



PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH  
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## **Press Release**

### **Farooq Sobhan meets with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.**

New York, May 11, 2007:

Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, Special Envoy of the Government of Bangladesh had a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the UN Headquarters today.

The Special Envoy apprised the Secretary-General of the various reform measures adopted by the Caretaker Government for holding a free and fair election in Bangladesh. Mr. Ban Ki-moon expressed his satisfaction over the steps being taken by the Government and assured him of UN's full support to holding the elections.

Ambassador Sobhan spent a busy day in New York today. He met with a number of UN high officials including Mr. Lynn Pascoe, Under Secretary General, Department of Political Affairs, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary General, Mr. Hafiz Pasha, Assistant Administrator of the UNDP, Mr. Craig Jenness, Director, UN Electoral Assistance Division and Mr. Sergey Karev, Deputy Executive Director of UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate.

Farooq Sobhan explained to the UN Officials the whole series of reforms undertaken by the present government. He informed that an excellent team of civilians was running the Government who were fully committed to good governance. He also said that this team was working very hard to hold the elections at the earliest and the government had started the process of rebuilding the key institutions, which were undermined by the previous governments. He highlighted that the Election Commission was back on track and preparing a fresh voters list. He added that both Chief Adviser and the Chief Election Commissioner had announced that the elections would be held before the end of 2008. He went on saying that every effort would be made to hold the elections as soon as possible subject to the completion of the preparatory process.

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Ambassador Sobhan informed the UN officials that the Anti-corruption Commission had become fully functional and truly independent. He said that the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive was at a final stage, Public Service Commission had been overhauled and independence of the Media had been ensured. He also briefed them on the recent crack down on corruption. He said that the Government would welcome UN support for recovery and repatriation of the money transferred abroad.

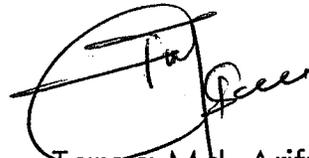
The UN officials expressed their satisfaction over the reform measures being undertaken by the Caretaker Government. They appreciated the opportunity of being briefed by a high-level envoy of the Government. The officials offered UN's full support in-terms of technical and financial assistance within its ability and mandate as requested by the Election Commission. They put on record their gratitude to Bangladesh for her significant role in UN Peace-keeping operations.

Earlier in the day, Farooq Sobhan met with Ms. Vishakha Desai, President of Asia Society and Mr. Georg Kell, Principal Officer of UN Global Compact Office.

Mr. Muhammad Ali Sorcar, Acting Permanent Representative was present during the Meetings.

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With the request for appropriate media coverage.



Tareq Md. Ariful Islam  
Counsellor.