

The 15th. SAARC Summit

The two-day 15th SAARC Summit concluded with the adoption of the Colombo Declaration, Colombo statement on food security and the signing of four agreements on cooperation in core areas. Current SAARC chairperson and President of host Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa formally declared the summit closed at 4:14 pm at the high-security Bandaranaike Memorial Inter-national Conference Hall (BMICH) in the Lankan capital.

Chairing the brief wrapping-up session that began at 3:40pm amid a simple ceremony, the Lankan President announced that the next SAARC Summit would be held in Male, the capital of the Maldives, in 2009. Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, delivering vote of thanks in the closing session, said, "I am looking forward to welcoming all in Male at 16th SAARC Summit in 2009." It would not be out of place to mention that the Male president is the only surviving representative who attended the first SAARC Summit at Dhaka so long ago.

The four agreements that got a seal of approval from the South Asian countries are the Charter of SAARC Development Fund, agreement on the Establishment of South Asian Regional Standard Organisation (SAR-SO), SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Protocol on Accession of Afghanistan to South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement. Foreign Ministers of the SAARC countries inked the deals in the presence of the heads of state or government of the eight member-countries of the bloc, as representatives from the observer-states looked over

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was founded nearly twenty years ago has so far existed more in its potential than as a functional reality. Political uncertainties and recurrent political tensions in the region have dogged it throughout and is the main contribution to its inability to fulfill those potentials. However there have been significant breakthrough on the economic front but the climate of distrust and prejudices remain to keep a leash on the growth of the South Asian Regional Organisation. With mass poverty still the common denominator of this region, it is still an uphill task for member countries to achieve their objectives. However a milestone was reached at the 13th. Summit held at Islamabad.

It is no understatement if we say that the outcome of the 13th. Summit was a virtual roadmap to greater economic interactions, especially in the realm of trade

BCC polls

Among others, Al. Central leader Mohammad Nusrin abroad for better treatment. Hundreds of local AL leaders and workers joined the two-hour programme beginning at 10 am. Later, a discussion meeting was held with senior vice-president of Pabna District AL M Saiful Huq Chinnu in the chair. District AL General Secretary Advocate Shamsul Huq Tuku, former MP Advocate Anzad Hossain, AL leaders Advocate Golam Hossain, Raqib Hasan Tipu and former chairman of Pabna Pourasabha Alhaj Mosharrat Hossain addressed the meeting.

Terrorist killed in encounter with police in Jhendidah

number of 4,32,965 of the year 2006 in Sadar upazila, 1,73,723 against 1,96,835 in Gangachara upazila, 79,896 against 85,085 in Taragarj upazila and 1,70,943 against 1,84,729 in Badarganj upazila. Besides, the present voter number stands at 1,35,110 against 1,49,485 voters of 2006 in Kawiya upazila, 1,90,411 against 2,23,009 voters in Pirgacha upazila, 3,12,838 against 3,38,726 voters in Mithnapukur upazila and 2,76,293 against 2,54,473 voters of 2006 in Pirganj upazila, sources said.