



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

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Message

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and my behalf, I am delighted to extend the warmest felicitations to the Governments and the people of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Member States on the joyous occasion of 23rd BIMSTEC Day 2020. I also extend my special greetings to the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC and the officials of the BIMSTEC Secretariat.

I am pleased to observe that BIMSTEC has come a long way in its commitment to harness shared and accelerated growth through intimate cooperation in different areas of common interests. I firmly believe that BIMSTEC will advance in accelerated pace towards making a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal Region as we agreed in the 4th BIMSTEC Summit along with the BIMSTEC Leaders.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed the world a serious challenge. It will leave long-lasting multiple impacts on the lives and living of people of this region causing repercussions in the economic and social progress. BIMSTEC forum provides an excellent platform to combat the devastating impact of COVID-19. We should not leave any stone unturned to utilize this platform in addressing the challenges of the post-COVID-19 era.

We are also celebrating the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who for the first time had dreamt of working together with the neighbors in the region for collective progress. Regional cooperation has since been a part of our constitution and foreign policy priorities. As a founding member of BIMSTEC and host of BIMSTEC Secretariat and in the spirit of pursuing regional cooperation, Bangladesh is committed to closely work with all BIMSTEC Members on all areas of cooperation including the promotion of trade and investment cooperation, strengthening energy cooperation, increasing connectivity and people-to-people contact, disaster management, and public health, combating terrorism and extremism, dealing with the adverse effects of climate change and poverty alleviation.

On this very auspicious occasion, I wish BIMSTEC all the success in its future endeavors. Let us all work together with the noble mission to transform BIMSTEC into a strong, effective, result-oriented, and mutually beneficial organization for the 1.5 billion people of the BIMSTEC region.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.
May Bangladesh live forever.

Sheikh Hasina