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Remembering Humayun Ahmed on his 64th birthday today
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D-8 SUMMIT PM cancels Pak tour

No official announcement yet

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has cancelled her planned visit to Pakistan to attend the 8th D-8 Summit scheduled for November 22, a highly placed source said yesterday.

However, there was no official announcement to this effect. The decision came three days after Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar had come on a short to Dhaka on Friday and formally invited Hasina to attend the summit.

According to sources, the prime minister had decided to call off the visit after a meeting with some high-ups, including Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday afternoon.

The reason for her not attending the summit could not be known immediately.

A high official at the PMO conveyed the premier's decision to the foreign ministry. The foreign ministry is expected to formally convey the decision to host Pakistan today.

Dipu Moni may represent Dhaka in the summit, the official, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star.

Concerned officials at the foreign ministry and Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka expressed their ignorance about the cancellation decision as Hasina had accepted the invitation of Pakistan president during Khar's visit in Dhaka.

On Friday, Abul Kalam Azad, press secretary to the premier, confirmed that Hasina would pay a three-day official visit to Pakistan from November 21.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, another highly placed source said the premier had called off the visit to Islamabad due to her eye-ailment.

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Migratory birds at a lake of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute at Savar. Like every other year, the winter guests have started flocking to this institute as they find the area to be safe holiday homes for the winter. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



No trace of Parag

Cops clueless about shooting, abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two days into the abduction of a six-year-old boy, his parents and law enforcers have been baffled as none demanded any ransom until yesterday evening.



Locals suspect that any housing company operating in the area or kidnappers might have abducted the boy premeditatedly.

They say the family is very peaceful and engaged in philanthropic activities in the area, and does not have any conflict with anybody.

Bimol Chandra Mondol, father of Parag
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HARTAL IN JOYPURHAT Jamaat, Shibir go berserk

Clash with police, burn vehicles; stab cop before attempting to set him afire

STAR REPORT

Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir fought pitched battles with cops, torched vehicles and damaged public property during a daylong hartal in Joypurhat yesterday.

Some Shibir men tried to gouge out a constable's eyes with sharp weapons and poured kerosene on him to set him on fire at Hichmi Bazar on the Joypurhat-Khetlal road around 5:30pm.

The injured policeman, Golam Mostafa, was admitted to Shaheed Ziaur Medical College and Hospital in Bogra, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Meanwhile, police rounded up 75 Jamaat-Shibir activists from across the country yesterday on charges of creating anarchy and attacking law enforcers. They also held five BNP and 13 Sramik Dal workers.

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Tigers-WI first Test from today

Shohag set for debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Shohag Gazi, the 21-year-old off-spinner, is all set to make his Test debut today when Bangladesh take on West Indies in the first Test of a two-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

The match will begin at 9:30 am and will be telecast live on state-run BTV and satellite television Channel 9.

The Bangladesh team management has confirmed that the Tigers will be playing the game

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MP QUOTA IN SCHOOLS Ministry stalls it amid outcry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry is in a fix whether to introduce parliamentarians' quota on enrolment in private schools in the face of public and media outcries.

Although the ministry was supposed to announce next year's admission policy finalising percentage of seats for the proposed quota yesterday, it took one more day.

Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury yesterday told reporters, "Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will public the decision tomorrow [today] at a press briefing."

He said the education ministry would not make any decision that might tarnish their image. They would make the decision after reviewing the entire situation, he added.

However, most of the ministry officials are against the

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Dhaka, Minsk sign 12 deals

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Belarus yesterday inked seven agreements and five Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) related to investment, agriculture, defence, science and technology, and education.

The deals were signed following an official talks held between the two countries at Prime Minister's Office.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and visiting Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail V Myasnikovich witnessed the signing ceremony at the

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20



People wait for transport at the capital's Farmgate yesterday evening as the city plunges into severe traffic congestion caused by the procession of 18-party opposition alliance.
Story on page 5

A strange invitation?

Cops press ACC's ex-secy during army-backed drive for meeting home minister; Savar police show domestic issue as reason

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and KAILASH SARKAR

Police have suddenly become very curious about Delwar Hossain, the man who played a key role in launching the military-backed caretaker regime's anti-graft drive in 2007 as the Anti-Corruption Commission secretary.

They went to Delwar's Ashulia residence on the outskirts of the capital around 3:30pm yesterday and asked him to immediately meet Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

Replying to his queries, the police officials told him that they had no complaint or arrest warrant



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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