

**Sports Journalism: In and Out**

*At New Age*

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**Sports Journalism: In and Out**

***At New Age***

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**Md. Riyad - UL Islam**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION:

As a prerequisite prior to completing Bachelor of Arts in English with a concentration in Media & Cultural Studies, I did my internship at *New Age* sports desk. In general the whole proceedings of internship was two semesters long with a momentary attachment with this particular organization for the initial semester, which I already completed, to get a savor of professional career and the concluding semester comprised a follow up in a form of writing a dissertation, which would conclude with a wrap up presentation in front of two examiners, consisting of an internal and external examiner.

This paper will basically reflect the things I have done and learnt during my internship days as an apprentice. I had been assigned under Azad Majumder, the Sports Editor of *New Age*. Under his supervision and direction, I performed a wide range of tasks including working with press releases, sub-editing, online sourcing, on field reporting, short report writing, translating and also preparing score cards occasionally.

Taking Media and Cultural Studies as the hub of my study was never a hard decision. The mechanism of how media works and has a control over everything, although keeping in mind the negative side of electronics and print media, always fascinated me. From the experience of attending the media related courses and after participating quite a few media related workshops, I have a bit of an idea about how media works, at least in theory. But no experience is better than the practical experience. Working at *New Age* provided me that opportunity to get a glimpse of a print media organization. As a preamble to the insight of print media, nothing could be better than sports news, especially if someone has interest in sports events. Sport is the only face of

media, which is uncomplicated, political hoax free and formulated with a purpose of sheer entertainment.

Besides, I got the chance to work with several professional journalists in pairs and in groups. I must say the number of people I met and mingled with inside and outside *New Age* was simply remarkable. Dealing with people casually and professionally is never the same thing. As a chance to experience the essence of a career in journalism, the upshot of the *New Age* days were simply great.

## 2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF *NEW AGE*:

Ever since the beginning of publication, *New Age* is regarded as one of the leading newspapers in Bangladesh. With just a decade of history, *New Age* has already grasped a huge amount of popularity among local English newspaper readers along with *Daily Star*.

*New Age* daily is the brain child of late Enayetullah Khan, the founder Editor of Holiday publication. Since the start in 1965, holiday publication has been contented with publishing the reputed *Holiday* weekly, which gets published on Fridays. Later, the interest shifted towards publishing a daily along with the scheduled *Holiday* weekly.



The circulation of *New Age* starts from July 7, 2003 as a separate body with a whole new team of crew from the existing weekly. But Enayetullah Khan remained the founder Editor of both the daily *New Age* and the weekly *Holiday* until his decease. Later, Nurul Kabir took charge of *New Age*, while Syed Kamaluddin took over the responsibility of weekly *Holiday*.



*New Age* is a 20 page daily crafted by over 150 journalists, columnists and reporters. These papers are categorized under the segment of National, Metro, International, Timeout, Editorial, Oped, Sports and Business. Now it has two weekly magazines, *Trends* and *Extra*.

Situated in Tejgoan, the *Holiday* publication comprises two old, shabby buildings with a grungy interior, which is at least to me the best feature of *New Age* office. The other newspaper offices that I had chance to sneak into, all maintain a firm corporate outlook with an orderly setting, which is quite unlikely for a newspaper office. *New Age* provides top working environment with all modern facilities without that compact corporate look.

### **3. INTERNING AT *NEW AGE*:**

Interning at *New Age* was simply fun and exciting. Though most of the days I entered *New Age* after almost five hours of classes and after another hour on road, I knew all the tiredness and exhaustion would wither away among the presence of some witty and lively people I know. Unlike other desks, sports desk always remained in a festive mood.

On an average day, all the tasks had to be submitted to the hub within 9 pm. Though everything before evening was fun, gossip and tea, the clattering of a busy newspaper office started to pound from 7 pm. One thing I realized was that accumulating four pages of sports news was not an easy job, unless geared up by an extreme bunch of professionals. *New Age* had no shortage of that.

Apart from the mesmerizing working ability of sports editor, Azad Majumder, *New Age* sports desk has two specialized, eminent reporters with their incredible links within the sports arena. They are capable of gathering every significant bit happening inside and outside the field. I had a chance to work with both them.

Seeing them work outside *New Age* while gathering news was really a delight to watch. They introduced me to other prominent journalist throughout my on field projects with them. Besides, *New Age* Sports Desk has a bunch of skilled sub-editors, whose work ranges from subediting to laying out pages. As I had spent a good number of times with them, I learnt a lot from them, particularly after working with them in groups and pairs. Working in groups was the only thing I never liked. After working with these fantastic people, the whole thing changed upside down. Now I know how to interact with people professionally.



Late night New Age, photo credit: Fawaz Alam

The Sports Desk is organised by-

1. Azad Majumder, the sports editor.
2. Mujibur Rahman, senior subeditor.
3. Sujan Mehedi, senior subeditor.
4. Atif Azam, senior staff correspondent.
5. Sudipto Anando, senior staff correspondent.
6. Rashed Banna, junior subeditor.
7. Fawaz Alam, junior subeditor.
8. Mizan Islam, page designer.

#### **4. ON FIELD REPORTING:**

At least from my little experience, I can tell on field reporting is not an easy job at all. When there is a game going on, a reporter has no shortage of news. But during off season, getting news worthy report is a hard job, unless a reporter has a good amount of links among sports fraternity. Everyday there has to be something on the sports page worth reading, even it is off season. I was privileged to work with two of the specialized reporters of *New Age* while they were working on and off the field.

My first assignment was with Atif Azam at Sher- e- Bangla National Stadium during one of the national teams practice sessions. I was told to roam around and find any possible reports. It was a delight to see national level cricketers at work, but I had no idea how I would come up with any potential news from an empty stadium with no match going on. But the senior reporter was able to come with two fantastic news reports; one is about premier league strike and another on the Ashraful scandal. I got to know about the first incident after talking to other journalist at the media box, but about the second one I had no idea. Only years of experience and good amount of links among sports fraternity could make someone a good reporter.

Next comes the writing part. As the editor always said writing a piece of literature and report is not the same thing. A reporter must find his own way to reach to the readers and it comes through years of experience.

Besides, I had the chance to work with Sudipta Ananda during the Grameen Phone Super Cup. That was the first time I got the actual experience of working on an actual sports event. I

assisted him throughout the proceedings of both the semifinals and final, worked with him while preparing the reports and in the post match conferences. It was a challenge to put forward the reports within the restricted one hour as the actual event and post match procedures ended not until 8:30 pm. The writings had always been completed before the start of post match formalities. Only the quotations from the players, coaches and description of post match incidents were added later.

The days of the on field reporting came with the chance to meet other journalists outside *New Age*. I was introduced by the editor and other *New Age* journalists to some of the popular media and sports figures during these visits and several journalist conferences. Most interestingly I found a few of my college friends who were working for other newspapers and with whom I did not have contact for a longer period of time.

The only opportunity to work on a solo on field project came when I was assigned to write an article about the 8-year-old son of a BCB grounds man diagnosed with lymphoma. The grounds man was denied any official support. So the idea was not only to present the news from a humanitarian stand in front of the readers, but also to drag the attention of the BCB officials for further query and aids. The following pages include the article.

## **When life is grey for BCB Groundsman**

### **Riyad-ul Islam**

For the last 10 months, life is not the same for Bangladesh Cricket Board groundsman Anisur Rahman Arzu.

Ever since his youngest son Abu Saeed developed a tumour on his neck, Arzu had to abandon all his regular works and rush to hospitals and clinics once or twice every week for dozens of medical tests just to find out what really has happened to his beloved kid.

On May 28, the doctors at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University gave him the ultimate news that Saeed has been diagnosed with hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer originating from white blood cells.

The news came as a shock to Arzu, who already became poor meeting the treatment cost of his son.

Arzu said he often faces difficulties holding back his tears when he looks at the boy, who is supposed to be in school but is rather lying in bed and appearing dejected all the time.

It is not just the grim face of his son that has made Arzu depressed. The money that is required immediately for treatment has almost driven the poor BCB groundsman totally mad.

'In the last 10 months I had to spend nearly Tk 1,30,000, borrowing from relatives and by selling a piece of land in Jamalpur,' a depressed Arzu told New Age on Friday.

'I get Tk 6,800 every month, which is too little for a family of four members. Right now Saeed has to be given a total of 12 chemotherapies and every chemo costs Tk 8,000.

'I don't have any clue how to gather this huge amount of money,' said Arzu, who is currently deployed by the BCB at the Mirpur City College field.

The posh BCB office, where one sometimes feel coming to Switzerland because of its riches, is not too far away from Arzu's workplace, the City College field.

But his plea for help is yet to reach the luxurious office.

Some officials donated some money personally, but Arzu said it is very insignificant. Arzu applied for some money from the BCB's group insurance, but he was told the insurance company will only pay if someone is admitted to hospital.

Arzu was denied any assistance further as the BCB's long-planned welfare fund is yet to gather any shape. An official said on Friday the plan of the welfare fund remained stalled as there is no elected committee at the BCB.

'We needed to form a trustee board for a welfare fund. Since the BCB is being run by ad-hoc committee, it was decided that it will have to wait for the election before forming the trustee board,' said BCB's acting chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

Chowdhury added that they are yet to receive any application from Arzu.

'We are still helping some people on humanitarian grounds. If he [Arzu] applies, I am sure the board will consider it.'

## **5. Press Releases:**

For the first few months I had to work on a lot of press releases. The priority was to deliver maximum number of information with minimum number of words, and I was instructed by the editor to keep the reports within 200 words.

Generally local sports events with less significance used to come as press releases. The inter school Cricket, Football, Basketball and Handball certainly deserve to be on the newspaper as an encouragement for the rising stars. But it is not always possible to send a reporter to cover these segments. Unless it is the final of a competition and the editor is showing much interest, press releases are the only source to illustrate these news events.

While working on these press releases, I learnt a lot personally from the editor. As these were the initial days of my internship, the Editor spent a lot of time with me, usually discussing how to present a news event successfully. Though the ideas were not new to me as I did similar things in my Copywriting and Editing classes, dealing with these things professionally was totally different. Under the editor's supervision, I wrote many reports from the press releases for the first two months.

Most frequently I was assigned the task of converting press releases into short reports. At times, press releases contain unnecessary or too much information. Deciding which portion to skip and which portion to keep is not always easy, if you need to convert a thousand words script into a 200 word report. The following pages contain five of my short reports that were published.



### **Volleyball workshop concludes [Published on May 10]**

Staff Correspondent

A five-day beach volleyball training workshop jointly organised by Bangladesh Volleyball Federation and International Volleyball Federation ended in Dhaka on Friday.

The course, which is part of a tripartite agreement among the ministry of youth and sports, Bangladesh Olympic Association and BVF, had begun on May 6 at the BOA-Dutch Bangla auditorium.

A total of 35 players and organisers from different organisations participated in the training course, conducted by Canadian trainer Andre Trotier.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, vice president of BOA, attended the concluding ceremony on Friday as the Chief Guest and distributed certificates among the participants.

### **Bandura, Viqarunnisa secure h'ball titles [Published On may 20]**

Staff Correspondent

Bandura Holy Cross High School won the Cute Inter-School handball tournament by overcoming Narinda Govt High School by 25-18 goals in the final of the male category while Viqarunnisa Noon School & College outclassed Saint Upregis School & College 11-0 to clinch the females' title on May 16.

Bandura's Leon alone scored 11 goals in their victory over the Narinda boys and his superb performance earned him the man of the match accolade.

Meanwhile, in the girls' section, Viqarunnisa's Saba was adjudged the player of the final for her four goals in a one-sided contest.

The prize giving ceremony of the competition was held at the Bandura Holy Cross High School ground on May 18 where the headmaster of the school, Brother Nipu Heubert Rozario, was the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

### **Niaz keeps shinning in India [Published On may23]**

Staff correspondent

Bangladeshi Grand Master Niaz Murshed continued his purple patch as he beat Indian GM Parimarjan Negi in the 5th round games of the Open championship in the Asian Continental Chess Championships on Wednesday.

Niaz played with the black pieces. His strategy of French defense and sacrificing Exchange paid off at the end as he managed to finish the game with 45 moves to secure 3½ points from 5 matches.

However, Sharmin Sultana Shirin had to accept a defeat in her 5th round games against Romero Gladys Hazelle of Philippines.

Meanwhile, GM Enamul Hossain Rajib moved to second position 2nd position along with other 7 players with 3.5 points after the end of the 4th round games in the Elite Category of the 5th Kiit International Chess Festival, being held in the same town of Bhubaneswar, Odisha in India.

After the 4th round matches, which held on Wednesday, both IM Abu Sufian Shakil and Debaraj Chatterjee managed to earn 3 points each, GM Ziaur Rahman and FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed gathered 2.5 points.

Abdullah Al-Saif and WIM Rani Hamid both collected 1.5 points.

## **Two-day long Bashundhara Cup golf ends [Published on May 26]**

Staff correspondent

The two-day long Bashundhara Cup golf tournament ended on Friday, despite the turbulent weather and incessant rainfall in the last few days.

Brigadier General Shikder, with his gross 77, net 66 score which is 6-under-par, won the 18-hole gents category, while Shadman Sider and Major Towfiq turned out to be the first and second runners-up respectively in the same category.

Woman golfer Mrs. Kusum Farid was selected as the winner in the 9-hole women's category among 17 participants.

Major General Masud Razzak, with a gross score of 75 was considered as the best gross winner while Siam got the second best gross with a gross score of 76.

Mafizul Islam and KM Nobiruzzaman were nominated for the Best Front Nine and Best Back Nine prizes respectively.

A sum of 203 golfers, including 52 foreign players, participated in the golfing carnival held at Savar Golf Club.

The prize giving ceremony was started by commemorating the deceased souls of the recent Savar tragedy, where the honourable chairman of the Bashundhara Group, Mr. Ahmed Akbar Sobhan was also present. Forest and environment minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud chaired the event.

This event was followed by a raffle draw and a cultural ceremony.

## **BKSP clinch U-16 cricket title [PUBLISHED ON JUNE 09]**

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Prothisthan secured the Young Tigers Under 16 National Cricket Competition title after defeating Dhaka Metro by seven wickets in the final on Saturday.

BKSP won the toss and invited Dhaka Metro to bat first in a reduced 47-over match. Siddikur and Shafiul Hayat helped BKSP dismiss Metro for 103 in 45.2 overs with Kazi Anik scoring the highest 26 for the batting side.

BKSP needed only 25.5 overs to cross the victory line as Sartaj and Shafiul remained unbeaten on 37 and 32 respectively. For his brilliant performance with both bat and ball, Shafiul was adjudged the man of the match.

## **Bangladesh to take part in AFC U-16 qualifiers**

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh will feature in the Asian Football Confederation Under 16 Championship qualifiers in Group F, the Bangladesh Football Federation informed on Saturday.

The qualifiers, which will be held in Thailand, will kick off from September 25. Bangladesh has been placed alongside Oman, Qatar and Kyrgyzstan in their group.

Bangladesh's mission will get underway when they take on Qatar on September 25. The following two matches are against Oman and Kyrgyzstan on September 27 and 29 respectively.

## **6. PREPARING SCORE CARDS, TODAY'S EVENTS AND BROADCAST**

Preparing score cards was one of the easiest things I did. Those events that finished before 9 pm were not that much of a problem. But matches that ended at 11 pm or 12 pm usually caused a lot of trouble. For instance Ashes series had been going on during Ramadan and most of the days play ended near at 11 pm. If it were an ordinary series, one could push the news to the next day. Here comes the question of responsibility.

It is the newspaper's obligation to keep the reader up to date. Rather than keeping the news for the next day, *New Age* used to publish the news on time. The primary idea is to keep the readers up to date. Either everybody does it by inserting a table that contains the batting and bowling figures, or in case of teams with lower rankings, a paragraph or two gets attached containing the key information. If it is an India Pakistan match, the readers will look for every detail. But for an Ireland Afghanistan match, presenting the news as a short report is enough. I did a little bit of scoring occasionally as it was taken care of by another subeditor.

Few of the things that I did occasionally were preparing the little segments called Today's Events and Broadcast. For the Broadcast, I had to find the international and national events that were going to be telecasted on that day. The name of the event, when it is going to take place and which channel is going to broadcast the event were the few things needed to be included in this segment. Internet was enough to find the events. Likewise, the Today's Events include the national gaming events that were going to be held on that day, events that were not telecasted on television. Finding these events was hard. As these events were barely available in the internet, I did not have direct access to these things. Usually the organizing committee sends press releases

to the news organizations via letter, email or phone calls. Suppose a swimming competition was going to be held at the National Women Complex in the following day. Unless that organization contacted the newspapers or Television channels, the news organization might never know about this event. Generally, the editor was informed about these national events. Occasionally, when I prepared Today's events, he sent me the materials that were to be included. Mostly, these segments were taken care of by the sub editors.

## 7. EDITING

Editing requires a lot of experience. When a reporter writes a report within in a short period of time, there always remains a chance of making silly mistakes. The basic purpose of editing is to correct these mistakes. Also, a sub editor's job is to testify the given information twice as it is the subeditor's liability to keep the information accurate. For any kind of mistake, the editor can sue the subeditors.

I must say, *New Age* sports desk has very strong group of well-organized subeditors consisting of four members. From the reporter's desk, a report directly goes to the subeditor's desk for additional filtering. So literally there is little chance of errors if it is filtered by four people. Quite frequently a subeditor has to face odd and careless slip ups. I am adding a few mistakes I made while I had written some reports. In one report, I wrote Sakib, instead of Shakib. Though it looks petty, a newspaper could not tolerate to misprint the name celebrities like Shakib. Another time I made a terrible mistake by altering the name of the winner in a handball match. The first mistake was silly but the second one was fatal. Though this is a writer's fault, subeditors get sued for these type of things.

*New Age* follows British English. Clash between British and American English is quite frequent, writing 'z' instead of 's' is one of them. Senior reporters do not make these mistakes, but in case of editing junior reporters' notes, subeditors always remain cautious for these kinds of mistakes. Besides, *New Age* has a style guide. Apart from the instruction and guidance from the other subeditors, I had to follow the style guide repeatedly to avoid silly and careless mistakes.

Furthermore, the editing lessons I learnt from class always came into use theoretically. But as it is said, theory always varies from the practical aspects; every time there is something

new to learn. Compared to 20 years back, editing is much easier due to the availability of technology. At that time, writing and editing a report was a matter of more than a few hours of manually done prolonged procedures, now it could be done within an hour by using a computer. I could only imagine how hectic it was to write and edit a report at that time. Back then every newspaper office had to assign proof readers. Editing a report with proof reading symbols was never easy.

Nowadays use of proof reading symbols has become out of date and offices do not need proof readers at all. These things now can be corrected automatically with Microsoft Office. Also, laying out pages was a mammoth job at that time. Either one can do it with Microsoft office, or it can be done by using customized software. *New Age* has its customized software which deals with this issue. Now it is just about a few clicks.



## 8. INTERVIEWING:

As a part of my internship sessions, I had been assigned to take an interview of the eminent General Secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board, Raisuddin Ahmed. *New Age* sports editor, Azad Majumder, had arranged the proceeding and instructed me to meet Raisuddin Ahmed at his Kakrail residence.

As a preparation for this event, I was suggested to prepare a set of questions just a day before the event. I came up with a question set and eventually it was modified by the editor. In fact, I came up with ten questions and then it was reduced to seven. The idea was not to ask personal questions, rather sports related questions. As the interview was for *New Age's* special section, 'Fading Face,' which highlights the retired and famous ex-sport figures of Bangladesh, questions had to be about their view and thinking about contemporary sports issues.

I was instructed to follow certain issues strictly. If the claimant refused to answer certain question, the interviewer could not push the issue further. If he later urged that some of his proclaims cannot be published, it could not be published anymore. These were similar things that we had been taught in English for Print Media class. Whatever a reporter would like to publish, it had to be under the interviewer's consent and it had to abide by the newspaper policy. Even one would not raise questions that could hurt the sentiment of the interviewee. For example, a reporter could not and should not ask Ahsraful about his feelings after the spot fixing scandal, if he were given a chance to interview Ashraful. In addition, *New Age* denied political bias. Any answer that had political interest involved could not be published. Before excluding something, the reporter had to inform the interviewee and it had to be with his/her consent.

The interview session went well and it had been an exciting one and half hours talk to a veteran sports figure about his contemporary sports thinking. Raisuddin Ahmed had been kind enough to answer all the questions accordingly. Later, when I went to write and edit the interview, I literally became baffled. It had been a one and half hour session and I had to keep the writing within 700 words without erasing any information. It took almost four hours to shape the writing. In addition, I had to skip some of his comments as it sounded a bit political. So I called him and informed him about *New Age* policy. With his consent, I skipped that issue.

Taking an interview involves a lot of responsibility. As everything motioned are the opinion, belief, and view of the claimant, an interviewer does not have any option to manipulate the content considering the moral ground. It is all about presenting a person's view in front of the readers exactly as he/she desired to have them (opinion, belief) presented.

The Interview with Raisuddin Ahmed was published under the weekly segment, The Fading Face, on June 02, 2013. The whole excerpt is attached in the following four pages.

**Raisuddin Ahmed**, a former vice-president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board and an honorary life member of the Marylebone Cricket Club since 1982, captained the cricket, football, basketball and volleyball teams of St Gregory's High School in his boyhood. He was also involved as a player and organiser while studying at Notre Dame College and Dhaka University. Later in his life, he served as a director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Even though he now has a job as an executive editor of Travel World, Raisuddin still follows the game of cricket as he admits it runs in his blood. Following are the full excerpts of his interview with New Age's **Md Riyad-ul Islam**.



Raisuddin Ahmed

**Question: How are you doing? How are you spending your time?**

Raisuddin Ahmed: I am doing well (laughs). In fact, after retirement, I have been missing the excitement of work. In order to keep myself busy, I am working as an executive editor in Travel World, a monthly travel and tourism journal. Now I have been very much into studying, especially novels and journals.

**Q: Do you still follow cricket?**

Raisuddin: I definitely follow Bangladesh cricket. Sport is in my vein. In my time, not only I used to play cricket but I also played football, basketball and volleyball. You can say I have been occupied with sports from my childhood.

**Q: Have you ever thought that one day the standard of cricket would rise to this level?**

Raisuddin: Actually, we played cricket as if it was our ambition. We even spent a lot of money for that. Now the cricketers are earning well. I think the way cricketers are getting paid these days the quality has not improved in that proportion.

I would even say that we lack sufficient infrastructure. We do not need galleries, rather we need fields. If adequate fields are ensured, young boys will come to play. We will get quality players through this process. Now, we have high-rise buildings instead of fields. Furthermore, we need more academies. Actually, how many boys are getting proper training facilities right now? If we can provide an exclusive cricket ground in every district, it will definitely raise the standard of cricket nationally.

**Q: How would you compare today's cricket with cricket of your time?**

Raisuddin: Firstly, in our time, there was no trace of professionalism in cricket. Only those played who used to have a knack for cricket. As non-professionals the amount of dedication we showed for this game, players today lack that.

Secondly, we did not have so many modern kits and equipment. But, the youths during our time possessed an animal instinct for this sport. Now, there are so many equipments but boys lack that instinct.

I consider cricket as a mind game, 75% mental strength. Our players lack mental strength. As a result, they play rash shots.

**Q: Would you tell us a bit about your career?**

Raisuddin: You can say my involvement with sport is from my childhood. In school, I captained the football, basketball, volleyball, and cricket teams for St Gregory's High School. Even when I had been a part of Notre Dame College and Dhaka University, I was very much involved with sport both as a player and an organiser. Though I was the director of Bangladesh Biman, I never detached myself from sport. I was the general secretary & vice president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

**Q: How would you describe the growth of Bangladeshi cricket in your time?**

Raisuddin: The standard of players, number of spectators, solid infrastructure and standard of umpiring are essential aspects to look at before considering ICC membership. As I was in Bangladesh Biman, I frequently visited the MCC headquarters in Lord's. At that time both the

ICC & MCC were under the same president. In order to prove our capacity, we needed to host MCC in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Biman sponsored all sorts of travelling expenditures to organise this immense task. We even published a souvenir and earned about Tk 5 lakh within one day. Finally, MCC came and we arranged matches in Rajshahi, Jessore and Chittagong. Most importantly, all the matches were drawn. MCC gave a positive report at Lord's. Eventually, Bangladesh got the membership of ICC in 1977, which was a major breakthrough for Bangladesh cricket. General appreciation was inspiring and the idea was to promote cricket at the grass-root level. In recognition of my services to the cricket fraternity, I had been elected as an honorary life member of MCC in 1982.

**Q: Are you satisfied with Bangladesh cricket's success so far?**

Raisuddin: I would say no, considering the amount of money and facilities the national level cricketers get right now. The outcome is still not up to mark, in my consideration.

## 9. ONLINE SOURCING:

Every newspaper and local news organizations have to rely mostly on foreign websites and international news agencies for getting international news. *New Age* also subscribes to international news, particularly for sports events. Most of the English newspapers readers include English medium and university students. Their major attraction is undoubtedly sports. Local English daily newspapers try to keep their sports pages as attractive as possible, enriched with entertaining content that would attract today's youth. Sending a reporter to cover international events would be very costly. Also timings of the different football leagues make it really difficult to publish a report on time. Even, readers will prefer specialist international writers doing the report instead of any other Bengali reporter when it comes to international events. Subscribing to news from agencies like *Associate Press* or *Agence France Presse* is always reliable. The news that local newspaper readers are accessing are the same news that readers from the other countries are getting access too. In that sense it is always good that the local readers are getting the taste of international write-ups alike the readers of other countries. *New Age* is the authorized subscriber to the agencies like AP, AFP and Reuters. Usually it is supervised by one of the senior subeditors, but there is always a discussion that goes on among members before subscribing to any particular news.

As a part of internship, I was given the chance to decide and fix the processing several times. Generally, I had to login with an authorized ID to select any significant news available. Then I was required to explain the reason for selecting the news. Finally the sports desk would decide which reports to publish the next day.

## 10. TRANSLATION:

I had to translate a lot of scripts during my internship hours. The contents from my Translation Studies class proved to be really useful while translating the scripts. Translation could be of two categories and these were word for word and sense for sense translation. The editor recommended me to proceed with the sense for sense translation. The basic idea was to deliver the news to the intended readers. As the editor said, one had to recognize the intellect of the readers. For instance, in one session I had been translating some business pamphlets and the target groups were those who were interested in petty investments like handy craft and mobile accessories. The translator had to assume that the target group could be neither skilled nor educated. In that case, the word selection had to be straightforward to reach the target group easily. So, I had to write the transcripts with simple structures and by using uncomplicated words.

There came some ethical issues while translating scripts. For instance for translating a report for a Bangla newspaper about an India Pakistan match, a reporter could fall for his personal bias toward the team he supported. From the ethical ground, it is nothing other than manipulating the readers. Last year, I had the chance to attend a series of seminars conducted by Dr Uche Oneybadi, Assistant Professor of Southern Illinois University last year. He provided a few lectures on sports ethics and his first proposal was that a reporter could not be biased. He also added that a reporter would not need to change the facts to manipulate readers, and he could maim the whole scenario with a twist of diction. To illustrate his point, I would use the previous example of the India Pakistan match. Even if the match was one sided, the biased reporter could present the news as if it was a close match, either as a product of his personal bias or to raise the



sale of his paper by maiming the actual incident. So translating a report for the sake of publishing always demanded responsibility and impartiality.

I was given a pile of scripts, which were not always sports related. Before handing over the scripts the editor made it clear to me that there would be a lot of things that someone will dislike but still it has to be performed and performing it would be quite a challenge. After translating a few texts I realized why the editor said what he said earlier. Though the editor also illustrated the sincerity and ethical concerns, I was given this assignment mostly to get a hint of how tedious an official task might be, and doing it with responsibility and honesty was the hard part.

## 11. PERSONAL ACCOUNT:

The 13 weeks of collaboration with *New Age* sports desk was great, professionally and personally. It provided me the access to the where I never had the access to. Watching and covering news from the media box of Bangabandhu National Stadium with hundreds of journalists was not an ordinary opportunity to come by. Also, I had the chance to attend the practice sessions of national level cricketers at Mirpur Indoor Gymnasium. Even the sudden calls from the people I met outside *New Age* once in a while were really overwhelming. But the regret of not having the chance to cover any international Cricket match of Bangladesh was the only shortcoming of these days.

I took three other courses alongside my internship. It had been some really busy days. After the long hours of classes and long traffic chaos, nothing could be as invigorating as the presence of most hilarious people I know. No matter what time of the day it was, there would always be something to laugh about. The chance to share times and work aside these people was the best feature of my internship days. At the same time, everybody in the sports desk was undeniably highly skilled professional.

It was a treat to watch them work. There were some occasional delays but I never saw the sports desk fail to wrap up their before 9:30 pm without any appropriate reason. These people were always willing to talk and shared their opinions at all times when I needed. As this was a learning phase, it could not get any better.

## 12. CONCLUSION:

The internship at *New Age* came up with an immense opportunity to sense the professional ambiance of a newsroom and I keenly tried to make the most of it. Whatever I needed to learn, it was always there, especially the professional assistance I got from *New Age* was simply remarkable. Whether it was an outside *New Age* project or a simple desk work; I was provided the opportunity to get a glimpse of every accessible task, varying from on field reporting to preparing score cards and exhausting things like doing translation. As professional state of affairs was not always about performing a specific office task, it was also dealing and socializing with people competently. Not only I was introduced to a diverse set of tasks, I also got the perfect surrounding to meet people socially and professionally. *New Age* days were simply great experience wise.

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