



ULAB

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

Department of Media Studies & Journalism

Internship Report
Prepared by:

Name: Azizul Hakim

ID: 173012041

Term: Spring 2022

Course Code: MSJ11498

Host organisation: The Business Standard

**THE
BUSINESS
STANDARD**



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Student Details

Name: Azizul Hakim

Student ID: 173012041

Department: Media Studies & Journalism

Major Concentration: Digital Production

Minor Concentration: Sustainable Development Studies

Career Goal: Screenwriting my own stories and direct them myself.
I have been honing my skills to that end since I joined ULAB.

Internship details

Host organisation:	The Business Standard
Address:	4/a, Swid Bhaban, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000
Website:	www.tbsnews.net
Organisation supervisor:	Mubin Shadman Khan
Supervisor designation:	Deputy Editor
Intern designation:	Feature Writer
Internship department:	Features
Internship start date:	1 February 2022
Internship end date:	27 April 2022
Work hours:	6:30 hours
Weekly work hours:	32 hours
Internship tenure:	12 weeks

Acknowledgment

Coming to write this report took me a couple semesters more than the regular twelve semesters program but I am still grateful that I could make it this far with all the adversities I know I have had to face to be here.

My Major concentration is Digital Production and I am really glad I chose this topic over anything else on offer here. The art of filmmaking and telling stories visually have always been fascinating to me.

I thank my internship supervisor Sherin Farhana Moni ma'am to take out the time needed to help me through this. I also convey my sincerity to my Academic Supervisor AFM Moniruzzaman for being there for me whenever I needed an advice regarding my education with ULAB.

I also have to be grateful my internship host organisation The Business Standard for allowing me to learn journalism with hands on experience. I thank my direct supervisor Mubin Shadman Khan for his constant support to help me make my writing skills fit journalistic styles.

The Business Standard is making strides in the English newspaper paradigm in Bangladesh and is setting trends for the industry to follow and I delighted to have been a part of it for however long my tenure with the institute lasted.

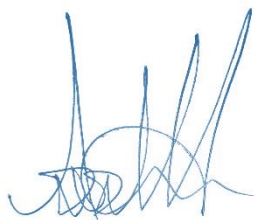
I do have a lot of individuals and institutes I am grateful to that I went to for learning during my days at ULAB; the assistance I received from each of these persons and institutes are immense.

PLAGIARISM DECLARATION

1. I know that plagiarism means taking and using the ideas, writings, works or inventions of another as if they were one's own. I know that plagiarism not only includes verbatim copying, but also the extensive use of another person's ideas without proper acknowledgement (which includes the proper use of quotation marks). I know that plagiarism covers this sort of use of material found in textual sources and from the Internet.
2. I acknowledge and understand that plagiarism is wrong.
3. I understand that my research must be accurately referenced.
4. This assignment is my own work, or my group's own unique group assignment. I acknowledge that copying someone else's assignment, or part of it, is wrong, and that submitting identical work to others constitutes a form of plagiarism.
5. I have not allowed, nor will I in the future allow, anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as their own work.

Name: Azizul Hakim
ULAB ID: 173012041

Signature:





MSJ042

INTERNSHIP REPORT APPROVAL FORM

Student Name: Azizul Hakim ID No. 173012041
Major: Digital Production Year: 2022
Local Phone: +01739246994 Email: azizul.hakim.msj@ulab.edu.bd

INTERNSHIP/PROJECT INFORMATION

Internship Organisation/Project: The Business Standard

Internship /Project Report Topic: Reporting

Semester (Tick one): ☒ Spring 2022 ☐ Summer 2022 ☐ Fall 2022

Advisor APPROVAL (Please place a Tick)

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Partial Re-write ☐ Full Re-write

Remarks (If Not Approved/Pretrial/Full Rewrite):

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: Sherin Farhana Moni

Title: Assistant Professor

E-mail: afm.moniruzzaman@ulab.edu.bd

Phone: 01711272437

Introduction

I decide to undertake my internship under The Business Standard (TBS) -- an English daily in Bangladesh - since I was passionate to do journalism in English daily. Also, as a leading daily TBS itself led to towards my dream.

Throughout my time with TBS I have learned to hone my writing skills within the journalistic bounds because clearly there is a world of distance between writing creatively and for a newspaper. Even before joining TBS I used to follow it and was delighted when I got the opportunity to work with it.

My main focus was that I complete as many assignments as possible with the time I had with TBS and also learn as much as possible. The early couple of weeks I was trained with doing edits of articles written within the organisation. This was with the aim that in the process of editing an editor tries to pick the writing stylistic that is prevalent in a said organisation.

Alongside making edits, I was sent outside to cover assignments where I would interview respondents one-on-one to gather data and having collected sufficient data I would use them to write articles. The Features department differs by a broad stroke in the way that features can be written with time in hand and not rushing to meet a deadline. Features differ from news pieces but on the surface the both have to conform to the general outline of how they appear on a daily newspaper.

By the end of my time got to work on more than ten individual assignments that left me with enhanced skills of writing for a newspaper. During my time at TBS I met with people of key and learned more than I bargained for.

Objective

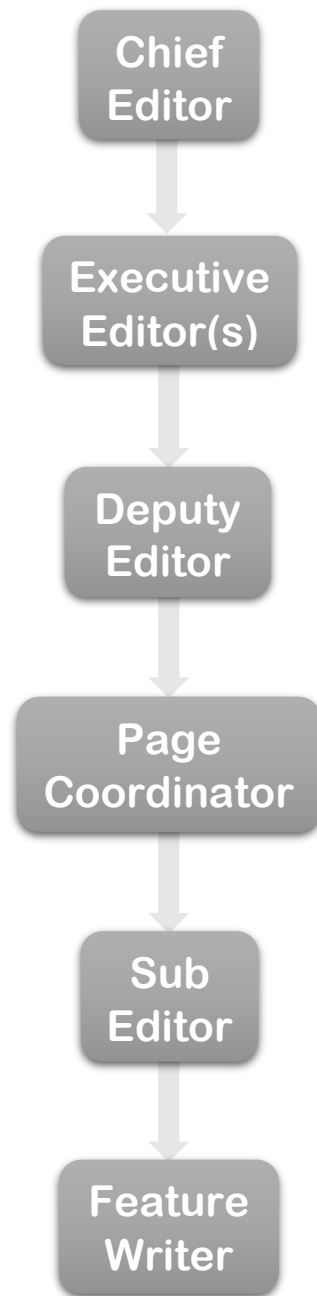
At the university where I got to learn how to work assignments and finish/publish them on time. At the end of onboard studying the internship programme allows a glimpse into the real-world education scenario. Although I majored in Digital Production where filmmaking was the focal point, I chose to do the internship at a newspaper, preferably an English one, and I did get to do that at The Business Standard. As a Features Writer at the organisation I wrote features on an array of topics. The assignments helped me to tweak my writing from a creative style to a mode suiting a newspaper. Once done with the internship program the objectives I completed are:

1. Edit features
2. Revise features after initial edits
3. Work weekly page layouts
4. Work as a team player
5. Understand the value of meeting deadlines
6. Improve writing skills
7. Improve editing skills
8. Do researches for a newspaper
9. Do photo journalism

Host organisation

“Beneath the surface” is the motto of The Business Standard (TBS), i.e., the organisation likes to get into the core of delivering just news to its readers. It began its journey in January 2019 and is owned by The Horizon Media and Publication Ltd, which is under the Orion Group. The Editor in Chief for the organisation is Inam Ahmed. Although plenty of English dailies operate in Bangladesh at the moment, TBS has already made a place for itself in the market and the minds of mindful readers. Alongside using fair writing practices, TBS does also the job of not just writing news and features for the readers but provide images, illustrations and sketches of interviewees and the writers, all in colour. TBS covers half of the daily issues as features because it values general’s people’s opinions and view of the world.

Organogram of the Features Department



Tasks

The following tasks were assigned to me as an intern:

- Preparing international news on most days and adjust them The Business Standard's in-house style
- Anchor a special page which talks about careers paths and choices
- Go out on field assignments from time to time
- As a Digital Production Major, I was tasked with leading video team on stories which required an audio-visual presence
- Sub-edit articles on the daily
- Gather and produce news on international affairs

Project details

Projects completed: 11

Projects published: 11

Project 1

Project title: Remembering Charles Dickens

Project description: This article published was on 12 February 2022 in the remembrance of Charles Dickens, on his 210th birthday. Charles Dickens is the most influential English author/novelist from the Victorian Era. Many of his writings focused on the many struggles of the English people during the Industrial Revolution.

My responsibility: I wrote this article for the Splash page, the dedicated page for entertainment news on The Business Standard.

My Copy:

Remembering Dickens

Aziz Hakim

Category: tribute

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness," exclaims Charles. Darwin? No! The name is Dickens. Charles John Huffam Dickens. Yet, to any classic bibliophile out there, the mere mentioning of the first six words of the book brings back fresh memories of the timeless classic novel: **A Tale of Two Cities**.

Shakespeare spoke highly of Sophocles' tragedies: Oedipus Rex and Antigone. Had Shakespeare been able to live it out till the time Dickens had completed his pristine pieces of literature, he would marvel at Dickens too; quite compulsively, might one add. Since that could not be, we are reminiscing Charles on his 210th birthday, in the year two thousand and twenty-two, from 7 February 1812.

Growing up, my only friend was Davy; David Copperfield (not the magician). While reading the namesake book, little did I know it was Dickens himself I was empathising with. Dickens' illustrious authorship has gifted us a luxuriant collection of classics which placed him on the mountaintop of Victorian Era English Literature.

It is quite tough to place a finger on what aspect of life Dickens has *not* written about. And in David Copperfield he conducted his evermore loyal readers through what childhood he lived for himself. Dickens through the voice of Davy, walked me through what gratifying a life I lived, looked on next to his own.

After more than a couple centuries between Dickens and us, is he still here with us? That seems to the question less asked. Our mechanised lives may leave little room for imagination but a birthday is always a fine excuse to remember a loved one, a wise one or an old friend; Charles Dickens happens to be all of them for us.

Alongside **David Copperfield**, Dickens prolifically penned **A Tale of Two Cities**, which explores the beauty of love well within the schism between France and England during France's

glorious Revolution for Liberté, égalité, fraternité – French for liberty, equality and brotherhood; **Great Expectations** where he depicts the life of yet another orphan – Davy and himself alike – named Pip, coming-of-age and making big on the great expectations set out upon him.

The list goes on. **The Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby, A Christmas Carol, Bleak House, Little Dorrit** embody Dickens' most notable works. The array of narrative diversity he brings into each work of his breathes life into them. Long before cameras and visual entertainment existed, his poignant creations would create in the mind of his readers pictorial depictions that took words to a bigger-than-life heights.

I remember this one time when I saw a film named David Copperfield being aired on TV. To make sure it was the actual adaptation of the book on the screen, I lingered on for a few minutes. When similarities were discovered, I quickly moved away from the channel because I had not yet read the full-length book.

Watching a film ahead of the book it is based before reading the source material itself does spoil the happy-reading experience. Now, it has to be said at this point that most of Dickens' books are not happy stories or ones that end on a happy note.

"I know enough of the world now to have almost lost the capacity of being much surprised by anything." Reads one line from my David Copperfield. As any art is one part art and one part the artist itself, this one such quote reveals the test of time Dickens had endured to make it where he did in life.

On the other end of the spectrum, he also knew the value of love and celebration.

"and it was always said of him (Scrooge), that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!" is one such quote that shows to us the colours of his mind.

In his relatively short novel **A Christmas Carol** Dickens makes us see how deeply he understood the meaning of life with love and celebration. Scrooge Ebenezer, the protagonist of the novel starts, out as a mean and miserly old, crooked man. The story drags him through a multitude of out-of-body experiences that transforms him into a man *that knew how to keep Christmas well*.

Ever since he put **A Christmas Carol** into the world, the Holiday spirits do not seem to move until every child knows how important it is to learn from Ebenezer's encounter and thus keep Christmas well.

If you Google up Charles Dickens, you shall find the extension 'FRSA' right next to his name. **Fellowship of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (FRSA)**. To put things into perspective, inasmuch as the PhD title. FRSA is an award granted to individuals that the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) judges to have made outstanding achievements to social progress and development.

Around the turn of the 18th century, when England had become detrimental to human integrity because of the onslaught of the Industrial Revolution, it was Dickens who rose voice about it in his writing; or should I say his pen. FRSA or not, to me and to all the Dickens lovers out there, on his birthday, let us all chant in prayers for his soul, for he kept our souls well.

Edited copy:

Revise: Tanim

Edit: Nahian

PQ: Our mechanised lives may leave little room for imagination, but a birthday is always a fine excuse to remember a loved one, a wise one, or an old friend. Charles Dickens happens to be all of them for me.

Remembering Charles Dickens

Aziz Hakim

Tribute

SF: The simple yet unflinching words of Dickens enamoured avid readers for centuries and this year marks the 210th birth anniversary of this legendary English author

To any classic bibliophile out there, the mere mentioning of the first six words of this book brings back fresh memories of the timeless classic novel. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness," exclaimed Charles. Darwin? No! The name is Dickens. Charles John Huffam Dickens in his novel 'A Tale of Two Cities'.

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After more than a couple centuries between Dickens and us, is he still relevant? Our mechanised lives may leave little room for imagination, but a birthday is always a fine excuse to remember a loved one, a wise one, or an old friend; Charles Dickens happens to be all of them for me.

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My mistakes and learnings:

- ✚ I used a citation to start the write up with. In journalism that is wrong.
- ✚ I submitted the writing without a second recheck, that resulted in silly mistakes go unchecked.
- ✚ I used some flowery language than a straightforward one, which is the norm in journalism.

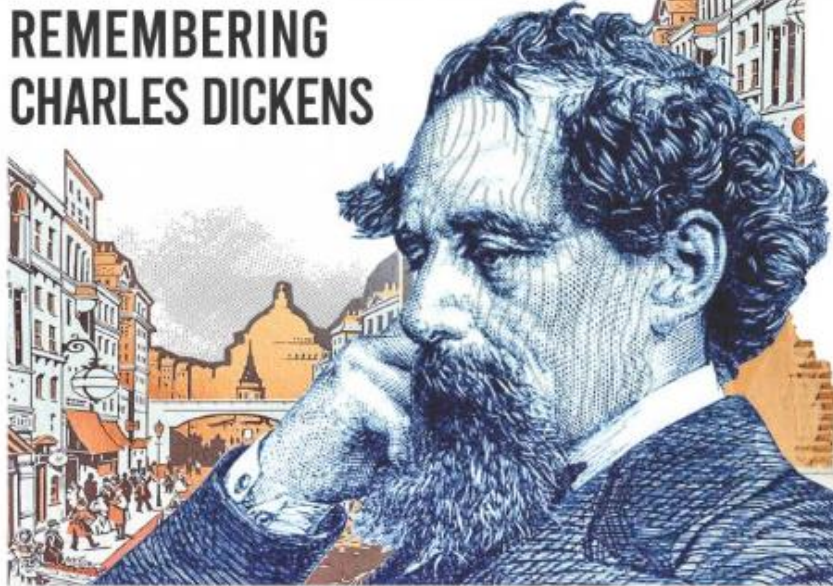
Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/splash/remembering-charles-dickens-369661>

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SATURDAY 12.02.2022

SPLASH

REMEMBERING CHARLES DICKENS



TRIBUTE

AZIZ MAKIN

The simple yet unflinching words of Dickens enamoured avid readers for centuries and this year marks the 210th birth anniversary of this legendary English author

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Project 2

Project title: How to reduce the carbon footprint of your home

Project description: This article was published on 1 March 2022. This was written to inform readers about how construction technologies and modern appliances are advancing in the way of going green. This also came with names, prices and brands of appliances that are energy efficient.

My responsibility: I wrote this article for the Habitat page, the dedicated page for architecture news on The Business Standard.

My copy:

A unit of energy saved is a unit of energy made

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

The term efficiency is everywhere and in everything these days. One can almost imagine that there is something known as an efficient lifestyle as well. But that is not in the way of minimising the many joys of life. We can still enjoy life in a grand way, while also being efficient about it.

In a nutshell, the aim is to talk about how the many devices, gadgets, appliances and consumer electronics surrounding us are becoming more and more efficient in how they operate when it comes to being eco-friendly. However, overuse of the term 'efficient' is quickly making it a cliché.

It gets confusing for the consumers to pick the right device they need or are looking for in an ocean of efficient devices. Since all that claim to be cannot be so, a little clarification goes a long way.

What (household appliances) to look for?

Even in technological terms, this question sounds like a philosophical one since there is just an awful lot to choose from: a long-list of brands with their longer-yet-list of product line ups.

Luckily, the term "efficient" stands here between the brands and products that can be avoided and those that could be brought home. Initially, the Energy Star rating is the globally accepted standard of appliance/device efficiency; these devices come with the Energy Star logo (look for it on the product body while purchasing).

The other is the addition of the Inverter technology to already existing heavy appliances like the refrigeration and air-conditioning units, washing machines and then some. This relatively new technology helps cut down up to 60% energy consumption.

LG, SHARP, Hitachi, Bosch, Toshiba, Samsung, General, etc., are amongst the brands that provide the Inverter Technology with their power-heavy appliances.

A range of Tk7,000 to Tk10,000 has to be added with the Inverter integrated appliance, beyond the price of the same model base unit. A 1.5 ton General split type AC with the Inverter integrated costs Tk65,500 and the base model is Tk58,500.

In the long-run, however, both bills and energy saved from it can tacitly encourage users to contribute less to the carbon footprint.

Energy efficient, natural lighting, cooling can go hand in hand!

Long before electrical lighting/cooling/heating even existed, people turned to natural ways to go about it. That can still be a solution. Not necessarily letting go of electronics entirely but bringing the best of both worlds together.

Previously, open space and green landscape was a huge part of urban outlines which has been reduced drastically nowadays for disorganised building constructions to accommodate the overpopulated city like Dhaka and Chattogram. Unplanned constructions only constrict optimised expansion for cities in the future.

For example, Paris, capital city of France, expands outwards from an epicentre named Île de la Cité. Its concentric design allows for newer constructions to grow without harming the central parts of it in anyway. That is ideal city planning, a trait that Dhaka or Chattogram does not have in common.

Architect and development practitioner, Ahmed bin Parvez, suggested, “Dhaka has already maxed-out of living-space but the new buildings coming out could still apply simple yet natural methods to reduce dependency on electric-powered means of lighting and cooling.”

Upon asking how Parvez envisions that, he added, “We as architects now turn to the sky - design buildings taller than the surrounding ones to balance the offset. That way we can design with as many windows we want in whatever orientation to make room for cross-ventilation. More openings mean less obstruction for both light to enter and air to flow. The south facing wind can only be channelled through a house if there are enough openings on opposite ends. But more light entering can also mean houses heating up unnecessarily. In that case we make use of double laminated glass for windows that keep the heat out but only let the light in,”

However, according to Parvez, these are not very inexpensive alternatives either.

The Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology has revolutionised lighting! From lighting living/outdoor spaces to making 8K QLED TVs possible, LED helps deliver extremely brilliant lighting for as much as a fifth of the energy a typical filament-bulb would take up. Philips, Syska, Havells sell the best LED lighting solutions in Bangladesh.

The price for this LED lighting is high. A Philips Stellar Bright Base E27 20-Watt LED Bulb (Pack of 4, Cool Day Light) would cost up to Tk4,679. A high mark-up to pay for controlled consumption of electricity over their lifetime.

Syska and Havells LED light bulbs of the same energy rating cost around the same as Philips. However, solutions to that are domestically produced LED light bulbs of much higher wattages that cost around half the price of the Philips or Havells ones.

Transtec, Superstar, Click, Walton are a few brands that produce LED light bulbs at a really competitive price point. As for ceiling fans, the Energypac Energy Efficient Ceiling Fan 56" consumes 35% less power (at 65 watt) than usual ceiling fans do, for a fair price tag of Tk3,250.

Besides, ceiling fans do however serve as excellent alternatives to air-conditioning units, simply because they consume less power but serve a relatively similar purpose.

Automation

Modern technology takes homes and commercial spaces a step further with the advent of automation. In-built motion sensors sense the presence of people coming in and out to determine when and how to turn lights and other equipment on and off.

Simply put, when people step into a space, appliances turn on without touching one switch! Some of these sensors also come with voice-command and respond to commands such as "lights-on", "lights-off", "dim lights", "set fan speed", "heater/cooler on/off", etc.

When people leave the space, appliances turn off automatically behind them. Besides adding a modern edge, this saves a lot of energy where it would be rather wasting away. These futuristic features can be installed inexpensively and easily.

Moreover, in offices, users can adjust the time period within which all the lights and air conditions will be on service during office hours and after that, 70% lights and ACs will be turned off to encourage the employees to save energy.

Faucets and bath wares now use motion sensors to activate only when water is needed. However, bringing automation into the lavatory is still subject to costing big. Higher quality bath wares tend to be more expensive than the average. Couple that with automatic motion sensors, it does not take long for unit prices to stack high.

Interestingly, every other form of appliance now come with microchips. This allows for all the appliances in the home to run under one network and use the internet to connect to each other. This is the Internet of Things (IoT).

'Things' denote all the devices that are connected together in a way they interact with each other and sync up. The owner can control from the mobile phone how they want them to work. This approach requires the entire home appliances to be upgraded and that can easily push costs up. But should one want this, it is very much there. For example, Samsung Smart Home is

an app on the phone that makes monitoring and controlling appliances and devices right from the phone.

Alternative natural solutions

Beyond the prospect of newer, green technology and architecture there lie subtle ways in which some of these effects can be achieved. Under-appreciated, these alternative solutions have somehow just gone away.

The jute is one prime example out of which so much can be made that could replace the overuse of plastic in the kitchen or any other part of life. There are biodegradable raw materials that could replace all kinds of plastic, glass and steel: materials that take centuries to dissolve with nature.

Such alternative items are out there in the market and consumers need only to purchase them to encourage more production and spare the Nature as well.

Rugs, carpets and table wares, all of which can very fashionably be made from locally sourced jute, could be used as insulators inside the home to keep the heat and cold out. Is the once mighty jute forsaken in the name of modernity?

Also, changing what we keep inside the refrigerator can help ease the matter of carbon emission. Did you know that livestock is the largest contributor to carbon emission around the world? So, switching to greener diets and changing the contents of the refrigerator, alongside the refrigerator itself, can further the concept of efficiency.

Where to look?

Certainly, the internet serves as a fine starting point for looking for things. Either there are designated websites for the items we are looking for or there are e-commerce websites. Both have their own appeal.

Designated websites are a great way to go when we have a clear idea of what we are looking for and what brand they are. But people who like to explore will find the e-commerce websites more convenient, as they serve as the internet's bazaar. Daraz, owned by Alibaba, is the name of the largest e-commerce site in Bangladesh.

However, purchasing online is also an easy way to get scammed if the customer is not being careful. To ease that, there are always the physical showrooms where customers can walk in and try and test the products they are exploring in real-time.

For consumer electronics, MK Electronics is now the most preferred hub to browse through the plentiful brands they offer customers to choose from.

Its branches are strategically situated in prominent locations throughout Dhaka, like in Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Uttara, Bashundhara to as far as parts of older Dhaka. In other words, it can be seen as the Best Buy in Dhaka.

Hitachi, SHARP, Panasonic, Sony, LG, Samsung are only a few brand names among a handful of other trusted ones offered at MK Electronics. Though these brands also have their own showrooms all around the country, MK Electronics makes a point of bringing them together under one roof, for the sake of convenience. Prices here range from a couple thousand BDT to as high as consumer electronics can go. And these products belong to the “efficient” class, of course.

Bangladeshi manufacturer brands like Walton, Jamuna Electronics, Vision, MyOne, Minister, RANGS are also securing a large market, with their own eco-friendly product line-ups, having moderate price range, with good affordability.

Ezzy Automation has more than eleven years of experience at automating customers’ homes and adding advanced security. Genex Infosys yet another big name in the collective marketplace who provide homes with cutting edge automation. Firefly Technology Ltd too is specialised in Lighting and HVAC Solution, Building Management Solution (BMS) and complete security and solutions required for any Smart Building.

What Smart Home is complete without a Smart lavatory?

TOTO, one global manufacturer of ultra-modern bath ware and solutions, has set up shop in Dhaka and imports their own and other high-end bath wares as asked for by customers. Kohler, another big player in high-end bath wares, coexist with TOTO and American Standards is one more brand that serves to that effect.

Edited copy:

Edit: Kamrun Naher

How to reduce the carbon footprint of your home

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

SF: In an ocean of efficient devices, it often gets confusing for consumers to pick the right device. The Business Standard decided to help out those who care for the environment but also love their creature comfort

People are nowadays becoming more and more aware of terms such as ‘efficiency’ and ‘eco-friendly’. But an efficient lifestyle does not mean you have to compromise on the comforts of life. We can still enjoy life while also being efficient about it.

Many modern day devices, appliances and consumer electronics, as well as household items, are becoming increasingly efficient when it comes to being eco-friendly and yet retain most of the functionality and effectiveness that you would associate with traditional products.

However, in an ocean of efficient devices, it often gets confusing for consumers to pick the right device. The Business Standard decided to help out those who care for the environment but also love their creature comfort.

Household appliances

First of all, when looking to buy household products, look out for the Energy Star rating, which is the globally accepted standard of appliance/device efficiency. These devices come with the Energy Star logo.

Also look for ‘inverter technology’ when buying heavy appliances like refrigerators, air-conditioners and washing machines. This relatively new technology helps cut down up to 60% energy consumption.

Leading brands such LG, Samsung, Hitachi, Toshiba, Bosch, Sharp, which are available at different outlets in Bangladesh, have a range of products in different categories that have been built using inverter technology to make them energy efficient.

LG has a number of refrigerators, including the LG GL-M492GLDL and GCB-244PN, which have the inverter technology, and can cost an additional Tk7,000 to Tk10,000 more than a regular refrigerator.

Inverter air-conditioners like the Samsung’s AR18TVHYDWKUFU or General’s AWHZ18LBC, priced at around Tk72,000 and Tk80,000, will cost you a shade higher than non-inverters.

For washing machines, Sharp's ES-F100G and ES-F120G are good options priced at around Tk39,000 and Tk44,000, costing Tk10,000 more than non-inverter ones.

That means inverter integrated appliances will cost Tk7,000 to Tk10,000 more than the same model base unit.

Natural lights and cross ventilation

Because of the population density of Dhaka, almost all of us - irrespective of the income bracket - live in multistoried apartments. And there are almost no green spaces left in the city, especially in residential blocks.

However, there are ways you can still ensure more natural light and air in your apartment.

"Dhaka has already maxed out of living space. But the new buildings could still apply simple yet natural methods to reduce dependency on electric lights and cooling systems," said architect and development practitioner, Ahmed bin Parvez.

"We, as architects, now turn to the sky and design buildings taller than the surrounding ones to balance the offset. That way we can design with as many windows as we want in whatever orientation to make room for cross-ventilation."

According to Parvez, more openings mean less obstruction for both light to enter and air to flow. The south wind can only be channelled through a house if there are enough openings on opposite ends.

But more light entering can also mean houses heating up unnecessarily. In that case, you could use double laminated glass for windows that keep the heat out but let the light in.

Energy-efficient lighting and cooling

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights help deliver brilliant lighting for almost a fifth of the energy used by a typical filament bulb. Philips, Syska and Havells sell the best LED lighting solutions in Bangladesh.

A Philips Stellar Bright Base E27 20-Watt LED bulb (Pack of 4, Cool Day Light) would cost up to Tk4,679, a high mark-up to pay for controlled consumption of electricity over their lifetime.

Syska and Havells LED light bulbs of the same energy rating cost around the same as Philips.

However, there are cheaper alternatives such as domestically produced LED light bulbs of much higher wattages. Transtec, Superstar, Click and Walton are a few brands that produce LED light bulbs at a really competitive price point.

As for ceiling fans, the Energypac Energy Efficient Ceiling Fan 56" consumes 35% less power (at 65 watts) than usual ceiling fans do, for a fair price tag of Tk3,250.

Besides, ceiling fans are good alternatives to air-conditioning units, simply because they consume less power but serve a relatively similar purpose.

Automation

In-built motion sensors sense the presence of people coming in and out to determine when and how to turn lights and other equipment on and off. Besides adding a modern edge, this saves a lot of energy.

Some of these sensors also come with voice-command and respond to commands such as 'lights-on', 'lights-off', 'dim lights', 'set fan speed', 'heater/cooler on/off', etc.

Moreover, in offices, users can adjust the time period within which all the lights and air conditions will be in service and after that, 70% of the lights and ACs will be turned off.

Faucets and bathware now use motion sensors to activate only when water is needed. However, bringing automation into the lavatory is still expensive. Higher quality bathware tend to be more expensive than the average.

Interestingly, every other form of appliance now comes with microchips. This allows for them to run under one network and use the internet to connect to each other. This is called the Internet of Things (IoT).

The owner can control from the mobile phone how they want the appliances to work. However, this approach requires all home appliances to be upgraded and that can easily push costs up.

But should one want this, it is very much there. For example, Samsung Smart Home is an app on the phone that does the monitoring and controlling of appliances right from the phone.

What smart home is complete without a smart lavatory?

Toto, a global manufacturer of ultra-modern bathware and solutions, has set up shop in Dhaka. They also import products if customers request them.

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Other ways to go green

Beyond the prospect of newer, green technology and architecture, one might consider alternative solutions as well.

Products made from biodegradable materials like jute and bamboo could replace all kinds of plastic. Buying tableware and other homeware made from these materials as well as fabric are good ways to go green. Local fashion brands such as Aarong, Boyon Bitan, Aranya have a number of options for eco-friendly tableware and homeware.

Also, small things such as changing what we keep inside the refrigerator can cut down carbon emission.

Did you know that livestock is the largest contributor to carbon emissions around the world? So, switching to greener diets and changing the contents of the refrigerator, alongside the refrigerator itself, can further the concept of efficiency.

Where to look?

If you are comfortable with online shopping, you could buy eco-friendly products from websites such as Daraz.

However, there are plenty of physical shops too where you will find products from renowned brands such as Hitachi, Sharp, Panasonic, Sony, LG and Samsung.

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My mistakes and learnings:

- ✚ I mixed up the concept of the article with the task that was given to me
- ✚ I did not properly mention the prices, model numbers and brand names
- ✚ My research was not thorough before I finalised my writing

Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/features/habitat/how-reduce-carbon-footprint-your-home-378067>



HOW TO REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF YOUR HOME

ENVIRONMENT

AZIZ HAKIM

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Project 3

Project title: The 7 brands that dominated people's lives. And then they petered away...

Project description: This article was published on 8 March 2022 to tell a story of how a few brands that dominated at one point but faded with time. This was about going back to these brands' history to see how they washed away. Reading this article readers might get an idea of what mistakes to avoid in doing business to stop the dissolution of it.

My responsibility: I wrote this article for the Panorama page, the dedicated page for all around news on The Business Standard.

My copy:

Seven brand names that went bust!

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

In only the first decade of the 21st century a handful of brand names were on the forefront of our adaptation to technology; brands that made for our very lifestyles. Which brands exactly? And where are they now?

The switchover from having them as a part of our daily lives to completely forgetting them seems inconspicuous... Some simply went away and some got brutally taken over or squashed by other brand giants.

The revolutionary clarity of peer-to-peer video conferencing Skype introduced users to; the nifty access to emailing and surfing the world-wide-web Yahoo! brought e-mailers and net-surfers to; the way Nokia was 'Connecting People' and BlackBerry bringing corporate executives together and how MySpace, among a few other names, laid the groundwork for Facebook were all unprecedented. What transpired in between for these brands, and then some, to go belly up is still an itch that cannot be scratched.

Certainly, they did not turn irrelevant over a few short years. Similar brands are still doing what they used to! Communication experts and social ingeneurs claim that methods and modes of communication have changed greatly. Technology now changes faster than what Gordon Moore had once foretold. The brands that could not get in queue on how relevant 'converging communication' has become were the among the first to fall out of competition and business, thereof. Each of these brands has a different failure-story to tell. These stories might as well serve as premonition to brands who do not want to follow suit.

Skype

In the beginning of long-distance communication, there was only the option to send telegrams; centuries old letter writing notwithstanding. Then there were phones that needed interim operators to connect people. Radio communication made communication truly wireless for the first time and then there was Skype. It was probably the first stepping-stone to turning the world into a truly small global village, that too, at amazingly low service rates. People could see each other and hear each other in real-time.

Founded in 2003, founders Janus Friis and Niklas Zennström saw quick success in a very short time. It had a user base of 115 millions by 2006. But short-run success kept it from receiving proper updates and the smartphone was slowly emerging in the backdrop.

Ownership switched hands twice between another relic in time - online auction company eBay first - in 2006 and then Microsoft in 2011 bought it off from eBay.

Not only was the smartphone becoming smarter by then, by 2013 the world began walking in the direction of cloud-based servers. Skype lagged behind, resulting in dissatisfied users. Calls ended abruptly, notifications would come in on one device and not the other, group calls were hard to set up and there was the case of untimely updates. Skype would start updating itself mid-call.

Whatsapp was already making strides in messaging and Zoom on the video-conferencing end. To seal Skype's fate, its then benefactor Microsoft began to carry the Skype experience over to their own new product, Microsoft Teams. The many new similar apps had the user interfaces that Skype never got to. Already struggling to stay in business, the pandemic Covid-19 brought it to a sudden halt as the world moved on to Zoom and then Google Meet in quick succession. Skype was left hanging.

Yahoo!

Sadly, news of Yahoo! has now to be read on Google, dot com.

Stanford University graduates Jerry Yang and David Filo had jointly founded Yahoo in 1994 - the turn of not just a century but a millennium. Relatively speaking, Google was and is still a fairly blank website, at least at the homepage level while Yahoo, when visited, would turn up almost everything on the whole internet right on the homepage.

Rocketmail and Ymail were all the craze amongst the emailing crowd. Those who preferred reading news could use the Yahoo homepage as their personalised digital newspaper. Yahoo chat rooms essentially were the precursor to what we call the Messenger now. And the ability to search up anything on the internet and some other features were all brought under one roof.

That idea sounds relevant still but users simply digressed to more specialised apps. Apps go for a shorthand of application, basically softwares. Applications apply to the handheld mobile devices that were quickly taking over desktop computers.

The niceties of specialised apps coupled with the exploitation of being able to carry the apps 'anywhere' on the mobile phones raced Yahoo on every of its services. That along with multiple changes in management and hostile takeovers did it for Yahoo! Additionally, the user-friendly interfaces that Google provided the users with was what Yahoo did not.

BlackBerry

For a company that produced modems and pagers, moving to produce phones was a bold one and promises were delivered! In 2000 when BlackBerry released its first ever mobile phone on the market - the BlackBerry 957 - heads were turned.

Besides putting out premium look-and-feel devices compact enough to fit in the hand, the 957 soon became the go-to device for business executives through which they could send emails to and fro and surf the internet. Its popularity skyrocketing in its early years would be an understatement; until in 2007 the first generation iPhone hit the market.

Without facing any competition, BlackBerry's monopoly on pricing could be justified, if not wholeheartedly accepted. Upon introduction the iPhone changed how people looked at a mobile phone. Not only did BlackBerry cut deep into a consumer's pocket when a more affordable alternative was already out in the market, they simply failed to deliver what features the iPhone could and also the Android in a distant landscape.

BlackBerry maintained their tactile QWERTY keyboard while full touchscreen mobile phones took the typing experience to a virtual place. Even on their later iterations, they did not care to introduce the virtual keyboard for the sake of originality. Meanwhile, both iOS and Android kept developing their devices to suit users' convenience.

To make matters worse, BlackBerry maintained celebrities, businessmen and the corporate personnel as their target audience while, again, iOS and Android was becoming more of the commoner's phone. At this rate, BlackBerry was bleeding money. Less income equated to less investment in Research and Development.

But when iOS and Android had already made their presence felt and their places secured, BlackBerry did try to introduce full touchscreen phones that also resembled the technical specifications of its counterpart, it was already too late. And what sealed its fate for the last time was still not switching, at least to the Android Operating System - a deal which Android would love to get done - and sticking to its own OS that was a complete disaster to the user experience. One could think of the Symbian OS used on Nokia the same way. That comes later.

And thus, BlackBerry went out of view.

Nokia

Nokia's effort to stay relevant is a similar story to BlackBerry's. But Nokia was on a mission of 'Connecting People'; not celebrities and the likes.

In a way, Nokia is still out there but somehow it has managed to roll over into a niche. Nokia's origin could be traced back to a fishing company that came out in 1865. From fishing to producing virtually indestructible mobile phones, Nokia encompasses the concept of conglomeration absolutely.

Nokia, through the 80's and 90's, sparred with SIEMENS and Motorola headlong and stayed on top. Though mobile, these phones used to resemble bricks that could probably destroy the user's hands and the very purpose of their mobility got defeated. Nokia immediately brought to the market much smaller (kind to the hands) and ergonomic phones, crushing competition.

These early Nokia phones looked good too! But as time would have the last laugh, like with BlackBerry, Nokia lost out to competition to iOS and Android.

However, in its last desperate attempt to stay above the water, Nokia came up with their own smartphones which at one point felt relevant. However, since they were heavily invested in their own operating system - Symbian OS - they failed to fall in line with the global trend where every other mobile phone producer was shifting to the Android wagonbase.

Their success story with Symbian OS became their downfall. Their smartphones were not as 'smart' as their Android or iOS counterparts. In the background, tech giant Microsoft was going through their own sporadic outbursts of insecurity. Microsoft went on a shopping spree of buying out any brand that did or potentially could stand in their way.

Nokia, owing to its wavering performance, handed themselves to Microsoft, in the hope that it would magically make them relevant again. Apparently, that did not happen either. Microsoft implemented their own, new operating system on the rebranded Microsoft mobile phones. It did not work. People were a little too invested in the iOS/Android experience.

However, eventually when Microsoft sold Nokia off in 2016 again, Nokia did however make the reluctant switch to Android. Again, Nokia was a day late and a dollar short.

MySpace

Who's space?

Facebook practically rolled out in 2004, just a year after MySpace did in 2003. The early years for both the brands went neck-to-neck. In fact, MySpace made its presence felt in a more pronounced manner than Facebook could. But the term MySpace did not equate to one's own space. It was the other way around. One had to know another's email in order to be 'friends' with someone on MySpace.

However, on Facebook, it was and still is what it advertises as: a book of faces where becoming friends with someone is just a click away! Many layers of restrictions may have been introduced on Facebook over the years but its core value still remains.

Like with BlackBerry, MySpace looked to popularise itself reeling in celebrities and high networth individuals while Facebook appealed to commoners. As Facebook's user base hiked up at a rate of millions per day per se, that for MySpace went down at somewhat a similar rate. All because of the business model.

With the entry of smartphones in early 2010's, optimised apps for websites took off from PCs and permanently landed on phones. Needless to say, Facebook caught that train without fail and exception. MySpace did the same too - not with the vigore Facebook did - but by the time they did, Facebook had already brought everything users wanted in a single app.

MySpace may well be a pioneer-figure in the social media world but because they could not cater to the little things users were asking for, they lost out.

Kodak

Koda's fading away could be summarised with a one-liner: inability to cash-in on digital photography. Yet, there is always more to things than meets the eye.

Interestingly, Kodak invented the first digital camera in 1975. Then, again, in 1986, they were also first to invent the mega-pixel camera. In a nutshell, it is a megapixel camera that utilises the goodness of the digital photography technology that synergistically entails the digital photography platform.

Vince Barabba, a former Kodak executive, a major market researcher for big names such as Xerox, General Motors, etc., claims that during his tenure at Kodak, had undertaken extensive research on how Kodak would benefit from applying their first-hands inventions.

Barabba advised, right after the invention of the digital camera in 1975, that the transition to this foolproof innovation would take a decade's time at best. By 1986, when Kodak had brought out the first megapixel camera, they should have settled well on the road to digital photography, they just did not.

Adamantly trying to follow the same business model that brought them decades of success by the turn of the 20th century brought Kodak to a stalemate. Kodak was too heavily invested in their silver halide, chemical and paper business and did not scale up. On the flip side, Canon's and Nikkon's aggressive switch to digital photography stole Kodak's own brain child from under their noses.

For the first time in a long time, Kodak thus came full circle, teetering on bankruptcy.

Blockbuster

Video Home System; behold the mighty VHS!

Blockbuster set up shop with a collection of 8,000 VHS and 2,000 beta tapes in 1985. Although 1985 is not very far back in time, in a lightning fast world of advancement in technology, '85 sounds ancient. So do VHS, VCDs and DVDs.

Blockbuster sounds as yet another ancient rune turn mythology in the world of streaming. Brands like YouTube, Spotify, Netflix, among others, are names of a few forefronts in the audio-visual experience that capitalise on streaming. However, the VHS once used to spearhead such ideas.

Blockbuster turned it into a business. They would give out their VHS to customers for a fee and upon return, customers could take others home. However, the late fee that Blockbuster charged customers for overshooting return dates used to be staggering. People did not like it but they were out of options either way. That was until Netflix came into view in 1995.

Netflix's model revolved around that of Blockbuster's. They would mail the film subscribers would request in their mailboxes. Initially a little cumbersome, this still caught eyes. In 2000, however, Netflix wanted to strike a deal with Blockbuster but was dusted off laughingly.

Shamefaced, Netflix quickly made the switch to a subscription model which enabled customers to pay for the movies once a month for a fixed fee. And they could keep the movies for as long as they liked until they would return them in favour of getting new ones.

Shortly after, with the advent of the internet and its widespread adoption, Netflix moved to streaming in 2007. This is the model which sounds and feels familiar; and convenient. This also removed all the intermediary hassles of setting up large, cumbersome media players to even more cumbersome televisions.

The rest is self-explanatory why Blockbuster could not stay on top.

In the business world, there is a paradox: The Icarus Paradox

The term refers to the phenomenon of businesses failing abruptly after a period of apparent success, where this failure is brought about by the very elements that led to their initial success. Icarus, in Greek mythology, son of the inventor Daedalus who perished by flying too near the Sun with waxen wings. How are the two connected?

Daedalus told his son Icarus not to fly too close to the Sun or the waxen wings he made his son would melt. Apparently, Icarus did not listen. The words of Vince Barabba apply to each of these businesses in the same way Daedalus' do to Icarus. They have all been warned to at least change their business model with the changing tide or go out of business.

Thus perpetuating the Icarus' demise as a modern day academic paradox.

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One therefore wonders, where are they now?

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For a company that produced modems and pagers, moving on to product phones was a bold step that paid off. In 2000, BlackBerry released its first ever mobile phone in the market, the BlackBerry 957.

With a premium look and a compact enough size to fit in a palm, the 957 soon became the go-to-device for business executives, through which they could send emails and surf the internet. Its popularity began to skyrocket in the early years until the first-generation iPhone hit the market in 2007.

Without any competition, BlackBerry's monopoly on pricing seemed to be justified, if not wholeheartedly accepted. But the introduction of the iPhone changed how people looked at a mobile phone. BlackBerry started to lag behind with new competitors. They failed to deliver the features the iPhone and also what the Android phone offered.

BlackBerry maintained their tactile QWERTY keyboard while touchscreen mobile phone screens took the typing experience to another level. Even in their later iterations, they did not care to introduce the virtual keyboard for the sake of originality.

Meanwhile, both iOS and Android kept developing their devices to suit users' convenience.

To make matters worse, BlackBerry maintained celebrities and corporate personnel as their target audience while, again, iOS and Android targeted a bigger audience. At this rate, BlackBerry was bleeding money. As their business was failing, they weren't able to earn as much and thus they could not allot funding to R&D, which spelled disaster for them.

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By the time BlackBerry tried to introduce full touchscreen phones, it was too late.

Nokia

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In a way, Nokia is still out there but somehow it has managed to roll over into a niche. Nokia's origin could be traced back to a fishing company that came out in 1865. From fishing to producing virtually indestructible mobile phones, Nokia encompasses the concept of conglomeration absolutely.

Nokia, through the 1980s and 1990s, sparred with SIEMENS and Motorola in the mobile phone market and managed to stay on top. Mobility was an issue in the early days and the brand immediately invested in much smaller and ergonomic phones, thus crushing their competition.

Eventually, like BlackBerry, Nokia lost out to iOS and Android.

In its last desperate attempt to stay above the water, Nokia came up with their own smartphones. However, since they were heavily invested in their own operating system - Symbian OS - they failed to fall in line with the global market where every other mobile phone producer was shifting to the Android wagon base.

Their success story with Symbian OS became their downfall. Their smartphones were not as 'smart' as their Android or iOS counterparts. In the background, tech giant Microsoft was going

through their own sporadic outbursts of insecurity. Microsoft went on a shopping spree of buying out any brand that did or potentially could stand in their way.

Nokia, owing to its wavering performance, handed themselves over to Microsoft. Microsoft implemented their own, new operating system on the rebranded Microsoft mobile phones. But people were already a little too invested in the iOS/Android experience by then and as a result the takeover did not work.

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Like with BlackBerry, MySpace looked to popularise itself by reeling in celebrities while Facebook appealed to a larger audience. As Facebook's user base hiked up at a rate of millions per day, MySpace went down at somewhat a similar rate owing to their business model.

With the entry of smartphones in the early 2010s, optimised apps for websites took off from personal computers and permanently landed on phones. Facebook took advantage without fail and exception. MySpace did the same too but by then, Facebook had already brought everything users wanted onto a single app.

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Kodak was too heavily invested in their silver halide, chemical and paper business and failed to scale up. On the flip side, Canon and Nikon made an aggressive switch to digital photography, stealing Kodak's own brainchild from under their noses.

For the first time in a long time, Kodak thus came full circle, teetering on bankruptcy.

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Video Home System; behold the mighty VHS!

Blockbuster set up shop with a collection of 8,000 VHS and 2,000 beta tapes in 1985. Although 1985 is not very far back in time, in the world of technology, 1985 is ancient. As are VHS, VCDs and DVDs.

Brands like YouTube, Spotify, Netflix, among others, are the names at the forefront of the audio-visual experience that capitalise on streaming. However, the VHS used to spearhead such ideas.

Blockbuster turned it into a business. They would give out their VHS to customers for a fee and upon return, customers could take others home. However, the late fee that Blockbuster charged customers for overshooting return dates used to be staggering. Though people did not like it, they were out of options either way, until Netflix came into view in 1995.

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My mistakes and learnings:

- ✚ I had written my piece a little too long for a newspaper's capacity to print
- ✚ I put in too much history and those were curtailed proportionately

Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/these-7-brands-dominated-peoples-lives-and-then-they-petered-out-381592>

THESE 7 BRANDS DOMINATED PEOPLE'S LIVES. AND THEN THEY PETERED OUT...

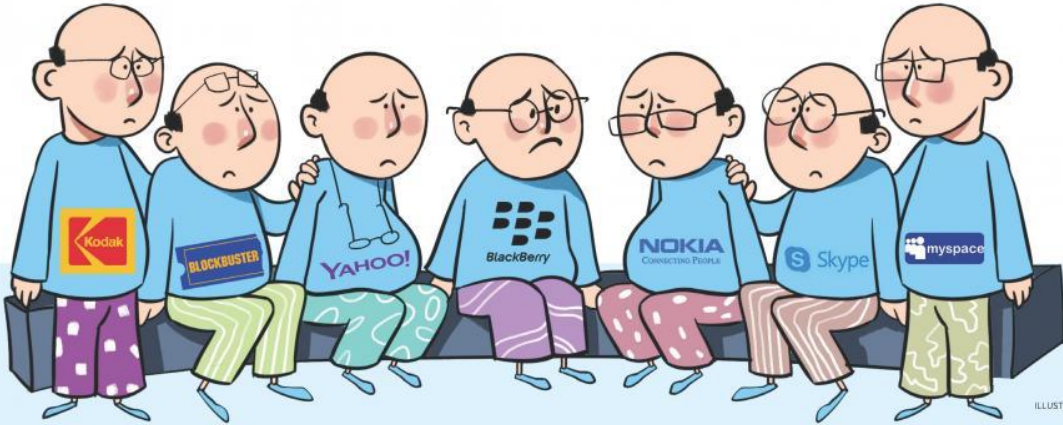


ILLUSTRATION: TBS

FEATURE

AZIZ HAKIM

In the business world, there is a paradox: The Icarus Paradox. The term refers to the phenomenon of businesses failing abruptly after a period of apparent success. Once upon a time these brands dominated the markets but, soon, a newer, better competitor changed their fate

In the first decade of the 21st century, a handful of brands emerged at the forefront of our adaptation to technology.

Skype introduced users to the revolutionary clarity of peer-to-peer video conferencing. Yahoo! brought e-mailers and net-surfers nifty access to emailing and surfing the world-wide-web. Nokia was 'Connecting People', BlackBerry was bringing corporate executives together, while the likes of MySpace laid the groundwork for Facebook.

One therefore wonders, where are they now? The switch from having them as a part of our daily lives to completely forgetting them seems inconspicuous. Some simply faded into obscurity and some were brutally taken over or squashed by other brand giants.

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SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

These 7 brands dominated people's lives. And then they petered out...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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Project 4

Project title: Is Russia committing war crime?

Project description: This article was published on 9 March 2022 based on the onslaught of the Russo-Ukrainian War. It was to analyse whether Russian troops were committing war crimes in the war on the early phase of the war. It was about looking into the comments from leaders around the war and seeing how they were labelling the war.

My responsibility: I wrote this article for the Panorama page, the dedicated page for all around news on The Business Standard.

My copy:

Russia trying to revert back to its former glory is war crime to the West

Aziz Hakim

Category: feature

On March 2nd, 39 governments asked the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, to open an investigation into possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine. Even if the ICC's prosecutor may not be able to try suspects, a finding that Russia had committed war crimes or crimes against humanity would deepen the country's already profound diplomatic isolation.

Khan is opening the investigation as requested to include the recent invasion into Ukraine. He announced Wednesday that he was opening an investigation into allegations of war crimes; crimes against humanity or genocide in Ukraine "by any person" from November 2013 onward.

A preliminary investigation found "reasonable basis to believe crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court had been committed" and "identified potential cases that would be admissible," Khan said in a statement. In order to indict someone, the ICC prosecutor must prove that the alleged crimes are atrocity crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

Western officials, including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, have levelled similar accusations. President Biden, though, said Wednesday that "it's too early to say" whether Russian President Vladimir Putin is a war criminal. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that the White House is conducting an "internal review" to collect evidence on Russia's alleged targeting of civilians in Ukraine.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Wednesday Russia has used vacuum bombs and cluster bombs in its invasion, both weapons which are banned under the Geneva Conventions.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday that there are “credible reports” of Russian targeting Ukrainian civilians, which he says would “constitute a war crime.”

Russia has been accused by the U.S. of war crimes for its attacks on nuclear power plants and its alleged use of weapons banned by the Geneva Conventions, which set the international protocol for war. Among these primary accusations, the ICC includes “grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.”

The widespread opposition of 141 states at the UN General Assembly is a clear signal to Putin that he could face personal accountability for this invasion.

However, neither Ukraine nor Russia are signatories to the ICC. But Ukraine has made two declarations to the ICC giving the court ad hoc jurisdiction for war crimes committed in Ukraine.

But how the term war crimes is defined has a precise, technical definition, referring to violations of international law governing conduct in combat and during occupation.

These grave breaches provide the legal definition of war crimes under the Conventions. Crimes of aggression, according to the ICC, include invasion, military occupation, the annexation of land, bombardment, and the blockade of ports. And the ICC defines crimes against humanity as participation in and knowledge of “a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population”.

Serious allegations of war crimes are being attributed to Russian codes of armed conflict in Ukraine, even though the Russo-Ukrainian war is no more than three weeks underway.

Is this Russian chauvinism or a war crime?

First of all, what constitutes war crime?

The United Nations’ definition of a war crime is a serious breach of international law committed against civilians or “enemy combatants” during an international or domestic armed conflict. War crimes are classified into three groups, according to the Geneva Conventions 1949.

Crimes against peace are when planning or waging a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances. Most importantly when there are violations of the laws of war which include atrocities against persons or property; murder or ill treatment of prisoners of war; killing of hostages; torture - including biological experiments; plunder of public or private

property; destruction of cities, towns or villages or devastation not justified by military necessity.

In terms of upsetting the peace, the West condemns Russian invasion on Ukraine 'Unprovoked and unjustifiable'. However, warnings regarding intervention on Russia's agenda against Ukraine were given out weeks ahead of the beginning of the invasion on 20 February 2022.

In the invasion's early stage, Putin's plan was to cripple Ukraine's air defence structure. Several hangars and military air bases were blown to bits by a barrage of Russian missiles. Similarly, in a missile strike 1 March in Zhytomyr, 140 kilometres west of Kyiv, that destroyed the Pavluchenko maternity hospital, reportedly killing at least two people. In another instance around the same time, Russia cluster bombs outside a hospital in Vuhledar, Donetsk Oblast, killed four civilians and injured another 10. Six of them were healthcare workers. Along with the damaged hospital, an ambulance and civilian vehicles were damaged too. But in either of the instances it was not clear if the hospitals were the intended targets since close by them lay strategically important military infrastructure for Ukraine. The destruction upon the hospitals could be seen as collateral damage, if not ruled out as such.

attack on a kindergarten in Okhtyrka, about 60 miles west of Kharkiv, on Friday, the second day of all-out fighting NGOs have focused on an . "There is no possible justification for dropping cluster munitions in populated areas, let alone near a school," said Agnès Callamard, the secretary general of Amnesty International.

On 3 March, In Chernihiv, Northern Ukraine, a Russian air strike hit 2 schools and homes, killing 47 people. In Kharkiv in the Eastern Ukraine the same took place, 2 more schools were bombed.

A United Nations report verifies that so far there have been 1,123 civilian casualties in Ukraine, with 364 killed and the rest injured. By 1 March, Russian troop casualties stood at 1,597, with 498 dead. This information was backed up by the Russian Defence Ministry. However, the real number of casualties on both ends are not independently verified. But the destruction of structures and buildings is very real.

Eliot Higgins, the founder of the investigative journalism site Bellingcat, said there was evidence of Russia causing "civilian harm", including through the use of "cluster bombs in civilian areas". Cluster munitions, which indiscriminately scatter small bombs over a wide area, are banned by more than 100 states including the UK, France and Germany because of their lack of precision.

Further evidence of the use of cluster munitions has emerged, including the remains of a rocket motor from a BMP-30 Russian cluster munition found in a road in Kharkiv on Friday.

A missile strike on Tuesday – possibly a Kalibr cruise missile – on the regional government building in the centre of Kharkiv killed at least 10 civilians in the morning attack in the heart of the industrial city of more than 1 million people. On Monday serial explosions from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) obliterated buildings in Kharkiv.

Scaling up from schools and hospitals, the Kremlin is calling this invasion a ‘special military operation’. In the second week of the invasion, Russian troops have taken over the Zaporizhzhia power plant, approximately 500 kilometres from Kyiv, South Ukraine, Europe’s largest nuclear power plant. Ukraine operates 15 nuclear power plants, six of which are in Zaporizhzhya alone. In war, capturing critical landmarks to have the upperhand falls well within the ‘Ethics of war’, as oxymoronic that may sound. According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s accusations, this constitutes a war crime.

Ukraine’s second city, and even an attack on a kindergarten in Okhtyrka, a city 70 miles (110km) to the north-west. ICC rules say that both parties to a dispute — the aggressor as well as the victim — must accept the court’s jurisdiction and Ukraine does.

As of today, the Russo-Ukrainian War stands in its third week and having captured the primary source of utility, the tables are slowly turning in Russia’s favour. But the nature of war is deceptive.

Looking at the Russian atrocity and the casualties caused to civilians and civilian structures from above, it can be said that war crime can be traced back to Putin. A foregone conclusion that war crime is already being perpetrated at this stage is still words flailing in the wind and needs more grounded proof to call it war crime on Russia’s part.

ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan has yet to gather and collate a lot more circumstantial evidence of war crime to stick to Russia. The appeal from 39 governments stacks the stakes against Russia. What remains to be seen is how swiftly and quickly this investigation follows through. Condemnations against Russia are on the rise. As the war escalates more everyday and more civilians and structures out of the military jurisdiction are brought under attack, it is only a matter of time Russia sees for themselves how the collective effort from most of the West pits against them.

Edited copy:

Edit: NUSMILA

Photo caption: The widespread opposition of 141 states at the UN General Assembly is a clear signal to Vladimir Putin that he could face personal accountability for this invasion.

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Is Russia committing war crimes?

Aziz Hakim

Category: Analysis

SF: *A foregone conclusion that war crime is already being perpetrated at this stage is still nothing more than speculation and requires more grounded proof*

On 2 March, 39 governments asked the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, to open an investigation into possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine. Even if the ICC's prosecutor may not be able to try suspects, a finding to confirm Russia's atrocities would deepen the country's already profound diplomatic isolation.

Khan announced Wednesday that he was opening an investigation, as requested, into allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide in Ukraine "by any person" from November 2013 onward.

A preliminary investigation found "reasonable basis to believe crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court had been committed" and "identified potential cases that would be admissible," Khan said in a statement. In order to indict someone, the ICC prosecutor must prove that the alleged crimes are atrocity crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, has voiced similar accusations. President Biden said Wednesday, "it's too early to say" whether Russian President Vladimir Putin is a war criminal." White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that the White House is conducting an "internal review" to collect evidence on Russia's alleged targeting of civilians in Ukraine.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said Wednesday Russia has used vacuum and cluster bombs in its invasion, both weapons which are banned under the Geneva Conventions. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday that there are "credible reports" of Russian targeting Ukrainian civilians, which he says would "constitute a war crime."

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Russia has been accused by the US of war crimes for its attacks on Ukrainian nuclear power plants and its alleged use of weapons banned by the Geneva Conventions - which provide the legal definition of war crimes.

The term war crimes, however, has a precise, technical definition, referring to violations of international law that is meant to govern the conduct of militaries during wartime or occupation.

Crimes of aggression, according to the ICC, include invasion, military occupation, the annexation of land, bombardment and the blockade of ports. And the ICC defines crimes against humanity as participation in and knowledge of “a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population”.

Russia is already under serious allegations of war crimes in Ukraine, even though the Russo-Ukrainian war is no more than two weeks underway.

So are the Russians committing war crimes?

The United Nations defines a war crime as a serious breach of international law committed against civilians or “enemy combatants” during an international or domestic armed conflict. War crimes are classified into three groups, according to the Geneva Conventions 1949.

Crimes against peace happen when planning or waging a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances. Most importantly, when there are violations of the laws of war which include atrocities against persons or property; murder or ill treatment of prisoners of war; killing of hostages; torture - including biological experiments; plunder of public or private property; destruction of cities, towns or villages or devastation not justified by military necessity, a war crime has been committed.

In terms of upsetting the peace, the West condemns Russian invasion on Ukraine as ‘unprovoked and unjustifiable.’ However, Vladimir Putin had issued several warnings, in the past, that if NATO (military alliance among 28 European countries and two North American countries) continues its expansion in former Soviet Union nations, there would be severe consequences.

Russia’s assault

In the invasion's early stage, Putin's plan was to cripple Ukraine's air defence structure. Several hangars and military air bases were blown to bits by a barrage of Russian missiles.

A missile strike on 1 March in Zhytomyr, 140 kilometres west of Kyiv, destroyed the Pavluchenko maternity hospital, reportedly killing at least two people. In another instance, Russia's cluster bombs outside a hospital in Vuhledar, Donetsk Oblast, killed four civilians and injured another 10. Six of them were healthcare workers. Along with the damaged hospital, an ambulance and civilian vehicles were damaged too.

In both the instances, it was not clear if the hospitals were the intended targets since they are located close to important Ukrainian military infrastructure. The destruction upon the hospitals could, perhaps, be seen as collateral damage.

There has also been an attack on a kindergarten in Okhtyrka, about 60 miles west of Kharkiv, on Friday, the second day of all-out fighting. "There is no possible justification for dropping cluster munitions in populated areas, let alone near a school," said Agnès Callamard, the secretary general of Amnesty International.

On 3 March, in Chernihiv, Northern Ukraine, a Russian air strike hit two schools and homes, killing 47 people. In Kharkiv, in eastern Ukraine, two more schools were bombed.

A United Nations report verifies that so far there have been 1,123 civilian casualties in Ukraine, with 364 killed and the rest injured. By 1 March, Russian troop casualties stood at 1,597, with 498 dead. This information was backed up by the Russian Defence Ministry. However, the real number of casualties on both ends are not independently verified.

Eliot Higgins, the founder of the investigative journalism site Bellingcat, said there was evidence of Russia causing "civilian harm," including the use of "cluster bombs in civilian areas." Cluster munitions, which indiscriminately scatter small bombs over a wide area, are banned by more than 100 states including the UK, France and Germany because of their lack of precision.

Further evidence of the use of cluster munitions has emerged, including the remains of a rocket motor from a BMP-30 Russian cluster munition found in a road in Kharkiv on Friday.

A missile strike on Tuesday – possibly a Kalibr cruise missile – on the regional government building in the centre of Kharkiv killed at least 10 civilians in the morning attack in the heart of the industrial city of more than 1 million people. On Monday, serial explosions from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) obliterated buildings in Kharkiv.

Scaling up from schools and hospitals, the Kremlin is calling this invasion a 'special military operation.' In the second week of the invasion, Russian troops took over the Zaporizhzhia

power plant, approximately 500 kilometres from Kyiv, South Ukraine, Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Ukraine operates 15 nuclear power plants, six of which are in Zaporizhzhya alone.

In war, capturing critical landmarks to have the upperhand falls well within the 'ethics of war.' According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's accusations, this constitutes a war crime.

As of today, the Russo-Ukrainian War stands in its second week and having captured the primary source of utility, the tables are slowly turning in Russia's favour. But the nature of war is deceptive.

Looking at the Russian atrocity and the casualties caused to civilians and civilian structures from above, it can be said that war crimes can be attributed back to Putin.

However, a foregone conclusion that war crime is already being perpetrated at this stage is still nothing more than speculation and requires more grounded proof.

ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan has yet to gather and collate a lot more circumstantial evidence of war crime to stick it to Russia. The appeal from 39 governments stacks the stakes against Russia. What remains to be seen is how swiftly and quickly this investigation follows through.

My mistakes and learnings:

✚ Other than a few editorial editing this piece was almost ready to go as is

Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/analysis/russia-committing-war-crimes-382126>

Is Russia committing war crimes?

Aziz Hakim

Journalist



ANALYSIS

A foregone conclusion that war crimes are already being perpetrated at this stage is still nothing more than speculation and requires more grounded proof

On 2 March, 39 governments asked the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, to open an investigation into possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine. Even if the ICC's prosecutor may not be able to try suspects, a finding to confirm Russia's atrocities would deepen the country's already profound diplomatic isolation.

Khan announced Wednesday that he was opening an investigation, as requested, into allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide in Ukraine "by any person" from November 2013 onward.

A preliminary investigation found "reasonable basis to believe crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court had been committed" and "identified potential cases that would be admissible," Khan said in a statement. In order to indict someone, the ICC prosecutor must prove that the alleged crimes are atrocity crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, has voiced similar accusations. President Biden said Wednesday, "it's too early to say" whether Russian President Vladimir Putin is a war criminal." White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that the White House is conducting an "internal review" to collect evidence on Russia's alleged targeting of civilians in Ukraine.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said Wednesday Russia has used vacuum and cluster bombs in its invasion,

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Is Russia committing war crimes?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

both weapons which are banned under the Geneva Conventions. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday that there are "credible reports" of Russian targeting Ukrainian civilians, which he says would "constitute a war crime."

The widespread opposition of 141 states at the UN General Assembly is a clear signal to Vladimir Putin that he could face personal accountability for this invasion.

However, neither Ukraine nor Russia are signatories to the ICC. But Ukraine has made two declarations to the ICC giving the court ad hoc jurisdiction for war crimes committed in Ukraine.

Russia has been accused by the US of war crimes for its attacks on Ukrainian nuclear power plants and its alleged use of weapons banned by the Geneva Conventions - which provide the legal definition of war crimes.

The term war crimes, however, has a precise, technical definition, referring to violations of international law that is meant to govern the conduct of militaries during wartime or occupation.

Crimes of aggression, according to the ICC, include invasion, military occupation, the annexation of land, bombardment and the blockade of ports. And the ICC defines crimes against humanity as participation in and knowledge of "a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population".

Russia is already under serious allegations of war crimes in Ukraine, even though the Russo-Ukrainian war is no more than two weeks underway.

So are the Russians committing war crimes?

The United Nations defines a war crime as a serious breach of interna-

tional law committed against civilians or "enemy combatants" during an international or domestic armed conflict. War crimes are classified into three groups, according to the Geneva Conventions 1949.

Crimes against peace happen when planning or waging a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances. Most importantly, when there are violations of the laws of war which include atrocities against persons or property; murder or ill treatment of prisoners of war; killing of hostages; torture - including biological experiments; plunder of public or private property; destruction of cities, towns or villages or devastation not justified by military necessity, a war crime has been committed.

In terms of upsetting the peace, the West condemns Russian invasion on Ukraine as 'unprovoked and unjustifiable.' However, Vladimir Putin had issued several warnings, in the past, that if NATO (military alliance among 28 European countries and two North American countries) continues its expansion in former Soviet Union nations, there would be severe consequences.

Russia's assault

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Project 5

Project title: Tips: Paying for good service or sharing the server's salary?

Project description: This article was published on 23 March 2022 on how the tip culture at restaurants is now. For this assignment I had to go out to restaurants to interview owners and employees. It is also a comparative study between how the culture is in our country and the rest of the world.

My responsibility: I wrote this article for the Panorama page, the dedicated page for all around news on The Business Standard.

My copy:

Tips are a 'tipping' landscape

Aziz Hakim

Rashed has been working as a waiter at Khana's, a fast-food chain located on Dhanmondi road 2, for nearly two years now.

Khana's has branches across Dhaka, where customers pay ahead of enjoying the food they order. Neither is Khana's a self-service restaurant, nor does it charge customers an additional service charge. Yet, its employees who wait tables all think that their pay-first system deprives them of the tips they could otherwise make waiting tables.

"I wish I was rather working in a more conventional restaurant where tipping is more prevalent...", with a sigh said Rashed. "Even though we wait tables like in most restaurants, our pay-first custom chokes our chances of getting tipped," Rashed added.

Over multiple interviews with many others like Rashed at different eateries around town, The Business Standard has come to learn that waiters can earn anywhere between Tk8,000 to Tk25,000 a month, which is very difficult to live by. Most of them look forward to making an extra income from tips, although whether one gets tipped or not depends on the type of restaurant, the service and payment system, as well as whether the restaurant charges a 'service charge'.

According to the waiters, customers in Dhaka are slowly embracing the culture of tipping for good food and service. From a paltry Tk5 or Tk10 – which used to be standard practice just a decade back, the likes of Rashed now sometimes come across customers who are willing to part with a Tk500 note, provided they have spent an exorbitant amount on the food they ate. Still, their earnings from tips are a far cry from a global standard of 20% in major cities around the world.

While high end restaurants nowadays hire undergraduate students to serve as waiters, the bulk of waiters at other restaurants come from low income groups and poor educational backgrounds.

Those who work at restaurants where tips are abundant say sometimes they can save up their entire monthly salary when they have had a good month of sales and tips. Such months, however, were extremely rare in the last two years because of the pandemic.

For many others, however, service charges, self-service and tip-boxes are seen as regressive to their prospect of adding on a little extra to their monthly pay.

Tips are not only an additional source of income, it can also encourage them greatly to work on their serving skills.

Robiul Islam, a server at Kacchi Bhoj, Dhanmondi, says that he expressly tries to impress the customers with a handful of trade-tricks he has picked up through the many years he has worked as a server in many restaurants in the past.

“I smile a lot for the customers and I practice on my smile in the mirror too, so it doesn’t look fake. I make small talk with them. Other times I would mix them up a complimentary salad even if they don’t ask for it, to go with their kacchi. Some tip me, some don’t. But it’s all about how at home I make them feel.”

Robiul says some leave a tip of Tk5.

“I don’t mind them because other customers tip handsomely... say Tk200. That’s the highest I’ve made here so far,”

Kacchi Bhoj is a Bangla (local) restaurant. “We are glad that the tipping culture is still going strong in Bangla food restaurants,” Robiul attested, again, with his customary smile.

One Alam, working as yet another server for the past 11 years at YumYum Cafe, Dhanmondi, is big on tips. He exclaimed, “Your guess is as good as mine! Working here for the past 11 years has brought me very close to regular customers. We like busy days when more of them are here, which automatically makes for more tips!

Alam says some months they make in excess of Tk4,000 or even Tk5,000, give or take, alongside their basic pay.

Bipul Chiran, from KoolCha, Dhanmondi, also reiterated Alam’s point of view that regulars are good tippers.

“Some customers call us on our personal phones from outside to book them a table before they come in. We first need to turn a new customer into a regular and the easiest way to do that is by making them feel at home here.”

Bipul says he makes somewhere around Tk150 to Tk200; on weekends it goes up to Tk300-ish. Only about 20 percent of customers’ tip.

“We get to keep what we make as tips. However, our practice is to share Tk60, out of each tip, with the kitchen staff.”

Like Bipul, most waiters say they share their hard earned tips among the other staff, mostly out of custom, than any hard and fast rules.

Proma Tasneem, a regular at Woodhouse Grill, Banani, lives for the savoury of delicacies. Tasneem said, over a lovely steak on her table, “There is nothing I don’t love about this place. The food is authentic and the place compliments that. However, we pay a premium for the food I order from Woodhouse. I pay an additional service-charge after my already high price of food. Tipping after service-charges sounds pointless to me.”

For waiters, service charges have become a point of concern. Most often, according to waiters, they do not get to see the full amount the owners collect as service charges, while, at the same time, the presence of the charge often discourages customers from tipping a waiter.

That point was emphatically stressed by one waiter from Woodhouse Grill, Banani; a restaurant serving steaks at a premium.

He pointed out, “What good is a service charge if we don’t make a good sum off it, if not any? Customers expect good service for it. But because they pay a good sum in service charge over their already high mark-up orders, they don’t feel obliged to tip us further.

However, restaurant owners’ statements on the matter differ vastly from that of the waiters. Syed Muhammad Andaleeb, Secretary, Restaurant Owners Association, said over a phone call, “We who prefer service-charge and tip-boxes over hand-in tips get to distribute the sum among our employees more evenly. The sum is incremental. Managers or the chefs earn a little more new or relatively less trained employees.”

Labib Tarafdar is simultaneously partner and co-founder to multiple restaurant brand names: Madchef, Yum Cha District, Cheez, Laughing Buddha and Madchef Catering Services.

Labib explains, “Restaurants I look after still don’t discourage tips. If the customers tip, they keep it and share it among themselves. But I personally prefer sharing with them a range of 2.5%-5% of the monthly revenue based on point numbering.”

Upon asking how he defines 'point numbering' he said' "It is a performance-based metric by which every employee is ranked and a corresponding amount is given to them monthly. And it is not from any service-charge we make from customers. It strictly comes out of our pocket."

Both Andaleeb and Labib have attested to the range of salary waiters make, looked at earlier. Nevertheless, they maintain that that is not a meagre sum and that they are fine with it, if not happy.

The question remains: why are the two parties giving discrepant accounts?

The concept of tips is not, however, limited to the food business. Service based businesses, one such example being hair-dressing salons, regard the prospects of tips highly. High end or local hair-dressing salons all rely greatly on tips past the basic charge of their services to make an extra living. How much 'extra money' they make from tips is directly proportional to how affably they converse with customers and/or serve them comfortably. An air-conditioned salon along with good amenities, as opposed to less decorated ones, will not only be able to charge high for their services, but also appeal for a higher tip.

Different parts of the world tend to look at tipping differently.

For example, in the US, a sum of tips not being an additional 20 percent on top of the price of the food enjoyed at diners, restaurants, etc. is frowned upon.

Meanwhile, in Japan, tipping is an emblematic insult for servers. Japanese culture makes a point of perpetuating the saying: To keep is to earn; they generally extrapolate asking for a petty sum as next to begging. That is a common ideal shared by other Asian countries as well, Hong Kong being a prime example.

In Europe, the service charge is usually included right within the price of the food customers order. On one hand, that keeps the superfluous runaway of the end price in check but on the other, earns about a modest sum in tips.

Does tipping equate to better service? That is debatable. It has more of a psychological impact than a financial one. Surely, servers deem it as a fantastic way to add a little extra to what they earn as is, but that too is affected by the expectation of the kind of lifestyle they want to set for themselves.

Edited copy:

Revision: Dabir/ Mubin

edit: Nusmila

Photo caption 1: Most servers look forward to making an extra income from tips, although whether one gets tipped or not depends on a number of factors.

Photo credit: Noor-A-Alam

Photo caption 2: The tip culture in Dhaka is changing due to restaurants' service charges and tip-boxes.

Photo credit: Noor-A-Alam

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Tips: Paying for good service or sharing the server's salary?

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

SF: As more and more restaurants open around town, the culture of tipping servers is also picking up pace. For some waiters, tips make up a lion's share of their monthly income

Rashed has been working for nearly two years as a waiter at Khana's, a fast-food chain located in Dhanmondi.

Khana's has branches across Dhaka, where customers pay ahead of enjoying the food they order. Neither is Khana's a self-service restaurant nor does it charge customers an additional service charge. Thus, its employees, who wait tables, all think that their pay-first system deprives them of the tips they could otherwise make waiting tables.

"I wish I was rather working in a more conventional restaurant where tipping is more prevalent...", said Rashed, and sighed. "Even though we wait tables like in most restaurants, our pay-first custom chokes our chances of getting tipped," he added.

Over multiple interviews with many others like Rashed at different eateries around town, The Business Standard has come to learn that waiters can earn anywhere between Tk10,000 to

Tk15,000 a month as salary, and an additional Tk5,000 a month in tips and a percentage of the service charge.

The 'service charge' that restaurants, hotels and eateries charge customers does not actually mean tips. It is an additional fee for the establishment's service, and from this amount, waiters and servers may get a certain percentage.

Ironically, bigger hotels tend to pay even less in salary, between Tk8,000 and Tk10,000, with the understanding that waiters or servers will be making the lion's share of their monthly income from tips. At some hotels, waiters and servers can earn up to Tk40,000 in total - the additional income stemming from tips (that customers pay) and also from the 'service charge' that the hotel charges customers.

Most servers look forward to making an extra income from tips, although whether one gets tipped or not depends on the type of restaurant, the service and payment system, as well as whether the restaurant charges a 'service charge.'

According to the waiters, customers in Dhaka are slowly embracing the culture of tipping for good food and service. From a paltry Tk5 or Tk10 – which used to be standard practice a decade back, the likes of Rashed now sometimes come across customers who are willing to part with a Tk500 note, provided they have spent an exorbitant amount on the food they ate.

Still, their earnings from tips are a far cry from the standard of 20 percent in some of the major cities around the world.

While in Bangladesh, high-end restaurants or coffee shops (such as Woodhouse Grill, North End, etc) nowadays hire undergraduate students to serve as waiters, the bulk of waiters at other restaurants, in general, come from low-income groups with poor educational backgrounds.

Those who work at restaurants where tips are abundant say sometimes they can save up their entire monthly salary when they have had a good month of sales and tips. Such months, however, were extremely rare in the last two years because of the pandemic.

A 'tip'ping landscape

Robiul Islam, a server at Kacchi Bhoj, Dhanmondi, says that he expressly tries to impress the customers with a handful of trade tricks he has picked up through the many years he has worked as a server in different restaurants.

"I smile a lot for the customers and I practice on my smile in the mirror too, so it doesn't look fake. I make small talk with them. Other times, I would mix things up with a complimentary salad even if they don't ask for it, to go with their kacchi.

Some tip me, some don't. But it's all about how at home I make them feel," said Robiul.

Robiul said he has received a tip of Tk5 on some occasions. "I don't mind them because other customers tip handsomely... say Tk200. That's the highest I've made here so far."

Kacchi Bhoj is a Bangla (local) restaurant. "We are glad that the tipping culture is still going strong in Bangla food restaurants," Robiul attested, again, with his customary smile.

Alam has been working as a server for the past 11 years at YumYum Cafe, Dhanmondi, which is big on tips. He exclaimed, "Your guess is as good as mine! Working here for the past 11 years has brought me very close to regular customers. We like busy days when more of them are here, which automatically makes for more tips!"

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Bipul Chiran, from KoolCha, Dhanmondi, also reiterated Alam's point of view that regulars are good tippers. "Some customers call us on our personal phones to book a table before they come in. We first need to turn a new customer into a regular and the easiest way to do that is by making them feel at home here," said Bipul.

Bipul said he makes somewhere around Tk150 to Tk200 on some days of the week from tips; on weekends it goes up to approximately Tk300. Only about 20 percent of customers tip.

"We get to keep what we make as tips. However, our practice is to share Tk60, out of each tip [depending if the tip is higher than Tk60 and by how much], with the kitchen staff."

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I pay an additional service charge on top of the expensive food bill. Tipping after 'service charges included' [policy] sounds pointless to me."

The service charge conundrum

For many waiters and servers, service charges, self-service and tip-boxes are regressive to their prospect of adding on a little extra to their monthly pay.

Most often, according to waiters, they do not get to see the full amount the owner collects as service charges, while, at the same time, the presence of the 'service charge included' stamp on menus often discourages customers from tipping a waiter.

That point was emphatically stressed by one waiter from Woodhouse Grill. He pointed out, "What good is a service charge if we don't make a good sum off it, if not any? Customers expect good service for it. But because they pay a good sum in service charge over their already high mark-up orders, they don't feel obliged to tip us further."

However, restaurant owners' look at it differently from waiters.

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Both entrepreneurs set the average salary of servers at around Tk12,000 to Tk17,000 a month. When asked why tips make up such a large share of a server's actual income when it should have come in the form of a salary, both Andaleeb and Labib said they feel it is gradually improving and is much better than earlier times.

A culture across industries, nations

The concept of tips is not, however, limited to the food business. Service-based businesses, an example is hair-dressing salons, highly regard the prospects of tips. High end or local hair-dressing salons all rely greatly on tips past the basic charge of their services to make an extra living.

How much 'extra money' they make from tips is directly proportional to how affably they converse with customers and/or serve them. An air-conditioned salon along with good amenities as opposed to less decorated ones will not only be able to charge high for their services but also appeal for a higher tip.

Different parts of the world tend to look at tipping differently.

For example, in the United States, it is frowned upon if tips amount to less than 20 percent of the customer's bill, at diners, restaurants, etc.

Meanwhile, in Japan, tipping is an emblematic insult for servers. They generally think of asking for a tip as next to begging. That is a common ideal shared by a few other Asian countries as well, Hong Kong being a prime example.

In Europe, the service charge is usually included right within the price of the food customers order. On one hand, that keeps the superfluous runaway of the end price in check, but on the other hand, earns waiters/servers a modest sum in tips.

Does tipping equate to better service? That is debatable. It has more of a psychological impact than a financial one. Surely, servers deem it as a fantastic way to add a little extra to what they earn as is.

My mistakes and learnings:

- ✚ For this assignment I could not collect all the necessary information from respondents
- ✚ A lot of the questions were not on point
- ✚ I could not get the restaurant owners give me information the way I needed them

Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/tips-paying-good-service-or-sharing-servers-salary-389618>



Most servers look forward to making an extra income from tips, although whether one gets tipped or not depends on a number of factors. PHOTO: NOOR-ALAM

Tips: Paying for good service or sharing the server's salary?

FEATURE
AZIZ HAKIM

As more and more restaurants open around town, the culture of tipping servers is also picking up pace. For some waiters, tips make up a lion's share of their monthly income

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The 'service charge' that restaurants, hotels and eateries charge customers does not actually mean tips. It is an additional fee for the establishment's service, and from this amount, waiters and servers may get a certain percentage.

Ironically, bigger hotels tend to pay even less in salary, between Tk8,000 and Tk10,000, with the understanding that waiters or servers will be making the lion's share of their monthly income from tips. At some hotels, waiters and servers can earn up to Tk40,000 in total - the additional income stemming from tips (that customers pay) and also from the 'service charge' that the hotel charges customers.

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Those who work at restaurants where tips are abundant say sometimes they can save up their entire monthly salary when they have had a good month of sales and tips. Such months, however, were extremely rare in the last two years because of the pandemic.

A 'tip'ping landscape

Robul Islam, a server at Kacchi Bhoj, Dhanmondi, says that he expressly tries to impress the customers with a handful of trade tricks he has picked up through the many years he has worked as a server in different restaurants.

"I smile a lot for the customers and I practice on my smile in the mirror too, so it doesn't look fake. I make small talk with them. Other times, I would mix things up with a complimentary salad even if they don't ask for it, to go with their kachchi."

Some tip me, some don't. But it's all about how at home I make them feel," said Robul.

Robul said he has received a tip of Tk10 on some occasions. "I don't mind them be-

Tips: Paying for good service or sharing the server's salary?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

customers tip handsomely... say Tk200. That's the highest I've made here so far."

Kacchi Bhoj is a Bangla (local) restaurant. "We are glad that the tipping culture is still going strong in Bangla food restaurants," Robul attested, again, with his customary smile.

Alam has been working as a server for the past 11 years at YumYum Cafe, Dhanmondi, which is big on tips. He exclaimed, "Your guess is as good as mine! Working here for the past 11 years has brought me very close to regular customers. We like busy days when more of them are here, which automatically makes for more tips!"

Alam says some months they make an excess of Tk4,000 or even Tk5,000, give or take, along with their basic pay (which can be estimated at Tk10,000).

Bipul Chiran, from KoolCha, Dhanmondi, also reiterated Alam's point of view that regulars are good tippers. "Some customers call us on our personal phones to book a table before they come in. We first need to turn a new customer into a regular and the easiest way to do that is by making them feel at home here," said Bipul.

Bipul said he makes somewhere around Tk150 to Tk200 on some days of the week from tips; on week-ends it goes up to approximately Tk300. Only about 20 percent of customers tip.

"We get to keep what we make as tips. However, our practice is to share

Tk60, out of each tip [depending if the tip is higher than Tk60 and by how much], with the kitchen staff."

Like Bipul, most waiters say they share their hard-earned tips among other staff, mostly out of custom rather than any hard and fast rule.

Proma Tasneem, a regular at Woodhouse Grill, Banani, lives for the savoury of delicacies. Tasneem said, over a lovely steak on her table, "There is nothing I don't love about this place. The food is authentic and the ambience complements the food. However, we pay a premium for the food I order from Woodhouse."

I pay an additional service charge on top of the expensive food bill. Tipping after 'service charges included' [policy] sounds pointless to me."

The service charge conundrum

For many waiters and servers, service charges, self-service and tip-boxes are regressive to their prospect of adding on a little extra to their monthly pay.

Most often, according to waiters, they do not get to see the full amount the owner collects as service charges, while, at the same time, the presence of the 'service charge included' stamp on menus often discourages customers from tipping a waiter.

That point was emphatically stressed by one waiter from Woodhouse Grill. He pointed out, "What good is a service charge if we don't make a good sum off it, if not any? Customers expect good service for it. But because they pay a good sum

in service charge over their already high mark-up orders, they don't feel obliged to tip us further."

However, restaurant owners' look at it differently from waiters.

Syed Muhammad Andaleeb, Secretary, Restaurant Owners Association, said over a phone call, "We who prefer service charge and tip-boxes over hand-in tips get to distribute the sum among our employees more evenly. The sum is incremental. Managers or the chefs earn a little more than new or relatively less trained employees."

Labib Tarafdar, partner and co-founder to multiple restaurant brand names: Madchef, Yum Cha District, Cheez, Laughing Buddha and Madchef Catering Services, said "Restaurants I look after still don't discourage tips. If the customers tip, they keep it and share it among themselves. But I personally prefer sharing with them a range of 2.5-5 percent of the monthly revenue based on point numbering."

Both entrepreneurs set the average salary of servers at around Tk12,000 to Tk17,000 a month. When asked why tips make up such a large share of a server's actual income when it should have come in the form of a salary, both Andaleeb and Labib said they feel it is gradually improving and is much better than earlier times.

A culture across industries, nations

The concept of tips is not, however, limited to the food business. Service-

based businesses, an example is hair-dressing salons, highly regard the prospects of tips. High end or local hair-dressing salons all rely greatly on tips past the basic charge of their services to make an extra living.

How much 'extra money' they make from tips is directly proportional to how affably they converse with customers and/or serve them. An air-conditioned salon along with good amenities as opposed to less decorated ones will not only be able to charge high for their services but also appeal for a higher tip.

Different parts of the world tend to look at tipping differently.

For example, in the United States, it is frowned upon if tips amount to less than 20 percent of the customer's bill, at diners, restaurants, etc.

Meanwhile, in Japan, tipping is an emblematic insult for servers. They generally think of asking for a tip as next to begging. That is a common ideal shared by a few other Asian countries as well, Hong Kong being a prime example.

In Europe, the service charge is usually included right within the price of the food customers order. On one hand, that keeps the superfluous runaway of the end price in check, but on the other hand, earns waiters/servers a modest sum in tips.

Does tipping equate to better service? That is debatable. It has more of a psychological impact than a financial one. Surely, servers deem it as a fantastic way to add a little extra to what they earn as is.

Project 6

Project title: From Engineer to Executive: Career paths that take sharp turns

Project description: This article was published on 31 March 2022 on three Buet alumni who found success in the corporate world. This was aimed towards students who are apprehensive about their career paths

My responsibilities: I wrote this article for the Pursuit page, the dedicated page for all career and profession on The Business Standard.

My copy:

The career path is not a straight one

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

Engr. Jakaria Jalal knew from the beginning that he had to be an engineer or a doctor or a lawyer or a professor to deliver his parents the dream they always had for him. Jakaria made good on his parents' dreams and got himself enrolled at Bangladesh University of Science & Technology (Buet) in 2002, to study chemical engineering and build a career around it.

But luck had a little different something in plan for him.

Fast forward to October 2020, Engr. Jakaria Jalal took office as Executive Director (ED), Sales, of Bashundhara LP Gas Ltd. He holds this office to date.

Another Executive Director, Sayed Joynul Abedin, of the RFL Bicycle Division, who happens to be one more Buet alumnus, closely acquainted to Jakaria, has diversified his line of work from his field of study: Mechanical Engineering.

No sooner than he graduated from Buet in 2006, his career took off in the same year as trainee engineer at OTOBI Ltd. At OTOBI, his engineering spirit felt fulfilled.

In about a decade and half, in 2021, he assumed the role of ED for the same Bicycle division. Jakaria's occupational evolution follows Joynul's journey closely. In 2007, Jakaria joined Global Heavy Chemicals Limited as Production Engineer.

In 2016 he joined Bashundhara as Deputy General Manager. In four quick years, in 2020, he made Executive Director in the same company. We like more stories like this, yes? In fact, there is more!

Shahriar Bin Lutfor, Director & Head of Business, Samsung Electronics Bangladesh, is yet another Buet alumnus, or a Buet-ian, as they like to call themselves. At this point, it could come as a surprise why so many graduates from an engineering background should hold corporate titles, that too such high-ranking ones. Yet, Jakaria, Joynul and Shahriar are proof that engineers, too, can make it big in the corporate sphere. How did their roads lead herein?

The so-called ‘brain-drain’

Shahriar had prepared all the necessary documents for moving out to Australia when he was already a graduate Mechanical engineer and was doing a job as a Sales Executive at Renewable Energy Rahimafrroz Renewable Energy Ltd (RREL). He was determined to leave the country and join his friends who were already settled abroad. It was also around the same time he landed on the opportunity to obtain his MBA from IBA.

Shahriar added, ‘When I got into IBA, I gave up trying to leave Bangladesh for good and sought after settling down right here. I did my MBA in finance as that was the only knowledge base I lacked, since I already am an engineer and ideas of sales and marketing I had. Knowing the three goes a long way when it comes to doing the job I am doing.

You see, the way engineering students learn and the way business students learn are greatly different. But engineering teaches us to solve problems as they occur. That ability is indispensable in the world of trade and commerce. Do you see how this helps us do such jobs then?” According to him, a market for engineering students with business degrees is on the rise in Bangladesh.

“Buet is producing students for North America,” juxtaposed Jakaria, as opposed to Shahriar – at least for the first time throughout the interviews. He added, “Not just from Buet, even private university students are now migrating abroad. It is not brain-drain, per se. People who think they can have a better life abroad and given the right opportunity, *will* leave; even if they are given a seven-figure salary every month. But I personally never wanted to leave Bangladesh.”

Engineers are all about patterns

Firstly, Jakaria, Joynul and Shahriar belong from Buet and then to make things interesting, they have all studied MBA in lieu of staying with engineering for their master’s degree. The pattern was starting to show.

Jakaria was doing well as shift-in-charge at an Opsonin factory. The drive to grow came, in his words ‘Even though I was shift-in-charge, the Head-of-Production used to hand me a piece of paper for how much to produce everyday. I used to wonder who decided that and I want to be the one to decide.’

‘You’re studying chemical engineering and a chemical engineer can become anyone s/he wants,’ said Jakaria’s professor at their orientation speech when he had just joined Buet. He cashed in on this motto. It was also at this speech he was advised that studying MBA for the master’s degree should help smoothen the transition to any career path. So Jakaria did; he pursued his master’s degree at the reputed IBA school.

It should come as no surprise if both Joynul and Shahriar learned the same advice, right? They did, of course. Joynul and Shahriar both pursued a master’s degree each.

Shahriar chipped in a valuable input at this point, “To be in a big post, one just has to have a clear idea about sales and marketing, the product, as well as the finance. If engineering and a commercial angle can be brought into the mix, a winning combination is reached.”

But all this is adding in more questions than answers as to why engineering graduates are pursuing an MBA or helming corporate offices. Are engineering graduates then not finding enough jobs pertaining to engineering?

“Not really... it’s just that the world is changing around us pretty quickly,” interposed Joynul when asked why engineering graduates, like himself, are making the move into the corporate world and he added further, “when I was interviewed at PRAN-RFL, I saw them promoting engineers and letting us operate the business. This amazed me and I never gave it a second thought and went along with it.”

Unsurprisingly, Shahriar and Jakaria too, in their own ways, gave similar accounts of their choices to side with the corporate world. Even though the three were interviewed individually and separately to ensure that no one mirrors each other’s statement – also because they share a friendly relationship among themselves, on multiple instances their answers coincided.

For the reader’s sake and to make the interview as spontaneous as possible, the interviewees were not even handed a questionnaire beforehand. Their answers still matched in many ways.

The job market for engineering graduates

Going by Shahriar’s account to probe into the job market for engineers, we came to learn that industrialisation in Bangladesh is on the rise. Obviously, that calls for more engineers to work in the many factories and industries showing up in whichever direction.

Shahriar said emphatically that the first five to eight years of the job life is particularly an investment period; investment in oneself. But young engineers do not like to give it that time to settle in and end up frustrated. According to him, it would not matter where they work, here or abroad. All jobs are frustrating if enough time is not taken to understand it.

To underscore the whole matter, the dynamics of the corporate world are changing. Graduates from completely different disciplines are crossing over into entirely different lanes of profession

but are also doing surprisingly well. It stands to reason that the modern career path is one of many roads and unplanned destinations.

Edited copy:

Edit: Jeisen

Revise: Promila

From Engineer to Executive: Career paths that take sharp turns

Category: Feature

Aziz Hakim

SF: Many graduates from an engineering background these days hold corporate titles, that too high-ranking ones. The Business Standard spoke to three engineers from Buet who made it big in the corporate sphere

Jakaria Jalal knew from the beginning that he had to be an engineer or a doctor or a lawyer or a professor to deliver his parents the dream they always had for him.

He made good on his parents' dreams and got himself enrolled at Bangladesh University of Science & Technology (Buet) in 2002, to study chemical engineering and build a career around it.

Fast forward to October 2020, Engineer Jakaria Jalal became the Executive Director (ED), Sales, of Bashundhara LP Gas Ltd. He holds this office to date but his career began when he made shift-in-charge of a production factory at Global Heavy Chemicals Ltd in 2007.

Sayed Joynul Abedin is the ED of the RFL Bicycle Division, who also happens to be one more Buet alumnus like Jakaria and is closely acquainted with him. Joynul too has diverted his line of work from his field of study: Mechanical Engineering.

He graduated from Buet in 2006 and his career took off in the same year as a trainee engineer at Otobi Ltd. At Otobi, his engineering spirit felt fulfilled. In about a decade and a half, in 2021, he assumed the role of ED for RFL Bicycle division.

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At this point, it should come as no surprise that many graduates from an engineering background can hold corporate titles, that too high-ranking ones. Jakaria, Joynul and Shahriar are proof that engineers, too, can make it big in the corporate sphere. How did their roads lead

herein?

The 'brain-drain' phenomenon

Shahriar had prepared all the necessary documents for moving out to Australia when he was already a graduate mechanical engineer and was doing a job as a sales executive at Renewable Energy Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd.

He was determined to leave the country and join his friends who were already settled abroad. It was also around the same time he landed the opportunity to obtain his MBA from IBA. However, it seems if, given the right chances, the right people to do the right job will stay back.

Shahriar added to this point, "When I got into IBA, I gave up trying to leave Bangladesh for good and decided on settling down right here. I did my MBA in finance as that was the only knowledge base I lacked since I am already an engineer and ideas of sales and marketing I had gained already. Knowing these three goes a long way when it comes to doing the job I am doing."

The way engineering students learn and the way business students learn are greatly different. But engineering teaches us to solve problems in real-time. That ability is indispensable in the world of trade and commerce.

According to Shahriar, a market for engineering students with business degrees is on the rise in Bangladesh.

However, Jakaria is of the opinion that not just from Buét, even private university students are now migrating abroad. According to him, it is not brain-drain, per se.

He said, "People who think they can have a better life abroad and given the right opportunity, *will* leave; even if they are given a seven-figure salary every month. But I personally never wanted to leave Bangladesh."

Adapt and achieve

Firstly, Jakaria, Joynul and Shahriar belong from Buét and then to make things interesting, they have all studied MBA instead of staying with engineering for their master's degrees. All of their journeys followed a similar pattern and it was starting to show.

Jakaria was doing well as shift-in-charge at the Global Heavy Chemicals factory. The drive to grow came when, in his words, "Even though I was shift-in-charge, the head-of-production used to hand me a piece of paper for how much to produce everyday. I used to wonder who decided that and I wanted to be the one to decide."

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Just like Jakaria, Joynul and Shahriar also got an MBA each.

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“Not really, it is just that the world is changing around us pretty quickly,” said Joynul when asked why engineering graduates, like himself, are making the move into the corporate world.

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Engineers in the workforce

Going by Shahriar’s account to probe into the job market for engineers, we came to learn that industrialisation in Bangladesh is on the rise. Obviously, that calls for more engineers to work in the many factories and industries showing up in whichever direction.

Shahriar said emphatically that the first five to eight years of the job life is particularly an investment period; investment in oneself. But young engineers do not like to give it that time to settle in and end up frustrated.

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From Engineer to Executive: Career paths that take sharp turns

Many graduates from an engineering background these days hold corporate titles, that too high-ranking ones. The Business Standard spoke to three engineers from Buett who made it big in the corporate sphere

FEATURE

AZIZ HAKIM

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SHAHRIAR LUTFUR
Director & Head of Business,
Samsung Electronics Bangladesh



JAKARIA JALAL
Head of Division (Sales, ED),
Bashundhara LP Gas Ltd



SAYED JOYDUL ABEDIN
Executive Director,
RFL Bike

From Engineer to Executive: Career paths

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

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My mistakes and learnings:

- ✚ Here I started out to tell the story as a personal one
- ✚ There were some linguistic issues

Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/features/pursuit/engineer-executive-career-paths-take-sharp-turns-394366>

Project 7

Project title: The right time to plant 'Seeds for the Future' is now

Project description: This article was published on 11 April 2022 on a group of young people who made it to the top 10 of a global contest setup by Huawei named 'Seeds for the future'. For this assignment I went over to Huawei office and interviewed the contestants one by one and heard their stories to write about them.

My responsibility: I wrote this article for the Panorama page, the dedicated page for all around news on The Business Standard.

My copy:

The right time to plant 'Seeds for the Future' is now

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

The Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban, the only family of tigers that live in a mangrove forest, is being poached at an unimaginable rate and there is no stopping that. In just two decades the population of the Bengal tiger has dwindled from around 500 to some 110. The Bengal tiger is now considered an endangered species. But some people care...

Imagine the habitat of the Bengal tiger is heavily rigged with cameras and audio sensors that detect illegal entry of poachers and alert forest rangers of that immediately. These very cameras and audio sensors can keep track of the tiger population for constant surveillance of their health and condition as well. This may seem like wishful thinking but there is in fact a group of young people (students) looking to materialise such a thought.

Also imagine not a single waste littering the streets of a metropolis such as Dhaka. We like to think this is even more daring to imagine. However, a simple mobile game, that very much resembles Pokemon Go, can make that happen.

Another group of young people (also students) are aiming to develop a mobile app that uses live feeds from CCTV cameras set up all across the city to point out plastic waste lying on the streets. Users of the app can locate the waste pointed out by the app and put them in proper waste bins. These bins would come with QR codes that the users can scan after disposing of the waste and earn points for being good citizens. But what is in it for them?

Top 10 Users with the highest points would earn credits they can redeem by month's end and be rewarded for continued good behaviour. However fantastical, these are actual concepts developed by actual people; two groups of actual people: Team Jagadish and Team Flyers.

The concept of stopping poaching of the Bengal tiger belongs to Team Jagadish and the concept of getting rid of plastic waste off the streets belongs to Team Flyers. Jagadish and Flyers are both groups of eight distinctive young students.

Syed Doha Uddin, spokesperson for Team Jagadish, a fourth year student of the University of Dhaka, shared his view, “No one cares about the Bengal tiger being poached illegally, our national treasure. So we thought of making the most out of the technology being handed over to us to go ahead with our concept.”

On behalf of Team Flyers, Kazi Arham Kabir, a fourth year student from Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (Aust) represented. He said, “We would solve every pollution related problem if we could. But we had to narrow down. So, we thought of taking the plastic waste off the streets of Dhaka.” Sadia Karishma Kabir, Arham’s friend and partner both at Aust and Team Flyers added, “This was not our first idea for Seeds for the Future. We pitched an idea of a friendly robot that could accompany Covid affected patients in isolation.”

The concepts at hand were presented by both the teams for a global contest initiated by Huawei, a well known telecommunications service provider from China. They came up with it in the hope of bringing the youth closer to technical know-hows of how technology works hand-in-hand with the corporate world.

Seeds for the Future is Huawei’s brainchild in the form of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). As the term suggests, through a CSR project a corporate entity allocates its resources to do society good, out of their sense of responsibility towards it. Some companies help by fixing up old or malfunctioning school buses while some by adding a clean water source in an area that lacks one.

Huawei thought out of the box and gave the idea behind a CSR project a more wholesome meaning and has been doing it on a global scale for the last 14 years through Seeds for the Future, where the next generation of students are given precedence, who will in turn work towards betterment on both personal and societal levels.

What is Seeds for the Future?

Huawei launched its flagship CSR campaign under the name ‘Seeds for the Future’ back in 2008 in Thailand. The goal of this campaign is to help senior year university students from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines adapt with the fast moving corporate landscape. The contest has now become popular among 130 countries and regions and around 500 top rated universities from the countries and regions participate.

As Huawei deals mainly in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), they came up with this campaign in 2008 in the form of a contest where university students like Doha, Arham and Sadia contend to come up with concepts that make use of latest technology propped up by Huawei like their 5G or their artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

There are three phases to this contest and it lasts for a span of three months. Huawei reaches out to any university that runs STEM programs, state or privately run. The first step of the contest takes off with students taking a standardised exam set up by Huawei that tests the students' knowledge on ICT. Students are also required to submit a CV along with the exam. Those that pass the exam are selected on the merit of not only their test scores but how presentably they handed in their CVs.

Ramisha Raida Kabir, another fourth-year student from Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and a colleague of Doha's on Team Jagadish said on the selection process, "Only two of us are selected from each university, one male and one female student. But hundreds of applications apply from each university. Only about 30 per cent make it to the interview stage out of these hundreds and this is only the beginning!"

As two students from each university come forward with their own concepts, they are then pushed forward to the next round, the Tri-nation stage. Because it is not possible at this stage to have all 130 countries and regions compete against each other, three participating nations are selected randomly who compete amongst themselves.

At this stage, the 16 students from the eight universities are divided up in two groups, with eight students on each team. To make things interesting, no participant would know who would be in their respective teams. Fortunately for Sadia and Arham from Aust, found each other on the same side: Flyers.

So, Bangladesh went up against Greece and Mozambique on the Tri-nation stage, which lasted for eight straight days. In these eight days they received not only training on how Huawei and China but also a lot about Chinese cultures. However, it was all done online because of Covid-19 complications. Ramisha added to this point, "We were given a detailed tour of many places in China but we saw it all online. I personally loved this one dance form they showed where the performer changes 29 masks as part of one performance. It was breathtaking to experience that but I really wish I could be physically present in China to watch it all."

Seven other teams from Greece and Mozambique competed, a total of nine teams, including Flyers and Jagadish.

Flyers, against all odds, came on top of this round, making them the first ever team from Bangladesh to achieve this glory at Seeds for the Future, even though Bangladesh's journey with the contest began in 2013. Flyers' concept of using CCTV camera feeds to clear litter off the streets did it for them. However, members of Jagadish could not celebrate in that way, not yet.

The apparent let down in the Tri-nation stage got Team Jagadish to upend their game and really consolidate their economic viability of their concept in the global stage, where all 130 countries and regions compete. This time they pitched their concept as a social enterprise. Doha explained, "The Sundarban and its Bengal tigers are all under direct supervision of the

government. So, us trying to save the tigers falls under that category as well. As a social enterprise, we would be funded by the government.”

The final and the most gruelling round of Seeds for the Future, the global round, lasts a month. As luck would have it, Team Jagadish’s collective effort along with that assisted their concept in standing out of the crowd. Amongst all of the 130 countries and regions, Team Jagadish came out as one top 10 group. Team Flyers however did not have the same luck as with the Tri-nation round in the global stage.

The only two teams competing in Seeds for the Future from Bangladesh, one of them making the Tri-nation champion and another making the top 10 in the same year is a boon. This clearly shows how resilient the youth of Bangladesh are to setbacks as voracious as a pandemic.

Go Team Flyers and go Team Jagadish!

To top it off, Yuying Karl, Director of Public Affairs and Communications Department, Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Limited, commented on the overall prospect of Seeds for the Future and teams Flyers and Jagadish, “Huawei believes in collaborative achievement and always wants to create value in the communities where it works. We work as partners with the local governments and educational institutes to create a positive impact and always strive to give students opportunities to grow and become future leaders. We have decided to develop 1 lakh ICT talents of the Asia Pacific region from 2021 to 2025 so that they can take the upcoming job opportunities in the ICT sector. The number of youths is the great asset of Bangladesh. We want them to contribute to the ICT stream of Digital World.”

Edited copy:

Revised: Nusmila

Edit: Nasif

Photo caption: Team Jagadish, the winners of Seeds for the Future 2021 Bangladesh, are as pictured (from left to right) Syed Doha Uddin, Sadia Karishma Kabir, Kazi Arham Kabir, Ramisha Raida Karim and Mohtasim Tasnim Zaman. **Photo:** Noor-A-Alam

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The right time to plant 'Seeds for the Future' is now

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

SF: *Huawei CSR campaign 'Seeds for the Future' aims to help senior year university students from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines adapt to the fast-moving corporate landscape. This year two teams represented Bangladesh on this global platform*

The Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban, the only family of tigers that live in a mangrove forest, is being poached at a shocking rate. In just two decades the population of the Bengal tiger has dwindled from approximately 500 to 110. The Bengal tiger is now considered an endangered species.

Now imagine the habitat of the Bengal tiger can be rigged heavily with cameras and audio sensors that detect illegal entry of poachers and immediately alert forest rangers. These very cameras and audio sensors can keep track of the tiger population and constantly surveil their health conditions as well.

This all may sound like wishful thinking but there is, in fact, a group of students looking to materialise such an idea.

Also, imagine there is no waste littered across the streets of a metropolis such as Dhaka. Perhaps an unrealistic and daring idea. However, a simple mobile game, that very much resembles the popular Augmented Reality (AR) Pokemon Go, can make that happen.

Another group of young people are aiming to develop a mobile app that uses live feeds from CCTV cameras set up all across the city to locate plastic waste lying on the streets. And then users of the app can put them away in waste bins. These bins would come with QR codes that the users can scan and earn points for being good citizens. But what is in it for them?

The top 10 users with the highest points would earn credits they can redeem by month's end and earn rewards. However fantastical, these are actual concepts developed by actual people; in fact by two groups: Team Jagadish and Team Flyers.

The concept of stopping the poaching of the Bengal tiger belongs to Team Jagadish while the idea of plastic waste removal off the streets belongs to Team Flyers; and each group is made up of eight distinctive young students.

Syed Doha Uddin, the spokesperson for Team Jagadish, a fourth-year student of Dhaka University, said, "No one cares about the Bengal tiger being poached illegally, our national treasure. So we thought of making the most out of the technology being handed over to us."

Team Flyers was represented by Kazi Arham Kabir, a fourth-year student from Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST). He said, "We would solve every pollution-related problem if we could. But we had to narrow it down. So, we thought of taking the plastic waste off the streets of Dhaka."

Sadia Karishma Kabir, Arham's friend and teammate added, "This was not our first idea for Seeds for the Future. [Earlier], we pitched an idea of a friendly robot that could accompany Covid-19 patients in isolation."

The concepts at hand were presented by both teams at a global contest initiated by Huawei, a well-known technological corporation from China. The company launched the idea behind this contest in the hopes of bringing the youth closer to understanding how technology works hand-in-hand with the corporate world.

Seeds for the Future is Huawei's brainchild in the form of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Huawei thought out of the box and gave the idea behind a CSR project a more wholesome meaning. For the last 14 years, they have been running Seeds for the Future contests at a global scale, where the next generation of students are given precedence.

What is 'Seeds for the Future'?

Huawei launched its flagship CSR campaign under the name 'Seeds for the Future' back in 2008 in Thailand. The goal of this campaign is to help senior year university students from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines adapt to the fast-moving corporate landscape. The contest has now become popular in 130 countries and regions and around 500 top-rated universities participate.

As Huawei deals mainly in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), they came up with this contest where university students like Doha, Arham and Sadia bring ideas to the table that make use of the latest technology propped up by Huawei, like their 5G or their artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

There are three phases to this contest and it lasts for a span of three months. Huawei reaches out to any university that runs STEM programmes, state or privately run. The first step of the contest takes off with students taking a standardised exam set up by Huawei that tests the students' knowledge of ICT, from each country of all the 130. Students are also required to submit a resume along with the exam; and evaluated and selected based on their test results and resume.

Ramisha Raida Kabir, another fourth-year student from Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and a colleague of Doha's on Team Jagadish said, "Only two [students] are selected from each of the eight universities, one male and one female. From Bangladesh eight universities were chosen but that number is different in other participating countries. Hundreds of students apply from each university. Only about 30 per cent make it to the interview stage and that is only the beginning!"

When the two students from a university are selected, they move on to the next round, the Tri-nation stage. This stage of the contest takes place between three countries from the 130. Because it is not possible to have all 130 countries and regions compete against each other, three participating nations are selected randomly to compete amongst themselves.

At this stage, the 16 students handpicked from the eight universities are divided into two groups, with eight students on each team - and from this process, Team Flyers and Team Jagadish were created. To make things interesting, no participant can find out who from before is in their respective teams.

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The only two teams competing in Seeds for the Future from Bangladesh, made an incredible mark in the contest (one of them made the Tri-nation champion and another made it to the top 10 in the same year) reflective of how resilient and talented Bangladesh’s youth is and indicative of their potential when given the right tools and scope.

My mistakes and learnings:

- ✚ The whole team had to come together on this one to bring out the best in it because it had some complex sentence making, other than that it was okay.
- ✚ This assignment had to be rewritten because the first edition was not up to the mark. The second rework was much better.

Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/right-time-plant-seeds-future-now-401226>

Published copy:

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FEATURE
AZIZ HAKIM

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SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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Project 8

Project title: Borac Energia: A dream venture to produce recycled Li-ion batteries and build e-bikes

Project description: This article was published on 22 April 2022 on a group of two who became the runners-up at a contest prodded by UNDP. I had to interview the contestants personally. Their concept was how to recycle used Li-ion batteries and make them reusable.

My responsibility: I wrote this article for the Panorama page, the dedicated page for all around news on The Business Standard.

My copy: Due to heavy editing the original piece written by me was removed by UNDP themselves. So I am attaching the edited copy of the article.

Edited copy:

Revision: Dabir/UNDP checked

Edit: Nasif/Nusmila

Photo caption main: Borac Energia's e-bikes can run for 150 km before it needs to be recharged.

Photo: Noor A Alam

Photo caption: Alim al Rajii (left) and SM Tanvir Islam, co-founders, Borac Energia.

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PQ: Every procedure involved in extracting the raw materials to make the lead-acid batteries and recycle them is extremely detrimental to the environment. Additionally, the people who recycle these batteries usually do not have a clear understanding of how to handle the chemicals involved in the process and after long years of improper handling, workers develop lung issues and skin diseases.

Borac Energia: A dream venture to produce recycled Li-Ion batteries and build e-bikes

Aziz Hakim

Category: Feature

SF: By 2019, the first e-bike prototype successfully worked on recycled Li-ion batteries. In one more year, SM Tanvir along with his co-founder, Alim al Rajii, started their own Li-ion battery recycling business and they are looking to expand the startup

When SM Tanvir Islam was studying aeronautics and military aviation at the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) in Mirpur Cantonment, he dreamed of one day making jet engines. He had even completed 16 flight-hours on a fighter jet.

Unfortunately, he realised soon enough, that living in Bangladesh, it was not feasible to pursue this goal because Bangladesh did not make jet engines.

But instead of giving up, Tanvir diversified to micro-irrigation where he used to make submersible water pumps for irrigation purposes. He made the switch halfway through his undergrad program in 2014.

Tanvir created submersible pumps and equipment for farming but at price points reasonable for poor farmers. But competition from existing companies stalled his effort and some of his customers too had complaints that his pumps failed at times. He worked on these issues but somewhere deep down he was looking to do more, to make something even more impactful.

Then when he graduated in 2016, he thought of Lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries, and instead of making them, Tanvir sought to recycle the batteries. Waste and scrapped Li-ion batteries are abundant and can be easily collected from scrap dealers.

“In 2018, we made our first e-bike prototype,” said Tanvir. At first, the duo perfected the recycled Li-ion batteries. And then they decided to make an e-bike prototype using the recycled batteries.

In the process of building the prototype, they recognised how expensive the use of Li-ion batteries is - the batteries alone were priced around Tk1 lakh, rounding up to a price of around Tk1,80,000 to Tk 2 lakh to make one e-bike. However, by using recycled Li-ion batteries, the total cost could be brought down to Tk1,10,000 to Tk1,30,000 for each unit.

By 2019, the first prototype successfully worked on recycled Li-ion batteries. In one more year, Tanvir along with his co-founder, Alim al Rajii, started their own Li-ion battery recycling business.

In 2020, the duo’s shared dream took the shape of [Borac Energia](#).

Recently, Borac Energia became the first runner-up at the Springboard Programme 4.0, an incubator competition hosted by Youth Co:Lab, an initiative co-created by UNDP and the Citi Foundation.

By recycling scrapped Lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries and making them reusable to customers for an affordable price, Borac Energia’s model directly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”

How does Borac Energia revive ‘dead’ batteries?

It is a trade secret. Nevertheless, the founders shared one tidbit of the process. After sourcing the batteries from local scrap dealers, they use salt water - among other things - to revive it.

“We either make electric bicycles from the ground up using these recycled batteries or we retrofit regular bicycles with our proprietary techniques. Or our batteries can also be used as storage units of electricity coupled with the existing solar panel technology,” explained Tanvir.

And why would they not work with the more easily sourced lead-acid batteries? “Lead-acid batteries are harmful for the environment and people. [Also] they don’t last as long as Li-ion batteries. That defeats our motto,” explained Alim.

According to him, every procedure involved in extracting the raw materials to make and recycle the lead-acid batteries is extremely detrimental to the environment.

Additionally, the people who recycle these batteries usually do not have a clear understanding of how to handle the chemicals involved in the process and after long years of improper handling, workers develop lung issues and skin diseases.

The raw materials for Li-ion batteries, on the other hand, are much easier and safer to handle compared to their counterparts.

However, a brand new Li-ion battery costs four times as much as lead-acid batteries do, which is still why people opt for them over the better alternative.

“A recycled Li-ion battery costs even less than a new lead-acid battery but will serve three (or even four) times longer and as efficiently... we want to disrupt the acid based battery industry since they are harmful to the environment,” added Alim. Because the high cost dissuades customers from choosing Li-ion batteries, recycled ones would serve them just as well but at substantially lower prices.

In the future, when the duo will be able to carry out more research, they are hopeful they will be able to provide their products at a price lower than brand new lead-acid batteries.

Additionally, both Alim and Tanvir also would like to enter the electronic bikes sector. Beside their current inventory of two e-bike prototypes, they are designing another two e-bike prototypes using the seed money awarded by UNDP.

These prototypes, they hope, will be their ticket into the commuter bikes industry. “These bikes will travel up to 150 kilometres before needing to be recharged, using only electricity worth Tk 20 and no more.

And by using the seed money, we are also trying to create portable chargers for our e-bikes. E-bikers can charge up while they’re being used, in real-time, as people are using power banks for mobile phones these days. With our e-bikes we would provide two batteries so that they can keep one on charge,” added Alim.

Borac Energia's expansion plans

For now Borac Energia is in the business-to-business model phase.

Alim hopes that the government will help them set up smart-charging stations at already existing filling stations. These smart-chargers are not essentially quick charging outlets, per se, but Li-ion batteries require dramatically less time - not more than two hours at best - compared to lead-acid batteries.

"We also equip existing e-bike companies, such as Green Tiger, with our batteries. And in the near future we aspire to be able to provide buyers and customers alike with everything curated and manufactured by us," said Tanvir.

E-commerce businesses require deliveries made on time. Borac Energia's electric transports seem like a cost and time-effective solution. Borac Energia has already taken an order from an e-commerce entity for converting 10 vans with their technology.

"Stepping in the e-commerce sector will help them just as much as it will boost our aims and strategies. After all, we are a business entity," added Tanvir.

When asked about after-sales services and if they receive complaints, Tanvir quipped, "Our buyers want more batteries from us. We cannot quite keep up with the demand just yet. Once we are able to upscale our operations, we might be able to meet this demand. This demand is a good incentive for us to work harder."

Moreover, neither Alim nor Tanvir want to make compromises with the design language (guide for the design of products or architectural settings) of their end products, which are electric vehicles of all forms, they hope. Tanvir, especially, believes that good design along with good features at very reasonable price tags will work like a charm.

Quick charging is key if electric transports are to take over. The duo sees this as a huge challenge up the road but the way things are looking right now, they are hopeful they will be able to deliver.

Addressing all these findings, the duo is basing their design on cafe racer bikes, which, they say, are quite popular among the younger crowd.

However, their present number of staff is yet another roadblock in their expansion plan. The work process would be so much more streamlined if they had more hands on deck, according to Alim.

"Youth Co:Lab is facilitating us with a six-month training programme and once done, we shall pitch our ideas to foreign venture capital firms. Should they find our schemes viable, we are likely to receive grants. With the grants, we can definitely scale up our operations and production-lines," explained Alim.

The journey for Alim and Tanvir

Tanvir added further, “Surprisingly, our academic backgrounds are not in line with this project of ours. Alim has studied in the Department of Disaster Science and Management from Dhaka University and I from MIST. We were supposed to walk different paths in life but here we are, because we both wanted to start a business in the most sustainable way possible.

[As an added advantage] we both hail from business-orientated families. That has helped us to think from a commercial angle while maintaining our ‘sustainable’ roots. Alim was heavily invested in how the world is going electric in very quick succession and I was already working in the same field from the backend.”

Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the SDGs through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. The Springboard Programme of Youth Co:Lab Bangladesh is a platform for young social entrepreneurs to contribute towards achieving the SDGs through tailored mentorship and wide-ranging national and global networking opportunities.

My mistakes and learnings:

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Online hyperlink: <https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/borac-energia-dream-venture-produce-recycled-li-ion-batteries-and-build-e-bikes>



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AZIZ HAKIM

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In 2020, the duo's shared dream took the shape of Borac Energia.

Recently, Borac Energia became the first runner-up at the Springboard Programme 4.0, an incubator competition hosted by Youth Co:Lab, an initiative co-created by UNDP and the Giti Foundation.

By recycling scrapped Lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries and making them reusable to customers for an affordable price, Borac Energia's model directly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."

1 SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Alim al Rajji (left) and SM Tanvir Islam, co-founders, Borac Energia. PHOTO: NOOR ALAM

Borac Energia: A dream venture that recycles Li-ion batteries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8
How does Borac Energia revive 'dead' batteries?

It is a trade secret. Nevertheless, the founders shared one tidbit of the process. After sourcing the batteries from local scrap dealers, they use salt water - among other things - to revive it.

"We either make electric bicycles from the ground up using these recycled batteries or we retrofit regular bicycles with our proprietary techniques. Or our batteries can also be used as storage units of electricity coupled with the existing solar panel technology," explained Tanvir.

And why would they not work with the more easily sourced lead-acid batteries? "Lead-acid batteries are harmful for the environment and people. [Also] they don't last as long as Li-ion batteries. That defeats our motto," explained Alim.

According to him, every procedure involved in extracting the raw materials to make and recycle the lead-acid batteries is extremely detrimental to the environment.

Additionally, the people who recycle these batteries usually do not have a clear understanding of how to handle the chemicals involved in the process and after long years of improper handling, workers develop lung issues and skin diseases.

The raw materials for Li-ion batteries, on the other hand, are much easier and safer to handle compared to their counterparts.

However, a brand new Li-ion battery costs four times as much as lead-acid batteries do, which is still why people opt for them over the better alternative.

"A recycled Li-ion battery costs even less than a new lead-acid battery but will serve three (or even four) times longer and as efficiently... we want to disrupt the acid based battery industry since they are harmful to the environment," added Alim. Because the high cost dissuades customers from choosing Li-ion batteries, recycled ones would serve them just as well but at substantially lower prices.

In the future, when the duo will be able to carry out more research, they are hopeful they will be able to provide their products at a price lower than brand new lead-acid batteries.

Additionally, both Alim and Tanvir also would like to enter the electronic bikes sector. Beside their current inventory of two e-bike prototypes, they are designing another two e-bike prototypes using the seed money awarded by UNDP.

These prototypes, they hope, will be their ticket into the commuter bikes industry. "These bikes will travel up to 150 kilometres before needing to be recharged, using only electricity worth Tk 20 and no more.

And by using the seed money, we are also trying to create portable chargers for our e-bikes. E-bikers can charge up while they're being used, in real-time, as people are using

power banks for mobile phones these days. With our e-bikes we would provide two batteries so that they can keep one on charge," added Alim.

Borac Energia's expansion plans
For now Borac Energia is in the business-to-business model phase.

Alim hopes that the government will help them set up smart-charging stations at already existing filling stations. These smart-chargers are not essentially quick charging outlets, per se, but Li-ion batteries require dramatically less time - not more than two hours at best - compared to lead-acid batteries.

"We also equip existing e-bike companies, such as Green Tiger, with our batteries. And in the near future we aspire to be able to provide buyers and customers alike with everything curated and manufactured by us," said Tanvir.

E-commerce businesses require deliveries made on time. Borac Energia's electric transports seem like a cost and time-effective solution. Borac Energia has already taken an order from an e-commerce entity for converting 10 vans with their technology.

"Stepping in the e-commerce sector will help them just as much as it will boost our aims and strategies. After all, we are a business entity," added Tanvir.

When asked about after-sales services and if they receive complaints, Tanvir quipped, "Our buyers want

more batteries from us. We cannot quite keep up with the demand just yet. Once we are able to upscale our operations, we might be able to meet this demand. This demand is a good incentive for us to work harder."

Moreover, neither Alim nor Tanvir want to make compromises with the design language (guide for the design of products or architectural settings) of their end products, which are electric vehicles of all forms, they hope. Tanvir, especially, believes that good design along with good features at very reasonable price tags will work like a charm.

Quick charging is key if electric transports are to take over. The duo sees this as a huge challenge up the road but the way things are looking right now, they are hopeful they will be able to deliver.

Addressing all these findings, the duo is basing their design on cafe racer bikes, which, they say, are quite popular among the younger crowd.

However, their present number of staff is yet another roadblock in their expansion plan. The work process would be so much more streamlined if they had more hands on deck, according to Alim.

"Youth Co:Lab is facilitating us with a six-month training programme and once done, we shall pitch our ideas to foreign venture capital firms. Should they find our schemes viable, we are likely to receive grants. With the grants, we can definitely scale

up our operations and production-lines," explained Alim.

The journey for Alim and Tanvir
Tanvir added further, "Surprisingly, our academic backgrounds are not in line with this project of ours. Alim has studied in the Department of Disaster Science and Management from Dhaka University and I from MIST. We were supposed to walk different paths in life but here we are, because we both wanted to start a business in the most sustainable way possible.

[As an added advantage] we both hail from business-orientated families. That has helped us to think from a commercial angle while maintaining our 'sustainable' roots. Alim was heavily invested in how the world is going electric in very quick succession and I was already working in the same field from the backend."

Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the SDGs through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. The Springboard Programme of Youth Co:Lab Bangladesh is a platform for young social entrepreneurs to contribute towards achieving the SDGs through tailored mentorship and wide-ranging national and global networking opportunities.

Internship outcome

I always wanted to try my luck out at an English newspaper and this internship allowed me that. I am happy to have that wish fulfilled and also that I learned quite a bit out of here that I can apply to my later work life.

Writing efficiently for a newspaper: Creative writing and writing for a newspaper are two very different things. While I am good at doing creating writings, before I got into this newspaper, I did not know just how different they are. I tried my best to utilise my time at this place to learn how much I can get close to how to write in the journalistic manner. I learned some ways but I still have a lot more to learn.

Connections: During my tenure here I got in touch with quite a few people of key. They too gave an idea about how the whole corporate aspect works, if not everything.

Work log

1 February 2022

- Joining date

2 February 2022

- Edit: 'Reverse Resources' by Ummay Marzan

3 February 2022

- Edit: 'Should Bangladesh move its capital away from Dhaka?' by Sheikh Rafi

4 February 2022 (Day Off)

5 February 2022

- Trained with Editor on writing in the journalistic way

6 February 2022

- Page layout training

7 February 2022

- Edit: 'An Internal Matter' by Shadman Saquib Rahman
- Edit: 'StarTech' by Rezaul Sakhen Javed

8 February 2022

- Prepping International piece from Bloomberg 'The Digital Ruppe Needs More Thought' by Andy Mukherjee

9 February 2022

- Prepping International piece from Bloomberg 'Fact checking Covid-19 Posts Isn't Working' by Faye Flam
- ~~Edit~~ Edit: 'Anti Discrimination Law' by

10, 11 February 2022 (Days Off)

12 February 2022

- Edit: Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed Interview by Sheikh Rafi Ahmed
- Revise: Feature 'Why Tk99 stores couldn't' by Sadique Rahman

13 February 2022

- Prepage International Piece from Bloomberg 'The secret to creative breakthroughs' by Andreas Kluth
- Revise: Interview of Dr Bijon Shil: 'Will the new coronavirus kill 1 out of 3 people' by Safen Roy

14 February 2022

- Edit: 'The first apparel innovation centre' by Jasim Uddin

15 February 2022

- Edit: 'Inadequacy in Healthcare' by Faruque Ahmed

16 February 2022

- Prepage International Piece from Bloomberg 'If your wife makes more than you' by Kara Alaimo
- Edit: 'The Prince of Wales' 1921 trip to India was a Royal disaster'

17, 18 February 2022 (Days off)

19 February 2022

20 February 2022

- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Will you still Google in the future' by Parmy Wilson
- Edit: 'Keeping our ethnic minority lang alive'
- Edit: How TV can help the spread of standard Bangla.
- Edit: Interview of Dr Farashuddin 'Writing off loans.'

22 February 2022

- Page Layout duty
- Prepare International from Bloomberg

23 February 2022

- Page Layout
- Preparing files and folders
- Advance Edit: Interview of ~~Dr~~ Abu Ahmad 'The govt will have to give incentives to increase IPOs'
- Edit: Interview of Selim Raihan 'Inclusive Development will be illusive...' by Gadiqur Rahman

24, ~~Feb~~ 25 February, 2022 (Days off)

- Edit: 'LEADING the way' by Nasif Tanjim

26 February 2022

- Edit: Analysis 'Dowe need more coin?' by Ashraful ~~Has~~ Haque.

27 February 2022

- Edit: Interview 'The govt will have to give incentive to increase IPOs' by Ariful Islam Mithu. Redit.
- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Putin's Refugees will make or break Europe' by Andreas Kluth

28 February 2022

- Prepare and assist page on Russo-Ukrainian war. Also do corrections.

29 March 2022

- Edit: Interview of Abul Khasem Khan 'Bangladesh's biggest focus should be getting into ASEAN' by Nasif Tanjim

• Edit: Interview of Abul Khasem Khan

'Our infrastructure is not on the level of a developing middle-income economy' by Nasif Tanjim

- Edit: 'Is the customer always right?' by Kamrun Nahar

2 March 2022

- First solo page layout duty
- Edit: 'CopywritesPro.ai: AI based automation tool that makes copywriting effortless' by Sabyasachi Karmaker

3 March 2022

4 March 2022 (Day off)

5 March 2022

- Prepare International piece 'Why would Russia attack a nuclear power plant?' by Tyler Cowen

6 March 2022

- Prepare International piece 'What did your favourite brand do in the war?' by Ben Schott

7 March 2022

- Prepare International piece 'Ukrainian insurgency would be painful and costly' by Hal Brands
- Edit: Interview of Abdullah al Mahmud 'No use of new banks if their efficiency does not grow' by Sadique Rahman

8 March 2022

- Assist with clarification on one of my own analyses 'Is Russia Committing War Crime?'

9 March 2022

- Page layout duty
- Gather photos for the articles and all other related documents and files.
- Make advance layouts of UNDP projects

10, 11 March 2022 (Days off)

12 March 2022

- Revise edited article 'Premium rice market is attracting a wider consumer base' by Sadique Rahman

- Prepare International piece 'What do companies owe working mothers?' Clara Ferreira

13 March 2022

- Page layout duty
- Edit: Analysis 'The existing tariff structure serves as a barrier to export diversification' by Sheikh Rafi Ahmed
- Prepare International from Deutsche Welle 'Putin's Inner circle.'

14 March 2022

- Page layout
- Edit: Interview of Selim Raihan by Anifur Islam Mithun

15 March 2022

- Prepare International piece
- Edit: 'The story of Haji Nanna Bixyani' by Labongo Jahan & Sheikh Rafi

16 March 2022

- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'It's not deja vu in China all over again' by Tim Guplan Culpun
- Revise: 'PCycle' by Moharrat Amin Maisha. UNDP project
- Edit: Interview of Dr Mohammad Asaduzzaman 'Agricultural productivity is low ~~also~~ because of inefficiency' by Sadique Rahman

17, 18 March 2022 (Days off)

19 March 2022

- Outdoor assignment

20 March 2022

- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Does a mild case of Covid really damage your brain?' by Faye Flam
- Edit: Analysis 'Why female workers are disappearing from our RMG factories' by Promila Kanga

21 March 2022

- Revise feature: 'Are we preserving ground-water for the future generation?' by Sadique Rahman

utilisation of foreign development funds' by Sheikh Rafi Ahmed

23 March 2022

- Page layout duty
- Edit: Free or exploited: Bangladeshi platform based gig-workers' by Masum Billah

24, 25 March 2022 (Days off)

26 March 2022

- Assisted team on various matters

27 March 2022

- Page layout

- Prepare International piece 'The Great Man Theory of Current events' by Mathew Iglesias

22 March 2022

- Page layout duty
- Edit: 'How Set Sonaichari trail hikers changed grocer Joyнал's life' by Masum Billah
- Edit: 'The Sikh Community of Bangladesh' by Kamrun Naher
- Prepare International piece 'Putin's War is a death blow to nuclear ^{non-}proliferation'
- Edit: Interview of Dr Ahsan H Mansur. 'The bureaucrats, esp the mid-level ones, will not allow the inefficient

28 March 2022

- Page layout
- Edit: 'Formalising minimum wage across major sectors can address the prevailing worker exploitation' by Sheikh Rafi Ahmed

29 March 2022

- Revise features: 'Code Crafters'
- Prepare International piece from Foreign Policy 'Corporate boycotts may backfire'

30 March 2022

- Prepare International piece 'Tech CEOs can't afford to ignore their stock prices' by H Trung Phan
- Prepare International piece from

Deutsche Welle 'What's behind Sri Lanka's economic crisis?'

- Revise 'British museums are free. But it's a different story for non-white visitors' by Maliha Faizooz

31 March & 1 April (Days off)

2 April 2022

- Edit Interview of Gaurav Naysem Wakra 'Adaptation plan should consider the changing social affairs and production system' by Sadique Rahman
- Edit: 'There is no need for businessmen to own or run the banks' by Sadique Rahman
- Prepare International piece 'Inequality'

doesn't breed populism, social immobility does' from Foreign Policy

- Read feature: 'The rise and fall of Baby keds' by Ariful Islam Mithu

3 April 2022

- Edit ~~feature~~ feature: 'HCC: Not a hospital, but a 'house-pital' by Kaniz Supriya
- Collaborate with UNDP and make corrections to articles
- Edit: 'Siddique-e-Rabbani: the physics professor and his patent-free medical inventions for the global South' by Masum Billah

4 April 2022

- Page layout duty
- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Goodluck trying to sanction China's 4,672 Little Giants' by Shuli Ren

5 April 2022

- Edit feature: 'Not every bank will be SME-focused' by Kamrun Nahar

6 April 2022

- Page layout duty
- Edit 'In terms of purchasing power parity, Bangladesh still has a long way to go to eclipse India' by Sheikh Rafi Ahmed

7, 8 April 2022 (Days off)

9 April 2022

- Prepare International piece 'Political chaos doesn't agree well for Pakistan's democracy' from Deutsche Welle.

10 April 2022

- Edit: Interview of Dr Ashiqueur Rahman 'It's high time to contain MFS fraud' by Ariful Islam Mithu

11 April 2022

- Edit: 'Osudpotro'
- Edit: 'How impoverished women keep Nakugan Port alive' by Sadique Rahman

12 April 2022

- Page layout duty
- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Imran Khan's Anti-Americanism Masks the Real issue' by Mihir Sharma

13 April 2022

- Page Layout duty
- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Eleven themes for the New Global Economy' by Gary Schilling

14, 15, April 2022 (Days off)

16 April 2022

- Revision: Interview of- Dr MA Razzaque 'Bangladesh neither has nor pursuing an export-led growth paradigm' by Nasif Tanjim
- Edit: 'A cheap market furniture market vibrating by Shari Carpenters' by Sadique Rahman

18 April 2022

- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Sri Lanka shows the folly of Fringe Theory' by Mihir Sharma

19 April 2022

- Page layout duty
- Edit 'How a snake bitten boy turned into

a snake ~~rescue~~ rescuer' by Ariful Islam Mithu

- Prepare International piece from Bloomberg 'Pakistan's political crisis has been an energy crisis, too' by David Fickling

20 April 2022

- Page layout

21 April 2022

- On field assignment at Naraganganj

22 April 2022 (Day off)

23 April 2022

- Revise: Interview of Badiul Alam Majumdar interview 'Draft BTRC regulation' by Maxum Billah

24 April 2022

- On-field assignment

25 April 2022

- Prepare International piece 'Can Netflix compete with the real world?' by Lara
- Edit: 'Do our classrooms know a war in Europe is changing the world?' by Kamrun Naher & Maxum Billah

26 April 2022

- Page layout duty

End of Internship period

Internship appraisal

I entered a national print media as a rookie journalist and by the end of the three months internship period I came out learning an awful lot. Even though three months is very small when it comes to learning the ins and outs of journalism, I feel privileged to have learned something from the amazing team at The Business Standard.

The head of my department made sure to teach me whenever and wherever possible. That help has been indispensable as with that I would be able to apply myself at whatever capacity should I get into another newspaper as a journalist.

The work and life of a journalist, however experienced, is never easy and the work is round the clock and that is the case for a reason: news of the world never stops coming, so a journalist needs always to be on alert to bring the news to the people who are always looking to know what is happening. That has been both fun and a little tiresome at the same time. However, I like to believe that if I could stay with that system a little longer, I could get used to the pace. Other than that, all I achieved from this work was newer experiences and learned to turn a new chapter of mine as a rookie journalist.

But most importantly, I thank my university (ULAB) for bringing me to a point where I could sign up for an internship at this amazing workplace.

Here, I learned some; I gave some. All together I took away more from it that I initially expected to.

SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM

The purpose of this survey is to obtain students input on how they think they have performed.

Name of Intern: Azizul Hakim

University ID: 173012041

Name of the Institute/Organisation:

The Business Standard

Corporate Office Address:

4/a, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

Email:

aztbs22@gmail.com

Web:

www.tbsnews.net

1. During a typical week, approximately how many hours did you dedicate to your internship?

30 ours, approximately

2. Was your internship paid? If yes, how much?

Yes. Tk20,000

3. Was your site supervisor available to meet when needed? Tick any one of the following.

☐ Not at all

☐ Slightly

☐ Moderately

☐ Quite a bit

☒ A great deal

4. Next, we would like to know how you were affected by your internship. Using the scale below, please indicate the degree to which participation in your internship experience increased or strengthened your abilities, attitudes, awareness or understanding in each of the areas identified:

1=Not at all 2=Slightly 3=Moderately 4=Quite a bit 5=A great deal

NO	CRITERIA (Personal)	RATING
1	I have a sense of satisfaction in doing something worthwhile.	4
2	I believe in my ability to make a difference.	3
3	I am open to new experiences.	5
4	I have gained the capacity to be more productive.	4
5	I can recognize my personal strengths.	4
6	I can recognize my personal weaknesses.	5
7	I have a sense of personal achievement.	
8	I have the ability to persevere in difficult tasks	4
	CRITERIA (Social/Interpersonal Impact)	
9	I demonstrate concern for the welfare of others	4
10	I can be understanding and appreciative of people with diverse backgrounds	4
11	I have the ability to work cooperatively with others	3
12	I have the ability to communicate effectively	5
13	I have increased my ability to be a leader	3
14	I feel more connected to my community	3
	CRITERIA (Academic learning impact)	
15	I have acquired knowledge from the job duties I performed	4
16	I have broadened my critical thinking skills (reasoning, problem solving)	5
17	I have learnt the ability to work independently	4
18	I feel my classroom learning was enriched	5
19	I have the ability to connect academic subject matter to the real world.	5
	CRITERIA (EMPLOYMENT/JOB SPECIFIC IMPACT)	
20	I developed specialised technical skills for a specific job function	4
21	I broadened my future employment possibilities	5
22	I received an opportunity to explore a specific career	4
23	I developed realistic ideas about the work world	5
24	I narrowed my future possible career choices.	2
25	What is your average score from this test?	3.76/5

5. General Comments

My learning curve at The Business Standard was of course not a straight one but I kept myself at it to make the most out of what I had. I enjoyed the experience more than I learned and that is in no way worse than learning something anew.

Signature of Intern

Professional Competence

1. Article writing: Writing an article from scratch is at the heart of working in a newspaper. I learned quite well.

2. Working with international affairs: As The Business Standard deals is a lot of international news from reputed foreign news outlet, handling them for news coverage taught me a lot on how to go about international affairs.

4. Team work: The ability to work in an office efficiently has to be done with keeping up others in the place and that has enhanced me team player esteem.

5. Thinking capability: Journalism without thoughtfulness is pointless. So, I had to apply my thinking capacity at maximum to ensure I did journalism right. That has in turn broadened my thinking capability.

6. Communication skill: Communication is instrumental in the field of journalism. Throughout the course of my internship, I have had to communicate with all kinds of people and clients. This took my communication skills to a new levels.

7. Confidence: Most importantly, the internship boosted my confidence beyond what I thought was possible by me.

Appendix



Figure 1 Me interviewing architect and Buet Professor Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad on his view on architecture and the emotions behind designing this very structure where the documentary style interview is taking place



Figure 2 Me interviewing a farmer who sells his products to DeshiFarmer, right inside the patch of land where he grows his vegetables. DeshiFarmer is a UNDP accredited organisation

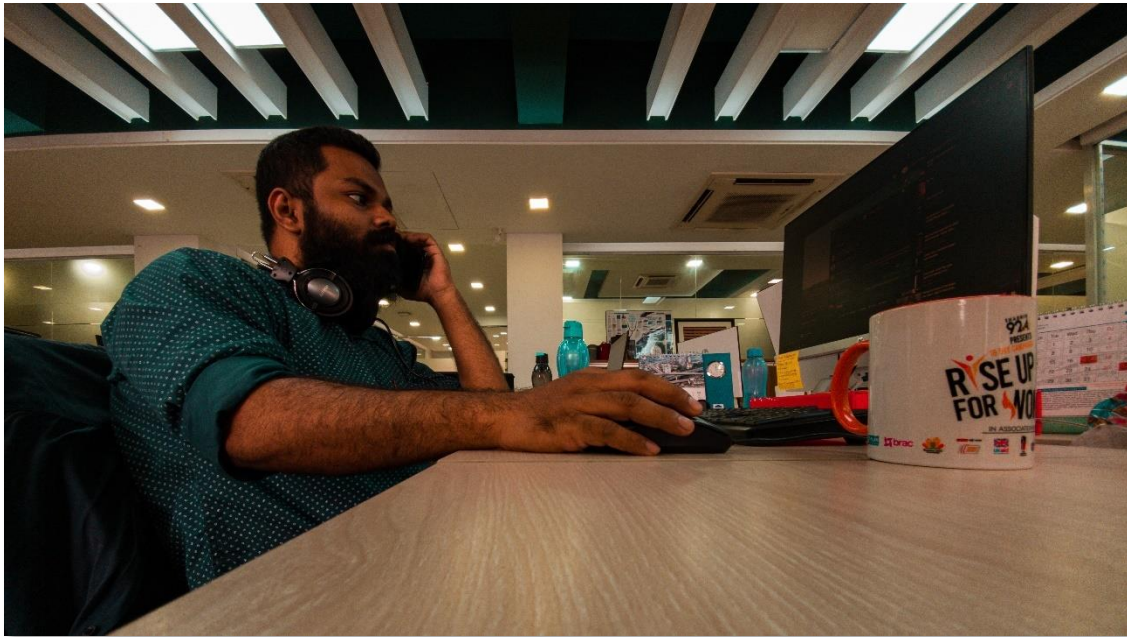


Figure 3 Sitting at my desk and interviewing a correspondent over a phone call for an article

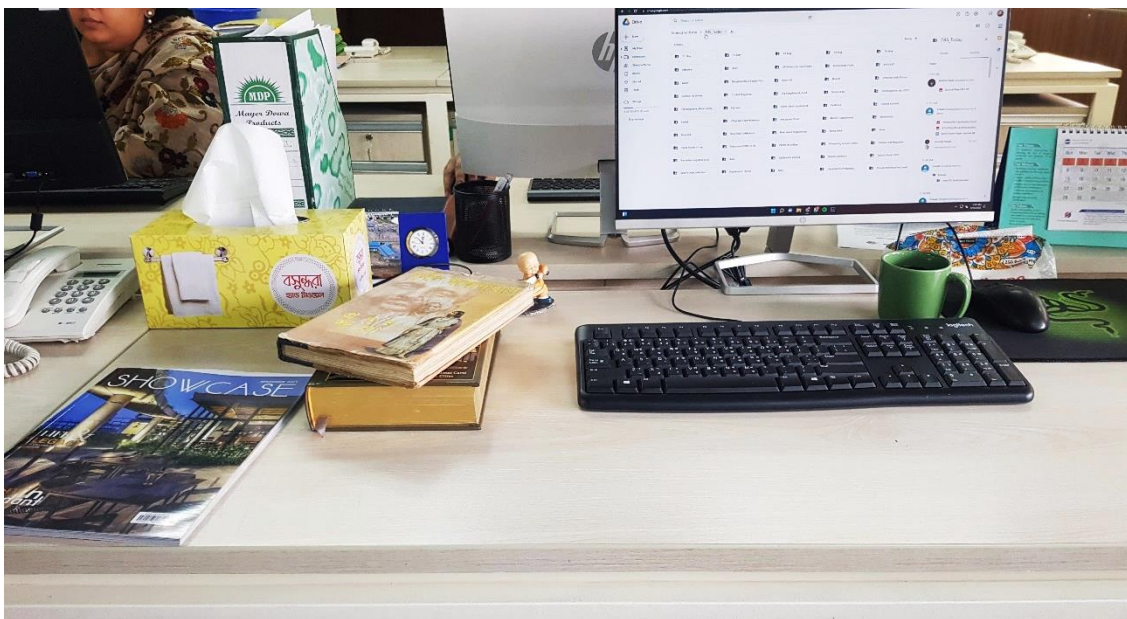


Figure 4 My desk at office