

## D-8 SUMMIT Gowher flies to Pakistan

Dipu Moni not going  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi yesterday left Dhaka for Pakistan to represent Bangladesh at the D-8 Summit scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 22.

He will also attend the ministerial meeting of the grouping of eight developing Muslim countries -- Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

Gowher will lead Bangladesh at the ministerial meeting as Foreign Minister Dipu Moni could not attend the summit.

Dipu Moni skipped visiting Pakistan as she was taking preparations for a four-day bilateral visit to Russia from November 22, foreign ministry sources said.

Officials at the ministry said Dipu Moni's visit is likely to pave the way for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's planned visit to Moscow in next January.

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes also left Dhaka for Islamabad early yesterday to assist Gowher Rizvi, they said.

On November 9, Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar handed over an invitation letter, on behalf of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to participate in the 8th D-8 Summit.

The Prime Minister's Office, however, informed Pakistan that Hasina was unable to attend the summit because of conflict in her schedule, and also announced that adviser Gowher Rizvi will represent her.

Pakistan will take over the chairmanship of the D-8 for the next two years at the summit, and the forum will adopt its charter after 16 years of its inception in 1997.



Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Sirjaul Islam Khan, right, hands over a royal sword to the 16th Bomang King, KS Prue, at his installation ceremony in TIC auditorium in Bandarban yesterday. Chairman of Board of Investment Dr SA Samad, second from right, and Chairman of CHT Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, left, were also present.

PHOTO:  
ZOAHER HOSSAIN  
SIKDER

## Resist Jamaat-Shibir to protect nat'l security

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, progressive forces and people from all strata will have to form unity to resist the ongoing Jamaat-Shibir anarchy across the country, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They also demanded banning the politics of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and student body Islami Chhatra Shibir.

If the anti-liberation forces cannot be resisted, the country's national security will be threatened in the near future, they told the discussion, "National Security and the Rise of the Evil of Communal Forces", jointly organised by Shuchinta Foundation and Saptahik Kagoj in the capital's BILIA auditorium.

Noted writer Shahriar Kabir urged the government to bring Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami to war crimes trial as a party.

"Restore the constitution in light of the spirit of our Liberation War and ban the politics of the Jamaat," he said. "Otherwise, our national security and regional security will not be ensured."

Kabir, also acting president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, said the

Jamaat maintained around 100 underground militant organisations.

Echoing Kabir, Sammito Sangskritik Jote President Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu called for restoration of the '72 constitution and banning the political forces which do not obey the constitution.

Cultural personality Aly Zaker said, "We all should join hands to resist those who do business using the name of religion."

Noted journalist Abed Khan criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent comments on Sharia laws and said such remarks created confusion.

The premier recently said those who assaulted police to hinder the war crimes trial could be tried under the Sharia law.

Chairman of the central command council of Muktijoddha Sangsad Maj Gen (retd) Helal Morshed Khan said, "We, the freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces, have decided to take to street to resist Jamaat-Shibir."

Meanwhile, more than a hundred cultural activists at Rajshahi University yesterday formed a human chain protesting the recent attacks on police by the Jamaat-Shibir activists.

## WAR OF LIBERATION Bangladesh to honour 150 more foreign friends

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will honour 150 more of its foreign friends, including Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, on December 15 for their support and contribution to the country's Liberation War in 1971.

This will be the fourth phase of awarding foreign friends and organisations after "Bangladesh Freedom Honour" was conferred posthumously on Indira Gandhi on July 25, 2011.

In the second phase, the government awarded 83 individuals and organisations and in the third phase, 61 individuals and organisations were awarded.

The decision to award 150 more foreign

friends ahead of Victory Day was finalised yesterday at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs with State Minister Capt (Retd) AB Tajul Islam in the chair.

It was decided that AB Tajul Islam will visit India and extend an invitation to the Indian president from the Bangladesh president to attend the December 15 ceremony and receive the award.

Foreign ministry sources said that Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has already given the green signal to visit Bangladesh.

The president and the prime minister would hand over the honours to the foreign friends, officials said.



Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) brings out a procession in the capital yesterday marking World Piles and Colorectal Cancer Day.

PHOTO: STAR

## WORLD PILES DAY JBFH treats 1,250 patients free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan, "No Piles Only Smile", Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) organised a free medical campaign in the capital yesterday to mark World Piles and Colorectal Cancer Day.

About 1,250 patients diagnosed with such diseases were treated free during the camp on the hospital premises, says a press release. Piles are a common disease in Bangladesh with an alarming rise in new cases recently, said doctors.

Colorectal surgeon Prof AKM Fazlul Haque, also a director of JBFH, facilitated a seminar on the occasion for awareness building to prevent such diseases by changing food habit and lifestyle.

The seminar was followed by a rally. A workshop, poster exhibition and art contest for children also marked the occasion.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader attended the health campaign as chief guest.

# RISING Stars

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