



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR / CHIEF REPORTER

29 July 2007

UNDP starts new development project with the promise 'Justice for All'

Dhaka: With the vision of strengthening mechanisms for promotion and protection of human rights and the delivery of 'Justice for all', the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has initiated a new technical assistance project called '*Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh*' with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

This project initially aims to mobilize 3 million US Dollars as an integral part of cooperation between the Government of Bangladesh and UNDP in the area of democratic governance, human rights and access to justice, which particularly aims to strengthen the ability of the poor and other disadvantaged persons to demand and obtain justice by asserting human rights and statutory entitlements.

This project, therefore, aims to institutionalize human rights principles and standards, through the establishment of a national human rights commission, and advance prospects for access to justice for the weakest victims of injustice, through strategic interventions involving the judiciary, law officers, the legal profession, and civil society organizations responsive to the voices of the poor.

In doing so, the project will provide support to processes initiated by the government to establish a human rights commission, separate judiciary from executive, and it will focus on issues relating capacity development of the judiciary, law officers, legal profession, legal aid authority, and civil society groups working on human rights and access to justice.

Another notable emphasis in this project is on gender justice through focus on international norms and sensitization of justice sector personnel to their duties to ensure adherence principles of non-discrimination, equality and participation when women are claimants of rights, and adopt proactive approaches to combating gender-based violence.

ENDS

For further information please contact: Mr. Sakil Faizullah, UNDP Communications Officer via email: sakil.faizullah@undp.org ph: 811 8600, ext. 2498, mob: 01713 049900.