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**Press Release**

27 March 2021, Abuja: Bangladesh High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria celebrated 50th Anniversary of the Independence and National Day in a befitting manner with festivity. In the morning event, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Nigeria Mr. Masudur Rahman inaugurated the day-long event with hoisting of national flag amid playing of national anthem. A one minute silence is observed to pay homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his family members, four national leaders, three million martyrs, martyred freedom fighters and two hundred thousand women subject to ignominy and atrocity by the Pakistani occupied forces. It was followed by reading out messages from the Hon’ble President, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Hon’ble Foreign Minister and Hon’ble Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. A documentary was screened on the significance of the day. In the discussion session, High Commissioner paid rich tribute to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his visionary leadership ushering an independent Bangladesh. He also delved into the details focusing on the iconic leadership of Bangabandhu in every movements from 1947 to 1971 until Bangladesh became independent in 1971. The program was also attended by members of Bangladesh community.

As a part of observance of the Golden Jubilee of Independence, a Reception was held at the Transcorp Hilton Abuja in the evening on 26 March 2021 following due COVID protocol. The event started with the playing of the national anthems of Bangladesh and Nigeria. In his welcome remarks, Mr. Masudur Rahman, High Commissioner paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the martyrdom of three million Bangalees andsupreme sacrifice of the freedom fighters. He highlighted the glorious moment of the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Bangladesh coinciding with the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation, while reflecting on the admirable comments and quotables made by the Heads of States from across the globe. He gave an elaborate presentation of the socio-economic transformation Bangladesh made under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the way to achieving the Vision 2021 to turn Bangladesh into a digital and middle income country. While touching briefly on the Nigeria-Bangladesh bilateral relations, he pledged to elevate the two way relations to a new height. As per current practices here, Ms. Aisha Dewa, Director(Asia and Pacific Division) of the Nigerian Foreign Ministry was present as the Guest of Honour representing Nigerian Foreign Minister. She gave an elaborate description of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Nigeria. In her address, the Nigerian Government extended heartiest congratulations to Bangladesh on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of

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Independence. She noted with happiness about Bangladesh’s economic growth terming it as an example under the COVID-struck global economic landscape. She hoped that Nigeria would strive to deepen collaboration with Bangladesh in a wide areas of mutual interest like education, agriculture, defense, culture, trade and commerce. She mentioned about the conclusion of a bilateral mechanism between the two countries. She praised about the new momentum launched through the MOU between Nigerian Chamber (NACCIMA) and Bangladesh FBCCI and hoped that both countries would endeavor to expand the two way trade. The event was attended by Dr.IfeomaAnyanwutaku, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Information and Culture,representative of Nigerian Army Chief, Major General Charles Ofoche,Chief of Protocol Ambassador Bello H. Kazaurewho joined the High Commissioner, Ms. Aisha Dewa and Ambassador’sspouse DilmatAra to cut the Golden Jubilee Anniversary Cake. Later, Princess Bola Ezeji, an eminent Nigerian artist performed a Bangla song (*Jodi RaatPohaley Shona Jeto*…) as a tribute to Bangabandhu.

To mark the occasion, the Mission put up a Stallto display all major exportable of Bangladesh alongside display boards showcasing beautiful Bangladesh and Mujib Corner-focusing on various activities of the Mission on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation. The Mission also put up a Traditional Pithha and Sweet Corner, where home-made ChandroPuli, NakshiPithha, Kalo Jam, GurerShandesh, GolapFulPithha and PoaPithha became an instant hit and a special delicacy of the food cards. As the Reception continued the documentaries were screened on Bangabandhu and Liberation War, tourism, and economic potentials of the country. The guests received souvenir gifts containingGolden Jubilee &MujibBorshoMug, Golden Jubilee Coat Pin, MujibBorsho Coat Pin, Dual National Flags Coat Pin and postage stamp released by the Nigerian Government to mark the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Reception was graced by the personalities from the fields of academia, electronic and printing media, high civil and military officials and leaders from major chamber bodies from different states in Nigeria and eminent Bangladesh community members and entrepreneurs. Ambassadors/High Commissioners from around30 countries and Representatives from UN and International Organisations attended the event.