



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

Press Release

BIMSTEC Secretary General Hosts Iftaar and Underscores Bangladesh's Leading Role in Regional Cooperation under BIMSTEC

DHAKA, 10 March 2026 –Secretary General BIMSTEC, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, hosted an Iftar Dinner yesterday evening, bringing together a distinguished gathering of Government Leaders, diplomatic corps, media, academia and business communities to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan and foster regional peace and harmony.

The reception was graced by H.E. Shama Obaed Islam MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In her welcome remarks, Honourable State Minister lauded BIMSTEC's role as a vital link between South and Southeast Asia and emphasized the importance of spiritual values in building a more empathetic and integrated regional community.

H.E. M Rashiduzzaman Millat, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh along with Dr. Nazrul Islam, Secretary Bilateral, Ministry of Foreign Affairs also graced the iftaar.

Welcoming the guests, BIMSTEC Secretary General noted that the holy month of Ramadan teaches the universal values of self-restraint, compassion, and kindness, encouraging us to lead a virtuous life that fosters a better world. During this time of unprecedented global turmoil, BIMSTEC stands as a strong regional platform where the region's shared civilizational links and developmental aspirations allow us to contribute to the realisation of the shared BIMSTEC vision of a secure, developed, and sustainable Bay of Bengal region.

He underlined the leadership role of Bangladesh, the current chair of BIMSTEC and expressed the keenness of the BIMSTEC Secretariat to work closely with the new Government of Bangladesh to strengthen and deepen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC.

About BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Its agenda for regional cooperation comprises the following: Trade, Investment and Development, and Blue Economy; Environment and Climate Change, and Mountain Economy; Security, Energy and Disaster Management; Agriculture and Food Security, and Fisheries and Livestock; People to People Contact, Tourism, Culture, Poverty Alleviation and Visa Matters; Science, Technology and Innovation, Health and Human Resource Development; and Connectivity.

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