

# **Report On**

**Showtime experiences: Internship at *Dhaka Tribune***

**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 Bachelor 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 own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The report does not contain material previously published or written by a third party. Information taken from outside sources 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 have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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## Introduction

If I ask you, what is the main purpose of mass media? You might answer that the purpose of mass media is providing information to keep the people informed and updated. However, your answer would not be the most accurate one. The purpose of media industry is to inform and at the same time entertain the audiences. In this age of technology, it is not very hard to observe the fact that the entertaining news articles get more public attention than the informative ones.

Therefore, media and entertainment blended together to become inseparable. So, what if I told you that the mainstream media industry now runs on the basis of entertainment? Think about it, most of the media agencies, including the leading ones, use click-baits and twisted headlines just to get more public attention. In this modern world, modern men seek entertainment at the end of the hectic work days, and entertainment is what exactly the mass media provides.

Wanda Strauven in her article, “Media Archaeology: Where Film History, Media Art, and New Media (Can)” writes, “Like ‘madness’ as an object of knowledge changes over time, so do the media.” Earliest examples of media texts incorporated political and legal aspects. However, in the course of time, media texts have emerged significantly and media today covers each aspect of human life. Entertainment today can arguably be perceived as the most prominent aspect of modern-day human life.

Media agencies are not charitable organizations. They work on specific business models to generate maximum profit. As a Media and Cultural Studies major, I have always been curious about the different functionalities of mass media. Getting the opportunity to work with one of the fastest growing English dailies in the country as an intern opened up a whole new world of experiences at my doorstep. I could closely observe how the mass media functions as the agency

I worked with was pretty much available on every possible medium including social sites and video streaming sites. That is when I perceived that the media do not necessarily run on the basis of information but entertainment. I joined *Dhaka Tribune* as an editorial intern at the Arts and Entertainment Desk (Showtime) on October 22, 2022. *Dhaka Tribune* is one of the leading daily newspapers in Bangladesh that has more than two million subscribers on different social sites. My job was to update all the subscribers and the consumers with latest news about arts and entertainment.

Throughout my academic journey at Brac University, I was blessed with a splendid selection of courses, which made me know a lot of important theories and methods. While doing my internship at *Dhaka Tribune*, I was assigned with multiple tasks including article writing, conducting interviews and covering events. The prior knowledge I acquired from my academic courses has helped me immensely to cope up with the challenging professional tasks. I got to apply the theories and methods learnt from my academic courses as my job responsibilities were pretty much similar to the Media and Cultural Studies courses.

In this internship report, I aim to broadly describe all the techniques I acquired during my internship at *Dhaka Tribune*, which helped shape my current perception on media industry. The later part of this internship report will also contain the importance of necessary theoretical and applied skills I learned from Brac University through a diverse selection of courses as they are the reason that helped me become an employable option for media agencies.



Fig 1: Media and Entertainment Industry (Forbes India)



### **Brief on *Dhaka Tribune***

The *Dhaka Tribune* is one of the leading English-language daily newspapers in Bangladesh. This daily is very much active both online and offline. *Dhaka Tribune* also operates in Bengali language online, one of them is known as *Dhaka Tribune* Bangla (DTB) and the other one is *Bangla Tribune*. *Dhaka Tribune* has a large reader base in Bangladesh as well as it has a strong readership globally. This newspaper is especially very popular among the youth who are always online as *Dhaka Tribune* is very active online.

*Dhaka Tribune* is one of the fastest growing news media in Bangladesh that operates in English language. This media agency is now one of the major stakeholders in Bangladeshi media industry with several reputed and award-winning journalists working with them. *Dhaka Tribune* started publishing on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, and since then it has been growing steadily among the newspaper readers. 2A Media Limited under the Gemcon Group is the major shareholder of *Dhaka Tribune*.

The Chief Editor and executor of the daily is Zafar Sobhan, who is also the founder of the newspaper. Zafar Sobhan is a 2008 Yale World fellow and a 2005 Global Young Leader. In his decorated professional career, Zafar Sobhan has worked for multiple prestigious media agencies including *The Daily Star*, *The Independent* and others. He is also the first internationally recognized journalist from Bangladesh who has successfully had his articles published in different prestigious international newspapers and media agencies including *The Guardian* and *Time and Outlook* among many more. Kazi Anis Ahmed is the publisher of *Dhaka Tribune*.

*Dhaka Tribune* operates with the objective, “Work without any fear, objective, and favor,” and the motto of the daily is “Breaking News, Breaking Barriers.” This particular daily newspaper is

currently ranked among one of the most circulated English dailies in Bangladesh also with a large base of readers online. Head office of *Dhaka Tribune* is located at FR Tower, 8/C, Panthapath, Sukrabad, Dhaka-1207.



Fig 2: *Dhaka Tribune* logo

## The Starting

I joined *Dhaka Tribune* as an editorial intern on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Before that, I faced an interview session. However, I was still not clear about the purposes I was going to serve there. On the very first day they confirmed my hiring, I was told to join my desk and fulfill my responsibilities, which I did not know at that time. One thing I knew was I can face almost everything thrown at me because I have always faced a lot of ups and downs in my entire academic career and I always managed to bounce back. I was confident about my pressure handling abilities as deadlines always make me more functional. So, with a ton of self-confidence and a bag full of fascination to explore the media industry very closely, I started my journey.

On the very first day I joined *Dhaka Tribune*, I was provided with the access to a handful of local and global media agencies such as UNB, Reuters, AFP and BSS that are in collaboration with *Dhaka Tribune*. These agencies are contractually connected to *Dhaka Tribune* and the contract allows *Dhaka Tribune* to publish the news articles by these agencies. Then I was given an ID and password which is basically the access to the back end of the *Dhaka Tribune* website. I was told that I should choose different news articles from the given media agencies that fit my desk and upload them from the official website of *Dhaka Tribune*. But the back end of the official website was very confusing and I was provided with the accesses through an email from the Human Resource office.

After some time, I got a call from the editor of Showtime Desk, Sadia Khalid Reeti, who is my on-site supervisor. She introduced me to my works and responsibilities. It was from her that I came to know the fact that the Showtime Desk of *Dhaka Tribune* is a very understaffed section. I

was surprised to know that I was the only one working at the desk beside her. So, the work pressure on me was higher than other interns working there. I had to work efficiently and meet tight deadlines. The lessons I learnt from my academic courses have helped me fulfill all the professional responsibilities under pressure. On my very first phone call with my on-site supervisor, she clarified that I was to fulfill the responsibilities of a full-time sub-editor during the time I serve *Dhaka Tribune* even though I was an intern. First, she made me understand the back end of the official site by demonstrating each feature. Then she asked me to pick an article that suits the desk from the given agencies. After I found an appropriate news article, she told me to upload the article from *Dhaka Tribune* website according to her instructions. Within no time, I was done uploading my very first news article. Then I checked the official website and I found that the article I just posted was there. It was an amazing experience, as I learnt how the online segment works. For me, it was like a professional achievement unlocked when I saw the article I just published on the official site.

It was a moment I felt an immense sense of power. The fact that I can upload relevant articles from the official website of *Dhaka Tribune* was overwhelming. For the rest of my shift of that day, I had to copy and upload a few more articles from the affiliated media agencies.

By the end of the day, I thought that my responsibility there was as a mere article uploader.

However, I was as wrong as anyone can get. A handful of tasks including article writing, event covering, editing and conducting research were waiting for me. On the second day of my work, my editor sent me a press release of an art exhibition that was to start at Dhaka. Then she told me to extract the information provided in the PR and convert it to a news article. This was the first time I was writing a news article by myself. After writing the article, I had to get it reviewed by my editor and then upload it from the official *Dhaka Tribune* site. This was the second day at my

work when my concept was clear about my responsibilities there. I had to write at least one article from the Showtime Desk and select and upload some more from the affiliated agencies a day.

On my second week of working at *Dhaka Tribune*, I got a call from my editor when I was sitting at a lecture at the university. She sent me a list of articles published on the website throughout the week and asked me to get them edited for print version. It was another responsibility of mine to fulfill at my job.

News articles about entertainment industries are very popular among the readership. Everyone wants to know about the personal lives of different celebrities from these industries. Celebrity gossips and spicy news articles often create chaos and generate profit for the media agencies. So, a lot of time we witness news articles getting manipulated and fabricated to appear spicier.

Yellow journalism is practiced often in our media industry scenario. The practice of publishing fake news and using clickbaits are quite popular. However, a journalists' ethics do not allow a good journalist to mislead the audience. Following these ethics, my primary responsibility at the Showtime Desk was to generate interesting yet authentic news articles that would catch readers' attention and generate profit for *Dhaka Tribune*.

## About Showtime Desk

Showtime Desk is the Arts and Entertainment Desk of *Dhaka Tribune*. Showtime Desk circulates news about local and global entertainment industries among the readership of the daily. Among the news articles published by Showtime Desk are news about films, theatre, exhibitions, concerts, celebrities, and different entertainment festivals. Showtime Desk is especially internationally recognized for publishing quality film reviews and authentic news articles about entertainment industry celebrities.

Sadia Khalid Reeti is the editor of Showtime Desk, who is also an eminent film critic and screenwriter. The name Sadia Khalid Reeti is very popular among the local and global entertainment industries. She is the first ever person from Bangladesh to vote at the prestigious Golden Globe Award. Sadia Khalid Reeti is also a popular name in different national and international film festivals as she often makes it to different jury panels at these festivals. She has attended a handful of international film festival including the prestigious Festival de Cannes in France and Venice Film Festival in Italy. She is the only jury member of the International Federation of Film Critics from Bangladesh (Shahnewaz, 2019). She has also contributed in the film industry of Bangladesh with her screenwriting.

The articles of Showtime Desk are published both online and offline. Especially they are very much popular among the online version of *Dhaka Tribune*. News articles by Showtime Desk often stirs up the social media handles including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter of *Dhaka Tribune*. Showtime Desk articles appear on the print edition only on Fridays and Saturdays. These articles are allotted a full page in printed edition at the weekends. For this reason, journalists of Showtime Desk were busier than ever during weekends.

Representatives of Showtime Desk can often be found at different film openings, music concerts, art exhibitions, festivals and press conferences concerning entertainment industries. As the wing is best known for its authentic news articles, the journalists working at the desk mostly rely on the first-hand data collection and attend these events.

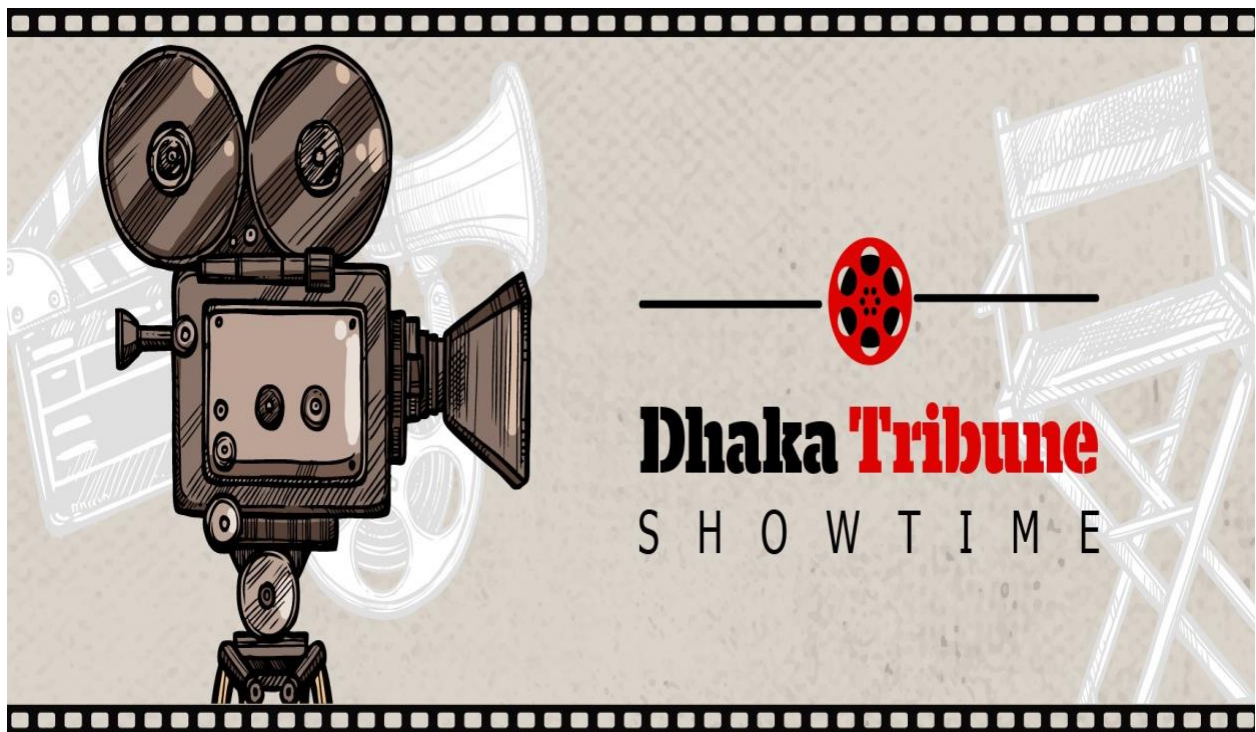


Fig 3: Showtime Desk logo (Showtime Facebook)

## Responsibilities

I joined *Dhaka Tribune* as an editorial intern at the Arts and Entertainment Desk. However, I had to fulfill the duties of a full-time sub-editor as the desk I joined was significantly understaffed. I served there with all my enthusiasm and tried to do every single task with precision. My responsibilities at the Showtime Desk included, writing articles, covering events, conducting research and interviews among many others. Even though these tasks seemed tough initially but my adaptation skill made me enjoy my whole time there. The academic knowledge I perceived while studying at Brac University has been very useful to face the challenges. Media and Cultural Studies courses have trained me in such way that my professional responsibilities were not beyond my expectation.

## Writing Articles

Writing at least an article a day was the most essential and important responsibility that I fulfilled during my internship period at *Dhaka Tribune*. To write for a national daily and such a wide readership felt pressurizing for me at first. There was no space for making the slightest of errors as they could damage the reputation of the newspaper. While writing articles for *Dhaka Tribune*, I had to be as attentive as I could be. I tried to write the article with foremost precision for making sure that I do not make any mistakes and get the job properly done.

*Dhaka Tribune* news articles follow a uniformed structure. For instance, the formatting of date, time and place should appear in one particular format. Showtime articles also have a specific flavor. I had to own those formatting techniques and flavors before writing articles for *Dhaka Tribune* and Showtime Desk. My on-site supervisor, Sadia Khalid Reeti has been of immense help for me to adapting those techniques. During the first few weeks of my internship period, her



constant support, suggestions and feedbacks made me adapt to my work faster than ever. At first, I made a significant number of mistakes while writing news articles. However, my editor was always there to solve them while reviewing my writings. With time, I became quite good at writing articles and shortly the number of the made mistakes reduced down to zero. Robert Darnton in his article “Writing News and Telling Stories” writes that the journalists realize that they are generating quality writings when the editor does not find anything to cut or change from the articles. Darnton also suggests that the compliments from persons of prestige carries a lot of significance. In my case, after a couple of weeks, my editor stopped reviewing my articles, which means I was writing and publishing news articles all by my own. One of my articles with my name in the by-line attracted the attention of Zafar Sobhan, the chief editor of *Dhaka Tribune*.

Even though I followed the uniform structure of *Dhaka Tribune* articles and Showtime Desk flavor, I was confident on my own writing ability and each of my articles had a touch of my own style. Bonny Mary Warne in her article titled “Writing Steps: A Recursive and Individual Experience” writes that the new writers should rely on their individual process of writing even when they follow a general array of writing steps. Just like that, I was following the generalized structure of *Dhaka Tribune* articles and following the instructions of my on-site supervisor and at the same time I was standing on my own writing style to bring out the best in my writings.

To write articles, sometimes I was provided with information through press releases (PR), but sometimes I had to write up from scratches. Often time I was given a topic with no data whatsoever and I was required to write a proper article on the topic.

One of the main aspects of writing a news article is to come up with a proper title or headline. This is also the trickiest part of writing an article. The headlines should be catchy, yet as relevant as they could get. It took me a while to be an expert on writing adequate headlines. Pre-conceived knowledge from the media courses I did earlier along with the guidelines of my on-site supervisor really helped me learn how to write good headlines.

### **Making Listings**

Listings refer to the lists or catalogs. In case of listings published by Showtime Desk, listings are usually list of films or music. An example of film listing could be, “Ten films out in November.” Listings include the basic information about the films and songs like the release date, producers, artists along with a short synopsis.

Showtime Desk at least publishes one film listing and one music listing a month. There were months which consisted multiple listings of films as well during my internship period. First ever film listing I was asked to create was titled “Ten best Indian films of all time.” These films were ranked by the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI). It was during my first week of internship when I was assigned to make this listing. I was given the names of the film and told to make a listing maintaining the quality a national daily seeks. I did not have any knowledge about the most of the films that made the list. I had to search online to gather information and eventually make the listing.

I have written more than seven listings during my entire internship period. Writing listings may seem easy but technically they are very tough to write. There are some very old films and music. Information about them is not so available online. So, making listing requires thorough research. At the same time writing synopsis is a very tough job. A journalist might not have watched every

film and listened each song. Hence the journalists again rely on researches. For a national daily like *Dhaka Tribune*, there is no space for plagiarism. Therefore, the synopses must be of my own words. Synopsis or summary of a film explains the gist of the film yet it cannot give away any form of spoilers. I had to keep all these things in mind while making the listings.

After a few attempts, I was really good at researching film and music and began to produce newspaper quality listings shortly.

### **Covering Events**

As I mentioned earlier that my job at *Dhaka Tribune* was to fulfill the duties of a full-time sub-editor even though I was hired as just an intern. Covering relevant events was one of my responsibilities as I was doing my internship. As a journalist of the Arts and Entertainment Desk, I often got invitations from different events of arts and entertainment industries. I was assigned to cover those events and write article based on the information I gathered from the events I covered.

First event I attended as a journalist was an art exhibition at Alliance de Francaise, Dhaka. I went there as a journalist and took notes of each session including the opening and closing ceremony. I also asked the artist a few questions and the next day I generated a full-fledged article from the information I extracted.

After that I attended a concert that took place at the International Convention Center Bashundhara (ICCB). The concert was titled as “Rock Fest II,” and almost all of the bands from mainstream band music industry of Bangladesh performed there. Personally, I am a huge fan of Bangladeshi band music industry and I enjoyed the show to my fullest and forgot to take notes. However, I had to write an article about the concert on the very next day. So, I relied on the press

release provided by the organizers and other media agencies that have already written about the concert.

More to that, I have attended a handful of events as a journalist including an album release event of the band Aurthohin organized by Samsung. While attending that particular event I was wondering why a tech company like Samsung would be interested to sponsor such events. Hence, I ran some researches to find out the reason and cater my article on that event to a unique direction. John O'Hagan and Denice Harvey in their Survey titled as "Why Do Companies Sponsor Arts Events? Some Evidence and a Proposed Classification," clarify that the big companies host these events sometimes to increase sales and create brand value. Sometimes they do it just to acquire customers from the fanbase of the performers. They also suggest that these companies may sponsor these types of events for non-monetary benefits like establishing credibility as well. As Aurthohin and their lead vocal Bass Baba Sumon have enormous influence over the youth of Bangladesh, my article suggested that Samsung sponsored the event solely for marketing purpose.

Apart from the above mentioned events, I have attended a few film openings. I was invited to the Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) that took place when I was doing my internship there. However, the one particular event that made me work hard was the Dhaka Lit Fest. *Dhaka Tribune* is one of the organizers of this festival so I had to attend the festival from the beginning to the end. Dhaka Lit Fest 2022 included a number of sessions on arts and films that were conducted by foreign scholars and filmmakers. My responsibility was to attend and cover the events and write articles before any other newspaper writes about them.

Covering these events sometimes felt tiring. However, I started to enjoy the process, which made the work easier for me.

## **Research**

Lucy Maynard Salmon in her journal article “The Newspaper and Research,” writes that the journalists are very different from historians as the journalists do not conduct enough research while writing. Although in the later part of her article she talks about the importance of research in journalistic field. However, modern-day journalism does not agree with her point as it is very essential for someone to conduct deep researches to establish him/herself as an efficient journalist.

While studying the academic courses offered by Brac University, I was taught that a good journalist should be a research fanatic. I found this statement to be very true as I realized the importance of research during my entire time as an intern at *Dhaka Tribune*.

I had to conduct thorough research for each article, be it something about a celebrity, film, band or an event, research was constant. For example, when I wrote anything about a film star, I had to search his/her biography to mention perfect achievements that suit the article.

Similarly, when I was writing about for example, “2022 Dhaka International Film Festival,” I had to go through the events took place in previous editions. Writing about a concert required thorough research on the organizing committee and the performing bands.

Research has always been constant while working as an intern at *Dhaka Tribune*. To me, the ability of conducting proper research is a must have skill to be recognized an employable journalist.

## **Interviews**

Interviews are essential to journalism and journalists. Conducting interviews is one of the most significant things that a journalist must do. Interviews are one of the main the sources of collecting firsthand information which is essential for any media agency as the main objective of the media agencies is to circulate information.

Usually, interns at national dailies are not assigned with tasks like conducting interviews. However, as I was serving the purposes of a full-fledged sub-editor at the Showtime Desk of *Dhaka Tribune*, conducting interviews was also a part of my responsibilities. Throughout my internship journey I was assigned to take two interview sessions.

First one was with Saidus Salehin Khaled Sumon, who is widely recognized as Bassbaba Sumon to the music lovers of Bangladesh. I was attending his latest album release when I got the opportunity to conduct a short interview session. The questions were mostly about the new album released by his band Aurthohin. After collecting information about the new album, I asked him a few questions about his health conditions as he is a cancer survivor. Michele Koven in her article “Interviewing: Practice, Ideology, Genre, and Intertextuality,” suggests that the proper interview brings out not just the words of the interviewees but their true selves too. I designed my question list to bring out the true self of Bassbaba Sumon during interviewing him. While questioning such a popular musician, I felt overwhelmed. However, I successfully managed to

keep the session in a professional way. Knowledge on conducting interview that I gathered from my academic courses helped me keeping things professional and smooth.

Second interview session I conducted was with Ruba Ahmed, General Secretary of the Abinta Kabir Foundation. Ruba Ahmed is the mother of late Abinta Kabir who is a victim of 2016 terrorist attack at Holey Artisan Bakery, Gulshan. I attended a press conference at the Abinta Kabir Foundation premises about an Indian film release based on the terrorist event that took place in 2016. After the conference ended, I asked Ruba Ahmed few questions about her reaction to the film release.

According to *Dhaka Tribune* policies, the journalists get to put their names on the by-line of the article if they cover an event or conduct an interview. So, these articles based on the events I covered and interviews I conducted appeared with my name on the by-line. Seeing my name on a national daily was a special moment to me, which made me thrive for more such opportunities.

## **Uploading**

Uploading articles was a part of my duties during the time of my service at *Dhaka Tribune*. Usually, the interns only get to upload the pre-written articles there. Well, that was not the case for me. But as I mentioned earlier, I had to take the full responsibility of the Showtime Desk, I have uploaded all the articles I wrote and the articles from affiliated media agencies on the official website of *Dhaka Tribune*.

To upload articles on the *Dhaka Tribune* official site, I was given access to their back end. It seemed very difficult to me at first to upload articles as the interface of the back end of the official site is not very user friendly. There were a lot of sections to fill up while uploading and

zero space for mistakes. However, with the guidelines of my on-site supervisor, I got familiar with the interface and the uploading process within no time.

I have uploaded almost two hundred articles on the official website of *Dhaka Tribune* during my three month-long journey there.

## **Embedding**

The word embed refers to attaching something. This is what exactly embedding means in online journal articles. When you read an online article on your phones or computers, sometimes you see an option for playing videos or an image posted in a different media pops up within the article. These happen when the videos or the pictures are embedded to the articles.

As I was mostly writing about films and music, embedding was a basic requirement. Sometimes when I wrote about films, I had to embed the YouTube trailer within the article at the proper position. Or sometimes, when the article is about social media activities of a celebrity, I had to embed that particular social media post of that celebrity at the adequate place of my article.

To embed pictures, videos or posts, an embed code is required. Embed codes are found in different social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and others.

Embedding trailers and posts increase the credibility of an online article. As *Dhaka Tribune* believes in providing their readership with authentic news, embedding was an essential thing for online articles to allow the readers to witness the firsthand source of the provided information.

## **Print List**

Showtime Desk everyday publishes multiple news articles online. However, the articles of the desk appear in the print paper twice a week, on Friday and Saturday. So, as a member of



the Showtime Desk, I had to shortlist articles of significance from all the articles published in the online site in a week. This short list is called the print list.

Thursday and Friday evenings were very busy for me as I had to make the list during that time so that the articles appear in the print edition on the next day. I had to choose the list wisely and get the ready within these days.

While making the print list, I went through all the articles published throughout the whole week. I used to select a few articles as Showtime Desk was allotted only a page and a page cannot contain more articles than its limit. To make the print list, I had to keep our cultural aspects on mind to determine which articles should be on the print edition.

I made the print list twice a week every week I worked at *Dhaka Tribune*.

### **Print Articles**

Print articles are the articles that are on the print list. These articles should be edited on time to appear in the print version in an adequate manner.

I could not just copy and paste the articles and send them to the print department. Print articles are structurally different from online articles. The paragraphs of the print articles are larger than the online ones. So, getting the online articles ready for print edition required editing.

Moreover, sometimes I had to change the tense and mechanics of the online articles to make them appropriate for printing. For example, an article published online on Monday that announces a film opening at Tuesday should be in future tense. But when I am sending that article to the print department on Friday, the opening has already happened and the article now should be in past tense.

I made the print lists and prepared the articles for printing regularly during my entire time in *Dhaka Tribune*.

## Media Advantages

John Storey in his book *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture* demonstrates the influence of media on the people. According to him the state enforces and reinforces its ideas and concepts to the mass through media. That suggests the fact that and state are very much intertwined. So, sometimes the individuals affiliated to media agencies get some privileges from different institutions of the state.

Different parts of Dhaka city were restricted when BNP, a political party not in power announced a national conference at the capital. But I was allowed to use the restricted streets when I showed my ID card to the cops.

I remember a fierce fight between the students of Dhaka College vs New Market staffs started when I was still working at *Dhaka Tribune*. Police locked down the roads of Dhaka College and New Market. I was going to the University of Dhaka through that road and when I was stopped, I told the police that I am a journalist. Surprisingly, they allowed me to use the road.

Sanette Nel suggests in his article “Journalistic privilege: does it merit legal protection?” that the journalistic privilege refers to the right of the journalists to keep their controversial sources confidential. However, during the time I was working with *Dhaka Tribune*, I have enjoyed a lot more privileges than that.

There was a time when I was driving my motorbike and I forgot to bring the documents of my bike. I was stopped by a traffic sergeant. When he asked me to show my papers I just showed him my ID card and I was free to go!

In our country, the condition of journalism and the journalists are fragile. However, I think that the journalists are somehow privileged and sometimes they get unlawful privileges too.

## Challenges

Internship at *Dhaka Tribune* was the first job for me at a reputed organization. Before that, I have worked for a few small organizations but never did I work for a media agency. It was quite challenging for me to adapt to the professional heat.

First challenge I faced during my internship period was to find an adequate place to do it with. I was dropping my resume here and there. But I was not getting any response at first. It was very frustrating for me as I thought I was running out of time.

Then slowly I started getting responses. Multiple agencies contacted me to do my internship with the, which arose another challenge for me to select the proper place. I was selected for the place of an intern at the *Daily Prothom Alo*, which has the largest readership in Bangladesh. After getting multiple offers, I was facing challenges to select one. Then I went for *Dhaka Tribune* leaving others behind as it suits my academic profile the best.

After joining *Dhaka Tribune*, I was told at the very first day that I would have to fulfill the duties of a full-time sub-editor. It was very overwhelming for me as I did not have any experience of working at a newspaper at that time.

Every new assignment I was given was the first time for me doing that. Starting from writing a national daily quality article to attend a professional press conference, everything was challenging to me. Long and restless shifts brought me mental break downs sometimes. Yet I kept on moving forward.

Loads of work pressure really got my nerves and at some point I thought I would not be able to complete the journey. However, with time, I caught the pace and eventually started enjoying my work.

I could not have completed my duties without my sheer enthusiasm and the constant support of my family and my supervisors. Their support made me strong enough to face the challenges successfully.

## **Application of Theories**

A wise selection of courses from my major grid has helped me through my entire professional journey as a journalist at *Dhaka Tribune*. In this chapter, I will briefly discuss the course titles and the relevant theories that made me skilled enough to be perceived as an employable journalist at media agencies.

### **1. English 331: Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice**

This course made me understand the different functions of mass media. From this course that contains of multiple cultural and literary theories, I learned how to produce contents for the mass. The theories I learnt here made me see my audience through a cultural spectacle and helped me cater different news articles to different groups of audience. In short, the contents of the course helped shaping my perception of the process of cultural production which is very much reflected in my work at *Dhaka Tribune*.

### **2. ENG 401: Editing**

The editing course has been of immense help for me as I was fulfilling the duties of a sub-editor at *Dhaka Tribune*. From this particular course I first came to know that a simple mistake in writing can cost a lot to the media agencies. This course has helped in developing my reading ability. I have realized from this course that how important it is for an editor to be persistent and accurate. I started developing an author's voice while completing different tasks assigned to me while doing the course. My skills in writing structure, grammars, mechanics, punctuations and vocabulary significantly improved for this course.

### **3. ENG 333: Globalization and the Media**

I was introduced with multiple theories including the theories of consumer culture when I did this course. This course helped me develop a better understanding of the consumer culture. This understanding made me compatible enough to write article that catch the audiences in our cultural context. The contents of this course incorporated the relation between global and local culture which has helped me write articles that fit both in global and local contexts. This has also helped me to find appropriate news articles from global media agencies like *Reuters* and *AFP* to republish from *Dhaka Tribune* that suit the Bangladeshi audience.

### **4. ENG 404: Copywriting**

Copywriting course opened a new world of copies for print media and other platforms. Each article of *Dhaka Tribune* has a synopsis at before the article. It was from this course I learnt how to catch audiences' attention using fewer words. Moreover, this course has developed my skill to write proper headlines that can grab the audiences to the articles I wrote. Even though the news articles could not be any far from copies, the goal of media agencies is kind of similar. The agencies want their articles to be sold by attracting audiences and that is what I learnt from this very course.

### **5. ENG 404: English for Print Media**

I found this particular course as the most important and helpful course offered by my university when I was doing my internship. This course has taught me the proper and necessary skills to write for newspapers and other forms of print media. From this course I learnt about different types of journalistic writings including news articles, editorials, op-eds, features and so on.



During my internship period at *Dhaka Tribune*, I had to write multiple types of articles including features, critical analysis, informative pieces and more. Without the help of this course, it would have been way more difficult for me to execute my job at *Dhaka Tribune*.

#### **6. ENG 465: Translation Studies**

This course mainly contains theories and applications concerning translation. *Dhaka Tribune* operates in both Bangla and English language and therefore, this course has helped me cope up with the agency better. Sometimes I was provided with an article by *Dhaka Tribune Bangla* and told to translate that in English for the Showtime desk. I did quite a few translations during the time of my internship. It was from this course I came to know how to translate adequately. Thus, I could successfully complete my tasks.

## Conclusion

Throughout the short life I lived till the date, I have explored quite a few academic fields. Initially, I was a student of the science stream. From the very beginning I did not feel any connection toward the scientific field. However, to meet the unrealistic expectations of the society and following the “successful” people I know, I continued studying science. It was a fine morning when I realized that I was meant to do things that I was not doing then. That self-realization struck me hard and I gathered enough courage to confront my parents to tell them that I want to change my academic stream. I was afraid that they would react in a harsh way. But they did not. They told me to follow whatever pleases my mind and I chose arts. I got enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in English program for my undergrad. This was the time when I came to know that Brac University offers a major in Media and Cultural Studies under this program. I was always fascinated about the mass media and the individuals working with the media have always amazed me. Then I determined that I would do my major in Media and Cultural Studies, which is not the most desirable thing to do in our society. Thinking about the context of our country, media agencies do not perform according to the peoples’ expectations. Media agencies are often biased toward particular groups and most of the times their actions are not transparent. For these reasons, people of our country do not have a good perception on media and the employees who work in the industry. However, I have always thought of myself as a change-maker and I wanted to do the same this time. I followed my instinct and started to move forward step-by-step in the bumpy road of journalism. There are other aspects of mass media but journalism is what fascinated me the most. Therefore, I chose to do my internship at a newspaper. While doing my internship, I have closely observed the print media industry and my fascination of becoming a journalist has grown further. Throughout my entire internship period, I have gained much more

confidence, which made me optimistic enough to think that I am capable of becoming an excellent journalist. The experiences I got while working at *Dhaka Tribune* will always remain with me. I got to apply the academic knowledge I acquired from Brac University in a professional setup. The opportunities that I got there have made me an employable journalist today. *Dhaka Tribune* played an important role in my life as it is the reason that fueled my passion of becoming a notable journalist even further. I would always try to properly utilize the knowledge, experiences and confidence I found there.

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## Samples of Work

All the articles by me

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/author/Aaraf%20Ahasan%20Azad>

Articles with my name at the by-line

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/showtime/2023/01/19/that-film-should-not-reach-bangladesh-ruba-ahmed-on-the-release-of-faraaz>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/showtime/2022/11/16/aurthohin-releases-new-album-after-six-years>