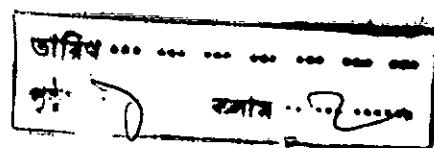


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## Dhaka plans to field candidate for post of SAARC Secy Gen

Although the dates for holding the belated SAARC summit are yet to be finalized, Bangladesh is planning to field a candidate for the post of SAARC Secretary General for the next term, reports UNB.

The tenure of incumbent Secretary General Nehal Rodrigo of Sri Lanka would end on December 31 and it would be Bangladesh's turn to get the important post of chief executive of the seven-nation forum from next January. However, Bangladesh's candidature has not been finalized.

Meanwhile, the dates for the 11th summit of the South Asian cooperation forum due to be held in Nepal could not be finalized by the SAARC standing committee meeting held in Colombo August 9-10.

Most member-states agreed to hold the summit December 28-30, but the Indian island-state Maldives could

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### Dhaka plans

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not accept the dates because of its domestic compulsion of presenting national budget end of December.

Since the President of Maldives who also holds the charge of Finance Ministry would not be in a position to attend the summit, Male proposed the summit for early January.

Acting Foreign Secretary Mohsin Ali Khan who attended the SAARC standing committee meeting told reporters that Bangladesh is ready to attend the summit at any agreed time. "The Bangladesh delegation," he said, "stressed the need for holding the stalled summit as early as possible."

Khan termed baseless an international wire service report that Bangladesh would not be able to attend the summit if held in December because of general election.

In reply to a question, he said consultation would continue among the member-nations to work out an early date for the summit which was postponed following Indo-Pak nuclear tensions and military takeover in Pakistan.

In reply to a question, he said he had talks with Indian Foreign Secretary Chokila Ayer on bilateral matters, including the common border issues. Both sides agreed to maintain peace at the frontier and resolve the current border problems in light of the Mujib-Indira treaty.