

We uphold  
Gender



Rights

Human Rights  
Freedom of Press

Rights of Minorities

Democracy

Freedom of Expression

# ANNUAL REPORT | 2014

Access to Justice

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Rights of Minorities

Gender Equality Good Governance

We promote Democracy



Good Governance

Gender Equality

Human Rights

Good Governance

Gender Equality

Democracy

Right to Information

**NEWS  
NETWORK**

*working for  
social change and  
empowering people*

Human Rights

Freedom of Press

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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NEWS NETWORK

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News Network envisions a stable nation, where citizens are aware of their rights, enjoy freedom of expression, live with dignity and enjoy gender equality and where the media is free.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**T**he projects implemented by News Network in 2014 were supported by The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), Janata Bank Limited, Czech Republic Development Cooperation, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD), Anontex Trust Foundation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

This year News (2014) Network signed a new project agreement with the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). The UN organization is supporting the project 'Rural Media Development Programme for Promoting Democracy and Human Rights' that will be implemented in several districts of Bangladesh. The project is first of its kind aimed at improving the capacity of rural media and CSOs to make people aware about rights-based issues and how to defend those.

In 2014, three different projects were completed successfully in time. Those are Czech Republic Development Cooperation funded project 'Sensitization Program for Journalists to Combat

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Gender Based Violence'; TFD supported 'Professional Safety of Journalists' and UNESCO funded 'Programme for Understanding Right to Information for Accurate and Fair Journalism'.

News Network, for the first time, received a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund from Janata Bank limited, a state-owned bank of Bangladesh. The fund was meant for imparting training to young women( university students) under 'Women Journalists Development Programme'. This is about to be completed. Anontex Trust Foundation, a Bangladeshi non-profit organisation also provided financial support to the project. During the reporting period News Network collaborated with The Media Project , a US-based organization and UK-based Thomson Reuter Foundation to organise their two different media development activities in Dhaka.

Total grant amount of BDT 8,999,803 (USD 116,881) were received from the donors and at the year end the expenditure stood at BDT 3,355,563 (USD 43,579).



Shahiduzzaman  
Editor, News Network

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## PARTNERS



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



JANATA BANK LIMITED

**UNDEF**



The United Nations  
Democracy Fund



TAIWAN FOUNDATION  
for DEMOCRACY

財團臺灣民主基金會



**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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A view of a two-day workshop to sensitize journalists on gender based violence held in capital city Dhaka on 21-22 June, 2015. In the picture Assistant Professor Shobnam Azim of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of University Dhaka is conducting a session. The Czech Republic Development Cooperation supported the programme.

## 1. PROJECTS AND EVENTS OF THE YEAR 2014

Projects	Support	Status
Rural Media Development Programme for Promoting Democracy and Human Rights	The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	Ongoing
Development Program for Women Journalists	Janata Bank Limited, Bangladesh	Ongoing
Sensitization program for journalists to combat gender based violence	Czech Republic Development Cooperation	Completed
Programme for Understanding Right to Information for Accurate and Fair Journalism	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	Completed
Professional safety of Journalists	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD)	Completed

## 2. MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR

- ❑ Fellowship on journalism for young women graduates
- ❑ Development activities for rural journalists and CSOs for promoting democracy and human rights
- ❑ To sensitise media people to combat gender-based violence
- ❑ Workshops for journalists on Understanding RTI
- ❑ Promoting professional safety of journalists

## 3. PROGRESS OF THE ACTIVITIES

### ❑ **Fellowship on journalism for young women**

For the past 17 years News Network has been providing six-to-nine month journalism fellowship to young women, to encourage them to choose journalism as their profession and acquire necessary skills. Till 2014 a good number of donor agencies, international organizations and missions supported News Network to continue the initiative. This has inspired many young women to take up journalism as a profession and thus the number of women journalists has increased Bangladesh. It may be mentioned that women journalists do still lag behind in capacity and number in the country's male-dominated media in Bangladesh. Women account for only 5 percent of total journalists in the country. And, most of them are based in big cities like Dhaka and Chittagong.

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Group photos of News Network fellows who completed a six-month fellowship on journalism in 2014. Most of the fellows have later taken journalism as their profession.

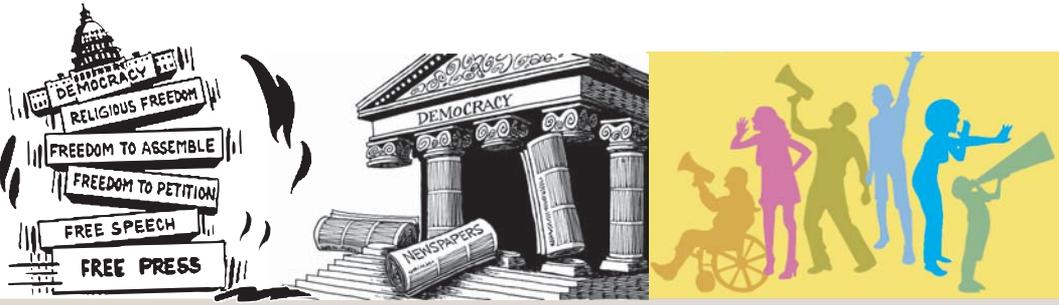
In the reporting year, News Network received CSR funds from the Janata Bank Limited, one of the large state owned banks of

Bangladesh to continue the fellowship programme. Anontex Foundation, a Bangladeshi non-profit organisation also came forward to support the project.



Zaglu Alam Chowdhury, former Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) interviews women graduates for a journalism fellowship at News Network office in Dhaka on 6 July 2014.

With the assistance from Janata Bank and Anontex Foundation, News Network awarded 15 young women a six-month fellowship. It includes 3 months of in-house training and 3 months of internship in major media houses. The project is yet to be completed.



## ❑ Development activities for rural media people to promote democracy and human rights

This new programme on promotion of democracy and protection of human rights, undertaken with the assistance from UNDEF, was launched in December 2014. The project will cover 12 districts of the country. It is focused on rural areas, where people are less aware of their rights.

**UNDEF**



The United Nations  
Democracy Fund

Violence and violation of human rights issues are reportedly higher in rural areas than in urban society. The activities are expected to get momentum in early 2015. Major activities of the project it are to improve the media and civil society organisations' ability in rural areas to report on democracy and human rights issues and thereby raising public awareness of their rights.



A participant of a workshop on professional safety of journalists held in Khulna City narrates his experiences about an attack on him on a news assignment. The programme was held on 17-18 September 2014, supported by Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

## ❑ Workshop on professional safety of journalists

Attacks and threats on journalists have increased in recent years. Several journalists were killed and hundreds of them were attacked and injured. Many received threats on their life. International media rights groups have ranked Bangladesh as a dangerous place to work for journalists. To face the challenges News Network has launched a programme on professional safety of journalists. TFD came forward to support the initiative. By this time it has organised

The workshop was held at Khulna city, a south-west divisional headquarters, one of the danger zones for journalists in the country. Twenty local journalists, working for print and electronic media participated in the workshop.

Participants were highly satisfied with the workshop. They found it effective and useful for understanding their professional safety. News Network will keep the initiative going.



Farid Hossain, former Bureau Chief of Associated Press in Dhaka conducts a session at a two-day sensitization workshop for journalists on combating gender based violence in Brahmanbaria held on 24 -25 June 2014.

## ❑ Sensitize media people to combat gender-based violence

The activities were funded by the Czech Republic Development Cooperation. Three different workshops were organised to sensitise and build capacity of 60 young journalists. The workshops were held in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Brahmanbaria.

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Participants and guests pose for a group photo after of a two day sensitization workshop held in Dhaka city for journalists on gender based violence on June 21-22, 2015.

Objective of the programme was to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) against girl children and young women. In Bangladesh society GBV is one of the major barriers for women empowerment. Most women are victims of such violence. But due to insecurity they don't disclose the incidents to other. So, many serious incidents go unreported. Here, journalists can play an important role to highlight the issues in public for greater interest of the society.



On 29 September 2014, Miloslav STAŠEK, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan visited News Network Office at Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Shahiduzzaman Editor and CEO of News Network presenting a Crest to Ambassador Mr. STAŠEK.



A view of a workshop for journalists in understanding RTI held in Rajshahi city on 22 -23 February 2014. In the picture Amena Khatun, Assistant Professor, Mass Communication and Journalism Department, Rajshahi University conducts a session. The programme was undertaken with the assistance from UNESCO.

## ❑ **Workshop for journalists on Understanding RTI for Accurate and Fair Journalism**

The activity supported by UNESCO has been completed successfully. With the assistance five workshops were organized in five divisional headquarters. Those were: Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong. A total of 90 journalists, working for main stream media participated.

The objectives of it were to give better understanding to the journalists on the Right to information Act, importance of accuracy of information and promoting fair journalism. The focus was particularly on how journalists can use the act for accurate and fair reporting.

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Journalists participating at a RTI workshop pose for a group photo. The workshop was held in Barishal city on 2-3 March 2014.

All the workshops were interactive and participatory. The participant journalists found the workshops useful and effective. It improved their capacity to deliver better reports with accuracy of information.

Journalists at a workshop on RTI are seen doing group work in Rajshahi city on 22-23 February 2014.



## □ Support to international organisations

In 2014, News Network provided local support to two international organizations. They are UK-based Thomson Reuter Foundation and USA-based The Media Project. The Media Project arranged a seminar with the media people on 'Key Challenges for Media Freedom in Bangladesh' and Thomson Reuters Foundation organized a journalists training programme in Dhaka .

Thomson Reuters Foundation's five days General Training Course for young journalist ended on 21 February in Dhaka. 12 Journalists from different media houses are participating in the course. News Network locally coordinated the programme. Internationally reputed trainers Lisa Essex and Andrew Dobbie conducted the training.



Group photo of the participants

### Key Challenges for Media Freedom in Bangladesh

A daylong Seminar on Key Challenges for Media Freedom in Bangladesh was held on 15 February 2014 at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. It was jointly organised by Washington-based The Media project and News Network. A total of 30 journalists, working for print and electronic media participated in the programme.

Dr. Arne H. Fjeldstad, Chief Executive Officer of The Media Project preside over the seminar, while Shahiduzzaman Editor and CEO of News Network was the moderator.



Dr. Arne Fjeldstad

## **Financial Report 2014**

## Budget 2014

Sl.	Heads	Amount in BDT.
<b>A.</b>	<b>Programme cost</b>	
1	Workshop on right to information for accurate and fair journalism	560,000
2	Workshop for professional safety of journalists	200,000
3	Sensitization workshop to combat gender based violence	770,000
4	Media fellowship for developing female journalists	7,000
5	Trainers honorarium	150,000
6	Training materials	100,000
7	Field visit for female journalists	185,000
8	Mentors honorarium	90,000
9	Multimedia projector rent	60,000
	<b>Total Programme cost</b>	<b>2,865,000</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Personnel support cost</b>	
1	Staff salaries and honorarium	375,000
	<b>Total personnel cost</b>	<b>375,000</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Operation support cost</b>	
1	Office supplies & maintenance	37,200
2	Communication	54,000
3	Travel cost	6,000
4	Bank charge	6,000
5	External Audit fee	33,800
	<b>Total operation support cost</b>	<b>137,000</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Capital expenditure</b>	
1	Equipments	100,000
	<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>100,000</b>
	<b>Total Support Cost (B-D)</b>	<b>612,000</b>
	<b>Grand total BDT (A – D)</b>	<b>3,477,000</b>
		<b>(Equivalent USD 45,156)</b>

Note: Programmes supported by The Embassy of Czech Republic, UNESCO, Janata Bank Limited, Anontex Truwest Foundation and Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

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## NEWS NETWORK Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended December 31, 2014

PARTICULARS	DETAILS	AMOUNT
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
OPENING BALANCE (01.01.2014)		
Cash in hand	3,642.99	
Cash at Bank	3,98,044.42	
		4,01,687.41
<b>FUND INFLOW</b>		
Fund received from:		
The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	57,35,000.00	
THE EMBASSY OF CZECH REPUBLIC	7,80,731.45	
JANATA BANK LIMITED	17,17,000.00	
ANONTEX TRUST FOUNDATION	5,00,000.00	
UNESCO	91,150.15	
TAIWAN FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY	1,75,921.45	
		89,99,803.05
Sale of different publication		67,263.97
Bank interest		13,926.79
Subscription from the Executive members		2,100.00
	<b>TOTAL TK.</b>	<b>95,80,579.22</b>
<b>PAYMENTS:</b>		
<b>FUND OUTFLOW</b>		
Workshop on right to information for accurate and fair journalism		5,49,437
Workshop for professional safety of journalists		1,69,870
Sensitization workshop to combat gender based violence		7,34,446
Media fellowship for developing female journalists (Fellows honorarium)		7,50,000
Trainers honorarium		1,47,500
Training materials cost		99,950
Field visit for fellows		1,84,912
Mentors honorarium		90,000
Multimedia projector rent		60,375
Salaries		3,75,000
Office supplies and maintenance		35,140.59
Communication cost		48,700
Equipments		62,400
Audit fee		33,800
Bank charge		6,568.75
Travel cost		5,370
Advances		39,850
Entertainment		2,100
CLOSING BALANCE (31.12.2014)		
Cash in hand	5,656.00	
Cash at Bank	61,63,013.88	
		61,68,669.88
	<b>TOTAL TK.</b>	<b>95,80,579.22</b>
Total expenditure in BDT. 33,55,569.34 (Equivalent USD 43,579 / EURO 33,894)		
NAME OF THE PROJECT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Program for professional safety of journalists</li> <li>2. Sensitization program for journalists to combat gender based violence</li> <li>3. Media fellowship for developing female journalists</li> <li>4. Media fellowship for developing female journalists</li> <li>5. Program for understanding right to information for accurate &amp; fair journalism</li> </ol>	
FUNDING AGENCY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TAIWAN FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY</li> <li>2. THE EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN NEW DELHI</li> <li>3. JANATA BANK LIMITED</li> <li>4. ANONTEX TRUST FOUNDATION</li> <li>5. UNESCO</li> </ol>	



PRINCIPAL:  
MD. MOAZZEM HOSSAIN  
FCA

## CERTIFICATE GIVEN BY THE AUDITORS

We have audited the accounts of NEWS NETWORK Dhanmondi, Dhaka Registration no. FDR-922, dated 20.3.1995 for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 and examined all relevant books and vouchers and certifies that according to audited accounts.

1. The brought forward foreign donation at the beginning of year 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 was Tk. 4,01,687.41
2. The foreign donation amounting to Tk. 91,62,401.81 was received by the organization during the period.
3. The balance of unutilized foreign donations by the organization at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 Tk. 61,68,669.88
4. Foreign donation amounting to Tk. 33,55,569.34 have been utilized for the following purposes (shown project wise).

NAME OF THE PROJECT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Media Development Program</li> <li>2. Program for professional safety of journalists</li> <li>3. Sensitization program for journalists to combat gender based violence</li> <li>4. Media fellowship for developing female journalists</li> <li>5. Media fellowship for developing female journalists</li> <li>6. Program for understanding right to information for accurate &amp; fair journalism</li> </ol>
FUNDING AGENCY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FREE PRESS UNLIMITED</li> <li>2. TAIWAN FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY</li> <li>3. THE EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN NEW DELHI</li> <li>4. JANATA BANK LIMITED</li> <li>5. ANONTEX TRUST FOUNDATION</li> <li>6. UNESCO</li> </ol>

Name of the project (s)	Budget for this year	Amount spent this year	Difference
Media Development Program	20,000.00	20,000.00	---
Program for professional safety of journalists	2,00,000.00	1,69,870.00	+ 30,130.00
Sensitization program for journalists to combat gender based violence	8,56,000.00	8,17,071.00	+ 38,929.00
Media fellowship for developing female journalists	13,37,000.00	13,35,647.00	+ 1,353.00
Media fellowship for developing female journalists	4,82,000.00	4,42,092.00	+ 39,809.00
Program for understanding right to information for accurate & fair journalism	5,82,000.00	5,70,889.34	+ 11,110.66
<b>Total Taka</b>	<b>34,77,000.00</b>	<b>33,55,569.34</b>	<b>+ 1,21,430.66</b>

**Total expenditure in BDT. 33,55,569.34 (Equivalent USD 43,579 / EURO 33,894)**

2. Certified the organization has maintained the accounts of Foreign Donations and records relating their to in the manner specified as in section 5 of the Foreign Donations (voluntary activities) Regulations Ordinance, 1978 read with rule 6 and 7 to the said ordinance.
3. The information furnished above is correct and checked by us.

*Moazzem Hossain*  
M. M. HOSSAIN AND COMPANY  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Dated: 25.03.2015

NGO BUREAU-Enlisted No.81 Ref.03.09.0000.658.74.01.12 dated 31.12.2013



## OUR AGENDA

- Promotion of freedom of expression, freedom of media, human rights and gender equality.
- Work for developing the professional capacity of journalists, promotion of investigative journalism.
- Encourage young women to take up journalism as a profession. Promoting investigative journalism and right to Information.
- Sensitise media people on crucial social issues including Right to Information Act, democracy, good governance, transparency and promotion of access to justice.
- Motivate children and youths to build themselves as good citizens.
- Promote secularism, tolerance and peace in the society, and also the rights of ethnic and indigenous people of the country.
- Organise dialogues, seminars, workshops and discussion meeting on issues of national importance.

**NEWS**  
**NETWORK**

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social change and  
empowering people*

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