

His Excellency Shahriar Alam, Hon'ble State Minister of Bangladesh Speaks at The Inauguration Ceremony of The BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Hon'ble Prime Minister
Hon'ble Finance Minister,
Hon'ble Foreign Minister
Distinguished member of the Cabinet,
Member of Parliament
Foreign Secretary,
Secretary General of BIMSTEC,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum and a very good morning to you all.

On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, I welcome you all to the inaugural ceremony of the BIMSTEC Secretariat.

BIMSTEC came into being in Bangkok on 6th June 1997 with four participating members and only six areas of cooperation. During the past decade or so the membership has expanded to seven from four and areas of cooperation grew to 14 from initial six. I believe the Secretariat will add new impetus to the BIMSTEC.

We are thankful to the member states for choosing Dhaka as the seat of the BIMSTEC. Establishment of the Secretariat is the first step in our collective journey towards regional economic integration. Our next step will be to work together with all the Member states to transform the organization into a dynamic body.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite her hectic schedule the Hon'ble Prime Minister has kindly consented to inaugurate the BIMSTEC Secretariat as the Chief Guest. We are grateful to the Hon'ble Prime minister for her kind presence. We are also grateful to her for continued support and strong commitment to the BIMSTEC.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Foreign minister, the other Cabinet members, Ambassador and high Commissioners, members of Parliament, Secretariat and other Government Officials, and media representatives for their kind presence.

I thank you all

Joy Bangla, Joy bangabandhu.

May the BIMSTEC spirit live forever.