بسيم الله الرّحمل الرّحيم





## PRIME MINISTER GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

23 Agrahayan 1429 08 December 2022

## Message

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my behalf, I have immense pleasure in conveying my heartiest felicitations and best wishes to the people of the SAARC Member States on the auspicious occasion of the 38th SAARC Charter Day 2022. I am also delighted to extend my greetings to the members of the SAARC Secretariat as well as the members of all other entities affiliated with the SAARC family on this happy occasion.

Bangladesh, as one of the founding members of SAARC, recognizes SAARC's immense potential, prospects, and opportunities for the sustainable socio-economic development of the South Asian region and always attaches high priorities to achieving the goals and objectives of the regional forum. It was the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who, back in 1972, first dreamt of working together with the neighbors in the South Asian region for collective economic and social progress. Since then, SAARC, as a regional forum, has emerged as the epitome of the dream of the Founding Father of Bangladesh.

Over the last three decades, the SAARC Charter has been the guiding principle in collective endeavors to bring qualitative changes in the lives and livelihoods of the people of South Asia. SAARC has witnessed considerable progress in fostering mutual cooperation in a wide range of areas, from economic to social, political to cultural, bringing South Asian countries closer. I believe that South Asia offers a vast possibility for cooperation and collaboration in multiple areas among the SAARC Member States, which are also inextricably linked with each other through historical, geographical & political commonalities as well as shared cultural heritage.

On this auspicious day, I reiterate the steadfast support and assurance of the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen SAARC in its efforts to promote peace, stability, and socio-economic progress in the region.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu Long live the SAARC spirit

Sheikh Hasina

for Engra







## Message

On the occasion of the 38<sup>th</sup> SAARC charter day 2022, I am delighted to convey my sincere felicitations to the Governments and the peoples of the SAARC Member States. I would also like to extend my greetings to the SAARC Secretary General and members of the SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Specialized Bodies, Regional Centers and other entities affiliated with SAARC on this special occasion.

Bangladesh, being a founder member of SAARC, has always prioritized the objectives and the broader vision of SAARC and is determined to preserve this indomitable spirit for all the time to come. It was the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who dream of working in collaboration with all neighbours in South Asia back in 1972 for the collective progress, peace and prosperity of the people of this region. Regional cooperation has been an integral component of the foreign policy of Bangladesh since then. Stronger regional cooperation and partnership reflected aptly and adequately in the foreign policy initiatives of the present Government under the able, prudent and dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which bears a clear testimony to the unwavering commitments that Bangladesh has towards the SAARC process and other matters concerning regional cooperation.

Over the time, although SAARC has emerged as a full-bloomed regional organization having a number of effective Specialized Bodies and Regional Centers, Apex and Recognized Bodies. Yet it is slow in achieving its intended goals. However, we reaffirm our strong commitment to strengthen the SAARC Forum as a common platform in South Asia for meaningful regional cooperation. We expect SAARC to deliver wider benefits for the peoples of South Asian region by overcoming the challenges it is faced with.

On this auspicious occasion, I reiterate my sincere wishes for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the peoples SAARC Member states.

Long live the SAARC spirit. Joy Bangla! Joy Bangabandhu!

(Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP)