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# The Daily Star



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## UNHCR expresses concern as tension prevails BDR deployed around all Rohingya camps

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 26: The authorities today deployed BDR around all the 19 Rohingya refugee camps to assist police to ward off fresh troubles as tension was mounting following Friday's incident when 5 persons were killed and 20 injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said para-military BDR and police are patrolling all along the 60 km highway from Duapalag to Teknaf as refugees living in straw and mud huts along the road were foaming in anger against repatriation without ensuring safety on return to their home in Arakan.

Officials admitted the prevalence of tension in refugee camps and deployment of BDR but said the situation was under control.

Local people today brought group processions demanding immediate repatriation of the refugees.

The first batch of 49 refugees belonging to eleven families were sent back to Myanmar on September 22. More than 2.65 lakh Rohingyas Muslims had crossed over the Bangladesh following persecution by the military junta and given shelter in 19 refugee camps.

Some agitated refugees equipped with choppers, iron roads and other lethal weapons are reported to have taken position in their respective camps.

It is apprehended that violence might erupt again at any time, said a relief official.

Meanwhile, the government has expressed its readiness to discuss with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees the modalities of UNHCR involvement for repatriation of the Rohingyas refugees.

This was stated Saturday by the UNHCR office in Dhaka referring to its contact with the government over the violent protests against the belated start of sending the refugees back home without involving the UN agency.

UNHCR recorded its 'great concern over the continued unrest in and around the Rohingya camps which on September 25 once again led to violence and tragic loss of lives.'

The High Commissioner is personally seized with the problem, the local office said, adding 'UNHCR believes that the underlying causes of the unrest must be addressed and has made concrete proposals to the government in this regard.'

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## Myanmar lifts martial law

YANGON (Myanmar), Sept 26: Martial law was lifted in Myanmar Saturday, state radio announced, reports AP.

Martial law had been imposed in three of the country's 10 military regions — the capital of Yangon, central (Toungoo) and northwest (Mandalay) — since July 1989.

Military commanders in those regions received administrative and judicial powers, and military tribunals with summary powers were introduced to deal with offenses against the government.

The end of martial law in the country means that the commanders of those areas will no longer have judicial and administrative powers and there will be no more military tribunals, the state radio said. It did not give a reason for the decision.

The ruling military junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council, abolished a 1974 constitution when it took power in a September 1988 coup. A curfew imposed then was lifted earlier this month, while a ban on public assembly is still in force.

The junta has refused to recognize the results of an election in May 1990 that was won by the National League for Democracy.

Since a shakeup of the junta last April, the government has instituted a series of liberalising measures, including preparations for a constitutional convention, a call for a ceasefire with ethnic guerrillas, permission for family members to visit Ms Suu Kyi, and the release of hundreds of political prisoners.

## BSF mobilises troops for Operation Push Back

JESSORE, Sept 26: At least three truck loads of Bangla speaking people were brought to Banari and Jhaodanga outposts of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) for forcibly pushing them into Bangladesh, according to an information received here tonight, reports UNB.

According to witnesses in Agrabulata, a border village of Sharsaha thana, BSF has mobilised additional forces at Jhaodanga and Banari outposts to carry out its 'Operation Push Back' at any time.

The Indian mobilisation has created panic and tension in the border villages of Sharsaha thana. The situation demands vigilance of BDR, the villagers said.



Diploma Nurses' Association brought out a protest rally in city yesterday. — Star photo

## Nurses observe 12-hr work stoppage

By Staff Correspondent

Nurses observed a 12-hour work stoppage from 8am Saturday in the hospitals and medicare centres across the country causing immense sufferings to the patients.

According to Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources, 19 patients left the hospital yesterday.

The sources said that the regular number of admitted patients in the DMCH between 1350 to 1400 came down to 1307 yesterday.

The work stoppage was called by the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association (BDNA) to press home its 14-point demand.

Yesterday's programme was the latest in a series of programmes the BDNA had chalked out since September 19.

On the day nurses observed a four-hour work stoppage and then the duration of the stoppages gradually increased every day.

The Association, according to its programmes, will also observe a 12-hour work abstention today and plans a 72-hour non-stop work stoppage from 8am tomorrow.

If the 14-point demand was not met by October 1, the Association warned of a non-stop strike at the medical centres from October 3.

The demands of the nurses included regularisation of the services of 750 nurses appointed on an ad-hoc basis, increase in salaries and allowances of the students and a change in the pay structure.

The BDNA also demanded that steps be taken to promote nurses, fill up vacancies and retain 10 per cent of the quota for male nurses.

## Terrorists must face punishment: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday night that any attempt to create disunity among the people would not succeed, reports BSS.

Addressing a gathering of over 300 people including 25 Union Parishad Chairmen, lawyers and Awami League leaders of Gopalganj who joined the BNP at her Sugandha office Saturday, Begum Zia stressed the need for unity of all irrespective of religious beliefs over-all national development.

Earlier, 24 persons spoke on behalf of Awami League leaders, lawyers, teachers and Union Parishad Chairmen of Gopalganj expressing their total support to and solidarity with the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Zia who is also Chairperson of the BNP. They also pledged to work under the banner of BNP.

Prime Minister Begum Zia said any body engaged in acts of terrorism, will have to face the consequence of severe punishment. Seeking cooperation of all to root out corruption and terrorism from the society for the establishment of rule of law, she said, 'none is above law.'

She said 'there is no division between Muslims and Hindus as we all fought the Liberation War shoulder to shoulder as Bangladeshis.' Begum Zia said, BNP has undertaken programmes for implementation.

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## Promote tourism as industry: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday called for promoting tourism as an industry in the country, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of World Tourism Day today, the Prime Minister said the day is being observed with due significance in Bangladesh like other countries.

She said the unwavering faith in and support to the progress of tourism industry had been manifested through the observance of the day under the sponsorship of World Tourism Organisation.

The Prime Minister said: Tourism in the world of today is regarded as the most well known and life-related industry. It has no parallel as a means of international understanding, peace and cooperation, she said.

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## Delhi demands seat in Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26: For the first time, India has formally staked its claim for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council as and when it is expanded, reports FTI.

Japan, Germany and Brazil are among the other nations aspiring for a permanent position on the Council which at present has 15 members including five permanent ones.

The Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro departed from prepared text while addressing the UN General Assembly yesterday to stress that along with economic criteria, other relevant issues should also be given due weightage during the expansion of the Council.

Japan and Germany are demanding a permanent seat on the basis of their economic strength.

But several developing countries have expressed the view that population and size of a country and also its standing in the region are factors which need to be given due weight.

This would ensure that whole region and large populations do not go unrepresented on the Council.

In his address, Faleiro said the implementation of the Secretary General's proposals

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## Transparency in banking affairs stressed

By Staff Correspondent

The need for a transparency in banking affairs and the minimising of the central bank's role to a supervisory one were underscored at a seminar Saturday.

The seminar on 'banking policies and economic development' organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Bangladesh (ICAB) was attended by the Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan as the chief guest.

The Minister in his speech said that the Bangladesh Bank should be made more autonomous and strong with the objective of promoting a market-oriented interest rate.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**4 more tribunals to curb terrorism**  
 The government has constituted four more tribunals for curbing terrorism in addition to the tribunals constituted earlier in four districts of the country under Section 8(I) of Anti-terrorism Ordinance 1992, according to an official handout in Dhaka yesterday. The four districts and their jurisdiction are: entire Dhaka district under Dhaka, entire Khulna district under Khulna, entire Rajshahi district under Rajshahi and entire Chittagong district under Chittagong, reports BSS.

**4 to run for JS 151 by-election**  
 Four candidates now remain on the run for the JS 151 (Mymensingh 3) by-election seat after Patzur Rahman Fakir withdrew his candidature on the last day of withdrawal yesterday, an Election Commission press release said. The by-election will be held on October 15 from 7 am to 3 pm without any break with Nurul Amin Khan Pathan, Md Abul Hasib, Raushan Ara Begum and Nazmul Huda contesting for the seat, reports BSS.

**CU vacation begins Oct 1**  
 CHITTAGONG, Sept 26: All classes of the Chittagong University will remain suspended from October 1 to October 15, because of autumn vacation and Durga Puja, a University press release said today, reports BSS.

## Armed terrorists back in DU halls

By Masud Arif

Normalcy on the Dhaka University campus, particularly in the residential halls, is yet to be restored.

Terrorists and a few outsiders have again returned to their shelters in some halls after the violence earlier this month, campus sources said.

A large number of students, displaced from their allotted seats for political reasons, were still staying in other residential halls, the sources added.

Sources however said that though the 'student-terrorists' did not stay in the halls at night, their frequent movements were seen during the day time.

The number of compete outsiders had drastically reduced following the recent anti-terrorism drive in the campus some hall Provosts claimed.

However, campus sources observed that political polarisation in various halls still remained a serious problem.

The 'outsiders' were mainly of three categories, the first being non-students, usually the armed cadres. The second, DU students migrated from other halls and not attached with the halls in which they were staying. The third, DU students attached with the particular halls in which they stayed but not allotted seats, some hall Provosts mentioned.

The presence of the first type of outsider was almost nil in the residential halls, following the recent anti-terrorism drive, campus sources said.

'We gave notice to the students from other halls to contact the respective hall authorities and return to them immediately, a Provost said.

Over the years the residential halls of the university have been turned into strongholds of different political student organisations.

The halls, mainly situated in the northern parts of the university, Mohsin, Suryasen, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Zia and Jastimuddin halls are the known strongholds of the pro-BNP Jatayatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Zahurul Huq, Salimullah and Jagannath halls are controlled by the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL).

Salimullah Hall Provost, See Page 12 Col 8

## Polytech teachers seek PM's help to end strike

By Staff Correspondent

The teachers of country's 20 polytechnic institutions have sought the Prime Minister's intervention to help end their on-going strike for 10-point demands.

The strike that began on September 21 would enter its seventh day today (Sunday).

Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association, organiser of the strike, will bring out a procession in the capital tomorrow (Monday) and submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The 10-point charter of demands include promotion, formulation of service structure and

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## Camdessus assures Saifur IMF to provide 'safety net', if needed

WASHINGTON, Sept 26: The Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Michel Camdessus, has said here that the IMF was looking at the possibility of providing a 'safety net' for Bangladesh economy, should the need arise, to enable the country to continue with its economic reform measure, reports BSS.

Camdessus was talking yesterday to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman who is now here attending the IMF-World Bank annual meetings.

The IMF chief was highly appreciative of the macroeconomic management of Bangladesh and termed the democratic government's efforts in this regard a 'success story'.

Rahman indicated his desire to continue debate and dialogue with the IMF in the macro economic management of the country, even after completion of the current Extended Structural Adjustment Facilities (ESAF).

The Finance Minister pointed out that steps in fiscal matters were also required to be taken, besides monetary measures, in order to keep the

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## Gold smuggling case

Rashida sent to jail, Azmi still on remand

By Staff Correspondent

Rashida, the 29-year-old Pakistani woman, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail Saturday after completion of four-day police-remand.

The woman along with another Pakistani national — Shakir Ali Azmi was arrested with 18 kg of gold at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) September 18 when they had reached Dhaka from Karachi by an Emirat flight.

Detective Branch (DB) police produced the woman before

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## De Klerk, Mandela agree to resume democracy talks

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 26: President FW De Klerk said after a day-long meeting with Nelson Mandela today that they had agreed to consider the resumption of democracy negotiations for South Africa, reports Reuter.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a peace summit with the African National Congress (ANC) leader, De Klerk said 'the channels of communication are open again.'

...where all political role players will sit around the table again and start forging the basis for a lasting peace and for progress for all South Africans,' De Klerk said.

AP adds: Earlier, the two leaders met for the first time in months in a crucial summit intended to resuscitate the reform process that stalled in June because of chronic fighting in black townships.

'All South Africans want us to succeed,' de Klerk said in an opening statement. 'Our country needs us to succeed today.'

Mandela said the African National Congress, which broke off political talks three months ago to protest violence, expected progress toward reaching solutions on the nation's problems.

'We have come here in the hope that by the time this summit ends, a firm basis will have been laid for the resumption of negotiations,' Mandela said.

The two leaders, smiling and looking relaxed, led large delegations into day-long talks at a Johannesburg conference centre on ways to end political violence that has claimed some 8,000 lives since de Klerk came to power in 1990.

A joint news conference was scheduled for whenever they finished, with no set time announced.

Both said it was important for South Africa to quickly move toward multiracial rule.

'I hope that when next we meet, we will be able to agree on dates for elections for a constituent assembly and the installation of an interim government,' Mandela said.

De Klerk also said he would urge other political parties to join in negotiating the country's future. Both right-wing and left-wing groups have boycotted previous talks.

'It is fundamentally important that we make reconciliation in our country a deed,' the President said.

The summit represented a major breakthrough after a three-month freeze in relations between the country's two main political organizations.

It was announced Friday after the government agreed to release some 150 political prisoners and consider the release of other opposition detainees.

The government agreed in 1990 to release political prisoners and has freed more than 1,000 since then. But the ANC has said more than 400 remained jailed.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will, for the first time, carry out 'C' Check (a checking system after every 4800 hours of flight) on one of the DC 10-30 aircraft from Sunday, says a press release.

Biman will carry out this-checking at its newly-built modern Hangar Complex in Dhaka.

This checking is now being done in Dhaka with a view to gaining experience and skill through transfer of technology.

In 1993, as many as three 'C' checks on DC-10 aircrafts are due to be carried out by Biman and these will help save about 1.5 million US dollar.