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GENERAL MOEEN AHMED, BANGLADESH ARMY CHIEF, VISIT TO THE ASH INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATION AT THE KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Cambridge, Mass., – October 24, 2007 – General Moeen Ahmed, the Chief of the Bangladesh Army, spent two days at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government to meet with the faculty and students of the School at the invitation of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

During his visit, General Moeen participated in the teaching of the KSG class, “Election Reform for a Sustainable Democracy in Bangladesh;” addressed the National Security Fellows over dinner and engaged in a discussion on national and global security issues in the new global order; and made a luncheon presentation to a select group of faculty and students on the current political situation in Bangladesh and the future directions in the restoration of democracy in the country. Bangladeshi students at the Kennedy School and a number of Bangladeshi students from other academic institutions attended the lunch and had the opportunity to exchange views and question General Moeen.

In addition, General Moeen had meetings with a number of senior faculty at the Kennedy School to discuss a broad range of issues including corruption and ethics in public policy, governmental reform, electoral politics, e-governance, transparency, accountability and performance management.

Commenting on the visit of the Bangladesh Army Chief, the Director of the Ash Institute Gowher Rizvi said that there is a considerable interest amongst the students and faculty about the current situation in Bangladesh and its transition back to democracy.

“The visit was organized to give students and faculty a forum to exchange views, ask questions and voice their concerns directly with General Moeen,” said Rizvi. To allow for frank, free and meaningful discussion and dialogue with the students and faculty, the discussions were not open to the public or the press.

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation is committed to fostering excellence in government and strengthening democratic governance, institutions and processes around the world. The Institute provides a forum where practitioners and academics can exchange views and learn from the each others’ experiences.

About the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network and awards program – developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners - the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world’s citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the Institute. Additional information about the Ash Institute is available at www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu.

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