

Sports Journalism: An Inside Story

at New Age

A Report Submitted to

The Department of English and Humanities

of

BRAC University

By

Md. Saikul Islam Srijan

ID - 10103022

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Student ID - 10103022

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Department of English and Humanities

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Acknowledgement

During these fascinating eight months time, I had some memorable moments of my life. I consider myself very lucky person because in this period of time, I came across with many kindhearted, self-actualized and skillful people both at *New Age* and at BRAC University. These people inspire me in my every step through their presence and they help me in a great deal with their assistance. Without their support, my days as an intern at *New Age* would be a disaster. Only because of their help, I consider my 13 weeks at *New Age* as one of the best and memorable days in my life so far.

I am grateful to my supervisor Mushira Habib for bearing with all my fuss and help me direct writing this report. I am also thankful to Roohi Huda for her guidance and also for helping me understand few terms which may look small but it was truly helpful for me. Next, my gratitude goes to all the associates of *New Age* sports desk, especially to the Sports Editor of *New Age*, Azad Majumder. In my tough days, he was the one who had supported me all the way and had believed in myself. His support and guideline helped me work freely and with complete freedom. My amiable appreciation goes to Mir Ashfaquzzaman, the deputy editor of *New Age* for granting my internship and gives me the chance to work with you people.

I want to thank my family for supporting me and keep me in their prayers always. Last but not the least, I want to thank all my friends who have helped me and have given me mental strength in numerous occasions. The words may not show how grateful I am to all of you but even then, I want to give especial thanks to Dishan, Bithi, Nayma, Sadia, Tahsin, Rafi and Pranjol for helping me out from tough situations and also help me write this paper in many ways.

Md. Saikul Islam Srijan

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Abstract

News is full of information and facts. News keeps people up-to-date with current events and issues. Sports news for the print media is no different either. Sports departments are no longer considered to be a 'toy' department for newspapers. Now-a-days, it is regarded very highly. It also has many challenges. People are looking forward to work in this department. Me, being a fan of sports, and interested to work in the media, did an internship at the sports section of the *New Age*, an English daily from Bangladesh. This report highlights my work experience and insights as a sports reporter.

1. INTRODUCTION

The world today can be claimed to be dependent on the functions of the media. Different forms of the media dominate the lives of people as well as the politics of the world. Being an aware citizen of the world means to be updated with the news and views of the world. Being an active individual means to be participating in the various social networks or the new media. Thus, the media becomes a fascinating institution that appears to have a part to play in every aspect of our lives today.

That is why I chose “Media and Cultural Studies” as my major; because I thought it will bring me closer to the media. By working in the media, I will be acquainted with what goes on behind it all and gain an insider’s perspective. While studying and learning different things about it in the media and cultural studies courses, I felt my interest rise. It is also a significant field of study today, which encouraged me further to do my major in it. I also felt that I would do better while working hands on in the subject than in courses dealing with different aspects of it. As an offering by the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University, I did not hesitate to choose “Media and Cultural Studies” as my concentration area as I felt this was always what I wanted to build my career in.

I picked *The New Age* for my internship because they maintain the ethical standards while presenting the news and their approach is directed to the people as well which is why they have a good number of readers reading their newspaper. It is the second leading English newspaper in Bangladesh after *The Daily Star*. Because of its very passionate and creative editor along with its direct and different approach to the news, it is widely spread and acceptable among the readers across the country.

I have worked at the Sports department with seven other journalists. I have worked under the sports editor of *New Age* Azad Majumder from whom I have learnt so many aspects including - their ways of writing the news, giving headlines, how to edit an story, how to write reports from press releases and other online sources. As a person, I have also learnt so many things like – men management, leadership quality and the importance of punctuality in the work sector from him. We worked under a very friendly environment and guided properly well by Azad Majumder. The experience that I got from there will always be remembered in my entire life.

2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF *THE NEW AGE*

The *New Age* is a newspaper based in Dhaka city and run by a group of journalists and editors who are one of the best in Bangladesh at what they do. The *New Age* began its journey on 7th July 2003. After just 10 years, the *New Age* is the second most read English newspaper in Bangladesh. That is quite an astonishing achievement. They generate 20 to 24 pages every day, with 7 features in 7 days, 4 weekly supplements and various specials. The sections of the paper are NATIONAL, METRO, BUSINESS, INTERNATIONAL, SPORTS, EDITORIAL, OP-ED and TIMEOUT. The supplements include *Joven*, *Xtra*, *Life* and the famous magazine *Trends*. There are a variety of specials including Ekushey February special, Anniversary special, Eid special, ICC Cricket World Cup special, FIFA World Cup special, etc. They have their own style book, containing more than 1200 headwords and they are maintaining it day in and day out.

The *New Age* deals with news and issues, not political parties. They do not support any specific party and they are not against any specific party either. Their motto “Biased towards the people” says it all. They always try to publish the news which is true. They are not too bothered about the consequences as a result of publishing the news as long as it is true and it speaks for the people. They are always partial towards the people and they maintain it.

Under the editor Nurul Kabir, the staffs are working very hard and always try to give their best at work. He has that ability within himself and also has very strong leadership skills as well. It always helps him to get 100 percent from the colleagues. He is also very popular for his bold intensity in political talk shows even after receiving so many death threats.

On August 3, 2003 *The New Age*, based on the curriculum vitas of 235 lawmakers' submitted to the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat, broke the news that among 300 MP's only 12 were actual politicians. Readers expressed their admiration soon afterwards for *The New Age*.

The New Age like to cross-check the information several times before publish it on the newspaper. It makes the news trustworthy to the readers. *The New Age* will always be remembered for taking bold stands on any controversial issues. They have made a difference to the other newspapers by being different. *The New Age* stands out in this aspect to others. They always try to stick to their motto which is really difficult in Bangladesh to maintain as the politicians love to use their power and most often they misuse it. *The New Age* knows about it and accepts it. Even after that, they try to stick to their motto. In order to bring a positive change in attitude and politics, not only *The New Age* but also the common people need to stay on the same page for greater goods.

3. WORKING AT *The NEW AGE*

Working at *The New Age* has been an enormous learning experience for me. It gave me the chance of getting to know about how they work, what methods they follow while writing, how to do certain kinds of work along with a chance of meeting with a lot of renowned and interesting people related to sports. One thing I realized especially well is that studying media and working in the same field are very different. While studying, things were between me and my teacher or professor, but at the office it's so much more than that. At the office one must deal with the editors and every one of his/her section or department and their judgments.

I worked at the Sports department. I found out that they did not discriminate anybody while working. One aspect that they want is that of your dedication at work. Nobody can neglect sports now-a-days. It gives the audience the entertainment. If a young kid wants to take any kinds of sports to be his/her profession, parents do not restrict them rather encourage and support them. It is kind of strange because five years earlier, it cannot possible to imagine.

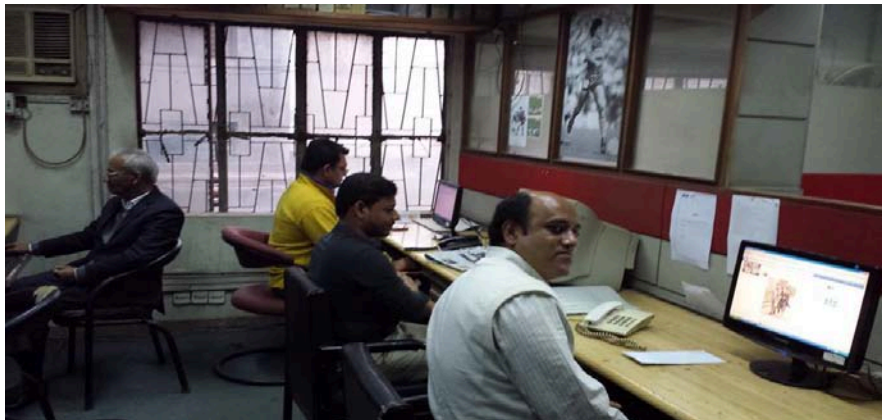
“So, what are the processes at work that are reformulating what sports journalism is, and who sports journalists are? In this respect the book aims to identify and map out the combination of internal pressures that are occurring within media organizations as journalism adapts to both the changing patterns and expectations among media consumers and the wider structural economic and cultural shifts in what now can be called the sports economy. Other concerns also include asking to what extent has the growth of the online sector impacted on the traditional sports print media?” (Boyle 21)

A change of attitude has come from the guardians as sports give fame and recognition. Many businessman turn their focus on sports as it gradually turns out to be a very profitable

business sector. After introducing Indian Premier League (IPL) in India, the effects becomes much more visualize to everyone . It becomes possible because of the rise of globalization. As a result, Sports Journalism is becoming more and more popular to the people. The Sports department is slowly becoming a vital department for a particular newspaper to exist in the market. Hence, we see many newspapers give extra care to the sports department and try to bring lot more colors on to it. It is gradually developing as one of the dominant sectors for a job as well.

The *New Age* sports department is governed by seven members:

- Sports Editor: In complete control of the Department, has a final say regarding which news will go on the sports pages, on which page number, edits news and represents The *New Age* in International sporting events as well.



New Age at Night; photo credit – Fawaz Khan

- 2 Sub-editors: Edits reports written by the Staff Correspondents, sometimes the news collected from the web, produces reports from score cards and Press releases (after translating them).

- 1 Sub-editor + International news collector (web): Mostly collects international (Football, Tennis) news and photos from a few renowned websites (agents).
- 2 reporters (Staff Correspondents): Collects news directly from sporting events and sport individuals (players, coaches, managers etc.), visits stadiums all around the country and produces reports from score cards and press releases (after translating them).
- 1 Designer: Makes the Sports pages (Local News, C2 C3 C4) using the Adobe Photoshop Design software.

The *New Age* strictly follows the British system of writing, which is quite different from what I am used to at BRAC University. We learn to write in the American system at BRAC University. Doing courses that of literature and ELT methodology for the first three years, I found newspaper writing to be very different from academic writing.

While writing for The *New Age*, I had to accustom myself to The *New Age*'s philosophy of news writing. The philosophy was - there is only one kind of information, that is based on truth, truth that's based on double checking, double checking that's based on cross-referencing, cross-referencing that's based on fact-finding, fact-finding that's based on self perseverance. This piece of writing is stamped on every cubicle at The *New Age* office in fact. That ultimately tells you how you should go about it here at The *New Age*. ↑

Every news report is written in several paragraphs and the standard word limit for each paragraph is that of 34 words and maximum of 46 words. For intro and concluding paragraph, you are supposed to follow that guideline very strictly. However, you can add more words in

body parts of a paragraph if necessary. Every thing should be done using the “Inverted Pyramid” method of course. Besides, the reports should be straight forward. Complicated reports that based on assumptions are strictly prohibited. The readers must not get confused after reading the report.

My first introduction to media education was with the English for Print Media course during my third year, and it continued through Translation studies, Editing, Copywriting and Globalization and other Media courses. I have attended a workshop based on Media Ethics and Journalism which was arranged by BRAC University’s Department of English and Humanities which gave me an idea about the contemporary media world and how it works. It also enhances the interest in me to get to know about it a lot more and be a part of it.

During my time at *The New Age* I did both desk reports and field reports as well. For desk reports, I had to write reports based on press releases, I also had to translate a lot of Bangla press releases into English and make a final report based on press-releases. I had written reports based on score cards as well. Last but not least, I also did some proof reading and editing. I did interview quite a few people (6 to be specific) which was part of my field work. I also got a good idea regarding how a newspaper is made ready for the public to read. I wrote several reports, which were published during my internship period at *The New Age*. Those will come out later in this report.

4. MY WORK

I tried to adjust myself there at the office at my initial days. I learnt so many things that were previously unknown to me. The co-workers at the office were very helpful to me and I learnt so many things from them. When the editor is away from the office or having a day off, the deputy editor looked after me. He was very friendly and helpful person. Whenever I saw him, he had a smile on his face. He had the power to motivate the working stuffs that was very important.

However, the first day there was a very horrible for me. I was asked to write a report based on reading a small story which was in Bangla. I got so excited that I made a line to line translation of that story and submitted that to the editor. It was so awkward. After that, I have done some translation works that will help me to increase the level of knowledge in English.

The most important subject that I learnt in the first week from the office was to take responsibility. I came across to know the basic principle that any newspaper follows while publishing the reports. It really amazed me knowing that how the reporters and the specialists on that particular sector view a single topic along with the fact that in how many angles one can interpret it.

I learnt about what are the websites that will help me to cover a particular section in the fields of sports. What is the style that they prefer while writing a report and the procedures of publishing any report on the newspaper.

I wrote about a very interesting and informative story entitled “Story of hat-tricks for Bangladesh.” That was my first try on writing a professional report. After looking the report, the

editor told me not to write a report in a manner so that it sounds like a commentary. His feedback helps me to understand what sort of writing they really want me to write.

I wrote seven reports based on press-releases, five reports on golf and chess each, three cricket reports and a report on tennis, racing, kabadi, hockey and football each as well

I have written captions of some photos which I have not done it earlier and it was satisfactory for me as it was perfect. Before writing those captions, I observed captions that were written earlier by my co-workers. It helped me a lot to write those captions.

Sachin Tendulkar retired from all sorts of forms of cricket on November 2013. It was a great event not only in India but also across the globe. In this regard, I helped my co-workers to write a report reflecting on the career of Sachin. It also helped me a lot personally as well as I came to know a lot of aspects of the career of Sachin Tendulkar.

I wrote a report about Shakib Al Hasan being the first ever Bangladeshi cricketer to play in Australian domestic twenty-20 tournament named Big Bash League (BBL). It was also big news which I had to keep in mind while writing that report. On a personal note, it was more satisfying as Shakib performed outstanding there who was called for as a replacement of the captain of Adelaide Strikers Johan Botha.

I was assigned for quite a few field works. I had to take quite a few interviews. I took an interview of cyclist President and made a profile of a cycling player as well. That was my first bi-linear. It was a mixed feeling for me while writing about the profiles of a cyclist. I have not done it previously. Hence, I had to look for the older versions of player profiles that New Age have. It was not the best one but considering my first time writing in this category, they said it was ok. The experience is all the same for me while taking an interview of cyclist President of

Bangladesh as well. I was nervous and excited at the same time. The president of Bangladesh cyclist federation Mizanur Rahman Manu helped me a lot to settle my nerves. He is a very media loving person which helped me a lot as it was my first field assignment as a reporter. I had to work like a professional journalist and I think without his help, I cannot do the job properly. I did not need to ask him a lot of questions. I asked a few questions but he covered many aspects of cycling that helped me to ease my pressure. The most satisfying aspect for me for those two reports is that those were good.

Next, I was assigned to cover the whole story of Badminton in Bangladesh. I spoke to a player regarding that as well as to make a profile of her. Moreover, I need to talk about the whole condition of badminton in Bangladesh. I need to focus on women's especially as *New Age* is focusing only on women's sports condition in Bangladesh. All of those stories went on under the name of 'Shining Light' daily basis from December 17 on *The New Age* newspaper. My first bi-linear was published on December 23, 2013 on *New Age* under my name. It is like a dream come true for me. My last one is also a bi-linear. However, this time it is on cycling.

It was a great experience for me to write about the profile of a shuttler named Shapla Akhter. I came to know so many things about her. One of the co-incidences I came to know about her was her hometown which matches with mine personally. So, it was a much pleasurable communication between me and her. She is one of the leading top ranked players in badminton for Bangladesh.

Compare to that, it was not that much easy when I tried to gather information about the whole condition of badminton in Bangladesh. I took the interview of the general secretary of Bangladesh Badminton Federation Jubaidur Rahman Rana. He did not show much interest

talking about the women's condition of badminton in Bangladesh. I felt sorry when I came to know about the obstacles of women's condition of badminton in Bangladesh. However, he answered all my questions which helped me to write a good report on badminton.

My advisor Azad Majumder always told me that I cannot be an expertise in a particular field just in three months. One can just learn the basics of a particular job in this period of times. One can just come to know regarding the basic principles and basic duties of a particular job in this period.



Editor and Senior Sub-Editor of Sports, New Age; photo credit – Fawaz Khan

My internship at The *New Age* office ended with so many memories. I certainly will not forget the days I have passed with my colleagues there. There were some ups and downs but overall it was an awesome experience for me. I learnt and experienced so many aspects regarding not only sports reporting or sports editing but also as a person how you handle various situations everyday. I believe that it will help me getting strong mentally in the days ahead of me.

5. SCORE CARDS

It is not always possible for reporters to be physically present and cover every sporting event. The main reason behind it is that newspaper companies generally run on a tight budget. Therefore, reporters often produce news reports from score cards provided by various credible websites, such as *ESPNcricinfo* and *DigiCricket (Bangladesh Cricket Board website)*.

The most frustrating challenge I faced at *The New Age* was producing reports from score cards. I think it is a much better idea of writing a report after watching the game live or in the television. It looks quite a good report and makes a good reading experience for the readers when a reporter writes a report after watching it live. It allows him to write reports with the help of some adjectives. For example- “hit a spectacular century,” “magnificent spell of bowling,” “poor fielding display” and so many aspects in the field that took place. However, as it is not always possible for reporters to be physically present and cover the event, I wrote reports based on score cards.

The following is a part of a usual cricket sports card (from Bangladesh Cricket Board website) that I had to deal most of the time.

Tournament : [CAB U-15 ODI Tour Of Bangladesh-2012](#)

Match : Bangladesh Under-15 Vs CAB Under-15 (22/05/2012)

Match Information :

Date : 22/09/2012

M. Started : 9:02 AM

M. Finished : 4:30 PM

Venue : Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, Khulna

Toss won by : CAB Under-15 and chose to bat first.

Captains : [Riazul Islam \(BD-U15\)](#), [Abhijit \(CAB-U15\)](#)Result : [CAB Under-15](#) won by 43Man of the Match : [Rittick Dey \(CAB-U15\)](#)

runs.

Match Officials :

Match Referee :

[\(BD\)](#)Umpires : [Imran Parvez \(BD\)](#), [Abhi Abdullah Al Noman](#)

TV Umpire :

Reserved Umpire : [Sohrab Hossain \(BD\)](#)D/L Manager : [Rafiquzzaman](#)Scorers : [Rafiquzzaman \(BD\)](#), [Moniruzzaman \(BD\)](#)[\(BD\)](#)COMS Scorer : [Khairul Anam Dalim](#)Innings of [CAB Under-15](#) (Maximum 50 overs)

Sl.	Batsman	How Out	Bowler	R	B	M	4s	6s	SR
1	Subhrajit Das	CT. Afif Hossain	Alif Akhter	0	2	2	0	0	0.00
2	Anjanava Saha	CT. Asadur Rahman†	Sanjid Hossain	22	31	46	3	1	70.97
3	Kazi Junaid	Run Out (Mejbaur)		47	91	118	5	0	51.65
4	Irfan Ansari	CT. & Bowled	Mejbaur	21	34	51	1	0	61.76
5	Abhijit*	Bowled	Afif Hossain	44	35	56	3	2	97.78
6	Agniv Pan	CT. & Bowled	Monirul Islam	3	46	12	0	0	18.75
7	Arif Ansari†	CT. Riazul Islam	Sanjid Hossain	30	17	58	3	0	81.08
8	Rittick Dey	CT. Asadur Rahman†	Sanjid Hossain	53	36	46	6	3	147.22
9	Pradipta Pramanik	Run Out (Sanjid Hossain)		7	26	11	1	0	116.67
10	Raktim Bose	NOT OUT		3	2	3	0	0	150.00
11	Prayas Roy	NOT OUT		0	0	1	0	0	
Extras (Bye:0, L. Bye:1, Wides:12, Nos:0, Penalties:0)				13					
Total (Wickets : 9, Overs : 50)				243	Run Rate : 4.86				

Fall of Wickets (FOW) :

1-0(Subhrajit,0.2ov); 2-38(Anjanava,9.2ov); 3-88(Irfan,22.6ov); 4-116(Kazi,29.6ov); 5-122(Agniv,33.3ov); 6-151(Abhijit,37.6ov); 7-225(Arif,47.6ov); 8-240(Rittick,49.3ov); 9-241(Pradipta,49.5ov);

Sl.	Bowler	O	M	R	W	Wd	No	Econ
1	Alif Akhter	9	1	4	1	3	0	6.00
2	Sanjid Hossain	9	0	3	3	5	0	5.89
3	Kazi Anik	3	0		0	1	0	3.00
4	Mejbaur	10	0	5	1	1	0	3.50
5	Monirul Islam	10	0	8	1	0	0	3.80
6	Riazul Islam	6	1	3	0	0	0	5.50
7	Afif Hossain	3	0	0	1	0	0	6.67

Innings of [Bangladesh Under-15](#) (Target : 244 runs in 50 overs)

Sl.	Batsman	How Out	Bowler	R	B	M	4s	6s	SR
1	Omar Faruk	CT. Arif Ansari†	Pradipta Pramanik	52	65	80	7	1	80.00
2	Aryan Fahim	CT. Arif Ansari†	Raktim Bose	10	17	35	1	0	58.82
3	Sanjid Hossain	CT. Subhrajit Das	Prayas Roy	13	14	17	2	0	92.86
4	Asadur Rahman†	CT. Agniv Pan	Rittick Dey	9	20	38	0	0	45.00
5	Jalal Uddin	CT. & Bowled	Irfan Ansari	37	61	89	2	0	60.66
6	Kazi Anik	ST. Arif Ansari†	Raktim Bose	4	9	12	0	0	44.44
7	Riazul Islam*	Run Out (Rittick Dey)		38	60	75	0	0	63.33
8	Afif Hossain	NOT OUT		14	17	25	1	0	82.35
9	Monirul Islam	CT. Irfan Ansari	Subhrajit Das	3	6	8	0	0	50.00
10	Alif Akhter	Bowled	Subhrajit Das	0	1	2	0	0	0.00
11	Mejbaur	CT. Rittick Dey	Pradipta Pramanik	2	5	4	0	0	40.00
Extras (Bye:1, L. Bye:0, Wides:16, Nos:1, Penalties:0)				18					
Total (Wickets : 10, Overs : 45.4)				200	Run Rate : 4.38				

Fall of Wickets (FOW) :

1-41(Aryan,7.5ov); 2-66(Sanjid,12.4ov); 3-92(Omar,17.6ov); 4-95(Asadur,20.4ov); 5-103(Kazi,23.2ov); 6-176(Jalal,40.1ov); 7-187(Riazul,42.1ov); 8-197(Monirul,44.3ov); 9-197(Alif,44.4ov); 10-200(Mejbaur,45.4ov);

Sl.	Bowler	O	M	R	W	Wd	No	Econ
1	Rittick Dey	6	1	25	1	7	0	4.17
2	Pradipta Pramanik	9.4	0	54	2	4	0	5.59
3	Irfan Ansari	10	0	40	1	0	1	4.00
4	Raktim Bose	10	0	36	2	2	0	3.60
5	Prayas Roy	8	0	40	1	3	0	5.00
6	Subhrajit Das	2	0	4	2	0	0	2.00

6. PRESS RELEASES

It is very natural that if you work for a news organization you are likely to come across a press release every day. Press releases are the ones that run every news media. Without press releases, it would have been very hard to produce a proper newspaper. It lacks information without press releases.

The times and technology may have changed, but there are several things a press release can accomplish that make its use worthy. Press releases are mostly sent by various organizations to the media for addressing issues such as press conference announcements, new product releases, death news, upcoming events etc. During my time with the sports department, I came across press releases from different sports federations, clubs and sponsors.

Here is a press release of a four day Cricket tournament sent by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) -



†cÖm wiwjR
ZvwiL t 9 Rvbyqvwi, 2014

**lqvjU†bi AwabvqK wiqv`
cÖ`vKwUm Kvj**

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evZv© †cÖiK


D`q nvwKg
cÖavb mgš^qK
lqvjUb †m›Uªvj †Rvb

Most of the press releases are sent in Bangla. There are English ones too, but they lack details compared to the Bangla ones. Here is the English version of a press release that I have done -

DHAKA, Thursday, 09 January 2014

Media Release

Women's National Training Camp

The Women's National Training Camp has started at the Sahara-BCB National Cricket Academy from 08 January 2014. The following cricketers have been called to the camp which ends on 20 January:

1	Salma Khatun
2	Rumana Ahmed
3	Lata Mondol
4	Ayasha Rahman
5	Jahanara Alam
6	Fargana Hoque
7	Khadiza Tul Kubra
8	Panna Ghosh
9	Nuzhat Tasnia
10	Tithi Rani Sarkar
11	Lily Rani Biswas
12	Ritu Moni

13	Fahima Khatun
14	Shaila Sharmin
15	Sharmin Akter
16	Shohaly Akhtar
17	Shamima Sultana
18	Shahnaz Parvin
19	Ayesha Akter
20	Sanjida Islam

--- ENDS ---

“Training Camp of BD Women Cricket started.” (Published on January 9, 2014)

Staff Correspondent

The Training Camp for Bangladesh Women’s National Cricket Team has started at the Sahara-BCB National Cricket Academy from 08 January 2014. The camp will end on January 20. Their next assignment is on the home soil in the ICC World T-20 when they face West Indies in their opening match. The following cricketers have been called to the camp:

Salma Khatun, Rumana Ahmed, Lata Mondol, Ayasha Rahman, Jahanara Alam, Fargana Hoque, Khadiza Tul Kubra, Panna Ghosh, Nuzhat Tasnia, Tithi Rani Sarkar, Lily Rani Biswas, Ritu Moni, Fahima Khatun, Shaila Sharmin, Sharmin Akter, Shohaly Akhtar, Shamima Sultana, Shahnaz Parvin, Ayesha Akter, Sanjida Islam.

--- ENDS ---

In Bangladesh, press releases are never printed word for word rather they are carefully edited and then they are ready to be published. One of the main reasons for editing these press releases is that – it often contains a lot of useless information that can distract the readers.

At *The New Age* I have seen various types of press releases. Some are impressive, and some disastrous. The press release writing rules that I learnt in the Copywriting course are rarely seen in Bangladesh.

None of the press releases I have faced are double-spaced. It is very irritating for the sub-editors because they are the ones who have to make reports based on that. It is much more difficult in case of Bangla press releases, where translation becomes an issue. I also have never seen ### at the end of any press release. Sometimes even the inverted pyramid technique is not followed, thus the copy becomes more difficult to analyze and must be read numerous times. If the press releases are digital, then these problems are easily solved.

Most of the Bangla press releases are full of mistakes, especially when it comes to names. The writer or sub-editor needs to be well accustomed to the current sports scene. It is not very difficult when dealing with ‘Cricket’ as it is very popular in our country, but other sports that are not very popular like ‘Club Basketball’ and ‘Hockey’ pose a challenge. Bangla press releases mean a lot of translation and a lot of difficulties which will be covered details in the next chapter.

7. EDITING

The job of an editor is not easy at all. As an editor, one has to edit a report. He has to cut down a lot of reports that are long. Hence, some reporters do not like an editor. However, if an editor does his job well, 'Well edited' is the last word any reader will say after reading a good report. Hence, after all the re-writing, re-structuring, cross checking, capitalizing and spell checking, it is truly cruel to be an editor.

Editing can be sometimes turns into an annoying job, especially when you are dealing with rural correspondents or the ones who are not very good at in the English language. Think about a situation where the reporters came across the word 'Gonodholai' in Bangla and he translated that into 'An extortionist was mass-washed.' This is a genuine story faced by Mir Ashfaqzaman, the Deputy Editor of *The New Age*.

As a part of my major requirement I had to do a course on editing, where I was taught to edit and proof read using various symbols.

The chart below contains the proof reader's marks/symbols:

Symbol	Meaning	Example
∅ or ∅ or ∅	delete	take it out
○	close up	print as ○ ne word
Ⓟ	delete and close up	cl o se up
^ or > or ˆ	caret	insert here (something)
#	insert a space	put one here
eg#	space evenly	space evenly where indi

<i>stet</i>	let stand	let marked text stand as se
<i>tr</i>	transpose	change <u>order</u> the
/	used to separate two or more marks and often as a concluding stroke at the end of an insertion	
[set farther to the left	L too far to the right
]	set farther to the right	too] far to the left
~	set as ligature (such as)	encyclopaedia
=	align horizontally	align <u>ment</u>
//	align vertically	// align with surroundi
x	broken character	im <u>per</u> fect
□	indent or insert em quad space	
¶	begin a new paragraph	
Ⓢ	spell out	set <u>5 lbs.</u> as five pounds
cap	set in CAPITALS	set <u>nato</u> as NATO
<i>sm cap</i> or <i>s.c</i>	set in SMALL CAPITALS	set <u>signal</u> as SIGNAL
lc	set in lowercase	set South as south
<i>ital</i>	set in <i>italic</i>	set <u>oeuvre</u> as <i>oeuvre</i>
<i>rom</i>	set in roman	set <u>mensch</u> as mensch
bf	set in boldface	set <u>important</u> as important
= or -/ or ≡	hyphen	multi-colored
$\frac{1}{N}$ or <u>en</u> or /N	en dash	1965–72
$\frac{1}{M}$ or <u>em</u> or /M	em (or long) dash	Now—at last!—we know.

✓	superscript or superior	✓ ² as in πr^2
^	subscript or inferior	^ ₂ as in H ₂ O
∧ or ∨	centered	∧ for a centered dot in $p \cdot$
↵	comma	
↵	apostrophe	
⊙	period	
; or ;/	semicolon	
: or Ⓜ	colon	
“” or “”	quotation marks	
(/)	parentheses	
[/]	brackets	
OK/?	query to author: has this been set as intended?	
↓ or ↓ ¹	push down a work-up	an unintended mark
Ⓜ ¹	turn over an inverted letter	inve _u ted
wf ¹	wrong font	wrong si <u>z</u> e or styl <u>e</u>

(Mariam-webster)

These were used to edit copies before modernization or digitalization of writing. Changes in technology, competing demands of deadlines, rush of news and printing have changed the pattern of work. The days of crossing the “t” and dotting the “I” is gone forever. Besides, with the help of ‘Microsoft Word,’ one can easily proof-read anything.

The *New Age Sports* mostly deals with two types of reports. First one is that of field reports and another one is that of reports which generally collected from online sources. There are three sub-editors with an editor. Azad Majumder is the department head and Mehedi Hassan Sujan is the senior sub-editor. Sujan bhai mainly downloads news from online sources and edits them if needed. The other two sub-editors are Rashed Banna and Fawaz Khan. They write reports from press releases, score cards and reports that the field reporters bring in. Atif Azam is the senior most reporters of The *New Age*. He mainly does all the important field reports. The big or serious reports are done by Azad Majumder. When there are too many reports to do and work is piling up, Azad Majumder works very calmly under pressure at an incredible speed.

Sub-editors are a huge part of the news industry. They are the ones who do the primary editing work before the editor of the department takes a look. To be a sub-editor and eventually an editor one should have exceptional command over language and creative writing which most of the reporters are not very good at I must confess.

8. ON-LINE SOURCING

On-line Sourcing turns out to be a huge plus in Bangladesh's news industry. As most of the time our newspapers cannot afford to send reporters and photographers abroad and sometimes even outside the capital, they have become extremely dependent on on-line sources.

The New Age is heavily dependent on these highly reliable and well credited on-line sources:

- AFP-Agence France-Presse.
- Reuters.
- AP-associated press.
- ESPNcricinfo.
- DigiCricket.
- On-line Press releases

The news reports collected from these sources are only edited if necessary. These are generally used for collecting international news, tennis and football to be specific.

The Associated Press is an American news agency. The AP is a cooperative owned by its contributing newspapers, radio and television stations in the United States, which both contribute stories to the AP and use material written by its staff journalists. Many newspapers and broadcasters throughout the world are AP subscribers, who have to pay a fee to use AP materials without being official members or contributors of the organization.

Agence France-Presse (AFP) is a French news agency, the oldest one in the world, and one of the three largest with Associated Press and Reuter (collected from Wikipedia). AFP is widely used in Sports and International news departments. At *The New Age* AFP is mainly used for Tennis and Football news and photos. Club Football news is very popular in Bangladesh, and AFP provides everything any sports editor would need.

Reuters is an international news agency headquartered in London, United Kingdom and is a division of Thomson Reuters. Reuters employs several thousand journalists, sometimes at the cost of their lives (collected from Wikipedia).

ESPNcrinfo.com is the main source of international cricket news. ESPNcrinfo provides the latest cricket news, commentaries, scorecards, statistics, graphs and profiles. It is the best site for all sorts of cricket news.

DigiCricket.com is best for all the information regarding national cricket. This site has all the information, statistics and profiles of every club and national level cricket events.

9. TRANSLATION

A lot of scripts I needed to translate during my internship phase. All of them are from Bangla to English. It came to me as a huge challenge and I felt like I was relieved because I did a course in BRAC University on ‘Translation Studies.’ It truly helped me a lot in translating those press releases.

There are mainly two types of translation. They are -

1. Word for word translation and
2. Sense for sense translation.

The course instructor of ‘Translation Studies,’ told us to follow the latter one and I found out that in the real world, everyone goes for sense for sense translation whenever translation is required. In sense for sense translation, the idea of the writer is projected, rather than the exact words.

One always has to remember that translations are always written in the form of a report. Translations are not easy. It requires extensive knowledge on both Bangla and English languages and their terminologies. However, it was my privilege that The *New Age Sports* has Mujibul Haque. We all used to call him Mujib chacha because of his age. There is hardly anything that he does not know about Bangladesh’s sports. This 60+ years old freedom fighter has the broadest knowledge base I have ever come across with. With him around, I do not have any tension of going near to a dictionary or check sports history. Besides, he is so helpful that sometimes he came across to me and asked me if I had any difficulties while translating the text.

10. PERSONAL ACCOUNT

My days at *The New Age* were something that I never forget. It was a prolific journey for me there as an intern. I had lots of good memories there but there were some issues that caught my attention which I cannot overlook.

Passing the time for three months with the sports desk of *The New Age*, I am honored. I had the chance to meet some of the living legends of Bangladesh's sports. Moreover, it also gave me the access to cover an international event called "Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Open International Badminton Challenge 2013," at the Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Dhaka. Taking an interview of an international badminton star, Pai Hsiao Ma who is ranked 24th in the World, was one of the best moments of mine as an intern at *The New Age*.

It is not only about covering an event, rather how I covered that event was also one must not forget. Not everyone can go there and have a delicious lunch specifically ordered for you. Besides, covering the event sitting in the air-conditioned room is also something that not everyone can get. I had the access in some places while working at *The New Age* where entry is restricted like the practice sessions of Bangladesh cricket team.

I am also very grateful to my co-workers because at the time I reached at the office everyday after long traffic disarray, I have always found them laughing no matter what day it is. Watching their faces and listening to their hilarious and funny jokes, I am pretty sure that even if one tries to be irregular at the office, he cannot be irregular.

It was a pleasure to work with the highly skilled professionals like them. They hardly miss the deadline of their works. They are sincere and always maintain punctuality with their work. Hence, they are successful in their own sector.

I also learned about the ethical aspects of journalism when worked at *The New Age*. In 2012, I had the chance to be present at a series of workshops at BRAC University conducted by Dr. Uche Oneybadi, Assistant Professor of Southern Illinois University, talking about sports ethics along with other topics. He told us that a reporter should not be biased and would not need to change facts or the scenario to manipulate the readers. We get the best example about that when the arch rivals play with each other. For example – During a match between Real Madrid and Barcelona (also known as El-Classico), knowing the facts that the players did not follow the ‘Fair Play’ rules provided by FIFA, if a reporter wrote a report just on the basis of goals or by only seeing the scorecards, it only proves that that particular reporter did not follow the procedures ethically. If he wrote the report kept in mind that he is a Real Madrid or Barcelona fan, he also did not follow the ethical code of journalism. As a reporter, one could fall in that trap sometimes. However, a good journalist would not fall in the trap.

After learning about “A Propaganda Model” in the Globalization and the Media course at BRAC University, I could clearly see and relate to its elements in the media world through my experiences at *The New Age*.

The propaganda model has 5 filters, which now-a-days are more dominant in every aspect of the media. These filters are -

1. Ownership and Profit Orientation
2. Funding and Advertising
3. Source
4. Flak and
5. Anti-Communism.

Except the 5th filter, almost all the filters are dominant in the media scene of Bangladesh. In fact, Bangladeshi journalists are probably facing more flak than others in the whole world. Journalists are constantly being threatened and killed. Most newspaper companies in Bangladesh are owned by affluent and influential people or large corporations or political parties. They do not see or listen about people's interest; rather they follow their own ideologies.

Every single one of the newspapers in Bangladesh relies heavily on advertising for their funding. They always get the first priority. After their advertisements are placed, then one can place their news in the newspaper. If the ads are big, the news is cut down short. Hence, reports lose details and news becomes less informative.

Sports Journalism requires an infinite knowledge base along with personal sacrifice and dedication towards the world of sports. Sports make us happy but it also needs immense efforts from the sports journalists especially in our country. Sports reporters run around from one federation/stadium/board to the other to collect all the information in the midst of an immense heat, humidity and traffic just for the sake of the readers is truly unbelievable. A person outside that industry will not understand how hard that is for them. However, staying in that industry and personally facing similar kinds of situations, I know how does it feel and I have enormous respect for the sports journalists at what they do.

11. CONCLUSION

During my 13 weeks at *The New Age*, I have enjoyed every second of it. It includes the fact that I had taken couple of other high level courses along with my internship. Working for five hours a day and study after reaching home, it was not easy but those people had driven me crazy. Hence, I managed to do both of them successfully.

I will not claim that I now know everything about sports journalism after staying there for long enough. One cannot learn all the important aspects of the job in two or three months. However, I can definitely say that staying with those highly professional and skilled co-workers; it has definitely widened my understanding of it.

My advisor Azad Majumder has always told me that I cannot be an expertise in a particular field just in three months. One can just learn the basics of a particular job in this period of times. One can just come to know regarding the basic principles and basic duties of a particular job in this small time period.

I have met quite a few interesting people and made a lot of new friends too during my intern days. It is a huge plus point for me because in this industry, one has to meet with different persons from different places with different choices and do the job with responsibility. I have also seen how a group of people work effectively keeping the readers in mind and work to achieve a result focusing on similar interest for everyone. I just want to say that I am grateful to be a part of them. I am really happy how the internship days have gone for me.

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