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Child Marriage News Coverage in Bangladeshi Newspapers to Enhance
News Literacy

Faculty of Communication Sciences

Master's thesis in media education

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ABSTRACT

Bangladesh has witnessed a dramatic change in media-sphere with a mushrooming growth of media house in a recent decade. The current trend of media monopolization causes media audiences facing more challenges to filter and evaluate the content as well as make informed decisions. However, lack of relevant study in Bangladeshi media context indicates that there is a need for developing news literacy skills that focus language used in media. From this point of view, the study on news literacy has intended to analyse the nature of presenting social issues on a similar media setting to promote and develop critical thinking by identifying multiple aspects of a problem and generate recommendations to upgrade the situation. This case study based content analysis analytically investigates how english and bengali language newspaper in Bangladesh presented the issue of Child Marriage. Finding suggests that both english and bangla language media give less coverage to child marriage issue. Differences are also found between the newspapers to cover the child marriage news, i.e. the statement, tone, frequency, direction, length and source of the report. Some recommendations have been suggested based on the findings to improve the situation. It is hoped that researchers will use this study as a reference to conduct further research as well as enrich the field of news literacy for better understanding.

* Keywords: news literacy, media education, media content analysis, child marriage, Bangladesh,

LIST OF TABLE

Table 1: Profile of the Bengali and English language media.....	23
Table2: Month-wise Coverage on English and Bengali Language Media.....	30
Table 3: Distribution of news on the basis of column.....	31
Table 4:Length-wise coverage on English and Bengali language media.....	31
Table 5: Placement of news on different pages.....	32
Table 6: News category -wise coverage on English and Bangla language media.....	32

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION.....	5
2 FRAMEWORK AND CONCEPTUAL CONSIDERAITON.....	8
2.1 Conceptualizing news literacy from Bangladesh context.....	8
2.2 Bangladesh landscape and its media environment.....	10
2.3 Media education in Bangladesh.....	13
2.4 Summary of concept and direction to the research.....	19
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESEARCH	21
3.1 Time frame and methods of data collection	21
3.2 Profile of the sampled newspaper.....	23
3.3 Procedures of content analysis and design.....	24
3.4 Evaluation of the research.....	27
4 FINDINGS.....	30
4.1 Quantitative outcomes.....	30
4.1.1 The frequency of news in term of length and size.....	31
4.1.2 Placement of news on fold and page	32
4.1.3 Types of news	32
4.2 Qualitative outcomes.....	33
4.2.1 Source of coverage.....	33
4.2.2Pictorial presentation and tone of the article.....	33
4.2.3. Presence of protagonist.....	36
4.2.4 Practice of ethics and cross-checking in reporting.....	36
4.2.5 Special characteristics and trends of coverage.....	37
5 DISCUSSIONS.....	40
5.1 Connecting literature review and research findings.....	40
5.2 Limitations and recommendations.....	42
REFERENCES.....	44
Appendix 1 Coding sheet used for quantitative data interpretation	
Appendix 2: Example coding sheet used for qualitative interpretation	
Appendix 3: Example page layout of the sampled newspaper	

1 INTRODUCTION

Situated to the east of India, Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated country with 169 million (est.) people in an area of 148,460 sq km that achieved independence from Pakistan in 1971 (Bangladesh, 2011). Since the beginning of the 1990s when the country returns to democracy from military rule, media market has emerged as a vibrant sector regarding its size and diversity (Bhuiyan, 2002, Haider, 2007; Islam & Marjan, 2013; Khan, 2008; Rahman, 2006; Rahman, 2009; Rahman, 2016). Due to frequent accessibility of media among that vast population, there is an excellent prospect of media literacy study in Bangladesh (Rahman & Hussain, 2016; Wahiduzzaman, 2000). However, having huge amount of data instantly accessible does not assure that the audience will receive genuine information (Meyer 1988; Rahman, Mehdi, Akher, Akter, & Gulshan, 2009).

In fact, there are bounteous options than earlier to find information, i.e. people are thoroughly using mobile phones to listen radio, watch television, read e-papers and thus it has resulted to create more uncertainty than ever before whether news sources are supplying authentic content or not (Islam, 2016). Therefore, the way of getting news for Bangladeshi people has changed rapidly, it becomes essential for the audience to make informed decision as well as filter the actual information from the abundant data available in media in shape of news (Rahman, Mehdi, Akher, Akter, & Gulshan, 2009; Panday, 2009).

According to Klurfeld & Schneider (2014), in this digital era, verifying as well as cross checking the objectivity of information is not the lone responsibility of experienced editors and gatekeepers. Rather audiences of news in various media are also liable to filter the rumor, false as well as unverified news. That is why a generation with the skill of critical thinking is needed who can act as both self-guided gatekeeper and news consumer. To meet this need, an operational section of media literacy is defined as news literacy, which specially concentrates news objectivity as well as authenticity of news content.

The term, news literacy is relatively a new concept in academic arena of Bangladesh. However, finding from previous study shows that audience of Bangladesh has some sort of skill to understand the news content (UNICEF, 2016a). This level of wariness and knowledge of the

audiences requires to assess by designing applicable curricula for enhancing their news literacy skill. As children shapes the future of any nation but the most sensitive part of the population, issues related to this age group should get more priority as well as attention in media (UNICEF, 2010). Considering the above context, contents of media regarding children issue is a part of data analysis for the study. Accepting the views suggested by Cheung (2009a, 121-123) to design development oriented media literacy plan in developing countries such as Bangladesh, the study has conducted following the methodology of content analysis with an aim to improve the standards of news literacy in Bangladesh.

Media literacy can transfer positive and manipulative aspects of the media in Bangladesh (Cheung, 2009b; Jarman, & McClune, 2007, Wahiduzzaman, 2000). Because advocates see news literacy as a vital means for empowering citizens with critical thinking skills to recognize the biasness of news writer (Hornik & Kajimoto 2014; Kleemans & Eggink, 2016). In point of fact, there has been growing attention in the area amid people especially in media scholars, activist, wings and associations, authorities and youth activists. However, due to the absence of collaborative effort from the central think tank of the government and a too traditional approach, the awareness regarding media literacy is confined to the limited number of people who are somehow connected to it. Except some exceptions, majorities of the media literacy plan focus only on the content and do not examine the narrative form and also not consider the way of creating meaning with the combination of texts, pictures and colors. As there is no methodological and standardized investigation, the audience cannot sustain enthusiasm in aspects demonstrated in media literacy lessons. (Rahman & Hussain, 2016); UNICEF, 2016a) Furthermore, media literacy is mainly incorporated with the curricula of academic communication centric study that is dependent on modules, textbooks and works from overseas universities, especially from USA. However, as media literacy is context as well as culture specific, the concern is that studying western viewpoint may not benefits the audience to capture the temperament and requirement of their society (Rahman, 2016; Shamima, 2016). Hence, there is a need for cooperation and collaborative support from all level of society to establish a baseline for the study regarding news literacy (UNICEF, 2016a).

Since news literacy¹ is a new concept in that country, the present condition of this field requires to analyze through a systematic study. To cover the gap up the focus of the research is to throw light on these issues to accelerate social change. The study aims to understand the ideologies and values hidden behind the media, how media impacts the combinations and choices of media text and how the narrative generates meaning and reviewing.

Therefore, the study chose to analyze the case of child marriage to narrow down the study focus. The rationale for selecting child marriage as the case study is that it is a severe problem in the region with severe consequences where violation under the act is quite common. While there is an urgency to provide constant coverage informing the people that child marriage is a serious concern for the society, it gets less importance in media, both in terms of an article's position on a page and on the broader newspaper (Nepal, 2012). For that reason the importance of analyzing child marriage coverage in Bangladeshi news media is far-reaching and makes this study significant as well.

The study has analyzed the content of selected media to interpret frequency and direction of media coverage on child marriage issue, and thus it can be beneficial form the media educational viewpoint to enhance person's ability in processing information systematically by offering distinct perspective and foster critical thinking. The analysis intends to contribute for developing media education in Bangladeshi context. The findings can assist as a reference to enrich media literacy guideline for media house, the organization working for media literacy education, and further initiate discussion and implementation of media literacy.

Based on the background mentioned above, the study has been designed with four primary chapters. The next chapter describes conceptual consideration and literature on media literacy in Bangladesh. The third chapter illustrates the fundamental concepts and reflects on the methodology adopted in the study while the fourth chapter presents the quantitative and qualitative findings of the media assessment. The final chapter denotes the major conclusions and recommendations regarding to improve the implementation of news literacy in Bangladesh those are also applicable in any other society.

¹. In some part of this study where relevant the term media literacy is used to refer news literacy from a wider perspective.

2 FRAMEWORK AND CONCEPTUAL CONSIDERATION

2.1 Conceptualizing News Literacy from Bangladesh Context

The term news literacy has received little scholarly research attention not only in Bangladesh but also all over the world. Hobbs (2010) states that the term news literacy is not commonly used in academics arena, not even considered as a distinct field of study until recently. Craft, Ashley & Maksl (2016) accept these views and highlights that the extent of news literacy is solely limited to the people who are somehow linked to enhance news literacy. Kleemans & Eggink (2016) argues that as a subfield of media literacy the term still considered as a low profile. The same scholars relate it attaining critical thinking ability to filter reliable information and focusing more closely on the impact of media in society. Hobbs (2010) identify media literacy as a big tent that broadly defined as the skills to examine, understand and evaluate media in diverse structure, while news literacy is connected with journalism study that integrate critical thinking through systematic exercises by creating media content and thus enable people to identify the structure of journalism. Klurfeld & Schneider (2014) defines news literacy as a skills of analytical thinking ability that enable to evaluate the authenticity as well as trustworthiness of news coming from various sources and forms of media.

Hence in the context of Bangladesh, the significance of news literacy is more evident as there is a shortage of quality and comprehensive analysis of stories as desired by the reader while ethical aspects are also sometimes ignore in news reporting (Rahman, Mehdi, Akher, Akter, & Gulshan, 2009; Rahman,2016;Panday, 2009).Therefore, the gap amid the maker and user is so immense that, media producers and consumers are required to be engaged in a common process to build up a decent and viable media setting. Both are required to conscious of their responsibility and should learn from each other which is termed as news literacy (UNICEF, 2016a; Rahman, & Hussain, 2016).

According to Hobbs (2010), focuses of news literacy is on teaching news values to critically analyze message quality, honesty, credibility, the point of view, timeliness, accuracy, fairness,

balance, objective, tone; and finding, evaluating and sharing content from a variety of sources. Fleming, (2014) argues that the news literacy skills enable the readers to analyses of accuracy and bias (or framing, agenda setting, etc.) in news reports, discussion analytically of the construction of news reports, compare of different news sources, and thus to reach a conclusion, make a judgment or take an action.

Therefore, the society as a whole to benefit from the media, Bangladesh should also design appropriate methodologies as well considering its social context. Because advocates see news literacy as a necessary component in contemporary society to make well-informed decisions (Fleming, 2014; Frechette, 2002; Hobbs, Donnelly, Friesem & Moen, 2013; Hobbs, 1998). Previous literature supports this view as Hobbs (2003) carried out a study to evaluate the effect of media literacy education and suggest that, participants those who received media literacy education scored higher to evaluate the content of advertisement and newspaper. Hobbs, R. & Frost, R. (2003) in a separate research found that participants of a news literacy course have developed their analytical ability and felt more cooperative with their course mates. In a similar form of other research on middle school student , Hobbs, Donnelly, Friesem, & Moen,(2013) observe a connection between media literacy skills and civic participation. Through a series of observational studies of a news literacy courses at Stony Brook University, Klurfeld & Schneider (2014) concluded that the students with news literacy skills absorbed more news from variety of sources and had a more critical view towards news media.

Integrating previous literature from Bangladesh perspective, the study has found that media education is wholly ignored in the school curriculum (UNICEF, 2016a). In this context media can play the role of protagonist enhancing news literacy. Hobbs (2010) argued that media literacy education can conduct in both academic and nonacademic framework and suggested the media organization to take responsibility to promote news literacy for the sake of its existence. Klurfeld & Schneider (2014) argued the information is so rapidly accessible across media platforms that the role of media as an educator becomes very significant. The same scholar's suggested the press to educate audiences about the process of on news gathering and filtering so that they can appreciate and sustains quality journalism.

However, Integrating this literature in Bangladesh perspective, the researcher thinks that the limitations of the above western based news literacy curricula is that they are more on digital

media-centric in the age of digital era, commonly focus on content posted on online and websites(Power, 2010). As suggested by Cheung (2009) that media literacy is culture-specific, a relevant contemporary program on news literacy might not yield success in a country like Bangladesh where internet is not yet easily accessible. Moreover, this country does not have the protagonist as like Media education lab or Stony Brook University in the USA to advocate for news literacy. Hence more focuses on traditional media can be a favorable and convenient way to design relevant pedagogy to capture the needs and temperament of the society.

To support this claim, the study has considered imperative to outline the nature and situation of media literacy in Bangladesh context. Hence, in the progression of discussion, the next subchapter has attempted to familiarize the reader with the country's media and other related components as well as the application of media literacy initiative with an aim to conceptualize media literacy and education in Bangladesh context.

2.2 Bangladesh Landscape and its Media Environment

Though Bangladesh is world's most widely populated area as stated before, 73% of its populations still live in rural areas .While the country faces various challenges such as corruption, political instability, poor infrastructure and insufficient power supplies, the country's economy has expanded5-6% per year since 1996 (Bangladesh, 2011). Despite the fact that the country has witnessed significant development in the various sectors, Bangladesh has the highest rate of marriage comprising girls under the age of 15 and the second highest rate of child marriage all over the world, just behind Niger (UNICEF, 2013). The problem is so severe in the country that33% of girls get married before the age of fifteen while 66% girls face the same fate before reaching eighteen. Until 2016, Child Marriage Restraint Act (1929) imposed during the British ruling has been the only act in independent Bangladesh to restrain child marriage (Kamal, Hassan, Alam, & Ying, 2015).Replacing the previous act, recently a new act titled as “the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2017” has been passed on February 27, 2017, with special provision that allows underage marriage (Mahdi, 2017; Sattar, & Barry, 2017, UNFPA, 2017). Though elements of the newly enacted law – stiffer punishments and better law enforcement – are

welcomed, allowing marriage under 18 in "special cases" have been considered a step backwards for Bangladesh (UNFPA, 2017).

In this current situation while girl's access to high quality education could be a priority to accelerate social movement against problem like child marriage, scholars agreed that education system in Bangladesh is not standard enough compared to international level (Mahdi, 2017; Huda & Taqbir, 2017). Deficiency of a unified curriculum and syllabus, standard facilities, qualified teachers, and lack of sincere efforts from policy makers impacts harmfully on education system (Prodhan, 2011). However, the most crucial problem in the education sector is bureaucracy. As education ministry is responsible for curriculum design and regulated centrally, development project are hampered due to bureaucratic cycle. The underlying situation demonstrates how far the country is behind to implement media literacy in the national curriculum. In this context, agreeing with the viewpoint as suggested by Klurfeld & Schneider (2014), it can be noted that media itself should play the role of protagonist in advocating media literacy for its existence.

Therefore, scholars have highlighted the role of Bangladeshi media and commented that Bangladeshi press partly follows the development communication model that indicates to use media as a tool to bring necessary changes for social development (Kutufam, 2006). As a developing country, the media in Bangladesh plays a vital role as a watchdog to raise and protect people's right (Panday, 2009).

However, many scholars have suggested the expansion of mass media during the late 1990s was the result of the massive growth of private business corporations, which funded and established most of the new newspapers, TV and radio channels of the country. While the Bangladeshi mass media still transforms from a social-responsibility public press to a market-oriented private enterprise, scholars are yet to study media's micro-level effects adequately. Bhuiyan (2002) comments that the Bangladeshi media are aware of their role in education, but do not think they are fulfilling their responsibilities adequately. Scholars have expressed optimism on the recent spread of mass media in Bangladesh, but at the same time criticized the media for being used as a tool of big business entities (Khan, 2008; UNICEF, 2016a; Rahman & Hussain 2016). Contributors to social forums and blogs in the country also have widely expressed concerns that unlike the press in the western world which tend to balance between responsible

journalism and for-profit business, Bangladeshi mass media are more heading toward sensitive and irresponsible journalism, many times sacrificing ethics to serve the purpose of their owners (Rahman 2009). Scholars have pointed that although financial patronage of the corporate companies helped the growth of the mass media, the corporate entities are using the mass media as a tool to increase power and influence. There is an ample of literature which indicates that the mass media in Bangladesh are accused of bias. Haider (2007) conducted a content analysis on three private TV channels in the country and found that the political news gets the highest priority than any other crucial issues i.e. environment, education and societal issues. The authors conclude that media prioritized the protocol values rather than news values by giving importance to the individual members of the Parliament and Ministers. These findings support with the arguments of Rahman & Alam (2013) who revealed the reasons behind the mushroom growth of television channels in a study and concludes media are being use as a tool for ideological persuasion by the ruling class. Bhuiyan (2002) debates media are male-dominated and pro-elite public focused in their content. The same scholar suggest that the press has changed their nature towards a free-market economy; not showing much interest to capture the struggles of the underprivileged classes and the common masses, who are the overwhelming majority in the country. Rahman (2006) mentioned that the media showed inconsequentiality in selecting news items and a stereotypical tendency of covering and presenting news rather than the real values of the same. Bhuiyan (2002) commented that media in Bangladesh is becoming more corporate and commercial, moving away from the development and social responsibility model they followed before, and is turning into a playing field for political parties, business tycoons and corporate entrepreneurs. Some studies mention that many Bangladeshi media organizations act as the mouthpiece of their corporate owners, engages in corrupt practices and publish unverified news, which erodes public's media credibility (Islam, 2016; Islam & Marjan, 2013; Rahman, Mehdi, Akher, Akter & Gulshan, 2009). In a study titled 'Credibility of News and Expansion of Television Media in Bangladesh', Nipu (2016) argues that credibility of television news in Bangladesh faces some challenges including presentation of inaccurate information as a result of unhealthy competition, affiliation with the political parties and dependence on the corporate branding. He also points out that there is no mentionable variation in the news bulletins of the on-growing channels. Hence, considering the overall context, researcher feels the need for developing news literacy skills to allow mediated people to weigh the value of the content.

Although media in Bangladesh are dominated by few elites while consumed by only half of the society, it still has significant power and influence on the nation's political and cultural arena (Khan, 2008). Indeed, People of the country are so highly responsive to media that even ordinary people show interest in discussion on current socio-political issues (Bhuiyan, 2002; Rahman, 2009). Many studies have analyzed Bangladeshi mass media's development communication roles, such as in disaster management, promoting environmental consciousness, informing about climate change strengthening democracy and empowering portrayal of a woman (Panday, 2009; Rahman, 2010; Reza & Haque, 2010; Nazneen, et.all, 2010). However, the state of media education in Bangladesh is yet to establish strong ground due to lack of reliable studies as well as publication (Khan, 2008; Mahmud & Nasreen, 2009). Although there are some academic programs and vocational institutes for media education, majority of them lacks relevant data and publication. The next subchapter has intended to highlights previous studies related to media education in the country.

2.3 Media Education in Bangladesh

Media educational initiatives in Bangladesh begin when the country restores democracy during the year of 1990. However, the aim of media education programmers and the aspects of the media education in the country have not been consistent. Until now, media education discourse has not been well established in Bangladesh (Rahman& Hussain, 2016). Private and public universities have therefore increased its offering courses related to media education along with the expansion of the media corporation. The journey started 1962 when the University of Dhahak, as the first institution in Bangladesh offered a diploma course. The other University of Rajshahi (RU) and the University of Chittagong (CU) established media education department in 1992 and 1993 respectively. After 2000, the other state universities of Jagannath, Jahangir agar, Comilla and Rajshahi also offered graduate and post-graduate courses on Media. During this period, private universities, such as University of Liberal Arts of Bangladesh, Daffodils University, the Independent University of Bangladesh, Stamford University, Brac University, Manarat University, and Port City University also attempted to offer courses on media education.

Currently PIB (Press Institute of Bangladesh) also offers a 1-year program with collaboration of the National University. (Ullah, 2016; Mahmud, & Nasreen, 2009; Khan 2008)

Although Media education, focusing developmental aspect, came to Bangladesh in the early 90s, there is a lack of uniformed course structure on media education until now. An UNESCO-Bangladesh (2009) study has found only 472 courses recorded under different titles offered at eight university departments, including 132 (27.9 percent) media-centric programs. The curriculum addressed a variety of courses in media literacy, mass communication and digital production to language, along with few main journalism courses. The UNESCO survey noted that none of this syllabus could be defined as solely media education courses as their curriculum addressed a variety of programs from media literacy, digital production, mass communication, sociology and so on. It concluded that the curriculum is a mixture of media education, multimedia, mass communications and journalism courses. (Ullah, 2016)

All this literature illustrates that there is lack of resource centers on media education that solely provide pedagogical programs as well as workshops to enhance educator's knowledge on media education. Moreover, there is a need for graded textbooks as well as training materials on media education. Available resource on media education seems to fail to reflect the socio-cultural context of the society. In this context, the study intends to contribute practical ways to enhance media literacy based on Bangladeshi own cultural and media content.

Previous literature suggests that media literacy in Bangladesh is not assisted by formal communication centers as like western counties. The researcher's study on media education in Finland helps to identify the fact that media education context in Bangladesh is entirely different than western society. Being a developing country, the focus of media literacy is more on societal development, fight against prejudice as well as injustice to protect human rights (Cheung, 2009).

However, in the beginning of this process, the number of population assisting from media literacy during 1990s was utterly narrowed as the spotlight was on working media professional. As part of the government initiative, training institutes like NIMCO (National Institute of Mass Communication) and PIB organized training courses for professional media personnel to provide consultancy, advising services and conduct research on mass communications (Rahman & Hussain 2016). During those early days, support from the central government was less rather

more support came from the private sector. Media activist body and civil rights devoted to the expansion of media education through preparing the people to be critical readers of the mass media by developing teaching materials and guidance lessons especially for the media professional. BCDJC (Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication) was one such earlier protagonist that established in 1991 to accomplish the prospects of media and communication sector by employing education, research, publication, consultancy, advocacy, training, and assistance. BCDJC organized workshops, seminars, meetings, brainstorming sessions, press conferences and colloquiums throughout the year. It managed to bring people together from different parts of the society mainly relating to media and communications to create awareness as well as build an opinion on nationally signified issues (Ullah; 2016). Another NGO named MMC (Mass-Line Media center) founded in 1995 coordinated media education through news agency for children (www.shishuprokash.com), information center to intensify children issues and video documentary on disaster management to lessen the death toll and property damage. During that period media educations were limited to mainly working media professional.

However, the more methodological initiatives of media literacy began in -2000s when NGOs and media groups shifted their focus to mango people. At this point, the necessity of training mass audience was felt rather than focusing only on professional media worker (Akhter, 2016). It can state that media education in the proper impression has started in the mid-2000s, as it has endeavored to involve mass audience to enable critical readers and creators of the media text. In continuation of this process BNNRC (Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication) with support from multiple development organizations worldwide started to provide wide range of consultancy and information to support people through community media since 2000. Another NGO named SoMaSHT (Society for Media and Suitable Human Communication Techniques) founded in 2015 with the aim to increase the engagement of ordinary public in electronic and print media as well as enhance their access to information and knowledge. A number of other organizations also founded during this period to promote media education i.e. CCD (Centre for communication development, Gender in Media Forum, TREE (Theatre for research education and empowerment), STD (Steps towards development). (MLG, 2012)

BBC Media Action is another prominent organization that has devoted to the advancement of media literacy education in the country, focusing on education, human rights, governance and livelihoods. From 2005 to 2010, BBC Media Action coordinated weekly radio and TV discussion program "Sanglap" (conversation) that was designed to promote better accountability by allowing studio audiences to ask question a cabinet of business and government leaders about contemporary national topics associated with governance (MLG, 2012).Inspired by the comprehensive response of that program, other local TV stations launched several other imitations of the same content.

In 2009, BBC Media Action inaugurated "BBC Janala" (window), an enthusiastic program, intended to benefit Bangladeshi adults to study english using their mobile phone as a channel that transmit a series of daily three-minute audio lessons. BBC Media Action operated two television programs - a game show and a drama series to cooperate audience from all ages to learn English. BBC Janala also started publishing written english lessons three times a week in the daily Prothom Alo. In October 2010, two television programs - a drama series called "Bishaash" and an accompanying game show BBC Janala "Mojay Mojay Shekha" (learning by doing fun) also started on air to complement the lessons delivered by mobile phone. (Khan, 2012)

The previous history of Bangladesh regarding media education illustrates that children did not get proper orientation and opportunity to develop themselves as media literate. However, The UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) took the leading role in promoting media education for children in Bangladesh with the cooperation and collaboration of government and non-government and media organization partners of the country. Such projects include cooperation with national newspapers and private radio stations to encourage children's issues, media education award, news literacy skills, the educational film festival for children, National Multimedia Campaign to child marriage.(UNICEF, 2016a)

One of the prominent media education attempt was in 1993, when the Government of Bangladesh, with the collaboration of UNICEF, launched an animation series named "Meena" as a way of effective interaction with the mass society through media. Finland, Norway, United Kingdom Netherlands, and the United States created collaborative donation for the development of this media content under Meena Communication Initiative (MCI), (Chesterton, 2004).

Growing with the guidance of Hanna-Barbera Cartoons, the series had been mapped to build awareness on cultural habit, religious beliefs and social conditions that lead to injustice and discrimination in the society as well as influence the activity, health and life of the community. The MCI is regarded to be one of the most fruitful strategies ever developed by UNICEF (ACNielsen Bangladesh 2004; Chesterton, 2004). Each MCI story addresses a specific or cultural or social issue that focuses on different societal perspectives, for example, the episode titled as "Too Young to be Married" advocates for creating awareness on the harms of early marriage and benefits of delayed marriage, something which is the core focus of this study. The series broadcasted on multiple channels – television, mobile cinema and centers of school. Meena became popular among the over 7 million children who either watch Meena on TV or read Meena comic books and discuss the topics in school as well. An evaluation of the MCI carried out in 2004 indicated that awareness of the series was very high across the country and suggested that at least 97% of child/adolescent respondents in urban areas and 83% in rural areas were aware of the series (Krishner, 2014; Anis & White, 2017; Aloysius, 2002). Its audiences were found not to be only children, but also their adult's guardians, uncles, aunties, and neighbors (ACNielsen Bangladesh, 2004; Chesterton, 2004). Each episodes of this carton series successfully spread their message among mass audience to bring positive change in society (UNICEF, 2013).

To this end, several attempts noticed in various parts of the country, and several innovative programs emerged. UNICEF Bangladesh since 2005 as recognition of excellence to encourage child topics in the media, introduced "Meena Media Award" that give acclimation for the News, articles, features, photographs, news and radio & television programs relating children's issues each year with an aim to upgrade the growth of children in Bangladesh, or contributing vigorous surroundings for children (UNICEF, 2016b). In 2012, UNICEF with cooperation with The ABC Radio inaugurated a two-hour program where imaginary cartoon characters Meena went live on ABC Radio as presenters and interacted with children and bring their voices to the audience. With support from UNICEF Bangladesh, the Children's Film Society had organized annual film festival held countrywide since 2008 that showcases full-length short films, features, documentaries and animations convenient for children as well as films prepared by children and nominated for the accolade from around the world. It is the only international movie festival for children as well as youngsters in Bangladesh that aimed to open a new world of cinema to the

children of Bangladesh and offer them an exposure to custom and culture of other countries through the film as a powerful and robust medium of art. One of the initial aims of the festival is to provide the youth with a platform to exhibit their potential in media and to understand its role in bringing attention to various social issues and learning through entertainment (UNICEF 2013).

However, Bangladesh has witnessed a significant turning point during last three years in promoting media literacy. While media projects and production programs may have been an occasional incident in most of the cases, recent initiative suggests that focus of media education has changed into media production and creation (Rahman & Hussain, 2016). Media activist body and youth organizations have increasingly supporting children and young people to critically analyze the meanings of the media text with the opportunity to prepare their media work as well as to master on media production accomplishment (Cheung, 2009). In December 2015, bdnews24.com, with a partnership of UNICEF, took an initiative that created a 'space' for children to enable to raise their concerns, share aspirations for the future as well as exploit to decisions that affect their lives and playing simultaneously an active role in broadcast media. The program titled as 'Prism' claimed to be the world's first video news service operated by child journalists, aims to facilitate Bangladesh's children in exploring and enhancing their creative and observational faculties and at the same time groom them as efficient multimedia news professionals in the future. In the first phase of the initiative, 105 children from Gazipur, Munshiganj, Tangail, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Bandarban and Netrakona districts took video news production training. The 'Prism' had been available since March 2016 on a trial basis at bangla.bdnews24.com/prism. A team of senior journalists from bdnews24.com, with extensive experience working in top newsrooms around the country as well as abroad, guide the editorial team for 'Prism'. Another such countrywide two year duration project started from March 2017 with the collaboration of UNICEF Bangladesh and MARDI to promote news literacy and ethically reporting on and for children through policy formulation, stakeholder interactions and mass media interventions and improve youth perception on news literacy through capacity building. As a part of the project, it conducted a structure based study on news literacy to determine the present direction and setting of news literacy of the country. Data from MADRI on the issue of news and contemporary affairs admissibility suggest that 57% respondent were more or less uncertain about the issue of credibility which means some innate ability to filter the news are already being practiced among them. Respondents further recommended that treatment of

child issues and style of portraying them in media was mostly improper and thus suggested the need for media education. (UNICEF, 2016a)

Even the government of Bangladesh that has often been criticized for not being so concern on media education, has recently took an initiative in 2016 with the cooperation with ‘Shishu (Children) Academy’, an unique institutions for mental culture and physical advancement of Bangladeshi children funded by Bangladeshi Government, and organized workshop on program production and film for children intending to reflect the idea and thinking of the children through media to formulate them as an efficient generation (Akter, 2016) . At the end of the workshop, all the participants were divided into different groups to produce short films. All tasks relating to the mechanism of planning an event to screening a film- had been done by the children with the cooperation and collaboration of the coordinator. (Children's Film Society Bangladesh, 2013) This entire recent attempt suggests that the interest in media education in Bangladesh is growing gradually.

2.4 Summary of Concept and Direction to the Research

To sum up, this chapter has attempted to conceptualize news literacy in Bangladesh context. As the education system of the country yet to achieve stable baseline; implementing media literacy in the curriculum is a far reality. Literature suggests that the media, itself has the social responsibility to empower people through promoting and fostering critical thinking. However, there is a lack of gratification among the audience in general with media's obligation to make quality news; the perception is that media is more on business oriented, and thus objectivity of news might be affected in this cycles. This demands mutuality of both newsmakers and audiences to acquire news objectivity that can satisfy the mango people.

Even though media literacy initiative began in the country from the 1990s, the literature suggests even now, media literacy discourse in Bangladesh is not well established. Study on media literacy is rare to find, mostly limited within communication field. Inadequate teaching

and the shortage of training resources accessible to media educators remain stumbling barrier which is quite often are unsystematic and irregular. As there is no systematic and standardized investigation, the audience cannot sustain enthusiasm in aspects demonstrated in media literacy lessons. Although there has been growing interest on media literacy, the literature suggests that most of the attempts are electronic media-centric and time-bound highly ambitious project that can access to a limited number of populations in light of the social reality of Bangladesh. Accepting the viewpoint of media literacy education to be culture-specific, the point of the argument is that the effects of the historical, cultural and sociological dimensions are needed to consider to capture and cover a more extensive range of people of the country. Hence, there is a need for cooperation and collaborative support from all level to design consistent methodologies for the study of news media so that the community as a whole can benefit from the media

Considering the rationale as mentioned above the study examine the frequency and form of covering news on child marriage issue during the period of constituting child marriage restraint act 2017 in Bangladesh. The study analyses and compares the treatment of child marriage news in english and Bengali newspaper. The reason for examining the english and bengali news coverage is that the bisecting perception on various issues published in english and bengali language medium that mostly carry two separate ideology and their house policy usually vary .Therefore, the study chooses news coverage from two widely circulated newspapers of Bangladesh for content analyses. Thus, the purpose of the study is to evaluate as well as analyze media coverage on the child marriage issue. Drawing the courage from conceptual consideration and literature chapter, the research aims at identifying as well as unraveling the frequency, direction and trend of child marriage news in Bangladeshi mainstream media.

The study proceeds with the following research question:

1. How Bangladeshi press covers child marriage issue?

3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESEARCH

According to Mckenzie and Knipe (2006), there are four major paradigms in research practice from the perspective of the Philosophic framework - post-positivist, interpretivist, transformative and pragmatic. In order to solve the research question, the researcher as being from media education background, chose the pragmatic paradigm and content analysis methodology. Pragmatist paradigm is chosen as it is the most appropriate choices for the aim of this thesis; in order to produce practical knowledge (what) and answer the research question of “how”. Similarly, many academic researcher and social scientists have employed the approach of content analysis to study the content of news media as it is a convincing technique to examine the text of media (Erlingsson & Brysiewicz 2017; Liu, 2010; Moges, 2013; Olson, Prieto& Hoberman, 2010).

As the analysis intent to analyze two major domestic newspapers from the perspective of news literacy framework, there are specific points validate content analysis the most convenient methodology for this study. It is appropriate for analyzing media with ample quantity of unsystematic content into standardized formats which allow arriving at suggestions/conclusions, such as newspaper, which is the units of examination of this study’s (Kulatunga, Amaratunga, Haigh, 2007). The deductive quality of content analysis permit researchers to consider trends and patterns across comparative frames, such as different media, which constitute it remarkably appropriate for the analysis at hand (DeFleur & Dennis, 1998; Krippendorff, 1980).

3.1 Time Frame and Methods of Data Collection

Bengali language newspapers acknowledged for the current analysis is the Dainik Prothom Alo, while the Daily Star is the english language counterpart. Overall, 182 publications from each newspaper that rise to a total of 364 editions of newspapers are selected for analysis within the

six month study periods. Newspaper is used as the source of data in this paper considering the fact that newspapers are an easily accessible source of information that covers the issues with recent developments with little time lapse and issues regularly published that enables to captures the spirit of the moment. Also, Newspaper contents on social matters are exceedingly interpretive and cover essential aspects of social phenomena. Moreover, newspapers have always been a popular and important source of information in Bangladesh as a large number of people in the country yet to have internet access.

In selecting the sampled newspaper, purposive sampling method has been applied. Newspapers are selected according to their number of circulation. Among the more than three hundreds daily newspapers published from Bangladesh, the circulation of the sampled newspaper have found to be top position on Bangla and English newspaper ranking respectively (MLG, 2012). Moreover, both the sampled daily have their online edition that allowed this study to collect and compare the data more accurately. For collecting the data, the whole child marriage issues published in the newspapers are counted so that no sample of news article and editorial concerning the issue are ignored. The study defines news articles as reports that are longer than two inches in length, written in full sentences with a theme and complete article, not be part of an advertisement. If the keywords “Child Marriage” is found, the report is selected for analysis. The whole articles including the headline, caption, source, writer, graphical illustration, image - everything related to the news that portrays straight news or features, opinions and editorials are collected from the mentioned newspaper print edition or/and e-paper version. News published only online edition is not considered for analysis as placement and news frequency are analyzed to find out the answer to the research question. However, Analysis is not possible under these criteria as those online articles do not exist in original paper version. However the English edition of the Dainik Prothom Alo has been collected from the online portal for narrative analysis to compare with the coverage of English newspaper.

The investigation acknowledged half a year period as Downs (1972) noted that Public attention hardly ever remains strongly focused on a topic for long time rather a systemized 'issue-attention cycle' seems active to effect public sentiment and behavior regarding majority of the main domestic issues. The scholar also suggests that each of these problems all of a sudden capture the public attention, get consistence coverage for a short period of time, and then

constantly disappear from the center of public discussion and attention, even though they are unsettled. Integrating the literature on issue attention cycle in child marriage coverage, it is imperative to mention that the child marriage restraint-related act that initiated a lot of criticism and coverage from the national mediasphere, drafted on 8th December 2016 and passed on 27th February 2017 by the national parliament of Bangladesh. Therefore, the study considers December 2016 as the moment when the issue captures the public attention while end of February 2017 to be as the periods to have consistence coverage for a short period of time, and then the interest is supposed to be decline following the issue attention cycle. Based on the rational mentioned, the study considers searching the electronic archives of selected bengali and english newspapers from December 2016 to May 2017. All news published over the period relevant to child marriage is collected for analysis.

3.2 Profile of the Sampled Newspaper

Both the dailies belong to the same ownership group, i.e. The Transcom Group. Similarly, being from the same ownership group, the page makeup and layout is almost similar in both newspapers that has allowed to analyze a neutral ground to make a clear comparison (See Table 1)

Daily	Language	Regular No. of pages	No. of black and white pages	No. of colored pages	Space per page (sq inch)	width of the column	No. of Supplementar y
Dainik Prothom Alo	Bengali	20	14	6	287	1.75''	7
Daily Star	English	20	14	6	287	1.75''	4

Table 1: Profile of the Bengali and English language media

The Dainik ProthomAlo is chosen to represent as one the most extensively read bengali newspapers in the world. The Dainik ProthomAlo meaning "First Light of the day" is the second most circulated newspaper in Bangladesh. (Report on 2016-04-02, the Daily Star). According to the survey of MRB Bangladesh titled "National Media Survey 2014", more than 4.3 million people every day read the print publication of Dainik ProthomAlo. The online portal of the Dainik ProthomAlo started its journey on 4 November 1998, is considered as the most widely visited Bengali language website.

On the other hand, The Daily Star is the top circulated English language daily among the 21 English dailies published from Bangladesh, with 41.15 thousand circulations (report 2014-03-11, The Daily Star March 11, 2014). The Online version of The Daily Star updates 24/7 with the latest news. Although the daily's circulation is nine times less than to the Dainik ProthomAlo, its status in Bangladesh is considered to that of the Independent (UK) as well as The New York Times (USA), (Ali 2007). The daily is among the elite press of Bangladesh that has seen as the most prestigious newspaper because of its readership mainly highly educated middle-upper middle class and opinion leaders.

3.3 Procedures of Content Analysis and Design

Data for the study are collected based on the stipulated units of analysis. All the data sets have been categorized and charted according to research question. Coding guide and coding sheet are used to interpret the data. The study follows Rene Hobbs instructional practices of media literacy education frames for analyzing the sample news. Following the approach by Hobbes (2010), the unit of analysis for the study has been categorized into a coding sheet (See Chapter two: Conceptualizing news literacy from Bangladesh perspective part, P: 8). Hobbes suggests media literacy approach includes careful examination of the constructed nature of particular texts by using critical thinking and analyze message quality, veracity, credibility and point of view, by comparing and contrasting two texts that address the same topic. Based on this

literature, selected stories are placed into specified categories, and content analyzed both quantitative and qualitatively to examine the coverage of child marriage from news literacy perspective. The quantitative analyses have focused on the news to interpret statistical fact and development of the news plot; frequency used to cover child marriage issue in the form of treatment on page and fold, size, types, quadrant, section page, source of coverage (See Appendix 1). While In the phase of qualitative analyses news article are scrutinized based on the language used in the headline, pictorial presentation, trend of coverage, designation of the author, Protagonist, use of hyperbolic and rhetoric language, presence of strong character. This the category for analysis has been defined as follows:

Story Placement: In the whole analysis, are categorized as front page, Back Page, Editorial, City, Country, Supplement, Opinion, and other. The front and back page coverage are especially scrutinized considering very significant while other pages are labeled as inside pages as well as considered less significant to interpret the importance of coverage.

Quadrant: it refers to position of the article on the page. If the news placed in the upper fold of the page is labeled as “UF” while placed lower fold of the page is labeled as “LF”. News placed to both upper and lower part of the page has labeled as “N” defining Position neutral. In case, articles are found to cover the whole page is titled as “W” in the coding sheet.

Size: Size of news reports are classified into three categories, i.e. ordinary, prominent and extraordinary. This aspect is evaluated through the method of counting the number of the column of published news items. News reports that contained 1-2 columns are coded ordinary while 3-4 columns are coded prominent, 5-8 columns are as extraordinary.

News Lengths: Length has been counted in words that include the whole story, headlines, caption of photographs and any other relevant parts if found. The study has considered the total number of words contrary to usual column inches to calculate the length of coverage as the width of column differs from newspaper to newspaper. News that is less than 300 words has counted as small size news while Between 300 to 600 words news labeled as medium and more than 600 words categorized as large article.

Types of coverage: The style of writing the story has categorized into several parts.

General News: News related to daily events maintaining a definite journalistic structure where objectivity is maintained strictly. Staff reporters cover these types of news.

Editorial: Editorial comments from the editor of the newspaper published in the editorial pages that are presented with strong logic and argumentation.

Opinion: Article written by columnists and other professionals published usually in the opinion or editorial pages. As oppose to usual objective news, writers add their own viewpoint in a logical manner guiding the audience to create awareness on any contemporary issue.

Special opinion news: opinion based article published in the supplementary page other than regular pages of the newspaper.

Origin/Source of Story: The author of the text presented in the newspaper is categorized as follows:

Staff Correspondent: Articles that are written by professional staff who are paid for their work from respective newspaper.

Reader: Story that are written usually in the editorial pages by general readers of the newspaper who not professional journalist but an expert or somehow linked to child marriage and related act

Unknown: Article source that could not be identified as either staff reporter or reader.

Tone: The slant or way of presenting news is categorized as favorable if the news favors the anti-child marriage sentiment, while opposite trends labeled as unfavorable. If the tone is not determined are tagged as neutral.

The frequency of coverage on child marriage - with the number of mentions of the issues in any single publication of newspaper are categorized as (i) 1 – 2 times; (ii) 3 –4 times; and (iii) 5 mentions and above.

Protagonists: the term has defined as the number of sources directly quoted in the story has been counted to compare how frequently prominent global organizations such as the Human Right Watch, UNESCO or government officials are cited as key advocates for child marriage issues in the newspapers

Panel discussions and initiatives: it has defined by the frequency of news that reported special roundtables, seminars and discussions with experts and other initiatives to raise awareness on the issue.

Based on the factor as mentioned above, by comparing the trends how the presses in general cover reports on child marriage is identified.

3.4 Evaluation of the Research

The aim of this research is to promote news literacy by developing critical thinking in identifying multiple aspects of a problem and generate recommendations to upgrade the situation. Therefore, researcher adopted pragmatic paradigm and content analysis methodology in order to achieve the practical goals. Even though this research is based on pragmatic paradigm, main researcher gathered data by quantitative and qualitative methods. This chapter explains the ways to achieve rigor and credibility of this research.

Regarding media related content analysis there are different types of validity and reliability. Morgan (2013) claims as the issue of validity has received much less systematic attention in content analysis, the typical approach would be to rely on the "face validity" of the codebook for capturing the topics of interest. In their major study on rethinking validity and reliability in content analysis, Potter & Levine-donnerstein (1999) suggests two stages of mechanism to ensure validity in content analysis. In first phase, they suggest researchers to design a coding sheet that outline variables; basis for recognizing these variables, and their values in the content that are coded. In the next stage, researchers have to compare the coding choice designed by coders with some standard. Supporting this view, Tal & Gordon (2016) highlighted that the reliability and validity of content analysis could be checked by repeating the research method on several, similar case studies. Matthes & Kohring (2008) suggests to ensure that study objectives are captured in the categories of the code book.

Keeping in light the main research problem, the current study has broken all the concepts down to what researcher perceived and what the previous research determined as core elements. The processes of validity are aided by the use of a coding sheet where all stages of data collection process and decisions are documented. In that process, the study has followed the coding approaches of Lynch & Peer (2002). Other scholars, including Hussain and Munawar, 2017; Gugsa, 2016, Zaheer 2014; Moges, 2013; Houston et al., 2012; Shafi,2011; also followed the similar approach in their media content analysis. Thus the study has validated by comparing the coding decisions of coders against some standard (Potter & Levine-donnerstein, 1999) and repeating the research method on several similar case studies (Tal & Gordon 2016).

Noble& Smith (2015) also suggest to provide clear descriptions of the research process and transparency of researcher's decisions. In present research, the transparency of research process is enhanced by means of detailed description of each cycle of content analysis. A total of 71 sample news article found during the study periods are converted into two separate PDF file, one is for english newspaper while the other is for bengali newspaper, with the sequence of date of publication. From this documents the findings are encoded into coding sheet (see appendix 1). Coding sheet enabled the researcher to carefully think about the research process, checking the objectivity of the findings and establish transparency of the research. Descriptions of all facets of the research and data collection method are reported in Chapter Three while findings are reported in Chapter Four.

Triangulations in its different formation are acknowledged effective to enhance the reliability of a study (Lillis, 2006; Lukka, 1988). Triangulation of approaches can empower a case researcher to cover a broader field of behavioral, attitudinal historical aspects, and to promote converging points of research problem that can link to set case study outcomes and discussions more conclusive and authentic (Yin, 1994).Hence, the present research has employed by involving both qualitative and quantitative methods that provide more comprehensive interpretation of the study problem than either qualitative or quantitative methods alone (Creswell, 2012; Riffe, Lacy, & Fico;1998; Tal & Gordon 2016). For instance, in this study context quantitative research is weak to interpret the setting or significance of the coverage on Child Marriage, something that qualitative research can clarify more precisely. On the contrary, qualitative study is faulty due to probable one-sided analysis and interpretations. Thus,

employing both genres of approach, the substances of each method has compensated the weaknesses of the other. Hence, using the mix methods has enabled the researcher to examine the evidence from different vantage points and add to the research's reliability (Creswell, 2012; Morgan, 2013).

4 FINDINGS

4.1 Quantitative Outcomes

To find the answer of research question, how Bangladeshi media has covered the child marriage issue, news coverage of ‘The Daily Star’ (English language newspaper) and the ‘Dainik Prothom Alo’ (Bengali language newspaper) are analyzed and found that newspapers give less space in the form of news items to cover the issue. This finding reflects the core idea of issue attention cycle theory by Down’s (1972) as the coverage of child marriage issue does not remain sharply focused on media for longer period (See Chapter 3.2 Data Collection and Time Frame, P: 27). Data shows that media has published the highest amount of news in March when the child marriage act has been passed, around 25%, and then the focus on the issue gradually declined in following months (See Table 2).

Periodical Coverage	The Daily Star	Dainik Prothom Alo	Total Coverage
December,2016	12.68%	4.23%	16.9%
January,2017	7.04%	2.82%	9.86%
February,2017	8.45%	5.63%	14.08%
March,2017	21.13%	4.23%	25.35%
April,2017	7.04%	11.27%	18.31%
May,2017	4.22%	11.27%	15.49%
Total	60.56%	39.44%	100%

Table2: Month-wise Coverage on English and Bangla Language Media

Number of news coverage is considered as the most important factors for measuring the prominence of the coverage (Norris, 1995). Therefore, it can claim based on the finding that the issue gets more attention in english newspaper as it published 43 reports (60.56 %) while only 28 reports are found in bengali newspaper which is 39.44% of the total articles.

4.1.1 The frequency of news in term of length and size

Analyzing the size of the articles, it is found that 57.75% of the coverage published in newspaper is ordinary news, covered within 1-2 columns. As far as Bengali language media concern, not a single extraordinary report that covered within 5-8 columns is found during the whole study periods. (See Table 3)

Number of Column	The Daily Star	Dainik Prothom Alo	Total
Ordinary (1-2 Column)	28.2%	29.56%	57.75%
Prominent (2-4 Column)	14.1%	9.85%	23.94%
Extra Ordinary (5-8 Column)	18.31%	0%	18.31%
Total	60.54%	39.46%	100%

Table 3: Distribution of news on the basis of column

The frequency of news in-term of length is found to be consistent with the coverage of newspaper. However, the majority of news that is covered more than 600 words labeled as large news category, is found in the coverage of English media (See Table 4)

Length of article	The Daily Star	Dainik Prothom Alo	Total coverage
Small = less than 300 words	16.9%	18.4%	35.1%
Medium= Between 300 to 600 words	18.3%	12.7%	31.1%
Large= More than 600 words	25.34%	8.45%	33.8%
Total	60.54%	39.46%	100%

Table 4: Length-wise coverage by English and Bangla language media

4.1.2 Placement of news on fold and page

The study seeks to enquire the placement of the news published in media and found that most of the stories on child marriage issues are buried in inside pages, thereby giving very minimal prominence to the problems. As opposed to 70.34% coverage on the inside page, only 29.57% reports are found either in front or in back pages of the newspaper. (See Table 5)

Page Title	The Daily Star	Dainik Prothom Alo	Total Coverage
Front Page	9.86%	5.63%	15.49%
Back Page	9.86%	4.24%	14.08%
Inside Page	40.84%	29.59%	70.43%
Total	60.54%	39.46%	100%

Table 5: Placement of News on different pages

Also, it is found that 53.52% of coverage is found in the upper fold of the page whereas 15.49% news is found in the middle, that illustrate that 69% of the coverage is somehow linked with the upper fold of the page in the studied newspapers.

4.1.3 Types of news

News items more than other forms of media contents, dominated the forms of coverage given to the issues. Media has published mostly incident-based news depend on bare facts as 66.2% of the reports are found to be general (hard or soft news) while only 8.45% coverage are found to be editorial covering the child marriage issue (See Table 6)

Type of News	The Daily Star	Dainik Prothom Alo	Total
General News	33.8%	32.39%	66.2%
Opinion News	15.5%	0%	15.5%
Editorial	5.63%	2.82%	8.45%
Special Opinion News	5.63%	4.22%	9.85%

Table 6: News category -wise coverage on English and Bangla language media

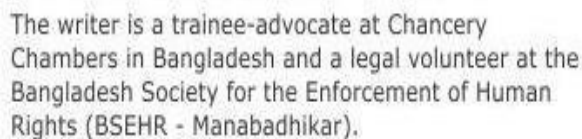
In the coverage of bengali language newspaper, the reflection of public opinion are found very limited as not a single opinion news are published to portray the issue.

4.2 Qualitative Outcomes

4.2.1 Source of coverage

Analyzing the author of the news, the study found that 70.41% sources of the articles are staff correspondents. The voice of experts are found to be missing in the coverage of the Dainik Prothom Alo as 4.22% of its news coverage are written by the guest writers or experts, those who are not paid employee of the newspaper.

Analyzing the title and working organization of this guest writer, it is found that writers are mostly experts who come from variety of discipline of the society, i.e. University Professor, lawyer, Writer, Editor, Project manager, Chairman, executive director, volunteer and Human right worker working in different national and international organization. However, 4.23% of coverage is found where non-expert writers are the source of the article. (See the picture 1)



The writer is a trainee-advocate at Chancery Chambers in Bangladesh and a legal volunteer at the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR - Manabadhikar).

Source: 10th January 2017 (The Daily Star)

Picture 1: Title of the non-expert author of the text

4.2.2 Pictorial presentation and tone of the article

It is found that much of the news items shows positive slant as compared to negative as well as neutral coverage as 73.8 % of the coverage is in favor of against child marriage while 8.7% are found in unfavorable and 18.5% in neutral tone.

Concerning the presence of picture in the article, it is noticed that 70.42% of articles are published without any presence of picture. Other 29.58% cases where presence of picture are found along with child marriage related reports, the central character of this issue seen to be present passively. For example picture published on 30th December 2016 in the Daily Star with news headline of “Sharmin, now a crusader against child marriage” is seen to present the center character with less prominence while a male national role model got the spotlight which in the issue context found irrelevant. (See Picture 2)



Picture 2: Character of child marriage presented as side character.

Sometimes newspapers are found to publish sensitive news and picture without considering ethics in publishing photographs. Same picture are found to use in different news on child marriage. (See Picture 3)



A girl holds a placard protesting the special provision of the proposed Child Marriage Prevention Act-2016 at a demonstration in the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Under-18 girls must not be married off

Demand rights activists, opposing special legal provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The special provision of the proposed Child Marriage Prevention Act-2016, which allows marriageable age for females before 18, will not only encourage child marriage but also affect children's right and women empowerment, said eminent rights activists.

They made the comments at a demonstration in Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, reiterating their demand for the removal of the special provision.

Hundreds of teenage girls, guardians and rights activists participated in the event under the banner of Samakhi Pustorokh Committee – a platform of 49 rights and non-government organisations.

The minimum legal age of marriage for females in Bangladesh is 18, according to the existing law. Modifying it, the government last year added a 'special provision' that will be effective once the parliament approves it. As per section 19 of the proposed act, signed by the cabinet on November 24, a child marriage would not be considered an offence if it was for the interest of the underage girl. This has to be done in line with the directives of a court, with the consent of the parents, and following due procedure.

"Girls should not be married off before 18, not even in any special circumstances," said Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.



Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir speaks at the event.

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir said the government did not mention any specific age for girls in the special provision. So, there is a huge possibility that they could be married off at a very early age, even at 13 or 14, she said.

Child abusers and rapists could take advantage of the law by creating situations, which will force the parents to marry their daughters off to them.

Sadia Akter, a nine grader from Sunamganj, said no girls had wanted to get married before finishing their study.

Eti Robi Das, a mother of a 13-year-old girl in the capital's Wari area, said, "The guardians don't want to marry their daughters off before 18 as the special provision is not needed."

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid, said the government has added the special provision considering security of the girls, but marrying them off before 18 could not be a solution. Instead of security, they will be victims of physical and mental torture.

Shahreen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Rasheda K Chowdhury, adviser to a former caretaker government; Inat Ara Haque, national coordinator of We Can Bangladesh; Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association; and Chanchana Chakma, president of Hill Women's Federation; also spoke.

Source 1: 19th January 2017 (The Daily Star)

Rights of our girls and women

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

A blueprint for ending child marriage

SADIA AKTER, M NIJERA KORI, KHUSHI KABIR, and ZAHED WARIAN

When a young girl is pushed into marriage, the damage can last long after her wedding day. Research shows that girls who marry before the age of 18 receive less schooling than those who marry later, have a higher risk of domestic abuse, and suffer a lifetime of adverse effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.

Yet child marriage continues to be a common practice in the developing world. According to UNICEF, there are more than 70 million women alive today who

were married before they turned 18. One in three women aged 20-24 were married or in a union while still a child. While this is done to end this harmful practice? Bangladesh offers both a possible blueprint and a cautionary tale.

Today, Bangladesh has the world's highest rate of marriage among girls under 18, and evidence against Bangladesh women is on the rise. Unfortunately, legal efforts to protect women and girls by criminalising aspects of child marriage (in particular dowry deaths) in the political culture, the accommodation of religious extremists, and the persistence of gender bias. The existing law protecting aspects of child marriage in the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) of 1929 dates to the British colonial period. The law stipulates terms of imprisonment or a fine for anyone who "contracts," "substantiates" or arranges a marriage with a girl

under the age of 18 already prevalent in Bangladesh by personal laws based on religion. The newly passed amendment of the CMRA – the CMRA 2017 – allows for exceptions for "special cases," which remain entirely undefined.

The "special cases" clause was earlier interpreted by an official to mean "for the sake of honour" – which presumably could include pregnancy following a rape – but as the marriage has a woman's approval and the parents consent, such a framework could ultimately reduce legal provisions – such as the right to consent – that girls have had for almost a century.

Despite these legal challenges, Bangladesh's experience may offer hope. Overhauling the current child marriage laws, Bangladesh has made important strides in improving the lives of girls and women during the last three decades. A generation ago, it was unusual for girls

to attend school. Today, over 90 per cent of girls in Bangladesh are enrolled in primary school. The government has invested heavily in girls' education, and the results are showing. The number of girls in school has increased significantly, and the quality of education has improved. This has led to a significant increase in the literacy rate among girls, and a corresponding increase in their economic and social participation in society.



in Bangladesh, but marrying them off before 18 could not be a solution. Instead of security, they will be victims of physical and mental torture. The government has added the special provision considering security of the girls, but marrying them off before 18 could not be a solution. Instead of security, they will be victims of physical and mental torture.

Child abuse and rapists could take advantage of the law by creating situations, which will force the parents to marry their daughters off to them. The guardians don't want to marry their daughters off before 18 as the special provision is not needed. The government has added the special provision considering security of the girls, but marrying them off before 18 could not be a solution. Instead of security, they will be victims of physical and mental torture.

Source2: 27th February 2017 (The Daily Star)

Source 3: 11th of April, 2017(The Daily Star)

Picture 3: Coverage of the same picture in different news articles of the Daily Star English Translation of the poster: "No More Child Marriage, will proceed forward with a dream."

In addition, other than the picture published in 19th January 2017, captions are also found missing in other two reports that illustrates media is inconsistent in adding the caption of the picture.

4.2.3. Presence of protagonist

Finding shows newspaper have used a variety of source of protagonist to portray child marriage issue such as UNICEF, Human right watch, Girls Not Brides, Save the Children, Plan and World vision along with government, non-government officials and organization. However, these protagonists are mostly portrayed as reference; no direct quotation of this key activist are found in the coverage to raise awareness against child marriage (See picture 4)



Picture 4: Reference of passive Protagonist in the coverage of Bangla language newspaper

English Translation:

“Child marriage law disappoints”

*The government and the parliament have once again proven that they do not value the divergent views. Totally ignoring all speculations, protests and concerns, they have gone ahead to pass the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, with ‘special provisions’. Two branches of the government (executive and legislative) have shown that they have no qualms in disregarding different views and reasoning. The government has gone ahead to do exactly what various women’s organizations, **Unicef, UNFPA, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission** and other organizations have been urging them not to do. Even the religious bodies didn’t seem very active in this regard.”*

Source: Dainik Prothm Alo (3rd March 2016)

4.2.4 Practice of ethics and cross-checking in reporting

Reports in a few cases are found to lack cross-checking and headlines mismatched the content of news. For example report published in the Daily Star on 11th April 2017 with

headline of “draft rules on the child marriage restrain act 2016” where the title addressed the act as 2016 mistakenly. In another report published in the same daily on 12th February 2017 with headline of “a thorn in the flesh” seen to describes the issue of child marriage in the article which the analysis marked as confusing headline in relation to content. A similar cases has also found, again in the Daily Star on May 22, 2017 with headline of “Judiciary getting non-cooperation” where the content of the article is found to be confusing as it cover the chief justice statement in criticizing law ministry, price hick and child marriage act 2017.

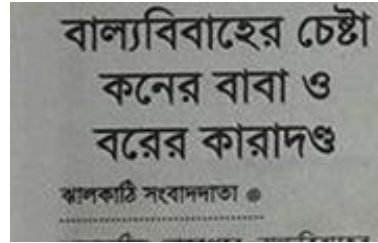
4.2.5 Special characteristics and trends of coverage

The problem of child marriage, reason and guideline are found minimum in the coverage while one-sided news making seems popular as the statement from opposition part found missing. For example the Daily Star published a news on 2nd December 2016 with headline of “Girl’s marriage before 18 years” where the possible concern and drawbacks of the newly proposed child marriage act are addressed in the content while the statement of opposition side those who are in favor of the act is completely ignored.

On the other hand, from a positive point of view, it is found that, editorially media remain thoroughly critical and present the weaknesses and negligence of child marriage act related aspects to the readers and has exposed positive aspects of child marriage-related accomplishments. Focusing more qualitative based on the different aspect of the coverage, it has been seen that media published broadly person-focused children marriage news that portray character those succeed to fight against child marriage (See Picture 4)



“A village of hundred
Percent Child marriage”
Source 1: 10th December 2016
(Dainik Prothom Alo)



“Attempts to child marriage
Bride's father and Bridegroom Jailed”
Source 2: 3rd May 2017
(Dainik Prothom Alo)

Picture 4: Person-centric news headline published in the Daily Prothom Alo with English translation

Analyzing the words of the article, the study has seen to use of hyperbolic words in coverage, i.e. “Crusader”, “Symbol of Protest”, “Icon and Model of Protest”. In the study, the hyperbolic language refers to the use of words that exaggerates the reality of a situation to grab the reader’s attention and engaged them as well. The presences of such words are found quite often in the article published in the Daily Star, even in the headline. For example “Crusaders against child marriage, dowry” (6th January 2017, the Daily Star), “A special kind of stupid” (14th February 2017, The Daily Star), “A blueprint for ending child marriage” (11th March 2017, The Daily Star).

However, the missing link identified in the analysis is lack of focused, planned, proactive, and in-depth reporting. The study considered this kind of reporting as essential to raise awareness against child marriage

Based on the above findings stated above it can highlight that media gives less prominence in the form of news and picture to cover the child marriage issue; treatment on child marriage issue are found mostly on inside page while 75% of the coverage is covered as ordinary news. However, coverage is generally found in the upper fold of the page. In addition, media covered the child marriage issue based on bare fact mostly following the structure of general news where 70.41% cases the writer of the content are found staff correspondent.

Person-focused news receives considerable attention in the press more than other aspects of child marriage where influential role models are found to fight against child marriage. Presences of strong protagonist are found in the coverage, though often portrayed passively. Concerning

the presence of picture in the article, the majority of the articles are published without any presences of picture where violations of ethical aspects are also found quite often. Reports are found to lack cross-checking while headlines mismatched the content of media. Moreover, one-sided news making seems popular as the statement from other side found missing.

In comparison with individual newspaper, english media is found to provide comparatively more priority to the certain issue publishing higher numbers of news reports whereas use of hyperbolic language are also found quite frequently.

5 DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Connecting Literature and Research Findings

As frequency and consistency of news is one of the basis to identify the coverage preference (Norris, 1995), reasonably findings suggest that Bangladeshi press does not provide enough importance to the cover the child marriage issue in the form of news and editorials. Result shows among the 364 publication of the newspapers analyzed, 57 (15%) publication has covered the issue while 307 (85%) do not include the issue. Even within the 57 publications of the newspapers that have mentioned the problems, the consistency of coverage is found to be minimum as 1– 2 time mentions of the issue per publication are found dominant with 96.5% as opposed to 3 time mentions are found only 3.5% while none of the editions has found that has covered the issue more than 3 time. This finding supports previous study by SOLID Nepal, (2012) that suggest the coverage of child are marriage seen as low priority issues in media, both in terms of an article's position on a page and on the broader newspaper (See Chapter 1: Introduction, P-7) and other study (Haider 2007) that also suggest Bangladeshi media give priority to political issue and do not show much interest to capture the struggles of the underprivileged classes and the common masses, who are the overwhelming majority in the country (See Chapter 2.2 Bangladesh landscape and its media environment). Rahman & Alam (2013) also confirms the focus of TV channels is not the mass people, preferably the elite class having money, power, influence and affiliation with major political parties. The result is also supported by the concept of media framing which Entman (1993) suggest that focusing to some element of real-world while ignoring other aspects in media coverage might guide readers to have different viewpoint and perspective. The press has the capability to determine and construct what the public concede crucial by the degree of preference the press provides to issues and how topics are interpreted and offered to the public. From this viewpoint, it can conclude that allocating less preference and coverage to child marriage in the Bangladeshi media; the public may have inadequate information and awareness to child marriage issues.

During the six months, selected newspapers published only 8.45% editorial of total coverage on child marriage. As suggested by many scholars (Van Dijk, 1993; Gill & Whedbee, 1997; Le, 2003) that columns are helpful in shaping the opinion and ideology of target audience and guide them; it can conclude that editorially press overlook the child marriage issue. This finding also reinforces the previous findings by UNICEF (2010) which found that the media allocate very little space and time to children, only 3% or less of total news coverage and the negligence is most apparent within the editorial of the newspapers.

Findings also show that 70.5% of the news on child marriage found in inside pages of the newspapers as opposed to 15.4% and 14.1% respectively in the front and back pages. It merely indicates that the issue does get not only a little coverage but also gets poor priority in the form of page treatment. In fact, covering the majority of the child marriage news in less significant areas while allocating only 29.5% news in the most important position of media suggest that the media do not consider the issue of child marriage important enough to merit the pages. Moreover, it is also noticed that most of the news reports (56%) are of the ordinary size that covered within two columns whereas 23.9 % prominent and 18.3% are extraordinary. It is relevant to refer that front-page coverage is regarded to be the most crucial as well as the vital area to calculate the prominence and priority of the issue (Andrews & Caren, 2010; Wanta, 1997). Prominence refers to the significance that media organizations employ to particular issue to reach the wider target audience (Clayman & Reisner 1998). Similarly, to ascertain the prominence, size is another factor that is considered as significant to set the preference of news coverage (Norris, 1995).

Therefore, it can narrate that english media publish more reports in comparison with bengali media and also allocate more space to this certain issue regarding size and placement. The english media has placed more news on front pages as well as published all the extraordinary news reports (100%) during the study periods. The findings support the statement by Ali (2007) that the status of the newspaper to be influential as well as persuasive in Bangladesh (See 3.2 Profile of the sampled newspaper). Hence, bengali media need to be more critical and concern about child marriage issue as it has the advantage to cover the issue from the native perspective. It is because this media has more interactive impact with mango people than english version of

media to allow them to think critically and capture the spirit of the issue, considering the socio-cultural perspective of the society.

Finding also suggests that newspaper has published sensitive news and picture without considering ethics in publishing photographs while headlines of reports are also found to be lack of cross-checking, irrelevant and misleading. These findings support the comment by Bhuiyan (2002) that the Bangladeshi media are aware of their role in education but don't think they are fulfilling their responsibilities appropriately. In addition, ethical aspects are sometimes ignored in news reporting as well (Islam, 2016; Islam & Marjan, 2013; Rahman, Mehdi, Akher, Akter & Gulshan,2009). In another study, Nipu (2016) argues that credibility of news in Bangladesh faces some challenges including presentation of inaccurate information as a result of unhealthy competition, affiliation with the political parties and dependence on the corporate branding. (See 2.2 Bangladesh landscape and its media environment).

The study also analyzed the direction of the coverage given to the issues of interest to the study and found 73.8 % coverage are in favorable tone to anti-child marriage, 8.7% are unfavorable to the subject while 18.5% are neutral. This is in consonance with the framing roles of the media that emphasizes determining what and how the quantity and facts about the events to be highlighted (Peng, 2008; Entman, 1993; McLeod and Detenber, 1999) as well as suggest the more favorable coverage the media continues to accord child marriage issues, the more members of the audience will be favorably disposed to this matters to the extent of joining the advocacy against child marriage.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the finding and discussion, the study suggests some guideline to reform the scenario:

△News literacy is connected to social literacy as well as cultural literacy. As oppose to periodical initiatives and projects, a continuous effort is necessary to develop fact checking and critical ability. Therefore, communication between public and journalist might be organized to support

media to perceive the needs of target audience about the news while media can also identify which report is approved and preferred by the target audience.

△The scholastic researchers on news literacy as well as study on target audience's preference are required to set up a baseline. As some corporal bodies possess media, it is crucial to switch the proprietor's mindset, and more cooperation is required at the policy as well as administration level of the media corporation for the needs unique study as well as focuses including developing media literacy symposiums at district levels.

△The ethics and principles of reporting on children are often ignored in media and need education in this respect. The indicator of news quality and standard guideline have to be developed as well as shared with both media content creator and target audiences to improve and implement a new structure of media and news literacy. Laws and regulations about inserting images and pictures in media need to be followed accurately as well as strictly with special care while publishing reports and photos on children issues.

△As an important portion of the society, children need to provide special consideration at the time of presenting in front of media. In child related issues, report should get more priority in the form of size, treatment and frequency of coverage and more attention need to pay on follow-up news as well, especially news that covers violation against children.

△Audiences and readers feedback is important but an overlapped area in media coverage, Participatory journalism should be encouraged by promoting mediated people to provide feedback on the news.

Although the result does not cover the entire media landscape of Bangladesh due to limited sampling and time constraint, the study feels that a more significant size of the sample would probably generate more ideas and comments on news literacy situation of the country. The Study feels the need for new intervention to enhance knowledge of the audience. In future, study can be conducted addressing the audience perspective concerning their news literacy.

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Appendix 1 Coding sheet used for quantitative data interpretation

Coding Sheet (The Daily Star)

No	News headline	Date of Publication	Section Title with page Number(p)	Number of columns	Quadrant : Upper Fold (UF) Lower Fold (LF) Position (N) Neutral (N) Whole (W)	Jump: 1= Yes 2= No	Presence of Photo on the news: 1= Yes 2= No	News length(words) 1= Small (S) ≥ 300 2= Medium(M) 3= 601 ≤ Large (L)	Types of news: 1= General news, 2= Opinion news, 3=Editorial & sub Ed. News, 4= Supplement and others article	News Source: 1= Staff reporter 2= Reader 3= Unknown
1	Girls' Marriage Before 18 Years	2-Dec	Back, (p20)	3	UF	1	2	445 (M)	1	1
2	Child Marriage: HRW urges MPs not to pass draft bill	3-Dec	Back, (p16)	1	UF	1	2	519 (M)	1	1
3	Child Marriage: Nothing to worry about new law: PM	8-Dec	Back, (p16)	1	UF	1	2	685 (L)	1	1
4	Why child marriage is good for neither	9-Dec	Editorial, (p6)	6	LF	2	1	808 (L)	2	2
5	Child Marriage: Bill placed in JS, sent to committee	9-Dec	Back, (p16)	1	N	1	2	325 (M)	1	1
6	child marriage is a blot of shame for human rights	10-Dec	Opinion, (p7)	8	UF	2	2	870 (L)	2	2
7	A girl's struggle against child marriage	26-Dec	Book review,12	4	LF	2	1	943 (L)	2	2
8	To legalise child marriage!	28-Dec	Country, (p13)	3	LF	2	2	431 (M)	1	1 (by line)
9	Sharmu, now a crusader against child marriage	30-Dec	Country, (p 6)	3	UF	2	1	311 (M)	1	1
10	Cycle race against child marriage	1-Jan	Country, (p13)	2	LF	2	1	298 (S)	1	1
11	Crusaders against child marriage, dowry	6-Jan	Country, (p 7)	3	LF	2	1	280 (S)	1	1
12	the problem with the Child Marriage Act	10-Jan	Editorial, (p 6)	6	LF	2	1	737 (L)	2	2
13	Scrap law on girls' marriage before 18	17-Jan	City, (p5)	2	LF	2	2	180 (S)	1	1
14	Under-18 girls must not be married off	19-Jan	City, (p5)	4	UF	2	1	473 (M)	1	1
15	A thorn in the flesh	12-Feb	Front, (p1)	4	UF	1	2	708 (L)	1	1
16	CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT BILL	14-Feb	Law&Right,12	3	LF	2	1	393 (M)	2	2
17	A special kind of stupid	14-Feb	Editorial, (p 6)	8	UF	2	1	834 (L)	2	2
18	Asking the right questions	27-Feb	Sup, (p3)	8	W	2	1	1422 (L)	4	2
19	Rights of our girls and women	27-Feb	Sup, (p18)	8	W	2	1	2153 (L)	4	2
20	Bill passed Okaying underage marriage in 'special cases'	28-Feb	Front, (p 1)	3	LF	1	2	1382 (L)	1 (2nd lead)	1
21	Child Marriage Act: Rights bodies decry special provision	1-March	Front, (p1)	1	UF	1	2	424 (M)	1	1
22	Underage marriage bill passed	1-March	Editorial, (p6)	2	UF	2	2	261 (S)	3	2

23	New law will encourage child marriage: BNP
24	Undermining the welfare of children
25	Prevent misuse of new child marriage act
26	Limit harms of new child marriage prevention law
27	No time to wait for a miracle to happen
28	New law to cut child marriage by half in 2yrs
29	Another regression therapy for Bangladeshis?
30	A blueprint for ending child marriage
31	Let girls grow up as equal citizens
32	Child Marriage Act: President gives nod
33	Why did we take a step backwards?
34	NHRC chief calls for detailed guideline
35	Save your daughters, contest the "Special Provision"
36	EP for closing 'loopholes' in anti-child marriage law
37	Draft Rules on the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2016
38	Anti-child Marriage Law: HC questions spl provision
39	'No child marriage in Rajapur as long as I am alive'
40	Marjia's suicide
41	Bizarre excuse to not stop child marriages
42	The Spectacular Seven
43	Judiciary getting non-cooperation

3-March	City, (p3)	1	UF	2	2	134 (S)	1	1
3-March	Opinion, (p7)	8	UF	2	1	1036 (L)	2	2
3-March	Front (p1)	1	LF	1	2	569 (M)	1	1
4-March	Front (p1)	1	LF	1	2	552 (M)	1	1
7-March	Law&Right,(12	8	UF	2	2	944 (L)	2	1
9-March	Back, (p16)	1	N	1	2	335 (M)	1	1
10-March	Editorial,(p14)	6	LF	2	1	1141 (L)	2	2
11-March	Editorial, (p6)	6	LF	2	1	1118 (L)	2	2
12-March	Editorial, (p6)	6	UF	2	1	1000 (L)	2	2
12-March	Back, (p16)	1	N	1	2	255 (S)	1	1
14-March	Editorial, (p 6)	6	LF	2	1	1058 (L)	2	2
24-March	City, (p3)	2	UF	2	2	273 (S)	1	1
27-March	Editorial, (p 6)	2	LF	2	2	265(S)	3 (letter)	2
7-Apr	Back, (p16)	1	N	1	2	204 (S)	1	1
11-Apr	Law&Right,(12	8	UF	2	1	883 (L)	2	2
11-Apr	Front, (p1)	2	N	1	2	714 (L)	1	1
16-Apr	Country,(p13)	3	N	2	1	259 (S)	1	1
19-Apr	Editorial, (p6)	2	N	2	2	253 (S)	3	1
19-May	Editorial, (p6)	2	UF	2	2	305 (M)	3	1
22-May	Editorial, (p6)	2	UF	2	2	296 (S)	3	1
22-May	Front, (p1)	2	LF	1	2	517 (L)	1	1

Coding Sheet (The Daily Prothom Alo)

No	News headline	Date of Publication	Section Title with page Number(p)	Num-ber of col-umn	Quadrant : Upper Fold (UF) Lower Fold (LF) Position Neutral (N) Whole (W)	Jump: 1= Yes 2= No	Presen- ce of Photo on the news: 1= Yes 2= No	News length(words) 1≤ Small (S) ≥ 300 301≤Medium(M) ≥600 601≤ Large (L)	Types of news: 1= General news, 2= Opinion news, 3=Editorial & sub Ed. News, 4= Supplement and others article	News Source: 1= Staff reporter 2= Reader 3= Unknown
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	10 child marriage on November	How far will 'exception clause' protect girls?	2-Dec	Country, (p3)	1	N	2	2*	S	1	3*(b)
12	Villages of hundred per cent child brides!	10-Dec	Back page,(p20)	3	UF	1	2	L	4	1	1
3	success story of determined selma	10-Dec	Back page,(p20)	1	UF	1	2	M	1	1	1(By 1)
4	School Child going to get married in Teknar	3-Jan	Front page, (p1)	2	LF	1	1*	M	1	1	1(By 1)
5	Special Clause applicable for boys also	6-Jan	Country, (p3)	1	UF	2	2	S	1	1	1
6	Boys can marry under new act	10-Feb	News, (p2)	2	UF	2	2	S	1	1	1
7	Oath to Say no to Child Marriage	24-Feb	Front, (p1)	2	UF	1	2	L	1 (lead news)	1	1(By 1)
8	Child marriage act passed	27-Feb	Bisal bangla,(p8)	1	UF	2	2	S	1	1	1(By 1)
9	marriage law disappoints	28-Feb	Front, (p1)	2	LF	1	2	M	1	1	1
10	Affter, Child marriage end in murder because of dorry	1-March	Editorial, (p10)	2	UF	2	2	S	3	1	1(ccto)
11	thout to go court to protect girls from child marriage	7-March	Bisal Bangla,(p9)	2	LF	2	2	S	1	1	1
12	Stopping child marriage, Sonya back to classroom	19-march	Mohanager,(p5)	2	UF	2	2	M	1	1	1
13	Rules from court on child marriage act	10-Apr	Country, (p3)	1	UF	2	2	S	1	1	1
14	Seven brave girls	11-Apr	Country, (p3)	4	UF	2	2	L	1	1	1
15	Female footballer resist child marriage	18-Apr	harmoneh,(p14)	4	UF	2	1	M	4	1	1(By 1)
16	Social Movement to resist Child Marriage	19-Apr	Front, (p1)	1	UF	1	2	L	1	1	1
17	33 thousand students took oath in Taraganz	19-Apr	Editorial, (p10)	2	UF	2	2	S	3	1	1
18	Glashful resist anoth child marriage	20-Apr	Country, (p3)	3	UF	2	1	M	1	1	1
19	Marriage register have to verify the age of bride and groom using mobile phone	20-Apr	Country, (p4)	3	UF	2	2	M	1	1	1
20	Attent to Child marriage, brides father and groom jailed	20-Apr	Country, (p3)	1	UF	2	2	S	1	1	1
21	They are protecting themselves from child marriage	3-May	News,(p16)	1	N	2	2	S	1	1	1
22	two girls save from Child marriage in Feni	9-May	Sup, (p14)	4	UF	2	2	L	4	1	1(By 1)
23	Gashfull resist child marriage	13-May	Back, (P20)	1	LF	2	2	S	1	1	1
24	Friends initiative stops child marriage	18-May	Country, (P4)	2	N	2	2	M	1	1	1
25	New law permits child marriage	19-May	News,(P16)	1	UF	2	2	S	1	1	1
26	UNDP reports, 65% child marriage across county	20-May	Country,(P4)	2	UF	2	2	M	1	1	1
27	Teenage resist her friend from child marriage	23-May	Sup, (P14)	3	UF	2	2	L	4	1	1(By 1)
28		26-May	News, (P2)	2	N	2	2	S	1	1	1

Grand Total

The Daily Star (Total 43 Articles)

Month wise number of News	Total news based on section title	Total Column	Quadrant wise total news	Jump	Picture	length wise total news	Type wise total news	Source wise total number of news
December= 9	Front Page = 7 Back Page = 7	1 Column= 10 2 Column = 10	Upper Fold = 18 Lower Fold= 16	Yes= 14 No= 29	Yes= 18 No= 29	Small= 12 Medium= 13 Large = 18	General News= 24 Opinion based News= 11	Staff= 27 Reader= 16 Unknown=0
January= 5	Editorial Page= 12	3 Column= 7	Position Neutral= 7				Editorial = 4	
February=6	Country & City = 9	4 Column = 3	Whole Page= 2				suppliment and others=4	
March=15	Others (Suppliment, Book review, Law&our right) = 6	5,6 Column=6						
April=5		7,8 Column = 7						
May=3								

The Daily Prothom Alo (Total 28 Articles)

Month wise number of News	Total news based on section title	Total Column	Quadrant wise total news	Jump	Picture	length wise total news	Type wise total news	Source wise total number of news
December= 3	Front Page = 4 Back Page = 3	1 Column= 10 2 Column = 11	Upper Fold = 20 Lower Fold= 4	Yes= 6 No= 22	Yes= 3 No= 25	Small= 13 Medium= 9 Large = 6	General News= 23 Opinion based News= 3	Staff= 24 Reader= 3 Unknown=1
January=2	Editorial Page= 2	3 Column= 4	Position Neutral= 4				Editorial = 2	
February=4	Country, city & News = 16	4 Column = 3	Whole Page= 0					
March=3	Others (Suppliment,) = 3	5,6 Column= 0						
April=8		7,8 Column = 0						
May =8								

Appendix 2: Example coding sheet used for qualitative interpretation

Coding Sheet: Qualitative analysis

1. Newspaper name: a. The Daily Star B. Dainik Prothom Alo
2. Date of publication:
3. News headline:
4. Characteristics of language used in the headline:
.....
.....
5. Tone of the news:
 - a. Favorable
 - b. unfavorable
 - c. Neutral
6. Nature of the Report:
 - a. Person centric child marriage news
 - b. covered the child marriage law
7. Is the source of the news identified clearly?
 - a. Yes (what is the title of the authors:
.....
.....)
 - b. No
8. Presence of Protagonists:
 - a. Yes (mention the protagonists.....
.....)
 - b No
9. Is there any special characteristics found:
10. Is there any suggestive quotes:
11. Pictorial presentation:
12. Panel discussions, initiatives and textual examples for action.....
13. Any other comments that is not covered in above criteria:

Appendix 3: Example page layout of sampled newspapers

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2017

The Daily Star

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STYLE

TIGERS IN SRI LANKA
The Bangladesh team arrive in Colombo for a month-long tour

PAGE 14

A NOTE OF CAUTION
Slower exports and remittances pose new challenges for Bangladesh, says IMF official

PAGE 24

Prescription as usual

Over a month into HC directive, hardly anything changed for patients

POWELL, PAUL AND MOHAMMAD AL-MURSHI, MUMBAI

Over a month and a half has elapsed since the health ministry has issued any circular asking doctors to write prescriptions in block letters or provide printed prescriptions in compliance with the High Court order issued on January 6.

However, Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) in the third week of February issued a circular asking doctors to write prescriptions in block letters or provide printed prescriptions in compliance with the High Court order.

The doctors, at the moment, continue to write the prescriptions the High Court says they have long been doing.

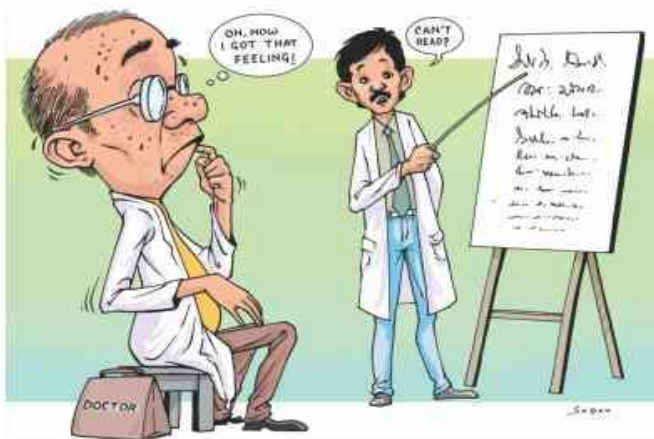
Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Inspector of the BMDC, were asked to issue a circular in 30 days and submit a report in the next six weeks also complying with the directive.

The order came after a writ petition against the backdrop that sloppy transcriptions of doctors' prescriptions have been leading serious risks of drug-related poisoning, especially to patients.

Changri said that they want around 20 percent prescriptions, following an assessment about the doctors have provided.

"This is a real problem for around the patients," said Hassan, who owns an pharmacy in Gulshan-1.

SEE PAGE 7 CONT.



TOP QUOTE

"I'm sorry I'm not with you tonight. My absence is out of respect for the people of my country and those of other six nations who have been disrespected by the inhumane law that bans entry of immigrants to the US."

SEE PAGE 10 FOR QUOTE

Daughter's fight for a hero's due

TRIPURA NEWS SERVICE

On February 28 every year, thousands set out to do something she has been doing for almost a decade.

A resident of Itanagar, she stands firm and unwavering before a court in her city, requesting the news manager to publish a story on her father.

Ranjana Khan Bhattacharya (Dadaha) was only six months old when her father, PNB Bhattacharya, sacrificed his life for a great cause: liberation of democracy in the country.

For this day in 1946, before and after the Partition of India, two Dhaka University Dhaka League leaders were killed after a police attack, plunged into a sea of blood.

The students were protesting against a decision of the honorable Indian High Court to hold up the election.

SEE PAGE 10 CONT.

Bill passed okaying underage marriage in 'special cases'

Opposition MPs' amendment plea turned down; rights groups to protest on March 8

RAJSHAHI, BANGLADESH

Keeping intact a provision that allows marriage of underage girls and boys in "special circumstances," the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Tuesday passed the Child Marriage Restraint Bill, 2017 with 19 and 21 as minimum marriageable age for women and men respectively.

The development comes despite many pleas, petitions and protests by rights groups who think it is a step a good idea to keep any form of marriage over 18 years of age, as a country where one of the world's highest percentage of child marriages take place. With the exception of a few countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Bangladesh has the highest number of underage married girls.

"The 'special circumstances' provision of the law would permit parents and in the absence of parents, a girl's or boy's grand-parents to get a court order and marry their wards-offspring before they reach the minimum marriageable age in their (the child's) best interest."

And an age limit is specified in the law for identifying marriages under such "special circumstances." In practice, it can be 16 years of age, 14 or even below.

The new law got passed in parliament despite a protracted and persistent opposition by

ROHINGYA REFUGEES UN envoy decries Myanmar atrocities

AFP, DHAHA

Rohingya refugees who fled violence in Myanmar have told how government forces going against women, old people's deaths and those children, including babies, a UN report has said after a mission to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the atrocities were "unimaginable" and "shocking" and that the UN will continue to work to help the Rohingya people.

SEE PAGE 10 CONT.

Stop production of drugs by 28 cos

HC asks govt to do it in 72 hrs as the medicines found substandard

DHAKA CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop 28 drug production and marketing of substandard or poor quality and counterfeit drugs by 28 companies as those were found substandard and injurious to public health.

It also asked the government to stop 28 drugs by their makers except the production and marketing of those drugs should be the best quality.

SEE PAGE 10 CONT.

ONLY FRESH CEMENT IS BEING USED TO CONSTRUCT THREE NEW BRIDGES—THE SECOND MEGHNA, KANCHPUR AND GUMTI BRIDGE



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প্রথম আলো



‘জিৱ কেবিরামর সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক কিংবা কখন না’
পৃষ্ঠা : ৭

‘১২ বছর পর বিদেশ শীতের দিকে যেতে পড়া’
পৃষ্ঠা : ১২

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে ‘আরও শাহসী হয়ে হবে’
পৃষ্ঠা : ১৩

‘আমি মানুষটাই বিক্রি করি’
পৃষ্ঠা : ১৬



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DailyProthomBoro.com | ProthomBoro.com

জেকেরে শাকার

বাপীর রূপকথা
কোন দেশে ৩-৫ শতাংশ রক্ত। এটিই হলো বাপীর রক্ত। বাপী হলো বাপের রক্ত। বাপী হলো বাপের রক্ত। বাপী হলো বাপের রক্ত।

কলং বিক্রয়কে সতর্ক দলন জাতিগ্রামে
কলং বিক্রয়কে সতর্ক দলন জাতিগ্রামে। কলং বিক্রয়কে সতর্ক দলন জাতিগ্রামে। কলং বিক্রয়কে সতর্ক দলন জাতিগ্রামে।

মুতার খিলি
মুতার খিলি। মুতার খিলি। মুতার খিলি। মুতার খিলি। মুতার খিলি।

অন্য পাঠ্য
অন্য পাঠ্য। অন্য পাঠ্য। অন্য পাঠ্য। অন্য পাঠ্য। অন্য পাঠ্য।

আমাদের ও রাতে
আমাদের ও রাতে। আমাদের ও রাতে। আমাদের ও রাতে। আমাদের ও রাতে।

আমাদের ও রাতে
আমাদের ও রাতে। আমাদের ও রাতে। আমাদের ও রাতে। আমাদের ও রাতে।

বিশ্ব কর্মসংস্থান দালালদের খপ্পরে বিদেশগামীরা

বিশ্ব প্রতিবেদন
বিশ্ব কর্মসংস্থান দালালদের খপ্পরে বিদেশগামীরা। বিশ্ব কর্মসংস্থান দালালদের খপ্পরে বিদেশগামীরা। বিশ্ব কর্মসংস্থান দালালদের খপ্পরে বিদেশগামীরা।



১৮০ জনের ইউনিয়নের সদস্য বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়নশীল কৃষিকারীদের ইউনিয়নের সভাপতি মোঃ হুমায়ুন কবীর।

মালিকদের স্বার্থে আবারও ব্যাংকের আইন বদল

ব্যাংকের আইন
মালিকদের স্বার্থে আবারও ব্যাংকের আইন বদল। মালিকদের স্বার্থে আবারও ব্যাংকের আইন বদল। মালিকদের স্বার্থে আবারও ব্যাংকের আইন বদল।

পাহাড়তলীতে হাজার হাজার বাঙালি হত্যা

একাত্তরের গণহত্যা
পাহাড়তলীতে হাজার হাজার বাঙালি হত্যা। পাহাড়তলীতে হাজার হাজার বাঙালি হত্যা। পাহাড়তলীতে হাজার হাজার বাঙালি হত্যা।

বাতিঘরের সন্ধানে

বাতিঘরের সন্ধানে
বাতিঘরের সন্ধানে। বাতিঘরের সন্ধানে। বাতিঘরের সন্ধানে। বাতিঘরের সন্ধানে।

সাঁওতালপল্লিতে আগুন দেওয়া দুই পুলিশ সদস্য চিহ্নিত

সাঁওতালপল্লিতে আগুন দেওয়া দুই পুলিশ সদস্য চিহ্নিত
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Advertisement for Rang's air conditioning units. Features images of different models and promotional text like '২০% করে কম বিদ্যুৎ খরচ' and '২০% করে কম শব্দ'.

Advertisement for Walton Inverter Air Conditioner. Includes images of the AC units and technical specifications like 'Intelligent Inverter Air Conditioner for HUGE POWER SAVING'.