



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR / CHIEF REPORTER

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Top UNDP Official Arrives in Bangladesh

Dhaka: UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis has arrived in Dhaka for a three-day trip to meet with high level officials, and visit sites related to the general elections, and development in Bangladesh. His trip here is the second stop in a three-country Asia tour that started in Thailand and will also take him to India.

During his stay in Bangladesh he will talk with key government officials including the President, Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed.

Mr. Dervis' trip will include a field visit to communities affected by cyclone SIDR where rehabilitation efforts are underway. He will see on-going voter registration, and will visit an urban poverty reduction initiative. Together with eight other development partners, UNDP helped to pool \$50 million for the voter registration programme.

In addition to his position as UNDP Administrator, Mr. Dervis is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee consisting of the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

Prior to his appointment with UNDP in 2005, Mr. Dervis was a member of the Turkish Parliament representing Istanbul from November 2002 to June 2005. From March 2001 to August 2002, he was Minister for Economic Affairs and the Treasury, responsible for Turkey's recovery programme after the devastating financial crisis that hit the country in 2001. He has also held numerous leadership positions at the World Bank.

UNDP Bangladesh, one of the largest country offices of the global development network has been here since 1973. Drawing upon its global network, UNDP helps the people and Government of Bangladesh to develop their capacity to meet development challenges through initiatives that link advocacy, policy advice, and projects.

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