# **Armed Forces Day** observed

The Armed Forces Day was yesterday observed throughout the country with a renewed vow to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty. reports UNB.

The day's programme began with the offering of munajat after Fazr prayers in all cantonment mosques, naval ships and establishments as well as airforce bases across the coun-

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, who is also the Supreme Commander of the 'Armed Forces, placed floral wreaths at the "Shikha Anirban", the Eternal Flame, in the morning.

He stood in solemn silence to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation in 1971:

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the Defence Minister, placed floral wreaths at the Shikha Anirban" to pay her respect to the martyrs.

Chiefs of the three services and other senior armed forces officials were present. Smart contingents of Army, Navy and Air Force presented arm salute while the buglers were in tune with the last post on both the occasions

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam and Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury also placed floral wreaths at the "Shikha Anirban" separately.

Principal Staff Officers and other senior officers of the three services were present during the wreath-laying by their respective chief of staff.

A reception to the next of kin of those who had received gallantry awards "Bir Sreshtho"

was held at the Prime Minister's Office. Armed Forces Division at

Khaleda Zia met the nearest ones of Shaheed Bir Sreshthos Captain Mohiuddin Zahangir, Sepoy Mostafa Kamal. Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Ruhul Amin ER-1. Flight Lt M Matiur Rahman, Lance Naik Nur Mohammad Sheikh and Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rouf.

Among others, the three Chiefs, Defence Secretary, BDR Director General and PSO of the Armed Forces Division were present on the occasion.

A reception to the next of kin of Bir Sreshtho and Bir Uttam as well the soldiers who had received the gallantry award Bir Uttam was held at the Army Headquarters.

The three Chiefs hosted separate receptions to the relatives of the Shaheed Bir Sreshthos at respective headquarters. They presented some gifts to each of the Shaheed families. The Principal Staff Officers and other senior officers were also present

The Chiefs of the three serstaved with him for some time Military Secretary to the President Major General Muhampresent

The three Chiefs also paid courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Armed Forces Division and stayed with her for some time. Defence Secretary Hasinur Rahman and Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General MSA Bhuiyan were present.

ronment, reports BSS.

The assurance came when

Ms Dowdeswell who is also Un-

der-Secretary General for the

United Nations Centre for Hu-

man Settlement (Habitat) met

the Prime Minister at her office.

The UNEP official expressed

her concern at the ecological

imbalance cause at the north-

ern and southern areas of the

Bangladesh. The imbalance was

caused by shortage of water in

the areas during the dry sea

Ms Dowdeswell appreciated

the Prime Minister's personal

concern for the global environ-

ment protection which had been

highlighted in Begum Zia's

General Assembly and on other.

Zia's personal initiative for hu-

speech in the United Nations

She also praised Begum

# Dowdeswell assures PM

# **UNEP** to help preserve environment

Programme (UNEP). Ms Eliza-Bangladesh in preserving envi-

day border coordination confer-India will begin here on Novem today, reports BSS.

will be led by Brigadier T U Muhammad Iftekharul Bashar. Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles.

Matters relating to smuggling, law and order situation in border areas, miscreants activities, violation of border guidelines, kidnapping, killing, dacoity, maintenance of border pillars and allied matters will also be discussed among other subjects.

## BSF bid to push in 50 foiled

SATKHIRA, Nov 21: Indian Border Security Force made abortive attempts November 19-20 to push about 50 Bengalispeaking Muslims into Bangladesh through the Bhomra frontier, reports UNB.

## PM:Armed Forces

From Page 1 Col 5 tional field

The Prime Minister, who is also the Defence Minister, said democracy had been established in the country after a long drawn struggle. Development and progress were the safeguards for the democracy, we can protect independence and democracy by taking part in nation-building activities. she added.

Begum Zia paid her tributes to the freedom fighters and remembered the martyrs saying their sacrifice and patriotism would remain as a source of our inspiration.

The reception hosted by Prime Minister Begum Zia was attended by Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, ministers, Deputy Leader of the House Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdus Samad Azad MP, Matiur Rahman Nizami MP, Rashed Khan Menon MP and other

members of Parliament. On her arrival at the Senakunja, the Prime Minister was received by chiefs of three services and PSO to the Prime Minister.

Dhaka Cantonment.

Prime Minister Begum

vices paid a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban and Defence Secretary Hasinur Rahman, Secretary to the President Ataul Haq and the mad Ghulam Mowla were

The visiting Under-Secretary General of the UN Environment beth Dowdeswell yesterday said her organisation would provide every assistance to help

Indo-Bangla border confce begins tomorrow

KHULNA, Nov 21: A threeence between Bangladesh and ber 23, a press release of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) said

The Bangladesh delegation

man resource development especially in the fields of women's development, population control and childcare. Discussing the development programme taken by her government Begum Zia said, "We want to strengthen the development infrastructure in the rural areas for ensuring bal-

> which is a prerequisite for environment protection." Begum Zia said the country's tree plantation programme had already started to yield multifarious benefits besides protecting

anced progress of the nation

environment The Prime Minister sought the help of the UNEP in popularising the use of country's jute products which is environmentally friendlief than the synthetics and plastic products.

## Biman rejoinder

From Page 1 Col 8

The technical offers received from eleven firms were evaluated and on the basis of evaluation, four firms were shortlisted, as reported. The financial offers of these four firms are now under evaluation. On the basis of results of the evaluation of both the technical and the financial offers, the offers will be examined by the Board of Directors of Biman for consideration by the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism who will in turn take necessary steps to obtain a final decision from the Council Committee on

Purchase of the Government. "It is further mentioned here that as per terms and conditions of the tender, a bid shall only be accepted if the technical offers conform to the tender specifications and financial offers are beneficial and

suitable to the organisation. "It is, therefore, premature at this stage to say "Doubts cloud Biman's Airbus buying proce-

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

dure."

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Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina held a meeting with leaders of all opposition parties in Parliament except the Jamaat-e-Islami at her Jatiya Sangsad chamber yesterday. -Star photo

# Discussion on PM's remarks

From Page 1 Col 7 last session of the Sangsad.

The brief one-hour, 15-minutes session was ended at around 5-15 pm after the guestion-answer session and Nasim's speech.

This is the 12th session of the fifth Parliament. Four ordinances, promul-

gated by the President since the last session, were laid before the House. Almost all the members at

tended vesterday's opening sit ting. The visitors galleries, too, were full. Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza

Golam Hafiz tabled one ordinance related to the service conditions of the workers of the nationalised industrial establishments and three others related to the three Hill-Tracts district councils of Rangamati. Khagrachhari and Banderban.

Earlier, at a meeting in the chamber of the Leader of the Opposition, the Opposition parties in Parliament agreed to press for four identical demands fresh elections under a caretaker government, a probe into

PM: Nepal

From Page 1 Col 5

visit the SAARC Secretariat

during her stay in the capital of

address the concluding session

terial level conference on

women and health on November

23 at Kathmandu. Prime

Minister of Nepal Koirala inau-

gurated the conference there

Besides, Begum Zia will ad-

The Prime Minister will also

During her visit, Leader of

the Opposition of Nepalese

Parliament Manamohan Adhi-

kari and former Prime Minister

and the President of the Nepal

Congress Krishnaprasad Bhatta

The Prime Minister is ex-

pected to return home on

Environment project

hensive framework to materi-

alise the environment policy.

From Page 1 Col 4 ..

The NEMAP project will

lead to drawing up of invento-

sitive ecosystems, chemicals

used and their known effects.

etc. These are considered to

be the basic building blocks for

an action plan for management

of the environment. All this

aside, having a NEMAP is also

tinued aid from several donors.

project is being implemented

with financial assistance from

the United Nations Develop-

ment Programme (UNDP). The

assistance of 130 thousand

dollars was finalised in

September 1990. The project

was due to be completed in

nine months by the Ministry of

the NEMAP preparatory pro-

ject started right from Day

One. Mobilisation of consul-

tants for the project was de-

layed until December 1990

The first draft NEMAP was

submitted to the Ministry of

Environment in September

1991. The ministry took more

than one year to complete the

process of consultation over

run has led to an increase in

project cost. The Environ-

ment ministry took until April

1993 to request for an in-

crease in the budgeted expen-

diture. But, it was not until end

September 1993 when the

ministry submitted full docu-

mentation to support its re-

quest for budget revision.

Sources in the Planning Com-

mission inform that the Min-

istry of Environment's request

is currently at the final stages.

of processing. The same

sources informed that a new

deadline of December 31,

1993 has been set for NEMAP

The consequent time over-

the draft.

finalisation.

Delay in implementation of

Environment and Forests.

The NEMAP preparatory

required to be eligible for con-

ries of natural resources, sen-

Ray will call on Begum Zia.

November 24.

call on the Monarch of the Hi-

malayan Kingdom King Biren-

dress the members of the

Nepalese Chambers.

of the three-day SAARC minis-

The SAARC Chairperson, will

The Prime Minister will also

Nepalese counterpart.

Himalayan Kingdom.

vesterday.

alleged corruption in the Ministry of Irrigation, the PM's recent speech regarding Parliament and oppose the government's policy of large-scale retrenchment in the public sector corporations.

However, at this caucus, there was no representative from the third largest opposition party in Parliament - the Jamaat-e-Islami.

A source said that although none from the Jamaat was present at the meeting, chaired by Sheikh Hasina, yet the party had conveyed its full support to the decisions when they were informed about the outcome of the caucus. .

Neither the Awami League nor Jatiya Party sources could however, confirm whether the Jamaat leaders would attend any future meeting of the Opposition parties.

The Opposition source said that the Prime Minister should make a statement in the House clarifying her position about the November 7 speech express her

About the issue of a caretaker government, the Opposition parties decided that any national election should be held under an interim government

"The government must resign before the next national elections," one AL source who attended the meeting said. adding that "No election will be fair under this governments."

Three separate bills have been submitted by the AL, the JP and Jamaat members proposing mid-term elections under a care-taker government. Reactions from the ruling

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were not immediately available. Meanwhile, the Jatiya Party

parliamentary wing chief Moudud Ahmed clarified the JP's position about Opposition unity at a press conference after the adjournment of yesterday's

He said that the JP was always in favour of a greater Opposition unity against the "misrule" of the present gov

# JS probe committee

From Page 1 Col 7 The meeting also assigned

six of the committee members - three each from the treasury and Opposition benches — to prepare two separate documents containing their respective arguments vis-a-vis the terms of reference.

Mohammad Nasim of the AL, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party and Suranjit Sengupta of the Gonotantri Party will prepare the Opposition's version while Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan and State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haque have been given the responsibility of putting down on paper the ruling party's views. Both the reports are supposed to be completed by the 30th of this month and a final 'primary report' will be prepared on the basis of these

two reports. The probe, formed following allegations made against the ministry and the minister concerned by Tofael Ahmed of the AL, was originally proposed by the treasury bench as a

A 423-page minutes of the deliberations by the committee members have so far been compiled without an agree ment on the terms of the body's reference.

According to meeting sources, Rashed Khan Menon yesterday proposed that Tofael Ahmed and Majid-ul Hug, the accuser and the accused, be called by the committee for separate hearings. Menon argued that this might help the committee resolve the crisis over terms of reference.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Barrister Rafiqul Islam sented the treasury bench in yesterday's sitting while the Opposition was represented by Mohammad Nasim, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Matiur Rahman Nizami and Rashed Khan Menon.

ment conspiratorial, and de-

manded immediate and un-

conditional rehabilitation of the

The meeting also demanded

re-organisation of the Board of

Directors of the BSRS, saying

that the present management

had failed to take any appropri-

ate measures regarding the sick

deep condolences at the deaths

of Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury

and KM Rahman, owners o

Hafiz Ice and Cold Storage and

Bandishahi Cold Storage re-

spectively, who reportedly had

ter taking over their projects by

Licences

From Page 1 Col 8

M/S Famous International

Boby Associates, Eastern Busi-

ness Associates, Al Bayat Inter-

national, Al Maruf International

Company, Gazzali International

Al Amin International Agency,

Young Star Syndicate, Sunrise

International Ltd. the Khaja

Recruiting International Agency

Bangladesh, Rajdhani Overseas,

Red Rose International, Redious

International, Link Up Inter-

national, Metropolitan Interna-

tional, Personal Services Bu-

reau, Mahbub International

Gulf International Service, Ba-

bylon (BD) Ltd, Homeland Trade

International and Lucky

International.

died recently of heart failure af

The Forum also expressed

# Owners of sick units condemn BSRS

By Staff Correspondent

The BSRS Entrepreneurs' Forum, at a meeting Sunday. demanded waiving of the conditionalities imposed by the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) for the reha-

The forum alleged that the BSRS was not materialising the decisions of the review commit tee for the sick industries, and was taking repressive measures against the sick units by using Article 33 and 34 of the BSRS Order.

was addressed, among others, by Mirza Abu Mansur, Nurul Is-

# Ershad's lawyers decline to attend court

client (Ershad), reports BSS.

# challenge to the Opposition

But the proposal was rejected by a treasury bench member who felt it irrelevant before the start of investiga-

lam, Alauddin Ahmed, Abdur Rashid Lebu, Abdul Hye Khan and Mobashher Ahmed. The meeting termed the activities of the BSRS manage-

sick units.

industries.

the BSRS.

bilitation of the sick industries.

Presided over by its convenor Habibur Rahman, the meeting

Lawyers defending former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad yesterday declined to attend the court trying him on various charges of corruption and misuse of power for allegedharassment meted to them and not allowing them to have exclusive meeting with their

The former President, who has been convicted and sentenced to twenty years of jail in three cases, was produced before the Special Judge's court headed by District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ali Khan. Charge hearing of two cases both relating to corruption and hearing of a prayer by the prosecution demanding further investigation in another case were fixed for the day.

### punishment of those responsible for the incident. Miah, Barrister Aminul Haque and Abdul Mannan repre-

# JS tidbits

12 hurt in Sylhet

as JCD-Jubodal

attack JP office

From Our Correspondent

persons, including five police-

men, were injured today when

activists of the pro-BNP

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

and Jubodal attacked the local

Jatiya Party (JP) office in the

town after holding a rally in vio-

had earlier imposed Section 144

forbiding the assembly of more

than four persons in the town

and its suburbs after the JP

and the JCD and Jubodal con-

vened clasking programmes at

The JP convened a workers

meeting at the Saroda Hall here

at 11 am today, while the JCD

and Jubodal also convened a

joint meeting at the same

venue. The authorities clamped

Section 144 from 10 am today

till further orders apprehending

a deterioration of the law and

meeting and brought out a pro-

cession at about 11 in the

passing through the Surma

Market area, the offices of the

district JP and its youth front

Jubo Sanghati were attacked

with stones and brickbats. An

Uttara Bank branch located in

the same premises also came

under the attack in which its

doors, windows and furniture

given first aid at the Medical

twenty crackers were exploded.

of tear-gas shells and two

rounds of rubber bullets to dis-

protest meeting at the residence

of MA Mukit Khan MP, presi-

dent of the district unit. They

blamed the JCD and Jubodal

for the attack and demanded

perse the processionists.

The 12 injured persons were

During the attack, at least

Police had to lob five rounds

The JP workers later held a

The JCD and Jubodal held a

When the procession was

order situation in the town.

The district administration

lation of the Section 144.

the same venue.

morning.

were damaged.

College Hospital.

SYLHET. Nov 21: Twelve

by Asiuzzaman

Awami League MP Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder told the House yesterday that most of the BNP ministers 'performed Hindu rituals' during the biggest Hindu festival Durga puja last month.

At least the national radio and television proved so as the Hindus did not celebrate it, he said during the question-answer session in Parliament.

He was asking a supplemen tary question regarding government grant for repairing the Hindu temples across the country.

Religious Affairs Minister Keramat Ali said that the government paid a sum of Tk 20,77,000 to repair and renovate the temples which was Tk 2,34,000 higher than previous year's grant.

But Shalauddin Qader Chowdhury placed another question which asked laughter in the House. He questioned how ethical it was to repair and renovate the Hindu temples with the tax money of the Muslims. The minister, however said that Bangladesh is a place of many religious communities who all paid taxes.

## Unprepared minister

Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Huq yesterday replied to most of the health-related questions seemingly in an unprepared manner.

any of the supplementary questions and at one stage expressed his ignorance about the most debated paracetamol. He asked the questioner Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party to

provide information about

the file.

He could not be precise to

company so that the ministry could take action against it. The Speaker then salvaged the Minister saying that 'the paracetamol case is lying with your ministry. You please check

### peacekeeping force in Somalia was killed when his gun fired accidentally, a UN spokeswoman said today. The soldier was on exercise with his unit in the town of Baidoa on Saturday. she said. He was the first Indian soldier to die in Somalia. The country contributes a 4,937-strong contingent to the mission.

Indian peacekeeper

killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Nov 21: An Indian soldier serving in the UN

reports Reuter Nigerian labour unions call off strike LAGOS. Nigeria. Nov 21: Labour unions called off their nationwide strike on Sunday after the new military dictatorship. apparently trying to quell public outrage, slashed a new fuel

### duce prices imposed two weeks ago for gasotine, kerosene and diesel fuel, reports AP. US Congress okays \$ 28 b

price increase. National Labour Congress officials said that

Gen. Sani Abacha, who seized power Wednesday by ousting

the civilian government of Ernest Shonekan, agreed to re-

intelligence budget WASHINGTON. Nov 21: Congress has approved an estimated 28-billion-dollar intelligence budget that includes funding for the CIA and other spy activities. The details of the budget were kept top secret, but published reports estimated the figure being spent on intelligence was 28 billion US dollars. The measures passed the House of representatives and senate with voice votes Saturday, reports AFP

# Bank interest rates

From Page 1 Col 7 dead organisation. Its officials are doing nothing for enhancing the use of jute, they only think about their salary and fa-

cilities, he added Turning on various problems regarding bank interests, the Finance Minister assured the jute traders of holding soon a tripartite meeting of the ministry, the banks and the representatives of the association to thrash the problems.

Emphasising creation of a favourable environment for foreign investment in the country. Saifur Rahman said foreign investors, including the Japanese. were afraid of investing here due to hartals and strikes.

"The country has achieved a macro-economic stability and is carrying on different reforms programmes in the economic sector, but the country is deprived of the fruit of these reforms due to social unrest," he said, adding "we have to create. a social tension-and-hartal-free society.

He said his election in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the recognition of the country's

success in the economic sector. Economic success or failure depends on the political activities, he said, urging the political parties not to throw political programmes which tarnish the image of the country.

Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam said the current situation

### of the jute sector is the conse-Card-phones in Zinjira

By Staff Correspondent Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday

inaugurated two card-phones at Zinjira under Keraniganj thana The minister formally opened the phones by making a customary call to the Prime Minister

After the inauguration, at an informal gathering condemned the minister Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina's utterances against the Prime Minister in Saturday's public rally which he said was in bad taste.

Begum Khaleda Zia.

Islam said Hasina has de graded her own status by making such 'atrocious' statements. He said Hasma is trying to project herself as the lone literate person in the Awami League after getting rid of the more literate leaders.

Meanwhile, with the installa tion of the new card-phones, the number of card-phones rose to 248 in the country.

Prime Minister Begum Zia. while talking to the minister, hoped that the phones would serve the common people who do not own personal telephones.

## Ctg chamber to set up World Trade Centre

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: The Chittagong Chamber of Sommerce and Industry plans to set up a 'World Trade Centre' here at a cost of Taka 15 crore.

The president of Chittagong Chamber S M Abul Kalam made this announcement at a press briefing in connection with the six-day "Chittagong Industrial Fair-93", beginning November 23 at the Chittagong Stadium Gymnasium.

The Chittagong Chamber will provide the project cost from its own funds to build the centre aimed at promoting the country's trade activities, Kalam said.

The project site has already been selected and its foundation is expected to be laid in January, the chamber chief added.

He also announced that the Chamber had decided to set up a 'Flated Industrial Bloc' here to help install small and medium scale industries, in line with the Singapore and Taiwan models.

At the 'Industrial Fair-93', 75 stalls displaying various local products from across the country will be on show

quence of wrong policies pursued by the past autocratic gov-

He hoped that the lost glory of jute would be redeemed very soon and the country would be able to earn the highest amount of foreign exchange.

Earlier, in his address of welcome, BJA Chairman Rezaul Karim urged the government to waive 100 per cent of the penal interest and 75 per cent of simple interest on their default

. He also urged the government for holding up the cases against the jute traders and finding out a way of refunding the principal to the banks.

### Armed youths go on rampage in city

By Staff Correspondent A group of armed men fired blank shots and exploded crackers in the city's New Elephant Road yesterday after-

Witnesses said at around 4 pm, a group of youngsters, who identified themselves as students, went on a rampage after an altercation with a shopkeeper of a garments shop at the Alpana Plaza over the pur-

chase of a jacket. The armed men fired four shots and exploded several crackers on the road and damaged the windshield of a pass-

ing car. They fled when police rushed to the scene. No casualties were

reported. Following the incident, most of the shops pulled down their

### UNEP: water talks From Page 1 Col 4

Rafiqui Islam Mia, Environment Minister Akbar Hossain and State Minister for Irrigation Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan.

She informed newsmen that

the environmental issues, in-

cluding the water-sharing problem, were among the topics she discussed with the Prime Appreciating the PM's speech at the United Nations General Assembly last month, which focussed on the Farakka issue,

Ms Dowdeswell said, "The Prime

Minister is not only very articu-

late, but she feels very strongly

about the issue of environment

and the issue of water-sharing in particular. The UNEP-Habitat chief mentioned that during her talks with Begum Zia, she offered her organisation's assistance to re-

solve the problem. She said that the UN and the UNEP can assist the countries of the region to help initiate dialogue on the development and sharing of the common rivers if the countries concerned so de-

As regards her discussions with the other ministers, Ms Dowdeswell said that the issues concerning environment, migration to urban areas, the housing problem, natural disaster, the role of women and sustainable development were some of the areas covered.

Praising the new Housing Policy of Bangladesh, she maintained that this would help to solve the problem in this sector since it is conducive to the land and credit market conditions She said that Habitat is supporting a number of projects in Bangladesh and such support would continue.

Replying to a question, she said discussions on climatic changes are very important for finding solutions to issues like a rise in the sea level since Bangladesh, the Maldives and other countries might face such problems.

She said that the next conference on settlement and housing — Habitat-2 — would be held in Islanbul in 1996.

Peter C Schroder from the UNEP, Mark Hildebrand from Habitat and the UNDP Representative in Bangladesh Eimi Watanabe were present at the press conference.

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