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NEWS BRIEFS

**Army aquatic meet
begins today**

Savar, July 15: The annual aquatic meet of the Bangladesh army begins at the Savar Cantonment tomorrow. A total of 11 teams drawn from the Bangladesh army are taking part in the five-day meet. Savar area commander of the army Major General Muhammad Abdul Matin, Bir Protik, will declare the meet open, reports BSS.

**Queen Elizabeth
to visit Russia**

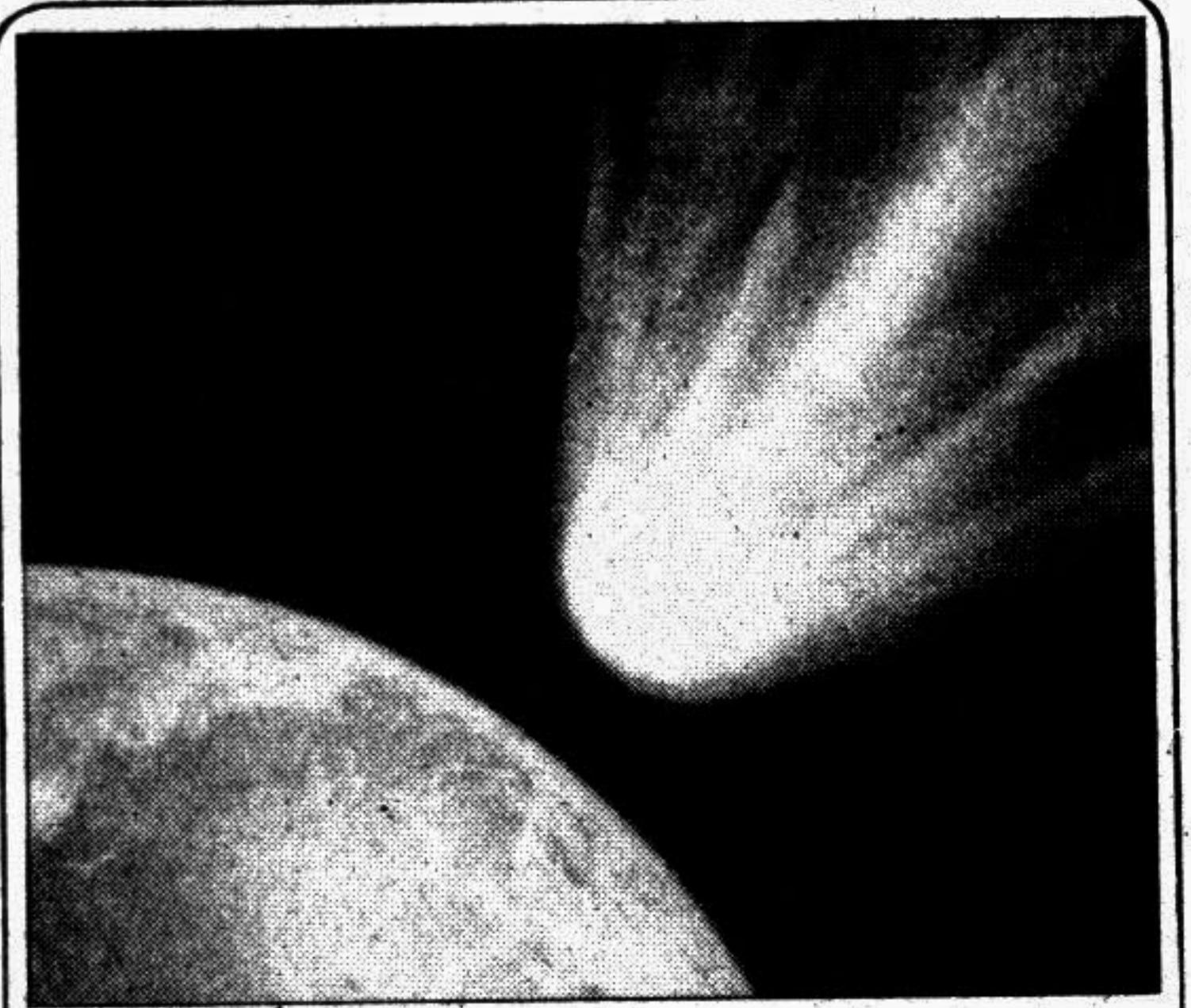
LONDON, July 15: Queen Elizabeth II will visit Russia from October 17 to 20 at the invitation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Buckingham Palace announced today. It will be the first time a British monarch will visit that country, reports AFP.

**Rebels kill 24
troops in Bogota**

Bogota, July 15: Leftist guerrillas attacked a military base near the Venezuelan border on Friday, killing at least 24 soldiers, a radio station reported. Police confirmed the clash and said there were numerous casualties on both sides. At least 16 other soldiers were missing and five were wounded, Radio Caracol said, reports AP.

**Mitterrand's wife
undergoes surgery**

PARIS, July 15: Danielle Mitterrand underwent cardiovascular surgery Friday, and aides to the French first lady said the operation went smoothly. No details were released about the reason for the surgery at Broussais Hospital in Paris or about Mrs Mitterrand's prognosis, reports AP.



Comet hits Jupiter today

SYDNEY, July 15: Astronomers are preparing for the first glimpse of an almost weeklong, nuclear-sized collision of the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet with Jupiter, the biggest planet in the solar system, reports AP.

Dozens of comet fragments will hit the planet at a speed of 60 kilometers a second, releasing thousands of megatons of energy, said Dave Crisp, of America's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Crisp will be among a worldwide team of astronomers and scientists watching from Australia are particularly interested in fragment K. The fragments are listed alphabetically in order of appearance.

Crisp said astronomers in South Africa would be able to detect the first in the series of collisions on Saturday. On Tuesday, Australians will be able to see it hit on the dark side of Jupiter.

There will be no direct sighting, even from Australia. But one of Jupiter's Galilean moons, Europa, will be in eclipse at the time.

"It may be that we will be able to see its impact," re-

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Rabin-Hussein meet in Washington July 25

WASHINGTON, July 15: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein will meet in Washington on July 25 in hopes of concluding a historic peace agreement between the two countries, reports AP.

President Clinton announced the summit, and said both leaders also will address a joint session of the US Congress and attend a combined state dinner at the White House.

Clinton called the summit agreement "another step forward toward the achievement of a lasting peace in the Middle East." Clinton said both Hussein and Rabin had demonstrated "courageous and bold leadership" in making progress in thorny peace talks.

Clinton said he was dispatching Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to help the two countries clear up any remaining differences.

Israel and Jordan have already concluded the framework of an agreement, but the King delayed a wrap up while Syria negotiated with Israel. With those talks moving slowly, Hussein said earlier this month he would not be deterred by the slow pace.

Hussein told the Jordanian Parliament last Saturday that he would not hesitate to meet

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