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New world information order supported

Bangladesh's permanent Representative to the United Nations has reiterated the country's full support for the establishment of a new world information and communication order, reports UNB.

Ambassador Humayun Kabir told the 15th substantive session of the UN Committee on Information Wednesday that information has a crucial role to play in the nation building process and promoting amity among the nations, according to a message received here Thursday.

The UN also has a strategic role in the field of information dissemination, he said.

Our quest for a new world information and communication order was to obtain a fairer deal in the dissemination

process so that there is a synthesis of all voices and stances and information dissemination is balanced, unbiased and objective,' said Kabir.

In view of the new challenges and new opportunities before the UN, he said, the Department of Public Information should recast its priority taking into account the current developments and the needs of the time and emphasised rationalise reallocation of resources to project and promote UN activities and operations.

He called for better projection of UN peacekeeping operations, saying Bangladesh was one of the major troops contributing countries in the operations. He also called for publishing booklets and brochures in Bangla to inform our people about their participation in these mission.

The present government of Bangladesh had affirmed its commitment and support for the freedom of press and freedom of expression and opinion, he said adding that CNN and BBC television networks were also operating in the country.

Kabir quoted from a recent speech of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who said, 'Freedom of press, as you all know, is the best safeguard of democracy, transparency and accountability. All black laws enacted by autocratic regimes have been repealed. All hindrances and barriers in the way of freedom of press have been removed. A golden era of press freedom has now truly ushered in. We will cherish, uphold and widen this happy trend. This is our solemn commitment and pledge to the nation.'

He also sought UNESCO support to improve information infrastructure and capabilities in Bangladesh.