

## PRESS RELEASE

### Bangladesh proud to be a top UN Peace-keeper

New York, 26 October 2005:

"Bangladesh is proud to be one of the top peace-keepers for the UN in the world", said Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations. He was speaking at the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly at a debate in peace-keeping earlier this week, according to reports reaching here.

"We believe UN peace-keeping must be supported for the maintenance of international peace, security and stability. Because of Bangladesh's unflinching commitment to this goal, we have to date provided 51,000 peace-keepers so far to 34 operations in 26 countries. 70 of our peace-keepers have made the supreme sacrifice by laying down their lives in line of duty. This has not deterred us, but rather has strengthened our resolve to stay the course", he said.

With regard to the question of discipline among peace-keepers, a matter that has generated international scrutiny, Ambassador Chowdhury said "Bangladesh has always supported, and has complied with, the policy of zero-tolerance in dealing with such issues.

He welcomed the concept of standing Police Capacity. It may be noted that recently Bangladesh has also begun to provide Formed Police Units in many operations in increasing numbers.

While speaking to the media after the statement, Ambassador Chowdhury said Bangladesh views its peace-keeping role as its "major contribution to stabilizing the world". He said "this together with Bangladesh's leadership role on social and economic issues, provide for Bangladesh a very positive image in the eyes of the world".

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