Quality journalism under threat

Says IPI boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Partisan journalism and lack of security of the journalists are the major threats to quality journalism flourishing in Bangladesh, said International Press Institute (IPI) Executive Director Alison Bethel McKenzie yesterday. "Quality Journalism is being hampered all over the world

including Bangladesh due to partisan journalism and journalists are now facing different fears that also hinder the way to ensure the booming of journalism", she said.

She made the remarks while talking to journalists after a seminar titled "Major threats to quality journalism: Global and Bangladesh context" organised by Jatri at its office in the city.

At the seminar, Alison expressed fear over the recent murder of journalist couple Sagor Sarowar and Meherun Runi and urged the prime minister to take effective measures to ensure trial of their killers.

In her keynote paper, she highlighted some issues as barriers to ensure professionalism in journalism.

Control of government and corporate bodies on media by threats to withhold advertising, government and corporate favouritism toward certain media houses, harsh libel and privacy laws, physical attack on journalists, lack of access to information laws and media owners censorship are among the major barriers to quality journalism, she said.

The IPI boss also held responsible self-censorship among journalists and editors or publishers and lack of security of the job of journalists for the failure to ensure quality journalism all over the world.

Barbara Trionfi, senior press freedom adviser of IPI, talked of the lack of freedom of the press in the Asia Pacific and mentioned some reasons behind this including lack of democratic government and insecurity of journalists. "The journalists of Asia Pacific, especially in Pakistan, Sri

Lanka, Nepal, Philippines, Myanmar, China, and South Korea, are facing different pressures from the government as well as from the criminal gangs," she said. Renowned journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowhdhury, consult-

ing adviser of The Financial Express, said, without proper democratic ruling system and constitutional freedom of the press, quality journalism cannot be established.

Boishakhi TV CEO and Editor-in-Chief Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul chaired the seminar while Press Institute of Bangladesh Director General Prof Dulal Chandra Biswas, Jatri Executive Director Jamil Ahmedandjournalist Saiful Amin spoke among others.



and guests after inaugurating an art camp at the Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday. The camp has been organised as part of upcoming Odommo Chattagram festival, an initiative of The Daily Star to showcase the history, culture and prospects of the port city. The Daily Star editor and publisher **Mahfuz Anam was** present, among others, during the inauguration. (Story on Page 1)

Prof Anisuzzaman

poses with artists

Corporation

Worker dies at ship Take stern action against breaking yard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A young worker was killed at a Sitakunda ship breaking yard allegedly after falling from a ship while working.

The deceased, identified as Mohammad Forkan, 22, was working as a cutter-helper at S Trading. One Mohammad

Shafi owns the yard at Madambibir Hat in the upazila. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sitakunda Police Station Nur Mohammad said Forkan fell down from a ship while working

there in the afternoon and died on the spot. None noticed the accident at that time. It was revealed when everyone was searching for Forkan while leaving the yard after completing work in the evening, said the OC quot-

ing workers at the yard. The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

food adulterators JS body asks ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the industries ministry to take stern actions against the organisations who are threatening the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) officials for conducting drives _

against food adulteration. The ministry's

parliamentary standing committee at a meeting made the recommendation upon receiving allegation from BSTI in this regard, said a press release issued

by the parliament secretariat. BSTI officials alleged that the organisa-

tions accused of adulterating food items were harassing them and sometimes even giving them death threats.

The officials, however, did not disclose

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any name of the organisations, the standing committee member Meraj Uddin Mollah told journalists after the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital. The meeting, chaired by the committee

Chief Tofail Ahmed, also discussed the activities of Bangladesh Chemical Industries

Bangladesh Sugar organisations accused of and Food Industries Corporation, and adulterating food were Bangladesh Small harassing them and someand Cottage Industries times giving death threats Corporation. The committee discussed the cur-

BSTI officials alleged the

rent stock of fertilisers and urged the ministry to take advance measures to avert any artificial crisis of fertilisers.

At current, the country has a stock of more than 7 lakh metric tonnes fertilisers, said the press release.

Dr Golam Haider granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Dr Golam Haider Rasul, a policymaker of banned militant Islamist organisation Hizb-ut-Tahrir Bangladesh, in a case filed for his alleged involvement with anti-state activities.

Judge Mohammad Jahurul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order upon a bond of Tk one lakh with two guarantors after his lawyer submitted a criminal appeal against a rejection order of the lower court.

In his order, the judge said the law enforcement agencies arrested the petitioner without any prior permission from the higher authorities. Moreover the accused would not flee and misuse of privilege of bail. So, the accused is granted bail, the judge said.

Dr Golam Haider, a physician of the United Hospital, was arrested following all provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act 2010, court sources said.

According to the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act 2010, the law enforcement agencies must have to seek permission from the authorities concerned before arresting any person involved with anti-state activities.

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested cardiac surgeon Golam Haider from his residence in Uttara Sector-3 around 1:30am on January 24, and recovered large numbers of leaflets and books of the banned organisation from his house.

Sources said Dr Golam Haider was arrested following a recent press conference by Bangladesh Army in which it told that there was an attempt to overthrow the government and that Hizbut-Tahrir had a link with the attempt.



(From left) Author Prof Tofail Ahmed, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, and Agamee Prakashani owner Osman Gani hold copies of the book, "Decentralisation and Local State: Study on the Political Economy of Local Government in Bangladesh", during its unveiling at Bangla Academy premises yesterday. (Story on Page 2) PHOTO: STAR

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Dhaka keen to strengthen ties with Bangkok

PM tells envoy

UNB, Dhaka

The outgoing Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh, Tasanawadee Miancharoen paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

During the meeting, the premier said Bangladesh attaches special importance to the relations with its close neighbour Thailand and her government is committed to further develop and strengthen the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation.

She mentioned that Bangladesh is keen to develop cooperation in agriculture including poultry, fisheries, livestock and other agro-based industries due to the Thai successes and experiences in these sectors.

Hasina hoped that Thailand would import various world class Bangladeshi goods including pharmaceutical products, jute and jute goods, ceramics, garments, leather and leather goods, and light engineering products.

She conveyed her sincere and deep sympathy for the loss of lives and damages caused to property in the unprecedented flood in Thailand and expressed the hope that the Thai people will be able to overcome the impacts of the calamity soon.

The outgoing Thai ambassador thanked the government for its cooperation during her tenure.

