

Media Release

CES Center raised about \$18,000 for Bangladesh Flood Victims, Sydney 2007

Community Education and Services Centre Inc. (CES Centre), a voluntary community organization run by the Bangladeshis in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney has organized a dinner party at Ambala Function Centre, Milsons Point, Sydney to raise funds for the 2007 flood victims in Bangladesh on 16th of September, 2007.

The program was a great success with the participation of Bangladeshi and Australian dignitaries. A number of individuals, families and groups representing different community organizations in Sydney attended the program. A total of \$18,000 (AUD) was raised (more than ten lakh Taka) through this event. The money is in process of being sent to the Chief Advisor's Relief Fund Account.

The Fundraising Dinner program started at 6:30 pm with a welcome speech by the Honorary Consul General of Bangladesh (Sydney) Mr. Anthony Khouri. It was followed by the dinner. After dinner Dr Syed Jamal Uddin effectively highlighted the current devastating flood situation and human sufferings in Bangladesh through a slide presentation. Then the Guest Speaker, The Hon. Justice (Retd.) John Dowd, A.O., Q.C., Chancellor, Southern Cross University, Austcare Ambassador for Protection and President of the International Commission of Jurists (Australian Section) delivered his speech on the close relationship between Bangladesh and Australia and expressed deep sorrow over the devastation by recent floods in Bangladesh. He also urged international community to consider global warming as a priority issue in order to prevent large scale devastation due to rise in sea levels in low lying countries like Bangladesh. Prof. Sheik Rahman of University of New South Wales gave a short speech soliciting pledges for generous donations from the invited guests. Through slide presentation having seen the sheer scale of devastation and unbelievable human sufferings that has taken place in Bangladesh - Mr. **Mohammad Ali** and his business partner **Mr. Abdul Hoque** declared the cost of the venue and the dinner to be free of charge!

Among the notable guests the Hon. High Commissioner (Acting) of Bangladesh in Australia Mr. Ristadul Islam and Mr. David Bitel of Parish Patience Immigration Lawyers were also present at the fundraising dinner. Mr Fokhruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, President, Bangladesh Islamic Centre concluded the Dinner with vote of thanks. The entire program was conducted by Musfika Hossain Mumu, Tasnima Islam Koyel and Gigi Rahman.

Organising committee members (Alphabetical order)

Mr Abdul Hoque; Dr Abdul Latif Sarker; Mr Anowarul Islam Bokshi- secretary CES Centre; Mr Fakhruddin Ahmed Chowdhury- President of Bangladesh Islamic Centre; Mr Humayun Kabir; Dr Maksudul Bari- President of Bangla Proshar Committee; Mr Mohammad Ali- President of the CES Centre; Mr Mukitur Rahman Tutul; Mr Rafiqul Alam Khan; Prof. Sheik Rahman- Convenor of the Fundraising Dinner; Dr Syed Jamal Uddin; Dr Waliul Islam

Community and business organizations participated as a group

Accotax Consultant; Australia Bangladesh Business Council; Bangla Academy; Bangla Proshar Committee; Barrister Shirajul Haque and Associates; Bonoful Sweet;

Kalmath Lawyers; Parish Patience Immigration Lawyers; Sydney Media groups;
University of Sydney and CSIRO



Organising committee members with the Guest speaker the Hon. Justice (Retd.) John Dowd, A.O., Q.C.



Participating guests having dinner at Ambala Function Centre



Participating guest having dinner at Ambala Function Centre



Mr Abdul Hoque (second from left) and his business partner Mohammad Ali (first from left) with some of their staff members who worked as volunteer at fundraising dinner, Ambala Function Centre