

**High Commission of India
Kuala Lumpur**

PRESS RELEASE

Celebration of Maitree Diwas (Friendship Day) in Malaysia

The High Commission of Bangladesh and the High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur celebrated *Maitri Diwas* (Friendship Day) on 7 December 2021 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. These celebrations also coincide with 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh.

2. During the visit of Prime Minister of India H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in March 2021, it was agreed by the Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Mrs. Sheikh Hasina that *Maitri Diwas* (Friendship Day) would be observed on 6 December, the day on which India recognized Bangladesh in 1971. The holding of *Maitri Diwas* is a reflection of the deep and abiding friendship between the peoples of India and Bangladesh that has been forged in blood and shared sacrifices.

3. The joint celebrations held in Malaysia were part of the joint celebrations held in 18 capitals across the world apart from in Dhaka and Delhi. The event commenced with the unfurling of the National Flags of Bangladesh & India followed by the National Anthems of Bangladesh and India. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia, H.E. Md. Golam Sarwar and High Commissioner of India to Malaysia, H.E. Mr. B.N. Reddy addressed the audience highlighting the importance of the occasion.

4. Special Envoy of the Government of Malaysia to South Asia, Tan Sri Vigneswaran and the Deputy Minister of Human Resources Datuk Haji Awang Bin Hashim, representing the Minister for Human Resources graced the event.

5. A documentary produced by the Government of Bangladesh, highlighting the breadth and depth of the Bangladesh-India bilateral relations was screened at the event. Cultural performances by the Indian and Bangladeshi artistes showcased the rich cultural heritage shared by the peoples of the two countries. The culinary delights of the two countries were also presented to the guests.

6. The ceremony was well attended by Senators, senior officials of Government of Malaysia, Ambassadors/High Commissioners and other diplomatic corps, representatives from the Bangladeshi and Indian diaspora community, businesses, academia and media. The event was held in full compliance of the extant SOPs and social distancing.

**Kuala Lumpur
7 December 2021**