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The Daily Star

Today's issue
20 pages

GENERATORS

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Unesco award Reception to PM today

By Staff Correspondent

A rousing reception awaits Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her return from Paris today after receiving Unesco's Felix Houphouet Boigny Peace Prize. Hasina was ceremonially awarded the prestigious prize at the Unesco headquarters in Paris on Friday.

The ruling Awami League organises the reception at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm.

The prime minister is due to return at 10 this morning after a 13-day visit to New York and Paris. Senior AL leaders and ministers will receive Hasina at the airport.

Hasina left Dhaka on September 13 for New York to attend the UN General Assembly session and then went to Paris.

The ruling party has completed all preparations for the reception. Party units in Dhaka and nine neighbouring districts have been asked to mobilise people to attend the reception.

Big arches welcoming the prime minister have been erected on the Airport Road and elsewhere in the city.

Meanwhile, the city AL held a meeting at the party central office yesterday to review preparations for the reception. Chaired by city AL President and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, the meeting was also attended by acting chief of AL Amir Hossain Amu, president member Abdul Jalil, joint secretary Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, publicity secretary Abdul Mannan and city unit secretary and state minister for shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

They called upon people to attend the reception.

Anti-government demonstration in Paris

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders and activists living in different European countries on Friday demonstrated in front of the Unesco headquarters in Paris against the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

As Hasina received the Unesco Peace Prize in Paris on Friday for the CHT Peace Accord at a ceremony inside, they demonstrated from 8:30pm to 1am BST.

According to a BNP press release here yesterday, BNP activists from Germany, Italy, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Portugal, and some other European countries assembled in Paris and joined the demonstration.

Besides, the France unit of Jatiya party, Jatiya Janata Party, Jagga and Bangladesh Nagork Forum participated in the demonstration, the news release said.

The demonstrators also burnt an effigy of Sheikh Hasina in front of the Unesco headquarters at Cameroon Plaza square.

Nearly 800 demonstrators carried banners, black flags and placards inscribed with various slogans and photographs 'depicting state and party terrorism', the party press release said.

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Inside Today

Article

India and the World: Foreign Policy's Shrinking Horizons

by Praful Bidwai
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Law and Our Rights

State, refugees and the
need for a legal procedure

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Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a four-page special supplement on receiving UNESCO Peace Prize by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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Prayer Timings

September 26		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
4:30	5:00	
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:05	6:04
Esha	7:45	8:15



Invigilators at Jagannath College were more active than normal yesterday as they conducted a body search on all BCS examinees who sat for the compulsory English test. As a result, a huge queue was automatically created outside. —Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

Autarky in gur production

Committees and commitments remain a paperwork

By Reaz Ahmad

Gur (molasses) industry is still in its infancy while a government decision to make the country self-sufficient in gur production remains a paper work.

Despite formation of committees and preparation of reports since a 1987 cabinet decision for attaining autarky in gur production, no tangible progress has been made in this regard.

Experts expressed frustration over this, noting that gur is an easy source of calorific for the rural poor. It has high nutritional value and the current level of consumption accounts for 2.3 per cent of total calorific intake in the country.

Formation of a Gur Development Board, as recommended by different expert

As per FAO standard, annual

requirement of sugar per person is 13 kg, equivalent to 18 kg of gur. Bangladesh produces only about three lakh MT of gur, less than half its annual requirement.

According to the Agriculture Commission report, there has been no yield increase in sugar cane production since independence. Per hectare cane yield in India is double that in Bangladesh.

It blamed corruption in sugar mills, mismanagement and illegal activities of trade unions for the stagnation in sugar and gur production in the country.

Formation of a Gur Development Board, as recommended by different expert

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There has always been political influence on police and it will continue, Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddiqui said yesterday.

He however said that all powers under the police manual are not exercised during any action. "We have been given much power in the police manual which we do not exercise at all," he said.

In my view, political influence on police is least now compared to earlier time, the IGP said.

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