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ARTICLE 19

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Bangladesh: ARTICLE 19 Launches Right to Information Handbook

ARTICLE 19 has launched a handbook on the 2009 Right to Information Act on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, 3 May 2009. Presented in question and answer form, *Proshnottore Thathya Adhikar Ain* (Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the Right to Information Act) is an easy to read commentary on the recently adopted Right to Information Act.

Adapted from ARTICLE 19's legal analysis of the right to information, the Handbook has been crafted to take Bangladeshi readers through the various international standards for right to information legislation and to examine the extent to which they are reflected in the new law.

Inaugurating the launch at the National Press Club, the State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Qamrul Islam, commented that:

“The right to information is everybody's right but a lot of people do not even know that there is such a law. The Handbook is a well written and clearly presented publication which will provide the general people a better understanding on their right to information”.

Qamrul Islam added that: *“the free flow of information is an important pillar of the Government's programme on ‘Digitalising Bangladesh’ and the Handbook will make a valuable contribution toward that goal”.*

Other special guests included member of parliament Akram Hossain, head of news, ATN Bangla, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, and professor of law Asif Nazrul,.

Reviewing the Handbook Professor Nazrul noted that: *“campaigners, activists, development practitioners, students, teachers, journalists, researchers and general public will find the Handbook a well researched and an easily accessible text that will guide them to seek, receive and impart information using the Right to Information Law”.*

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- For more information please contact Tahmina Rahman, Director ARTICLE 19 Bangladesh at tahmina@article19.org or +0171-303-9669.
- ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works around the world to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name

from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees free speech.