

**Talk-Shows of BanglaVision: in the Notion of Power-Play**

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## Table of Contents

Chapter: 1	1
Introduction	1
Chapter: 2	3
Background of My Experience	3
2.1 Broadcast or Storage Media	3
2.2 Television and New Media	4
2.3 Program Department	5
2.4 Role of a Producer	5
2.5 Producer's Risk	5
Chapter: 3	6
Three Steps to Make a Successful Live Show	6
3.1 Pre-Production	6
3.2 Production	6
3.3 Post-Production	6
Chapter: 4	8
BanglaVision- A Satellite TV Channel	8
4.1 Background	8
4.2 Vision and Mission	9
4.3 The Departments	10
Chapter: 5	11
Basic Concepts Learnt from BanglaVision	11
5.1 Basic Concepts from Pre-Production	11
5.2 Basic Concepts from Production	15
5.3 Basic Concepts from Post-Production	21
Chapter: 6	23
Experiences as an Intern in BanglaVision:	23
Chapter: 7	24
7.1 The Interior of BanglaVision	24
7.2 Front Line: A Political Live Show	25
7.3 Sokal Belar Roddur: A Celebrity Talk Show (Live)	28
Chapter: 8	30
Evaluation of the Programs through Power Play	30

8.1 In the Notion of the Panopticon and Propaganda Model	30
8.2 Power and Space	31
8.3 Power and Censorship	32
8.4 In the Notion of Simulacrum	32
8.5 Feminism and Power of Popularity	34
Chapter: 9	36
Problems I Faced	36
9.1 Technical Issues	36
9.2 Environmental Problems	36
9.3 Communicating Style	36
Chapter: 10	37
Suggestions for the Future Internees	37
Chapter: 11	38
Conclusion	38
Work Cited	39
Appendices	40
Appendix 1	40
Appendix 2	42
Appendix 3	43



## **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Script of VOCAB	12
Figure 2: Audio Controller Machine	14
Figure 3: Video Controller Machine	14
Figure 4: Pan Shot	16
Figure 5: Producer Control Room (PCR)	17
Figure 6: Door of the Studio with the Red Light.	18
Figure 7: VTR (Video Tape Recorder)	19
Figure 8: Picture of 'Time Line' In the Software	20
Figure 9: Use of 'Adobe Premiere' To Edit and Download the Programs.	21
Figure 10: Use of CC Camera in the Office.	24
Figure 11: Use of Doors by Transparent Glasses in the Office.	25
Figure 13: Sample Outline of Front Line 1	27
Figure 14: Themes of Sokal Belar Roddur 1	29
Figure 15: Sample Outline of Front Line 2	40
Figure 16: Sample Outline of Front Line 3	41
Figure 17: Themes of Sokal Belar Roddur 2	42

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I would not have learned so many things from BanglaVision without the help of my supervisor Rehena Raha, Assistant Producer of BanglaVision. Besides, she has also taught me how to manage a program in totality with budget and technical supervision. Now, I can say that I am able to produce a new program after having been an intern at BanglaVision under the supervision of Rehena Raha. I would also want to thank Mr. Shamim Shahed (Head of Program, BanglaVision) for believing in me and giving me this opportunity to work at BanglaVision. Besides, I need to mention especially my academic supervisor, Miss. Mahruba T. Mowtushi (Lecturer of the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University) who helped me a lot to express my practical experience on my report.

## Chapter: 1

### Introduction

Since my childhood, I was interested in the field of media. When I was admitted to the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University, I came to know about the “Media and Cultural Studies” concentrations that the department offered. I chose “Media and Cultural Studies” as my major area of study with the hope to know about the field of media more closely. While I was studying ‘Media and Cultural Studies’, I found some interesting courses like ‘Globalization and Media’, ‘English for Print Media’, ‘Translation Studies’, ‘Cultural Studies’: Theory and Practice, ‘Copy-Writing’, etc which made me interested to work in media. When the time of my internship came, I chose to work in the program department of any TV channel in order to exercise my knowledge and creativity.

I joined BanglaVision, a fairly new TV channel of Bangladesh, which has already become quite popular, as an intern on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2011. My responsibility was to work as an Assistant Producer in two ‘live’ shows. Besides, I also gave background voice to some programs during my internship.

I have worked with two teams who produce live shows. These are -*Shokal Belar Rouddur* and *Front Line*. The two shows have different themes and purposes. *Shokal Belar Rouddur* is a live show that goes ‘on air’ in the morning at 11.05am. Popular radio jockey Nirob Khan is the presenter of the program. A guest always comes in the show to make the show more entertaining and cheerful. Basically, the guest has to be a celebrity or a media personality. On the other hand, *Front Line* is a political live show which has a different goal and theme where the presenter, Motiur Rahman, invites the kinds of guests who can talk about the society and current political matters.

It was a great opportunity for me to learn how to produce different kinds of programs for TV. Right now, I am working as an employee of BanglaVision and I feel lucky for having the chance to work with a supervisor like Rehena Raha who has taught me virtually everything about programs. As a result, I am continuing my work in BanglaVision with the same program in which I worked as an intern. Besides, I have been told to produce a new program



called *VOCAB* for which I have written a script. Now, I am looking forward to select a video jockey for the program.

Above all, I have learned the customs of media as well as the type of program the channel requires. Based on my practical experience during the internship, my report will focus on how power plays in talk shows; for instance, the ways in which renowned figures have a huge impact on the public viewers and audience. Besides, this report will make use of some critical analysis on the talk shows that I worked in. In light of Michel Foucault's analysis of the "Eye of Power", my report will also employ Elaine Showalter's book *A Literature of their Own* and her concept of "the female, feminine, feminist"; moreover, my report will also employ Jean Baudrillard's notion of the simulacrum which refers to how the concept of power works in talk shows.

## **Chapter: 2**

### **Background of My Experience**

On the first week of my internship, I was introduced to the people of the program department and those with whom I was going to work as a team member. The office has a cozy environment. There are many posts that people are working in, such as, Program Assistant, Junior Producer, Senior Producer, Video Editor, Broadcaster etc. All the staff members work together and co-operate with each other to make BanglaVision a success.

During my internship, I had come across to define broadcast and new media as well as the definition of TV Media and details about program department of a TV Channel.

#### **2.1 Broadcast or Storage Media**

Broadcast Media has an important contribution to this age of information and communication. Broadcast or storage media refers to the use of electronic technology. They may include television, radio, Internet, fax, CD-ROMs, DVD, and any other medium that requires electricity or digital encoding of information. The first regular television broadcast began in 1937. Broadcasts can be classified as "recorded" or "live". The recorded shows allow editing, correcting errors, and removal of unnecessary or undesired materials, thereby rearranging it, applying slow-motion and repetitions, and other techniques to develop the program. Besides, live shows do not have the opportunity to be edited or re-recorded as it goes on air directly. However, some live events like programs on sports can include some of the aspects including slow-motion clips of important goals and hits in between the live telecast.

## 2.2 Television and New Media

Television and new media address questions on how issues of economics, politics, culture and power are acted out through television and new media forms, texts, industries, and contexts. Topics for the journal engage with critical and interdisciplinary research into audiences and consumers, authors and producers, cultural history and geography, globalization, policy, citizenship, activism, and pedagogy as well as the intersections between social identities, such as race, class, and gender.

As a source of news coverage, new media uses digital computer technology for sharing information and to communicate with people all over the world. Computer is available everywhere, including the office and home. So, they prefer new media for information as it is an easy and flexible way to get the ultimate information. Blogging is also becoming popular day by day because it updates news quickly and people have the right to give their own opinion on news and current affairs, information that are constantly updated. The facility for readers to leave comments in an interactive and informal format is an important part of blogs and this is one of the main reasons why blogs are getting more popular than mainstream media. Moreover, blogs are not ruled by the government and it has no strict format to follow and blogs give the freedom of writing any kind of personal comments about anything or anyone without any prove or evidence. It is one kind of social networking system where the bloggers update their news according to their own wishes and the bloggers do not have to pay any heed to publishing any kinds of controversial news. People just go through the headlines and give comments or personal opinions and suggestions. Here, people find interest in commenting on blogs because blogs represent the general by providing them with the opportunity to share their thoughts and comments openly with everyone. People can publish their opinions on political, social, economical and other issues in blogs. Besides, they can also publish the evidence of any kinds of news or incidents so that other people get to know the facts. As a consequence, blogs create citizen journalism as well as an ultimate form of democratic media where people's opinions get the highest importance of all.



### **2.3 Program Department**

The program department of a TV channel includes producers, assistant producers and cameramen, set designers, stage boys, broadcasting people, archive executives, accounts and cooks. All these people work together to produce successful programs. In addition, the 'Program Department' tends to take the responsibility to organize cultural programs as well as the anniversary of the channel. This department is also responsible for the improvement and popularity of the channel.

### **2.4 Role of a Producer**

The producer takes all the responsibilities of a program. So, the producer needs to assure a budget for the program so that the program runs without any interruptions. Besides, the producer also decides the setting, time and venue of the program. There is always a goal behind each program. For example, a political talk show tends to create a consciousness among the citizens of the country.

### **2.5 Producer's Risk**

As I worked as an assistant producer, I had to prepare the pre-production part of the program. I had to call the guests to invite them to the program. There are some risks in calling the guests because sometimes they change their contact numbers which make it difficult to contact them on time. Besides, the producer might be a victim of a prank while calling the guests as sometimes other people receive the call and make fun of the matter. Sometimes, we talk to the wrong person and fix the program date but later on, and the producer is held accountable for the mistake. Moreover, the producer is also responsible for the cost of the program and if anything is lost, the producer has to show the reason for that loss. So, it is a risky work and the producer needs to be so conscious as well as the assistant producer about each and everything concerning the program.



## Chapter: 3

### Three Steps to Make a Successful Live Show

Live shows are more sensitive than any other recorded shows because it has no chance of being edited or re-recorded. There are three steps that a producer follows to create a successful live show. These are:

- Pre-production
- Production
- Post-Production

#### 3.1 Pre-Production

Pre-Production refers to such works that a producer needs to fulfill before the show takes place. For example, making the outline of the program, making a budget for the whole program, hiring required people such as assistants, cameramen etc for the program. In a live show, pre-production plays an important role. Many people work hard to make a successful live show. For example, the assistant producer observes the pattern, theme and structure of the program and then decides to cast people according to its theme and demand. I am working in *Front Lin'* which is a political talk show but broadcasted as a live program. In *Front Line*, the daily newspapers are very important as the show is based on news and information. I had to read all the daily English and Bangla newspapers to collect issues and topics for the program. Besides, there are certain steps that take place before a live program. Such as- preparing a budget for the program, selecting the guests and presenter for the talk based live program, designing the set of the show, setting the cameras, checking the 'producer control room'(PCR), queue the casket for recording the live program directly, update the ticker for broadcasting and so on.

#### 3.2 Production

Production refers to the duration of the whole program. During the program, the producer needs to give directions to the cameramen to take required shots.

#### 3.3 Post-Production

Post-Production refers to the work after the show gets over. The producer needs to maintain some formalities after the program. For example, distributing payments to the people who are

hired as well as needs to submit money recite to the accounts. Besides, the producer needs to update all the information about the program.

Here is a chart which shows the dissimulation of work in pre-production, post-production and production for a producer:

### **Pre-Production**

- Planning for the program
- Making the budget
- Calling the guests and fix them
- Making a schedule for the program
- Making the set for the program
- Deciding the theme of the program
- Advertising for the program ( for example, ticker)

### **Production**

- Delivers the program successfully on air
- Directing the cameramen correctly
- Taking break time properly
- Ending up the show properly

### **Post-Production**

- Giving payment to the participants
- Treating them properly
- Giving payment to all the members who work for the show
- Taking signature of the participants on the voucher
- Submitting the voucher in the accounts

## **Chapter: 4**

### **BanglaVision- A Satellite TV Channel**

#### **4.1 Background**

BanglaVision is a satellite TV channel broadcast from Bangladesh. It is owned by Shamol Bangla Media Limited. Mr. Abdul Haque is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company while Mr. Mohammad Aminul Huq is the Managing Director of BanglaVision. BanglaVision began its formal transmission on 31 March 2006 through satellite Telstar 10 Now APT 2R. Since then the channel has continued non-stop transmission for 24-hours every day and they are putting on air various programs and news bulletins.

This channel always puts emphasis on its viewers who are the main source of inspiration that is why its prime target is mainly the viewers. BanglaVision upholds the struggles of the Bengalis as well as our culture, heritage and history in Bangladesh and throughout the world. This channel tends to build a bridge connecting Bangladeshi culture with the world culture. In the logo of BanglaVision, it has incorporated alphabets of our mother tongue Bangla, the National Monument and the national flag.

The headquarters of BanglaVision is located at the heart of the capital, Dhaka. The office of the channel, three well-equipped studios and other technical installations are situated on the three floors of the high-rise building Noor Tower on Bir Uttam C R Dutta Road. About 400 staffs have been working round- the- clock to project BanglaVision before the viewers. BanglaVision has its bureaus or offices in all the districts of the country where our representatives are stationed to work for the channel programs and programs for women and children. On special occasions, they arrange special programs of various kinds. Besides, we telecast 10 news bulletins every day, the duration being from five minutes to forty minutes. They also produce some programs based on current news analysis.



BanglaVision's regular programs include entertainment events such as dramas, music, dances while we also produce and telecast educational, development-oriented, analytical talk-shows, religious programs.

BanglaVision has passed only six years yet it is already a top ranking and one of the fastest growing TV channels in Bangladesh. BanglaVision is a well-known popular name in the media world. This channel is not keeping itself confined within the boundary of Bangladesh, it has already crossed the border, and BanglaVision has now reached the viewers of Korea, Japan and other countries of the Far East and also Australia, West Asia, North Africa, some regions of Europe and North America.

BanglaVision has substantially increased its live breaking news and program telecast during the last two years utilizing its sophisticated transmission equipment DSNG. With this movable DSNG, they can now move to any place any time and put our program on air from the spot. BanglaVision has successfully covered national elections and local elections of Bangladesh through live telecast and they did their best to give live coverage to the fire incidents occurred at BSEC building and Basundhara City Tower and the tragic incident of February 2009 at the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the capital city. They are moving forward carrying information as well as entertainment, and they have already come a long way. BanglaVision is committed to bring the best of entertainment to all the viewers.

#### **4.2 Vision and Mission**

BanglaVision is moving forward with the people of Bangladesh as its companion. The motto of BanglaVision is to reach its viewers with the theme that our country won its independence through a liberation war, while its mission is to carry forward this message to our next generation so that those who sacrificed their lives for the country remain alive in the heart of each citizen of Bangladesh.

### **4.3 The Departments**

1. HR and Administration
2. News and Current Affairs
3. Program
4. Broadcast and Engineering
5. Marketing and Sales
6. Finance and Accounts

## Chapter: 5

### Basic Concepts Learnt from BanglaVision

#### 5.1 Basic Concepts from Pre-Production

##### Interview and Copy Editing

In the course, “English for Print Media”, I learned some basic steps which help the interviewee to get the desired information about the interviewer. For example, to start with, such a question that will lighten the mood of the interviewer. After that, maintaining a link of all the questions helps the interviewee to reach the goal quickly. These things helped me to direct the presenter during *Sokal Belar Roddur*. The producer invites guests from different fields, for each episode and I had to know about that person before the program to help the presenter regarding the dealing with the guest.

The “Editing Course” helped me to edit the headlines of the news for *Front Line*. Sometimes the headlines were lengthy and I had to shorten those headlines to make the outline for the program.

##### Translation

BanglaVision was not supposed to teach the methods of translation but *Front Line* includes works like translation and copy editing in the process of pre-production. For example, the collection of the topics for discussion is being selected from different local newspaper and sometimes I translated some of the English news headlines into Bangla for the outline of the program. One of the outlines of *Front Line* is shown in chapter seven.

##### Script

Script refers to the written form of characters. In program department, script means the written language that helps the producer to direct the program smoothly. In the course of “Copywriting”, I have learned how to promote something or someone through language. This course helped me to write scripts for *VOCAB*. The script plays an important role to grab people’s attention. If the language of the show is strong, the show gets more popularity. So, I had to keep in mind the fact that I have to promote the show, I have made a script which is not too long, not too short. Here is the script that I wrote for the upcoming show *VOCAB*:



Welcome Viewers! সকলের সুন্দর জীবন প্রত্যাশা করে শুরু করছি The first episode of Warid Vocab. আমি, আপনাদের জন্য নিয়ে এলাম এমন একটি কুইজ শো যেখানে ঘরে বসেই জিতে নিতে পারছেন ৫০ হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত। Viewers, প্রতি পর্বে আমরা আপনাদের পাঁচটি করে প্রশ্ন করব, যেখানে ৪টি প্রশ্নই থাকবে English Vocabulary'র উপর। যেহেতু এ প্রোগ্রামটির বেশিরভাগ প্রশ্নই English Vocabulary অর্থাৎ ইংরেজী শব্দভান্ডারের সঙ্গে রিলেটেড তাই Vocabularyর Short Version হিসেবে এ অনুষ্ঠানটির নাম রাখা হয়েছে Vocab.

English Vocabularyর পাশাপাশি অনুষ্ঠানটি আরো Interesting করতে আমাদের প্রত্যেক episode এর শেষ প্রশ্নটি থাকবে ভিন্ন ধরনের।

এবার প্রাইজের কথা বলছি। যারা প্রত্যেকটি প্রশ্নের সঠিক উত্তর দেবেন তাদের মধ্যে থেকে Lucky winners বের করা হবে দুইজনকে। First lucky winner এর জন্য থাকছে ২৫ হাজার টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড এবং Second lucky winner এর জন্য থাকছে ১৫ হাজার টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড।

Highest SmS Sender এর জন্য থাকছে ১০ হাজার টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড। সুতরাং, আপনার উত্তর ভুল হলেও, আপনি যদি হয়ে যান Highest SmS Sender, তবে আপনিও জিতে নিতে পারেন ১০ হাজার টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড।

এবার প্রশ্ন শোনার পালা। জলদি Pen, Papers এবং Mobile Phone নিয়ে রেডি থাকুন আমি ছোট্ট একটি Break নিয়ে ফিরছি।

Okay Viewers, Break থেকে ফিরলাম। I think you are ready. প্রথম তিনটি প্রশ্ন একই Format এ হবে। একটি Word দেয়া হবে যার কয়েকটা Letter Missing থাকবে। আমরা একটা Hint দিয়ে দেব এবং সেই হিন্টটির সাথে যে, Option টার অর্থ মিলে যাবে সে Optionটাকেই আপনাদের SmS করতে হবে। চলুন শুরু করা যাক।

## Figure 1: Script of VOCAB

### Inviting the Guests

There is a certain way of inviting guests for different programs such as *Front Line* which includes two guests for each episode. For *Front Line*, the producer needs to call the guests at least one week ago because the program requires such persons who have great contribution to the society such as teachers, politicians etc. so, the producer needs to get an appointment from the guest to confirm their presence for the show.

On the other hand, *Sokal Belar Roddur* requires different kinds of guests, such as from young celebrity to senior media personalities. So, the producer has to call the guest according to the guest's position in media.



## Planning

In “English for Print Media” course, I was taught how to write features and reports. There are three steps of writing reports: planning, writing and completing. These three steps helped me while selecting and editing news for *Front Line*. At first I used to plan for an outline of the show based on the guests’ designations and then I start writing the outline. Selection of news falls under planning because I can not select all the news from the newspapers. Before selecting news, I had to analyze the topic whether is it based on economy or current affair or so on.

## Writing

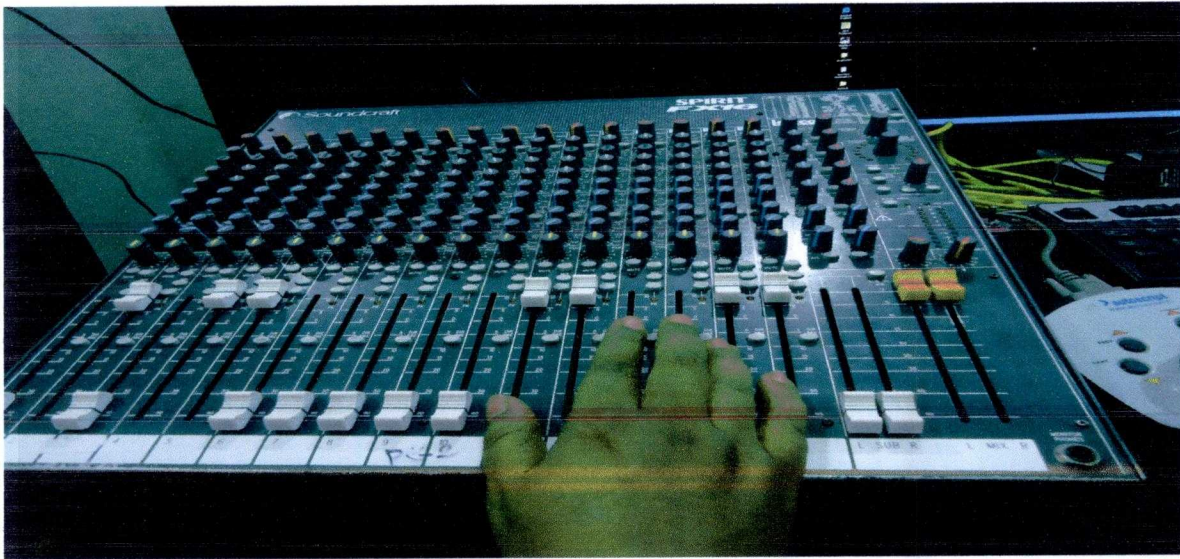
In my “Editing” course, I was taught how to edit news. This course helped me during my work with *Front Line*. *Front Line* is a talk show which needs current news and events to talk be discussed. So, the news that are edited from the newspaper for the show should be presented with a neutral outlook, with no exaggeration. Any use of extra comments can hamper the authenticity of the news. News is based on facts so it is better to avoid personal opinions and extra words during editing any news.

## Budget Making

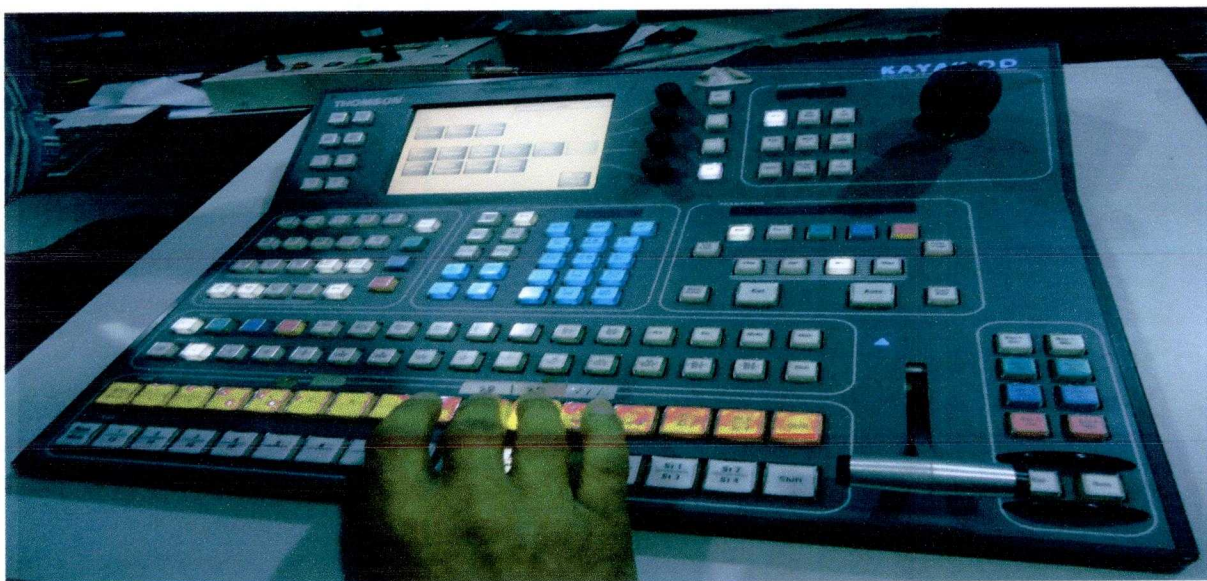
A producer has to prepare a budget before making a program. To prepare a complete budget for a program, a producer needs to make a list of the people as well as the equipments that are required for the show. After that, she/he will make a financial plan of those people and equipments and submit it to the accounts. If the accounts pass the bill, the producer proceeds with the pre-production of the program. During making a budget, a producer must need-

- Cameramen
- Stage Designer
- Office Assistant
- Assistant Producer
- Audio Controller
- Video Controller
- Keyboard Controller
- Make-up Artist

Besides, in outdoor shooting, the producer will require vehicles, food, location and other necessary equipments. So, while preparing the budget for a program, a producer needs to keep in mind each and everything he/she might require for the program.



**Figure 2: Audio Controller Machine**



**Figure 3: Video Controller Machine**

### **Ticker**

Ticker basically helps the program to grab viewers' attention. It lets the viewers know about the current details of the upcoming program. (See a sample of Ticker in chapter 7)



### **Shot Division**

Shot division refers to the division of the script in different parts to make the recording of a program easier. It also gives the producer a clear idea about which part of the script is needed in one shot.

### **Cue sheet**

Cue sheet is also used in a recorded show. It is a part of the script of the program which contains the sequence of what will come after one another and what is needed to be done in making a particular episode. Cue sheet represents the entire episode of a program at a glance. During the period of recording, the producer follows the cue sheet to direct the cameramen as well as the participants. Besides, it helps the editor to understand the demand of the producer for the program. The editor follows it to get a clear idea about the chronological insertion of the sequences.

### **Info- sheet**

Info-sheet is used for the recorded programs. It is a part of the script of the program where the producer gets relevant information regarding the topic of each segment of the program. It helps to make the program credible.

## **5.2 Basic Concepts from Production**

### **a) Camera Directions**

A producer has the authority to give directions to the cameramen. In a live show, the producer does not get any opportunity to edit anything so she/he needs to have the expertise in giving camera directions. To deliver correct camera directions, a producer needs to have a proper understanding of different shots of camera as well as holds the patience and seriousness to run a live show. Live shows are sensitive than recorded shows. In a live show, there is no opportunity to solve any mistake. So, the producer needs to be very active during the show.

There are some types of shots that a producer usually uses during a live show:

### **Pan Shot**

Panning is a camera movement technique that involves moving the camera horizontally to the right or left. With this technique one can track an object or follow any type of movement.



**Figure 4: Pan Shot**

#### **Zoom In and Out**

When the producer wants to show a face or something to be focused closely, he/she uses the 'zoom in' technique. On the other hand, 'zoom out' works by showing something or someone while keeping a good eye distance.

#### **Double Shot**

Especially in live shows, when there are several speakers, the producer use 'double shot' to show two people at a same time.

#### **Single Shot**

When only one person talks, the producer directs the cameraman to use 'single shot' so that only the speaker is seen to the audience.

#### **Master Cut**

In all kinds of programs, there is a master camera which has the capability to show the whole stage along with the people of the show. When the live show begins, the producer uses 'master cut' to show the whole stage at a glance to the audience.

#### **Trolley Shot**



Usually, the studio has a main camera mounted on a rolling platform that rolls on tracks, to show a moving shot smoothly that starts from a certain side to the to the opposite side. It depends on how the producer wants to take the shot. To get a trolley shot, the camera needs to be set up on a big piece of plywood and put wheels on the corners for moving.

#### **b) Other Basic Terms Taught by BanglaVision**

**PRC:** PCR refers to ‘Producer Control Room’ from where the producer controls video and audio part of the programs. Besides, PCR is situated right after the studio so that the producer can control the studio according to demand. He/she also gives direction to different cameras from PCR as all the cameras that are used during the programs are connected with PCR through some small TV screens.



**Figure 5: Producer Control Room (PCR)**

#### **Studio**

Studio refers to the place in where the main shooting takes place. During the recording a program, the door of the studio is closed and everyone who stays in the studio remain silent except the participants. There is a light which shows two words “On Air” in front of the door of studio which turns to red during the recording to avoid any interruptions from outside.





**Figure 6: Door of the Studio with the Red Light.**

## **CG**

In general, CG refers to 'Computer Graphics'. The producer needs a CG as a theme of a particular program and shows it for some seconds before the show is on air. Basically, CG works as a representative of the program. CG includes the title of the program with a graphics that hold the identity of the program. (See the CD attached with this report)

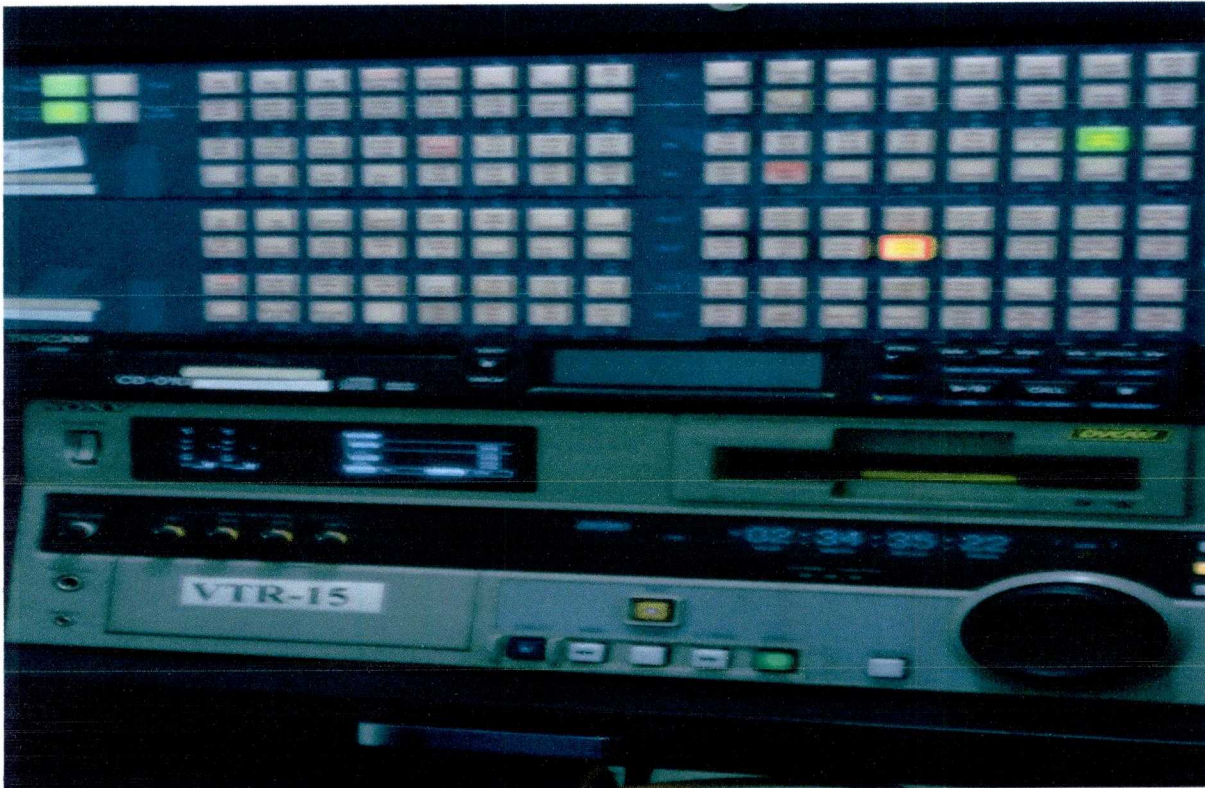
## **Aston plate**

Aston plate is an important aspect of production. It is used as a graphics to show the name of the people who perform in the program when the program goes on air. Besides, Aston plate is mainly called scroll which shows the names of the participants while on the screen and then goes away. It helps the viewers to know the accurate names of the participants as well as their identity. (See the CD attached with this report)

## **VTR**

VTR refers to Video Tape Recorder. For capturing both recorded and live show, the producer uses this machine. A **video tape recorder (VTR)** is a tape recorder designed to record video material, usually on a magnetic tape. VTRs originated as individual tape reels, serving as an alternative for motion picture film stock and making recording for television applications cheaper and quicker. Here is the photo of the VTR:





**Figure 7: VTR (Video Tape Recorder)**

### **Rush**

Rush refers to the random recording or the whole recording of the program during the shooting of the program.

### **Insert**

Insert refers to the cut way shot which is taken during the recording or after the recording of the program. Continual inclusion of the same frame can be odd looking and to avoid it the producer asks the key board controller to capture some insert so that it can be included during the editing of the program.

### **Link**

Link is the part of the script which is presented by the presenter alone. To some extent it can be referred to the voice or presence of the presenter according to the script.

### **Capture**

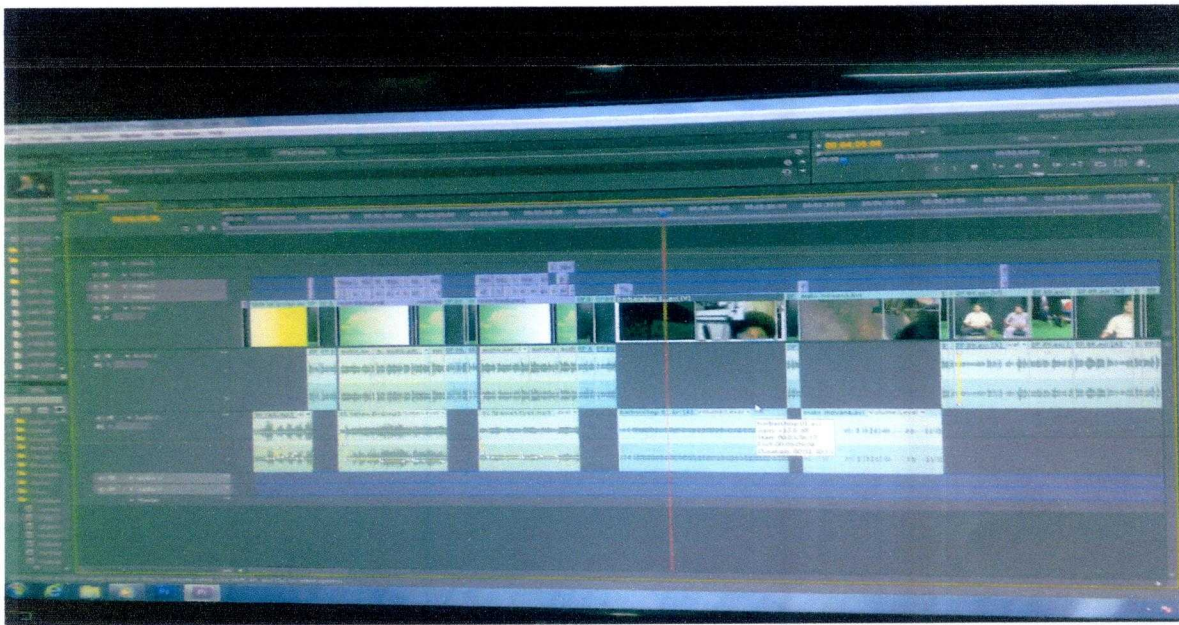
This term refers to the capturing of the program in the Video Tape during the recording of the program and capturing the program from the Video Tape during editing and requisition of the program.



### c) Technical Training Based on the Use of Software (Basic)

#### Time line

The editor use 'Adobe Premier' as a software to edit the programs. The audios and videos of the programs can be edited particularly as the software shows the audio line and video line distinctly. It is known as time line. The editor can fix, use or set it up according to his own wish.



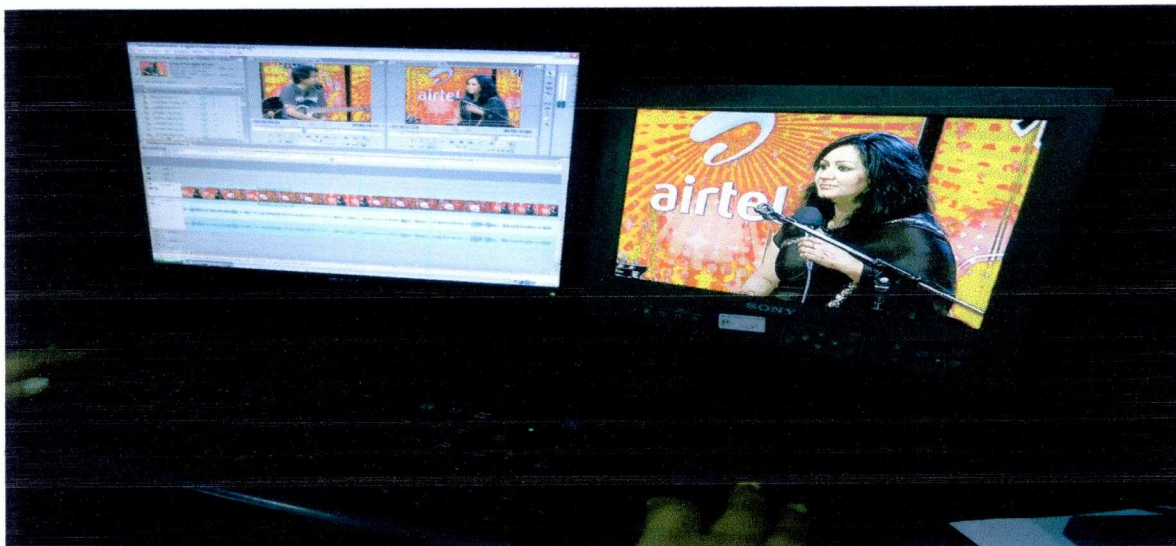
**Figure 8: Picture of 'Time Line' In the Software**

#### Video speed

In 'Adobe Premier', every video has a speed which defines how fast or slow it will run. The usual rate of a video speed is 100%. The video runs more fast if the video speed is less and vice versa.

#### Download

Basically, the editors and the producers use this word 'download'. The editor recaptures the final version of the programs in the Video Tape after editing the recorded programs and this recapturing is known as download.



**Figure 9: Use of 'Adobe Premiere' To Edit and Download the Programs.**

### **Frame Drop Out**

Frame drop out refers to the absence of either audio or video during the downloading of the program after editing. It takes place when audio goes without video. It usually happens for the recorded programs.

### **5.3 Basic Concepts from Post-Production**

#### **TC Set:**

TC refers to 'Time Code'. After a live-program, the producer sets the time code of the program to show the repeat version of the program later on. On the other hand, in a recorded show, the producer set TC after editing the show. It is important to set TC because there are more than one program gets recorded in one cassette and TC set distinguish the duration of each program or each episode of one program.

#### **Submitting Bills to the Accounts**

The producer submits all the bill papers to the accounts to prove the validity of the program cost.



### **Submitting Cassette to the Archive**

It is the responsibility of the producer to submit the cassette which is used to record the program after finishing the production because archive preserves the entire cassette for future necessity. Moreover, *Front Line* is shown the same episode two times a day (6:25pm and 1.30pm). So, it is a must for the producer to submit the cassette to the archive so that it can go on air for the second time in one particular day.

### **Updating Information**

After each program or episode of one particular program, the producer needs to update the list of the participants and the details of the program in the official computer. Besides, it is also necessary to preserve the hard copy of the update to avoid any risks.

## **Chapter: 6**

### **Experiences as an Intern in BanglaVision:**

I have watched many programs of BanglaVision and thought of myself working behind the camera. Finally, when I joined as an intern at BanglaVision, I was very excited. It was my dream to work in a program department of a TV Channel.

I learned many technical issues as well as camera directions. I have got so many techniques from the senior producers to run live shows. Basically, I worked in live shows but at the same time I also observed the recorded shows where the editing panel plays the most important role. Editing makes a program lively and interesting. Live shows get no opportunity to be edited so the producer needs to be very efficient in giving directions to the cameras.

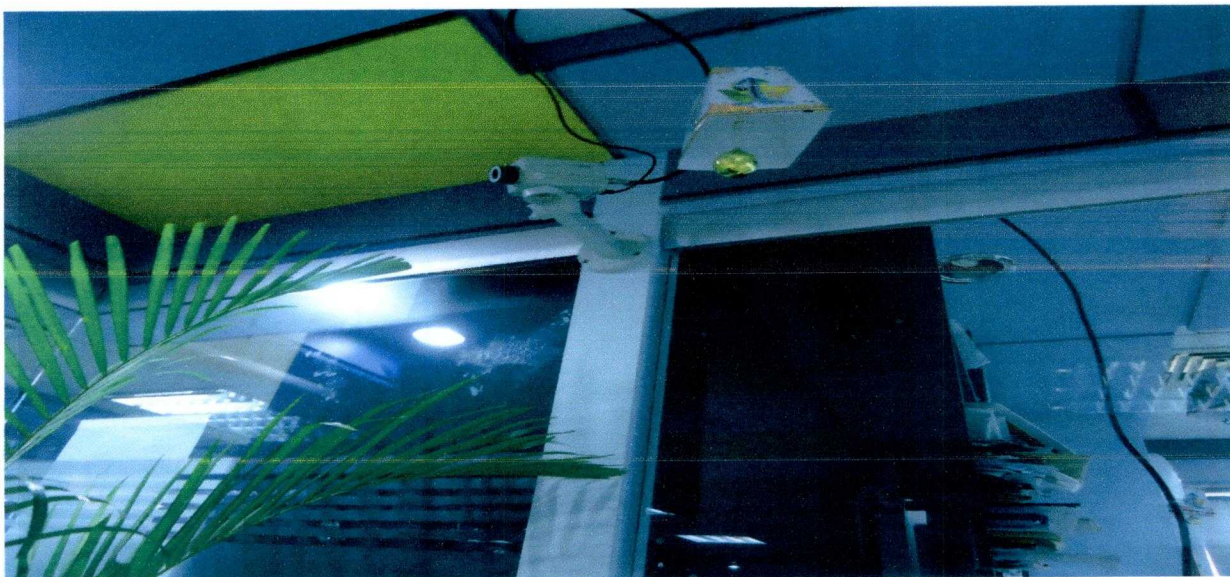
In addition, I came to meet many people from media who are very popular with the public. I met many politicians and writers which was a great experience for me. I have learned the way of communicating with people differently based on their sectors. This is very important for a media personality because media refers to the way of communication and the people who are working in media need to be very communicative. I have learned the etiquettes of calling the guests as well as how to treat the participants based on various situations and conditions.

Working as an intern was a great experience for me and I am thankful to BRAC University for providing me with the opportunity to do my internship at a TV Channel like BanglaVision.

## Chapter: 7

### 7.1 The Interior of BanglaVision

The office is decorated with transparent glasses, props and CC cameras. There are no dark corners in the office which refers to Michel Foucault's idea of "Panopticon". Foucault talks about power and transparency in his essay "Eye of Power" where he analyzes a tower named the "Panopticon" from where everything is seen and visible. He mentions the notion of transparency and through this transparency, human being behave in a controlled way. At the office, every member knows that they are being watched by the CC cameras when they are inside the office. A bedside, the room of "The Head of Program" is situated at the very last corner of the office so that he may observe everyone from his room too. So, Michel Foucault's idea of "using space" is related to the way the office is divided into different spaces for different purposes.



**Figure 10: Use of CC Camera in the Office.**





**Figure 11: Use of Doors by Transparent Glasses in the Office.**

## **7.2 Front Line: A Political Live Show**

*Front Line* is a political live show that is on air three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday). The name of the show *Front Line* signifies that the people of the country may come in the front with the proper information and update about the country. The presenter of the live program is Motiur Rahman Chowdhuri. He is the editor of a Bangla daily newspaper, 'Manobjomin'. He comes two hours earlier before the program to look at the topics he needs to cover in the show. That is why, I had to prepare at least ten topics from all the local newspapers to prepare an outline of the program. There are some specific steps taken at least one day before the program. For example, making an outline of the program, appoint the guests of the program, observe the set of the program, decides the duration and break time of the program and so on. These steps are very important as it is a live program where everything needs to be well prepared. I have to know some details about the guests for fixing up the topics of the program. *Front Line* comes up with different themes each time. For example, sometimes the theme of the program is international politics and sometimes business. So, the topic of this talk based live show depends on the current situation. In addition, the producer needs to be very careful and active during the live program as the cameramen are directed directly by the producer from PCR. There are two rooms for a live program. One of them is called PCR (Producer Control Room) and the other one is called

‘studio’. PCR is connected with the studio and the live show takes place in the studio where all the cameramen and the cast member keep absolute silence to let the show go on peacefully with no interruption. The duration of *Front Line* is 30 minutes. From pre-production to post-production, I had to pay attention to each and everything about this program.

As *Front Line* is on air in the evening, so we show a scroll which is called ‘ticker’ to let the viewers know about the coming guests and the topic of the show. Here is the language of the ticker which we show in Bangla:

**Ticker:**

রাজনীতি ও সমসাময়িক বিষয়ের উপর সরাসরি আলোচনার অনুষ্ঠান ‘ফ্রন্টলাইন’। এবারের বিষয়ঃ চলমান রাজনীতি। সরাসরি কথা বলুন জাতীয় নৌ পরিবহন মন্ত্রী শাহজাহান খান এমপি এবং সাবেক যোগাযোগ মন্ত্রী ও বিএনপির ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান ব্যারিস্টার নাজমুল হুদার সাথে। মতিউর রহমান চৌধুরীর উপস্থাপনায় ‘ফ্রন্টলাইন’ দেখবেন আজ সন্ধ্যা ৬.২৫ মিনিটে।

**Figure 12: Sample Ticker of Front Line**



Here is one of the samples of the outline that I have made for *Front Line*:

## Divine Group

### FRONT LINE- 167

#### সরাসরি

০৭ মার্চ ২০১২  
সন্ধ্যা ০৬:০০

বিষয়ঃ রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি

আলোচকঃ

ক) ইস্রাফিল আলম এমপি  
সভাপতি, জাতীয় সংসদের শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থানমন্ত্রণালয় সংক্রান্ত স্থায়ী কমিটি

খ) ব্যারিস্টার আন্দালিব রহমান পার্থ এমপি  
চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় পার্টি -বিজেপি

- মহাসমাবেশ ঘিরে উত্তেজনা; ২০ লাখ লোক জড়ো করার প্রস্তুতি বিএনপির; দুই দিন পরই পাল্টা কর্মসূচী সরকারি দলের
- আওয়ামী লীগের সমাবেশে সরকারি কর্মকর্তারা- উপসচিবের নেতৃত্বে প্রস্তুতি বৈঠক

Figure 13: Sample Outline of Front Line 1

### 7.3 Sokal Belar Roddur: A Celebrity Talk Show (Live)

*Shokal Belar Rouddur* literally means the light of sun in the first hour of morning. It is a refreshing kind of live show where there are three themes-music, literature and entertainment. The show starts at 11.05 am and ends at 11.48 am. The show takes place three times a week-Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

On Sunday, the show invites a special guest like poets, painters and writers. Belal Chowdhuri is famous for reciting poems in Bangladesh, who came to this show on one Sunday morning (See the outline of *Sokal Belar Roddur* in the Appendices). On Tuesday, the producer calls a celebrity such as a model and an actor to make the show more attractive. For example, Fazlur Rahman Babu is a popular actor of our country who came to this program on a Tuesday (See the CD attached with this report). Moreover, on Thursday, the program allocates a singer, film maker or a researcher who can talk about music and culture of our country.

Besides, there is always a presenter of the show who takes interview of the guest. Basically, before the guest comes, I had to get some kind of information about the guest so that I can make the presenter understand about the guest. Moreover, I used to update the details of each episode in the official computer. Here is the sample of the outlines of the program where the theme gets changed with the days:

পর্ব - ৭৩

সকালবেলার রোদ্ধুর

০১০ মার্চ ২০১১

বিষয়ঃ রবিবারের চিঠি

ক) নাসরিন জাহান

উপস্থাপনাঃ মিথিলা ফারজানা

পর্ব - ৭৪

সকালবেলার রোদ্ধুর

১২ মার্চ ২০১১

বিষয়ঃ স্বপ্ন মঙ্গল

ক) শাহরিয়ার শুভ

উপস্থাপনা : নীরব খান

পর্ব - ৭৫

সকালবেলার রোদ্ধুর

১৭ এপ্রিল ১১

বিষয়ঃ ভালোবাসার বৃহস্পতি

ক) চাষী নজরুল ইসলাম

উপস্থাপনাঃ মিথিলা ফারজানা

Figure 14: Themes of Sokal Belar Roddur 1



## Chapter: 8

### Evaluation of the Programs through Power Play

#### 8.1 In the Notion of the Panopticon and Propaganda Model

“In the “Panopticon”, there is used a form close to that of the castle- a keep surrounded by walls- to paradoxically create a space of exact legibility” (Foucault 154).

The “Panopticon” refers to such a tower from where everything is seen and visible. This idea of “Panopticon” was introduced by Jeremy Bentham and Michel Foucault adopted this idea to show how we are being observed through the internalization of the gaze. Foucault says we are establishing the “Panopticon” in every sector of our life because we become overseers of ourselves which gives birth to the concept of internalization of the gaze. If we analyze the program *Front Line* and *Sokal Belar Roddur* in light of “Panopticon” and internalization of gaze, we will see that the government has the authority to rule over the program. The government is playing the role as a “Panopticon” which can see and observe everything about the show. In *Front Line*, whatever the politicians talk about, the government is aware of it. However, the presence of politicians are absent in *Sokal Belar Roddur* but they call media personalities such as models, actors, and singers who also remain concerned about the government’s dominance over media and that is why they do not talk about any controversial issues during the program. That is why they also maintain a certain way of talking and even behaving, during the program. They do not use any slang or inappropriate expressions that might sound odd in front of the camera. Here, the government is the ultimate overseer of the program who is indirectly controlling the ideology, values and activities of the participants and “the great media also depend on the government for more general policy support” as well (Chomsky 13). As a consequence, media has become a powerful field of information where the government is playing the role of a “Panopticon” to hold the censorship and authority to rule over media by applying rules and laws.

To some extent, the audience also plays the role of the overseer because they have the right to call the guests during the program and they can express their objections and opinions regarding the program. However, an indirect “Panopticon” is also at work in this program because the producer has the right to control the viewers’ call. The producer does not allow inappropriate or objectionable questions to be asked as these offend the viewers and worse,

the guests on show. In addition, the people who are invited in *Front Line* and *Sokal Belar Roddur* also possess certain amount of power. People listen to them and they have an impact on people's thoughts towards politics and other social issues. This aspect of *Front Line* and *Sokal Belar Roddur* can be compared to Noam Chomsky's "Propaganda Model" where he says,

The levers of power are in the hands of a state bureaucracy, the monopolistic control over the media, often supplemented by official censorship, makes it clear that the media serves the ends of a dominant elite. (1)

The guests of both of the programs have certain authorities which induce the viewers to listen to them. So, this can fall under propaganda model as these people have the power to grab people's attention so they express opinions which may not be true but have an impact on people's thoughts. In *Front Line*, for instance, the guests who are in support of the ruling party always speak in support of the government and the media lets them do so. Besides, the media does not take any precautions for this action because they do not want to be the "subject of government control or harassment" (Chomsky 13)

Most of the time, *Front Line* invites guests who are distinguished politicians, academics, scholars and teachers. On the other hand, *Sokal Belar Roddur* invites guests who are powerful media personalities as well as powerful social workers. These guests also play an important role as people admire them and listen to their opinions, ideologies and thoughts on various issues. So, they also hold a form of power which controls people's popularity towards the program.

## **8.2 Power and Space**

According to Michel Foucault, with the passing of time, "space becomes specified and functional" (149) and the powerful people enjoy the privilege of space. In both *Front Line* and *Sokal Belar Rouddur*, people who are dominant personalities in society get the space and opportunity to talk in the programs. People who fall under general group do not get the space to participate in these shows. For example, any citizen of Bangladesh will not get the chance to join a talk show as people will not listen to him/her because he/she does not possess the power to capture the viewers' attention. Moreover, people know the famous figures who are



either from the world of media or have come across to media. So, the well known faces get the space to exercise their power. This power works as a “Panopticon” through which the people are being gazed as people listen to them and get influenced by them. So, sometimes people’s behavior, thoughts and ideologies are also influenced by the powerful people of the society. Besides, Foucault also says that power is “exercised by virtue of the mere fact of things being known and people seen in a sort of immediate, collective and anonymous gaze” (154). In *Front Line* the guests belong to dominating media personalities so they are known in public and they possess the power to witness and watch people’s judgment and ideas about the issues that are being discussed in the talk shows.

### 8.3 Power and Censorship

In all recorded shows, the controversial statements which might catch the eye of the Government get deleted by the editors. Similarly, in live shows, the producer avoids those viewers’ calls if it appears to be offensive towards the government. This aspect of editing and avoiding calls can be associated with the concept of gaze given by Foucault where the state plays the role of “Panopticon” where it has established the “the power of harassment” as the tool of gazing at the channel. This gaze directs the channel not to telecast any controversial issue or statement about politics or the country. The ultimate power is coming from the state as a “Panopticon” and this is working as the tool of censor, which is considered as “flak” by Chomsky. Flaks are used as the filter to prevent media from publishing controversial issues or statements. It refers to the censorship policy on which the TV channels are being gazed through the power of the state as well as the government.

### 8.4 In the Notion of Simulacrum

“The simulacrum is never what hides the truth- it is truth that hides the fact that there is none. The simulacrum is true”.

-Ecclesiastes (qtd. Baudrillard 1)

Simulacrum refers to the similarity to describe a representation. In talk shows, there are some similarities with each other as the main idea has been copied from one another and happening continuously. *Front Line* and *Sokal Belar Roddur* can fall under simulacrum because these two shows can be compared with *The Oprah Winfrey’s Show* where the idea of having a presenter with the guests is same. There is no proof of the origin of these talk shows but it



## **Chapter: 11**

### **Conclusion**

BanglaVision a satellite TV channel which has given me a lot of practical experience about producing programs during my internship. While I was an intern at BanglaVision, I used to observe the variety of programs which are handled by different producers. It was a nice experience as my supervisor was helpful enough to teach me different techniques of programs. Besides, I was introduced to the people of the office and those with whom I was going to work as a team member.

I believe this experience as an intern has been a milestone for my future career because during the internship, I had solved a few professional production and field research problems. I have observed very closely how official work is to be done. At that time I met a lot of people who were encouraging me to develop myself.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1

# Divine Group FRONT LINE- 144 সরাসরি

৪ জানুয়ারি ২০১২  
সন্ধ্যা ০৬:০০

বিষয়ঃ রাজনৈতিক সংস্কৃতি

আলোচকঃ

ক) অধ্যাপক ড. পিয়াস করিম  
অর্থনীতি ও সমাজবিজ্ঞান বিভাগ, ব্র্যাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

খ) সৈয়দ মনজুরুল ইসলাম  
অধ্যাপক, ইংরেজী বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

- রাষ্ট্রীয় কারখানা গোপনে হয়ে যাচ্ছে আবাসন
- স্বভাব পাল্টায়নি ছাত্রলীগের অস্তিত্ব করছে শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠান
- বাড়তেই থাকবে বিদ্যুতের দাম
- চমক আসছে মন্ত্রীসভায়
- নির্বাচন বর্জন হবে রাজনৈতিক ভুল-প্রধানমন্ত্রী
- জামিনে বেরিয়ে গেছে ১৪০ দুর্ধর্ষ অপরাধী- চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার; বিএনপির ৬৬ নেতা-কর্মীর জামিন বাতিল
- ভুয়া সনদ দেখিয়ে চাকরি; এবার পদোন্নতিও
- তত্ত্বাবধায়ক সরকার এখন গণদাবি- মির্জা আলমগীর

Figure 15: Sample Outline of Front Line 2



## FRONT LINE- 138

সরাসরি

২১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১১

সন্ধ্যা ০৬:০০

বিষয়ঃ সার্বিক পরিস্থিতি

আলোচকঃ

ক) ইস্রাফিল আলম এমপি

সভাপতি, জাতীয় সংসদের শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থানমন্ত্রণালয় সংক্রান্ত স্থায়ী কমিটি

খ) শওকত মাহমুদ

সভাপতি, জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাব এবং বিএনপি চেয়ারপার্সনের উপদেষ্টা

- শুদ্ধ ফাঁকির কৌশল- কাপড়ের কনটেইনারে বিএমডাব্লিও, অডি
- গুপ্তহত্যা-নেপথ্যে কারা?; টহল ও চেকপোস্ট এড়িয়ে লাশ আসে গাজীপুরে
- উচ্চ মূল্যবিস্তারিত কারণে অর্থনীতি চাপের মুখে -অর্থমন্ত্রী, আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত
- গুপ্তহত্যার ঘটনার বিচার বিভাগীয় তদন্তের দাবি
- রাষ্ট্রপতির সংলাপে সমস্যার সমাধান হবে না- সিইসি
- যুদ্ধাপরাধের বিচার শেষ না হওয়া পর্যন্ত পথে থাকবে ১৪ দল

Figure 16: Sample Outline of Front Line 3

## Appendix 2

২৬ জুন ১১	<p>পর্ব - ১০৩</p> <p>সকালবেলার রোদদুর</p>
<p>ক) বেলাল চৌধুরী</p> <p>উপস্থাপনাঃ মিথিলা ফারজানা</p>	বিষয়ঃ রবিবারের চিঠি
২৮ জুন ২০১১	<p>পর্ব - ১০৪</p> <p>সকালবেলার রোদদুর</p>
<p>ক) মুহিত কামাল</p> <p>খ) মোজাম্মেল শিশির</p> <p>উপস্থাপনা : নীরব খান</p>	বিষয়ঃ স্বপ্ন মঙ্গল
৩০ জুন ১১	<p>পর্ব - ১০৫</p> <p>সকালবেলার রোদদুর</p>
<p>ক) বাপ্পা মজুমদার</p> <p>উপস্থাপনাঃ সাহেদ</p>	বিষয়ঃ ভালোবাসার বৃহস্পতি

Figure 17: Themes of Sokal Belar Roddur 2

## Appendix 3

**BanglaVision**  
A Satellite Television Channel

<b>Internship Month</b>	<b>Weekly Internship Activities</b>	<b>Name and controlling supervisor of the week</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> September- 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Monitoring the procedures of producing a program.</li> <li>■ Monitoring the rules and regulations, responsibilities and office activities.</li> </ul>	Rehena Raha Assistant Producer Program Dept. BanglaVision
1 <sup>st</sup> October - 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assigned programs –  <i>Front Line</i>(LIVE)  <i>Shokal Belar Roddur</i>(LIVE)</li> </ul>	Rehena Raha, Dewan Samsur Rokib Senior Program Manager, BanglaVision and Kownine Showrav Senior Producer, Program Dept. BanglaVision