



প্রধানমন্ত্রী

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

23 Jaistha 1431

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## Message

On the occasion of the 28<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Day, I extend my warmest greetings to the governments and the people of the member states of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the BIMSTEC Secretary General and the officials of the Secretariat for their tireless efforts in advancing our shared vision.

Bangladesh is a founding member of BIMSTEC, and the country joined the BIMSTEC Forum in 1997 in the spirit of realizing the dream of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, through achieving collective economic and social progress in the region.

Bangladesh remains committed to creating an enabling environment for the rapid economic development of the region through mutual collaboration. The BIMSTEC process has now taken firm shape with the signing of the charter, the formulation of all relevant Rules of Procedures and a fully functional Secretariat in place. I believe that it is now time for tangible and result-oriented cooperation among the BIMSTEC nations.

BIMSTEC has now identified almost all pertinent areas of cooperation for achieving its goal of collective development and has also put in place the required mechanisms for pursuing its goals and objectives. We believe that with the timely implementation of the decisions taken at the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit, particularly the BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity, our region will be one of the better connected and better integrated regions in the world. Bangladesh stands ready to work closely with the BIMSTEC Member States to achieve a well-connected, prosperous, and secured BIMSTEC region.

Looking ahead, I hope that the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok will catalyze our collaborative efforts and foster meaningful outcomes to build on. Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen our partnerships, enhance mutual cooperation, and address common challenges facing our region for the benefit of the people.

May this auspicious occasion inspire us to redouble our efforts to pursue our shared goals and aspirations!

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh live forever.

**Sheikh Hasina**