

# MEDIA RELEASE



## AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

### Australia backs education in Bangladesh

Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock visited schools in Kushtia 24-25 September to meet teachers and students benefiting from Australia's support for education in Bangladesh.



*Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock with students in Kushtia*

Education is a cornerstone of Australia's aid program in Bangladesh. In 2014-15 Australia will provide \$32.6 million to education activities in Bangladesh, or over one-third of Australia's aid spending in Bangladesh.

Australia's education aid contributes to Bangladesh's future growth and development. Our focus is primary education, but our program also includes help for secondary schools, groups of young women, ethnic minority children and children with special needs.

Australia's partners in education are the Bangladesh Government, the World Bank, UNICEF and BRAC.

Bangladesh has one of the largest education systems in the world with over 30 million students enrolled from pre-school through higher education institutions.

In Kushtia, Mr Wilcock was hosted by Mr Mahbub-Ul-Alam Hanif, Member of Parliament for Kushtia-3 and Joint General Secretary of the Awami League.

Mr Hanif accompanied Mr Wilcock to Rabindranath Tagore's house Kuthibari, and to the Lalon Shah Mazar for a concert by the Lalon Academy's accomplished musicians.

**Australian High Commission, Dhaka, 29 September 2014**

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