

MEDIA RELEASE



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION DHAKA

ANZAC Day Centenary Commemoration Service in Dhaka

On Saturday 25 April 2015, the Australian High Commission in Dhaka commemorated the 100th anniversary of ANZAC Day, remembering Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women who died in wars and conflicts, including 29 buried at the Commonwealth War Cemeteries in Bangladesh.

Mr Greg Wilcock, the High Commissioner of Australia, along with Bangladesh Government representative, Air Commodore Ehsanul Gani Choudhury; Ambassador for the Republic of Turkey, HE Huseyin Muftuoglu, and the Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand Mr Michael Appleton placed wreaths at the remembrance service.

Mr Wilcock in his address recognised and thanked the many ordinary men and women who lost their lives serving Australia and New Zealand in wars, conflicts and peace operations, alongside their compatriots from Allied and Commonwealth Nations. The Ambassador for the Republic of Turkey read the Words of Remembrance.



From left to right: Air Commodore Ehsanul Gani Choudhury; Ambassador for the Republic of Turkey, HE Huseyin Muftuoglu; the Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand, Mr Michael Appleton and the High Commissioner of Australia in Bangladesh

The Commemorative Service highlighted the sacrifice of young servicemen from the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force who served with British Royal Air Force Squadrons in both the Burma and India/Ceylon theatres, including in and around Chittagong during the Second World War. A number of these airmen lost their lives while supporting the jungle fighters and now lie buried in the Chittagong and Comilla war cemeteries.

The service was also attended by senior diplomatic and military representatives and Australian and New Zealand community members in Dhaka.

ANZAC Day is held on 25 April, to remember that on that day in 1915 troops from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed in Gallipoli, Turkey, during the First World War. During the eight-month campaign over 8,700 Australians and over 2,770 New Zealanders were killed. We also remember that over 86,000 from modern-day Turkey lost their lives.

Australian High Commission, Dhaka

26 April 2015

For further information please contact:

Senior Research and Communications Officer

Australian High Commission.

Tel: 8813105, Ext 497, E-mail: simeen.sabha@dfat.gov.au