

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**PRESIDENT**  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA

08 December 2023

On the auspicious occasion of the 39th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), I express my warmest greetings and felicitations to the Governments and the peoples of the SAARC Member States. I also take the opportunity to convey my deep appreciation to the SAARC Secretary-General, members of the Secretariat and all establishments affiliated with SAARC.

As a founding member of the regional entity, Bangladesh recognizes the importance of regional collaboration to ensure peace, progress and stability in the South Asia region. Over the years SAARC has emerged as a full-bloomed regional organization having a number of effective Specialized Bodies and Regional Centers, Apex and Recognized Bodies. We reaffirm our firm commitment to strengthening the SAARC Forum as a common platform in South Asia for meaningful regional cooperation.

The people of SAARC countries are closely bound by long historical ties of trade, cultural exchange, and fraternity in times of need. We would like to see SAARC as a more effective and results-oriented organization to deliver and contribute to fulfilling the shared aspirations of the people in the region.

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

  
**Mohammed Shahabuddin**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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

23 Agrahayan 1430  
08 December 2023

## **Message**

On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh and on my behalf, I am delighted to convey my heartiest felicitations and best wishes to the governments and the people of the SAARC Member States on the auspicious occasion of the 39th SAARC Charter Day 2023. I am also glad to greet the SAARC Secretariat members and all other SAARC entities on this happy occasion.

SAARC emerged as a regional organization in line with the vision of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who, back in 1972, dreamt of working in collaboration with the neighboring countries for the socio-economic emancipation of the teeming millions of the region. As one of the founding members of SAARC, Bangladesh recognizes the importance of SAARC for the socio-economic development of the people of the region through collective efforts in various cooperation areas, particularly in trade, investment, energy, and connectivity. The recent developments in multiple parts of the world have once again demonstrated the importance of regional cooperation.

For nearly four 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. The SAARC region is undergoing many challenges. I believe our collective efforts could contribute to forging closer cooperation among the Member States to overcome the challenges and make SAARC an effective and result-oriented regional organization.

On this auspicious day, I reiterate the steadfast support and commitment of the government of Bangladesh to strengthening 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**