

**A Report on the Internship**

**at**

*New Age*

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December 2018



*Inspiring Excellence*

BRAC University, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

A Report on the Internship

at

*New Age*

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By

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Shamsun Nahar Adhora

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## 1. Introduction

“Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flower, not thunder” – Rumi.

From this quote by Rumi who is a Persian poet and philosopher, it is clear these words possess an indescribable power. Word is the most powerful tool available to humanity. Words can influence minds deeper than voices. For instance, Shahbag protest of 2013 happened because hundreds of thousands of youth, mobilized by online news networking and various social media sites, gathered at the Shahbag intersection in Dhaka within an hour after the publication of news articles, television reports and blog posts on different medias. The reports written about verdict of infamous war criminal of '71, Abdul Qader Molla influenced half of the nation to act immediately. That day I realized the true meaning of Rumi's saying about raising words not voice. Therefore, I decided to pursue a career which will associate writing. This is why I choose Media and Cultural studies as my area of concentration in my undergraduate career.

As I almost came to the end of my undergraduate career, I had to select a place for my internship in order to complete my degree. At first, I wanted to do my internship at advertisement agencies because creative writing always fascinated me. Unfortunately at that time I could not find any vacancy for my desired post. While searching for more vacancy on different job portals, I came to know from a friend about *New Age* an English newspaper that was looking for interns at that time. So without delaying, I applied for the post. Fortunately I got hired. *New Age* is one of the best newspaper offices to do an internship because of its flexible work hours and friendly environment.

I interned at the national desk of *New Age* starting from June 15 to August 19, 2018. During these twelve weeks, I did not only get the opportunity to practice what I have been taught in my

university years, but also had a first-hand experience in adjusting myself to the workplace environment. In addition to all the text-book lessons that I learnt as a result of taking the media courses, my experience from the Residential Semester also helped me present myself as a professional, competent and hardworking intern. During my Residential Semester, I was taught how to be self-sufficient. I took the responsibility of doing well in my studies on my own, as my parents were not there to push me to study hard. Also, it made me self-disciplined as I made my own bed and washed my own clothes. I was a professional in the office as because I learnt how to function independently during the Residential Semester. I also learnt how to deal with the authority and peers. These lessons helped me become competent and hardworking during my internship period. My internship experience at *New Age* will always be precious because I got to learnt many things from there. I am grateful that I was given a chance to do my internship there.

## 2. A Brief History of *New Age*



**THE OUTSPOKEN DAILY**

Founded by A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan, *New Age* started its journey on June 7, 2003. The daily is published by the Chairman, Editorial Board, ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd.

*New Age* is well known for being non-biased and neutral in its news presentation. This makes the newspaper one of the well-known English newspapers of the country.

The slogan of *New Age* is 'the outspoken daily'. Mr. Nurul Kabir is the present editor of the newspaper. He is a journalist, writer, columnist, editor and activist. He is well known for his upright journalism and bold political views.

*New Age* is a 20 page newspaper and currently employs around 200 reporters. Sometimes the page number exceeds due to extra pages in the Entertainment and Business sections. *New Age* also has a website. The e-paper is available after 12:00 am daily. Hence, people can easily access their website for important news beforehand. There is a comment section in their website. So people can share their views, opinion and complaints regarding the news and the newspaper.

*New Age* has various sections such as national, politics, international, entertainment, sports, editorial, and business. Also, it has different weekly supplements called *Trends* and *Youth*. Apart

from their own news reporters *New Age* collects news from United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Bangladesh Songbad Songstha (BSS). *New Age* subscribes to UNB and BSS, which are the two leading news agencies of Bangladesh. For International news, *New Age* subscribes to Reuters and Agence France Presse. *New Age* has a wide array of loyal subscribers due to its neutral way of presenting authentic news to the readers.



### 3. My Journey at *New Age* as an Intern

To accomplish my undergraduate degree I was required to take the internship to my related field. Since I am a student of in English and my major concentration is Media and Cultural Studies, I was required to undertake an internship in a related field. I have always been interested in writing and wanted to take journalism as my career. Keeping with my concentration and personal interest I looked for internship opportunity in any visual and print media organization which will benefit both my interest and my future. I was lucky to be chosen to do my internship at the *New Age*, one of the leading English Newspapers of Bangladesh. I started working as an intern on 18th January, 2015 and finished my internship on 18th April, 2015. It was a three months internship. This was a rewarding journey for me as it gave the opportunity of observing news reporting and editing mechanism very closely. Besides, it was a great chance for me to apply my academic knowledge in more efficient way.

My interest in writing was a major reason behind my choice of my concentration in Media and Cultural Studies along with my subsequent interest in internship at newspapers. As my interest was to do my internship at newspaper office I dropped my CV at the *New Age* office. I was called for an interview after a few days. The Deputy Editor, Farid Ahmed took my interview and confirmed my internship at *New Age*. It was a breakthrough for me as it offered me what I had long been waiting for.

The environment of *New Age* is very congenial and welcoming towards the young interns. At the beginning I was a little worried about interning with experienced and proficient professionals. After all, there is a big difference between student life and the professional world. I thought I would make a lot of mistakes and will not be able to create an impression. But as it turned out, though my colleagues were experienced and very busy, they were very welcoming

and supportive. *New Age* has a good record and reputation of nurturing young minds and leading them to better prospects. All of my colleagues were very helpful. I was touched to see how they would often take time out from their busy schedule to check on me and ask me if I needed something. They helped me to learn different things related to working for a newspaper daily. They were all very patient and sympathetic.

Throughout my internship journey, I wrote several news reports and a feature story about a celebrity. I have attached samples of my work in this report. My work included verifying information sent by the reporter, collecting more information if needed and organizing information in a press release sent to *New Age*. I also had to translate news from Bangla to English and write news report on it.

However, the journey was not always as settled as I thought it would be. I was struggling to create a balance between my studies and internship. At first I also struggled to write a publishable news report but whenever a crucial crisis like this happened, the whole National Desk team was there to help me.

#### 4. Writing News Reports

My first task at *New Age* was to write a news report about Bangladesh Communist party's (CPB) comment about US embassy's relocation to Jerusalem from Telabib. As I already knew the basics of writing a news report which I learned in my Eng404: English for the Print Media at BRAC University, finally writing the report was not that difficult. I had knowledge about the inverted pyramid format<sup>1</sup> which I was introduced to during my Eng 440: English for Print Media course. The pyramid structure prioritizes and structures the news report in a descending order of importance. As the story progresses, it gets more specific.

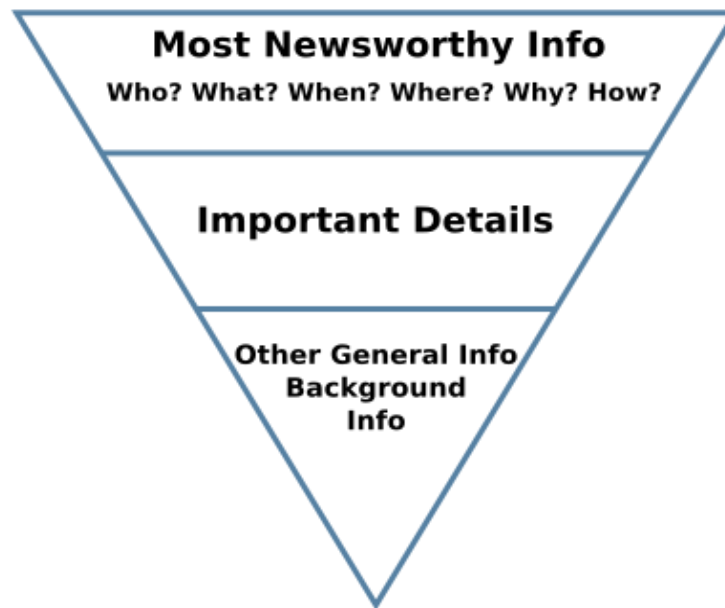


Fig 1: Inverted Pyramid Structure

Source: Google Image

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<sup>1</sup> The inverted pyramid is a metaphor used by journalists to illustrate how information should be prioritized and structured which was developed over time by the editor and journalists. The structure allows the audience to read the most crucial details quickly so they can decide whether to continue or stop reading the story. From an editing perspective, using the inverted pyramid style makes it easier to cut a story from the bottom, if necessary. Many journalists believe that inverted pyramid was invented by 19<sup>th</sup> century war reporters who sent their reports by telegraph. But there is a debate about how the inverted pyramid originated.

According to the structure the most important information is kept on the top of the news report which is headline or introduction and the least important information is placed at the bottom of the news report. It is also helpful in terms of editing. The editor can cut the least important details of the story from the bottom of the pyramid, if there are any space constrains in the newspaper. News is written so that readers can stop reading when they have satisfied their curiosity without worrying that something important is being held back.

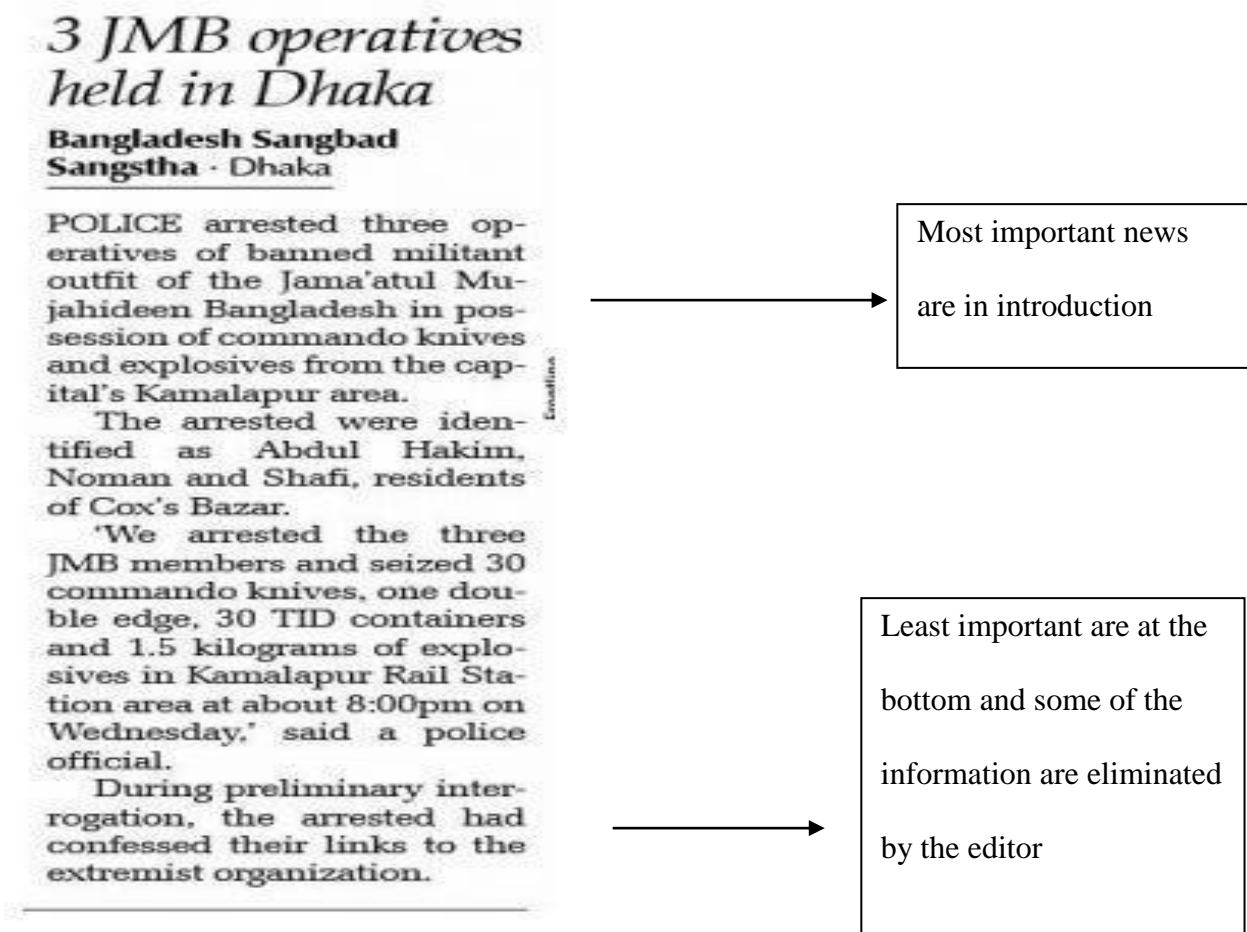


Fig 2: News report

Source: *New Age*

While working on the hard news reports, I learned that one of the basic rules of writing for newspapers is to not mention the name in headlines except for celebrity or public figures because nobody knows them. Names should be mentioned in second or third or in later paragraphs of the news report. For example, in the third paragraph after describing how the accident has occurred in second paragraph the identity of the injured or deceased can be mentioned as ‘the deceased/ injured was identified as Mr. U’.

## Female doctor killed in Dhaka road accident

United News of Bangladesh . Dhaka | Published: 10:51, Dec 04, 2018 | Updated: 00:34, Dec 05, 2018



Deceased identified as Female doctor instead of her name

Advertisement

A female physician was killed in a road accident when a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying her in capital's Bijay Sarani area of Dhaka early Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Akhter Jahan Ruma, 28, an ophthalmologist who had worked at an eye hospital in Osmaninagar of Sylhet.

The accident took place at about 4:45am when a bus of Green-line Paribahan hit the auto-rickshaw, leaving Ruma and the auto-rickshaw driver critically injured, said witness Hanif.

Later, the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the duty doctors declared Ruma dead at about 5:00am, said sub-inspector Bacchu Miah of the hospital police outpost. Ruma had come to Dhaka to attend an interview at Shyamoli Eye Hospital, said the witness.

Identification of the deceased revealed in the second paragraph

Details of the accident in the third paragraph

Fig 1: News Report

Source: *New Age*

The Second rule that I learned is instead of writing in numbers for newspaper reports it is required to write in words. For example, eleven instead of 11. Another rule is to mention gender and age group of the victim, for instance, a man died instead of one dead or youth found dead in case of young boys and girls.

## 2 more 'drug peddlers' killed in 'gunfights'

Staff Correspondent | Published: 10:08, Jun 22,2018 | Updated: 23:43, Jun 22,2018



Two more suspected drug peddlers were killed in two separate incidents of 'gunfights' with police during anti-drug drives at two places in Mymensingh early Friday, police said.

The deceased were Ali Hossain, 38, son of Shahed Ali of Tarakanda upazila and Swapan Mia, 32, son of Abdul Kuddus of Trishal upazila.

With the duo, the death toll rises to 159 since May 15 during the ongoing countrywide anti-drug drive.

Until Friday, at least 28,373 suspected drug peddlers and addicts were arrested by the police and the Rapid Action Battalion, according to their accounts. The police began its drive on May 18 while RAB's drive kicked off on May 4.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party chief and special envoy to the prime minister, HM Ershad, alleged that the 'drug kings' were not caught in the ongoing anti-drug drives, New Age correspondent in Rangpur reported.

Advertisement

ওজন না কমলে  
ফেরত

ওজন না কমলে টাকা ফেরত  
ক্লিক করুন

amarlagbe

New Age, Dh

Written in words instead of numbers. Here, 2 is written as Two in the headline.

Fig 2: News Report

Source: *New Age*

Also, it is advisable to keep the word limit of the hard news stories to 150-250 words. I incorporated all the necessary details while also maintaining consistency in terms of grammar, British spelling and using transition words while writing the news reports.

Moreover, news reports are written in simple English, so my supervisor advised me to use easy words that can be understood by the general public. I had knowledge about it from Eng401: Editing, Eng404: Copywriting and Eng440: English for Print Media course, where my instructor told me to use easy words while writing, so that the average person understands the news story.

During my internship period I learnt different techniques of news reporting. Sometimes I had faced problems too, especially, while translating news. I was given more crime news to report but reporting political news was also a part of my work and I found it more difficult. The expressions of political news items are different from crime news. I dealt with those problems with the help of dictionary, previous reports, internet, and with the help of the onsite supervisor.

It is important for a reporter to be careful while writing about political leaders, about their speech and any kind of allegation imposed upon them. On the other hand, in the news item itself had to be mentioned from which credible source the news have come from. Otherwise it may not be acceptable to the readers. I was able to understand the working methods with the help of the senior sub-editor of the National Desk. My writing was checked and corrected by him. Altogether, this journey in *New Age* has been really transformative for me.

## 5. Translation

As *New Age* covers news from all over Bangladesh, it has its own correspondents appointed in almost every district of the country. The news which is sent by the correspondents of different district to the *New Age* office is written in Bangla. Though *New Age* is an English newspaper, correspondents usually do not have the time to write the information in English. Even if they do there is a possibility of missing out important information due to their lack of fluidity in English language. Hence, the district-based correspondents are advised to write their reports in Bangla, as they make more mistakes while writing in English.

During my internship at *New Age*, writing and editing were both a part of my job. The news reports sent by the correspondents and the press releases were both in Bangla. So translating from Bangla to English was my daily work. I had basic knowledge of the techniques of translating which I learnt in the “Eng465: Translation Studies” course. I used sense for sense translation and word for word translation techniques while translating.

Translation plays an important role in newspaper agencies. Basil Hatim and Jeremy Munday in their book *Translation an Advanced Resource* define translation as “[A]phenomenon that has huge effect on everyday life” (3). News will be unclear and unreliable unless proper translation is done. Incorrect translation can change the meaning of the news and readers might misinterpret it. Translations are not always done in word for word form of the source text.

Jeremy Munday in his book *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications* mentioned two types of translation strategies, ‘word-for-word’ and ‘sense-for-sense’ which were used by Cicero and Saint Jerome. According to Munday ‘Word- for- word’ and ‘sense-for-sense’ strategies developed during the early of second century while translating court testaments, Holy book such as the Bible and other philosophical texts from Greek to mostly Latin.



Word for word also known as literal translation is the rendering of text from one language to another one word at a time with or without conveying the sense of the original text. In translation studies, literal translation is often associated with scientific, technical, technological or legal. The translator translates it like it is in the source text.

I used the word for word translation strategy while translating names, designations, addresses, name of the institutes while translating news items from the information that were sent by the correspondents and press releases of various organizations. For instance, while translating designation of various people I translated using word for word strategy. For example, ‘sobhapoti’ as ‘president’ and ‘porichalok’ as ‘director’.

On the other hand, sense for sense refers to the sense or the essence of the source text that is translated. Mohammad Farghal who in a translation scholar in his book titled *WORD-FOR-WORD' OR 'SENSE-FOR-SENSE' TRANSLATION: RUMINATING THE AGE-LONG POLEMICS* said,

“The second, by contrast, frees itself from linguistic constraints by opting for a more functional understanding of Interlingual communication that has its roots in sociology and psychology and, consequently, views language as psycho-social behavior.”(39)

*New Age* mostly follow the sense-for-sense translation. There are many Bangla words which do not have any English word that expresses the words true meaning. Therefore, every text cannot be translated using the ‘word for word’ translation strategy. For instance, the Bangla word ‘obhiman’ does not have any proper English translation. Obhiman can be translated as ‘wounded pride’ but it does not express ‘obhiman’s’ real meaning. While writing news report for the National desk of *New Age* I also came across words such as ‘obhiman’. Once I was writing a report about suicide case of a young bride who took her own life by poisoning herself. The

reason for consuming poison was 'shwamir sath rag koshakoshi'. Now, 'rag koshakoshi' does not have any English word that expresses its true essence. Therefore, I had to apply 'sense for sense' translation strategy. I translated 'rag koshakoshi' as 'minor fight'. *New Age* always prefers 'sense for sense' translation in case of translating news reports from Bangla to English.

## 6. Press Release

A press release is a written or recorded message prepared by an organization for news agencies to publish for the readers. A press release can come in either soft or hard copy. It is actually a message for the readers which an organization publishes through news agencies.

During my internship most of the news stories I wrote were modified from press releases. The most critical part of writing press releases was to give them an appropriate title. It was challenging for me to sum it up and express the gist of the news in 8-9 words.

Moreover, another very important point to remember when converting press releases into the news report format was to include the names of the important people who would speak at the event in the given press release. Correctly including their designation in the respected organizations mentioned in the press release was also an important part of writing news reports. The press releases I got were very lengthy because it had all the topics discussed relevant to the press release at the end and many of the given information was irrelevant. For example, once I got a press release of around eight hundred words from Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

However, summing up the speech in concrete sentences and also making the news report cohesive for the readers was a part of my job. Moreover, a lot of the press releases were political due to which I had to be very careful about my word selection. Political press releases tend to criticize opposition political parties. Hence, while writing I had to avoid offensive words and also include all the important points discussed in the press release. For example, the number of maximum press releases regarding the other political parties' opinion on governmental decisions which are sent by any political party's offices contains slangs and offensive comments about the government and other political party. Writing news from such press releases, I was always advised by my supervisor to avoid offensive comments and slangs because *New Age* is a neutral

newspaper which is free from any political biasness. Therefore, by eliminating the offensive words I just wrote the news about their views about specific incident as ‘BNP opposes government’s decision’.

Press releases sent to New Age were mostly in Bangla. As press releases are sent from different organizations like the government, religion-based organizations, political associations, nongovernment organizations and other institutions jargons were very common in press releases.

Thus, while writing news articles from those press releases I chose simple words so the news becomes easy to read for the readers of *New Age*. The technique of using simple words instead of jargons attracts readers and gives them total understanding after the news is read. I was introduced with this technique when I took my Eng 401: Editing course.

## **7. Relating Theory with Internship Experience**

The Department of English and Humanities focuses on Print Media solely for the students with a concentration on media and cultural studies. The courses that are required in area of concentration to be taken are Globalization and the Media, Editing, Translation Studies, Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice, English for the Print Media and Copywriting. The theories from the cultural studies course are highly applicable in print media and I was able to relate these theories to my internship experience. Theories that I found relevant with my work experience are Michelle Foucault's 'Panopticon' and Arjun Apadhurai's 'Mediascape'.

### **7.a Panopticon**

Panopticon is an architectural design of an institutional building and a system of control designed by English philosopher and Social theorist Jeremy Bentham. The basic setup of Bentham's panopticon is about a central tower which is surrounded by cells. In the central tower is the watchman. In the cells are prisoners or workers, or children, depending on the use of the building. The tower shines bright light so that the watchman is able to see everyone in the cells. The people in the cells, however, the prisoners are not able to see the watchman, and therefore have to assume that they are always under observation.

In an article titled, "The Eye of Power" Michel Foucault, a French philosopher, historian, theorist, and critic talked about Bentham's Panopticon. Here "Pan" refers to all and "Opticon" means to observe, which indicates that everything is under observation.

During my three-month internship, I was also under this system of observation as my work was observed by my supervisor. Moreover, not only was my work observed, the work my fellow colleagues and senior editors was also observed. Mr. Farid was at the center from where he observed everything and everyone. But the other employees including interns were in the cells

designed as individual cubicles. They were not able to see the observer. This constant observation made me more active, conscious and motivated to work to the best of my ability during my working hours. Starting from when I arrived at work to how I performed, everything was observed.

### **7. b Mediascape**

Arjun Appadurai who is an Indian-American anthropologist recognized as a major theorist in Globalization Studies discussed five scapes of globalization in his book *Modernity at Large*. They are mediascape, financescapes, ethnoscapes, ideoscapes and technoscapes.

Mediascape is one of the 'scapes' that I was able to my work during my internship. According to Arjun Appadurai, mediascapes can be comprehended as the numerous media outlets (TV, radio, newspaper etc.) that shape the real world we occupy, where narratives and pictures are frequently the main way through which opinions are formed about a place or culture.

Appadhurai in his book *Modernity at Large*, says, "What is more important about these mediascapes is that they provide( especially in their television, film, and cassette forms) large and complex repertoires of image, narratives, and ethnoscapes to viewers throughout the world in which the world of commodities and the world of news and politics are profoundly mixed." By which he means how our views are influenced by the media.

There are millions of people around the world who start their day with newspaper in their hands. The information that they consume from the newspapers works as a medium to shape their ideas about the world and the surroundings. During my internship I wrote a lot of crime stories which helped me realize that the crime rate is high in our country even though I do not see crime happening in front of my eyes. The information in the newspaper creates a view of the

world and other countries. As well it can change people's view about things and turn it into good or bad. Also the international news of the newspaper enlightens the reader who is far from that culture and country about different culture and happenings of that country.

## 8. Personal Account

Interning at *New Age* gave me the opportunity to learn about the newspaper industry and how it functions. Before starting my internship, I only saw the final copy of the newspaper that everyone receives daily. However, after starting my internship, I got to know how newspaper agencies gather information and go through different procedures (collecting, writing, editing, and checking) before publishing.

While interning I wrote and edited news reports at the same time. I had the liberty to organize the news according to the inverted pyramid structure<sup>2</sup>. Editing news was also challenging, because an editor has to check the sentence structure, punctuation, grammar and authenticity at the same time. I faced a few difficulties while writing and editing news. The first few weeks were very tough for me as the house style of *New Age* was not known to me. Everyday my supervisor introduced me to different rules and regulations that *New Age* follows. Nevertheless, over time I got a grip of their writing pattern and made less mistakes.

Additionally, another difficulty that I faced was regarding the length of the news report. The length of the reports varied according to the incident and its importance. In the beginning I was confused about the appropriate length of a report. However, my supervisor told me to avoid unnecessary information, only write what I consider to be important regardless of the length of

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<sup>2</sup> A journalistic writing structure which was developed by journalist over time. The structure allows the audience to read the most crucial details quickly so they can decide whether to continue or stop reading the story. From an editing perspective, using the inverted pyramid style makes it easier to cut a story from the bottom, if necessary.



the report. The maximum limit was 250 words in total. However, there were exceptions where the information was valued over by compromising the length of the news report.

Editing news reports made me responsible. I was writing news reports, editing them and finding missing information from the regional correspondent at the same time. Additionally, interning at *New Age* also helped me to be punctual and work under time constraints. I had to be present at the office at 4:00 pm. sharp. After attending two back to back classes, it was hard for me to go to office at the given time as the office was far from BRAC University as well as my home.

My time management skills improved and I went to office regularly on time. In addition, this internship also made me efficient. During my internship, I was asked to write one report per day. However, as time passed my efficiency increased, and I often wrote up to three reports per day. I can say that I found this whole experience to be very exhilarating, it has helped me develop my writing, editing and working skills. It was not easy for me to complete my internship along with two other courses. It would have been very difficult for me without the help and support of my supervisor, colleagues and family.

## 9. Recommendation

During the three month internship at *New Age*, I gained knowledge about print media and how it works. As I did not have a lot of previous knowledge about how print media such as newspaper organizations work, it was tough at the beginning. To ease the struggles of future interns who are planning to do internships at newspaper offices I would like to suggest them to keep the practice of writing ongoing which develops during Eng 401: Editing and Eng 440: English for Print Media course.

I would request the department to offer media courses twice a year, so that, students do not have the gap in between their internship and learning. I believe freshly learned theories and course content with practical application right after it is more effective.

Also future interns' struggle will be half gone if the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University add a practical exercise where students will get an opportunity to interview important people and will get a chance to write a feature story based on the interview. Practical interview can be a part of Eng 440: English for the Print Media course where a guest interviewee invited by the course instructor will be interviewed by the students of that particular course. For this, the students will prepare a questioner and will submit it to the course instructor. By doing so students can learn what sort of questions they should prepare for an interview. Common questions will be eliminated by the instructor during a class discussion based on the questions provided. Moreover, students from their set of question will get to ask one or two questions to the interviewee. Later the students will submit a feature story based on their conducted interview. Though we learn about the types of interview in Eng 440: English for the Print Media course, all of us do not have the opportunity to apply the learning in reality. The only students who interviewed people during the course were the students who choose profile feature when the

chapter titled 'feature' was covered. This is because other students including me wrote other kinds of features such as seasonal feature, historical feature etc. among the other feature that we were made familiar with. We had an option to choose features among the features we were familiar with.

The reason for such recommendation is that during my internship, I was assigned to interview Ankhi Alamgir who is a singer. For this assignment I had to prepare a set of interview questions. Preparing the sets of questions was the biggest challenge for me because I did not know what sort of question I should ask during my interview. Hence, I had to repeat my phone interview with Ankhi more than once and at a point she stopped responding to my calls. For this reason, I think it would very helpful for the students if they get to learn about conducting interviews practically.

## 10. Conclusion

Interning at *New Age* was a great experience for me. I observed the application of my classroom leanings while doing the internship. These twelve weeks of internship have helped me to gather lots of experience and has broadened my understanding of how newspapers actually work and what it takes to be a journalist. Most importantly, I have learnt to adjust in the workplace environment. Taking the responsibility of work, realizing the weight of it, working accordingly is therefore the best learning of my internship. Also, reporters deal with new issues and new ideas every time. This makes it interesting and challenging as well. This has increased my admiration for this profession. The experiences that I have gained from *New Age* will definitely help me in my future as I start my professional life. This internship is not an end of a journey rather it is the beginning of a path that will lead me to greater things. Indeed, it was a very rewarding experience.

## 11. My Published Works

Here are some of the works that got published during my internship.

### Peddler found dead in Shariatpur

Family claims: DE picked him up three days back

New Age Correspondent | Published 00:20, 1st Oct 2018 | Updated 00:20, 1st Oct 2018



A member of Rapid Action Battalion stands guard during an operation. — New Age file photo.

A suspected drug peddler was found dead in the Shariatpur district town early Monday, said police.

In Rajshahi another suspected peddler was killed allegedly in a 'gunfight' with the police at the same time, police said.

In Shariatpur, Kabe Mabe's body was found by the roadside at Kadiyara Bata under the Palong thana on the Shariatpur-Madhyapur Road early Monday, according to Shariatpur police.

Family members said that Kabe was missing since Friday evening when the DE police in Rajshahi picked him up from a house near the Shariatpur Municipality.

Son of Naaj Mabe, Kabe came from Elledham in the district town.

New Age Shariatpur correspondent reported quoting police superintendent Abdul Hamid that drug peddler Kabe might have been killed in a gunfight between two drug peddler groups.

According to Kabe's paternal uncle Selim Mabe police officers were identifying themselves as Detective Branch of police along with a man from Palong Thana, but picked up Kabe from Khokan, Mabe's residence at Khokan in the district town on Friday evening.

Selim said that when family members went to the district DE office and Palong police station but they denied having detained anyone with the name of Kabe.

On Saturday, he said, they went to Palong police station to lodge a general enquiry regarding Kabe's missing but they refused to record the CR.

Kabe's mother Sumai Begum said that Kashed Badi, a village of Chanchua under Palong police station, demanded Tk 6000 for his release but they failed to pay the money. "Police murdered my son as we failed to pay the ransom."

"I demand justice," she said.

But Kashed denied the allegation.

SP Hamid also denied that the DE had picked up or detained Kabe.

In Rajshahi, Mabe Rahman, 36, son of Anis of Charbagura, College, Rajshahi suffered bullet injuries allegedly in a 'gunfight' with police at Bahadurpur, reported New Age DDJ correspondent, quoting Rajshahi district senior assistant superintendent of police Ashim Rana.

The report says that the suspected drug peddler received bullet injuries during the alleged gunfight at Bahadurpur. College reports to Rajshahi at about 3:00 am and he was immediately rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

EMC-H officials said that he was admitted to the hospital at about 4:00 pm with bullet injuries in his both legs.

SP Rana also claimed that they seized 200 grams of heroin and two sharp weapons from the spot.

The latest 'gunfight' casualty increased the toll to 17 in the ongoing anti-drug drive since May 17. Most of them were killed in 'gunfights' with the police and the Rapid Action Battalion.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/45621/peddler-found-dead-in-shariatpur>

## BRAC Univ organises anti-bullying awareness campaign week

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 01:15am on May 23, 2018



Syeda Sarwat Abed, director of BRAC Institute of Languages, speaks at the opening ceremony of Anti Bullying campaign at BRACU Auditorium on May 13. — press release

BRAC University organised an 'anti-bullying awareness campaign week' at its Mohakhali campus auditorium in the capital in May 13-17.

The campaign's main objectives were to create empathy, compassion and awareness and develop strategies to effectively prevent bullying and to provide psycho-education about the psychology of bullies, bystanders and victims and its impacts, said a press release issued by the university.

BRAC Institute of Languages, office of co-curricular activities and counselling unit jointly organised the programme.

The campaign's initiator, Syeda Sarwat Abed, also founder and director of BIL, quoting Ralph W Sockman, said, 'The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority.'

Students also shared their experiences of being bullied at school, college and society in an interactive session. Video presentations about bullying were screened too.

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Students also shared their experiences of being bullied at school, college and society in an interactive session. Video presentations about bullying were screened too.

Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of BRAC and chairperson of the BRACU board of trustees, BRAC University vice-chancellor Professor Andaleeb, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, board of trustee member, Rokia Afzal Rahman, another trustee member, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra Sheepa Hafiza and Sara Zaker, actor, business entrepreneur and social activist, attended the programme.

Besides, singers Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb, Mobassher Chowdhury, singer and actor Rafiath Rashid Mithila, actor and director Afsana Mimi, singer, lyricist and musician Jon Kabir, and motivational speaker Solaiman Shukhon, also shared their personal experiences and thoughts on bullying with the students.

# BRTA files 54 cases for traffic rule violation

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:45, May 21, 2018 | Updated: 00:48, May 21, 2018



Advertisement

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority filed 54 cases and realised Tk 1.90 lakh in fines for violation of traffic rules in Dhaka city and adjacent areas on Sunday.

The authorities conducted three mobile courts which sent three transport workers to jail while documents of one motor vehicle were seized for violation of rules under Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1983, said a press release issued by the BRTA.

BRTA executive magistrate Muhammad Abdur Rahim Shujan, who operated a mobile court in Shymoli area, filed 23 cases and realised Tk 58,000 in fines.

The same court also sent three drivers to jail in different terms on allegation of reckless driving and illegal parking.

In BRTA's Ekuria office, BRTA executive magistrate Md Shakhawat Hossian filed 16 cases, realised Tk 33,200 in fines and seized documents of a vehicle.

Executive magistrate Md Mazharul Islam operated a mobile court in Abdullahpur-Gazipur intersection area where he filed 15 cases and realised Tk 99,000 in fines.

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# Swapnadal to stage Tringsha Shatabdi in Japan

Cultural Correspondent | Published: 21:57, Aug 17, 2018 | Updated: 22:31, Aug 17, 2018



A scene from Tringsha Shatabdi

Theatre troupe Swapnadal will stage its acclaimed anti-war play Tringsha Shadabdi at a performing arts festival in Japan titled 'Festival/Tokyo 2018', which will be held from October 13 to November 18.

The troupe will stage two shows of the play at Theatre West auditorium of Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre on November 3 and November 4 as part of the festival, which is jointly organised annually by the Festival/Tokyo executive committee, Toshima City, Toshima Mirai Cultural Foundation and others. Earlier, Tringsha Shatabdi was staged at a British festival titled 'A Season of Bangla Drama Festival-15' and two festivals in India.

'Swapnadal will represent Bangladesh for the first time in the Japan-based festival', Zahid Repon, the director of the play and the founder of Swapnadal, told New Age.

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'Swapnadal will represent Bangladesh for the first time in the Japan-based festival', Zahid Repon, the director of the play and the founder of Swapnadal, told *New Age*.

A thirteen-member team of Swapnadal artistes comprising Juayna Shabnam, Fazle Rabbi Shukorno, Samad Bhuinya, Shishir Shikdar, Jebun Nesa, Shakhawat Shaymol, Zahid Ripon and others will travel to Japan for staging the play. *Tringsha Shatabdi* is an adaptation of Indian playwright Badal Sircar's work with the same title.

Zahid Repon's adapted version unveils genocides that took place at different times in the world through interrogations of some historical characters like Einstein (who invented the theory of making atom bomb), Major Ferebee (the pilot of the aircraft that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima), and Major Claude Eatherly (who carried the nuclear bomb to Nagasaki and later became insane on his realisation of the crime).

Besides, Zahid Repon will deliver a lecture on the topic *Theatre of Bangladesh Today: Continuation of Tradition and Modernism* at East Atelier hall of Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre on November 2. He will also attend a programme to be aired by NHK World Radio Japan.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48662/swapnadal-to-stage-tringsha-shatabdi-in-japan>

# I am nothing without my fans: Akhi

Cultural Correspondent | Published: 18:58, Aug 25, 2018



Akhi Alamgir

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Singer Akhi Alamgir spent a busy Eid entertaining her fans performing at live music shows aired on different channels.

Akhi Alamgir performed at live Eid music shows on ETV on Eid day and on third day of Eid the singer performed live on Nagarik TV and Baishakhi TV. At the shows Akhi Alamgir presented a few popular songs sung by her, along with songs requested by the viewers.

'I am nothing without my fans. When I perform in live shows I can connect with them', Akhi Alamgir told New Age.

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'I am nothing without my fans. When I perform in live shows I can connect with them', Akhi Alamgir told New Age.

She also released two music videos of duet songs, titled 'Ore pakhi' and 'Mon bakso', with singer Asif Akbar to entertain music lovers before Eid on youtube. Among the music videos, Ore pankhi, released on the youtube channel Rtv Music on August 20, has been viewed more than 800,000 times, while Mon bakso, released on youtube channel ARB Entertainment on August 17, has been viewed more than 50,000 times.

'Ore pankhi is a funny song and Mon bakso is a romantic song. I am happy that music lovers have liked the videos', said Akhi Alamgir, who performed at Bangladesh Utsab held in South Korea on July 22.

Akhi's daughters Sneha and Arya accompanied her during the trip.

After returning from South Korea on July 27 Akhi flew to Cox's Bazaar to perform at a concert, which was attended by a large audience.

Besides, Akhi Alamgir, who won Bangladesh National Film Award in Best Child Artiste category for her performance in the film Bhat Dey in 1984, earlier visited Rohingya camps in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar. She also performed at a charity concert held in London in May to raise funds for destitute Rohingyas.

More about:

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