

Filtering and formatting News through the Editorial Lenses: Experiences from *The Daily Star*



Fairuz Binte Masud

Student ID: 11103019

Department of English and Humanities

BRAC Universtiy, Dhaka,Bangladesh

December 2014

Filtering and formatting News through the Editorial Lenses: Experiences from *The Daily Star*

A Report Submitted to
The Department of English and Humanities
of
BRAC University
by
Fairuz Binte Masud
Student Id: 11103011

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For
The Degree of Bachelor of Arts in English

December, 2014

Acknowledgement

My Days at *The Daily Star* editorial department has enlightened my undergraduate studies and gave me a memorable experience as a student of the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University. It has also inspired me to pursue a flourishing career in print Media. Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairperson of my Department, Professor Firdous Azim, whose direction and encouraging words always motivated me to stay on the right path all the way through. I am grateful to my supervisor, Ms. Nawshaba Ahmed, for constantly providing me with advice and help as a teacher as well as an adviser from the very beginning to the end. A special note of thanks to all my teachers without whose support I would not have been standing here today, especially Thanks to Ms. Roohi Huda and Ms. Mushira Habib. I would also like to thank my supervisor of *The Daily Star*, Mr. Shahidul Anam, who taught me everything that I needed to know about news editing and job life as a whole. I like to thank my friends Mahia Rahman, Umme Hani and Refayet Tasnia for their emotional, academic and loving support throughout my journey. Last but not the least, I love to thank my family, especially my parents Mohammad Masud Razzaq and Mrs Latifa Yesmin, and also my brother Fahim Al Masud for always being there for me and supported me whenever I needed.

Table of Contents

Content	page number
Abstract	
Chapter One	
1.1 Introduction.....	1- 3
1.2 A looking back on the journey of <i>The Daily Star</i> : A brief history.....	3-8
Chapter Two	
2.1 Globalization and the value of news.....	09-11
2.2 Working at <i>The Daily Star</i> : My experience.....	11-15
Chapter Three	
3.1 The process of writing a report.....	16-17
3.2 Symbols for correction.....	17-18
3.3 The ultimate stroke	18-19
3.4 Troubles in editing	19-20
3.5 Difference between editorial and news report.....	20-21
Conclusion.....	22
Work Cited.....	23
Appendix.....	24-32

Abstract

To accomplish my under graduate program, I had to do my internship in any print or visual media. So, remaining with my concentration, I preferred to join in a news paper. I joined in the Editorial department of *The Daily Star* as an intern on 15th May, 2014 and worked for three months till 15th August, 2014. During this time of my internship I observed the ins and outs works of *The Daily Star* department involved with writing and editing articles. Editorial department mainly deals with two pages; 'Editorials' and 'Op-ed'. As I worked in the editorial department, I have learnt the process of editing and other works related to it. Thus, this internship report mainly focuses on the process of editing articles and techniques and troubles related to this work which I have gone through during this internship.

I have divided this paper into three major chapters. First chapter will take a look at the history of *The Daily Star* and how it became a name. The second chapter focuses on the value of news and the power of mass media in the age of globalization. The chapter continues by attaching my experience during the time of my internship at *The Daily Star*. The third chapter will then look at the process of editing from my experience.

Overall, this report will shed light on things that I have learnt through trial and error and by the guidance of the editorial board at *The Daily Star*. I hope this paper will be a help to the new interns who wish to embark on their internship life. This paper should also be beneficial to the study of journalism and the work editing.

Chapter One

1.1 Introduction

To be a journalist was like a dream come true for me. As a part of my course work for the B.A. (Hons) in English in “Media & Culture Studies” concentration, I was required to undertake my internship in any print or visual media organization. I always wondered where to, and how best I could nurse my thoughts and ideas. As I was soon to finish my formal education and embark on real life work atmosphere, I was hoping to get a platform where I could combine both my interest and my skill of writing into doing something more meaningful. “Media and Cultural Studies” in the department of English and Humanities, BRAC University, comes with such great opportunities. Under this concentration, students are required to take an internship at any field relevant to their interest and expertise. This works as a great initiation to the professional world. So, as a part of it I started my internship at the renowned Bangladeshi English newspaper *The Daily Star*. I started working as an intern on the May of this year and I worked for twelve weeks in the editorial department of *The Daily Star*. This was truly a rewarding journey for me as I had closely observed this great news mechanism and also worked as an active member of it. This internship also gave me an opportunity of applying my thoughts and academic knowledge in a way more organized.

To reflect on my interest on pursuing a career in mass media like Newspapers, I am tempted to quote Thomas Jefferson¹ who said, “ Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter”(119). Jefferson who has had written extensively and talked on Modern, democratic society and its politics, considered newspaper as an alternative to

¹ Jefferson is principal author of the *Declaration of Independence* (1776), and the third President of the United States (1801–1809). He was a spokesman of democracy and has written about the role of mass media in the democratic nations.

governments. It's simply because while governments sometimes work towards controlling thoughts and suppressing public opinion, newspapers open the world to the public knowledge, helping them into perceiving things in a more clear light. We are living in an age of spectacle where print media greatly influences our thoughts, ideas and even opinions. But most importantly it represents a great platform where opinions, facts and news are put together for the greater mass consensus. Perhaps it is not wrong to say that newspapers have led governments to power and off the power and have worked as the force behind many changes and revolutions.

Print and mass media are inseparable from modern societies and their proper functioning and the thought to be an active part of mass media was always fascinating to me. But I was more into journalism than any other form of mass media as it has a traditional value to it. Even though we have moved onto E newspapers and parade of television channels, print journalism is irreplaceable. Journalism is an integral part of mass media and "Journalism is [also] a form of writing that tells people about things that really happened, but that they might not have known about already" (Niles 2). So, the people who articulate their thoughts and idea, spread information and experiences to the people through any kind of media are known as journalist. The most important characteristic of a journalist is they can influence, make or break and form how people think. They also have to read and need to find out as much as they can about the world around them. In the world of globalization, the news industry has become increasingly competitive and journalists must strive for perfection and uniqueness to stand out and survive.

As to my part, my interest to take journalism began during my studies in "Media and Cultural Studies". The more we delved deep into the dynamics of cultural, political and social aspects of media and how it represents our lives and shapes it, I was fascinated to find out more and perhaps to be a part of it someday. My interest in writing also played a role behind

my choice of concentration as I knew I could blend my ability with interest. As my interest was to do my internship at *The Daily Star*, I dropped my CV there, then they called me for an interview and finally I got selected to do my internship at *The Daily Star* and the exciting phase of my life as an intern began.

To begin with, working as an intern was really a breakthrough as it offered a break for academic life and to taste the real working experience. Though I had read about the process of news productions, the writing phases and strategies related to journalism for my course works, especially in ENG331 Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice, ENG333 Globalization and Media, ENG401 Writing for Print Media intensively but this was my first chance to see and experience how news papers actually work. I found that the working of a newspaper is very detailed and it takes a lot of effort to put news to the readers. I wanted to learn the ins and outs of writing, and I realized that the most appropriate post for me would be that of an interneer editor in a newspaper. It has been a great opportunity for me to work in the “**Editorial**” department in *The Daily Star* as an intern as I have evolved into a better writer, editor and a journalist. I have gathered a lot of experiences during this time. As I worked in the Editorial department of *The Daily Star*, this paper will focus on the process of filtering news in editorial department and also my experiences of being involved with such a great work force.

1.2 A looking back on the journey of *The Daily Star*: A brief history

The Daily Star is one of the leading English news papers in Bangladesh. While working there, I came to know about some basics things about this newspaper. *The Daily Star* established its place in the media scene of Bangladesh on January 14, 1991. It started its journey with a sense of challenge and a feeling of modesty to serve this nation as a truly independent newspaper. The motto of this newspaper is, “Committed to PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO KNOW”. The newspaper is run by Board of Directors comprising six members. There are

two chief reporters in *The Daily Star*, one responsible for current affairs and the other for special affairs. The chief reporter is responsible for supervising the whole reporting team, the key unit of the newspaper. He assigns reporters for covering events and writing special reports and receives reports from the correspondents working across the country. After getting the reports, he forwards those to the news editors.



This is the logo the *Daily Star*

The Daily Star concentrates on improving inter-personal relationship among its staffs. The newspaper offers a very healthy working environment to its staff as it thinks a good working environment is must for better output. *The Daily Star* always maintains maximum earnestness and responsibility to serve the nation the way it is bound by its norms and values. From the website of *The Daily Star*, I came to know that, during different national crises, the newspaper played an important role to solve those to stop people's sufferings. As it remains alert of its social duties, it often arranges roundtables, seminars and discussions on the issues. It also works closely with the civil society for. *The Daily Star* organizes debates and different competitions at school and college-levels and awards those who show excellence in different fields to promote young generation.



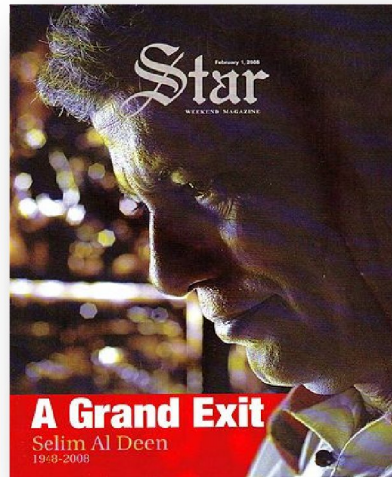
Cover page of showbiz



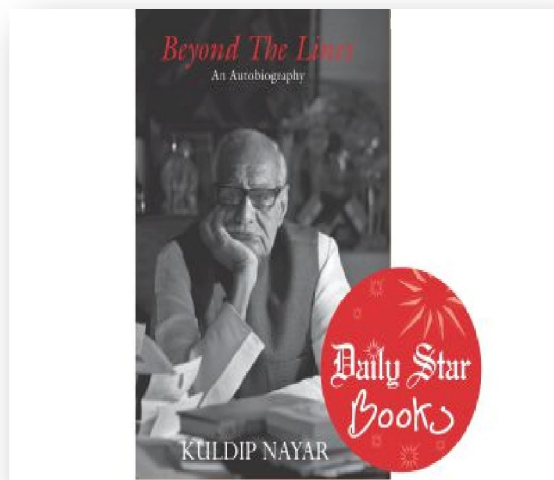
Cover Page of Shout

There are a few numbers of magazines and supplements; like- **'The Star'** which is a weekly magazine published on every Friday. Then, **'Life style'** which is a fashion magazine published on every Tuesday. After that, **'Star Showbiz'** which is a weekly entertainment tabloid, focused on local international movie, music. Except these, many more magazines and

supplements are published in regular basis. Moreover, *Daily Star* not only publishes different magazines but also it publishes books.



Cover page of “Star Magazine”



Cover page of one of the books of *The Daily Star*

There are a number of segments allocated in different pages of *The Daily Star* which carries different types of news. For instance-

1	Front page
2	Back page
3	City country
4	World
5	Business
6	Book review
7	Entertainment
8	Bytes
9	Wide angle
10	Science and Life
11	Op-ed and Editorial

Page distribution of print version of *The Daily Star*

Different segments have different target readership. As *The Daily Star* targets a wide range of people, it focuses on different aspects of life. The front page of this paper focuses on the latest and most important news which grabs the attention of the readers of all age but specially the adults. The business page is useful to the people involved with trade and commerce whereas the young generation mostly read the entertainment pages. Pages like “Science and Life” attract the people who are interested in this genre. Thus, day by day *Daily Star* has increased the number of the readers and popularity among people. It’s simply because it can offer things of interest and use. Moreover, *Daily Star* also has online version. People need not to buy this paper everyday for reading. They can easily access the e versions and read the news.

The Daily Star has carried on the long-term responsibility to build up public opinion on how the democratic system should work and how to sustain and nurture democratic

practice of various opinion and tolerance effectively. It promotes law, human rights, gender issues, national interests, press freedom, transparency and accountability of people in the administration and government. To conclude, it can be said that, *The Daily Star* now stands as the most widely moved and respected English newspaper of Bangladesh, largely gratified its reputation to its vast readership of mass consumers.

Chapter Two

Working at *The Daily Star*: My experience

In this chapter, I will talk about the value of news and mass media in the age of globalization. However, second part of this chapter will share my experiences of learning to edit news and being involved in the process of news making in the light of my internship at *the Daily Star*.

2.1 Globalization and the value of news

To assess the value of newspaper and journalism in modern societies, first we need to have a clear idea of news dispersion or how news is collected, organized and put through. Hicks Wynford in his article "Writing News" says to be news, it must be factual, new and interesting to the people (10). It's very important to have the ability to understand how a simple story or incident turns into important news for the readers. It happens as the readers are most interested in events and issues which affect them directly because news is essentially about people. Jackie Harrison in the book *The Concept of News: Assumptions and Analysis* says that — "News is an orientation towards truth through truthful accounts of contemporary events" (5). In that sense, it can be said that, the importance of news depends on the demand of the people.

The world today is much smaller than what it originally was. It is mostly due to the development of communication methods and skills. Because of the rapid growth of technology and increased education, the modern world has a better readership. Today's world is smaller and much interconnected with the blessings of internet and newspapers. Different parts of the globe have come nearer today because of the availability of newspaper and its transmission. Newspapers have assumed the role of opinion builder for a long time. They can

influence and to some extent create what we call the public consensus. Nationalism, factions, global awareness or dispute it all starts with newspapers now. Last but not the least; it is also important as it documents and preserves the history of a nation. The history of human societies proves that every event has its own significance with respect to the time in which it has occurred. These communication skills have the unique characteristic of contributing so much to the development of society that no other single area of human activity or mechanism can put off in an equal manner. Newspapers form the major means of vehicle of these communication systems which have helped the society change for better, over the years. 'Media Control' an article of Chomsky where he mentioned that, "Public relation is a huge industry" (22). It is through the Newspapers, the policies and action of the government are conveyed to the people and in turn people give opinion and criticize them. The relationship between public and government is very important. If the people do not give optimistic responses, it becomes a trouble for a newspaper to published positive news about them. In this way, Newspapers are a chain of action and reaction. Newspapers educate us against social evils. Thus, they help in reforming society. Newspapers not only educate and enlighten the mass; they also initiate the practice of tolerance by publishing comments, criticism and review on various branches of knowledge.

A life without newspapers is hence a life unbelievable and incredibly hard in the modern life. Have we not this organism with such functionality, our lives will be reduced to a pre medieval times, reducing life to a simple subsistence. The newspaper is the stronger means of effecting the hearts and judgment of people which would otherwise remain largely disconnected. Newspapers and news reporting have changed a lot from time to time. From size, shapes, colors to categories, concept to situation media has gone through intense transformation over the past decades. News always keeps us up-to-date about the whole world which is also considered as globalization. It mirrors the status of society. News is a part

of communication that keeps us informed of the changing events, issues, and characters in the world outside. Journalism is the art of dissemination of news. The purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to make the best possible decisions about their lives, their communities, their societies, and their governments. It plays a very important role of newspaper. Newspapers not only educate and enlighten public opinion but they also play a role of educator by publishing comments, criticism and review on various branches of knowledge.

2.2 Working at *The Daily Star*: My experience

Editorial sector of *The Daily Star* is a very strong department. This department is mainly governed by 6 members. I found news paper writing is very different from academic writings but somehow academic stuff was always helping me at my work. I had done many courses which were helping me to use and understand many techniques. As a part of my courses, I wrote many reports but those were totally different from practical work. However, I was trying to combine my academic knowledge to do well in my practical work.

At the beginning, I started my work by learning the process of editing. Besides, I learnt how to use the expertise for my work. Basically, my work was to edit articles; especially for two editorial pages. First page is op-ed² and other one is editorial. The op-ed is usually longer than a regular letter to the editor. It is often written by a subject matter expert. Then, the editors of the newspaper receive and publish that write up in their newspaper after editing. The page which contains this kind of articles is called op-ed page. Next one is editorial, usually a brief article written by an editor that expresses a newspaper's or publishing house's own views and policies on a current issue. If written by an outsider³ it normally

² Op-ed is an opinion piece which is written by a subject expert.

³ The person who is neither an employee nor a regular writer of the newspaper but sending his/her opinion for the newspaper is known as an outsider..

carries objection or opinion about an issue which has already published. Most of the newspaper has some in house⁴ writers for this page. However, an editor's job is to approve copy when it comes in and to make decisions about what is published in the newspaper. The editors also prepare and improve the work of other people. They correct grammar errors and level out organizational issues. They write headlines and make sure the article is maintaining all the rules and regulations accordingly.

For *Daily Star* it is important to find out the news value factors based on news value factors, like- timeliness, consequences, prominence and proximity. Timeliness means the importance of publishing news in time. Consequence means the effect of the news. Prominence is the appropriate news based on occasion and proximity means the importance of news based on place. Moreover, there is always word limitation and space restriction to place an article. So, it is a kind of challenge for an editor to edit the article based on the required things of the newspaper. *The Daily Star* also has some symbolic functions. While editing an article, editors need to keep these functions in their mind and need to correct them according to the signs.

Working in the editorial section, I learned how to relate my courses with the work I was doing. Courses like 'Writing for the Print Media', 'Editing for Print Media', 'Translation Studies' and 'Globalization and Media' helped ground my understanding of news, especially editorials and op-ed in my case. I enjoyed applying everything I learned from my courses in my workplace. . However, eventually my work was becoming challenging and I had finally learnt how to edit articles and my interest grew as days passed.

⁴ The person who is a regular writer of the newspaper and also working for the organization is known as in house writer.

First week, I had learnt how to select articles. *Daily Star* has a common server which is called ‘dsopinion’⁵. Here, the people send their writings who want to publish their write-up in the news paper. I need to open the server everyday and then pick up articles from there. The process of select any article is different. First, I needed to open the mail then save it in the EPCP folder with the file location. EPCP is a common folder in Daily Star network places. We can access into this folder from any computer of the department. Then, I had started editing articles. The editing process was similar with the copy editing course. Then, I needed to cut down 1240 words article into 450 words. It was really a challenging one because I had to keep the main theme within that words limit. While doing the editing, besides words limitation and main theme, I had to focus on grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Every week I was learning something new and had to work on that new task. Second week, I had learnt how to work for 'info Graphic’⁶ My topic was the ferry disaster in Bangladesh. After the recent ferry tragedy MV-Miraj_4, *Daily Star* took the initiative to work on that issue. Fortunately, I was assigned to do the work. First, my supervisor taught me the process of doing any info graphic. As this work was very new to me, I was very excited to do it. Basically, it was all about a research related with graphic design system. I needed to start doing research on ferry disaster in Bangladesh since last 10 years. Then, based on that research, I made a timeline. There were some contents which I had to find out from every disaster occurs in Bangladesh. Explicitly-

- i. Year of the incident
- ii. Reason behind capsized

⁵ dsopinion is a common server of *The Daily Star* where people send articles whoever wants to publish their write up in the newspaper.

⁶ Info-graphics is a pattern of news which is based on research and contains graphic design along with the news.

- iii. Number of death
- iv. Number of rescue and
- v. Number of missing people

By doing research I found that, there are three major reasons for ferry capsized. The reasons are overcrowding, faulty vehicle and lax rules. Then, based on this information, the graphic designer came to put the information in their design. Finally, the graphic designers came and gathered all the information and place them together to compose an info graphic. Thus, I had done with my work. However, I had learnt something new and I enjoyed doing it.

By the passing of time, I was coping with the environment of the office as well as with my work here. The people around me in the office were very friendly. They were always helping me to adjust with all the new surroundings here. However, as it was my 5th week running, I was lucky enough to add another new skill in my internship experiences. This week, I experienced how to take an interview. I had taken an interview of Dr. Mehedi Ansary. He is a professor of civil engineering from BUET. This interview was all about the probable consequences of 'earthquake' in Dhaka city. My supervisor taught me the process of taking an interview. First, I found out some information about the topic. Then, questionnaire was a very essential part for an interview; in fact, it was the main part of an interview. So, I had find out some important questions which were relevant with the given topic. To find out the questions, I had to do a short research. My focus was to get more information from fewer questions. Moreover, time was another vital issue for an interview, because time was allocated by the authority. So, it was important to cover the whole interview within that time. Lastly, another important thing was to use a recorder when the interview was going on. As it was the first interview I had ever taken, I was very nervous at the same time excited too. However, the scheduled moment came. Before I started my conversation, I have switched on

the recorder. After that, I started asking questions to him. He gave all the answers very satisfactorily. My questions were like-

- Which parts of Dhaka are most at risk from earthquake?
- What are the pitfalls that can be seen today in Dhaka and its surroundings areas due to a lack of planning for earthquake?
- What are the steps that can be taken by the builders to make sure buildings is earth quake resistant?

In this way, the interview ended. After that, one of my senior colleagues and me wrote the whole paper to publish in the newspaper. Finally, this interview published in *The Daily Star* on 25th June 2014, titled as "It's better to be safe than sorry." This way, I completed my assigned work.

My academic courses always helped me to understand many terms easily but there were also many other things which were totally new to me. As I was a part of editorial department, my main work was to edit articles and besides editing I got the chances to do other works related with this department. All through this journey in the *Daily Star* was really memorable for me. I learnt many things practically. Hopefully, all these experiences will help me in my future work place.

Third Chapter: The Art of Editing

In this chapter, I will discuss the process of editing and how the news goes through a strict system of editing and can only be published after that. So, this chapter will closely look at the art of editing and its techniques and troubles. Editing is process where editor/writer improves an article or writes up by correcting errors and by making words and sentences more precise and more effective. The person involved in this work is generally known as the editor. Nevertheless, the process is harder than it seems as an editor must keep many factors in his/her mind while working. They must not compromise value, length or the theme and therefore, it becomes a challenge to keep the limits. Hicks in the book *Writing for Journalists* says that “newspaper follows some typical, traditional approach to news writing – with a number of variants” (11). While working as an intern editor at *the Daily Star* I came to know about the process and approaches to editing. I also learned to apply editorial symbols which will be discussed here. In addition, this chapter will talk about some troubles of editing that I faced while working and this part will also take a look at the differences between news report and editorial and why editorial is such an important part for any newspaper.

3.1 The process of writing a report:

I have learnt the process of writing a report from one of my academic courses. During my internship I got the chance to witness the whole process of report writing from the beginning to end. Once the reporter has gathered all the necessary information regarding the news story, s/he then sits down to write it. At this stage, the inverted pyramid⁷ comes to play its role. This simply means that the news writer has to break down the information and design it chronologically, starting with the most important and ending with the least. While writing

⁷ A writer need to put the information based on importance, so that an editor can maintain a sequence while editing the write up. This method is called inverted pyramid.

the lead⁸, the first line that catches the attention of the reader consists of a complete sentence that describes the 5Ws (who, where, when, what and why) and 1H (how) concerning the story, the body infers the rest of the details where the inverted pyramid technique is executed. The reporter needs to decide if s/he will quote directly or indirectly, which in turn depends on the position of the person being quoted, especially in the case of an inspector or a member of parliament sharing their stance over the matter. It is also crucial that the factual details presented by the source regarding any official, firm or organization are presented accurately and sincerely in the news by the reporter. A good reporter also tries his best to make the story rich in language. It is always useful for him/her to keep a dictionary and a grammar book nearby since the writers working under any section of a newspaper are expected to not just be proficient in the language but also resourceful while providing information about a particular issue. Most importantly, writers need to write in such a way that is understandable by the general mass. A news writer must always be active and attentive since news stories can be about any event that can happen at any time and anywhere. It is always essential for a writer to grab the interesting and important news in right time.

3.2 Symbols for correction:

While editing an article, editors need to use some symbols. As an intern editor of *The Daily Star*, I also required to follow these symbols for correction. Each symbol conveys different expressions which are required to use when give correction of an article. At the beginning of my work, it was tough for me to remember all the signs appropriately and used those in the right place. But eventually, I learned how to use all the signs accordingly. However, some of them are given in the chart.

⁸ Lead refers to the first line that catches the attraction of the readers







Symbol	Meaning	Example
	Delete	Remove the end fitting.
	Close up	The tolerances are with <u>in</u> the range.
	Delete and Close up	Delte te and close up the gap.
	Insert	The box is ^{not} inserted correctly.
#	Space	The pro cedure is incorrect.
	Transpose	Remove the fitting end .
/ or lc	Lower case	The E ngineer and manager agreed.
≡	Capitalize	A representative of <u>nasa</u> was present.
	Capitalize first letter and lower case remainder	G ARRETT P RODUCTS are great.
stet	Let stand	Remove the battery ^{stet} cables.
¶	New paragraph	The box is full. ¶ The meeting will be on Thursday.
no ¶	Remove paragraph break	The meeting will be on Thursday. ¶ no All members must attend.

Chart of symbols for editing

3.3 The ultimate stroke:

The final touch of the paper is known as the ultimate stroke. Firstly, the headline or the title is important for an editor. The editor looks into the headline as it is the first thing that catches the reader's eye and should be a concise summary of the whole story in the least words possible. It must be catchy too. Then, the editor who plays the highest role in a newsroom receives the news story submitted by the writer. S/he overviews the article, looking for the gaps and the missing links if any – the grammatical errors, the validity of the sources and attributions, and consequentially rewrites anything that requires correction. S/he also revises the news so as to find its most interesting angle and improvises the story to make it as striking as possible. Another important feature that needs checking is the caption of the

photographs representing the story. It is important that the editor concentrates over the two segments, the primary report and the working one, before accepting, changing or creating a whole new one to replace the old, as these are actually the most attention-grabbing part of the news. A small mistake being overlooked can result in big blunders if not taken care of within due time. Once the revision is complete, the news story is finally ready to be published. Then, it is sent to the alteration department⁹ to put it in the newspaper according to allocated place.

3.4 Troubles of editing news

Editing news is an extremely challenging task. An editor has to go through a lot of work to re-organize and shape an article or a report keeping it with the customized format of the particular newspaper. To my understanding, editing is an art where an editor not only takes care of the problems of punctuation and mechanics, but also fits them with the theme of the article/write-up. During my internship, I have worked under these conditions and I realized that it takes practice, knowledge of the mechanics and semiotics and a problem solving attitude.

To begin with, maintaining word length is a difficult part of editing. Much of my initial tasks in the department were maintaining the length and this is where I came to see that it was not only about shortening the article but I also had to keep the same weight of the message delivered in the article. It takes a lot of reviews and re-working as reducing words may result in the reduction of important information or points. Besides this, I have interviewed people too. This was another challenge as I had to convert recordings into a written form and while doing so, I had to face problems like organization and punctuation. This again requires time because it is not easy to transform a verbal conversation into a written form keeping the same emotion.

⁹ This department is responsible for placing news in the allocated part of the newspaper.

Each day came with a new task and a new constraint to work with and I was excited to meet challenge and learn new things. All in all, I found this whole experience to be very exciting and helpful in developing my editing skill.

3.5 Difference between news reports and editorials

A common misunderstanding is that news reports and editorial are similar things. Rather they are the two sequential part of the process of editing. These two have different pattern of writing and also have different purposes to be served. News reports gather factual information to explain an incident to the people. In news report it is more important to express the incident rather than giving any opinion about that occurrence. On the other hand, an editorial is based on authenticity and judgment. Its main purpose is not to inform the fact to the people, but to express its opinion about the fact and published news. An editorial is an opinion, openly expressed fact in the section of editorial in the news paper. In the editorial, the author's voice is very clearly present. A news article is found in the news section of a news paper. To put it in the simplest, news article is supposed to be neutral whereas an editorial may have a strong sense of opinion and criticism sometimes.

Editorials appear in all news papers as news articles are objective and there is no chance to give an opinion after reading any news. As a result, people generally tend to read the articles without pondering over the issue in depth. This is when editorials come in use as it offers the scope to express personal opinion on an issue. Given that we are living in the age of information and technology, people don't have enough time to read others opinion in the editorial section on every event. This is why editorial is limited to just two pages of the newspaper while the rest of the newspaper carries articles of all kinds. But this does not compromise the value of editorials. While the rest of the paper comes with news, reports and

articles without any comments or opinions on them but just the factual information, the editorial serves as the voice of the newspaper and public opinion in the larger sense.

Conclusion

When I first started my internship in *The Daily Star*, I was not sure what I might face in that totally unknown world. But after getting into that environment, meeting people and working with them for months, I came to feel that, it is a wonderful place to work in. These twelve months of internship has helped me gather lot of experience and has enlarged my understanding of how newspapers actually work or what it really takes to be a journalist. *Daily Star* gave me an opportunity to apply my academic knowledge into real life workplace. No other profession would suit my interest and my expertise as this. My vision of observing my surrounding has also been changed and I have learnt to think in a broader perspective. As I was an intern of the Editorial department, I had to work with many people and their different thoughts helped me to understand the effect of news and the value it carries. Once a report or an article was to be published it would receive a lot of feedback and reviews which is also very helpful for the growth of a journalist. The experiences that I have gained from *The Daily Star* will definitely help me a lot in my future as I embark on my professional life. To conclude, I would like to say that this internship at *The Daily Star* was not an end of a journey rather it was the begging of a path that may lead me to greater things.

Work Cited

- Chomsky, Noam. "Public Relations." *Media Control: The Spectacular Achievements of Propaganda*. 2nd ed. New York: Seven Stories, 2002. 18-26. Print.
- "Difference between Editorial and Article." *Difference Between.com*. n.p. 20 June 2012. Web. 24 Sept. 2014.
- Harrison, Jackie. *The Concept of News: Assumptions and Analysis*. "News". London: Routledge, 2006. 1-5. Print.
- Hicks, Wynford, and Sally Adams. "Writing News." *Writing for Journalists*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 1999. 10-44. Print.
- Islam Rafat, Rubaiyat. "About Us." *The Daily Star*. 27 Dec. 2007. Web. 11 Sept. 2014. <<http://archive.thedailystar.net/beta2/about/>>.
- McChesney, Robert Waterman, and John Nichols. "What Would Jefferson (and Madison) Do?" *The Death and Life of American Journalism: The Media Revolution That Will Begin the World Again*. Philadelphia, PA: Nation, 2010. 119. Print.
- Niles, Robert. "What Is "Journalism?" *RobertNiles.com*. n.d. Web. 9 Sept. 2014. <<http://www.robertniles.com/journalism/>>.

APPENDIX

Articles edited during the internship at “Editorial” department are attached in this section for review.

Article No-1:

\\Fileserver\epcp\YEAR 2014\SSC Results 2014-3.doc wc1250

The thought of increasing pass rate overshadows quality

{The results of Secondary School Certificate examination came out with the message of significantly high pass rates and higher grades. And this has become a common picture for the last six years which definitely make us elated as it shows that we are rightly keeping pace with the global jump. Is it the case actually if we look into the matter seriously? As I belong to education department, each time when the results of any public examination come out I become concerned about it and try to ventilate my opinion. But who cares?

{Undoubtedly it makes us happy to see the increasing trend of our results. In 2007, the SSC pass rate was 58.36%, while the percentage rose to 91.34 this year. A total of 142,276 students got GPA-5 this year, compared to 25,732 in 2007. On the other hand, pass rates in national exams used to stand below 50 percent about two decades ago in 1990, the SSC pass rate was only 22.82% in the humanities group, while it was 43.63% in the science group, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Education Information and Statistics. When we have increased the rate successfully, time has come to think very seriously about the quality as well. We all must think about it. Does the present trend tell us that the quality of education has improved? If not we must find out the causes without being self-complacent.)

{Some claimed that the old philosophy of not giving full marks to examinees has changed in recent times which contributed to increasing pass rate. Well, before the introduction of grading system if a student obtained just a first division, the society considered him/her to be a good student without any doubt. Those who obtained star marks were considered excellent students. Today if any student obtains GPA-5 nobody considers it a leak-proof result. If he needs to get admitted anywhere, he/she is to face test again not only because of limited seats but also to learn his/her real position. So, what's the credit of just awarding full marks or high marks? Does this evaluation actually give real credibility?

{A total of 142,276 students—77,551 boys and 64,725 girls—achieved Grade Point Average-5 (GPA-5) which broke all previous records in the grading system. Last year, 91,226 students got GPA-5. All students of 6,210 educational institutions came out successful, making an all-pass record. However, no student passed from 24 educational institutions this year. From eight general education boards, a total of 1,087,870 examinees took part in the SSC examinations. Of them, 1,008,174 examinees came out successful with 122,313 GPA-5. The authorities claim that because of the introduction of creative system students have done fair and crossed all the previous records. (Creative system was introduced in 2009 and the education boards started preparing questions reflecting creativity since 2010) After five years of its introduction, teachers could not earn the ability to develop questions on this new system. (Academic Supervision Report of the Director of Secondary and Higher Education found in September 2013 that only 55.33 institutions could prepare questions on this new system. 26.10 percent schools could do it partially.) Again DSHE in February 2014 conducted another survey and found that 38 schools could not prepare questions by themselves. Causes were identified as teachers' inability and lack of training. The Ministry of Education says that they have given training in Creative Question to five lakh teachers. But the fact is, most of these teachers could not master the ideas of creative questions which appeared in the dailies many a time. The report also says that not only preparing questions, teachers are not teaching the students following creative system. (Under these circumstances, the Ministry of Education has decided to cancel the MPO of those institutions which failed to develop questions of their own following the creative system. This report was published just one week before publishing the SSC examination in a daily.) So, it sounds very contradictory when the authorizes claim that results have become so good because of creative system as students have mastered the art of this new system well.

And teachers are not

(The authorities have another claim that the students have done much better this year in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics which contributed a lot to increasing the pass rate.) We know the teachers of these subjects are rare in rural schools and the rural schools far outnumber those of urban areas.) And with possible exceptions most of these teachers cannot make the concept clear of these subjects to the students. Then, how does this situation help to rise the number of pass rates in these subjects remains a big question.

(In English more than 99 percent students have passed. It has been a tough subject for the rural students who constitute the lion's share of the total number of examinees.) English is taught on the basis of four language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. The global research shows that humans communicate 40 percent through listening, 35 percent speaking, 16 percent reading and only 9 percent through writing. We teach English to our learners avoiding and ignoring listening and speaking skill. It means that we don't touch (40+35) = 75 percent skills, we don't evaluate these two significant skills. We deal with only 25 percent (16% reading and 9% writing) skills and give huge number of students GPA-5 certifying that they have done excellent in English. The real picture proves opposite. Our students with rare exceptions cannot understand listening English, cannot speak English even if they are asked to describe themselves.) What about reading skill? If a passage is set from outside the textbook we could see how many of them could pass. Just a handful of passages from the textbook are set in the examinations very commonly in any of the boards. They just practice those passages taking help from the guide books and do well. (In the same way, they cannot write anything of their own except some students of some institutions. But we don't hesitate to award them a weighty certificate. The matter seems to be funny.)

The ministry took a good initiative. Under this initiative they identified the low performing institutions and selected eight thousand to give especial coaching to the students. Obviously, the teachers could not make the students' concept clear within a very short period which they inherited from primary school and bore it from class six up to SSC level. However, there was an unwritten pressure on those teachers to make them pass as the teachers got remuneration from the ministry for conducting special classes. The examiners were asked from the board authorities to check the examination scripts very liberally. The worst thing is, the questions of all the examinations leaked out which could not draw the attention of the proper authorities for some unknown reasons. The perpetrators used facebook to spread the message all over the country. The famous educationist Dr. Jafar Iqbal produced two articles namely 'Can anyone of you tell me?' and 'Is leaking out question not a crime?' He reflected in these writings that the nation did not consider the fact of question leak out as a serious matter but it has been killing the vitality of our nation. It is interesting enough that nobody paid heed to it which gives a signal that we are passing through a bad time. When students get the questions in hand before the exams and do well in the exams, can we take the credit?

Increasing pass rate overshadows quality

MASUM BILLAH

21-5-2014

THE results of Secondary School Certificate examination came out with the message of significantly high pass rates and higher grades. This has become a common picture for the last six years which definitely make us delighted as it shows that we are rightly keeping pace with the global jump. Is it the case actually if we look into the matter seriously? As I belong to education department, each time when the results of any public examination comes out I become concerned about it and try to ventilate my opinion.

In 2007, the SSC pass rate was 58.36%, while the percentage rose to 91.34 this year. A total of 142,276 students got GPA5 this year, compared to 25,732 in 2007. When we have increased the rate successfully, time has come to think very seriously about the quality as well. Does the present trend tell us that the quality of education has improved?

The authorities claim that creative system is one of the major reasons for this result. Creative system was introduced in 2009 and the education boards started preparing questions reflecting creativity since 2010. Academic Supervision Report of the Director of Secondary and Higher Education found in September 2013 that only 55.33 institutions could prepare questions on this new system. 26.10 percent schools could do it partially. Again DSHE in February 2014 conducted another survey and found that 38 schools could not prepare questions by themselves. Causes were identified as teachers' inability and lack of training. Under these circumstances, the Ministry of Education has decided to cancel the MPO of those institutions which failed to develop questions of their own following the creative system. This report was published just one week before publishing the SSC examination in a daily. So, it sounds very contradictory when the authorities claim that results have become so good because of creative system.

The authorities have another claim that the students have done much better this year in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and English which contributed a lot to increasing the pass rate. These have been tough subjects for the rural students who constitute the lion's share of the total number of examinees. We know the teachers of these subjects are rare in rural schools.

The ministry took a good initiative. They identified the low performing institutions and selected eight thousand to give special coaching to the students. The examiners were asked from the board authorities to check the examination scripts very liberally. The worst thing is, the questions of all the examinations leaked out which could not draw the attention of the proper authorities for some unknown reasons. It is interesting enough that nobody paid heed to it which gives a signal that we are passing through a bad time.

The writer is Program Manager: BRAC Education Program and Vice-President: Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association

Article No- 2:

\\Fileserver\epcp\YEAR 2014\MAY 2014\May 14\What will happen on
May 16.docx

What will happen on May 16?

Abdul Matin

From street side tea shops to posh living rooms in Dhaka, almost everyone is asking the same question, "What will happen on May 16?" Sometimes, I try to be sarcastic and ask a counter question, "Why? Is there any depression in the Bay of Bengal?" It does not help. All attention is now focused on the results of the Indian general election due to be announced on May 16. The election started on April 7 and ended on May 12. It was the longest election in the country's history.

So, the suspense is too much and, at the same time, there are worries too. Narendra Modi, an aspirant to become the next prime minister, asked all migrants from Bangladesh to pack up and leave India on or before May 16. He also promised to build Ram Mandir on the remnants of the Babri Mosque. Leaders say many things before elections without realizing the consequences. They face the reality only when they come to power. It is not, therefore, always possible for them to strictly implement all what they promise before elections.

First of all, no single party in India is likely to get an absolute majority. When alliances are formed, no individual party can implement its own manifesto only. It has to make compromises to accommodate others' programmes. Secondly, no government in India can go beyond the provisions of the constitution which is based on secularism. India has an independent judiciary which has the will and authority to uphold the constitution which clearly states "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them."


Thirdly, India has a matured foreign policy which cannot change with every change of the government. To maintain credibility of a government, it is not possible to change foreign policies overnight. We have seen governments come and go but their foreign policies remain more or less the same.

Lastly, we should remember what Pierre Trudeau, former prime minister of Canada said about living beside the USA, "...is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly or temperate the beast, one is affected by every twitch and grunt."

So, heaven is unlikely to fall on May 16. This, however, does not mean that life will be the same for us as it is today. If India takes any decision which does not favour us, we have to deal with it appropriately in our interest. We should stay alert and carefully watch the movement of the elephant.

① End of word is near: Economics Times
 ↳ Modi has started getting congratulatory msg from global readers.
 ↳ UK, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh PM sent congratulatory letters.

↳ Our PM said that you would find my country your 'second home' and first place for official visit

② Wall Street Journal (Blog)
 what does Bangladesh think of Narendra Modi? 

↳ Modi a harden line against Bangladesh — "illegal immigration"

↳ Shahiduzzaman, a professor in international relations in DU, just uses one name — anti Indian sentiment may rise in BD.

↳ India needs BD's cooperation to control insurgency in its northern states.

↳ transit facilities to its Azam, Tripura and Meghalaya.



\\Fileserver\epcp\YEAR 2014\MAY 2014\May 24\A menu card for Modi-1.docx (904 words)

A menu card for Modi

Ashfaqur Rahman

DipuMoni our previous Foreign Minister was reportedly to be more bluster than substance. She was smart but did not understand that there were smarter people than her. She also did not do as reportedly again her homework well. If she did not hire expensive experts and legal minds then our award on the maritime delimitation with Myanmar would have come to naught. This was very evident when we pursued our interests with India. There she left it to the Indian ruling Congress party in several respects to be the final arbiter of matters. She did not on behalf of our Prime Minister make the necessary political calculations that would enable her to see whether the Indian LokShobawould allow the passing of bills that would possibly give Bangladesh what Congress had pledged.

Congress was a coalition government and nothing would move if there was no unanimity in the House. The case to point was the passing of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA). It meant that India's international boundaries had to be changed. The opposition Bharitya Janata Party(BJP) was vehemently against this. In spite of all of Congress pious wishes, Bangladesh was left high and dry on this issue. The other matter was the resolution of the sharing of the waters of the Teesta. Here the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee held the advantage. Her Trinamool Congress was first a coalition partner with Congress government. But as Congress did not consult her properly she went raging and declined to participate in the process. Bangladesh was left in the lurch. Congress knew very well that without Mamta the central government would fall. Hence she shied away. Bangladesh is yet to sign the Teesta water agreement.

The parliamentary matrix has changed now in India after the 16th LokShobha elections. The BJP has routed Congress and is now the single party with a majority in Parliament. So if BJP wishes it can go ahead with the signing of the LBA which has eluded the two countries from far back as 1974. BJP knows she can earn all the kudos from the world if it does that and sign the LBA. But it will depend on Modi to move in this matter. So is the case with the Teesta. Modi needs to consult with Mamta regards the possible sharing of its waters with Bangladesh, take the credit and move on. He will definitely appreciate the goodwill shown by Mamta and reciprocate this gesture in a different issue and time. Do not forget Mamta needs from Delhi funds to rebuild her state's infrastructure. The Congress had denied this to her. Modi can also invite the private sector from Gujrat where he was a successful Chief Minister to invest in West Bengal. On both counts Mamta could be amply rewarded.

An important need of India is road transit to the North east India and to be able to use the Bangladeshi ports of Chittagong and Chalna. ShiekhHasina, our Prime Minister can consider giving this now to India. But transit will come to India at a price and Modi knows it. It has to be negotiated. One of the other things we should request Modi to consider is greater and deeper market access of Bangladeshi products in India. More duty free access and better access by road to Nepal through India. Modi also has to keep in mind that he should not at any time on, raise the bogey of the 'bengali immigrant' in Assam from Bangladesh. We can accept that it was an election rhetoric. But we must pin him down somewhere in writing so that this provocation is not used again. One of the things that disturbs good bilateral relations between two countries is when such 'non issues' are flagged in order to provoke the other party.

Bangladesh has clearly pledged not to allow any insurgents from India operating from her territory. This has led to peace in North East Indian states. We should remain committed to this policy into the future. But Modi should note that comes too at a price. In return Bangladesh must be able to closely cooperate

economically with all the north eastern states. We wish this to turn out into a win win situation. Similarly, the recent change of heart of India to upgrade the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar(BCIM) talks to the governmental level shows that she is keen to participate and benefit from this process. With BIMSTEC process added on, both India and Bangladesh can work closely towards prosperity.

Modi when he cares to sit down with Bangladesh will find a ready friend who is willing to hold his hand for mutual benefit. Can he say that for all his other neighbors? Certainly not in the case of Pakistan. We must therefore offer Modi a tempting menu card of bilateral goodies provided he comes with an open mind and clear conscience. In the past it was seen that major bilateral agreements could be concluded with BJP governments. It has always proved to be good to do business with. For one thing we know what is BJP position on each issue and we can fix up our negotiation positions accordingly. Though the negotiations are tough the final outcome has been good. The Chittagong Hill Tracts issue is a case to point. The menu card that we will hold up to Modi must be doable and deliverable. The Congress was always a different animal. Always sweet in its disposition but hardly able to deliver.

The writer is a former Ambassador and a commentator on current affairs.

E-mail: ashfaque303@gmail.com

Article No-3 & 4

6 | The Daily Star

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2014

Tension at the border

Let diplomacy work

THE unfortunate and clearly unwarranted incidents which have been taking place on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border call for a cool, level-headed approach toward a solution. It is in neither country's interest to have the situation rise to a point where the Border Guard Bangladesh and Myanmar's Border Guard Police must face each other in a hostile posture. The background to the current crisis, no matter how sensitive, does not warrant such an escalation of tension.

The plain fact is that a BGB soldier had been missing since Wednesday. The Myanmar border force, having made it known that a body was in its possession since the BGP fired at a BGB patrol on Wednesday, did not seem to be ready to have the Bangladesh side check if the body was indeed that of the missing BGB man. One needs to know why the BGP opened fire when apparently there was no provocation. And there are other border management mechanisms than resorting to an extreme measure.

Nothing must be done to have the situation worsen. Dhaka has already conveyed its concerns to Yangon, which now needs to take the measures necessary for a cooling of tempers. Additionally, a flag meeting between the BGB and BGP becomes important, the objective being to discuss the various ways and means to employ all possible confidence building measures to ensure that the situation is not only deescalated but also that such incidents are not repeated.

Let cool heads prevail. And let diplomacy work out a solution.

The Daily Star 17

Young Bangladeshi women on blue highway!

SAJID HUSAIN

BANGLADESHI women have been in the Bangladesh police since 1974, in the Bangladesh Navy since 2000, in the Bangladesh Air Force since 2000 and in the Bangladesh Army since 2002.

Bangladesh is now well-into the Next Eleven Economy and Frontier Five Countries. According to the UN in 2010, the country is making significant progress in human development, gender equity, universal primary education, empowerment of women, reducing population growth, food production, health and renewable energy. The poverty rate has declined considerably since independence, and per-capita income has doubled.

Female-friendly Bangladesh

Bangladesh ranks in the top-ten countries in terms of gender equality. The glorious Bangladeshi women are in all national mainstream activities commencing from being freedom fighters in our great Liberation War in 1971 through working at various technical-social-political-industrial-military-economic levels to the coveted position of the prime minister!

Bangladesh has achieved major successes in women's empowerment, gender equality and parity in primary education. Strong administrative and legal structures, coupled with an active civil society, have been the foundation for women's movements, establishment of rights and the delivery of pro-women services. Bangladesh is the first country in South Asia to achieve gender-parity in primary education.

'Education for all' puts strong focus on girl children's education, including stipend programmes up to Bachelors level. Social Safety Net, Conditional Cash Transfers, Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Local Government (Union Parishad) Second Amendment Act in 1997 for direct elections to reserved seats for women -- all lead to women empowerment.

IMO actions for women integration

Int'l Maritime Organization of UN (IMO) plays an active role in integrating women into the maritime field (Res. 14 of STCW & Action Programme for Equal Opportunities and Advancement of Women). The 2010 IMO STCW Manila Diplomatic Conference invited the governments to highlight the role of women in the seafaring profession and to promote their greater participation in maritime training and at all levels in the maritime industry.

The 2013 IMO Busan Declaration advocated for implementation of