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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting the military hardware exhibition at the parade ground at Old Airport in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.

— PID photo

PM visits military hardware exhibition

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the military hardware display at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday and witnessed demonstration combat of soldiers at the exhibition, reports UNB.

The grand display has been arranged on the occasion of Armed Forces Day, observed on November 21, at the northwestern part of the old airport near Rokeya Sarani.

On arrival at the display ground, she was received by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Defence Secretary Qazi Md Munzir-i-Moula, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General Md Harun-ar-Rashid BP and Acting Chief of Naval Staff A M A Alam.

The Prime Minister went round different stalls where equipment, arms, ammunition, vehicles, tanks, armoured personnel carriers (APC), aircraft and vessels used by the army, navy and airforce are on display and took keen interest in the exhibits.

She talked to the Bangladesh Contingent Commander in Kuwait over the army wireless communication channel from an army stall at the display

Attack on Khulna city BNP leader

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA Nov 23: The Cultural Secretary of the city BNP, Fazle Ali Liton was attacked allegedly by the BCL activists today.

Liton, 30, was attacked when he went to the CMM's court in connection with a case filed against him with Khalishpur thana. He sustained severe injuries.

Police said he was rescued from the attackers by other people present there and the court staff.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Ramchandrapur Union Parishad, Abdur Rashid Khan, also a BNP leader was severely injured when some unidentified people attacked him with lethal weapons in Bagerhat town Wednesday night.

He was admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed with Bagerhat Sadar thana.

Jyoti Basu arrives Nov 27

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meeting leaders of various political parties in Calcutta today in an effort to mobilise their favourable opinion about apportioning a fair share of the Ganges water for Bangladesh. Mentionally, the Farakka Barrage is located in Murshidabad of West Bengal which has staked its own claim on the Ganges water for flushing the Calcutta port.

The Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider is likely to meet Jyoti Basu tomorrow, a day before his trip to Dhaka, to discuss the water sharing issue with him who is already well apprised about the subject and Delhi's expressed desire to reach a satisfactory agreement before the onset of the coming lean season."

Both Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak during their recent trips to India had several rounds of discussions on the water-sharing issue with Jyoti Basu.

Observers feel that Basu's Bangladesh visit will lay the final groundwork for a water-

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50 deaths confirmed: 30 survive

Hijacked Ethiopian plane with 178 aboard crashes

ADDIS ABABA, Nov 23: Ethiopian Airlines said 50 people were confirmed dead and 30 survived out of the 175 people aboard its hijacked Boeing 767 that came down in the sea near the Comoro Islands today, reports Reuter.

The captain and one crew member were among the survivors, it added. The airline said the plane split in two when it ditched while trying to land at Moroni airport after it ran out of fuel.

The fuselage was seen floating in the sea while the rear part has submerged, the airline added.

The airline said an investigating team left Addis Ababa for Moroni this evening.

The hijackers of the plane were believed to be transit passengers from Bombay, officials of the airline said.

They said the identity of the hijackers were not confirmed but they may have arrived in Addis Ababa from Bombay and then boarded the Boeing 767 with the goal of hijacking it to Ethiopia.

Flight 661 was en route from Bombay, India, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when it was hijacked, said T P Venkatnarayanan, Bombay duty officer for Air India, which handles Ethiopian Airlines flights in India.

Israel radio said it was hijacked by 11 Ethiopians in the Ethiopian capital. The control

tower at Nairobi's airport said it happened before the plane entered Kenyan air space.

Gourdin said the hijackers demanded to be flown to Australia and that the plane was en route to the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius to refuel when it crashed near Grand Comore off the coast of Mozambique.

Gourdin has been monitoring transmissions from the plane and the air traffic control tower in Addis Ababa.

A civil aviation authority source in the Ethiopian capital confirmed to the Associated Press that the aircraft had been hijacked, but he asked not to be further identified and said authorities were trying to find out more details.

The control tower at Nairobi's airport said the plane was travelling between the Ethiopian capital and Abidjan in the Ivory Coast, in western Africa. It was not clear whether that was an extension of the Bombay-Addis Ababa flight.

Mock fire fighting exercise at ZIA

A mock fire fighting exercise was held yesterday at Zia International Airport here under the auspices of Civil Aviation Authorities, reports BSS.

The idea of the exercise was to salvage an Army Boeing 767 caught by fire while landing at the airport and rescue its passengers.

Civil Aviation Fire Bangladesh Fire Service, heavy fire fighting vehicles and helicopters of the Air Force, divers of Bangladesh Navy, rescue workers of Bangladesh Army, representatives of different airlines and students of Kurmitola High School took part in the exercise.

Such exercises are organised in every two years as per guidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority air commander Mohammad Irfanuddin, among others, witnessed the exercise.

Tajul Ali, 55, of village Banagaon of Sylhet sadar thana was crushed under the wheels of a speeding microbus at Balaura at about 11 am. The driver of the Sylhet bound vehicle managed to escape.

Anwarul Haque, 38, of village Ujjirup of Chhatak thana also died on the spot as he was run over by a Sylhet bound minibus from Sunamganj at noon.

The accident took place at Ausha. Police seized the vehicle and arrested the driver Newar Ali.

Police sent the bodies to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

11 killed in Malaysian road accident

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23: Eleven people were killed and another person injured today when a van and truck collided on a road northeast of Kuala Lumpur, sending the van plunging into a ravine, reports AP.

All of the dead — two men, five women, three boys and a girl — and the injured were in the van, police and news reports said.



A demonstrator from a leftist women's group held back by woman police as she was protesting the Miss World beauty pageant in the Indian city of Bangalore yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

Fighting in Somalia: 17 killed

MOGADISHU, Nov 23: Rival militias fought with mortars, artillery and antiaircraft guns in southern Mogadishu, killing at least 17 people and wounding 25, reports AP.

The fighting Friday between Saturday between militias loyal to Hussein Aideed and his rival Osman Hassan Ali was the worst in four days.

Sporadic gunfire could still be heard Saturday afternoon. Witnesses said the bodies of some of the victims hadn't been recovered because people were afraid to venture outside.

The whip of the Jatiya Sangsads, Rofikul Islam, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, Jerssore, visited the place of the accident.

Our Jhendiya Correspondent adds: An ex-citizen parishad member, Sirajul Islam, 40, was killed and his companion Batul, 42, received severe injuries when their motorcycle was hit by a bus near Chittagong in sadar thana at about 10 am yesterday.

According to police, they were rushed to the Jhendiya Sadar hospital where Sirajul succumbed to his injuries. The driver fled leaving the bus.

Three people were killed when a shell hit the building housing offices of the UN Development Program. The victims were Somalis, witnesses said.

The cause of the fighting was unclear, but the rival militias have been bombarding each other on and off since Hussein Aideed succeeded his father, Gen. Mohamed Aideed.

They will also visit Defence Services Command and Staff College, Bangladesh Institute of Strategic Studies, and army division at Comilla.

Indian defence college team meets air chief

Members of the National Defence College team of India led by Mrs Leela K Ponappa called on Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Jamil Uddin Ahmed at the air headquarters today, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

They discussed the training facilities in their respective countries.

The 24-member delegation comprising Indian armed forces officers, Indian civil servants and the armed forces officers of Cuba, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Ghana and Sri Lanka arrived in Dhaka Friday evening on a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

During its stay in Bangladesh, the delegation will call on the President, the Foreign Minister, Chief of Army Staff, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, planning and principal staff officers of the armed forces division.

They will also visit Defence Services Command and Staff College, Bangladesh Institute of Strategic Studies, and army division at Comilla.

Su Kyi has tried to use the intersection as a substitute venue for the weekend rallies she normally holds in front of thousands of supporters outside her home.

Suu Kyi urges supporters to be courageous

YANGON, Nov 23: Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi addressed 500 supporters today at a Yangon intersection, her first public speech since a mob attacked her motorcade two weeks ago, reports AP.

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They will also visit Defence Services Command and Staff College, Bangladesh Institute of Strategic Studies, and army division at Comilla.

The idea itself is very good, but with the country's present level of political culture, it is impractical to think about offering the Opposition leader to head a very body like PAC, the whip had said on the condition of anonymity.

The former president was represented by Senior Advocate Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, Yusuf Hossain Humayun and a number of other lawyers.

Public Prosecutor Hossain was assisted by Assistant Public Prosecutor Faruq Omar.

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PHILIPS

Queen Sophia in Sonargaon

From Page 1
her usual grace and left them discussing her visit and the answers to their queries.

UNB adds: Queen Sophia yesterday walked into several villages in Sonargaon, knocking the doors of villagers to hear from them about their Grameen Bank-supported self-employment projects.

During a four-hour journey on foot, the Queen accompanied by her sister, Princess Irine, was cordially received everywhere by people from all walks of life.

A smiling Queen, attired in a Grameen skirt, was presented with bouquet and garlanded by boys and girls who received her chanting slogans 'unity, work and discipline,' the concept of Grameen Bank activity.

She witnessed a drill displayed by school-going teenagers at Basaburah where she also talked to a group of women receiving assistance from Grameen Bank to promote socio-economic condition of the rural people, she said.

The Queen arrived in Bangladesh Friday mainly to see the projects of Grameen Bank, which so far has opened 1,055 centres in 36,000 villages of the country enrolling 21 lakh members, 90 per cent of whom are female, spending about Tk 2,000 crore.

Later Queen Sophia also visited two folk and crafts museums at Sonargaon.

Biman's Barisal flight resumes today

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 23: Bangladesh Biman's flight on the Dhaka-Barisal route will resume tomorrow.

The Barisal pourashava has sold all 30 tickets for which it took responsibility while Biman office sold 15 tickets. The 70-seat ATP will fly with 45 passengers.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka office has sold 25 tickets for tomorrow's flight, according to Biman officials in Barisal.

Interne docs of RMCH observe hunger strike

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 23: The interne doctors of the Rajshahi Medical College (RMCH) observed a 3-hour token hunger strike from noon to 3 pm on the college campus today demanding an end to the current crisis at the medical college hospital.

Earlier, at a press conference, the leader of the interne doctors demanded a judicial enquiry into the matter.

The interne doctors of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital are on strike since November 12 after their clashes with employees.

Meanwhile, the 3-member joint committee, led by Joint Secretary of the Health Ministry, Dr M A Mazed visited the hospital yesterday.

NEC reviews ADP

From Page 1

out proposals and suggestions accepted in the meeting to expedite the implementation phase of the projects.

She also gave directive to stick to the policy of decentralisation in project preparation and implementation.

Hasina said fruits of the projects should reach the doorsteps of the people at the grassroots level so that they enjoy the tangible benefits thereof and realise that their government is endeavouring hard for their betterment.

She also underlined that a healthy atmosphere should be created to make the private sector and NGOs come forward in development activities.

Ershad

From Page 1

Ershad's counsels submitted before the court that there should not be any case against their client as there was no proof that he had allotted any plot either for himself or for his dependents or any of his relatives. Rather, the lawyers pointed out, those plots were allotted to five ministers, 13 civil servants, some journalists,