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## Delhi envoy summoned to Foreign Office Task Force to thwart Operation Push Back

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The government yesterday formed a high-powered task force to thwart the Indian efforts to deport the so-called illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Official sources said Home Secretary Manjurul Karim chaired an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday to review the situation after the much-publicised Indian move to send forcibly Bengali-speaking settlers in various parts of the country other than from West Bengal.

India has codenamed the massive 'deportation' plan 'Operation Push Back' under which it sent back 132 people last September 11.

The sources said the task force, headed by Additional Home Secretary S Rahman, would coordinate the government activities to deal with the

situation.

Meanwhile, in a strongly-worded statement, the Foreign Ministry yesterday denounced the Indian bid suggesting the so-called deportation move

**A growing uneasiness marked relations between the officials along the Bangladesh-India border over the past week after the Indian move. A senior border official told The Daily Star late last night that the situation in some areas was "somewhat tense but skirmishes are unlikely." The last four days saw the BSF trying several times to push back the so-called Bangladeshi infiltrators with the BDR and Police standing firm.**

might jeopardise the on-going efforts to build better relations between the two neighbours.

"No consultations (on the deportation move) had taken place between the two governments despite positive steps taken to strengthen bilateral relations and mutual cooperation in fields in the wake of the recent visit of the

Bangladesh Prime Minister to India," the BSS news agency quoted an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The Foreign Ministry statement also condemned the

to the Indian External Affairs Ministry.

On September 11 night, the Indian border guards BSF impressed upon the immigration officials at Benapole check point to receive 132 people who New Delhi claimed were illegal infiltrators.

Earlier, the BDR officials refused to accept the people.

According to sources, the officials responsible for the mistake have been rebuked by the higher authorities.

On Thursday, the BSF tried to push back another 84 people. Bangladesh border officials foiled the move.

According to reports reaching Dhaka, hundreds of thousands of Bengali-speaking Indians from the eastern state of West Bengal, who settled in northern India especially New

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Police resorting to lathicharge on ticketless cinegoers at Balaka Cinema Hall in city yesterday.

—Star photo

## UN Council for excluding Y'slavia from UNGA

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 19: The UN Security Council today approved a resolution recommending that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be excluded from the work of the General Assembly and inviting it to apply separately for UN membership, report AFP.

The resolution noted that the former Yugoslavia had 'ceased to exist, and that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's claim to have automatically inherited the Yugoslav seat has not been generally accepted.'

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is composed of Serbia and Montenegro.

Meanwhile, the parliament building in Sarajevo went up in flames today after being hit by tank-fire.

The centre of the city was under intense bombardment this evening with shells landing around 7:00 pm (1700 GMT) just beside the Holiday Inn Hotel, where most western journalists are staying.

AP from Geneva adds: The warring factions in Bosnia signed an agreement Saturday aimed at resuming relief flights to Sarajevo, but the rivals seemed no closer to ending their war, which has killed more than 10,000 people.

Harris Silajdzic, the Foreign Minister of the Muslim-dominated government; Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs; and Mate Boban, the leader of the Bosnian Croats, agreed to a list of conditions to protect humanitarian operations.

The records were signed with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, at separate meetings.

Mrs Ogata then recommended that the crucial international airlift to the besieged Bosnian capital be resumed.

Governments will have until Monday to say whether they are willing to send cargo planes to join the relief effort. The airlift was suspended on

Sept 3 after an Italian plane was shot down by a land-based missile as it approached Sarajevo. All four crewmen on board were killed.

"The safety of the operation is a very serious responsibility for Mrs Ogata, but thousands of lives depend on it," said agency spokesman Ron Redmond.

If the airlift gets the go-ahead, it probably would not be in full operation before mid-week, Redmond said. Before it was suspended it had ferried in nearly 12,500 tons of supplies, providing most of Sarajevo's outside aid.

The UN refugee agency has been trying to step up land convoys to Sarajevo but said the airlift is vital to send in supplies of shelter to prevent thousands from literally freezing to death in the bitter Balkan winter.

(Earlier Story on Page 5)

## Crackdown on gatecrashers

By Staff Correspondent

At least 97 people were arrested when groups of gatecrashers clashed with police at Balaka and Shyamoli Cinema halls in the city Saturday noon.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and resorted to baton-charge when a group of people forcibly tried to enter Balaka Cinema Hall without tickets.

The unruly people chased the police who in return lobbed at least 15 rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the mob. Police also arrested 35 people from the spot.

The 35 arrested people were produced before the chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court the same day.

In another incident Mohamudpur police arrested 62 people who forcibly entered Shyamoli Cinema Hall without tickets.

Arrested 62 people were detained in the Mohamudpur Police Station. They would be produced before the chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today (Sunday), according to a police source.

## Hasina opens Council Session 'Stay alert against moves to push AL into chaos'

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina opened her party's crucial Council Session Saturday urging its rank and file to remain alert against what she called conspiracies to push the organisation into indiscipline and anarchy.

"We must keep in mind that the military-civilian and anti-people clique that has for long established itself as the driving force of the state power will never want Awami League to grow into a strong organisation," Hasina warned in her speech heard by thousands of party delegates, councillors, political leaders and diplomats.

"All leaders and workers must remain conscious and alert in this regard," she added during the hour-long speech at the Engineers' Institution.

The bespectacled Awami League (AL) leader, wearing a red-bordered off-white Jamdani sari, declared amid cheers that she would make

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## 5 youths break open sealed DU hall room

By DU Correspondent

A group of unidentified youth broke open a sealed room of the Ziaur Rahman Hall of the Dhaka University Friday evening, hall sources said.

A group of five young men opened room No 110 of the hall at about 8 pm Friday which was sealed by the hall authorities, sources said.

Two rooms of the hall sealed few days ago as some students were staying there without any legal allotment, hall sources added.

Though the rooms were opened no one stayed there at night, sources mentioned.

Besides, the officials said that they were investigating to identify the persons involved.

The Provost of the Ziaur Rahman Hall talking to this correspondent yesterday said that the hall authorities were trying to distribute the seats among the students according to merit and they had taken necessary measures in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) held a rally at the Dhaka University Saturday to protest the breaking open of a sealed room.

The GCO leaders said that the university authorities could not yet materialise the resolution they had adopted to restore peace in the university after the fierce gun fight on the DU campus on September 4 that left two students dead.

The GCO leaders Obayedul Huq Chhunu, Khalrul Islam Rupom and Palash Rauth addressing the rally said that the hall authorities could not yet allocate the seats in the residential halls according to merit.

The leaders urged all concerned to help materialise the students demand and to clean the DU halls of arms, ammunitions and armed hooligans for ever.

Earlier, the Dhaka University authorities Thursday

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## AL selects its new leadership tonight

By Nurul Kabir

The Awami League National Council is expected to select its new leadership for next three consecutive year by midnight today.

The new Central Working Committee of the party is likely to be a 65 member-one while the last committee had 59 members including 32 officials.

The incumbent party chief Sheikh Hasina would definitely remain in the post of President of the Awami League since there was nobody in the party to contest her position. Furthermore, she is most likely to be given responsibility of choosing a General Secretary of the party by the 'subject committee' to be formed today.

According to the Awami League constitution, party President will select the members of the subject committee in consultation with the party Presidium members.

Conventionally, the subject committee of the party comprises the working committee members of the party plus President and General Secretary.

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## Discipline marks start of Awami League Council

By Staff Correspondent

The third Council Session of the Awami League, that began Saturday in the capital, was marked by festivity and discipline as leaders and workers from across the country converged after five years.

An army of 500-strong activists, with badges bearing the portrait of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman clipped to their chests, lined up and escorted councillors, delegates and guests to seats under the huge canopy in the Engineers' Institution premises where the opening ceremony of the council session took place.

Earlier, slogan-chanting Awami League activists, huddled in hired buses, started pouring into the venue from

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## FAO praises Dhaka's efforts to improve food security

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will pay a four-day visit to Italy, beginning October 14, in connection with the World Food Day celebration, reports UNB.

Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday Begum Zia would deliver the keynote address on 'Food and Nutrition: A Basic Right' at the FAO headquarters in the Italian capital Rome on the occasion of World Food Day on October 16.

The Prime Minister has responded to an invitation by Edward Saouma, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The invitation is considered as an acknowledgement of Begum Zia's keen interest in the subject and her commitment to alleviation of poverty.

In his letter of invitation, Saouma has mentioned 'the exemplary lead which Bangladesh has taken in efforts to improve food security.'

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## Sites suggested for public rallies

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliamentary Standing Committee Sub-Committee on the Ministry of Public Works yesterday recommended three venues in the city for the holding of national-level public meetings and three others for the city-level ones.

The three venues suggested for national-level public rallies included the southern part of Osmani Uddyan, near Gulistan playground and Mohamudpur Shahid Park as the venues of city-level public rallies of different social and political organisations.

In the backdrop of demands from different socio-political organisations, the winter session of parliament last year assigned the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Public Works the responsibility to select and suggest allotment of a piece of land for this purpose.

The Standing Committee constituted a four-member Sub-Committee last month to begin the search for the public land.

The Sub-Committee met yesterday morning with ATM Alamgir of the ruling party in the chair. The meeting was attended by three other committee members including Kazi Abdur Rashid of the Awami League, Abdur Rashid Chowdhury of the Awami Jatiya

Party and Shajahan Chowdhury of the Jamaat.

According to meeting sources, Chief Executive Officer of the Dhaka City Corporation, and the Secretary of the City Corporation were also present at the meeting to let the Corporation's position in this regard be known.

Although especially invited, Mir Shawkat Ali and Salauddin Ahmed, two MPs from the Dhaka metropolitan area, regretted their presence because of their 'preoccupations', sources added.

The Awami League MP insisted suggesting the park between the Bangabhaban and the Gulistan Cinema, as a venue for the national-level rallies, sources said.  
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## Azmi, Farooque arrive

By Staff Correspondent

Famous Indian film actress Shabana Azmi and actor Farooque Shaikh arrived Dhaka yesterday (Saturday) noon to perform in a play titled 'Tumhari Amrita' sponsored by Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC).

'Tumhari Amrita' is written by Javed Siddiqui and directed by Firoze Khan. The play will be staged today and tomorrow at Hotel Sheraton.

Firoze Khan and production designer M S Sathe have also arrived with the film personalities who were given a warm reception by BTC and Theatre School at the Zia International Airport.

The Indian guests later attended a reception at the Theatre School at Eskaton Garden Road.



Shabana Azmi and Farooque Shaikh on arrival yesterday.

—Star photo

## Biman to buy plane, open new routes

By Staff Correspondent

The Biman Bangladesh Airlines is adding a new DC 10-30 aircraft to its fleet and increasing its international flight frequencies.

The aircraft, expected to be procured at a comparatively low price since it is a used one, would be put into long-haul operation.

The airline has at present four DC 10-30, two F-28 and two ATP aircraft.

With an ambition to reach new destinations in the Far-East and South-East Asia, the national carrier also plans to buy another two or three mid-haul aircraft.

According to a press release, the Biman has decided

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## BAU workshop starts Tuesday

MYMENSINGH, Sept 19: A five-day workshop on the Bangladesh Agricultural University research progress during the last two years will be held at the Shilpacharya Zaimul Abedin auditorium here on Tuesday. Reports on 117 projects and 37 departmental research works will be placed at the workshop being held under the joint auspices of BAURES and CASR (Committee for Advanced Studies and Research), reports UNB.