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Khaleda to have busy day at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is all set to welcome the Saarc leaders flying in today to join the 13th Saarc Summit.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will receive them at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

Red carpet will be rolled down for the leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional



Words to Deeds
A Mini Special

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star will bring out tomorrow a 12-page special colour supplement titled 'From Words to Deeds' on the occasion of the 13th Saarc Summit.

The issue, which will be divided into three parts: Vision, Cooperation and Security will have write-ups mainly from eminent scholars from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal.

Safta tops agenda

Foreign secretaries to seek direction from Saarc leaders to meet deadline

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Saarc foreign secretaries yesterday decided to seek directions from the South Asian heads of state and government assembling here at the 13th Saarc summit on how to ensure full implementation of the South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta) by the January 1, 2006 deadline.

The decision came at the 31st meeting of Saarc Standing Committee

comprising the foreign secretaries of the member states held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel with Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary (FS) Hemayetuddin in the chair.

Maldives Deputy Foreign Minister Aminath Mohamed Didi, Bhutanese FS Neten Zagmo, Indian FS Shyam Saran, Nepalese Acting FS Nabin Bahadur Shrestha, Pakistani FS Riaz Mohammed Khan and Sri Lankan FS HMGS

Paliakkara attended the meeting.

"The Standing Committee has agreed to give the highest priority to implementing Safta by the deadline... all out efforts would be made to sort out the remaining unresolved issues," Additional FS of Bangladesh AHM Moniruzzaman told local and foreign journalists covering the summit at Hotel Sonargaon in the evening.

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Foreign ministers start informal consultations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign ministers of the Saarc countries yesterday began informal consultations ahead of the two-day summit of the South Asian leaders on November 12-13.

They will sit today at the formal meeting of the Saarc Council of Ministers at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel with Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan in the chair.

The participating foreign ministers are: Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk of Bhutan, Dr Ahmed Shaheed of the Maldives, Ramesh Nath Pandey of Nepal,

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PHOTO STAR

Workers mount portraits of the Saarc leaders along Bijoy Sarani in the city yesterday as the 13th summit of the regional forum begins tomorrow.

FMs agree to make Kabul member

India objects to China's observer status

REZAUL KARIM

Saarc foreign ministers (FMs) yesterday agreed in principle to award membership of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to Afghanistan but could not reach a consensus on the proposed observer status of China in the face of strong

opposition from a member country.

The agreement and disagreement came last evening during an 'informal' meeting of the Saarc Council of Ministers comprising the foreign ministers of the member states, who will begin formal deliberations this morning at

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Ceramic, dairy goods to get free access to India

Delhi also waives some duties on 204 textile, garment tariff lines

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has decided to grant duty-free access to Bangladeshi ceramic and dairy products, and also to remove some specific duties on 204 out of 271 tariff lines in textiles and garments under Safta, the daily Indian Express reported yesterday.

In another development, the Indian cabinet yesterday endorsed minor changes in the text of the Saarc multi-lateral agreement to avoid double taxation and to promote mutual administrative assistance in tax matters to be tabled at the Dhaka Saarc summit.

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Safma for visa-free movement of journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists from South Asia at a conference in Dhaka yesterday urged the leaders of the seven Saarc countries to allow free movement of media personnel within this region without visa to perform their professional duties.

Foreign ministers of three Saarc countries -- India, Pakistan and Bangladesh -- had earlier assured the journalists of such facility but it

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Regional power grid proposal to be placed at meet

UNB, Dhaka

A proposal for setting up a regional power grid is likely to be adopted at the 13th Saarc Summit to be held in the capital on November 12-13.

Sources in the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources said the proposal will be placed in line with the

resolution of the recently held Saarc energy ministers' meeting in Islamabad.

The Islamabad meeting held on October 1 adopted a resolution calling for developing a regional power grid covering all the Saarc member countries except the

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TOWARD A MORE MEANINGFUL SAARC



Saarc should turn into economic union
Mannan Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister and BNP Secretary General

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United efforts needed to fight terrorism
Abdul Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil said South Asian countries should work together under the banner of

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Leaders should work to resolve common problems
Rashed Khan Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the South Asian leaders will have to

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Enayetullah Khan no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran journalist Enayetullah Khan passed away yesterday at a hospital in Canada. He was 66.

Enayetullah, editor of the daily New Age and editor-in-chief of the weekly Holiday, had been undergoing treatment in Toronto after he was diagnosed with cancer of

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Tribute

Passing away of an icon

MAHFUZ ANAM

He was by far the best among us; courageous, articulate, clear thinking, highly political and refreshingly

outspoken. His was a life totally dedicated to journalism. Unabashedly opinionated and unreservedly expressive about his

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