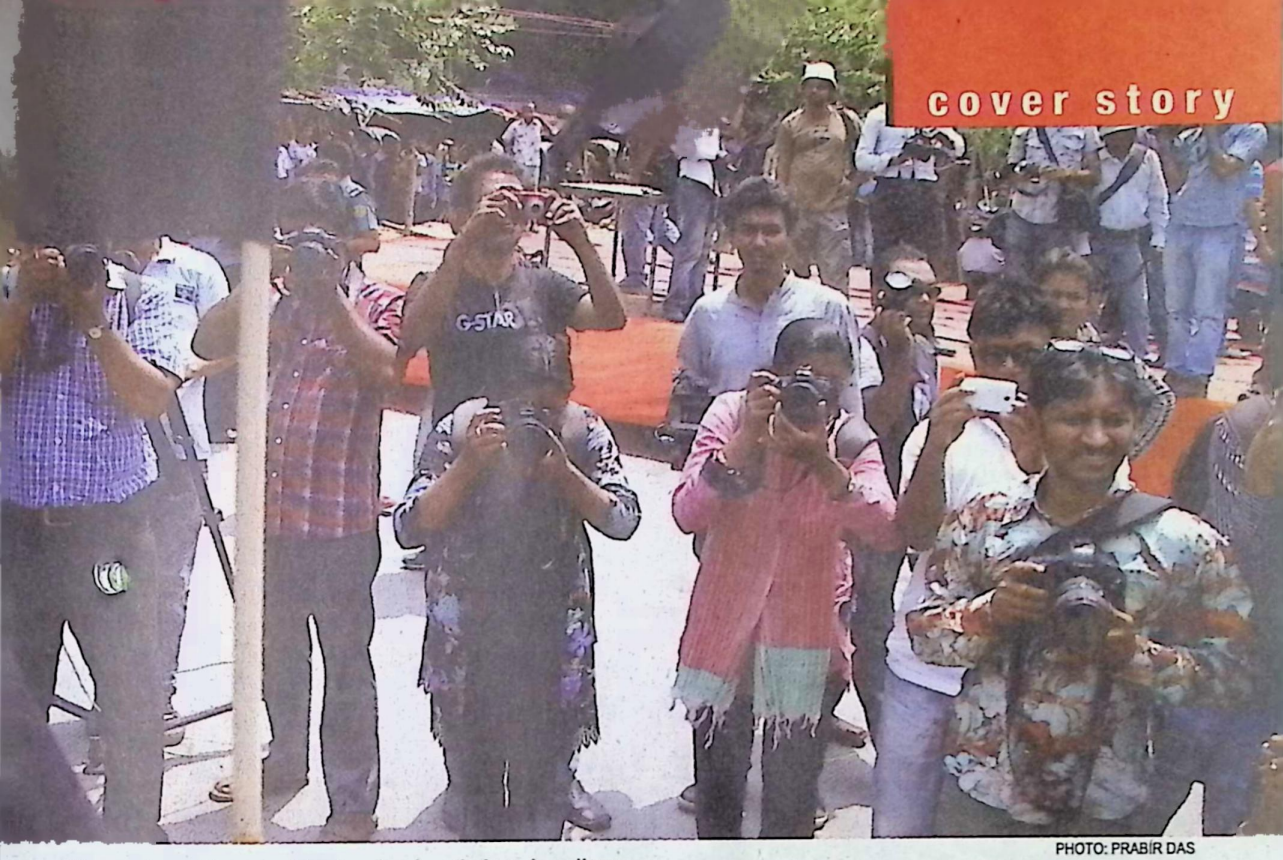


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Women journalists work just as hard as their male colleagues.

Some complain that many media houses have a misogynistic attitude towards women. A journalist who wants to remain anonymous, shares her experience, "I work as a reporter in a private TV channel. When I go out at night for reporting, sometimes people make inappropriate comments. I was felt up at the *Gonojagoron Mancha* when I went there to report on their activities. Some of the male journalists treat their female colleagues as sex objects. My superiors discourage me from doing reports on *hartals*. I feel like I am not taken seriously by them because I am a woman."



Munni Saha

Sexual harassment against women is rarely talked about within journalistic circles or in the news media. There's a code of silence about it that is in everybody's interest to break.

"A woman journalist in Channel One once complained to me that whenever the chief reporter assigned her a job, he wanted her to stand close to him. She cried when she said it to me. However, generally speaking, women are usually treated more fairly in the electronic media." Munni Saha says.

In a study carried out last year, ARTICLE 19 which monitors the state of freedom of expression in Bangladesh, documented 55 cases of complaints by women journalists in the course of their work. Sixty percent of them complained that they faced some form of discrimination regarding recruitment, benefits and their age. And about 53 percent of women complained of harassment, including sexual harassment. "However in most cases women have not taken any steps against perpetrators out of fear of stigmatisation or of losing their jobs. When they have complained they have seen little positive outcome rather they had to continue to work in that abusive environment or were forced to leave", says Tahmina Rahman, Director, Bangladesh and South Asia of ARTICLE 19.

When Lara Logan, chief foreign affairs correspondent of CBS news was attacked and assaulted by a mob in Cairo for an extended period of time on Feb 11, 2011, CBS News revised their handbook to better address these kinds of attacks on journalists. A H M Moazzem Hossain thinks that security