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***Media Release***

**President Zillur Rahman**

Australia expresses heartfelt condolences to the people of Bangladesh following the passing of President Zillur Rahman on 20 March.

President Rahman's life was interwoven with Bangladesh's history. His four years as President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh followed decades of service to his nation.

Australia is a long-standing friend of Bangladesh and was among the first to recognise its independence. We are fortunate to count among our citizens many who have come from Bangladesh.

Our thoughts are with President Rahman's family and the people of Bangladesh as they mourn their loss.

Greg Wilcock

Australian High Commissioner

**Australian High Commission, Dhaka**

**21 March 2013**

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