'Majestic' WWII Spitfire set for round-the-world flight

Two British aviators yesterday took off on a first-ever attempt to fly a Spitfire around the world, proclaiming the iconic fighter plane as a symbol of

The restored plane fought in World War II but has been de-militarised, stripped of its guns and paintwork to reveal the shining, silvery metal underneath.

"It's the most majestic machine," pilot Steve Brooks told AFP.

"We're hoping to reacquaint people with the beauty and the aesthetic of

The 76-year-old plane is due to take off from Goodwood Aerodrome in England for a four-month, 43,500-kilometre (27,000-mile) adventure westwards around the

Taking turns, Brooks, 58, and Matt Jones, 45, who run a flight academy, will pilot the Silver Spitfire to around 30 countries and soar over some of the world's most cherished landmarks.

Agile, short-range interceptors, Spitfires were crucial in the 1940 Battle of Britain as the UK fought off the threat of an invasion by Nazi Germany.

wings, the outline of a Spitfire is instantly recognisable.

"The Spitfire stands for freedom of humanity," Brooks said.

Of around 20,000 built, fewer than 250 survive, with only 50 or so of those still airworthy. They rarely fly and are mostly based in Britain.

The mission hopes to honour those who designed, built, and flew the Spitfire and inspire those who see it to cherish their freedoms.

The silver plane will set off from Goodwood outside Chichester, near England's south coast and head north for Scotland.

It will then cross the Atlantic Ocean via the Faroe Islands, Reykjavik, Greenland and remote parts of northern Canada.

The sponsor-funded expedition will then cross North America, Asia, the Middle East and Europe, in around

The plane will fly past some of the world's most well-known sites, including the Grand Canyon, Mount Fuji, and some of the seven wonders of the ancient world in Egypt and Greece.

"To see the Silver Spitfire over the Golden Gate Bridge, the Statue of

A design classic with elliptical Liberty or the Pyramids of Giza is just going to be fantastic," said Brooks.

Other highlights include flying over Canada's Houses of Parliament with the Red Arrows, Britain's air force aerobatic team, and potentially flying above the Great Wall of China and landing on a road in India's "pink city" of Jaipur.

Libya airliner narrowly avoids airport bombing

AFP, Tripoli

A Libyan airliner has narrowly escaped being hit by incoming fire as it landed at war-torn capital Tripoli's sole functioning airport, aviation officials said.

"The crew on the flight from Benghazi, which was carrying 124 oassengers, avoided being hit by bombing on Mitiga International Airport" on Sunday evening, the airport's management wrote on Facebook.

The incident forced the airport to close to air traffic and re-route flights to Misrata, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) further east, until late Sunday

CHT edging towards fresh tension

জিডি-১৩২৩

National Rights Human Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman said the CHT Accord had been implemented for the most part, but several clauses of the accord have remained unimplemented.

One main reason behind this has been the concern that the treaty's full implementation may pose a threat to national security and sovereignty of

the country, he said. "The state has to get rid of such

doubts or phobias," he said, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said the main reason behind the tension prevailing in the hills is the lack of implementation of the accord.

The CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission was established but its improper functioning has left people there in frustration, he said.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim said ethnic exploitation and class exploitation had left the country's indigenous community marginalised and deprived.

Rights activist Shaheen Anam said she feels ashamed of being a representative of the country's majority community as the state could not ensure due rights of the indigenous people despite repeated

Minority agreement leader Rana Dasgupta said indigenous community people had achieved some successes, like bringing an amendment to the Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act.

However, lack of proper functioning of the commission is depriving the hill people of their due land rights, he said, hoping that the government will implement the remaining clauses of the accord in the next five years.

Stressing the need for continuous effort, Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, vice-chancellor of ASA University Bangladesh, said arranging rallies and seminars regularly would open up scopes for the indigenous people to achieve their goal.

রোড নং-১২০এ	००১, ००२, ००७, ००८, ००४, ००५, ००५, ००४,	মোট ১১ টি	তারিখঃ-
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	025, 022, 020, 028, 026, 026, 029, 026, 028,		সকাল ১০.০০ থেকে দুপুর
	000		০১.০০ ঘটিকা
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প্রকল্পের ২৬নং সেব্টরের (আংশিক) বর্ণিত প্রট সমূহের বরাদ্দ গ্রহীতা/গ্রহিত্রী/আম-মোক্তার গ্রহীতা/গ্রহিত্রীগণকে প্রটের ৩য় কিন্তির টাকা আগামী ০৭/১১/২০১৯খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে (যদি কেহ পরিশোধ না করে থাকেন) পরিশোধ করতঃ প্রটের দখল গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। দখল গ্রহণের জন্য সংশ্রিষ্ট বরাদ্দ্র্যহীতাগণকে তালিকায় বর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী পুটের সাময়িক ও চূড়ান্ত বরাদ্দ্রপত্র, সকল কিন্তি পরিশোধের ব্যাংক রশিদসহ বরাদ্দ্র্যহীতা/গ্রহিত্রীর ভোটার আইডি ও খ্রী/স্বামীর ভোটার আইডি এবং উভয়ের জন্ম নিবন্ধন/এস.এস.সি সার্টিফিকেট/কাবিননামা সহ পূর্বাচল প্রকল্পের ১নং সেব্টরছ (ইউসুফ গঞ্জ হাই ক্ষুল এভ কলেজ সংলগ্ন/ইছাপুরা বাজার) রাজউকের সাইট অফিসে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচেছ। ৩য় কিন্তির টাকা পরিশোধ করা না হলে দখল হস্তান্তর করা হবেনা এবং আগামী ০৭/১১/২০১৯খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে ৩য় কিন্তির টাকা পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হলে বরাদ্দগুহীতাদের ১২% হারে বিলম্ব ফিসহ ৩য় কিন্তির টাকা পরিশোধ করতে হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে তাদের প্রটের দখল পরবর্তীতে প্রদান করা হবে। তালিকায় বর্ণিত বরাদ্ধ গ্রহীতা/গ্রহিত্রী/আম-মোক্তার গ্রহীতা/গ্রহিত্রীগণ নিজ দায়িত্বে ডিজিটাল সার্ভের মাধ্যমে সীমানা চিহ্নিত করে নেবেন। ২৬নং সেব্টরের অবশিষ্ট প্রট সমূহের দখল হস্তান্তরের তারিখ ও সময় শীঘ্রই জানানো হবে। অন্যান্য সেক্টরের রান্তাঘাট নির্মাণ কাজ চলমান থাকায় দ্রুত সমাপ্ত করে অচিরেই অন্যান্য সেক্টর সমূহের প্রটের দখল হস্তান্তর প্রদান করা হবে। বর্তমানে শুরু হওয়া দখল হস্তান্তরের কার্যক্রম ধারাবাহিকভাবে অব্যাহত থাকবে।

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্ত্পক্ষ, ঢাকা

Minni seeks bail from HC

Minni added that she put her life in danger by desperately trying to prevent the attackers and save her husband, which has been videotaped and run by the media.

She said she had been made accused in the instant case proceedings which had been done with an ulterior motive on the instructions of a vested quarter.

Minni added that her confessional statement was recorded in violation of the directives issued by the apex court and hence, her statement under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) had no legal basis.

She claimed that her confessional statement was neither voluntary nor true and hence, it had no basis in the eye of law.

She mentioned that the CrPC has a provision that the women, sick or children etc, if accused in non-bailable offences, he/she may be considered for bail. Hence, she might be granted bail in the case.

Yesterday, petitioner's counsel ZI Khan Panna placed the bail petition before the HC bench of Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman for hearing it and granting his client bail.

But Deputy Attorney General Rezaul Karim prayed for an adjournment of the hearing, saying that Attorney General Mahbubey Alam would place arguments on the petition.

Then the HC bench said the petition would be included in its today's cause-list.

Earlier, two separate courts in Barguna rejected Minni's bail petitions on July 22 and 30.

Police arrested Minni after a daylong interrogation on July 16. A court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days later, a Barguna court recorded her statement.

On June 26, Rifat, 25, an internet service provider, was hacked to death in broad daylight in Barguna town.

In a video footage of the incident that went viral in social media, Minni was seen screaming and trying in vain to save her husband from the attackers.

Rifat's father filed a murder case with Barguna Sadar Police Station against 12 people on the day of the

Prime accused in the case, Nayan Bond, was killed in a "gunfight" with police on July 2.

Air strike

FROM PAGE 16

wounded. This is only an initial toll of

The LNA seized Murzug at the start of this year as part of an offensive to control the oil-producing south. But it later moved out to concentrate forces north where it has been trying to take the capital Tripoli in a four-month campaign.

The LNA said in a statement its strike had targeted "Chadian opposition fighters", a phrase that usually refers to Tebu tribesmen opposing them in

Haftar's LNA, allied to a parallel government based in eastern Libya, has seen its advance on Tripoli held up by robust defences on the outskirts of the capital, and said it would start heavy air strikes after "traditional means" of war had been exhausted.

On Sunday, the UN Libya mission UNSMIL) condemned in a statement the repeated indiscriminate shelling" of Tripoli's only functioning airport after several strikes in the past days.

The United Nations did not name the LNA but said the attacks had "continued unabated" since the start

of the LNA offensive on Tripoli. There was no immediate UN comment on the Murzuq strike.

Haftar's attempt to capture Tripoli has derailed UN attempts to broker an end to the chaos that has prevailed in Libya since the Nato-backed overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011

5 killed

Sub-Inspector Akram Hossain and constable Motiur Rahman were injured in the incident. The two were given primary treatment at Mymensingh Police Lines Hospital, said police.

In Cox's Bazar, two suspected drug peddlers, including a Rohingya man, were killed in a "gunfight" with BGB in Teknaf upazila.

The dead are Nurul Islam, 27, of Kutupalong Rohingya camp, and Delwar Hossain, 30, of Teknaf upazila. Lt Col Faisal Hasan Khan, captain of Teknaf BGB, said they launched a

drive at Kharangkhali of Hoikang near the Naf river around 3:30am yesterday. "Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the drug peddlers opened

fire at police, triggering the gunfight," the BGB official said. The two injured were admitted to were shifted to Cox's Bazar Sadar

dead, the BGB official added. The BGB said they seized 20,000 yaba pills, two arms, two sharp weapons and four bullets from the

Hospital where doctors declared them

The two bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsies. The BGB filed a case with Teknaf Police

Station in this regard. In Habiganj, suspected robber Soleman was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Chunarughat upazila's Dewatali Kalinagar area.

OC Nazmul Haque, Chunarughat Police Station, said a team of police conducted a drive in Dewatali Kalinagar area around 3:00am on information that a gang of robbers was taking preparations to commit a robbery.

Sensing police action, the robbers opened fired at the law enforcers, sparking the "gun battle", the OC said. The incident left Soleman injured.

Four cops, who were also hurt in the incident, were undergoing treatment at Chunarughat Upazila Health Complex, said police.

He died on way to a hospital.

The Daily Star could not independently verify any of the claims by the police and the BGB.

Despite concerns from human rights defenders from home and abroad, "gunfights" between law enforcers and alleged criminals have been occurring across the country.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, at least 198 people have been killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers between January and June this year.

Our correspondents in Mymensingh, Cox's Bazar and Moulvibazar contributed

Clashes, travel chaos

FROM PAGE 16

Activists descended on subway stations during morning rush hour, deliberately keeping open doors to stop trains departing and paralysing large parts of a network that millions of people use daily.

In the afternoon they held seven simultaneous rallies, stretching the resources of police who have become lightning rods for public anger.

Tear gas was fired in four separate locations, with the most sustained volleys outside the city's parliament, making yesterday's clashes the most geographically spread out so far.

In a briefing that highlighted the longevity of the protests, police said they had fired more than 1,000 rounds of tear gas and 160 rubber bullets since rallies began on 9 June, with 420 people arrested and 139 officers injured so far.

But the protesters remain unbowed. "Support for the political strike today seems strong and it has been bolstered further by the escalating violence between the police and protesters," political analyst Dixon Wong told AFP.

FLIGHTS CANCELLED, SHOPS

CLOSED The strike -- a rare occurrence in a freewheeling finance hub where unions traditionally have little sway -- hit the vital aviation sector.

More than 160 flights at the city's airport, one of the world's busiest, were listed as cancelled yesterday afternoon. Many of the disrupted flights were with Cathay Pacific.

The carrier did not give a reason for the cancellations, but its flight attendants union confirmed some of its members had walked out.

Some key roads were also blocked, causing gridlock. Many shops across the city were curtailed.

shuttered, including big-name fashion outlets in the central commercial district.

The strike led to some scuffles between angry commuters and protesters at crowded subway stations, with videos circulating across social media highlighting tensions throughout the city.

One video, verified by AFP, showed a car smashing its way through a protester roadblock in the northern town of Yuen Long.

But while some commuters were angered by the disruptions, others said they supported the action.

"As long as the government doesn't respond then for sure the movement will escalate," a civil servant, who gave his surname as Leung, told AFP as he tried to make his way to work. **CHINA WARNINGS**

The past fortnight has seen a surge in violence from both sides, with police repeatedly firing rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse increasingly hostile projectile-throwing crowds.

A week ago a group of men suspected to be linked to triads --Hong Kong's notorious gangsters -also attacked demonstrators, putting 45 people in hospital.

Dozens of protesters have been charged with rioting, which carries a jail term of 10 years.

The protests were triggered by opposition to a planned law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, but have evolved into a wider movement for democratic reform and a halt to eroding freedoms.

Under the terms of the 1997 handover deal with Britain, Hong Kong has rights and liberties unseen on the Chinese mainland, including an independent judiciary and freedom of speech.

But many say those rights are being

Farmers

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most as they could not feed their cattle due to a crisis of dry food.

However, the crisis will be overcome and there will be no shortage of cattle for slaughter during the Eid on August 12, according to DLS officials.

"There are enough cattle ready for slaughter," said Rahman.

Afaz Sheikh of Santosh village in Shahjadpur upazila in Sirajganj incurred a loss of Tk 10,000 as he sold off his cow. "My cow became lean as I could not feed it."

Apart from dry feed, grass is a good source of nutrients for cattle but grass in the grazing fields and low lands have all been damaged in flood waters.

In Sirajganj, about 134 acres of low and, where Napier grass is cultivated, was completely inundated.

DLS officials said grass worth about Tk 75 lakh has been damaged in the affected areas. Prices of dry food has risen, in response to the shortage.

The price of a 50kg sack of chaff and silage shot up by Tk 150-Tk 200 to Tk 1,380 and Tk 1,750 in Sirajganj and Pabna, reports our local correspondent.

The price of paddy straw, another popular dry feed for cattle, also doubled to Tk 400 a maund.

"Although big farmers have managed to buy feed, the marginal farmers are facing a crisis," said Aktaruzzaman Bhuiyan, deputy livestock officer of Sirajganj.

Many farmers took shelter at nearby embankments with their cattle, he said. They procured about 3 tonnes of dry feed and distributed among the farmers in Sirajganj, he added.

Dr ABM Khaleduzzaman, assistant director (farm) of DLS, said meeting the feed crisis is now the main challenge.

The government has taken an initiative to distribute about Tk 1 lakh to Tk 1.5 lakh each to worst-affected marginal farmers in 160 flood-hit upazilas, he said. Besides, DLS officials collected 100

tonnes of granular cattle feed, about 40 tonnes of which will be distributed in the worst-hit areas of the northern districts. According to DLS, there are 45 lakh

cows and buffaloes, 72 lakh goats and sheep and 6,536 other cattle ready for slaughter this upcoming Eid.

Last year, there were 1.15 crore cattle before Eid and about 1.05 crore of those were slaughtered.

"We usually add five lakh cattle to the number of cattle slaughtered the previous year to estimate the demand. So, the demand for cattle this year is 1.10 crore," said Khaleduzzaman, adding that there is surplus in the number of cattle.

[Our correspondents from Bogura, Pabna and Jamalpur also contributed to this report]

Operation

years that neither the Biman, nor the Saudi Airlines canceled a single flight due to hajj agencies' mismanagement and failure to send hajj aspirants on

their respective flights," he added. Saiful Islam, director at Ashkona Hajj Camp, said a total of 1,22,093 hajj aspirants already reached Saudi Arabia as of 12:00am on Sunday by 351 flights of Biman and Saudi

Airlines. The rest of 4,608 hajj aspirants are scheduled to fly to Saudi Arabia by 11 flights of Biman and Saudi Airlines

on the last day of hajj flight. Saiful said visas of 222 hajj aspirants couldn't be arranged as most of them expressed unwillingness to perform hajj this year citing various reasons, including

illness and family problems. The operation of hajj flights had begun on July 4.

The last hajj flight of Biman left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 3:15pm, yesterday. For Saudi Airlines, the last hajj flight is scheduled to leave Dhaka at 5:47am of Monday, according to Hajj Office at Ashkona hajj Camp.

Visiting the hajj camp yesterday, this correspondent found hajj aspirants talking to their near and dear ones as they were waiting for their scheduled flights.

"I faced only some small problems to go to Saudi Arabia. My flight is at 4:08am Monday," he said.

The busy Ashkona Hajj Camp in the city's Uttara was clam and quiet yesterday with only few hajj aspirants waiting for their scheduled flights.

Man walks

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his home on Mt. Wilis, a dormant volcano Indonesia suffers from one of the

high rates of deforestation in the

world, according to Greenpeace. Bastoni walks 20 to 30 kilometres backwards every day under the scorching sun, with a rear-view mirror attached to his backpack to

avoid bumping into objects. Along the way, supporters cheer him on, offer him meals or a place to stay overnight. But Bastoni always

leaves at dawn to stay on schedule. Walking backwards is meant as a siganl to Indonesians to reflect on the past and remember how national heroes fought for the good of the country, he said.