

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HURDLES IN THE NOBLE PROFESSION

With the boom in the number of television channels and newspapers, journalism has become an attractive career choice for both men and women. For women however, there are extra challenges in the profession that are exclusive to their gender. Despite the goal of trying to represent a democratic, progressive, society, both print and electronic media have not been able to remove the stigma of parochial attitudes that the overall culture suffers from.

AMITAVA KAR

It happened in broad daylight. All that is decent in human spirit seemed to have disappeared into thin air. Though the incident took only a few minutes, its ripple effects would be felt across the country long after. A posse of angry men reported to be belonging to *Hefajat-e-Islam* (HEI) attacked and assaulted Nadia Sharmin, a reporter of Ekushey Television as she went to cover their huge gathering in Dhaka on April 6. Someone shouted, "What are you doing in a gathering of men?" She told them she was there to do her job as a journalist. That did not go well with them. "I was attacked because I am a woman. About 15 to20 men started it and then there were 50 to 60 of them beating and kicking me while I lay helpless on the ground", recalls Sharmin. She received treatment for injuries to her knee, neck and head. "They would have killed me if some crew members of Diganta TV did not come to my rescue," she adds.