



ULAB
**UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH**

Media Studies and Journalism

Internship Report

Submitted by

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ID: 182012045

Term: Spring 2022

Course Code: MSJ 11498 & MSJ 11499

Host Organization: Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies



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STUDENT DETAILS

Name	Atihar Autonu
ID	182012045
Department	Media Studies and Journalism
Major Concentration	Public Relations
Minor Concentration	English
Career Objectives	To find a place for myself as a researcher in the field of Social Studies. I want to commit myself to creating meaningful and impactful new knowledge that can bring about real change in society.

INTERNSHIP DETAILS

Host Organization	Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies
Full Address	Oboshor Bhaban, Road 5/A @ Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209
My Working Section	Research Writing, Proofreading and Editing, Translations, Event Management
Supervisor	Prof. Din M. Sumon Rahman, Director
Designation	Research Intern
Start Date	February 27, 2022
End Date	April 28, 2022
Hours Per Week	30 to 35 hours
Total Working Period	Approximately 8 weeks

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Working at Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS) has been an incredibly rewarding experience, as it has helped me develop the professional skillset and the necessary mindset required to find success in the pursuit of new knowledge in the field of research.

I am grateful to my internship advisor, Assistant Professor Dr. Habib Mohammad Ali, for his understanding and kind supervision throughout my internship period, and to Mr. Wafi Aziz Sattar who was previously my advisor throughout my four years at ULAB, for his constant guidance, aid and support.

My sincerest thanks to Prof. Din M. Sumon Rahman for giving me the opportunity to work at CQS, and further my understanding and capability in the field of research. I consider myself to be very lucky to have had the constant support of my exceptional colleagues at CQS, without whom I would never have been able to grow and learn as I have.

Lastly, I want to thank my family, my friends, and the MSJ faculty for their patience and endless support, not just over the course of my internship, but all throughout my undergraduate life at ULAB. They have made these four years at ULAB a memorable and worthwhile period of my life.

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 acknowledgment (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: Atihar Autonu

ULAB ID: 182012045

Signature Atihar Autonu



INTERNSHIP REPORT APPROVAL FORM

Student Name Atihar Autonu ID No. 182012045
Major: Public Relations Year: 2022
Local Phone: +8801857800338 Email: atihar.autonu@gmail.com

INTERNSHIP/PROJECT INFORMATION

Internship

Organization/Project: Center for Critical and Qualitative Research

Internship /Project Report

Topic: _____

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: _____ Title: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

INTRODUCTION

Research is something that every undergraduate student fears but also learns to respect. While not all research is groundbreaking new information, there is no doubt about the fact that the creation of new knowledge, whether it be a discovery or based on previous knowledge, expands on the existing body of information we have available to us. With this creation of new knowledge, we take yet another step toward the future.

I had previously worked at an agency for over a year as an English Copywriter, and I did not want to go back to the same field for my internship as I wanted to broaden my horizons, and also finally seize the opportunity to observe, understand, and take part in the field of research. CQS was the perfect opportunity for me as I had previously shot a corporate video there for the Created Private Media course and hearing Sumon sir share his thoughts on the role of a researcher motivated me to venture into the field. While I did speak to Sumon Sir regarding a potential internship at CQS at that time, I did not expect that I would try to join CQS instead of sticking to my comfort zone as a copywriting intern in some agency. I ended up deciding to mail Sumon Sir, along with my CV, querying about a potential spot for an internship at CQS. To my surprise, he accepted my request and thus, provided me with the opportunity to work and learn at CQS.

CQS was my first option, because not only is Sumon Sir a highly capable researcher, and working under him would provide me with an immense opportunity to learn, but also because CQS is home to FactWatch, one of the country's first effective fact-checking organizations. As the first Bangladeshi organization to earn both the IFCN certification and a partnership with Facebook, FactWatch is a well-known name in the industry and would allow me to learn the in and outs of fact-checking alongside research.

Joining a small team allowed me to communicate and learn more effectively as it provided me with more diversified work assignments to do, and as such, allow me to improve and learn multiple new skills.

EXPECTATIONS

Going into my internship, my primary learning goal was one thing only – learn how to research. Moreover, while this internship was my second job ever, this was my first time interacting with my colleagues in person, rather than through Zoom or Google Meet. I have always struggled in social scenarios, and this was a side of myself I wanted to tackle as well during my time at CQS. Here are the expectations I had going into my internship:

- Develop a greater understanding and capability of research work
- Learn the formats and methodology for writing a research paper or a proposal
- Develop my critical thinking skills
- Explore new social and teamwork dynamics
- Learn the resources required and the process of fact-checking
- Develop social skills relevant in a professional environment
- Develop healthy working relationships

HOST ORGANIZATION

Organization Type: Research Centre

Address: Oboshor Bhaban, Road 5/A @ Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka – 1209

Website: <https://cqs.ulab.edu.bd/>

Ongoing Projects:

- Internationalization and Virtual Exchange: Borderless between EU and Asian Countries – HARMONY
- Scaling-up Care for Perinatal Depression through Technological Enhancements to the "Thinking Healthy Programme" – ENHANCE

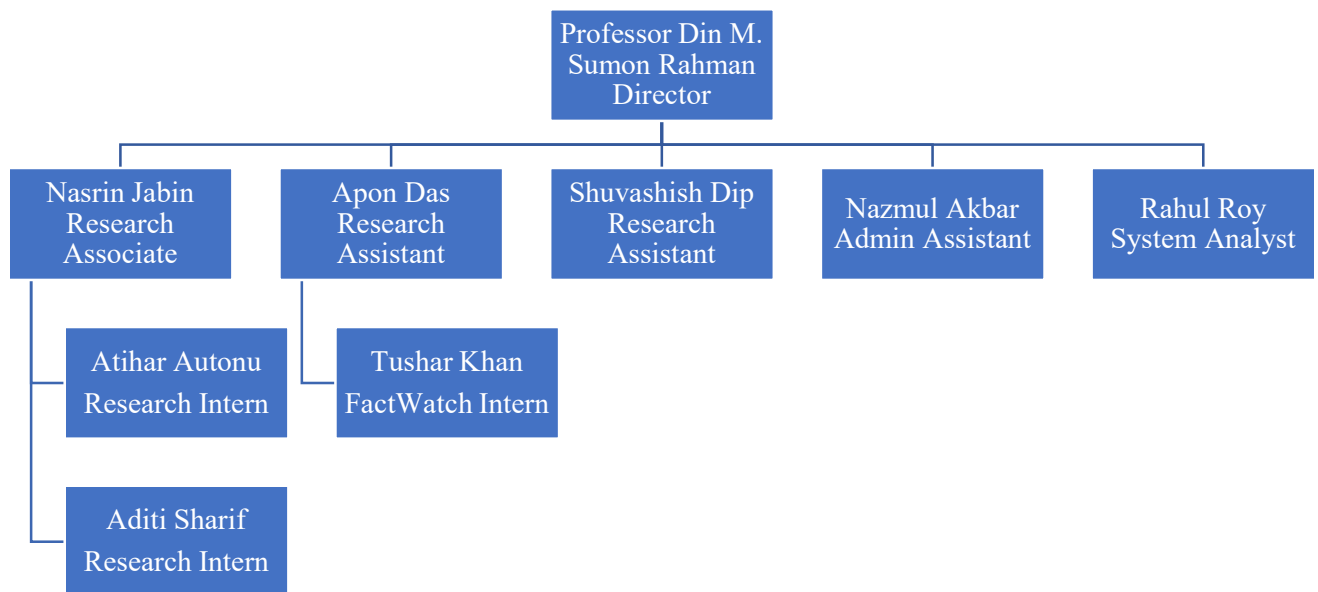
Completed Projects:

- Partnership to ensure the sustainability of a public health palliative care project in Bangladesh through Community Theater
- Midline Project Evaluation – Mapped in Bangladesh (MiB)
- Understanding patterns of recreation and Media-use of RMG workers in Dhaka City: An Exploratory Study
- Encountering “Info-demic” during a Pandemic: Exploring Issues of Communication Crisis during COVID-19 in Bangladesh
- Fear and Stigma in the Context of Corona Epidemic in Bangladesh: A Rapid Research
- Being Safe, Being Cyberpositive
- Capacity Building of Bangladeshi Web Portals and Human Rights Organizations at the Peripheral Level to Increase Safety and Combat Misinformation

- Study on Reporting on Rohingya Refugees in Selected Media of Bangladesh with a focus on Cox's Bazar and National Newspapers

Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS) is also the parent organization of FactWatch, an internationally renowned fact-checking organization. FactWatch was established with the objective of promoting Media Information Literacy (MIL) and raising awareness about misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and rumors in Bangladesh. FactWatch was the first organization in Bangladesh to be certified by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), as well as the first fact-checking organization in Bangladesh to enter a partnership with Facebook as a third-party fact-checker.

ORGANOGRAM



TASKS

Given the nature of the organization and the small team, I had to undertake many different roles during my internship at CQS. The list of tasks during my internship was as follows:

- Proofreading and editing of research papers
- Proofreading, editing, and writing content for the new CQS website
- Translating and editing documents and presentations from Bangla to English
- Assisting fact-checkers with data collection and fact-finding
- Attending meetings and brainstorming sessions for current and new projects
- Launching the first International Fact-Checking Day Event in Bangladesh, which was also the first event in Bangladesh to feature members from every prominent fact-checking organization in the country.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project 1

Project Name: Corrections and Content for the new CQS website

Project Brief: The current CQS website is lacking in relevant and updated information, and as such, a new website is currently in the works. My first project at CQS involved taking content from the CQS website, correcting, rewriting, and writing new content as needed. This project involves mainly me and the system analyst, Rahul Roy, who is currently working on the design for the new website.

My Responsibilities and Tasks:

- I looked through old project data for both CQS and FactWatch to better understand the work that CQS has done.
- I proofread and corrected the entire current website, along with the English section on the FactWatch yearly report as a good portion of the new content was to be rewritten/replaced from the current content.
- For this project, I worked under the supervision of Sumon Sir, who oversaw my progress and provided feedback at every stage.

My first day at CQS was uneventful and mostly functioned as an ice-breaker as I got to know the team and observe how they operate and function. This was also when I started learning about the fact-checking process as it was the only active ongoing project at that time. For the most part, I observed my colleagues and how they went about finding fake news, debunking it, and writing a report on it. My second day at CQS was when I was assigned to work on the content for the website. What I had initially assumed would be a small and fast project was anything but, as the websites were in need of editing, with outdated information, which I had to verify and correct by communicating with my colleagues and Sumon sir. The final changes are reflective of this, as the FactWatch section and the Message from the Director section have been rewritten/replaced entirely, with the other changes throughout the different pages.

The Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS) is aimed at producing innovative and boundary-crossing research for an in-depth understanding human and social conditions, developing a generation of researchers skilled in qualitative research, and ensuring a communication process by developing innovative tools and contextualized strategies. As a service provider, CQS will appear as a competitive actor in the field of consultancy and bid for research and research-led programs those fit into its core areas of expertise, both locally and globally.

Main Page

Message from the Director

Our journey at CQS started with the simple yet far-reaching goal of the creation of knowledge that builds upon the fundamentals of critical thinking and qualitative methodology. **This is a sector that can scarcely be found in the academic landscape of Bangladesh.** CQS fosters an environment for researchers to adopt an interdisciplinary approach across the fields of social science, humanities, and various applied sciences in the pursuit of knowledge, and in doing so, undertake groundbreaking qualitative research. Our objective, from day one, has been to not only lay the foundations for innovative qualitative research to flourish in Bangladesh but to empower the disempowered. Ultimately, the goal of research is the betterment of society, and there is no better way to achieve that than to involve communities as active participants in the development of research that would empower them in turn, through the provision of updated knowledge.]

Image 1.1 – Comparison of the old (top) and new (bottom) “Message from the Director”.

FactWatch

FactWatch is a signature project of the Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS) for promoting Media Information Literacy (MIL) and raising awareness about misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and rumors in Bangladesh. This project was established in 2017 with initial funding from the American Center that covered the costs for the first year. FactWatch is managed by the CQS under the editorial guidance of Dr. Sumon Rahman. FactWatch has entered into two significant partnerships with the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) in 2020 and Facebook in 2021. FactWatch has been working as the Third-Party Fact-Checker (TPFC) for Facebook since May 2021.

FactWatch garnered global recognition in 2020 as it entered into a significant partnership with the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN). In the following year of 2021, FactWatch became the first organization in Bangladesh to enter into a partnership with Facebook as a Third-Party Fact-Checker.

Our Mission

We are committed to teaching individuals to develop critical thinking skills to enable them to better identify and judge the reliability and credibility of information they encounter through various mass media and social media platforms and to become better informed about the world in which they live. In the long run, we aim to help people make well-informed decisions about their lives and society.

Image 1.2 – Content for the FactWatch section - Part 1

We are dedicated to training a generation of skilled fact-checkers who will not only be leaders in debunking fake news, misinformation, and disinformation in the news media industry in Bangladesh but also strive toward promoting media literacy, news literacy, and data literacy in the country.

What we do

We train highly motivated students so that they can combat falsehood in their real life and in the media industry. Through multiple workshops and training sessions, they become skilled in analyzing statements made by public figures and politicians; false information that spreads through social media, and fabricated news items published by the mainstream media and publications.

We run a website and Facebook page to share our fact-checking work with the public. We hold workshops, seminars, and public lectures on Media Information Literacy (MIL), fake news, misinformation, disinformation, falsehood, and rumors.

How our fact-checking works

Firstly, we select what we are going to fact check. We concentrate on claims of public interest that have the potential to confuse people and influence their decision-making. We look for claims by scanning:

- Statements and quotes from politicians and other influential public figures
- Posts and claims being shared on social media
- News published on mainstream media

We then explore relevant information on local and global websites, news reports, research papers, social media discussions, opinions from experts and other important persons, and press releases to find the facts. We always depend on credible online and offline sources, while utilizing primary sources anytime they are available.

Image 1.3 – Content for the FactWatch section - Part 2

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We consider evidence from all sides of the story after our research is done. Afterward, we rate the claim on its truthfulness/falsehood. We document this entire process in a fact-checking report for our website. We also add notes on how we found evidence in our report so that our fact-checking procedure and what tools we used are clear to readers.

If we find significant new information/evidence about the story after the report has already been published, we consider the new evidence and update our report if necessary, making the changes clear to our readers.

Image 1.4 – Content for the FactWatch section - Part 3

Project Title: Partnership to ensure the sustainability of a public health palliative care project in Bangladesh through Community Theater: A follow on project

Funding Source: AHRC-MRC (GCRF) (Grant Ref: AH/R005923/1)

Lead Investigator: Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Reader, Brighton, and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex, UK

Co-Investigators: Prof Nezam Uddin Ahmed (BSMMU), Prof Malabika Sarker (BRACU), Prof Din M Sumon Rahman (ULAB), Dr. Janaka Jayawickrama (University of York), Dr. Maya Semrau (University of Sussex)

Project Timeline: February 2019 - January 2020 (12 months)

Description: This was a follow-up project to a previous study titled “Partnership to ensure the sustainability of a public health palliative care project in Bangladesh through Community Theater”. This project attempts to support the sustainability of community-based palliative care in a resource-poor setting. Like the previous study, this study was an interdisciplinary collaborative partnership. This partnership was between the University of Sussex (US), Community Empowerment Programme (CEP), Especially Popular Theatre of BRAC, James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) of BRAC University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), and Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Once again, the script was developed from information and data gathered from an ethnographic study. The script was performed along with interactive graffiti in Narayanganj.

Project Title: Midline Project Evaluation – Mapped in Bangladesh (MiB)

Funding Source: Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC University, Bangladesh

Lead Investigator: Dr. Kazi Mahmudur Rahman

Project Timeline: September 2019 – January 2020 (3 months)

Description: This four-year-led project on Ready Made Garment (RMG) Industry was in

Image 1.5 – Example of Changes

Challenges and Mistakes:

- I had to rework some parts of the “Message from the Director” sector, as my initial draft was not entirely satisfactory.
- I underestimated how long the project would take me as I had thought on my initial readthrough of the contents it did not seem as if there was a lot to edit or change.

Learnings:

- I learned not to underestimate the projects that come my way.
- I learned a lot about the current and past projects of the organization, which would go on to help me with my other projects down the line.
- This project helped me attain a better understanding of the language and tone that was to be suited for most CQS content.
- I became more proficient in proofreading and editing website content.

Project 2

Project Name: Study on Web Portals to Combat Misinformation

Project Brief: The project, Capacity Building of Bangladeshi Web Portals and Human Rights Organizations at the Peripheral Level to Increase Safety and Combat Misinformation, was funded by Facebook and it involved carrying out a series of workshops to build the capacity of Bangladeshi Web Portals and Human Rights Organizations at the peripheral level to increase online safety and combat misinformation. There is a widespread sentiment that social media websites are the sole producers of misinformation, and while that is mostly indisputable, there are nuances that require greater understanding. The purpose of this study was to conceptualize this knowledge through a series of workshops for around 70 web portals operating in remote areas of Bangladesh.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: This project and the subsequent report had already been completed by the time I joined CQS. However, I was tasked to proofread and edit the report before it was uploaded to the site, or submitted to a publisher. I coordinated with my colleague, Nasrin Jabin, a research associate, who had previously worked on the report, in editing this paper. I ended up correcting over 200 minor errors, and rewriting a small section. I also had to go through old transcripts of the interviews as the English translation was done incorrectly, and as such, I fixed the translations and edited the paper afterward with the corrected translations.



Din Mohammad Sumon Rahman <sumon.rahman@ulab.edu.bd>

to Apon, Rahul, Nasrin, me ▼

Let us read this report first and find out ways to make it an academic paper.
Please remind me in the next week when we can discuss, after you read.

Best,



Din M. Sumon Rahman, PhD

Professor | Department of Media Studies & Journalism

Director | Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS)

Director | Office of Faculty Research (OFR)

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[facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#) | [map](#)



Image 2.1 – Email from Sumon Sir containing the report, the day before I started working on it

years old and only 9% (19) were one year old. 25.1% and 17.5% came into operation within the last 1-3 and 3-5 years respectively. Most of the news portals (81.5%) had their own office, while only 10% operated from home and 6.6% shared an office.

The capacity of human resources of the news portals was also analyzed. It was found that more than half of the news portals (62.1%) had more than 10 journalists, 20.9% had five to 10 journalists, 12.3% had three to five and 4.7% had only one to three journalists. Not all of the journalists were full-time employees; only 20.4% of the news portals had all of, 29.4% had most of and 12.3% had half of their journalists' as full time employees (N=211).

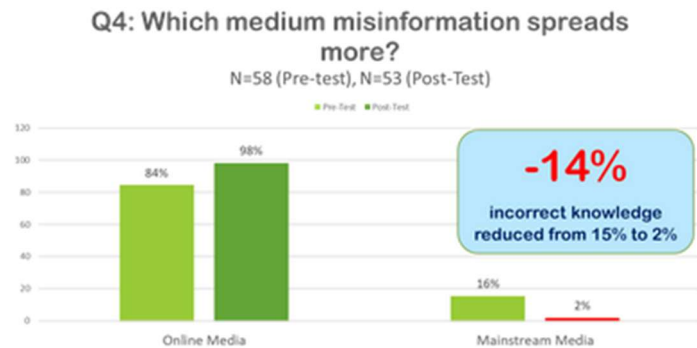
The main source of the news in these portals were mostly own correspondents (97.2%), half were official notifications or press releases (57.3%) and mainstream media (51.2%), one-third were social media (37.4%) and government or non-government websites (35.5%), one-fourth were international media (27%) and BSS/UNB (26.5%). They mentioned that their least used sources were television (17.5%) and Facebook or YouTube (5.2%). In a separate question, 64% of portals said they made news occasionally based on Facebook and YouTube sources, and 30.6% of portals never did so.

Image 2.2 – Example of Changes – Part 1

agencies if any minority population is attacked due to rumor and misinformation increased from 12% to 67%.

Q4: Which medium does misinformation spread more?

16% of participants believed that mainstream media spreads misinformation more, in contrast to 84% who mentioned online media as the primary source. There was progress in the post-test. 98% responded that online media is the main medium for spreading misinformation.



Q5: What is Clickbait?

The misconception about clickbait was highest amongst the participants. 45% knew clickbait as an attractive news headline. 31% said they didn't know what clickbait was. Only 22% considered clickbait to be a misleading and confusing headline. However, in the post-test, 74% selected clickbait to be a misleading and confusing headline.

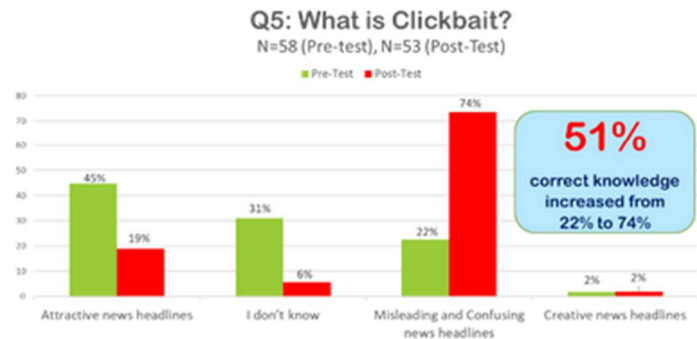


Image 2.3 – Example of Changes – Part 2

of the internet has increased now. Over the past few years, people's interest in print media has been declining, but since the COVID-19 pandemic started, it has been declining even more rapidly. Now people read more news online. Whenever a journalist collects a news story, it is immediately published online and spread through Facebook to the local level. Everyone in the area can read the news immediately, which is not possible in print media. An editor said,

"There are three types of media in our country, such as online, print, and audiovisual media. In this case, I think online media is becoming more popular now because people have access to the internet and smartphones, they can easily watch the news. Again, because of social media, what is meant by 'citizen journalism' is becoming easier and more popular. I think that online media is becoming more dependent on citizen journalists, so I think the popularity of online media is much higher now." (Ranjan Kumar Dey, Editor, bangladarpan.com, Bagura).

Another participant editor said,

"The news of online portal is spread amongst readers much faster than print media. This news is easily accessible to all types of readers. From political figures to ordinary people, everyone reads the news online. Even if they go somewhere where they might not be able to read the newspaper, they are reading the news on their mobile." (Nasir Uddin, Editor, Munsigonj.com).

Referring to the global state of print media, one of the editors said that newspapers in many countries have reduced their page count and print volume. Many printed newspapers have been shut down. This has also happened in Bangladesh. That's why they think that there is a lot of space in the online world. One journalist expressed optimism that the future of online media would be better with the right policies.

"Of course, there is a future, in which case it needs to be brought into a policy. A policy in regards to why and how a news portal needs to have a well-thought-out opinion. As is the case with the print edition, here as well, the publication has to come within accountability. Then it can be assumed that it has a future and the government is also giving importance to it." (Amanur Aman, Editor, The Kustia Times).

Every interviewee had mixed opinions about the quality of news portals. A positive factor is that the mainstream media sometimes do not publish some news for various

Image 2.4 – I had to retranslate the quotes from the interviewees in order to correct these sections

Challenges and Mistakes:

- The most common problem I faced when tackling this project is that some of the people who had worked on writing the report were not currently working at CQS. As such, I had to figure some of the language and errors out myself, instead of having a base to draw from.
- My biggest mistake here, and my most common throughout my internship I would say, is waiting on feedback to do things. Even if I knew what I was doing was correct, and I knew the feedback would be to change whatever it is I wanted to change, I would still wait for that feedback before proceeding, which was highly inefficient. It would have been much easier to just change it and then mark the area for inspection later on. It would have also been more in line with the work culture at CQS as well. I was too rigid in my method as that was how I had to work with previous clients.

Learnings:

- With every single report I worked on or read at CQS I became more and more familiar with the style and formatting required for the reports.
- It was during my time at CQS, that I first started reading reports for more than just understanding and started actively looking for logical inaccuracies, formatting errors, incorrect citations, and so on. I developed a more critical method of approaching research papers.

Project 3

Project Name: Study on the Recreation Activity of RMG Workers

Project Brief: The project, Understanding Patterns of Recreation and Media-Use of RMG Workers in Dhaka City: An Exploratory Study, was funded by WaterAid Bangladesh and it delved into the existing forms of entertainment, as well as recreational cultural activities of RMG workers in Bangladesh during their leisure. This study explored the variation of media usage amongst the RMG workers in relation to their class, gender, working conditions, migration history, and health.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: Much like my previous project, this was already completed by the time I had joined CQS. However, unlike the previous project where I just needed to edit and proofread, this report required significant rewrites. This was my most complex task yet as I had next to no information to work with, regarding the findings. The research was conducted by previous CQS researchers and as such there was a clear lack of information. Regardless, I worked to reduce the word count from over 10,000 to around 7,000. This is alongside corrections to the report as a whole.

The study has a mixed-method research design. It combines data from a cross-sectional small-scale survey, focused ethnography, case study and in-depth interviews. The researchers collected data from the RMG workers of a few selected zones in and around Dhaka city. Among the total 409 respondents for the quantitative survey, 201 respondents were reached in Savar, a northwestern area of Dhaka city, 51 more from Tongi, a northern area of Dhaka city, 51 more from Narayanganj, a sub-district to the southeast of Dhaka, and a further 52 respondents from Mirpur, a northeastern area of Dhaka city. However, all the RMG workers, male and female, or any other gender perspective, who were willing to participate in this study were included in this study. Respondents who did not meet the prior mentioned inclusion criteria were excluded from this study.

Participants and Sampling

The study included the RMG workers of Bangladesh, and the targeted respondents were recruited from the northern, northwestern, and northeastern areas of Dhaka city; as well as respondents from a sub-district to the southeast of Dhaka.

The following standard and simplified formula suggested by Yamane was used to enumerate the sample size from a known population:

$$n = N/[1+(N \times d^2)]$$

Where n and N denote the estimated sample size, and population size of the study area, respectively (Yamane, 1967). Note that d signifies the 5% tolerated standard error or level of precision at a 95% confidence interval. According to the CPD RMG study 2016, the population size of RMG workers in Bangladesh was estimated at 3.6 million with 81.5% of RMG enterprises located in the districts of Dhaka (37.9%), in the district to the north of Dhaka (28.9%), and a sub-district to the southeast of Dhaka (14.7%) (Moazzem, 2018). In this study, the population size of the selected study areas was around 3.6 million (approximately, female:male = 60:40), and finally, the calculated sample size was 399.94 or 400. Hence, we collected 409 complete responses that might hypothetically lead to more reliable and representative data for a better comprehension of the study outcomes.

Moreover, focus group discussion (FGD), focused ethnography, observation for 30 days in four sites, both as a first-party and as a shadow observer, and key informant interview (KII) of 12 participants were conducted for this study.

Image 3.1 – I made significant changes all throughout this report (Part 1)

their supervisor or line chief and utilize the time by browsing social media and/or downloading songs or dramas from YouTube. There is a gendered pattern in the perception of music consumption through the office sound system. The office sound system works fine for female workers than the male workers and it is better to listen to music while at work. Music helps them reduce occasional chat between co-workers and concentrate more at work, and as a result, productivity increases.

Most of the workers rely on the office broadcast and posters as sources of information. Particularly, the female respondents do not rely on media for useful and trustworthy information, rather they only trust testimonies, or if something is witnessed by themselves. Television is just for pleasure during spare times, as one respondent confidently stated. It is noteworthy that the time in which the RMG workers can engage in weekday recreation is very limited. There is nothing for the workers that can be perceived as recreation during the 9-hour long production ritual. However, lunchtime in some factories provides some breathing space for its workers, during which necessary conversations between friends and colleagues can take place. However, as soon as the factory closes at 7 PM, most of the workers who are married have only these options: to rush home, buy groceries, prepare supper, feed themselves and their children, and follow up on their schoolwork. The unmarried workers who live alone have a little more space to enjoy themselves. One of our respondents, married but whose wife lives in the village, does not rush home after work, and rather spends 1-2 hours at the carrom shade, plays a few games on mobile, watches the 9 PM news at any tea-stall, and then gradually heads to his room. He does this twice or thrice a week and admits that this is a luxury he provides to himself.

THE NARRATIVES OF WEEKEND RECREATION

The Lazy Morning and Songs

Usually, nine-o'clock is the time for getting out of bed during the weekends, for many of the RMG workers. The sound of music is a common part of the routine, a closer observation would explain how the mobile phone has been used as a multimedia device, in association with a Bluetooth speaker, to fill out lazy Friday mornings. The songs are downloaded from YouTube in most cases, and Vidmate is the software they use to download YouTube songs. Songs are either trendy Hindi top-chart songs or all-time favorite Bangla pop songs.

Image 3.2 – Changes Part 2

are installed, often owned by locally influential persons. In northwestern Dhaka, the carrom stands are usually adjacent to the tea stalls, but in the northern part of the city, and the southeastern sub-district, these are standalone shades. There is a subscription fee for each game, often to be paid by the party who loses the game. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. The two parties playing carrom are involved in a significant amount of betting between themselves, ranging from BDT one hundred to one thousand. Often, it involves a non-monetary share, such as, the losing party will buy dinner or evening snacks for the winning party at a designated restaurant.

The Afternoon Tea with Television

Watching television at tea stalls in the afternoon is another common recreational activity for the RMG workers in spending their weekends. Most of the televisions have flat monitors, some are smart/android TV, and some are just PC monitors, old CRT ones, but are connected to a TV box to transform it into a functional Smart TV! However, getting a TV at the tea stall makes customers persist longer which has an adverse effect on business. Sometimes, the TV is turned off to avoid conflict that arises from channel surfing by providing the excuse that the TV has been running too long and requires a rest. While at the tea stall, some turn on the data on their android phones and start scrolling through social media while sitting on the same bench of the stall, while some others remain engaged in serious political discussions, and the update on the Corona pandemic, along with the controversy being generated by contemporary issues.

Loading the Memory Card

There are electronic shops, located in the northern part of Dhaka city, and in the sub-district to the southeast, dedicated to selling cheap phones, sim cards, and accessories, and these shops also provide memory cards that contain specific content. Though various kinds of content are found in possession of the shopkeeper so that they can serve the need of the customers, three major categories of content are found popular among the RMG workers— (1) religious content, (2) adult content, and (3) music (Hindi and Bangla Pop songs) videos. Workers can enjoy these contents after they have been loaded on their mobiles, whenever and wherever they want. This counts as a big element of recreation. Seemingly and interestingly, 'Waz Mehfil' audio comes after the 'Porn videos' as the most popular content. Two price packages are available for the customers— BDT 50 for random loading and BDT 100 for selective loading. This line is the same as the very next line.

There are two price packages for the content loading business: BDT 50 for random loading, where the customer can only choose the genre; and BDT 100 for purposive loading where the customer will choose every individual item from the hard disk of the shopkeeper. Button or semi-button phones are more visible in the content-loading shops, as they cannot download content by themselves from the internet. These phones usually look for voice content, therefore Waz Mehfil audio is the popular choice for them, followed by audio songs. Porn videos are very

Image 3.3 – Changes Part 3

With the development of the Wi-Fi revolution, the pattern of media use by the RMG workers has changed radically. Quantitative data shows how popular the connection has been in the neighborhoods of northwestern Dhaka city, while it has a lesser frequency in northern Dhaka city, and the southeastern sub-district. Since Wi-Fi spreads horizontally by following a cooperative model, pursuing this facility is cheaper. Many households have dropped dish connections and sold their televisions. Eventually, they became more dependent on social media – Facebook, Tiktok, imo, and YouTube in particular. So, a BDT 100 Wi-Fi connection was able to save expenses on a BDT 300 dish connection. Now, the members of the household can enjoy watching and browsing as per their preferences, on their own devices, while previously the TV being the only device in the house was usually dominated by the preferences of one person. So, shifting to a Wi-Fi system has freed them from this and they can now browse their preferred content in social media, without disrupting the other as all the members in the house have earphones as well.

The Waz Mehfil, Day Out, and Celebrity Following

Religious preaching programs for Muslims (*Waz Mehfil*) are another event that sees the regular participation of RMG workers. Usually, *Waz Mehfil* is organized on Thursday and Friday evenings and continues till early dawn. RMG colonies are frequent sites for *Waz Mehfil* events, and the preacher is hired by the funds generated by spontaneous contribution from RMG workers and local inhabitants. In the RMG vicinity, *Waz Mehfil* is a gendered space with an impressive number of female audiences. On the *Waz Mehfil* days, the tea-stall televisions remain turned off and no crowd can be seen at the carrom board playing areas, which otherwise were usually jam-packed until 11 PM.

Weekends often urge a day-out for many of the RMG workers. However, due to financial reasons, they cannot afford to do so every weekend. There are parks (northern and northwestern Dhaka), shopping malls (all sites), cinema auditoriums (northern and northwestern Dhaka, and the southeastern sub-district), amusement facilities (northwestern Dhaka, and the southeastern sub-district), zoos, and botanical gardens (northeastern and northwestern Dhaka) but visiting these locations often is not financially feasible for them. When asked, many of the RMG workers reported that they visit these places once or twice a year.

The findings of the in-depth interviews are consistent with that of the survey on celebrity following, especially the names. The evangelists (*Waz Mehfil* speakers) appear to be superseding film actors and other celebrities. Among the *Waz Mehfil* speakers, Mizanur Rahman Azhari is the most frequently mentioned name. Dhakai film superstar Shakib Khan's came thereafter. The most surprising fact is that cricket superstars were never mentioned, even for once, in the interviews, despite the passion for cricket of RMG workers that was strongly registered during the ethnography. However, nobody seemed to have any intention of following the *Shakib* narrative (real or cinematic) in their own lives. When asked for her most favorite celebrity, one

Image 3.4 – Changes Part 4

Challenges and Mistakes:

- This was a very time-consuming project as there were significant issues with the language. The problem was multi-faceted as there was a significant change in the language halfway across the report, as the literature review was impossibly complex compared to the rest of the project, which, on the other hand, was comparatively simplistic.
- This project was where I truly felt out of my depth and was not entirely satisfied with the final report I delivered to Sumon sir. Writing is where I feel I have an advantage compared to some of my peers, and coming up short on that end was an unpleasant experience. Sumon sir said that this report would go on the back-burner as it would require significant changes, and there was an upcoming event that was more crucial and time-sensitive compared to working on this report.

Learnings:

- While I did complete the corrections and second-pass edits on this report, I did not complete this project to my satisfaction. This was a reminder that there was a lot I needed to learn, which led me to request my colleague, Nasrin Jabin, to allow me access to her files for the research writing course she takes on behalf of CQS. Since then, I have watched all the class tutorials and read all the class materials, to improve my knowledge on research writing and methodology.

Project 4

Project Name: Study on the Media Framing of Rohingya Refugees

Project Brief: Funded by Deutsche Welle, this project, Study on Web Portals to combat Misinformation Capacity Building of Bangladeshi Web Portals and Human Rights Organizations at the Peripheral Level to Increase Safety and Combat Misinformation, dived into the media framing of the Rohingya refugees at certain points of the Rohingya crisis, and how national and local newspapers portrayed the Rohingya at those key junctures.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: While the research portion of this project had already been completed by the time I had joined CQS, the report was not delivered and my colleagues were working on feedback from the representatives from Deutsche Welle. I was tasked to join my colleague, Nasrin Jabin, in working on the feedback for the Introduction and Literature review sections. After the completion of this, I worked on the corrections and minor edits that needed to be done on the project. By this point, I had become much more proficient in doing so compared to when I had just started, and with Sumon sir's approval and final edits, the report was submitted to the representatives from Deutsche Welle.

between the **Buddhists** and the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. They want to be identified as 'Rohingya' in order to get recognized as Myanmar's 136th distinct ethnic group and to secure their citizenship. On the contrary, the government of Myanmar and other major ethnic groups are reluctant to treat them as 'Rohingya', **instead preferring to label them as 'Bengali' or 'Kala' (foreigner)** (Ware & Laoutides, 2018). By treating them as Bengali, the Myanmar government wants to indicate that they are not citizens of Myanmar, **rather they have come from neighboring Bangladesh** (Wadud, 2020). **Although there is no definitive evidence regarding the period of time in which the Rohingya Muslims settled in the Arakan region, Uddin (2017) in his study showed that Muslim people (including the Rohingya) have been living in the Arakan since the 8th century. However, in another literature, the origin of the Rohingya people can be traced back to the 15th century during the period of the former Arakan Kingdom (Albert & Maizland, 2020). Afterward, Arakan became a part of Myanmar following the country's independence from Britain in 1948.** The Rohingya Muslims have been denied citizenship **rights** since 1982 under the promulgations of **the** Citizenship Act. The crisis came to be known widely in 2012 when violence erupted leaving hundreds dead and with as many as 140,000 reportedly displaced (Letchamanan, 2013; Parnini, Othman, & Ghazali, 2013). However, the Rohingya Muslims were

Image 4.1 – Rewrites in the Introduction

iii) *Rohingya as Baby Boomers*

Wadud (2020) in his study, found that the Rohingya women were framed as 'Baby Boomers' by news articles as the media had portrayed them to be uneducated, unaware as well as unwilling to utilize birth control by any means, and this was because there was no access to birth control in Myanmar's Rakhine state. The extremity of this situation could be understood by the statement of an official of Cox's Bazar Family Planning in 2017. According to him, "more than 25,000 expecting Rohingya mothers fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh, and more than 700 children were born already, also at least 10,000 more Rohingya mothers were about to give birth" (Wadud, 2020). The official went on to state that the Rohingya crisis has become more complicated with the influx of the newborn babies (Wadud, 2020). This is a burning issue as a part of the Rohingya crisis for Bangladesh.

iv) *Rohingya as Disease Spreader*

Rohingya are also framed as the source for spreading diseases in Bangladesh (Wadud, 2020). According to Wadud (2020), Bangladeshi newspapers were seen to be too worried about it and one of them published an article titled "250,000 AIDS patients in Myanmar: Fear of spread to Bangladesh". In his opinion, this country is at a high risk of an AIDS epidemic because of the Rohingya, which brings a public health threat to the local communities in Bangladesh (Wadud, 2020). The media utilizes this frame in an attempt to create the idea that Bangladesh does not have the HIV-AIDS epidemic, and instead the Rohingya are responsible for the spread of this

Image 4.2 – Rewrites and Corrections in the Literature Review

but also more aggressively emphasized to the extent that only negative framing of the crisis, and of the host being the victim, can be found. The types of published articles included “3 Bangladeshis abducted by Rohingya terrorists rescued” (*Daily Cox’s Bazar*), and “Crystal meth creeps up on city” (*Daily Star*).

The Burden Frame

The media framing of Rohingyas as victims, and the general positive acceptance of the refugees across the five newspapers has led to a significantly less reportage - and thereby the construction of a weak narrative - of the refugee crisis being a burden - either environmental or economic - on the host country. However, the frequency of these kinds of news does differ across time and the ideological spaces of the newspaper.

During the 2017 period, the reportage of news, of any format, with the sentiment of the Rohingyas being a burden - either with explicit declaration or with implicit undertones - were absent from the liberal-secular and the right-wing/pro-islamic newspapers alike.

It was, in fact, in the local newspapers like *The Daily Cox’s Bazar* that news reportage of environmental burden was found in articles like “50 acres of land are evicted from hill lands for new influx of Rohingyas”.

Image 4.3 – Further Edits and Corrections after the Findings section was completed

Challenges and Mistakes:

- Although this was the largest report I had to work with so far, the progress was much smoother and it was relatively easy to adjust for client feedback and complete the project. I do not believe I made any mistake in completing this project.

Learnings:

- I learned about adjusting report writing as per client needs, and how the lack of very minor details, which originally may seem inconsequential, can lead to an argument or a statement failing to achieve the desired result.
- This project led me to think far more critically about any statements a report is making and if they can hold up logically.

Project 5

Project Name: International Fact-Checking Day

Project Brief: The International Fact-Checking Day was established and first celebrated by the International Fact-Checking Network in 2017. The main purpose of the day is to celebrate the profession of fact-checking and allow fact-checkers from all over the world to connect as part of one large international community. As a part of CQS, FactWatch organized the country's first forum discussion amongst Bangladeshi fact-checkers, to live up to the spirit of the International Fact-Checking Day and bring together a community of Bangladeshi fact-checkers.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: This was the big upcoming project that I was assigned a few days after I had joined CQS. I was involved in almost every aspect of the event. This was my first time working on hosting an event, and the stakes involved made for a challenging experience.

I designed a program flow for the event alongside another colleague, with feedback from Sumon sir. I provided the copy for the X-Banners, Backdrop, and Digital Banners. I contacted the Media Lab Instructor, Piyas Roy, to get the graphic content designed. After the initial designs were created, I and my colleagues offered our opinions on the design options.

I, alongside, another colleague worked with the ULAB admin to secure the auditorium for the event and all other necessities. We went to the permanent campus to secure funds from the ULAB accounts office, and the treasurer. We were the ones to pick up the crest for the chief guest and all the other banner materials. I was the one to mail the Media Lab for the equipment we would need for the event, as well as go there in person to sort out the details. Lastly, I, alongside some of my other colleagues, secured the catering services for the event and other materials from Rayer Bazar.

I wrote the invitation emails, as well as the panelist invitation emails that my colleague, Apon Das, mailed to every guest and panelist. I was the one assigned to contact every single guest and panelist the day before the event to confirm their attendance. I was also the point of contact at this time, for every guest, if any issue were to arise.

(Top-Center)

FactWatch Logo

Presents

Fact-Checking in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges

Fact-checking in Bangladesh is an ever-evolving and imperative endeavor. While still a vocation in its infancy, fact-checkers have covered significant ground in answering the spread of misinformation in the online media landscape of Bangladesh. In celebration of the International Fact-Checking Day of 2022, a panel of experienced fact-checkers will bring to discussion the present state of fact-checking in Bangladesh, and the prospects and challenges that lie ahead as we proceed towards the future.

Panel Moderator:

Apon Das, Fact-checker, FactWatch

Panelists:

Qadaruddin Shishir, Fact Check Editor, AFP

Zawad Bin Hafiz, Chief Advisor, Rumor Scanner

Minhaj Aman, Fact-checker, Boom Bangladesh

Shuvashish Dip, Fact-checker, FactWatch

Program Details:

4:00 PM – Welcome Remarks from Prof. Imran Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB

4:10 PM – Speech from Chief Guest, M. Shafiqul Alam, Bureau Chief in Bangladesh, AFP

4:20 PM – Panel Discussion

5:00 PM – Q/A Session

5:20 PM – Vote of Thanks from Prof. Sumon Rahman, Director, CQS

5:30 PM – Networking and Refreshments

Date: April 1, 2022

Venue: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Research Building, House 56, Rd 4/A @
Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.

(Bottom-Center)

Celebrating the International Fact-Checking Day 2022

#FactCheckingisEssential

Image 5.1 – Invitation Card Copy









PRESENTS

FACT-CHECKING IN BANGLADESH

PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

4:00 PM, 1 APRIL 2022

AUDITORIUM (RESEARCH BUILDING)
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH
HOUSE 56, RD 4/A, SATMASJID ROAD, DHANMONDI, DHAKA-1209

CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL FACT-CHECKING DAY 2022

#FactCheckingisEssential

Fact-checking in Bangladesh is an ever-evolving and imperative endeavor. While still a vocation in its infancy, fact-checkers have covered significant ground in answering the spread of misinformation in the online media landscape of Bangladesh. In celebration of the International Fact-Checking Day of 2022, a panel of experienced fact-checkers will bring to discussion the present state of fact-checking in Bangladesh, and the prospects and challenges that lie ahead as we proceed towards the future.

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PROGRAM DETAILS
4:00 pm | Introduction from Prof. Imran Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB
4:10 pm | Speech from the Chief Guest
4:20 pm | Panel Discussion
5:00 pm | Q/A Session
5:20 pm | Vote of Thanks from Prof. Sumon Rahman, Director, CQS
5:30 pm | Closing Remarks

Image 5.2 – Final Invitation Card

Dear Sir/Madam/All,

Greetings from FactWatch! It is our great pleasure to invite you to join us in celebrating the International Fact-Checking Day of 2022, for the event titled "*Fact-Checking in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges*", which will feature a panel discussion with some of the most prolific and experienced fact-checkers in the country.

Organized by FactWatch, this event will be held on April 1, 2022, starting at 4:00 pm. The inaugural ceremony will be graced by the presence of Chief Guest, M. Shafiqul Alam, Bureau Chief in Bangladesh, Agence France-Presse. The event aims to highlight the incredible progress of the fact-checkers of this country in combating misinformation and disinformation, and open up the discussion on the barriers to fact-checking in Bangladesh.

This is a closed-door invite-only program, with around 50 guests, all from a fact-checking and/or data journalism background. As such, we request that any two members from your organization join us for this program.

We look forward to having you with us.
Best regards,

Image 5.3 & 5.4 – Guest and Panelist Email Invitation Drafts

Dear Sir,

Greetings from FactWatch! It is our great pleasure to invite you to join us in celebrating the International Fact-Checking Day of 2022, for the event titled "*Fact-Checking in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges*", which will feature a panel discussion with some of the most prolific and experienced fact-checkers in the country. We cordially invite you to join the other representatives from AFP, Boom Bangladesh, and FactWatch, in being one of our honored panelists for this discussion. This is a closed-door invite-only program, with around 50 guests, all from a fact-checking and/or data journalism background.

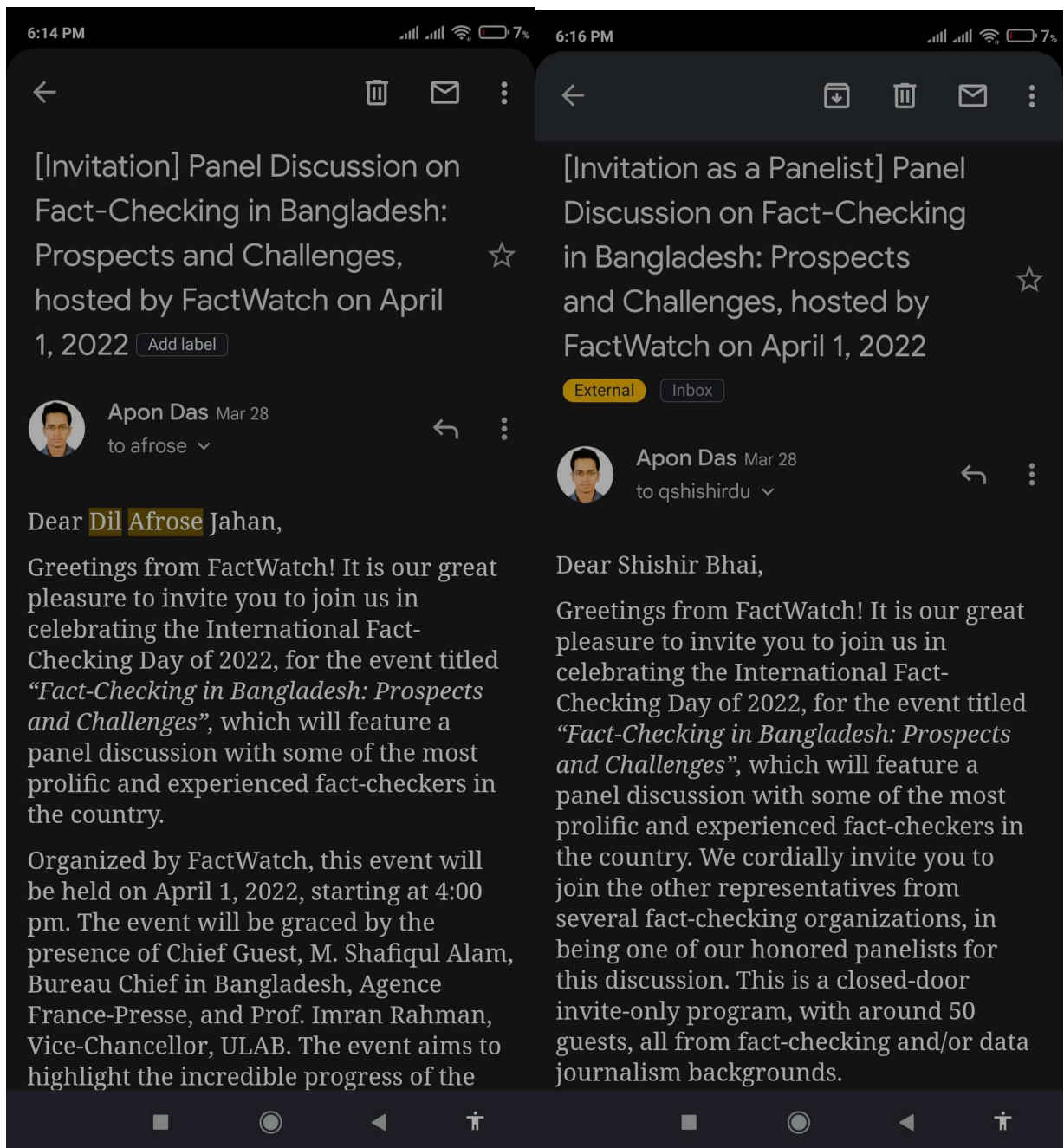


Image 5.5 & 5.6 – Emails that were sent to guests and panelists



Image 5.7 – The Backdrop for the Event



Atihar Autonu (182012045) <atihar.autonu.... Mon, Mar 28, 2:57 PM



to Arif, Din, Apon, Yeusuf ▾

Dear Sir,

FactWatch is planning an event on the 1st of April from 3:30 pm onwards, at the Campus A auditorium. We have already booked the venue, and have the requisition forms signed. For the event, we will require a laptop, 5 wireless mics, 1 wired mic, 1 Soundcraft/mixer, 1 laptop connector, and 4 speakers. We will also require someone from the IT team for managing most of the equipment and also ensure constant internet access as the VC sir will be joining the event through zoom.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Atihar Autonu



Arif Billah Al- Mamun

Mon, Mar 28, 3:18 PM



to Nazma, me, Din, Apon, Yeusuf ▾

Dear Atihar Autonu,

Thank you for your email.

We cannot provide you 5 wireless microphones right now, we can provide you 1 wireless microphone right now.

Another issue is we have only two amplifiers/speakers with the system.

Other requirements are okay with us.

Thank you

Arif



--



Arif Billah Al-Mamun

Assistant Manager | Information Technology

Image 5.8 – Mail to IT for Equipment

Challenges and Mistakes:

- This was my first time working on an event at all, much less an important one, and as such, I was lost as to how to proceed at certain times, at which point my colleagues aided me. Without their assistance, I would probably never have been able to get as much done as I did.
- A potentially large mistake occurred when I forgot about ordering water for the event. So, my colleagues and I went that very day (about 4 days before the event) to buy the bottles of water.
- Another mistake occurred when I and a colleague did not account for the backdrop stand outside ULAB, which we could have made use of, with another backdrop.
- It took a few revisions of the invitation letter before Sumon sir was fully satisfied with it.

Learnings:

- There was so much I learned about event management over the course of working on this event. I learned about the entire process and how much time and effort is involved in making sure an event goes well. Even a relatively small event (this was for around 40 people) takes a lot of effort to get off the ground. I learned about all the different elements involved in making sure the event, which include but is not limited to– Ensuring location is secure, ensuring guests are notified and there is a constant channel of communication, ensuring that all graphical content is created ahead of time, ensuring that there is enough food and water if the event were to have refreshments available, ensuring there are enough funds to facilitate the acquisition of anything that may be required for the event, and so much more.
- I learned about adjusting for emergencies on the fly (Guests not showing up, not enough mics, and so on).
- I learned the importance of networking and maintaining good professional relationships.
- All in all, this was a highly rewarding experience, and I know my next time hosting an event will be a significantly easier and smoother experience.

Project 6

Project Name: International Fact-Checking Day – Speech and Hosting

Project Brief: The International Fact-Checking Day was established and first celebrated by the International Fact-Checking Network in 2017. The main purpose of the day is to celebrate the profession of fact-checking and allow fact-checkers from all over the world to connect as part of one large international community. As a part of CQS, FactWatch organized the country's first forum discussion amongst Bangladeshi fact-checkers, to live up to the spirit of the International Fact-Checking Day and bring together a community of Bangladeshi fact-checkers.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: Alongside my responsibilities in making sure the event goes smoothly, I was also one of two hosts for the event. I was the English-speaking host for the initial part of the event and had to provide the introductory speech (which I wrote entirely), as well as introduce our Vice-chancellor Imran Rahman sir for his welcome remarks, and our chief guest, Mr. Shafiqul Alam for his speech.



Image 6.1 & 6.2 – Introductions and Speech



A very good afternoon to everyone. My name is Atihar Autonu, and it is my pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of FactWatch to our first annual celebration of the International Fact-Checking Day. Joining us today is our chief guest, Mr. Shafiqul Alam, the Bureau Chief in Bangladesh of AFP, and the honorable vice-chancellor of ULAB, Prof. Imran Rahman who has joined us virtually, as well as the many esteemed fact-checkers, journalists, development workers, and media studies scholars, from organizations such as AFP, Rumor Scanner, Boom BD, NTV, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, and many others.

The International Fact-Checking Day was first celebrated on April 2nd of 2017, to herald a rallying cry for more facts in politics, journalism, and everyday life. It is a day that celebrates not only the profession of fact-checking but the international community that has steadily grown over the last decade to combat the rise of misinformation and disinformation in the online mediascape. It is a day, when we, the fact-checkers, should take a moment to think on the gravitas of the profession and how far we've come, not as an individual fact-checker, but as a community in Bangladesh, as an industry in Bangladesh, in protecting the sanctity and reliability of news information.

Fact-checking in Bangladesh started in 2017, and in just five years this industry has grown to numerous organizations that are now recognized internationally, and debunk thousands of fake news every month. And, it is in recognition of this monumental effort, that FactWatch has arranged the Panel Discussion for today, Fact-Checking in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges.

Without further ado, it is my honor to invite the vice-chancellor of Ulab, Professor Imran Rahman, to welcome our esteemed guests and kick off our event for today.

A thank you to Imran Sir for his eloquent welcome to start off our program for today

Our next speaker has a storied history in the journalism industry of Bangladesh. Over his nearly three decades as a prolific journalist, his work has appeared in internationally renowned media houses such as Aljazeera, ANI News, Asia Times, Business Insider, CTV News, IndustryWeek, International Business Times, Japan Today, La Presse, Rappler, Shanghai Daily, The Guardian, Yahoo News, and of course, AFP. Please join me in welcoming onto the stage our chief guest, Mr. Shafiqul Alam, the Bureau Chief in Bangladesh of AFP.

Image 6.3 – The speech I had written and had with me on the stage

Challenges and Mistakes:

- Owing to my social anxiety, this was a bit of a harrowing ordeal for me. I have never been very comfortable when I am in the spotlight, and I tend to make mistakes far more often when this is the case. However, I am very glad to say my speech, and introductions went off without a hitch. The only thing I wish I would have done better is to look at the audience more often as I was giving the speech. I was afraid I would just forget my words, which I had already memorized previously. However, I did do better in that regard than I expected myself to do when I went up on the stage for the first time.

Learnings:

- I remember that when I first joined ULAB and had to present in my English course in the first semester, I just froze up, and barely got three lines out. It was very difficult for me to present in front of people. And now that I could get up on a stage during an important event and give a speech without any issues makes me feel a bit of pride. It is an incredible feeling, knowing that I have slowly improved on a problem I have faced my entire life. I think that is my greatest learning from this project. My limitations do not need to remain my limitations, I can always improve.

Project 7

Project Name: International Fact-Checking Day – Press Release

Project Brief: The International Fact-Checking Day was established and first celebrated by the International Fact-Checking Network in 2017. The main purpose of the day is to celebrate the profession of fact-checking and allow fact-checkers from all over the world to connect as part of one large international community. As a part of CQS, FactWatch organized the country's first forum discussion amongst Bangladeshi fact-checkers, to live up to the spirit of the International Fact-Checking Day and bring together a community of Bangladeshi fact-checkers.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: The night of the event, around 30 minutes after I got back home I was tasked to write up an English press release for the event, which was then translated to Bangla by a colleague. I worked till 11 at night in order to finish the press release so that Sumon sir can check it, and it can be delivered as soon as possible.

ULAB celebrates International Fact-Checking Day of 2022

FactWatch organized a closed-door invite-only event in celebration of the International Fact-Checking Day of 2022, that featured a panel discussion titled, “Fact-Checking in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges”, on 1 April 2022 at the ULAB Research Building in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

This was the first offline event in Bangladesh that featured a showing from nearly every prominent fact-checking organization in the country. This included notable fact-checkers from AFP, Boom Bangladesh, Rumor Scanner, and FactWatch, as well as renowned journalists, development workers, and academicians. Shafiqul Alam, the Bureau Chief in Bangladesh of AFP, was present as the Chief Guest.

The welcome remarks were provided by Prof. Imran Rahman, the Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, and he expanded on the importance of fact-checking, and how it is everyone’s responsibility in ensuring the reliability and authenticity of the news they share.

In his speech, Shafiqul Alam stressed the grave ramifications of misinformation or disinformation in mainstream and online media. He noted several instances of misinformation that were spread through the media (print, television, and online) in recent times, and how it ultimately affected lives throughout Bangladesh. Some of which could have been very easily fact-checked. He went on to say that he believes every news agency should have a dedicated fact-checking section to maintain the level of authenticity and transparency that is sorely lacking today.

The next speech was from Sudeep Chakravarti, a renowned author, columnist, journalist, and researcher, who is currently a visiting faculty at ULAB. He drew parallels to misinformation and disinformation in the Indian media and the Bangladeshi media, and how it is manipulated in the political spheres. He spoke on the power that fake news has in affecting the general public.

Image 7.1 – Press Release Part 1

The panel discussion was moderated by Apon Das, Fact-checker at FactWatch, and featured Qadaruddin Shishir, Fact Check Editor at AFP, Zawad Bin Hafiz, Chief Advisor at Rumor Scanner, Minhaj Aman, Fact-checker at Boom Bangladesh, and Shuvashish Dip, Fact-checker at FactWatch as panelists. The first topic of discussion was one previously broached by Shafiqul Alam, regarding the probability and challenges of starting a fact-checking division in the leading news agencies in Bangladesh. Afterward, the discussion shifted to the methods through which the fundamentals of fact-checking and media literacy could be introduced to the general public. The panel also touched on the subject of media silence regarding crucial events, where fact-checking organizations could function as alternative news media sources. The discussion also featured the current technological and systematic limitations to the verification of information, as well as the usage and reliability of automated fact-checking technology. Ending on a crucial topic, the discussion shifted to how the fact-checkers can ensure their transparency, accountability, and credibility to the public.

📍 11 75A, R 5/A (Satmasjid Road), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh
📞 cqs.ulab.edu.bd ✉ cqs@ulab.edu.bd 📠 966-1255, 966-1301, 967-5919



A Q/A session followed the panel discussion where the audience members posed questions to the panelists. This session featured discussions on how news agencies can avoid getting their news flagged, and how the media houses can reach out to fact-checking organizations for information regarding the importance and methodology of fact-checking, to establish their fact-checking divisions.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof. Sumon Rahman, the Director of Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies, for the notable guests in attendance. He spoke on the importance of building a community amongst fact-checkers who can not only aid one another but hold each other accountable to ensure a certain standard is always maintained. He expressed hope that such a community forms among the fact-checkers of Bangladesh so that they may tackle the evolving issue that is fact-checking in today's times.

Image 7.2 – Press Release Part 2



Apon Das

to Din, me, Nasrin ▼

Sat, Apr 2, 1:40 AM



Dear Sir,

Here is the draft of the press release for today's program in both Bengali and English versions, written by Atihar Autonu and translated by Nasrin Jabin Apu. Please find the attachments below and let me know if any corrections or additions are required.

Best,

2 Attachments



Din Mohammad Sumon Rahman

to Apon, me, Nasrin ▼

Sat, Apr 2, 9:26 AM



The Bengali translation needs little bit brush up so that it can get rid of the translator flavor. Can you just rewrite the Bangla in places where it falls into the Eng syntax?

Best,



Image 7.3 – Feedback on the Press Release from Sumon Sir

Challenges and Mistakes:

- I knew much earlier that I would need to write a press release after the event. If I had made a draft on which I could work, I could have saved myself both time and sleep.
- Time pressure was high and I had to finish the press release fast, while also including all relevant information.

Learnings:

- I learned that I definitely should start planning ahead, especially when I know what I would have to do.
- While I learned the basics of writing a press release in my ULAB courses, this was my first time doing so in an actual professional environment, with very real ramifications. Now I am certainly more comfortable with writing a press release.

Project 8

Project Name: Translation of Bangladesh Betar Presentation Slides

Project Brief: Sumon Sir was giving a set of presentations at Bangladesh Betar on the topic of Raising Public Awareness for Rumor Prevention but was doing so in Bangla. The slides needed to be reworked and translated to English for one such presentation.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: My colleague messaged me at around midnight with this assignment. I had to translate the slides for Sumon Sir's presentation fully as he would be presenting the day after. As such, I rushed to finish the translation as soon as I could, while still ensuring that nothing gets lost in translation. I finished the translation around three hours later. Later on, in the morning, in the office, the translated slides were edited further to accommodate some final changes.



Apon Das
to me ▾

Wed, Apr 20, 12:24 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Din Mohammad Sumon Rahman** <sumon.rahman@ulab.edu.bd>
Date: Mon, Apr 18, 2022 at 12:54 PM
Subject: Final slides
To: Apon Das <apon.das@ulab.edu.bd>

Please check
Best,



Din M. Sumon Rahman, PhD
Professor | Department of Media Studies & Journalism
Director | Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS)
Director | Office of Faculty Research (OFR)

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

a: 688 Beribadh Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
t: +880 2 9661255, 9661301 | m: +880 1775 447 174
e: sumon.rahman@ulab.edu.bd | w: www.ulab.edu.bd
[facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#) | [map](#)



Sender notified by
[Mailtrack](#)



Fig 8.1 – Email containing the slides that I had to translate

"Some country throw covid19 infected bodies into the seas. Advice to stop eating seafood. The world is really getting to an end. Dear God pls interced." অর্থাৎ, "কিছু দেশ কর্তৃক আক্রান্ত লোকদের দেহ সমুদ্রে ফেলে দিচ্ছে। সামুদ্রিক খাবার গ্রহণ না করতে উপদেশ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। সত্যিই পৃথিবী ধ্বংসে পথে।..." এরকম বার্তাসহ একটি ভিডিও মেসেঞ্জার ও হোয়াটসআপে অনেকে ফরোয়ার্ড করছেন। ভিডিওতে দেখা যাচ্ছে, বেশ কিছু মানুষের লাশ সমুদ্র উপকূলে ঢেউয়ের সাথে আছড়ে পড়ছে।

এই লাশগুলো কর্তৃক ১৯ আক্রান্ত কোনো মানুষের নয়।

২০১৯ সালের ডিসেম্বর মাসের প্রথম সপ্তাহে মৌরিতানিয়া উপকূলে অভিবাসীরা একটি নৌকা ডুবে ৬০ এর বেশি মানুষ নিহত হন। ওই ঘটনায় নিহতদের লাশ এভাবে সমুদ্রতীরে ভেসে এসেছিলো ঢেউয়ের সাথে। নিহতদের বেশিরভাগ গাধিয়া থেকে সমুদ্রপথে প্রবাসে যাচ্ছিলেন।

এ ঘটনার ভিডিও ও ছবি তখন বিশ্বের শীর্ষস্থানীয় সব গণমাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হয়। এ সংক্রান্ত খবর ও ছবি দেখুন:

<https://www.noticiasdealava.eus/.../mauritania-c.../1003467.html>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/.../gambian-town-mourns-mauritania-...>



ভুল তথ্য (Misinformation)

মিথ্যা, তবে অনিচ্ছাকৃত। কোনোরকম গুরুতর অভিসন্ধি ছাড়াই বিভিন্ন মাধ্যমে ছড়িয়ে পড়া ভুল তথ্য। যেমন: কোনো ছবি থেকে অনুমাননির্ভর তথ্য, ভুল অনুবাদ, তারিখ ও পরিসংখ্যানগত ভুল, বা যখন কোনো ব্যঙ্গকে গুরুত্ব সহকারে নেয়া হয়, এমন ভুল।



Image 8.2 & 8.3 – Example of Translation Part 1

"Some country throw covid19 infected bodies into the seas. Advice to stop eating seafood. The world is really getting to an end. Dear God pls interced." অর্থাৎ, "কিছু দেশ কর্তৃক আক্রান্ত লোকদের দেহ সমুদ্রে ফেলে দিচ্ছে। সামুদ্রিক খাবার গ্রহণ না করতে উপদেশ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। সত্যিই পৃথিবী ধ্বংসে পথে।..." এরকম বার্তাসহ একটি ভিডিও মেসেঞ্জার ও হোয়াটসআপে অনেকে ফরোয়ার্ড করছেন। ভিডিওতে দেখা যাচ্ছে, বেশ কিছু মানুষের লাশ সমুদ্র উপকূলে ঢেউয়ের সাথে আছড়ে পড়ছে।

এই লাশগুলো কর্তৃক ১৯ আক্রান্ত কোনো মানুষের নয়।

২০১৯ সালের ডিসেম্বর মাসের প্রথম সপ্তাহে মৌরিতানিয়া উপকূলে অভিবাসীরা একটি নৌকা ডুবে ৬০ এর বেশি মানুষ নিহত হন। ওই ঘটনায় নিহতদের লাশ এভাবে সমুদ্রতীরে ভেসে এসেছিলো ঢেউয়ের সাথে। নিহতদের বেশিরভাগ গাধিয়া থেকে সমুদ্রপথে প্রবাসে যাচ্ছিলেন।

এ ঘটনার ভিডিও ও ছবি তখন বিশ্বের শীর্ষস্থানীয় সব গণমাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হয়। এ সংক্রান্ত খবর ও ছবি দেখুন:

<https://www.noticiasdealava.eus/.../mauritania-c.../1003467.html>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/.../gambian-town-mourns-mauritania-...>



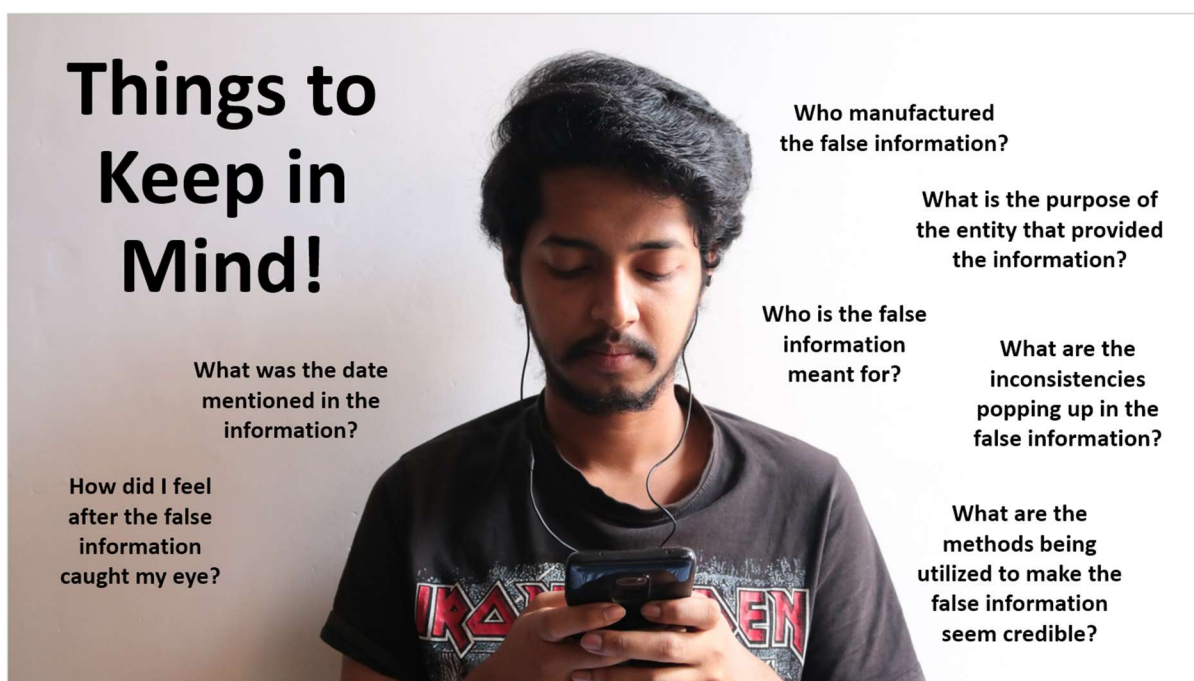
Misinformation

Misinformation can be defined as information that is unintentionally false. The primary characteristic of misinformation is that it is incorrect information that is disseminated through various channels without any serious malicious intent. For example, information based on assumptions from an image, incorrect translation, date and statistical errors, or satire that is mistaken as factual information.





Image 8.4 & 8.5 – Example of Translation Part 2



English Translation of Slides Inbox x



Atihar Autonu (182012045) <...> Apr 20, 2022, 3:01 AM
to Apon ▾



Dear Apon bhai,

I have attached the translated slides with this email. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Atihar Autonu



Apon Das
to me ▾

Apr 20, 2022, 8:40 AM



Received, thank you.



↩ Reply

➦ Forward

Image 8.6 – Delivering the Translated Slides

Challenges and Mistakes:

- While I did not make any mistakes, this was challenging, as I was very tired when I started actually working on the translations at midnight and I had to persevere till I finished, so that the slides can be ready for the presentation tomorrow.

Learnings:

- I learned not to compromise quality and urgency for ease.

INTERNSHIP OUTCOME

I wanted to join CQS because it offered me an opportunity. An opportunity to experience a new field, and learn a new craft. And that is exactly what I got. Through my work on report proofreading and editing, I learned to better discern research language and formatting. By going through all the previous reports I attained a better understanding of the past research conducted at CQS, and how I would need to approach research in the future. I gained a more discerning eye as to the importance of logical accuracy in making statements or arguing a point. I am more interested than ever in being involved with research projects down the line, and actively participating in the creation of new knowledge. I learned both the importance of self-learning and proper communication with teammates to achieve the best results. Going into my internship I had never expected to learn about event management, but I learned a lot about the whole process and pitfalls of event management. Ultimately, my internship at CQS has been an incredible learning experience, and I plan on learning a lot more, as I continue working there.

Realizations

A lot of perceptions I had about myself that arose from my time at ULAB were challenged. My interest in leadership has been an absolute rollercoaster. When I first joined ULAB, I abhorred the idea of leading anyone, and yet I ended up doing so my very first semester, and every semester after that, and at some point, I came to prefer the leadership role. This changed again in my last few semesters as I would rather do anything but lead a group. Starting at CQS I realized that I was never fit for a leadership role. I was never somebody I would want to work under. While I may be capable when I put the effort in, I never really engaged the team members as much as I should have, regardless of whether I expected them to provide a similar amount of output, which I now realize is so very vital, not being the leader myself. True teamwork is absolutely vital and I have my amazing colleagues at CQS to thank for that, as well as Sumon sir's expert supervision. I want to see myself rise to be someone who can be an effective leader. I want to be just as reliable and trustworthy to my coworkers as I am to the work itself.

My time at CQS has done a lot to allay my fears of working in a public office. I had imagined that I would have a difficult time fitting in, but that was not the case at all. I got all along very well with everyone, very soon into my internship. This was something I would have once thought entirely inconceivable. It has helped me realize that sometimes my worst enemy is myself and my preconceived notions and that I should always allow myself the chance to improve.

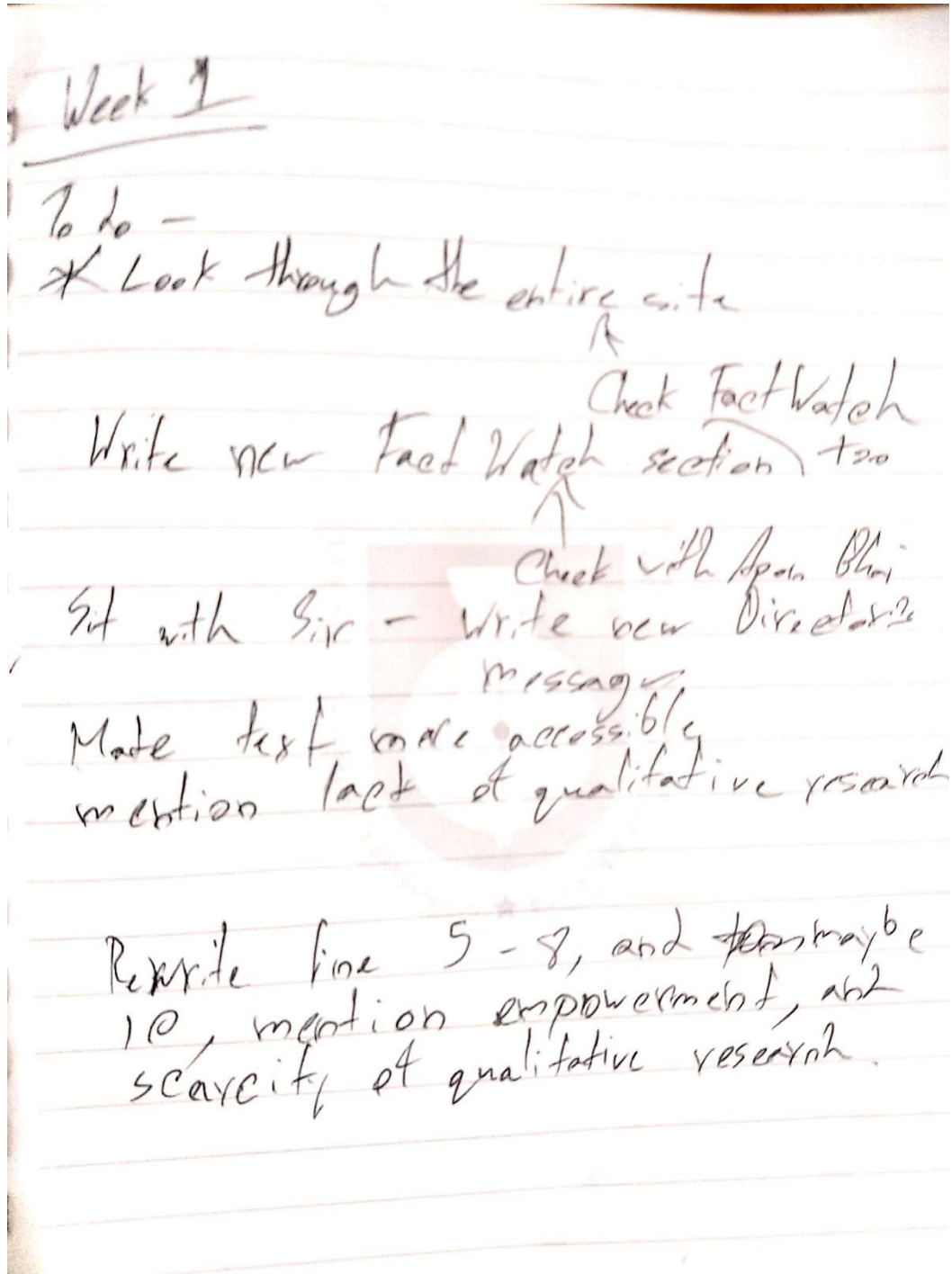
Achievements from Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies

Over the course of my internship, I worked on proofreading and editing multiple previous reports, at least one of which I will be an author on, and possibly acknowledged in others. Due to my lack of skill in Bangla, I wasn't able to work under the FactWatch banner and work on reports. However, I have helped my colleagues out with their fact-checking numerous times and developed fact-checking skills of my own.

However, my biggest personal achievement is probably going up on that stage and being able to do my part. Knowing how I once was, I think that is by far the biggest indication of how far I have come, not just throughout the internship, but throughout my entire time at ULAB. I have learned and I have grown, and I acknowledge that I have much farther yet to go.

WORKPLACE LOG

I apologize for the horrible handwriting. I do not usually take handwritten notes, and for the most part, prefer to take notes in word files/google docs.



Week 2

- * Correct Web portal report
- * Rewrite / edit (try not to rewrite too much) on the findings section.

- * Assist Shrawachish Bhai with fact finding

↑
use Reverse image search and mail photos to him

- * Talk to Sumop Sir, before proceeding with final corrections & !!!

Meeting notes

Create Program Flow first

↑
Big project

Week 3. (Check translation - Tushar
thai)

Invitation letters are priority
Meeting -

Possible video from IFCH
of Facebook posts??

Get email of remote fact checks

Start working on copies - Think
on design

Start RMH report

↑
Needs Significant
rewrites

* Need to check with Tabish Aun
* Interviews are wrong? Need
to ask

Week 4

~~28~~ Complete the following —

✓ 1) Contact VLAB Admin ASAP

✓ 2) Contact Piyas Da with design feedback

✓ 3) Send it for prints

✓ 4) Invitation emails (Send to Apoo thai)

✓ 5) Contact Cooper, King, Shum's
look at prices, buy coffee, tea,
milk

→ Accounts office

✓ for petty cash

need to talk to Nazmul Bhui

Prepare list of guests asap.
Get the phone numbers asap
Check venue and IT

~~Prepare~~

Prepare speech → Mention
FC community

→ Finish post work
by Shafiqul Alam

Have to get water and

Cups — Check Rayer Bazar,

* Go with Apob Khan/
Nazmul Khan

Week 5

Finish the Bohingya Report

Need to sit with sir,

Use track changes, don't be
Dumb

Sit with Tabin for a — Need to
edit second paragraph and
look at 4th paragraph at lit
review.

New Feedback — check at home

Need to come up with
options

* Have to learn Atlas & TTT

Week 6

* Finish Rohingya Report asap

Meeting

Meet to reedit Online Violence
Report

Tak to Tabis Apa

(Change in Findings
page 26)

* Apoh Bhair's report - recheck it

Week 7

* Access Row 2 tab &
↑
Need to get Rohul Phai

Check Rohingya keywords

* Feet back on slides -
Shorter presentation time
Need to get down on slides

Rohingya Mach - Check this !!!

Week 8

Sentiment Analysis R-Atlas II??

↗
Check Bagla MTL tools
(probably won't work)

Online Violence submission maybe?

↗
Have to check possible options
Need to check submission options
for Rohingya refugees report

SELF ASSESSMENT FORM

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

Name of Intern: Atihar Autonu

University ID: 182012045

Name of the Institute/Organization:

Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies

Corporate Office Address:

Oboshor Bhaban, Road 5/A @ Satmasjid Road,
Dhanmondi, Dhaka – 1209

Email: cqs@ulab.edu.bd

Web: https://cqs.ulab.edu.bd/

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

34-40 hours on average

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

Yes, 5,000 BDT per month

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.	5
2	I believe in my ability to make a difference.	5
3	I am open to new experiences.	5
4	I have gained the capacity to be more productive.	5
5	I can recognize my personal strengths.	4
6	I can recognize my personal weaknesses.	5
7	I have a sense of personal achievement.	4
8	I have the ability to persevere in difficult tasks	5

NO	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	5
11	I have the ability to work cooperatively with others	4
12	I have the ability to communicate effectively	4
13	I have increased my ability to be a leader	5
14	I feel more connected to my community	4
NO	CRITERIA (Academic learning impact)	
15	I have acquired knowledge from the job duties I performed	5
16	I have broadened my critical thinking skills (reasoning, problem-solving)	5
17	I have learned 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
NO	CRITERIA (EMPLOYMENT/JOB-SPECIFIC IMPACT)	
20	I developed specialised technical skills for a specific job function	5
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.	5
25	What is your average score from this test?	4.67

5. General Comments

I believe I could have definitely done more to improve myself from the get-go, and it was a mentality I adopted later on. However, I am very thankful I was able to make that change as it allowed me to receive far more from this internship than I would have gotten otherwise. I am sure what I have learned, and my experiences at CQS will aid me further down the line, whether it be in research or in my professional life.

Atihar Antonu

Signature of Intern

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

The professional competencies are the skills that I have picked up during my internship at CQS. These will no doubt aid me when I continue in any research field, or any professional setting. Below are just some of the skills that I attained or improved upon.

Skills:

- Basic Atlas TI Functionality
- Basic CrowdTangle Functionality
- Google Docs/Sheets
- Proofreading and Editing Research Reports
- Microsoft Word/PowerPoint/Excel
- Teamwork and Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Fact-Checking
- Event Management
- Press Release Writing

Attitude and Knowledge:

- Ability to Work Under Pressure
- Adaptability and Crisis Management
- Time Management
- A Strong Desire to Improve and Learn
- Strong Attention to Detail

APPENDIX

Project 9

Project Name: Study on Online Violence Against Women in Bangladesh

Project Brief: This report explored the rise of online violence against women and the perception of online violence itself. The study aimed to identify what population and demographic of women are most susceptible to online violence and are unaware of what constitutes online violence. A survey and subsequent interviews were conducted to ascertain the results.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: My contribution to this report was the last round of proof checking and editing before the report was submitted to a journal for review. I found and corrected a number of errors, and had to do some significant editing to account for repeated paragraphs, missing information, and logical inaccuracies. I was granted co-authorship for this paper during the journal submission.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Susan C. Herring (2002) defines online or cyber violence as 'certain kinds of behavior that inflict damage upon the well-being (physical, psychological, and/or emotional) of an individual or a group' (Herring, 2002). "Nowadays, a large number of women around the world have been harassed or abused on online platforms"¹ (Posseti, Aboulez, Bontcheva, Harrison, & Weisbord et al., 2020). Recently some literature has been focused on the patterns, causes, and impacts of online violence against women. Moreover, some literature has illustrated concisely the responses of women against women.

Patterns of online-Online violence against womenWomen

Types of Online violence-Violence happened-againstfaced by womenWomen

Gillespie (2015) classifies cybercrime into three kinds: traditional criminal activities in the online sphere, the-radicalized traditional criminal activities in-on the internet, and new forms of criminal activities (Gillespie, 2015). Melovic et al. (2020) suggest that specific groups (such as women) are more vulnerable than others in-on the online platform. Major types of cybercrimes committed against women are cyber harassment, cyberstalking, cyber pornography, cyber defamation, morphing, and Email spoofing. As the nature of cyber violence committed against women is gender-specific, these types of violence affect only females (Pawar, 2018). Recent survey research on Egyptian females suggests that cyber harassment and cyberstalking are the most prevalent forms of cyber violence/online violence against university female students in-on social media platforms (Hasan et al., Fatama, Desouky, Salem, & Ali, 2020). In Europe, Cyber-cyber harassment and cyberstalking can often have a prior connection with offline 'real life. They can result in offline violence (Van Der Wilk, 2018).

Characteristics of Victims, Perpetrators, and Space of Victimization

Younger women (belonging to the 18-24 age group) have to face more difficulties (Melovic, et al., 2020). Usually, the-women are targeted for their gender and other intersectional identities.

3

Image 9.1 & 9.2 – Corrections and Comments

which women are largely responsible (van Der Wilk, 2018). In their report, it has been argued that through silencing strategies (such as public opinion, debate, and action; reports) media and gender-biased social media user policies blame victims.

In their report, Andrews Horizons (2016) show some features of misogynistic media representation of victims and situations which legitimize the violence in Australia. Australian media often represents incidents of violence individually against women without describing the social context or the underlying factors of violence. Maximum media coverages exclude helpful information about legislative procedures. They mainly privilege-highlight the news of physical or sexual violence. Moreover, media coverages of sexual violence represent the behavior of female-women as-to be partially responsible for the abuse. Male perpetrators of violence seem to appear invisible in the news (ANROWS Horizons, 2016).

Gender Discrimination in the Technology Sector

5

6

The Tech sector over the world is highly gender-imbalanced. The number of women employees in the tech sector is significantly less than their male counterparts (Van Der Wilk, 2018). The major reasons behind this decreased number of women are-can be attributed to a lack of mentorship, lack of training resources, and a pay-wage gap (Digital Information World, 2021). Even-In addition, women working in this sector are frequently sexually-harassed. On the other hand, there exists a 'toxic techno culture' denoting policies and algorithmic structures of online platforms which help to promote cyber violence and hate speech online against women. Even the architecture of online platforms is gender-biased which reinforces the 'victimization of women'

From imported document

HP 5:25 PM Apr 13

Delete: "the"

From imported document

HP 5:25 PM Apr 13

Replace: "in" with "on"

From imported document

HP 5:26 PM Apr 13

Replace: "in" with "on"

From imported document

HP 5:31 PM Apr 13

Very confused about this line

From imported document

HP 5:32 PM Apr 13

Replace: "s" with "s"

From imported document

HP 5:32 PM Apr 13

Replace: "s" with "s"

From imported document

HP 5:32 PM Apr 13

Replace: "s" with "s"

From imported document

HP 7:13 PM Apr 13

Possibly incorrect citation

From imported document

HP 7:12 PM Apr 13

Delete space (5 times)

From imported document

HP 7:12 PM Apr 13

Add: "nology"

From imported document

HP 7:12 PM Apr 13

Replace: "s" with "S"

From imported document

HP 7:13 PM Apr 13

Add: "The"

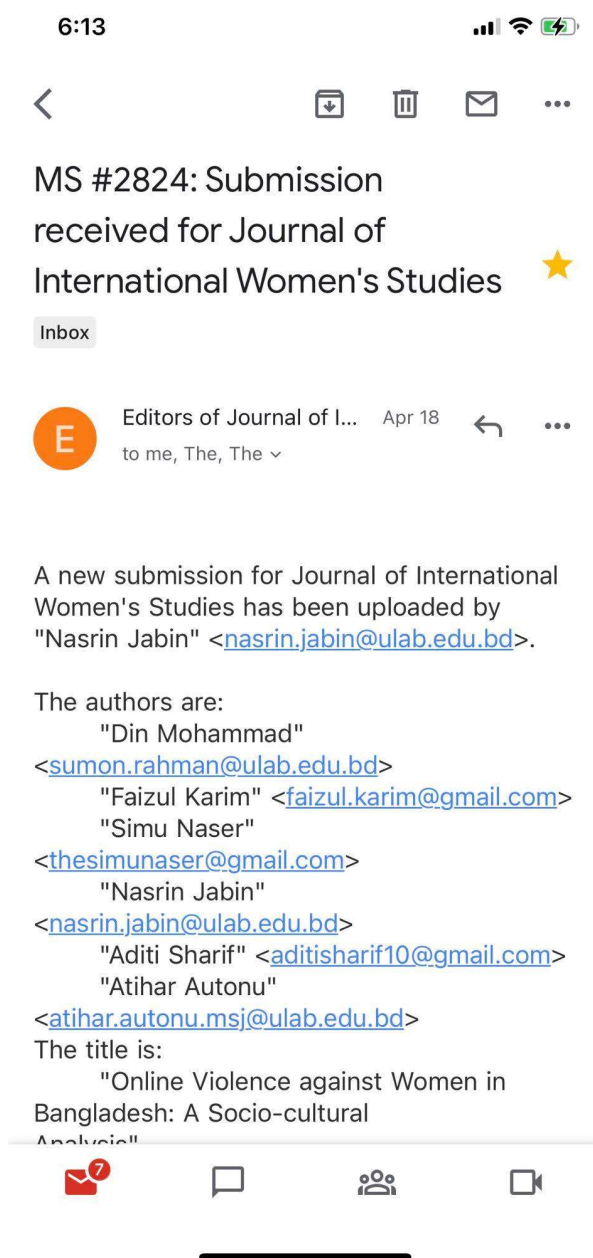
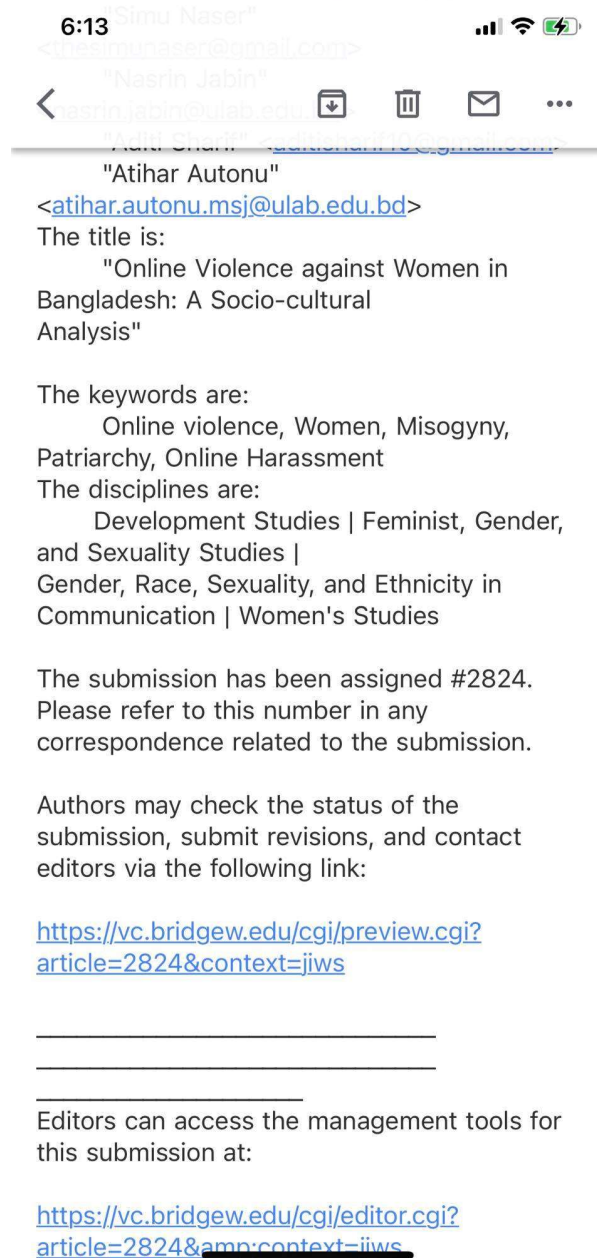


Image 9.3 & 9.4 – Submission of the Report for Peer Review

Challenges and Mistakes:

- I did not make any mistakes over the course of the project and compared to the rest of the projects, this was on the easier end.

Learnings:

- There was not much to learn about proofreading, editing, or even report writing from this paper that I hadn't already learned from my previous projects. However, this was the first time I utilized "track changes" and comments on Microsoft Word for the entire process and found that to be much more efficient.

Project 10

Project Name: BRAC Consultancy Report – Media Portrayal of Rohingya

Project Brief: This was a consultancy project for BRAC that involved extensive use of CrowdTangle in ascertaining the high-frequency keywords and posts that went viral on social media in connection with the Rohingya Crisis. This project involved both the data collection and analysis stages.

My Responsibilities and Tasks: My initial task involved collecting the spikes in social media hits for certain keywords, such as Rohingya Mach, Rohingya Crime, Bhasanchar, and so on. I worked with my colleague, Apon Das, for this as I did not have CrowdTangle access. Afterward, I had to take the data and write an initial paragraph on the basis of that data. My last task was to utilize Atlas TI in conducting sentiment analysis on the most well-performing comments across the most popular posts relevant to the keywords. However, this proved to be too complex a task as Atlas TI does not have a Bangla language module yet, and so it would require a translation for every single comment that is used. When I informed Sumon sir of the process that would be required to utilize Atlas TI for this project, he decided to not use Atlas TI for this project as it would be far too time consuming, and move forward through other means.

Rohingya Woman

March 21

4.6k interactions – Arrested/Rescued 135 male-female-children Rohingya on Sonadia Island

March 26

3.9k interactions – 24 Rohingya Women (57 total Rohingya) rescued at sea, when on the way to Malaysia,

The first spike for the keyword “Rohingya Woman” was observed on March 21, where the interaction exploded to 4.6k hits, tiding over to the next day on March 22, with 3.9k hits. The news that led to this spike was in relation to the 135 Rohingya men, women, and children who were left stranded on Sonadia Island by human traffickers. The second spike was observed on March 26, with interaction rising to 4.6k hits. This was also in relation to similar news, this time with 57 Rohingya, of whom 24 were women, who were being trafficked to Malaysia.

Bhasan Char

March 7

10.6k interactions – Padma Bridge workers at Bhasan Char

March 17

13.5k interactions – Speculation of tourist area at Bhasan Char

March 19

34.2k interactions – Crafting quality prayer mats at Bhasan Char

The first spike for the keyword “Bhasan Char” was observed on March 7, with 10.6k interaction hits, with the most popular news of the day being that of the Padma Bridge laborers being hired to work at Bhasan Char. The second spike occurred on March 17, with 13.5k interaction hits, and the most circulated news during that day was regarding the speculations of a tourist area in Bhasan Char. The third and final spike was observed on March 19, with a total of 13.5k interaction hits. The news that led to this spike was in relation to the superior quality prayer mats that were being manufactured by the Rohingya craftsmen.

Image 10.1 – CrowdTangle Data with Supporting Paragraph

Relocation

The relocation of Rohingya has been amongst the most common narratives to appear in the media; a closer analysis of which has led to the identification of four primary themes– the relocation of the Rohingya to Bhasan Char, identity theft, human trafficking, and workforce involvement. Most of the news surrounding the relocation itself has to do with purely numerical information regarding the number of Rohingya being transferred to Bhasan Char, and the general sentiment amongst the refugees themselves. However, the relocation itself has led to two of the other primary themes emerging; identity theft and human trafficking. The media has reported news regarding the forgery of Bangladeshi NID cards for the Rohingya looking to flee the country in the wake of the mass relocation to Bhasan Char. In a similar vein, there have been multiple reports regarding Rohingya and human traffickers who were arrested en route to Malaysia. In one particular case, the Rohingya were even left stranded on an island by the human traffickers, instead of helping them reach their destination. On a more positive note, an emerging theme in the relocation narrative is that of workforce involvement. There have been news reports on Rohingya craftspeople who were producing superior quality Islamic prayer mats, as well as the involvement of the Padma bridge workers in the development of the settlement at Bhasan Char.

Supplement primary themes with information from sentiment analysis

Image 10.2 – Paragraph on “Relocation” keyword, pending extra data from sentiment analysis

Challenges and Mistakes:

- I did not make any mistakes over the course of the project.
- I had hoped to put my practice of Atlas TI to work for this project. Unfortunately, there was no feasible way to account for every single well-performing comment through Atlas TI without using up an incredible amount of time translating every comment, or relying on possibly inaccurate results if the comments were machine-translated instead.

Learnings:

- While I had previously utilized CrowdTangle for aiding my colleagues with FactWatch reports, this was my first time using it extensively for data collection and media analysis purposes and I can comfortably use the service if I were to need it again in the future.
- I learned how to conduct sentiment analysis on Atlas TI, as well as a few other functions.