



UNITED NATIONS

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Attn: News Editor / Chief Reporter

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### **Secretary-General sends senior UN official to Bangladesh following pre-election unrest**

**DHAKA** – Expressing concern at unrest in Bangladesh ahead of national elections scheduled for January 2007, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has announced that he is dispatching a senior United Nations official to the country this week.

The Secretary-General said Craig Jenness, director of the U.N. Electoral Assistance Division, will visit Bangladesh from Wednesday to Friday on his behalf “to offer continued UN support to the process.” The envoy will hold meetings with the head of the caretaker government and other senior officials, as well as election authorities, representatives of political parties, civil society and the private sector.

In a statement issued by his spokesman, Mr. Annan said he wanted to “underscore the importance of a peaceful and transparent environment so that these important elections can enjoy the full confidence of the people of Bangladesh.”

Earlier the Secretary-General appealed to the major political forces in Bangladesh to work together to find a common ground for the elections acting in the interest of democracy and the welfare of the entire nation.

Towards the end of his visit, the special envoy will hold a press conference.

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