

LOCAL NEWS

MoU between SAARC and SACEP signed

A Memorandum of Understanding between SAARC and SACEP was signed on July 8 by SAARC Secretary General Q. A. M. A. Rahim and SACEP Director General, Mahboob Elahi, states a press release issued yesterday.

The MoU has been signed pursuant to decisions by the Council of Ministers of SAARC and the Ministers of Environment and the Governing Council and Consultative Committee of SACEP.

The MoU will constitute a framework of cooperation between SAARC and SACEP in the area of environment protection consistent with the SAARC Charter and the mandate of SACEP.

It provides for the two organisations to cooperate including developing mutually supportive arrangements to implement their respective environmental programs and Action Plans; exchange information on the state of the global and

regional environment and emerging environmental issues; collaborating in producing studies and reports on priority concerns in the field of environment; and strengthening capacity for effectively addressing global, regional and national environmental concerns, including through participation in multilateral environmental negotiations and the environmental agreements.

South Asia with its increasing population and

expanding economies are facing problems in safeguarding its natural resource base.

This framework of cooperation between SAARC and SACEP reflects the vision of the region to face the challenge of sustainable development.

It is also a realisation of the importance of capitalising on the separate strengths of the two organisations to address environmental issues.