



MEDIA RELEASE

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Human Security

High-level mission starts work for better law and order in Bangladesh

Long-term steps toward improving law and order in Bangladesh were set in motion recently when the Government of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Home Affairs, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), began a comprehensive needs assessment of the Bangladesh Police.

A high-level team, including national and international specialists, is carrying out the assessment. The assessment is expected to provide the basis for future initiatives aimed at improving the effectiveness of the Police Force, and implementing strategies for maintaining better law and order. The mission will place specific emphasis on the rule of law, access to justice and human security. The role of the Police will be considered in the context of the broader criminal justice system.

"Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Bangladesh Police is a priority for the Government," said Muhammad Omar Farooq, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. The Government has already approved in principle a preparatory assistance project ("Strengthening Human Security in Bangladesh-BGD/03/007") to support the Needs Assessment and Project Formulation Mission.

A key feature of the Mission will be widespread consultation with key stakeholders including Government, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh Police, other National Institutions and agencies, NGOs and civil society, community and business representatives. To ensure countrywide participation in the assessment, the Mission members also undertook field visits to Chittagong and Rajshahi in September.

"When ordinary people take human security as given, development has the potential to thrive in Bangladesh. The Police Force is essential for creating such broad stability for investment and community confidence," UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner said.



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The Mission includes representatives from Bangladesh Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Team leader is Dr. Rowan Barnsley, a Police and Governance expert with international experience in Mozambique, Cambodia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. He was formerly the Director of Programs at the Australian Institute of Police Management.

The Deputy Team Leader is Mr. ASM Shajahan, a former Inspector General of Police, Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh, and Advisor of the non-party Caretaker Government with a distinguished career in policing. Mr. Glenn Crannage, another member of the Mission, is an International Policing Consultant with particular expertise in ICT and Policing. He has extensive policing experience, having served as Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Planning in the Western Australia Police Service. Mr. Crannage is currently Project Director for major police and justice sector improvement projects in Cambodia and Fiji. He has also worked extensively throughout Asia-Pacific region. To facilitate the tasks of the Mission, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Police Headquarter also designated serving police officials as focal points.

Already the mission has met with political leaders, key government officials, many operational and senior police including women police, NGOs and members of the community. The mission has already conducted a number of 'Focus Group' meetings and workshops on 'Access to Justice', 'Crime Prevention and Detection' and 'Human Security' with active participation of NGOs, representatives of civil society, academic institutions, journalists, and the business community. Further meetings and workshops are planned.

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