

28TH SAARC CHARTER DAY OBSERVED

HIMALAYAN NEWS SERVICE

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) commemorated its SAARC Charter Day marking the establishment of the regional grouping in Dhaka.

Addressing a function held at the SAARC Secretariat to mark the day, SAARC Secretary-General Ahmed Saleem dwelt on major achievements of the grouping, including the South Asian Free Trade Area, South Asian University, SAARC Development Fund and the South Asia Forum.

Vice President Paramananda Jha, Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha, government officials and foreign diplomats, including representatives of SAARC member-states, participated in the function.

On the occasion, Saleem apprised the gathering of the status of implementation of the decisions of the 17th SAARC Summit organised in Addu City in the Maldives in November, 2011.

The 17th summit was dedicated to 'building bridges'.

SAARC Information Centre organised a quiz contest focused on the SAARC and paintings competition in a bid to foster better understanding of the regional grouping among students. Nepal Director of the SAARC Information Centre, Laxmi Bilas Koirala, said the competitions have enriched students' understanding of SAARC countries.