

Preparation for Saarc summit in full swing

Foreign secy says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All necessary preparations are in full swing to make the 13th SAARC summit in Dhaka a complete success, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin told diplomatic correspondents at the foreign ministry yesterday.

"We're trying to shore up all the

SUMAN'S DEATH Impartial probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Awami Swachchha Sebak League at a condolence meeting at the Central Shahid Minar in the city yesterday demanded impartial probe and trial of the killers of Suman Ahmed.

Suman, general secretary of ward No 60 of Sweschha Shebak League, succumbed to his injuries following torture allegedly by police on August 18.

"Police tortured Suman to death in custody," Sweschha Shebak League President AFM Bahauddin Nasim said.

Several hundred workers of Sweschha Shebak League thronged the rally demanding punishment to the perpetrators of Suman murder.

They brought out a mourning procession from Central Shahid Minar that ended at the Institution of Engineers.

Khairul Bashar, Mortuza Hossain, MA Khan Majlish, Alamgir Hossain and Noor Islam Mollah also spoke at the rally.

arrangements earlier made for the summit before the second postponement and preparations are on in a full swing, including arrangements for safety and security for the summit leaders and delegation members," he said.

The foreign secretary said the summit would take place on schedule—November 12-13 while authorities concerned are working relentlessly and working out the details of the summit.

Replying to a question, he said that he has no information related to deferring the summit, which was already postponed twice.

Saarc comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The summit, originally scheduled to be held in Dhaka in January this year, was first postponed in December last year after three of the seven Saarc member nations were hit by the tsunami disaster that left nearly 300,000 people dead.

It was postponed for the second time in February when India pulled out, citing the security situation in Bangladesh and political instability in Nepal.

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin said there will be four pre-summit meetings of the Saarc Programming Committee held on November 8. Foreign secretaries will meet on November 9-10 and foreign ministers on November 10-11.

Before the Dhaka summit, he said, SAARC information ministers will meet in Kathmandu on August 28-30, energy ministers in Islamabad on September 30-October 1, finance ministers in Colombo on October 8-9 and commerce ministers in Islamabad October 21-22.

The foreign secretary said at the

time the authorities are preparing arrangements of the summit, pre-summit official and ministerial meetings, venues for the meetings, accommodations of the heads of states and governments, ministers, officials, transport and security and safety comforts.

Meanwhile, officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs said necessary preparations are underway for holding the summit with effective measures for safety of the heads of state or government.

They said a foolproof security arrangement will be built up across the country ahead of the 13th Saarc Summit and all heads of state and government will be provided equal security.

Sources said that a meeting of the security committee and other committees related with the summit continued discussion of the entire security aspects, arrangements and movements of VVIPs.

Four sub-committees were formed to look after the security arrangement for summit delegates.

A high official of a law enforcement agency said more steps are on the cards to be taken and Dhaka will be a foolproof city in the security perspective.

Security measures at Zia International Airport (ZIA), land and all seaports are also being discussed. Entry to the airport will be restricted and baggage and check-ins closely monitored.

ZIA will also be put under a heightened security alert during the arrival of foreign ministers and Saarc leaders. All the entry and exit points of the capital will remain under tough and sharp eyes of the intelligence personnel and law enforcers.

BOMB, GRENADE ATTACKS

Human chains in front of all bar councils, press clubs on Sept 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human chains will be formed in front of all bar councils and press clubs across the country on September 8 from 10:00am to 11:00am to protest the repeated bomb and grenade attacks in the country.

The programme was announced at a meeting organised by Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee at Bangladesh Bar Council Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Representatives of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Karmojibi Foundation and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) attended the meeting.

Speakers at the meeting said fanatics are carrying out bomb attacks killing progressive political leaders, civil society members and intellectuals one after another pushing national security at stake.

"Fanatics have set up many militant training camps at different places across the country but the government did not take any steps against them even after publishing many reports in different dailies," said Advocate Z I Khan Panna, chairman of Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee.

Our protest programme will continue until the law and order situation improves, he added.

"The anti-liberation forces are now conspiring to establish a fundamentalist state under the protection of the alliance government," said Tushar Rehman of Karmojibi Foundation.

Rehana Sultana of BNWLA, Farida Yasmin of Blast, Mamataj Begum of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Dr Jesmin Ara Sultana of ASK and Shahara Khatun also spoke.

Mayors discuss common problems tomorrow

BDNEWS Dhaka

All the mayors of six city corporations of the country will sit tomorrow at the Mayor House of Dhaka city at Gulshan in the city to discuss common problems prevailing in city corporations and to prepare a common proposal in this regard.

The proposal will be handed over to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Sources said the proposal would be made after discussing the 'City Government System' proposed by ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, mayor of Chittagong City Corporation.

Among the six mayors, four from ruling BNP and two others from AL. They are Dhaka Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, Rajshahi Mayor Mijanur Rahman, Khulna Mayor Taibur Rahman and Bairishal Mayor Majibar Rahman Sarwar of BNP and Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Sylhet Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran of AL.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of the civil society and family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria line up at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday as part of 'Blue for Peace' programme demanding trial of the killers of Kibria.

COLLEGE GIRL KILLING

TV maker to die

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a youth to death for killing Sadia Afrin alias Lovely, a student of Lalmatia College in the city eight years' ago.

Judge Mohammad Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in absence of the convict.

The convict Nasir Uddin, son of Abul Kashem of Shafipur under Muladi thana in Barisal district, has been absconding since the incident.

The punishment of the convict will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender and the convict can appeal to the High Court (HC) against the verdict within seven days from the day of

receipt of the judgement copy, the court said.

Victim's father Abdur Razzak was present in the court during the delivery of the judgement and said that he would not get back his daughter but he was satisfied with the judgement.

Nasir, a TV maker, used to tease Lovely on her way to college. At one stage, Nasir proposed her for marriage, which Lovely refused. In it, he became angry and knifed her to death at about 10:45am on December 30, 1997 at Rayerbazar when Lovely and her friend Moni were returning their homes.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Farid Halder appeared for the state while Advocate Abdul Goni defended the accused.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion titled 'Bangabandhu and Bangladesh' organised by the Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right is Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and on her left is Dr Kamrul Islam.