

**Bangladesh High Commission
Canberra**

Press Release

Bangladesh promotes equality and religious freedom and harmony

Bangladesh denounces extremism in all forms and promotes equality and religious freedom as a moderate democracy. It was commented by Mr. Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan, Bangladesh State Minister for Religious Affairs while speaking at an 'Interfaith Roundtable' which was organised by Monash University, Melbourne, Australia on 22 August 2006 to discuss world peace and tolerance. He also stated that Bangladesh takes great pride in fostering religious and communal harmony given its long history of peaceful coexistence of various religious communities.

Mr. Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan who is also the President of the Bangladesh chapter of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace, said that although no religion teaches violence or encourages hatred towards the others, it is difficult to think of any crime that had not been committed in the name of religion. He stressed on knowledge, dialogue and demonstration of love, compassion, selflessness and the inner force of truthfulness to overpower hatred, enmity and self-interest.

Vice Chancellor Professor Richard Larkins presented the opening address. Professor Julian Teicher, Director, Graduate School of Business was present at the roundtable. Mr. Jeff McLean and Dr. Quamrul Alam of the Department of Management at Monash University facilitated the event. Speakers from Buddhist, Hindu, Anglican, Catholic and Jewish faiths also participated in the roundtable discussion.

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