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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 Munzur-i-Moula, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General M 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 Lito, was attacked allegedly by the BCL activists today.

Lito, 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, Abur 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 appointing a fair share of the Ganges water for Bangladesh. Mentionably, the Faraka 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-

Parliamentary team leaves for Canada

A parliamentary team left Dhaka for Canada last night to gather first hand knowledge about various aspects of parliamentary system, reports UNB.

The delegation is being led by Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta MP while Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah is deputy leader of the team.

Both the leader and the deputy leader will also visit the UK and India, but team members will be changed during the visit to different countries.

The teams are visiting Canada, UK and India under a project titled "Support to Strengthening of Parliamentary Democracy".

They will later submit reports to the parliamentary task force to strengthen the parliamentary democracy in the country, parliament sources said.

The team members include Whip Mohammad Abdus Shahid, Prof Ethin MP, Prof Sabita Begum MP and Dr Mohammad Rustam Ali Farazi MP, and Parliament Secretary Abul Hashem.

Besides the leader and the deputy leader, Advocate Rahmat Ali MP, Whip Prof Rafiqul Islam and Sabita Begum will visit the UK, while Begum Meher Afroz MP, Nargis Ara Huq MP and Advocate N K Alam Chowdhury MP will be on the team that will tour New Delhi.

BNP leader and Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, who were included in the team, have withdrawn their names, the sources said.

sharing agreement between Dhaka and Delhi which is likely to be signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

The date for the Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit to Delhi is yet to be fixed but is likely to be drawn up after the visit of the West Bengal Chief Minister.

Jyoti Basu will be received upon his arrival by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. He will be staying at the Sonargaon Hotel.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh members of the Joint Committee of Experts on water sharing returned to Dhaka Friday after two days of meetings with officials in New Delhi. This was the second meeting at the level of technical experts after the visit of Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral to Dhaka in September last when the two countries declared that a durable water sharing agreement would be reached.

The experts team was led by Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tariq Karim and included Khalilur Rahman of JRC and BUET Water Resources expert Prof Anun Nishat.

BNP body to celebrate Victory Day

Main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has taken an elaborate programme to celebrate Silver Jubilee of Independence and Victory Day in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

To celebrate the great occasion in a massive way across the country, BNP has formed a 225-member Committee for Celebrating Silver Jubilee of Victory with Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shaukat Ali, Bir Uttam, a sector commander of the Liberation War, as the chief patron.

Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Bir Protik, Lt Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain, Bir Protik, and Sadek Hossain Khoka MP were made chief advisor, convenor and member secretary respectively.

A meeting of the celebration committee will be held tomorrow at 4 pm at the central office of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal, said a press release.

All members of the committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

Peasants gherao RAKUB head office

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 23: Several hundred peasants under the banner of Jatiya Krishak Samity, (JKS) Rajshahi District Unit gheraoed the head office of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) and staged a two-hour sit-in to press home their demands.

The demands include exemption of the agri loan of up to Tk 10,000 and withdrawal of certificate cases and the ban on making poor (moulaas).

The farmers later paraded the main street in the city.

Brisk trading

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floor yesterday. The value of traded shares was Tk 20.26 crore.

Although major market indicators registered slight growth on the day, a mixed trend prevailed on the floor as the numbers of rising and falling issues were the same. Out of 116 traded issues, prices of 58 increased while those of another 58 fell.

The All Share Price Index reached 3323.59 points yesterday from the previous week's closing day position of 3298.04 points and market capitalisation rose to Tk 23,680.08 crore from Tk 23,498 crore on Wednesday.

DSE Chairman Intiyaz Hossain told The Daily Star last night the situation was "very positive".

He said that the investors regained their confidence and placed buying and selling orders with enthusiasm.

A good number of investors were also seen busy yesterday, as on other days, in selling and buying shares in the kerb market in front of the DSE building.

Road accidents

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pond after being hit by a speeding truck coming from the opposite direction.

Noor Hossain, 20, Anwar, 28, and Shahin, 14, died on the spot. The injured were admitted to the local thana health complex.

The Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, Rafikul Islam, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, Jessore, visited the place of the accident.

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

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

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 Reuters.

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 Australia.

Flight 661 was en route from Bombay, India, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when it was hijacked, said T P Venkatnarayan, 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.

Gourdis 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.

Gourdis 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 guide lines of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

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

AL has let loose reign of terror, says Obaid

FAIRFORD, Nov 23: BNP leader K M Obaidur Rahman MP has blamed the government for deterioration of overall law and order in the country, reports UNB.

The Awami League government has let loose a reign of terror by politicising the administration and using law enforcing agencies with discriminatory attitude," Obaid told a public meeting here today.

The opposition lawmaker said the BNP will back to Parliament if an environment is created and if the party is guaranteed the right to talk about the country's people, their welfare and economic development activities in the House.

Referring to the social welfare activities of the Sangha, the delegates recalled the contribution of Dr William Carey, who established churches in this country back in 1795.

President Shahabuddin noted with satisfaction that the Baptist Sangha is doing various kinds of social work for the people in distress, particularly in providing medicare service to the blind and leprosy patients through their different hospitals in 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.

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

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Resignation of IU Proctor, 4 others accepted

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 23: Resignation letters of the Proctor and four Assistant Proctors of Islamic University were accepted by the authorities today, according to official sources.

Proctor Mosharrar Hossain, and Assistant Proctors Shahid Ahmed Chowdhury, Selim Toha, Sahidul Islam Nuri and Sarwar Zahan had earlier submitted their resignation letters to Vice-Chancellor Prof Inam-ul-Haque protesting alleged negligence of the VC in maintaining law and order on the campus.

When contacted, IU authorities said that a new Proctor and Assistant Proctors would be appointed soon.

Ten vehicles damaged

SYLHET, Nov 23: At least ten vehicles were damaged by the agitated villagers following death of two persons in separate road accidents on Sylhet-Sunamganj road today. The movement of traffic was disrupted for about six hours from noon due to road barricade put up by them.

Talamul 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 Ujirpur 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.

The BSS special examination while 383 came out successful. Of them, 42 got second division and 341 third division. The pass percentage is 43.28.

Narayan Chandra Mondal of Naogaon Chandra Mondal College and Shafiqur Rahman of Nawabganj Government College secured first and second positions respectively in the BSC examination.

In all, 865 students sat for the BSS special examination while 383 came out successful. Of them, 42 got second division and 341 third division. The pass percentage is 43.28.

Only three students appeared in the Certificate Course special examination while two passed. A total of 1,941 candidates appeared in the Degree Subsidiary special examination while 983 came out successful.

Rush of patients

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"In no way one should take medicine without consulting a specialist or a registered physician," said Dr Md Ali Hossain, a medicine specialist and chest physician at the CDH.

The most efficient therapy for an asthma patient is inhaler therapy which has little side effects, specialists said. Oral therapy, though comparatively cheaper, might have lot of side effects. It also takes time to heal, they pointed out.

According to a survey carried out five years ago by the CDH, there were more than 50 lakh asthma patients in the country. The number of people suffering from chronic bronchitis could run into a few hundred thousand. The number of bronchitis and asthma patients would come next to diarrhoea patients in the country," said Dr Md Enamul Haq of the CDH.

"Since most people who suffer from these two diseases belong to the low income groups, there has not been much initiative to improve treatment facilities," he alleged.

Moreover, specialists said that most people are deprived of proper treatment due to exorbitant price of medicine for asthma and chronic bronchitis — especially in inhaler therapy.

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

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.

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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 Basurbagh where she also talked to a group of women receiving assistance from Grameen Bank to stand on their own feet.

Replying to a volley of questions from the bank members, Spanish Queen said: "I am a queen without throne. I love Bangladesh and its villages. I am very happy to be here."

"Spain has also poor people," she told a questioner.

The function over, the Queen visited the home of Majeda Begum at the village, took her 19-day baby, Sumon, on to her lap and kissed him with deep affection.

She also walked through shady roads of Ichhapara, Tripodi, Companiganj and Mugarpara villages and shook hands with children and females scrambling to have a glimpse of the Royal guest.

Queen Sophia visited an exhibition of Grameen products at a village, Barimajish, where she also opened a road named after her. Caning, pottery, fishing nets, bamboo works, readymade dress, wooden husking, puffed rice, paddy husking, musical instruments, nursery and sapling, seasonal foods, vegetables and weaving products were on display.

Grameen Bank Managing Director Dr Muhammad Yunus briefed the Queen about a wide range of activities of the internationally acclaimed financial institution fighting hunger, alleviating poverty and eradicating illiteracy.

The Queen expressed her satisfaction to see the Grameen Bank projects promoting socio-economic status of the poor. "I am highly impressed to see the works of 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 Hospital (RMCH) observed a 3-hour 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 enquiry committee, led by the Joint Secretary of the Health Ministry, Dr M A Mazed visited the hospital yesterday.

NEC reviews ADP

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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

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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 dependent or any of his relations. Rather, the lawyers pointed out, those plots were allotted to five ministers, 13 civil servants, some journalists, artists and freedom fighters.

It was further submitted that the allotment of plots had been approved by Rahmatullah after observing all formalities. None of the beneficiaries of the allotment of plots had been made accused or witness in the case and that Rahmatullah had been discharged.

Public Prosecutor Altaf Hossain, in his submission, while noting the defence contention, expressed his intention to file an application for further investigation of the case after consultation with the authority. He left the ball matter to the court to decide, the press release said.

The court, after hearing both sides, allowed bail to Ershad. This raised the number of bail Ershad has received so far to 13.

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.