

Special law to protect journalists

Demands TIB

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday demanded a special law to protect journalists because they come under attacks while gleaning irregularities and corruption news, as part of attempts to gag the voice of the media.

TIB expressed deep concern over the recent attacks and demanded immediate, fair investigation and prosecution of all the attacks, said a release.

The recent spate of attacks on journalists while collecting news of irregularities and corruption is not an isolated incident, but rather a continuing trend and ill-attempt of gagging the voice of media through abuse of power, attacks, cases and impunity, said TIB.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ATTACK ON JOURNOS Medical centre owner, three others remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed four people, including the owner of a medical centre, on three-day remand each in a case filed over attempting to kill a senior reporter and cameraperson of Independent Television in Kamrangirchar.

The accused are Dr MH Osmani (55), owner of SPA River Side Medical Centre; Dr DMA Abu Zahid (55), a physician of the centre; Abul Hasanat Sumon, director (admin and finance); and Rassel Howlader (38), accounts manager of Life and Care Hospital. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Farha Diba Chhanda passed the order after IO Mohammad Mostafa Anwar, an inspector of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

4 arrested for trafficking 2 sisters to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) claimed to have arrested four members of a human trafficking gang on charge of trafficking two sisters to India. They are: Rana Ahmed, Sujon Mia, Sahabuddin and Naimur Rahman Shamim.

They were arrested from Jhenidah and Chuadanga, said Nazrul Islam, special superintendent (Serious Crime Division) of CID.

The arrestees along with some others trafficked them to India in May last year where they were forced into prostitution, he said.

The sisters fled from the brothel in India and with the help of local police, returned to Bangladesh in March, he said.



Dengue death toll **15**

Total number of patients **3,408**

369 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **3,024**

92 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The pristine view of a boatman paddling in a waterbody surrounded by greenery would make anyone feel one with nature -- that is if the background wasn't present. Behind this view is Aminbazar landfill, where piles of garbage are dumped daily. Now, a mountain of waste can be seen from the distance, with smoke, a product of the burning trash, billowing from below. This photo was taken recently.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

They've every right to be identified as 'indigenous'

Say speakers at events marking International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, known as Santu Larma, yesterday slammed the government for its directive discouraging the use of the word "indigenous".

Addressing an event in the capital yesterday, Larma said the indigenous people have every right to identify themselves as "indigenous".

"How would it feel if the Bangalees are termed the 'majority community' instead of Bangalees?" he said.

Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), organised the event at The Daily Star Centre, marking the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed globally on Tuesday.

In a directive on July 19, the information ministry made a "request by order" to participants of talk shows, university teachers, experts, newspaper editors and civil society members not to use the word "indigenous" as part of their "constitutional obligation".

In his speech, Larma said the directive has been issued prohibiting the word's use in mass media, talk shows and administrative activities mentioning it as "unconstitutional".



Speakers at the discussion yesterday. Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation, organised the event at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. PHOTO: STAR

Larma also said the government has been using its state machinery in different ways to establish one world, creating an existential and identity crisis for the indigenous peoples.

"In what way I will identify myself is my decision. It is my fundamental right. But the government refuses to recognise it," he added.

Addressing the event, Abu Sayeed Khan, advisory editor of Samakal, said it is the state's responsibility to ensure the security of the country's indigenous peoples.

"However, that was far from happening. The reason behind the issuing of this directive to abandon the word 'indigenous' is

unclear," he said.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad general secretary Maleka Banu said the state has overlooked the due recognition of the indigenous people of the country.

"The indigenous people of the country have been pushed towards marginalisation in the name of tourism and peace," she said.

Meanwhile, addressing a rally in the capital's Central Shaheed Minar on Tuesday -- organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and supported by MJF -- Larma urged the young indigenous people to unite and carry on the legacy of the struggle for equality initiated by their ancestors.

He also lambasted the ruling

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Covid jabs for kids to start today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) will launch the Covid-19 inoculation campaign for children, aged 5-11 years, today.

"The main campaign will start from the 25th of this month in only the city corporation areas and then it will be implemented countrywide," Dr Shamsul Haque, member secretary of the Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce Committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque will inaugurate today's event at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka around noon, said a press release from the ministry.

At the event, the directorate of primary education will vaccinate 15 children, Shamsul Haque said without elaborating further. About the total number of children eligible for this campaign, he said, "We have to cover every [primary] school and the the directorate of primary education has been working on it."

There are a total of 2,19,32,638 primary schoolchildren, according to the directorate of primary education website data. Besides, there are many children of this age

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Dhaka hasn't sought specific info from Zurich Swiss ambassador on deposits of Bangladeshis with Swiss banks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has never sought any specific information on the money deposited with Swiss banks by Bangladeshi citizens, said Switzerland Ambassador to Bangladesh Nathalie Chuard.

"We have provided the [Bangladesh] government with all available information on how to reach an agreement on these matters, but no request has been made about any particular funds," she said at the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh Talk at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

“



NATHALIE CHUARD

We have provided the [Bangladesh] government with all available information on how to reach an agreement on these matters, but no request has been made about any particular funds.

She said this in response to a question that there were allegations that much of the money deposited by the Bangladeshis with Swiss banks was laundered and that the Swiss authorities did not provide any information about it.

Natalie Chuard said Switzerland was not a safe haven for corrupt money. She said they certainly did not encourage capital flight and the Swiss banking system was the most renowned and internationally connected system.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Under these large umbrellas are a boatload of hawkers, which have taken over almost half of this road, along with the footpath, at Jurain. After every eviction drive, these stalls make a routing return to the very same place, choking the road once again. This photo was taken yesterday.