



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANGLADESH**

15 March 2023

Australia-Bangladesh Senior Officials' Talks

The fifth Australia-Bangladesh Senior Officials' Talks, or Foreign Office Consultations, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 13 March 2023, reflected the friendship and mutual interest in promoting stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Mr Gary Cowan, First Assistant Secretary, North and South Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), led the Australian delegation. Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury, Secretary (West), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Bangladesh delegation.

Discussions covered Russia's invasion of Ukraine, regional developments, national elections, human rights, defence cooperation, development and climate change. Australia outlined its First Nations approach to diplomacy, and acknowledged Bangladesh's role in establishing 21 February as International Mother Language Day.

Australia and Bangladesh are also exploring opportunities for closer economic collaboration. The second meeting of the Australia Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment led the Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce took place on 14 March 2023.

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