

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

23 Jaistha 1428
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Message

I am very delighted to extend my warm felicitations to the Governments and the Peoples of the Member States of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) on the joyous occasion of the 24th BIMSTEC Day. I also take this opportunity to convey my greetings to the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC and the officials of the BIMSTEC Secretariat.

Bangladesh joined the BIMSTEC Forum during Awami League-led Government in 1997 in the spirit of realization of the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to achieve collective economic and social progress for the neighboring countries through building a stronger cooperation with them. The Father of the Nation's legacy of Regional Cooperation has since been one of the Foreign Policy priorities of Bangladesh. As we have been celebrating the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation and the 50th anniversary of our Independence this year, it is my profound pleasure to reiterate our commitment to the BIMSTEC process for the uplift of the standards of lives of all our Peoples in the Bay of Bengal region.

BIMSTEC process achieved some remarkable progress during the last 24 years of its existence. I am glad to note that we have been able to build some of the important institutional and legal frameworks during this period. Now we need to work faster to turn BIMSTEC into a result-oriented organization to achieve our collective goals. Bangladesh as a founding member and the host country of the BIMSTEC Secretariat will do everything possible to strengthen the BIMSTEC process. We thank all members of BIMSTEC for their concerted support and continuous engagements.

It is my firm conviction that the BIMSTEC process will intensify further with the holding of the 5th BIMSTEC Summit soon. I hope that the 5th BIMSTEC Summit will generate new impetus in stepping forward the progress we already made in various important sectors of cooperation including trade and investment, connectivity, agriculture and energy, public health, and technology sectors. As we have been passing through an unprecedented crisis of prolonged COVID-19 Pandemic, I would urge upon the esteemed Member States to leverage the BIMSTEC platform to combat the multi-prong challenges and devastating impact of COVID-19 during the Post-Covid-19 Era. We may exploit this platform to forge cooperation especially in the fields of food security, disaster management, and poverty alleviation through sharing our knowledge and expertise.

On this very auspicious occasion, I wish BIMSTEC Forum all success in its future endeavors.

Long Live the BIMSTEC Spirit.
Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.

Sheikh Hasina