

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Bangladesh Australia Association of Western Australia (BAAWA)
Bengali New Year 1432 Celebrations
Canning Civic Centre Park & Amphitheatre
13 April 2025**

I am delighted to be here today with my wife Patricia representing the City of Cockburn in the celebration of the Bengali New Year 1432 Celebrations.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay my respect to their Elders past and present and I extend my respect to First Nation people with us today.

What a joyous occasion – plenty of colour and vibrancy and as always it is a delight to see so many families here today enjoying themselves, particularly the children who are always full of energy and enthusiasm.

The City of Cockburn is the most multicultural community south of the Swan River and conducts on average one citizenship ceremony each month with an average of 100 people from over 30 different countries becoming Australian citizens.

They are truly amazing ceremonies with many of the conferees wearing the national dress of their countries.

I note the number of attendees are increasing as each hour passes – can I thank all the volunteers who have worked so diligently to present today's celebrations, including the many stall holders who have presented food, clothing, jewellery and a variety of other products for attendees to enjoy.

Again, on behalf of the City of Cockburn I extend our very best wishes for the Bengali community on this auspicious occasion.

Thank you.