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## 20 BANGLADESHIS SELECTED FOR AUSTRALIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Twenty emerging leaders from a range of sectors in Bangladesh have been selected to receive Australia Awards Scholarships to study master's degrees at Australia's world-class universities. The recipients include public sector leaders, scientists, information technology specialists, academics and community development workers. Of the 20 recipients, ten are women and two are from Bangladesh's indigenous communities.

Since 1971, over 3,000 scholarships have been awarded to Bangladeshi nationals. Many alumni are now working in leadership positions in government, business and the community. After completing their degrees, the latest group of recipients will use their new skills, knowledge and networks to help tackle Bangladesh's development priorities.

During an online event on 27 January, Australia's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Jeremy Bruer, congratulated the 20 recipients.

"I strongly encourage you all to live up to the Australia Awards ethos: to make a difference, by being courageous and adventurous, by inspiring positive change and by helping to strengthen the links between our two countries," the High Commissioner said.

Mirana Mahrukh, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division of the Government of Bangladesh and Australian alumna, thanked the Australian Government for providing Australia Awards. "I encourage all the provisional awardees to think outside the box and use this opportunity not only for your individual development but also the development of Bangladesh", Ms Mirana said.

Tribeni Chakma, a marketing and communications professional at Rangamati Science and Technology University in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, spoke on behalf of the Australia Awards recipients.

"Upon returning to Bangladesh, we will use our enhanced knowledge and the networks we will develop in Australia to contribute to the development of our organisations, our communities and Bangladesh," Ms Tribeni said.

The Australia Awards recipients will commence their study when developments in the COVID-19 pandemic allow travel to Australia to resume.

Applications for the next round of Australia Awards Scholarships open on 1 February and close 30 April. For more information about the application process and Australia Awards in Bangladesh, visit www.australiaawardsbangladesh.org.

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