

Report On  
Prospect of Young English Graduates in Bangladesh's Newspaper  
Industry

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  
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**Declaration**

It is hereby declared that

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

**Student's Full Name & Signature:**

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## **Approval**

The internship report titled “Prospect of Young English Graduates in Bangladesh’s Newspaper Industry” submitted by Md. Mahfuzer Rahman Rimon (18203003) of Spring, 2022 has been accepted satisfactory in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in English and Humanities on September 11, 2022.

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## Acknowledgement

“Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow.” — Mahatma Gandhi

Four years ago when I enrolled in the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University, I honestly did not know where the path of obtaining this degree would take me. Now, when I am writing my internship report to add as the final element to complete my graduation, I can indisputably say that the journey through that path has made me more knowledgeable, perceptive, and mature and in a word, a better person. I am grateful to all the faculty members that I have come across during my undergraduate period. Without their knowledge and wisdom that they shared inside and outside the classrooms have been great catalysts to impact me positively.

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**-Md. Mahfuzer Rahman Rimon**

## Executive Summary

This internship report gives an account of my three-month-long experience as an intern at the Central Desk of *Dhaka Tribune*, one of the leading English dailies in Bangladesh. It is divided into four chapters, each of which gives accounts of different aspects of that internship experience.

In the first chapter, the objectives of an internship are discussed. In the same chapter, a brief history of *Dhaka Tribune* is given.

The second chapter is the most important chapter of this report as it explains the nature of the tasks that I was assigned to do, the challenges I faced in completing those tasks, and the lessons I learnt from this internship. The chapter also contains a description of the working environment at *Dhaka Tribune*. Overall, this chapter reflects what an intern may experience while working at the Central Desk of *Dhaka Tribune*.

In the third chapter, a connection is drawn between the tasks performed at the desk of *Dhaka Tribune* and the literary theories that I learned in different ENH courses. In this chapter, it is explained how theoretical knowledge can help one observe and understand the role played by newspapers in a society.

This internship report is concluded highlighting the issues that were discussed in the preceding chapters. The report mentions some of the issues faced by the newspaper industry in Bangladesh and offers some recommendations.

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## **Chapter One: Introduction**

One of the common departments that are found in most of the universities, other than some of the engineering universities and medical colleges, in Bangladesh is an English department. So, this gives a hint that a lot of students pass the university with a degree in English every year. Despite being proficient in the English language, it is not easy for young graduates of an English department in Bangladesh to secure a job that is exclusively based on their degree. One of the reasons behind this is that most of the courses that are taught in their academic life are less technical and less related to tasks in most of the job sectors in Bangladesh. This is the reason many of the English graduates mostly join the teaching profession in schools, colleges, and universities and a major portion of the remaining students seek jobs in the civil service or in the banks where candidates from all fields of study are eligible to apply. However, one of the job sectors in Bangladesh where the English graduate can implement their knowledge in English is the newspaper industry, particularly in bi-lingual or English-language newspapers in Bangladesh. In this internship report, I have discussed the career prospects of young English graduates in the bi-lingual or, English-language newspapers in Bangladesh, in the light of my internship experience at Dhaka Tribune, by discussing the types of tasks needed to be performed in those types newspapers, challenges in completing those tasks, and by discussing how different literary theories offered by an English department can be implemented in those tasks, and how graduates of English departments have sound theoretical base and the required skills to work in the newspaper industry.

### **1.1 Internship and its objectives**

An internship is an organizational work experience, with or without any remuneration, for a limited time that is generally offered to the students studying in a related field at the end of their graduation period. An internship is very important both for an intern and for an organization. For an intern, an internship is both an experience and an opportunity. During an internship, s/he gets to implement his/her theoretical lessons in the practical situations and gets to experience, directly, the types of works s/he can expect while working in a similar type of job. An internship is an opportunity for the interns because if they satisfy the managers of the organization with their works, then they can secure a permanent job in that organization. An internship program offered by a company is important for them as well because through an internship program, they can evaluate the works of a potential employee without investing a longer time and without offering a bigger remuneration.

In the Department of English and Humanities (ENH) at BRAC University, internship is compulsory for a student with a Media and Cultural Studies major. Since, I chose the aforementioned major for completing my degree from ENH, a three-month-long internship was mandatory for me as well.

The first step of my internship journey was to find a workplace where I would be able to relate the lessons that I learned throughout my undergraduate life. So, the obvious choice was to incline towards the newspaper, media or TV agencies. However, I have seen most students from the previous batches from the same major to go for an internship at newspaper agencies. Following that convention, I also started looking for an internship in the newspaper agencies, specifically, in the English dailies. So, I applied for an internship opportunity in some of the renowned English newspapers in Bangladesh. *The Daily Star, Daily Sun, Dhaka Tribune*, and



*The Financial Express* are the newspapers where I applied for an internship. My personal preference was to grab an internship in *The Financial Express* since this newspaper mainly focuses on national and international finance, economy and business, the fields in which I have a lot of interest. However, the only newspaper that responded to my application was *Dhaka Tribune*. They offered me a monthly payment of Tk4000 for a 42 hour work-week, and since the Covid-19 pandemic situation was risky that time, I was offered to work from home. I took the offer without any hesitation. *Dhaka Tribune* is one of the most read English dailies in the country with an average of 40,600 daily circulations, according to a report published by UNB on February 4, 2022. I was offered a three-month-long internship starting from February 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022.

## 1.2 Position of *Dhaka Tribune* in Bangladesh


 The logo for Dhaka Tribune features the word "Dhaka" in a bold, dark blue serif font, followed by "Tribune" in a bold, red sans-serif font. The two words are positioned closely together, with "Tribune" starting slightly to the right of "Dhaka".

**Illustration 1: Logo of *Dhaka Tribune***

*Dhaka Tribune*, one of the fastest growing Bangladeshi English-language newspaper, started its journey in 19<sup>th</sup> April of 2013 with its motto “Breaking News. Breaking Barriers.” Though it started only with printed version and with English language only, the newspaper has its web version, and also has a Bengali version called *Bangla Tribune*. The printed version of *Dhaka Tribune* first appeared in broadsheet format, and then moved to compact format in March 1, 2015. It again moved back to broadsheet format on May 1, 2019 and has been following that format ever since. From 2015, it has been the official media partner of Dhaka Literary Festival. The newspaper is owned by Gemcon Group and Kazi Farm Group. It is published by Kazi Anis Ahmed, a renowned author of Bangladeshi writing in English and a

commentator on Bangladesh in international media. The founding and chief editor of this newspaper is Zafar Sobhan, a Young Global Leader and Yale World Fellow. He also worked for *The Daily Star*, *The Independent*, *Dhaka Courier*, *Forum*, and *Shokaler Khobor* before joining *Dhaka Tribune*. He achieved the honor of being Bangladesh's first internationally syndicated columnist and published his articles in many internationally acclaimed newspapers and magazines, including *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Guardian* and *Time* among others. *Dhaka Tribune* has a list of well-known scholars as its columnists that includes American economist Forrest Cookson, British economist Tim Worstall, Bangladeshi writer Syed Badrul Ahsan, Jordan's Prince Hassan bin Talal, and Bangladeshi climate scientist Saleemul Huq.

The objectives of a newspaper are reflected by its editorial section. The editorial policy of *Dhaka Tribune* is relatively liberal and covers topics of wide range of views. *Dhaka Tribune* is one of the few newspapers that allow articles calling for decriminalization of LGBTQ rights. This newspaper is heavily focused on the Rohingya issues in Bangladesh. Bangladeshi ambassador in Myanmar was summoned by the Myanmar government because of publication of an article by *Dhaka Tribune* where it called for a referendum in the Rakhaine State. It is one of the few English-language newspapers that reported directly from Bangladesh-Myanmar border during the 2017 military crackdown against the Rohingya. It also regularly publishes articles related to human rights issues.

*Dhaka Tribune* has different sections to publish similar or related news. For example, it has national, international, sports, business, entertainment, advertisement pages and these pages contain news that are relevant to specific pages. This newspaper has different departments to cover different types of news. The departments include Central desk aka Tribune Desk,

Avenue T, D2, Bangla Tribune, Showtime, Business, Sports, and so on. Central desk is the core department of *Dhaka Tribune* where news related to politics, crime, education, environment, laws etc. are published. D2 department focuses on the topics related to fashion, style, health and well-being, food, travel, entertainment news. This department is focused to engage younger generation to read *Dhaka Tribune*. All the departments have staff, reporters, editors, and writers, and remaining in their departments, they are divided in either for web version or for print version. People working in the print version select important news from the web version and make those ready for print version of the next day. So, all the news stories in the online version are in the print version but not all the stories in online version are in the print version. There is also a social media department of *Dhaka Tribune* where the working personnel share the news stories published by *Dhaka Tribune* on different social media platforms so that the readers can access the news directly from the social media platforms and increase the reach of the newspaper. For my internship, I was assigned in the most important department of the newspaper, which is the Central Desk of *Dhaka Tribune* and I worked for the web version of the newspaper.

## Chapter 2: My Internship Experience at *Dhaka Tribune*

### 2.1 Tasks assigned

In Tribune desk, the tasks that are given to a sub-editor were also given to me. So, during my internship, I was working in the role of a sub-editor. Some of the tasks that I was assigned to do during my internship at *Dhaka Tribune* were drafting, translating, paraphrasing, uploading, and building headlines, standfirsts and captions for pictures.

- **Drafting**

*Dhaka Tribune* does not have a big number of reporters to cover incidents from all over the country. In addition, there are lots of international events happening every other day that cannot be covered first-hand by a newspaper like *Dhaka Tribune*, which even struggles to directly report all the national stories. Actually, most of the newspapers around the world do not have enough manpower to cover all stories from all the places. So, these newspapers depend on some big news agencies to get many of their stories in addition to the stories covered by their own reporters. These news agencies sell subscription to other newspapers so that the newspapers can publish the stories on their newspapers without facing any copyright lawsuit. *Dhaka Tribune* is also subscribed to some of the news agencies to get many of their news stories. In fact, most of the stories that are published from the Central Desk of *Dhaka Tribune* are taken from different news agencies. During my tenure of internship at *Dhaka Tribune*, this newspaper was subscribed to *United News Bangladesh* (UNB) and *Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha* (BSS) for national stories, and was subscribed to Reuters and AFP for the international stories.

After copying a story from a news agency, a sub-editor's job is to draft that copy in *Dhaka Tribune's* style. Each newspaper has its own style and so has *Dhaka Tribune*. During drafting the agency copies, including the basic changes in style, spelling, punctuations etc., a sub-editor needs to look for grammatical mistakes, needs to add a standfirst if there is not one in the agency copy, and even needs to change the headline sometimes. Some of the examples of what get changed in *Dhaka Tribune* are: 'U.S.', 'U.K.', 'K.S.A.' and so on will always be 'US', 'UK' and 'KSA' in *Dhaka Tribune's* drafted copy. Then, *Dhaka Tribune* always prefers 'ze', and 'zation' to 'se', and 'sation' if a word can be ended with either of them. For example, it is 'analyze' instead of 'analyse' and 'organization' instead of 'organisation'. *Dhaka Tribune* is also very particular about the English spellings of some Bengali words. 'Pohela Boishakh', 'Ganabhaban' etc. are some of such spellings. In addition, this newspaper also follows specific formats when writing numbers, time, date etc. One thing is important to mention that though the newspapers buy subscription of the news agencies, the agencies do not give the newspapers the right to change the author's name. So, the drafted agency copies have always the agencies' names as the name of the authors.

- **Translating**

One of the toughest and most challenging tasks that were assigned to me was translating stories. Most of the reporters of *Dhaka Tribune* send their stories in Bengali. So, the sub-editors have to translate the stories in English. However, translating stories is not as simple as converting the Bengali texts into English. A story needs to be translated in another language and also the translated text has to

reflect the essence of the source text. The process does not end here. When a reporter sends a story, the story is filled with lots of information and the information is generally very detailed. However, most of the readers of the English dailies, many of whom are foreigners, do not need that much detailed information. So, a heavily informative piece can be tiresome for a reader to read. This is not a good indication for a newspaper if it wants to increase its number of readers. Therefore, while translating a story from Bengali to English, most of those excess details need to be curtailed. For example, a reporter may send a crime story where the victim's name, age, present and permanent addresses down to the name of his/her village, union, sub-district, and district, his/her parents' names etc. are mentioned. These are a lot of information to go through. So, a sub-editor needs to cut down some information, like excluding the victim's parents' names and some parts of the addresses in the aforementioned case. However, there is more to the process of translating stories. Generally, the structure for a story in Bengali may not be suitable for English stories. So, the structure of a story also needs to be re-arranged depending on different situations. *Dhaka Tribune* generally instructs the sub-editors to keep the translated stories not more than 250 words. However, these rules are applicable only for the regular hard stories like crime stories, accident stories etc. There are special stories as well where the stories are much longer and in case of these stories, both details and essence of the original text are kept intact. *Dhaka Tribune*, most of the times, takes these special stories from *Bangla Tribune*. In the translated stories, the author is always Tribune Desk and the source newspaper is given the cited inside the story.

However, if Bangla Tribune credits the reporter's name in the by-line, then the author's name will be that reporter's name.

- **Paraphrasing**

The stories in *Dhaka Tribune* are required to paraphrase in mainly two cases: when a reporter sends a story in English text, and when a story is written by amalgamating the information in both an agency copy and a copy sent by a *Dhaka Tribune* correspondent. First of all, when a reporter sends a story in English, a sub-editor needs to find out the basic grammatical, syntactical or spelling related errors. After finding those errors, the writing quality of the story needs to be elevated. This is when paraphrasing comes into action. By changing the type of sentences, using not sophisticated and more appropriate words, a sub-editor needs to paraphrase the story and make it a better piece for the readers. For example, 'A dead body whose identity is not known yet has been found by the policemen of Gulshan Police Station from Gulshan lake' can simply be paraphrased as 'Gulshan police have recovered an unidentified dead body from Gulshan lake'. This way a long and tiring-to-read sentence can be shortened and made better. Secondly, a story is paraphrased when a story is made by combining an agency copy and a copy sent by reporters, or when additional information is added to an agency copy. Paraphrasing is required in this case because the story will be published by using Tribune Desk as by-line. However, though the copy will be paraphrased, the news agency will still get the credit for the parts of information it contributed to the final story.

- **Uploading**

Though there are separate employees at *Dhaka Tribune* for uploading a story on its website, all the employees at Central Desk needs to learn how to upload a story. The number of employees dedicated only to upload stories is not that so many that they can keep up with all the stories coming at a fast pace. So, sometimes the stories maybe uploaded late. This is not acceptable when there are important stories to upload. So that the stories are not published delayed, the Central Desk employees also learn to upload the story to help the stories upload fast in a busy time. For uploading stories, the access to the central management system is given to the individuals who will upload a story. There are specific boxes in a page in the central management system. Each box is specified for specific elements of a story. For example, the headline, standfirst, and body go to the specific boxes assigned for them. Two important things that are needed to keep in mind while uploading a story is to check the category of the story and to add the right keywords with the story. The stories of a specific category are accumulated in the webpage in such a way that the related stories come one after another. So, one has to be really careful while selecting the category and sub-category of a story. On the other hand, adding the right keywords can increase the reach of the newspaper. Keywords are the potential search words of a user on the internet browser. So, if the keywords are added cleverly, there is a chance that news will get more reach. *Dhaka Tribune* already has specific set of keywords on its central management system. There are also options of creating new keywords but during my internship tenure, I was not taught how to do that and probably, that process is not taught during internship. Anyway, since there are a set of keywords, so



the keywords need to be selected by keeping relevance with the story. Few tricks to add relevant keywords are to add the place of incident of the story, to add the name of a celebrated public figure if there is mention of anyone in the story, add the type of the event or incident etc. For example, in a road accident story where a bus driver hit and run five passersby somewhere in Dhaka and leaves some of them spot dead, the obvious keywords will be Dhaka, road accident, hit and run, and spot dead.

- **Building headlines, standfirsts, and captions**

Building good headlines is very important for a story. It is even more important for a web story. Headline is the first thing that comes before a reader and it only ensures click when a headline makes the reader more eager to know what is inside the story. That is why in the *Dhaka Tribune* style guide, it is instructed to use catchy and even clickbait headlines if the story does not contain sensitive matters. The headline should not tell the news but it should be enough to tell what the news is about. So, a headline should always be focused on the main idea of the news and be written in such a way that stirs eagerness among the readers. For some stories, the direct quote from an important person related to the story, an order of the court, an important part of the statement of an organization etc. can work as a good headline.

A standfirst can be called a company for the headline. Every story that is published from Tribune desk has a standfirst. Standfirst accompanies the headline by providing another important part of the story. A standfirst is written in one sentence and it ends with a period. During my internship at *Dhaka Tribune*, I mostly saw the statements of important officials or people in a story are kept in the standfirst. For example, in a

crime story, the statement of the police generally comes in a standfirst. In other cases, any important aspect of the story which is already not mentioned in the headline is kept in the standfirst. In *Dhaka Tribune*, it is suggested to keep the standfirst within 89 characters, excluding the spaces.

Lastly, I was assigned to make captions for the pictures in the stories. When writing a caption for a picture, it should not be just a description of what is seen in the picture. Rather than describing a picture in the caption, the caption should tell the essence of the story and give the story's context to the readers. For example, in a women harassment story, a picture of a woman being stared by some men on the street can be featured with the story. However, the caption should not like 'few men are looking at a woman on the street'; instead, the caption should be like 'seventy percent women in Bangladesh report of being harassed at least once in their life'. Even a quote from the story can be used as a caption.

## **2.2 Challenges Faced**

The challenges that I faced during my internship were twofold. First one is related to the tasks I was assigned and the second one is related to the working environment of *Dhaka Tribune*. However, in this section, only the challenges I faced in completing the assigned tasks are discussed. More or less all the tasks I was given during the internship had some difficulties to complete, but the tasks which were very challenging to me were drafting agency copies at the initial stage of my internship and translating stories. Firstly, during drafting agency copies, the main challenge is to keep the drafted copy completely error free. Drafting an agency copy does not give a sub-editor to show much creativity. In this task, most of the time, the changes are really very few and those are really not very big changes. That is why, during drafting an agency

copy, utmost attention is required so that there no mistake is committed in such an easy task. So, the challenge in drafting an agency copy is to always be extra careful. Initially, it was a bit tiresome for me because I always had to refer to the *Dhaka Tribune*'s style guidelines so that there is no error in the drafted copy. However, as I became more adopted with the style, drafting became a really easy and fun task to do. Secondly, the task that is a really challenging one is translating stories. It is already mentioned in the previous section (2.1) of this chapter that a news story is translated in sense for sense. However, even when translating sense for sense, there are a lot of words and terms that need very accurate translation. Otherwise, the translated text may mean something different than what the source text suggests. This problem happens especially when translating jargons of different offices and organizations. For example, when translating a Bengali term like 'sangsadiyo sthayi committee' into English, it naturally can be translated into 'parliamentary permanent committee' but it will be completely wrong because the accurate term in English is 'parliamentary standing committee'. Again, there are some words that can be easily mixed up because their meanings are very close to one another. For example, when police holds someone in custody, one can use either 'arrest' or 'detain' in the copy to express it. However, police arrest someone when they have an arrest warrant against that person, but police detain someone when the person is taken into custody for few hours due to suspicion or to help police in an investigation. These technical differences are to be kept in attention when translating a story. For me personally, there was one more difficulty to add when translating a text from Bengali to English. Since, my junior, secondary, and higher secondary education was also in English version, I am still not familiar with the English equivalent terms of many simple Bengali terms. So, I had to search for the English equivalent terms on the internet. This took so much time in translating a story. In the web version of a newspaper, news needs to be published fast.

So, translating a story is pressurizing, since it takes so much time. I translated regularly for *Dhaka Tribune* during the last month of my internship. Each day I improved piecemeal, and I think if I had stayed another month or two at *Dhaka Tribune*, I could master the art of translation.

### **2.3 Working Ambience**

As I already mentioned that due to widespread prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic, I completed my internship by working from home. This is the reason it is difficult for me to say how the ambience of the *Dhaka Tribune*'s workplace is in a normal situation, when everyone works in the office. During the whole internship tenure, I went to the *Dhaka Tribune* office just once, but that was for attending an iftar party during Ramadan. For work purpose, I was added in several Facebook messenger groups and I got my assignments in those groups. However, despite working from home, I have observed few things about the ambience of the Central Desk of *Dhaka Tribune*. To start with, the relationship among the colleagues is very formal and official. It seemed to me that the relationship between the colleagues is limited to work only and there is no relation among them outside that. For example, even the seniors would address junior employees as 'apni', a Bengali term equivalent to 'you' in English, but is mostly used to address someone older, to respect someone formally. This seems like respect towards colleagues, however, makes an invisible barrier among them too. This situation, sometimes, can make the environment a bit unapproachable for an intern or even the junior employees. Other than that, the ambience is good. Most of the employees help one another in completing their tasks. I learned at least something from all of my senior colleagues during my internship. Since learning the skills of sub-editor was the main objective of my internship, I can definitely say that that objective has been fulfilled during my internship. Overall, the work ambience at *Dhaka Tribune* is balanced.

### **Chapter-3: Integrating Theories with adapted techniques**

The theoretical knowledge earned in different courses during academic life serves as a foundation while working in the job sector provided that the student works in a field of work that is related to his/her field of study. Since I have majored in Media and Cultural Studies, the newspaper industry is obviously related to my field of study, and that is also the reason I sought for an internship in a newspaper at the first place. The theoretical knowledge that I gathered through different ENH courses has helped me in different practical situations during my internship at *Dhaka Tribune*. The theories learned in those courses were applicable in the tasks I was assigned to do, and at the same time, was relatable to some aspects of the news industry. Some theories that I learned in ENG401 (Editing), ENG440 (English for Print Media), and ENG465 (Translation Studies) at ENH is directly applicable in different tasks assigned to an intern at Tribune Desk. Again, some of the theories that I learned in ENG301 (Research Methodology), ENG331 (Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice), ENG333 (Globalization and Media) were very relatable with some things about the news industry. These theories can be divided into three parts: editing theories, cultural theories, and media theories.

#### **3.1 Editing theories**

To start with, the knowledge I earned from ENG401 was very applicable in the tasks I was given during the internship. In ENG401, some old contents about English grammar, spelling, punctuations, idiom and syntax etc. that a student learns during the secondary education was revisited. I was able to implement these lessons when writing a story. However, the lesson learnt from ENG401 that was most applicable during writing a story is how to write a headline. The guidelines to write headlines which are taught in ENG401 are in light of the instructions of late

Martin Gibson, a Journalism professor at University of Texas, regarding writing headlines. The instructions are such as following:

- a) Read and understand the story before writing the headline
- b) Write a rough headline
- c) Experiment with word combinations to form one or more lines of the headline
- d) Choose specific, precise words
- e) Make each word count
- f) Use action verbs, and some creativity
- g) Start over if you are stuck

These guidelines about writing headlines was implemented by me while writing a headline, especially while writing a headline for a translated story. This helped me writing headlines that are not unnecessarily long and are to the point.

After that, the lesson about story format that is taught in ENG440 was also applicable while writing a story. Newspapers publish two types of stories: hard news stories, and feature stories. In ENG440, formats for writing both types of stories are taught. However, most of the time during my internship, I was assigned to the hard news stories. For hard news stories, the inverted pyramid style is used. *Dhaka Tribune* too follows inverted pyramid style for hard news stories. In inverted pyramid style, the most newsworthy information is laid out within first one or two paragraphs, followed important details, and finally, general background information. What constitute the newsworthy information is also taught in ENG440. It is related to the 5Ws and 1H of the story. The 5Ws are what, why, when, where and who, and the H stands for how. A hard

news story should always answer the questions with 5Ws and 1H at the beginning of the story. For example, the lead of a crime story under the title 'Father held over Brac Uni student's suicide' published on *Dhaka Tribune* is written in the following way:

RAB on Wednesday arrested a man for allegedly instigating the suicide of his 21-year-old daughter. She had accused her father of being a rapist in a suicide note, from Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh.

The man was identified as Shaheen Islam. He has been absconding since the incident on Saturday, said RAB's legal and media wing director Khandaker Al Moin.

In this lead, it is mentioned what the story is about, why the accused is held, who the victim and accused are, when and where the perpetrator is held, and how the perpetrator is accused. So, all the 5Ws and 1H are answered in the first two paragraphs. These are the most newsworthy information and in the inverted pyramid style, all these information comes in first one or two paragraphs. I was able to implement this knowledge while structuring a story.

The concept of news value factors was discussed in ENG440 course. There are five news value factors that determine whether an event should be news or not. To become news, an incident needs to fulfill at least one of those five news value factors. Those news value factors are:

- **Consequence:** It refers to the impact that an event has. When the consequences of an event are impactful, then the incident is worthy of becoming a news. For example, death of a prime minister or president of a country has consequence. So, such an incident is newsworthy.
- **Timeliness:** It refers to the timing of an incident being reported. A news story loses its worth if the incident mentioned in the news had happened a long time

ago. For example, where the first Corona virus case was reported was newsworthy when the first wave of Corona virus started, but it is not newsworthy now because the incident happened a long time ago.

- **Prominence:** It refers to the familiarity of the people, places, or organizations. If they are well-known, then an incident related to them is newsworthy. For example, a celebrity giving birth of a child is newsworthy because she is prominent in the society.
- **Proximity:** It refers to the closeness of the incident occurring place by distance. If an incident happening at a long distance is reported then the readers lose their interest in reading that news and so, the news loses its value. However, if that incident has consequences on the targeted readers, then it is newsworthy. For example, news about an internal gang war in Russia in Bangladesh has neither proximity nor consequence and thus, has no value. However, Russian invasion on Ukraine is newsworthy in Bangladesh because though it is happening in a far distance, it has impact on Bangladesh as well.
- **Oddity:** If an incident is very odd to happen, then the incident is newsworthy. For example, if a man survives seven lightening strikes that will be a very odd thing to occur and thus, the incident will be newsworthy.

During my internship, I could relate to the news published on *Dhaka Tribune* with these news value factors. At Tribune Desk, the sub-editors and I would suggest different news stories from news agencies and from the *Dhaka Tribune* correspondents to the news executive for publication. However, the news executive only takes the stories that have higher value as news. The incidents that do not fulfill any of the above news value factors are not made news. The one



factor that is given the most importance at *Dhaka Tribune* is the timeliness. In many cases, I have observed, some moderately important incidents are not covered by *Dhaka Tribune* because the incident is older than more than twenty four hours.

In addition, theories learned in another course that I applied during the tasks were ENG465. The course is called Translation Studies, and different theories and techniques related to translation are taught in this course. In my opinion, the lessons taught in this course are very important for someone who works in a newspaper that publishes news stories in a different language than the one in which the news is originally reported. So, the lessons are important for the people working in the English-language newspapers in Bangladesh. In *Dhaka Tribune* style guidelines, the instruction is to go for the “sense for sense” approach when translating a text. This is exactly one of the techniques of translation that is taught in ENG465 in light of Jeremy Munday’s book *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Practice*. In this technique, the source text is translated by keeping the essence of the original text in the translated text. Another theory taught in this course which was brought into practice during translating tasks is Catford’s theory of Translation shift. For example, sometimes the essence of a noun in the source text is expressed by using an adjective in the translated text. This shift is discussed in Catford’s theory of translation shift.

### **3.2 Cultural studies**

Beside the application of different editing theories taught in the aforementioned ENH courses in performing the assigned tasks, I could also relate some cultural theories that I learned with different situations that I experienced during my internship.

I could relate more theories, learned in different ENH courses, in specific situations while working at *Dhaka Tribune*. For example, I could relate the concept of 'state ideological apparatuses' by Marxist theoretician Louis Althusser while working at *Dhaka Tribune*. According to Althusser, a state maintains its power using its 'repressive structures', like law, courts, prisons, police force, army etc., and its 'state ideological apparatuses', like school, media, religious institutions etc. According to Althusser, the state force the people to be obedient by using its repressive structures, but it controls the people more subtly by imposing its ideologies on the people through state ideological apparatuses. Since newspaper is one of the major state ideological apparatuses, I was able to connect this theory of Althusser with the newspaper industry. In particular situations while working at *Dhaka Tribune*, I observed how some particular stories are framed in some particular ways. This way, the readers will be focused on a story from the point of view that the newspaper shows. This creates a perspective among the readers that they are theirs, but is actually very subtly forced to them.

Finally, the theory that I could relate with the most during my internship is French philosopher and social theorist Michel Foucault's theory of the 'Panopticon', a theory that is taught in ENG331 from Foucault's *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977*. Panopticon is originally a architectural design of a prison by English philosopher Jeremy Bentham. According to that idea, panopticon is a circular prison and at the centre there will be a watch tower from which the prison guards will always observe the prisoners, but the prisoners cannot see the overseer. In this way, the prisoners will think that they are always under surveillance and will not do anything that they are not supposed to do. So, even if there is no guard at all, the fear of being observed will keep the prisoners under control. Foucault argues that the people in the society lives inside a mental panopticon where they check themselves not to do

anything outside the ideologies set by the influential people. In this way, people become the prisoners of their own mind and they automatically fulfill the influential groups' cause. During my internship, I myself was in this mental panopticon. The thought that I was being watched and that my seniors were observing what I was doing and how I was performing was always in my mind. As a consequence, I watched myself and was extra careful in all the tasks so that I make no mistake.

### **3.3 Media concepts**

Related to creating particular perception among the readers, a media theory is taught in ENG333. That is called media framing. Media framing refers to the angle or perspective from which a news story is told. This way, the information provided in the story is unchanged but the story shapes the readers mind with the views that the newspaper choose to show. Many times while translating a copy, I was instructed to structure the story from particular angle. One story that I specifically remember was about inauguration of a one-stop police service center in a district. I wrote the story highlighting the benefits that the people of that area would get because of that service center. However, in his inauguration speech, the superintendant of police of that district persuaded the local people to help police to reduce the crime. Later on, when I submitted the story to my supervisor, he asked me to change the angle of the story and highlight on the crime curbing part. So, these were the times I could easily relate these situations with the concept of media framing.

So, overall, different theories learned in different ENH courses not only helped me in completing the assigned tasks at *Dhaka Tribune* but also helped me relate some of those theories in different circumstances during my internship.

### **3.4 Bright prospects for graduates of English department in newspaper industry**

If an English graduate is from Media major like me, then it is obvious from the previous discussions that s/he will definitely get an advantage of his academic study in the newspaper industry. However, from the experience of my internship, I have realized that not only the Media major students but also the Literature major and Linguistic major students also have bright career prospects in the newspaper industry in Bangladesh, especially if it is a bi-lingual or English-language newspaper. This is because the students of an English department have good proficiency in English, which is required the most in a newspaper that publishes its news in English language. To back up this argument, an observation I want to add that the news executive, deputy news executive, and two sub-editors at Tribune Desk were from departments other than English during my internship at *Dhaka Tribune*. However, all of them have enough level of English proficiency to work in a newspaper. So, anyone with enough proficiency in English can work in the newspaper industry. In addition, the graduates of English departments have another advantage that all of them need to write research papers or analytical papers during their undergraduate life irrespective of the major they choose. The experience of writing these research or analytical papers make the students proficient in English and that proficiency is helpful in the newspaper industry. Also, all the students need to learn different literary theories to write those papers and many of those theories can be related with the newspaper industry. So, all these things give the ENH graduates an upper edge in the newspaper industry, and thus, they have bright prospects in the media industry.

## Chapter 4: Conclusion

To conclude, in this internship report, I have discussed the objectives of an internship, the position of *Dhaka Tribune* in Bangladesh, the tasks that are assigned to an intern at Tribune Desk, the challenges in completing those tasks, the ambience of *Dhaka Tribune* and finally, the integration of ENH theories with adapted techniques in completing the assigned tasks. In short, my internship at *Dhaka Tribune* was a wonderful journey for me and I learned a lot in this three-month-long internship. Unfortunately, for having different career goal in my life, I did not apply for a post of apprentice sub-editor at *Dhaka Tribune*. However, I suggest that the graduates of English graduates can take their career chances in the newspaper industry. The ENH graduates definitely have an upper edge in the Bangladeshi newspaper industry, which is already discussed in this report. In addition, most of the bi-lingual or English language newspapers in Bangladesh offer good salary in Bangladesh's context. In an article titled 'Entry salaries for fresh graduates: A Bleak Picture', published on the magazine 'Shout' of *The Daily Star* in September 3, 2022, it is mentioned that the average salary of a fresh graduate in Bangladesh ranges from "BDT 20,000 and 30,000". An apprentice sub-editor at *Dhaka Tribune* gets a salary of BDT.15000 and after six months of apprenticeship, it increases to BDT.25000. After talking with some of the alumni of my department who currently work in different news agencies like *The Daily Star*, *The Business Standard*, and *bdnews24.com*, I found out that their salary structures are more or less similar to what *Dhaka Tribune* offers. It is definitely a good starting point in terms of salary for a fresh graduate. So, considering all these factors, this internship report can be concluded by saying that the graduates of English departments have bright career prospects in the newspaper industry of Bangladesh.

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## Appendix

### '3780C a year collected from Dhaka's hawkers'

Dhaka College students blame extortion from hawkers for police support of New Market traders during Tuesday's clashes



Shoppers crowd the entrance of Chandni Chowk market in the New Market area, looking at and buying products on display as the markets reopen in Dhaka amid the ongoing week-long lockdown on Friday, April 9, 2021 Mahmud Hossain Opu/Dhaka Tribune

**Illustration 2: A news story on the huge amount of toll collected from Dhaka's hawkers every year**



## Motorcycles the new trend for Eid journeys

So many motorcycles on the road may raise risks of accidents three-fold during this Eid, said BJKS secretary general



Thousands of motorbikes spotted in the Shimulia Ghat area as people have been leaving the capital city of Dhaka for their village homes ahead of Eid on Saturday April 30, 2022 Bangla Tribune

**Illustration 2: A story on the increasing number of motorcycle journeys during Eid-ul-azha 2022**



## Russell's Viper killed with harpoon in Charbhadrasan

Another Russell's Viper killed around 8 to 10 people of the area in 2018-19, says a government official



Photo shows the corpse of the Russell's Viper killed in Faridpur's Charbhadrasan on Wednesday March 16, 2022 Dhaka Tribune

**Illustration: A story on the nearly extinct Russell's viper snakes being emerged again in Charbhadrasan of Faridpur**

## Fire breaks out in Narayanganj textile mill

Fire Service members have doused the fire after one and a half hours



**Illustration 4: A story about a fire breaking out in a cotton warehouse in Narayanganj**

## DIG Anwar: Police alone can't curb crimes at Comilla border

A week ago, local journalist Mohiuddin was shot dead in Burichang border area allegedly by drug smugglers



Chittagong Range Director Inspector General (DIG) Anwar Hossain with other officials at the inauguration of One-Stop Service for police clearance certificates at the Comilla Superintendent of Police (SP) office on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 Dhaka Tribune

**Illustration 5: News about police seeking help of the residents near Comilla border in eliminating crime from that area**