

Showcase the extent of ‘71 genocide

Say speakers on exposing false counter-narratives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to showcase the extent of genocide perpetrated by the Pakistan army during the Liberation War to expose the falseness of counter-narratives, researchers said yesterday.

They made the remarks while speaking at an international conference titled “Fifty Years’ Journey of Bangladesh: Genocide, Nation-State and Bangabandhu’s Cherished Bangladesh” at Bangla Academy.

The two-day conference has been organised by the 1971 Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum.

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“A preliminary survey of 34 districts found 14,452 incidents of genocide, 759 mass graves, 1,048 mass killing sites and 1,027 torture centres. Think about the figure we will get if we complete the survey in all 64 districts. I think the figure [of martyrs] will cross the margin of 30 lakh.

PROF MUNTASSIR MAMOON



After hundreds of workers of Rupashi Garments blocked Dhaka-Narayanganj link road yesterday morning, demanding their due salaries, police rushed to the spot and charged protestors with batons. The workers blocked the road for three hours, from 11am to 2pm, and 10 people were injured during the clash. The commotion resulted in a tailback stretching for about 8km, which made commuters suffer.

PHOTO: STAR



‘Porn to blame for increasing violence against women’

Say respondents in study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the respondents in a study think that violence against women and girls has increased in the society because of the increasing rate of pornography consumption.

The research report titled “Impact of easy accessibility of pornography on the internet and its relevance with violence against women and girls in Bangladesh” was published at a programme at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Sirajul Islam, innovation adviser of Dnet, presented the research.

The study was conducted to analyse the relationship between the engagement of pornographic and derogatory content about women on the internet, and the rise of violence, abuse and aggression against women in society.

A total of 518 respondents participated in the survey, of whom, 53 percent were males from 16 districts of eight divisions. The survey was conducted from October last year to February this year.

According to the study, 82 percent of respondents said they think violence against women and girls has increased due to the increasing rate of viewing pornography.

The research recommended that shutting down pornography will not solve any problem. Besides, there are no restrictions on domestic pornography content as well, making it easily accessible to children.

In a more shocking revelation, the study found that 81 percent of respondents have negative perceptions of free-spirited women, while 39 percent of women and 42 percent of men have derogatory perceptions of women in general.

The research also claimed that the derogatory portrayal of women in online content strengthens the existing narrative of “bad girl”. Seventy-nine percent of respondents believe in the concept of “good girls” and “bad girls”, while 52 percent believe women should not work in showbiz, media or any other profession that requires them to work night shifts with men and travel.

Of the 52 percent respondents, 21 percent are women and 31 percent are men.

The researchers also mentioned how difficult it was to research issues like sexuality, pornography and sexism,

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Fake persona brings in real money

Man held for embezzling huge sums of money by promising jobs



Using the new identity, Liton started taking pictures with different government officials, police high-ups, public representatives, and ruling party leaders. He used the pictures to convince people how well-connected and influential he is. Soon enough, Liton started extorting money from people, promising them jobs.

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

He was once a preacher, giving sermons at different waz-mahfils. At the time, he was merely a Jamaat-Shibir activist in Satkhira’s Kalaroa upazila.

But all of a sudden, in 2015, he moved to Dhaka and started identifying himself as an Ulama League leader, even changing his name from Md Liton to Noor Mohammad Siraji.

Using the new identity, Liton started taking pictures with different government officials, police high-ups, public representatives, and ruling party leaders.

And then he started using the pictures to convince people how well-connected and influential he is. Soon enough, Liton started extorting money from people, promising them jobs or appointments as director of different projects.

In the last few years, he has embezzled huge sums of money, according to economic crime division of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC).

CTTC officials came to know about Liton while investigating a fraud case filed against Nawab Khwaja Ali Hasan Askari, who used to identify himself as the grandson of Nawab Salimullah Khan.

CTTC arrested Hasan on October 28, 2020, and he is now in jail.

Investigators said in different public meetings, Hasan used to claim that he owns a gold factory

and has shares in Mount Elizabeth Hospital of Singapore.

With his fake persona, Hasan swindled around Tk 6 crore from different victims by promising them jobs in Singapore, Poland and Bangladesh police. Liton had been his close aide since 2016, claimed CTTC officials.

Fraud cases were filed against Liton with Turag, Motiheel and Mohammadpur police stations, and CTTC is now investigating them.

On information, police arrested Liton from the capital’s Moghbazar area on March 27, said Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of CTTC.

Tohidul said they have come to know that Liton has taken around Tk 12 lakh from a victim in Mymensingh, after promising him a job in the police.

“We traced two other members of the syndicate, and a drive is ongoing to arrest them,” he said.

Aminul Islam Laltu, former general secretary of Satkhira’s Kalaroa Upazila Awami League, claimed that Liton was a Shibir activist during his days in Satkhira.

“He has never been involved with activities of AL or its affiliated groups,” he added.

Shaikh Imran, former president of Satkhira’s Kalaroa Upazila Chhatra League, claimed that Liton has taken Tk 12 lakh from a friend of his, after promising to give his wife and sister jobs in a primary school.

“Liton has also taken Tk 4 lakh from one of his uncles, promising him a job in college,” he added.

MEDIA EMPLOYEES BILL

It does not assure job security, rights: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed “Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill 2022” does not guarantee job security, related benefits and rights of media workers, said Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday.

Expressing its initial response to the bill placed in Jatiya Sangsad, TIB in a statement demanded active participation of media people and other stakeholders to amend the draft law.

“Although the bill mentions the need to ensure

“Although the bill mentions the need to ensure legal protection and rights of media workers, it is not reflected in reality, rather the draft law is discriminatory, rather the draft law is discriminatory.

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN
TIB Executive Director

legal protection and rights of media workers, it is not reflected in reality, rather the draft law is discriminatory,” said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

Considering the role and duties of the media, there is no reflection of the special factors the job of media workers demands. Iftekharuzzaman said section 12 of the bill gives media owners the right to lay off additional staff.

He added that section 14 contains a dangerous provision to dismiss workers for misconduct, without providing any definition.

The executive director said, “Article 25 does not make formation of minimum-wage board compulsory; it is at the government’s discretion.” Similarly, formation of future funds has been left to owners’ discretion.

In such a scenario, TIB hopes that the ministry concerned will start work on drafting the bill afresh, and active participation of journalists and other stakeholders in this process must be ensured.

‘How many more mistakes will we make?’

Atiqul on Dhaka’s crippling traffic situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

“How can both Setu Bhaban and BRTA Bhaban be constructed on the same road? This has caused traffic to come to a standstill every day from Banani’s Chairman Bari to Airport Road,” shared Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday.

“How many more mistakes will we make?” he asked.

The mayor made the remarks while sharing his experience with Dhaka’s recent traffic situation during a visit to

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95pc of feasibility study done

Quader on subway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday told parliament that a feasibility study is underway to build a subway to ease traffic congestion in Dhaka.

“Ninety-five percent of the work has been completed as of February. Once this is completed, work on the subway construction project will begin, subject to confirmation of the funding,” the minister said in reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP Didarul Alam.

Meanwhile, in response to a question from Jatiya Party’s Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Textile and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir

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Right beside Lalbagh’s Dhakeshwari Temple, DSCC dug a 30 feet deep hole to construct a market. However, they did it without taking sufficient safety measures, such as putting up safety signs or barriers, which puts people at risk of falling in. This is especially concerning as there’s a playground near the spot. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PRAYER
TIMING
APRIL 1



| | Fazr | Juma | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Azan | 4-40 | 12-30 | 4-45 | 6-21 | 7-45 |
| Jamaat | 5-15 | 1-15 | 5-00 | 6-24 | 8-15 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION