



Christian Conference of Asia

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29.06.2019

Condolence Message

To

*The Members of the family of Bishop B.D. Mondal
The Moderator and Members of the Church of Bangladesh*

It is with sadness that we received the news of the demise of Bishop Barnabas D. Mondal, Bangladesh's first national bishop and the former moderator of the Church of Bangladesh. On behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), I thank God for the life and witness of Bishop Mondal who actively participated in the Asian and Bangladesh ecumenical movement through various capacities.

Bishop Mondal's contributions to lay foundations for the present structure of a united church in the country- the Church of Bangladesh, and his initiatives to encourage more active participation of the lay leaders in the congregations of the Church of Bangladesh will ever be remembered.

I have had many opportunities to interact and associate closely with Bishop Mondal for several years during 1990s and early years of 2000 in my capacity as a staff of the CCA and WCC. I was privileged to associate with Bishop Mondal on various occasions even after his retirement. I remember Bishop Mondal's leadership in developing ecumenical theological education in Bangladesh. His strong passion and interest to develop a united theological education platform in the country were evident through the initiative he took to create a national structure for promoting ecumenical theological education in the country. Bishop Mondal was instrumental in initiating the Bangladesh Ecumenical Foundation and Association for Theological Education (BEEFAT). He was keen to strengthen the theological education in Bangladesh in a broader framework together with the Roman Catholic and Evangelical churches for which he made efforts even after his retirement. He was also one of the initiators of the South Asia Theological Education Solidarity Fund which is being facilitated through the coordination of the World Council of Churches.

I take this opportunity to express heartfelt condolences to the members of Bishop Mondal's family and all members of the Church of Bangladesh at this time of their bereavement.

May his soul rest in peace.

Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA