## Dec 21

## SASSI and SAARC

SASSI embraces SAARC Dr. Jassim Taqui

SAARC Secretary General Ms Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed is upbeat on the 26th anniversary of the founding of this regional organization, which slowly becoming a regional economic and trade free zone.

SAARC has institutionalized cooperation at all levels and set up a number of mechanisms and institutions to facilitate and guide the agenda of cooperation. Indeed, through its diverse activities over the past two and half decades, SAARC has sought to engender a distinct South Asian identity and a culture of peace, cooperation and partnership for the collective benefit of South Asian peoples. SAARC was established to promote South Asian regional cooperation and integration to improve the well being and quality of life of the people of South Asia.

It is founded on the firm conviction that South Asia shares a common future and destiny shaped by close historical, cultural and geographical ties. Since its inception, SAARC has engendered mutually beneficial cooperation in many diverse areas and promoted greater understanding, goodwill and cooperation among the people and Governments of South Asia. It has served as an important platform to build mutual trust, confidence and sustained interaction and engagement to address and overcome the common challenges faced by the region and seize opportunities.

SAARC has made significant progress to realize the purposes and objectives enshrined in its Charter. The South Asian Free Trade Agreement, Development Fund, Food Bank and the South Asian University are some of the notable achievements of this rising organization.

SASSI is closely cooperating with SAARC to achieve its objective. In this regard, the Director General of SASSI Dr. Maria Sultan hosted a dinner to celebrate the occasion.