার রাষ্ট্রদূত বারবারা রিচার্ডসন প্রধান নির্বাচন কমিশনারের সাথে দেখা করে এ কথা জানান। তিনি বলেন, বর্তমান নির্বাচন কমিশনের সাথে কানাডা নিবিড়ভাবে কাজ করতে প্রস্তুত। সিইসি'র সাথে সাক্ষাত শেষে সাংবাদিকদের প্রশ্নের উত্তরে তিনি বলেন-

----- সিঙ্ক -----

In vision/Phono: when any breaking news turns out but there is no time to make any OOV or Package and news is very important, editors pass the very raw news to the news presenter directly. In this situation the news presenter remains in front of the camera and read that raw or very recent crucial news to the

audience. It's known as in vision. And if a reporter is present at the news spot the broadcast station tries to communicate with the reporters live and they talk to give more ongoing information about the incident, mostly when the news is being broadcasted at the same time. These types of way of presenting news are known as 'phono' or 'studio'. And sometimes they record voice clippings and broadcast later after editing the information. For example: live world cup cricket or football match, SAARC Summit, famous trial broadcasted to any television channel.

Sometimes, some news consists of public reaction. If reporters, while doing any assignment, interviews mass people and input that into the news, is called as 'Vox pop' in news terminology.

Once the way of presenting the news is been able selected, the news writers become concerned about making the news more acceptable and attractive to the audience. And in case of international news they follow some habits of news.

Four habits of international news reporting

As Professor Susan Moeller observes (Susan Moeller, 1999, Four Habits of News Reporting), the media assumes, the public does not show any concern for international news, so, there is a need to promote it in a sensational way. As she discusses "much of the media's coverage of crises relies preeminently on four habits: on putting forward a formulaic chronology of events, on employing a sensationalized and exaggerated use of language, on referencing certain metaphors and imagery that resonate with Americans and on emphasizing an American connection." (Greer as quoted in Susan Moeller, "Four Habits of International News Reporting"). Though this study is conducted from an American perspective and relates to American media and public but it is also applicable to general news reporting without using the American connection directly. In general the chronology of events, language, and comparison is also

important in general international news reporting. And in Bangladesh reporters report on international news according to the relationship Bangladesh maintains with the foreign country be it business, sports, labor intensive, etc. The four types that Susan Moeller has referred are:

Formulaic coverage: Americans like to see the world in terms of good guys and bad guys. Identifying one side in a conflict as the men in white hats allows the public to root for them and encourages the public to care about their victory or success. "That's what a lot of news is about," said reporter Malcom Browne of *The New York Times*. "We love to see everything in terms of black and white and wrong, truth versus lies."

Sensationalized language: it makes more and more dramatic coverage to elicit the same level of sympathy as the last catastrophe. What is strong today may be weak tomorrow. Yet sensationalized treatments of crises makes Americans feel that only the most extreme situations merit attentions.

Analogy, metaphor and images: the media's use historical analogies, of metaphors and of imagery can be extension of their tendency toward sensationalism, but it can also be an attempt through vivid shorthand to replace complexity with a known quantity. Most prosaically, analogies and comparisons can be a way of communicating relevance.

An American connection: Americans are terribly preoccupied with themselves. The American filter in the media's coverage of international news, the notion of relevance to the United States, is very important.

4: National desk

National desk of a digital media is concerned about the local news of the country. I worked at national desk in the second month of my internship. The way of listing news and to give them a perfect news form is same as the foreign desk.

Source of news: All day long news comes in the national desk in form of cassettes and written documents or papers. This news comes into the newsroom from different sources. Sometimes this news comes from the respective police officer on located area, sometimes from division representer through fax, phone or through internet about the most recent incident or any breaking news. And sometimes there are people who are very interested to cover their news, send fax or mails to the news editor. The editor decides whether the news is important or not.

Effects of culture in news selection

There are some significant facts that affect the selection of news on the national level. The news writers try to avoid the 'marginalized' issues in most of the cases. Very often the news of the indigenous people is been presented in the news. So the news becomes much 'surfaced'. It does not go into the detail of people's life and suffering. On the contrary the news does not cover or talk about controversial or 'tabooed' topics. Hardly Facts or issues that are related to any rape case or assault to any women are viewed in the news, whether it is digital media or print media. And it happens in consent of cultural and religious norms, values and limitations etc. news is influenced by culture and culture develop from the ideologies created by a community or a society. Therefore the audience is indirectly responsible for making some news more important than others.

Like other news, if the documents require enough footage and interviews then they decide that news to be OOV or Package. The language of the news should be easy listening. Matt Barton's 'word choice' is being reflected here. There he has used two terms, Precision (does this word mean exactly what the editor want it to mean? And Familiarity (will the audience understand the term?) so the news writer will have to be conscious while adding any new or complex word in the news. Otherwise the audience wouldn't be able to grab the news. So the language must be easy and flexible. Primarily the news is selected by the desk editor and finally by the executive editor. While preparing news I have applied my little knowledge that I have learnt so far in my major courses-editing, English for the print media, copy writing and so on.

Sometimes news comes in form of oral basis. Editors are to listen to that raw or unorganized news and memorize all the clues that they have learnt. And then they have to make reports on the basis of those clues, which is very tough instead. It's quite difficult sometimes to memorize all those information they listen to. Sometimes even they don't get the chance to listen to those clues for the second time. And thus he/she (respective editors) has to remember all those important parts of the news. The people who are giving the brief of the news may not be available all the time. So there is less chance to get them back again to sum up all the clues for once again. This is why it is really important to give the fullest concentration while having any brief.

5: Reporting

Lastly I joined the reporting section during my internship period in ATN Bangla news section that was very exciting. Reporting consists of those people who run for news and to discover the truth from the core of the incidents' place. Find out the actual truth-is the only one motto of them.

Every reporter has their individual allotted assignment, which is given to them on the previous night of the due assignment (almost at 10pm, day before assignment). Reporters have to contact with the newsroom to know their given assignment of the next day. This is known as "call-in for assignment" in the news world. The chief reporter of the desk basically decides it. On the first day of my reporting I went with Meherun Runi, one of the reporters of ATN Bangla. Later on I went with Shekh Nazrul Islam, senior reporter for other reporting. I came to know some 'dos and don't' for the reporters from his enormous experience of reporting during the period of the assignment. Most of the courses that we did so far were newspaper/print media related. I didn't have any journalism background and that's why I was bit nervous about entering this field. Mr. Shekh Nazrul Islam ensured me that it's all about passion for the profession, love for the nation, and respect for the people and enthusiasm for the job. If any one holds these entire things together, he or she will lead this field very easily. A reporter thinks about the duties first not about the emotion. Their duty is to sort out the entire unknown from the core of the field and bring those to the general people who got the right to know everything.

Beats: Besides some special and exceptional cases, there are individual group of reporters who are expert on their own field—known as sbeats. Like, people who go to cover the crime report don't go to cover the sport report. There are different reporters to cover crime reports, foreign seminars or any deals, government calls,

press conference, educational related staffs, sport reports, business issues, cultural events and others.

Time slot: The newsroom is divided into three shifts:

- ✓ 8am to 4pm
- ✓ 4pm to 12am
- ✓ 12am to 7am

Dos and don'ts for the reporters

➤ While dealing with the interviewees:

Reporters are very much concerned about the way of communication while they are reporting or in any assignment. They have to be more technical and lenient to their interviewees. They have to be concerned about their way of communication towards their sources and interviewees as well so that they don't get confused in their attitude. One thing should be kept in mind that if any reporter rushes into their interviewees, they would not say anything to them or reveal anything further. So they will have to be more careful while reporting.

So every reporter must have to give strong emphasis on this. If they become very rude on anyone, may be they could be famous for a certain time, but after that they are not going to get any further help from the source.

➤ Writing a report:

The news intros should be able to stand on its own. Usually one sentence, it conveys the essence of the story in a clear, concise, punchy way; it has to be general enough to be understood and precise enough to be distinguished from other stories. It should contain few words-usually fewer than 30, often fewer than 20. The intro is a chance to grab the reader's attention so that they read the story.

Firstly, the intro of the news must be amplified, extended, explained and justified. For example, in a WHAT story where the main characters are not named in the intro, the reader needs to know something more about them: certainly their name, probably their age and occupation, perhaps their age and occupation, perhaps other details depending on the story.

- **Intro:** The introduction or the summary of the news/incident with in a very few words which will let the readers know about the facts in one line.
- **Retelling of intro:** Clarify the intro with a bit explanation.
- **Further information:** This point basically consists of three things-
 - ✓ **Background:** Some other description of the news or fact, which will lead the news with strong support.
 - ✓ **Quote:** Input some quotes of the people from relevant and respective field of the incident, people from the government or any other honorable person or organization.
 - ✓ **Update:** Last update of the news.

Style: Many people desire to develop excellent writing skills, but aren't sure how to do that. There are certain requirements, which should be involved in a good writing style. According to Matt Barton-

- **Word choice:**
 - ✓ **Precision-** does this word means exactly what the editor want to mean?
 - ✓ **Familiarity-**will the audience understand the term?
 - ✓ **Appropriateness-**is this term politically and rhetorically acceptable to the audience?
 - ✓ **Strength-**is this word powerful and evocative enough?
 - ✓ **Sound and length-**will the term sound good in the sentence

An example:

I attended a seminar on 11th April 2007 from ATN Bangla on reporting. The seminar was about birth registration. Jointly local concern people about the birth registration and UNICEF arranged it. In our country since there are no fixed dates on which people can register their birth, the seminar was to make people concerned about the urgency of birth registration. The seminar was also about death registration.

The representatives from both the group were talking about pros and cons of the respective issue. I went there with reporter Meherun Runi. The session started at morning and ended up after lunch. There were a lot of question and answer session, discussion session and so on. We had to make an OOV out of that long session. We had to be very careful and selective about choosing the information. Meherun Runi was helping me out in selecting the important factors for the report. As the OOV consist about 60 to 70 words only, we had to give a lot of effort on combining the most important facts al together into 60 to 70 words.

Required technical support:

Software: software that is being used in casting the news is 'storm software'.

There are three types of storm software:

Audio

Video

Edit

Storm audio is being used for capturing the sounds and vocal; storm video is being used for receiving the cassettes and capturing the visual through DV cam, which is totally digitalized. And storm is being used for edit things. To digitize cassettes they use DV cam.

ATN Bangla news channel deals with less technical support comparing to other news channels. According to them, its least risky job and people who work with theses technical supports feel much comfort with manual stuffs. They prefer manual things other than technical supports. Comparing to national desk, ATN gives less emphasis on international desk.

6. Conclusion

This report focuses on the three main pillars of a digital newsroom of a private TV channel, ATN Bangla. It also gives a detailed analysis of the structure and operation of a newsroom. As the literature review section enlightens different theories, learnt in different academic courses, offers a relation with the practical experience acquired in internship period. My experience in ATN Bangla is a kind of journey for me into the news world and it has been very informative and fulfilling experience for me as shown by the report. I had learned hands in training in reporting, editing and different ways of presenting news while working there. It would have been better if I could do my internship for six months rather than three months. A newsroom in a digital media is a very busy workplace. So it is very difficult for an intern to get all the information within a very short time. Three or four hours in a day are not adequate at all to get into the depth of a newsroom.

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