

SAARC COMES TO COLOMBO

The 15th South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) summit is scheduled to be held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) from July 27 to August 3rd. The Sri Lanka Government is making all the necessary arrangements to hold the 15th SAARC Conference.

- Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will hand over the SAARC chair to Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa during the summit. India hosted the 14th SAARC summit in 2007.

THEME
With the theme of 'Towards a South Asian Union,' the summit will be held under the slogan 'Growing Together.'

FOCUS OF 15TH SUMMIT

- The 15th summit will focus on soaring oil prices, food crisis, economic growth, social development and the problem of terrorism in South Asia.

OBSERVERS

- As observers of the conference, delegations from Japan, United States, European Union, China, Mauritius, Iraq and South Korea are expected to participate in the eight-nation summit.

SUMMIT PROGRAMME

- July 27 to July 30: Council of the SAARC Foreign Secretaries
- July 31 to Aug 01: Council of the SAARC Foreign Ministers
- Aug 02 to Aug 03: Heads of States Summit, which is the final Conference.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- The summit is expected to be attended by around 1,000 delegates from the SAARC countries.
- Colombo city hotels will accommodate around 1,500 delegates and media personnel associated with the event.

RELATED EVENTS

| Event | Dates | Venue |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SAARC Film Festival | 18th July | Tharangani Theatre- Colombo |
| SAARC Media Forum (SAFMA) | 26th July | Trans Asia Hotel-Colombo |
| SAARC Seminar | 27th July | Mt. Lavinia Hotel-Colombo |
| SAARC Mini Exhibition & Sale | 26th July - 4th August | Art Gallery - Colombo |
| SAARC Dance Festival | 28th July - 3rd August | John de Silva Theatre - Colombo |
| SAARC Youth Camp - Maharagama | 28th July - 1st August | National Youth Services Council |
| SAARC Village | | Nawalapitiya |
| SAARC Trade Fair | 28th - 30th August | BMICH - Colombo |
| 15th SAARC Summit Commemorative Stamp | Opening Day | BMICH - Colombo |
| Sri Lanka Fashion, Gem and jewellery & Food Exhibition | 30th July | Galle Face Hotel - Colombo |
| Children's Art Exhibition | Opening Day | Art Gallery - Colombo |

COST
Estimated total expenditure in respect of the conference is Rs.2, 880 million.

- Security expenditure: 75% of the total expenditure is allocated for security measures.

- Cultural Activity : 9.4% of total expenditure
- Special Projects : 7.6% of total expenditure
- For meeting facilities : 1.66% of total expenditure
- Building repairs : 13.78% of total expenditure

- The CMC hopes to spend around Rs. 358.96 million on the rehabilitation of the roads and canals around Colombo in readiness for the SAARC Summit.

SECURITY



Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH)

Sri Lanka Government launched special security plans to ensure protection of SAARC leaders and delegations. The special security programme will include defence from terrorist attacks from air and land, as well as monitoring suspicious activity using advanced surveillance equipment.

SECURITY PERSONNEL

- 25,000 security personnel, of which about 3000 will be deployed for the security of the visiting VIPs.
- This security team is drawn from the elite of the Presidential Security Division, Prime Minister's Security Division, VIP security Division, STF and the CID.
- 40 official sniffer dogs specially trained to detect explosives.

FOREIGN SECURITY PERSONNEL

- In addition to the security plan launched by the Sri Lankan forces, the respective VIPs will also bring their own security personnel.
- The Indian security entourage including highly skilled Black Cats, 3 warships and 2 frontline guided-missile destroyers and several helicopters to protect Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

- A special security plan will be launched to ensure protection of 3 VIPs (Indian PM, Pakistan PM, Afghanistan President) whose lives are threatened by terrorist attacks, as per intelligence information.

- Government has imported the latest technology and equipment including personal and travelling bag search scanners, explosive identification machines, anti remote control devices and inter communication mobile phones.



HIGH SECURITY ZONES

Security authorities declare four High Security Zones (HSZs) in the areas adjoining Fort, Katunayake, BMICH and Parliament.

HSZ 1

First of these is in the landing and exit points at the Bandaranaike International Airport.

HSZ 2

The Second Zone is the BMICH and the surrounding roads, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Sarana Road, and Malalasekera Mawatha.

HSZ 3

The third zone includes the environs of Hotel Intercontinental, Hilton, Trans Asia, Cinnamon Grand, Galle Face Hotel, the hotels reserved for summit guests. In addition, the Marine Drive running parallel to the coast, Colombo Harbour, Colombo Continental Hotel, Galadari Hotel, Ceylinc building, Navy Headquarters, and Police Headquarters.

The other zone includes Galle Face Road from Colpetty Junction up to the old Parliament building, Slave Island railway station level crossing, and the Canal Bank where, the Army Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence are situated.

This security zone will be operative from July 25. From July 25 to 29th, this area will be subjected to traffic barriers and thorough checks.

From July 25 to 30, vehicles will be allowed access to these HSZs subject to a thorough security check but from July 31 to August 3, only vehicles which have valid permits to access the Zones would be allowed.

A separate form requesting for details of each staff member will be given by the local police, for which we need a photo of the staff member attached when handing over same. (For separate investigation purposes by the PSD/ MSD/CID)

Cash courier vehicles/ Document courier vehicles need to obtain separate passes through their respective companies.

Security personnel attached to the branch should obtain approval through their organisation.

No new staff should be sent to the branch during this period. (25/07/2008 to 04/08/2008)

Declare August 01st (Friday) as a public holiday and Schools are expected to close for their August holidays from July 26 onwards as part of security measures.

All details of staff for whom passes are required should be provided in order to obtain same. All bank staff should have the bank ID with them. No staff will be allowed without the office ID.



ABOUT SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an economic and political organisation of eight countries in Southern Asia. In terms of population, its sphere of influence is the largest of any regional organisation: almost 1.5 billion people, the combined population of its member states. It was established on December 8, 1985 by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives and Bhutan. In April 2007, at the Association's 14th summit, Afghanistan became its eighth member.



Past SAARC Summits

| Summits | Date | Place | Country |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1st SAARC Summit | 7 - 8 December 1985 | Dhaka | Bangladesh |
| 2nd SAARC Summit | 16 - 17 November 1986 | Bangalore | India |
| 3rd SAARC Summit | 2 - 4 November 1987 | Kathmandu | Nepal |
| 4th SAARC Summit | 29 - 31 December 1988 | Islamabad | Pakistan |
| 5th SAARC Summit | 21 - 23 November 1990 | Male | Maldives |
| 6th SAARC Summit | 21 December 1991 | Colombo | Sri Lanka |
| 7th SAARC Summit | 10 - 11 April 1993 | Dhaka | Bangladesh |
| 8th SAARC Summit | 2 - 4 May 1995 | New Delhi | India |
| 9th SAARC Summit | 12 - 14 May 1997 | Male | Maldives |
| 10th SAARC Summit | 29 - 31 July 1998 | Colombo | Sri Lanka |
| 11th SAARC Summit | 4 - 6 January 2002 | Kathmandu | Nepal |
| 12th SAARC Summit | 2 - 6 January 2004 | Islamabad | Pakistan |
| 13th SAARC Summit | 12 - 13 November 2005 | Dhaka | Bangladesh |
| 14th SAARC Summit | 3 - 4 April, 2007 | New Delhi | India |

South Asian Leaders to attend 15th SAARC summit

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|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Leaders of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan are expected to attend the summit.</p> | <p>SRI LANKA</p>  <p>President Mahinda Rajapaksa</p> | <p>INDIA</p>  <p>Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh</p> | <p>PAKISTAN</p>  <p>Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani</p> | <p>BHUTAN</p>  <p>Prime Minister Jigme Thinley</p> | <p>BANGLADESH</p>  <p>Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed</p> | <p>NEPAL</p>  <p>Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala</p> | <p>MALDIVES</p>  <p>President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom</p> | <p>AFGHANISTAN</p>  <p>President Hamid Karzai</p> |
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TRAFFIC SCHEME FOR SAARC SUMMIT

Starting July 25, vehicles and people entering the high security zone will be subjected to thorough security checks. Vehicles entering the zone will need to obtain passes. From July 29, no vehicles will be allowed to the high security zone at all.



- A shuttle service will be functioning for people to come in to the high security zone. (up to D.R. Wijewardena Mawatha - Lake House) All vehicles will have to be parked outside the high security zone.
- Vehicle owners are to display their phone numbers when parked outside, so that officials would be able to contact them in an emergency.

Fort Traffic Plan

Vehicles and commuters will be allowed in after security checks from July 25 to 30.

Roads to be closed: Laden Bastian Mawatha, Baron Jayatilake Mawatha, Lower Chatham street, Ceramic Junction, York Street, Lotus Road from Ceramic Junction, Justice Akbar Mawatha, Glen Street junction, railway crossroad, Colpetty junction.

Alternate routes

From Galle Road to Pettah: Galle road > Colpetty junction > Dharmapala Mawatha > Liberty roundabout > Pittala Handiya junction > James Pieris Mawatha > Union Place junction > Justice Akbar Mawatha > Malay street > Sir Chithimbabalam Gardiner Mawatha > Ceramic junction > Lotus road > CTO junction > Olcott Mawatha.

From Pettah to Galle road: Olcott Mawatha > CTO junction > Lotus road > Ceramic junction > Sir Chithimbabalam Gardiner Mawatha > Malay street > Justice Akbar Mawatha > Union place junction > James Pieris Mawatha > Pitthal Handiya junction > Dharmapala Mawatha > Red Cross roundabout > Marcus Fernando Mawatha > Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha > Liberty roundabout > Duplication road > Galle road

Traffic plan near the BMICH

Vehicles would not be allowed entry from July 30 to August 04 and commuters with essential need to get entry will be issued special permits.

Roads to be closed: Kanaththa junction, Gregory's Road, Gregory Avenue, Bullers' Road - Wijerama junction, Public Administration junction, Bullers' Road - Bullers' Lane junction, Malalasekera Mawatha - Sarana Road junction, Independence Avenue - Bullers' Lane junction

Alternate routes

Kanaththa Roundabout > Kineey Road > Gregory's Road > Maitland Crescent > Maitland Place > Public Administration junction > Independence Avenue > From Reid Avenue to Bambilapitiya (Horton Place can be used for this as well)

Bambilapitiya to Borella: Thunmulla roundabout > Reid Avenue > Thurstan Road > JOC roundabout > Cambridge Place > Albert Crescent > Nanda Motors > Independence Avenue > Maitland Crescent > From Horton Place to Borella

Traffic plan near the Parliament Complex

Vehicles would not be allowed entry from July 30 to August 04 and residents will be issued special permits.

Roads to be closed: From Thalduwa junction to Pelawatta junction, Kiyannem Roundabout to Palamthuna junction, Kiyannem Roundabout to Kimbulawala roundabout, Nipon Street to Boddagana road football grounds, Boddagana junction to Duwa road

Alternate routes

- Traffic from Colombo through Parliament should travel towards Battaramulla from Polduwa.
- Traffic from Malabe to Thalawathugoda going through Parliament should travel towards Battaramulla from Pelawatta and Palamthuna junctions.
- Traffic from Pitakotte Nawa Rohala through the Japan Friendship Road and Parliament Road should be diverted to Thalawathugoda Junction and from there directed to Battaramulla through Pelawatta and Palamthuna Junctions
- Buses plying on the Galle Road are to be stopped at Ceramic Junction in Bambilapitiya from July 31 to August 3.
- Trains on other routes are to be stopped at Maradana with the shuttle service operating from there.
- There would also be restrictions along the Katunayake-Colombo main road from July 30 to August 4 and heavy vehicles would be barred from access during this period. When VIPs use the road to travel to the Airport and back the whole road will be closed for 26 minutes during the time of travel.

