

Hasina returns today

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will return home today after a weeklong visit to the United States and the United Kingdom.

She will reach the capital at 5:45am, party sources said.

Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, left Dhaka on October 12 for better treatment of her ears impaired in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on her rally.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, Hasina will exchange greetings with people from all walks of life from 9:00am to 11:30am at her Dhanmondi party office.

She will also exchange Eid greetings with diplomats and heads of foreign missions in Bangladesh from 11:30am to 12:00noon on the day.



PHOTO: STAR

Nirapad Sarak Chai Andolon, led by actor Ilias Kanchan, forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday marking the 'Road Safety Day'.

Morshed admits using media as shield

DCAB lounge opens at foreign ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan yesterday said the country's foreign policy should be pursued in a transparent manner, taking the press into confidence.

'I believe none is the sole agent of patriotism and nobody damages the interest of his motherland,' he said while inaugurating a press lounge for the Diplomatic Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (DCAB) on the first floor of the

foreign ministry.

Khan said mutual trust and confidence could create better working atmosphere in pursuing the foreign policy more effectively.

He appreciated the DCAB members' professional approach which, he said, helped him pursuing the foreign policy particularly through the difficult period after the 9/11 that has changed the global scenario.

'I have used press as a shield on some occasions,' he made his frank confession. 'I had no

problem to keep my door open for DCAB members although some consider journalist as enemy.'

The minister donated his personal computer and TV set for the DCAB lounge.

Acting Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain, DGEF Zahirul Haque, DCAB President Anis Alamgir and General Secretary Masud Karim also spoke on the occasion praising Khan's personal rapport with diplomatic correspondents.

British minister greets Yunus

Bss, Dhaka

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Dr Kim Howells yesterday congratulated Prof Muhammad Yunus for winning Nobel Peace Prize 2006.

In a message, Howells said it's a great achievement and is recognition for the tremendous work undertaken by Prof Yunus in making small loans accessible to people from all backgrounds in Bangladesh.

'The micro financing works of Prof Yunus and the Grameen Bank will be used as a model for other developing countries in the world,' he added.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Bulent Arinc also congratulated Prof Yunus.

In a message, he said, 'I have been further pleased that your struggle aimed at eradication of poverty, which provides the means for the people to secure their own living in an honourable manner, have been appreciated once again by the international community and crowned with Nobel Peace Prize.'