

**Bangladesh High Commission**  
**Canberra**

**Press Release**

**Foreign Adviser meets with the Speaker of the Australian Parliament**

*Canberra, 14 June 2007*

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Foreign Adviser met with Mr. David Hawker, MP, Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives at the Australian Parliament in Canberra today morning.

“It was an excellent interaction and Mr. Hawker was very eager to learn about Bangladesh in general and our current activities in particular” observed the Foreign Adviser in speaking the media afterwards.

“Both of us saw the need for closer Bangladesh-Australia cooperation for we share similar pluralist values”, he added. The Speaker remarked that “the reforms being undertaken by the Government would benefit Bangladesh”.

Also present on the occasion was the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Australia Mr. Humayun Kabir and Director General of Bangladesh Foreign Ministry Mr. Shahidul Islam.

Thereafter, Mr. Andrew Laming, MP, Chairman of Bangladesh Australia Parliamentary Group hosted a working lunch for Dr. Iftekhar Chowdhury in the Parliament House Restaurant. The event was also attended by Mr. Chris Hayes, MP and Mr. Stuart Henry, MP both members of the Parliamentary Group.

The discussions centred around the measures that the Caretaker Government was adopting in order to hold free, fair and credible elections in Bangladesh, which the Australian Administration appreciated. They also underscored the need for the two Commonwealth countries to work closely in the international arena.

Last evening the Foreign Adviser gave a lecture on “Evolving Challenges for Bangladesh in South Asia” at the Australian National University which was largely attended by University professors, diplomats, students and members of the Bangladesh community in Australia.

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