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newsnetworkbangladesh



we believe in  
freedom of expression  
and freedom of press



## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2013

People deserve to know...



# Annual Report | 2013

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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NEWS NETWORK

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### Vice-president

Naseem Jahan Eva

### Secretary General/Editor

Shahiduzzaman

### Finance Secretary

Jalal Ahmed

### Member

Sheikh Mohd. Saiduzzaman Mintu

### Member

Rasada Akther

### Member

Enamul Haque

## Content

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Preface   | 5  |
| Executive Summary   | 6  |
| Programmes Supported by   | 7  |
| 1. Projects of the Year 2013  | 8  |
| 2. Major activities of the Year   | 9  |
| 3. Progress of the activities   | 10 |
| ▪ Fellowship on journalism for young women  | 10 |
| ▪ Capacity building of journalists  | 12 |
| ▪ Training workshop for capacity building to train journalists to report on climate-change-related issues with greater competence | 13 |
| ▪ Workshop on professional safety of journalists  | 15 |
| ▪ Media workshops to create awareness about gender based violence   | 17 |
| ▪ Training of female journalists trainers   | 18 |
| ▪ Workshop on Understanding Right to Information for Accurate and Fair Journalism   | 19 |
| ▪ Education for Harijan Children  | 21 |
| Financial Report 2013   | 22 |

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.

It promotes freedom of press and expression, human rights along with the rights of the minorities & ethnic groups and access to information. News Network promotes good governance, accountability and transparency at all levels. It also seeks to develop the capacity of the media and bring in more women in journalism.

## Preface

In 2013, News Network implemented a good number of activities, mostly on the capacity building of journalists working in the mainstream print and electronic media.

The key activities of the year were professional skill development of media people, six-month fellowships on journalism for developing female journalists, sensitisation media workshops on the Right To Information Act 2009 and gender-based violence against girl children and young women. The programmes, arranged with support from UNESCO, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, The American Center, Free Press Unlimited, Plan International-Bangladesh and Anne Frank-Fonds were held at different parts of country.

I extend my heartiest thanks to all who helped us complete this annual report in time.



Shahiduzzaman

Editor, News Network

## Executive Summary

News Network projects implemented in 2013 were supported by The American Center, Free Press Unlimited, Plan international - Bangladesh, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy(TFD), Anne Frank-Fonds (AFF) and UNESCO New Delhi Office.

The Netherlands-based Free Press Unlimited supported a project, 'Media Development Program; The American Center in Dhaka funded a 'Development Program for Women Journalists'; Plan International Bangladesh assisted 'Girl Power Project'. The projects were completed in time. Most of these projects focused on media development activities such as developing female journalists, capacity building of the journalists and sensitization of media people on social issues, particularly on gender-based violence.

The project supported by Switzerland-based Anne Frank-Fonds ran two schools for the children of Harijan community, a neglected minority group of the society. During the six-year project period more than 600 children benefited.

With the assistance of TFD, News Network organized a two-day workshop on 'Professional Safety of Journalists' and UNESCO New Delhi provided grants to arrange a five-day regional workshop for journalists to build their capacity for better reporting on climate-change-related issues in Khulna City, a divisional headquarters in southwest Bangladesh.

During the reporting year the organization also signed a 12-month agreement with UNESCO New Delhi to implement a new project 'Programme for Understanding Right to Information for Accurate and Fair Journalism', which will end in May 2014. It will cover five divisions of the country.

News Network received total grant amount of Tk. 8,174,080 ( USD. 106,157) from the international organisations and mission in 2013 and at the yearend the expenditure totaled Tk. 10,704,001 ( USD 133,013).

## Programme Partners



ANNE FRANK FONDS®  
FOUNDED BY OTTO FRANK



TAIWAN FOUNDATION  
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人臺灣民主基金會

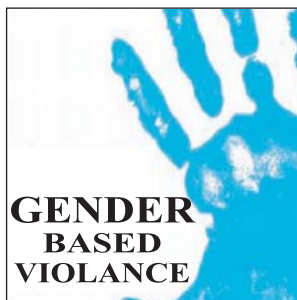


On 24th June 2013, the Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr. Gerben de Jong attended in a reception of News Network female fellows on Journalism held at News Network office. In the occasion Ambassador distributed Fellowship Offer Letter to 15 female graduates, supported by Free Press Unlimited. The Ambassador Jong, Editor of News Network Shahiduzzaman, trainers, guests and fellows are seen in the picture.

## 1. Projects of the Year 2013

| Projects   | Support                         | Status    |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Media Development Programme  | Free Press Unlimited            | Completed |
| Development Program for Women Journalists  | The American Center             | Completed |
| Girl Power Project   | Plan International- Bangladesh  | Completed |
| Education Programme for Harijan Children   | Anne Frank-Fonds                | Completed |
| Programme for Understanding Right to Information for Accurate and Fair Journalism                                  | UNESCO, New Delhi               | Ongoing   |
| Capacity building workshop to train journalists to report on climate-change-related issues with greater competence | UNESCO, New Delhi               | Completed |
| Professional safety of Journalists   | Taiwan Foundation for Democracy | Completed |





## 2. Major activities of the Year

- Fellowship on journalism for young women
- Journalists training programme
- Training of Female journalists trainers
- Media workshops to create awareness about gender-based violence
- Training workshop for media people on understanding Climate change and better news reporting
- Workshops on understanding right to information for accurate and fair journalism
- Workshop on professional safety of journalists

## 3. Progress of the activities

### Fellowship on journalism for young women

Since 1998 News Network has been encouraging young women to choose journalism as their profession. From 1998 to 2013 different donors, international organizations and missions provided support to continue the initiative. Main objective of the activity is to increase the number of female journalists in Bangladesh. This was done as women journalists are heavily outnumbered by males in Bangladesh. Women account for only 5 percent of total journalists in the country.



**A group photo of fellows completed six months fellowship on Journalism, supported by the American Center**

# Annual Report | 2013

To implement the programme in 2013, News Network received financial assistance from The American Center, US Embassy in Dhaka and the Netherlands-based Free Press Unlimited.

It helped News Network impart three-to-six month fellowship to 35 young women. The American Center supported for a six-month programme for 20 women and Free Press Unlimited funded a three-month fellowship for 15 women. Most of the fellows were fresh graduates.

**Fellows  
completed three  
months  
fellowship on  
Journalism,  
supported by  
Free Press  
Unlimited**



The programme was aimed at development of professional skill of the fellows and to instill a sense of courage to take journalism as a career.

The six-month fellowship supported by the American Center included three-month in-house training and three months of internship in major print and electronic news media houses. Under the programme funded by Free Press Unlimited the fellows received three-month in-house training.

After completing the programme 70 percent of the fellows have been joined print and electronic media houses as journalists.

## Capacity building of journalists

Journalists based in districts and sub-districts usually don't get much opportunity of training for skill development and understanding the profession of journalism.

**A group of journalists participated in Dinajpur training workshop visited Hili land port along the border with India.**



In 2013 Free Press Unlimited supported to organize two separate 5-day basic trainings in Khulna and Dinajpur districts for 40 journalists.

Media houses, senior journalists, government officials and members of the civil society highly appreciated the initiative and requested News Network to organize similar training in other districts.

Most of the trained journalists are now doing better. Their reporting skill and accuracy of information improved many times than before.

## Training workshop for capacity building to train journalists to report on climate-change-related issues with greater competence

With the funding assistance of UNESCO, New Delhi Office, News Network organized a regional five-day (29 June to 3 July 2013) workshop for media people on climate change issues at Khulna City, a southern divisional headquarters of Bangladesh. The workshop covered the following issues:

- I. Understanding the impact of climate change in Bangladesh, and on the Hindu Kush Himalayan ecosystem as it affects the country.
- II. Professional skill development of journalists for better reporting on climate change and related issues.



**Journalists are seen in a five days regional training workshop on climate change issues was organised in Khulna, supported by UNESCO**

Twenty Journalists working for print, electronic and broadcast media (community radios) from Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions participated in the programme.



# Annual Report | 2013

Workshop inputs: discussions on understanding climate change issues and its various impacts and practical exercises for developing issue-related reporting skills.

Output of the programme was well appreciated. All the participants published/broadcast several reports for their respective local and national media houses.



**Participant journalists of regional training workshop on climate change issues are visiting in Aila affected areas near Sundarban.**

**Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Mesbah Uddin distributing certificate to a participant**



## Workshop on professional safety of journalists

In last couples of years a number of journalists were killed and hundreds of them were attacked and injured, some of them seriously by miscreants and vested quarters in Bangladesh. Many received threats on their life. Such professional risks have increased in recent months. Therefore, Bangladesh is considered by international media rights groups as a dangerous place to work for journalists. Alarmed by the situation News Network requested TFD for funding a programme on professional safety of journalists. TFD responded positively and released grant to organize a workshop on the issues. The programme was completed very successfully.



**Journalist participants are completing their group work.**

# Annual Report | 2013

The workshop was held at Jessore district town, one of the danger zones for journalists in the country. Twenty local journalists took part in the workshop.

Workshop participants tried to find the major causes of attack and threats and the safety measures. Also, renewing the ethical issues of reporting, duties and professional responsibilities were discussed in the programme.

Participants found the workshop effective and interesting for understanding their professional safety. News Network will keep continuing the initiative.



**A session of a workshop on professional safety journalists**





A day-long sensitization workshop on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was held on 23 March for media people in Dhaka. Participants and the trainers are seen in the picture.

## Media workshops to create awareness about gender based violence

Several activities were completed under the Plan International Bangladesh-supported Girl Power Project. The key activities were to organize discussion meetings to sensitize journalists on gender-related issues and awarding the journalists for best reporting on child protection and violence. Objective of the programme was to reduce gender-based violence against girl children and young women.

Three female journalists receive News Network- Plan International Bangladesh 'Best Reporting Award on Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection' at a function at News Network office held on 23 June. The winners were Sabina Yeasmin of Daily Prothom Alo (first), Emrana Ahmed of Daily Amer Desh( second) and Rima Islam of Daily Samakal (third).



## Training of female journalists trainers



**Photo of a session of 5 days ToT programme for women journalists.**

In February 2013, News Network organized a 5-day ToT for female journalists with the assistance of Free Press Unlimited. 12 female journalists were trained under the programme. An international female trainer from the Netherlands Avi Darubala conducted the training. The TOT, particularly for women was first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Some of those are now very active to train others.

**A group photo of women journalists participated in ToT held in February 2013 in Dhaka.**



## Workshop on Understanding Right to Information for Accurate and Fair Journalism

Major part of the above mentioned programme has been completed successfully. With the assistance from UNESCO, New Delhi the plan has been to organise five workshops in five divisional headquarters. The districts are: Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong.



**Group photo of the Journalists participated in a workshop on understanding right to information was held in Khulna city**

A total of 90 journalists will get benefit from it. During the reporting period three workshops have been completed. Each of them was organised for 18 journalists and was held for two days.

The project objectives were to impart 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.

# Annual Report | 2013

It may be mentioned that the RTI Act was passed five years ago. Journalists are still found reluctant to use the law as a weapon for better reporting. There is also a lack of awareness about the law among the common people. Even the progress in implementing the law from top to grassroots level is not well appreciated.



**A session of a two day work shop on understanding right to information held in Chittagong city**

**A participant presenting his group work in Chittagong workshop**





## Education for Harijan Children

News Network set up two elementary schools for harijan children in Bogra town, a northern district headquarters of Bangladesh. The schools were launched in 2008 with financial assistance from Anne Frank-Fonds but due to non-availability of fund the organization was compelled to close down the schools at the end of December 2013. Each year more than a hundred children received education from the schools.

To come to the mainstream social life the harijan kids need continuous educational support.



**Harijan children of the schools are seen in the picture.**

It may be mentioned that Harijans are most neglected and considered untouchable people in society. Harijans are also called dalits as they have traditionally occupied the lowest place in the caste system of Hindu religion. They are deprived of all kinds of basic rights. The number of their population is not known. But they are believed to be of thousands scattered across the country. ##

## Financial Report 2013

## Budget 2013

| Sl.       | Heads   | Amount in BDT.                            |
|-----------|---|---|
| <b>A.</b> | <b>Programme cost</b>   |   |
| 1         | ToT for female journalists  | 472,000                                   |
| 2         | Six-month female journalists fellowship on journalism female              | 3,177,820                                 |
| 3         | Rural female journalists training   | 1,060,000                                 |
| 4         | Sensitization workshop for Journalists                                    | 61,500                                    |
| 5         | National award event for journalists                                      | 171,000                                   |
| 6         | Newsletter & Organizational publication                                   | 160,000                                   |
| 7         | Educational support to Harijan children                                   | 565,000                                   |
| 8         | Workshop on Right to Information for Journalists                          | 391,465                                   |
| 9         | Capacity building to train journalists to report on climate change issues | 624,205                                   |
|           | <b>Total Programme cost</b>   | <b>6,682,990</b>                          |
| <b>B.</b> | <b>Personnel support cost</b>   |   |
| 1         | Staff salaries and honorarium   | 2,499,560                                 |
|           | <b>Total personnel cost</b>   | <b>2,499,560</b>                          |
| <b>C.</b> | <b>Operation support cost</b>   |   |
| 1         | Program Office rent   | 540,000                                   |
| 2         | Communication   | 309,500                                   |
| 3         | Supplies & Utilities  | 515,000                                   |
| 4         | External Audit fee  | 60,000                                    |
|           | <b>Total operation support cost</b>                                       | <b>1,424,500</b>                          |
| <b>D.</b> | <b>Capital expenditure</b>  |   |
| 1         | Equipments  | 192,400                                   |
| 2         | Furniture and fixture   | 23,920                                    |
|           | <b>Total capital expenditure</b>  | <b>216,320</b>                            |
|           | <b>Total Support Cost (B-D)</b>   | <b>3,441,434</b>                          |
|           | <b>Grand total BDT (A – D)</b>  | <b>10,823,370</b><br><b>(USD 140,563)</b> |

Note: Programmes supported by Free Press Unlimited, The American Center, Plan International - Bangladesh, UNESCO and Anne Frank - Fonds

# Annual Report | 2013

## Receipts and Payments Account

for the year ended December 31, 2013

| PARTICULARS  | DETAILS      | AMOUNT                |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS:</b>   |              |                       |
| OPENING BALANCE (01.01.2013)   |              |                       |
| Cash in hand   | 13,009.00    |                       |
| Cash at Bank   | 23,98,673.88 |                       |
|  |              | 24,11,682.88          |
| <b>FUND INFLOW</b>   |              |                       |
| Fund received from:  |              |                       |
| FREE PRESS UNLIMITED   | 42,41,166.36 |                       |
| THE AMERICAN CENTER  | 16,20,000.00 |                       |
| PLAN INTERNATIONAL - BANGLADESH  | 7,84,412.00  |                       |
| ANNE FRANK FONDS   | 5,45,300.00  |                       |
| UNESCO, NEW DELHI  | 8,28,902.10  |                       |
| TAIWAN FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY  | 1,54,300.00  |                       |
|  |              | 81,74,080.46          |
| Sale of different publication  |              | 2,919.51              |
| Bank interest  |              | 81,231.48             |
| Subscription from the Executive members                                      |              | 2,100.00              |
| <b>TOTAL TK.</b>   |              | <b>1,06,72,014.33</b> |
| <b>PAYMENTS:</b>   |              |                       |
| <b>FUND OUTFLOW</b>  |              |                       |
| Capacity building/Follow-up training for rural journalists                   |              | 10,58,507             |
| Training for Trainers for Women Journalists                                  |              | 4,63,803              |
| Fellowship for journalism for female journalists                             |              | 35,10,071             |
| News Network website development   |              | 1,01,500              |
| Salaries   |              | 23,99,552             |
| Office rent  |              | 2,88,984              |
| Office supplies and maintenance  |              | 2,49,121.42           |
| Utilities  |              | 2,64,571              |
| Communication cost   |              | 2,36,229              |
| Equipments   |              | 1,92,122              |
| Furniture & fixture  |              | 15,080                |
| Audit fee  |              | 28,750                |
| Bank charge  |              | 11,605                |
| Workshop on Professional safety of journalists                               |              | 1,55,925              |
| Sensitization workshop for journalists on gender and child protection issues |              | 61,774                |
| Entertainment  |              | 13,942                |
| Award to journalists for their best reporting                                |              | 22,121                |
| News letter Publication  |              | 70,890                |
| Travel cost  |              | 71,265                |
| Rent for school rooms  |              | 1,14,000              |
| Educational materials  |              | 35,464                |
| Teachers honorarium  |              | 2,34,000              |
| School assistant honorarium  |              | 39,000                |
| Honorarium for local Coordinator   |              | 78,000                |
| Workshop on right to information for journalists                             |              | 3,80,540              |
| Workshop on understanding climate change issues and role of media            |              | 77,712.50             |
| Advances   |              | 95,798                |
| CLOSING BALANCE (31.12.2013)   |              |                       |
| Cash in hand   | 3,642.99     |                       |
| Cash at Bank   | 3,98,044.42  |                       |
|  |              | 4,01,687.41           |
| <b>TOTAL TK.</b>   |              | <b>1,06,72,014.33</b> |



# Annual Report | 2013



Chartered Accountants



## Certificate of the Auditors'

We have audited the accounts of NEWS NETWORK Dhanmondi, Dhaka Registration no. FDR-922, dated 20.03.1995 for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 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, 2013 was Tk. 24,11,682.88/-.
2. The Foreign Donation amounting to Tk. 87,03,988.76/- was received by the organization during the period.
3. The balance of unutilized Foreign Donations by the organization at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 Tk. 4,01,687.41/-.
4. Foreign Donation amounting to Tk. 1,07,04,001.41/- has been utilized for the following purpose.

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| NAME OF THE PROJECT: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development Program for Women Journalists.</li> <li>2. Media Development Program.</li> <li>3. Workshop on professional safety of journalists.</li> <li>4. Education Program for Harijan Children.</li> <li>5. Girl Power Project.</li> <li>6. Program for understanding right to information for accurate &amp; fair journalism.</li> <li>7. Capacity building to train journalists to report on climate change issues.</li> </ol> |
| FUNDING AGENCY:      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AMERICAN CENTER, US EMBASSY IN DHAKA</li> <li>2. FREE PRESS</li> <li>3. TAIWAN FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY</li> <li>4. ANNE FRANK FONDS</li> <li>5. PLAN BANGLADESH</li> <li>6. UNESCO</li> <li>7. UNESCO</li> </ol>  |

| Name of the project (s)   | Budget for this year | Amount spent this year | Difference        |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Development Program for Women Journalists                                       | 3,936,000.00         | 3,904,742.01           | +31,257.99        |
| Media Development Program   | 4,370,600.00         | 4,330,439.90           | +40,160.10        |
| Workshop on professional safety of journalists.                                 | 155,700.00           | 154,300.00             | +1,400.00         |
| Education Program for Harijan Children  | 565,000.00           | 550,515.00             | +14,485.00        |
| Girl Power Project  | 780,400.00           | 770,335.00             | +10,065.00        |
| Program for understanding right to information for accurate & fair journalists. | 391,465.00           | 381,465.00             | +10,000           |
| Capacity building to train journalists to report on climate change issues.      | 624,204.50           | 612,204.50             | +12,000           |
| <b>Total Taka</b>   | <b>10,823,369.50</b> | <b>10,704,001.41</b>   | <b>+97,368.09</b> |

Total expenditure in BDT. 10,704,001.41 (Equivalent USD 139,013 / EURO 105,980)

5. Certified the organization has maintained the accounts of Foreign Donations and records relating thereto 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.
6. The information furnished above is correct and checked by us.

Dated: 14.05.2014.

*Pinaki Das*  
Pinaki Das, FCA  
Partner

Pinaki & Company  
Chartered Accountants  
Ahsandell, 2/A Mymensingh Road,  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.

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Tel # 966-0944, 966-5095, E-mail : pinaki\_co@yahoo.com Fax # 88-02-9672726, Mobile # 01711-364850, 01711-106302  
Chittagong : GAUSIA BHABAN (4th Floor), 156, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Tel # 031-710451, Mob # 01711-830577, 01914-313641

# Annual Report | 2013

আমাদের একটাই পৃথিবী...  
আসুন একে রক্ষা করি

SAVE THE WORLD

## 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.

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