

Media urged to portray nat'l achievements

Information minister holds meeting with editors

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday called on the media to portray national achievements and success stories reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people.

"As a nation we have many successes. We also have some mistakes and failures. Despite our limitations, we have achieved a lot," he said at a meeting with the editors of national dailies and news agencies at state guest house Padma.

The minister sought cooperation from the editors in disseminating public information and called for objective reporting on any incident or event.

He also called for not publishing pictures of mutilated bodies.

The editors called for designating one or more spokespersons for the government to provide newsmen with the official version of an incident or event.

In absence of a designated spokesperson, reporters and editors have been facing problem

in getting the official version on time, they said.

If the government appoints a spokesperson, the flow of information will increase, misinformation can be checked and non-issue cannot be blown up, said Enayetullah Khan, editor of the New Age.

He also suggested infusing professionalism into news and programmes of Bangladesh Television to increase its credibility.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, stressed the frankness of the government and expressed his optimism that media would cooperate if it is not accused or blamed in general for any lapses and be given a chance to correct the mistakes.

Bazlur Rahman of the Sangbad, Reazuddin Ahmed of The News Today, Golam Sarwar of the Jugantor and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury of The Observer hoped that regular interactions with the editors would help improve dissemination of information.

Reazuddin also suggested bringing changes to the Press Council to make it more effective.

Motiur Rahman of the Prothom Alo called for improving the performance of the DFP, BTV, Bangladesh Betar and the PID.

Gaziul Hasan Khan, chief editor of the BSS, called for formulation of a media policy to enhance competitiveness in the face of globalisation.

Acting Editor of Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Financial Express Editor Moazzem Hossain, Janakantha Editor Atiqullah Khan Masud, Inqilab Editor AMM Bahauddin, Acting Editor of Dinkal Kazi Siraj, Sangram Editor Abul Asad, Khabor Patra Editor Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Ajker Kagoj Editor Kazi Shahed, Chief Editor of Manav Zamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury and Bangladesh Today Editor M Asafuddollah also spoke.

Information Secretary MM Nasiruddin and Principal Information Officer Khondker Monirul Alam were also present.