

HOBART BANGLADESH COMMUNITY INC
ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY DAY OF BANGLADESH
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2025

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House.

May I acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their deep connection to land, sea, sky and waters, and their ongoing commitment to community.

Victory Day on 16 December marks the end of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. On that day, after nine months of conflict, Bangladeshi forces, supported by the population, achieved victory.

The conflict resulted in significant loss of life and displacement but also demonstrated resilience and unity amongst the people.

Victory Day is celebrated by Bangladeshis worldwide. It is remembered as the Day Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation. The Day symbolises freedom, self-determination, and nationhood.

The anniversary is celebrated with pride, but also with gratitude for the sacrifices of those who helped to achieve liberation.

As we come together today, we can celebrate your community established in Tasmania. From the first families who migrated here in the early 2000s to study at our University of Tasmania, we now have around 600 people of Bangladeshi origin living in Tasmania¹, working across many sectors around our State. Your community is strong and contributes to the multicultural, social, and economic life of our State.

¹ https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/7101_6 accessed 16 Dec 25

May we celebrate the shared values and ties between the peoples of Tasmania and Bangladesh. May I recall that on this day two years ago, I unveiled a Bangladesh community Commemorative Stone at the International Wall of Friendship. The Wall is a record of and an ongoing tribute to our State's many migrants, and a reminder of the benefits of our Tasmanian multiculturalism.

On this day of remembrance, may we celebrate the achievements of the past and the future opportunities for engagement and cultural connection within your community and across Tasmania.

Dave ...