AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANGLADESH

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AUSTRALIA AND BANGLADESH CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Australia and Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of bilateral relations on 31 January 2022, a historic milestone for both countries. Earlier on that day Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Bruer paid tribute to those who gave their lives in the struggle for independence at the National Martyrs' Memorial.

In the evening, a small reception following all COVID-19 protective measures was held at the Hotel Purbani in Dhaka, which was the inaugural location of Australia's diplomatic mission in 1972. High Commissioner Bruer welcomed Chief Guest, Mr Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, Honourable State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other distinguished Bangladesh government officials at the reception.

High Commissioner Bruer and State Minister Alam unveiled a plaque indicating the inaugural location of Australia's diplomatic mission in 1972 at the Purbani Hotel.

In his welcome address, High Commissioner Bruer said, "On this day 50 years ago Australia's Foreign Minister, Nigel Bowen, announced that Australia had

recognised the government led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the government of the new state of Bangladesh. Whilst the announcement was made on 31 January, the Australian cabinet made the decision to recognise Bangladesh some days earlier on 25 January. We're very proud that Australia was one of the first countries in the world to recognise Bangladesh in January 1972. This plaque commemorates the inaugural location of Australia's diplomatic mission to Bangladesh following the establishment of bilateral relations on 31 January 1972."

High Commissioner Bruer also presented to State Minister Alam a framed copy of the Australian Cabinet minute dated 25 January 1972 recording the Australian Government's decision to recognise the government of Bangladesh, and a Department of Foreign Affairs Press Release from 31 January 1972 announcing Australia's recognition of Bangladesh.

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