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Number of diabetics may double in 15 years

By Staff Correspondent

Diabetes is on the rise globally and the number of diabetics is likely to double in 15 years.

This was said in a survey report by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The report was released at a press conference of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) on the occasion of World Diabetes Day yesterday.

The survey report identified rapid urbanisation and its effect on environment and change in intake of nutrition as the key reasons for increase in the number of diabetics in the country.

It also pointed out that in every four natural deaths the fourth one involves diabetes related diseases.

To fight the disease we have to be more cautious. We must know what exactly causes the disease and identify them promptly," the report said.

DAB has taken up a number of schemes to address the problems, said Dr CM Delwar Rana, Deputy Director of BIRDEM Hospital.

He appealed to those associated with the media to help create public consciousness about the disease.

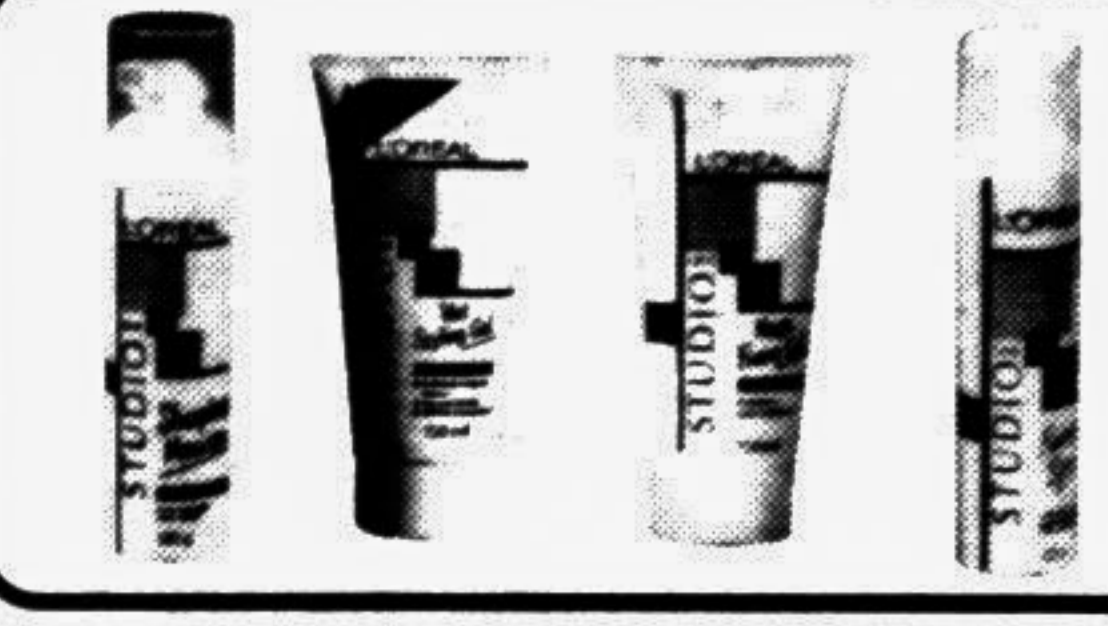
"Global Awareness, Our Key to Better Life" was this year's IDF slogan.

The others present at the press conference included, Dr Shahjuddin Mahtab, President, DAB, Dr A R Khan, Dr A K Azad Khan, Prof Hajera Mahtab and Gaietirrida Chakraborty.

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City Awami League brought out a procession yesterday protesting the Tuesday's incident in Chittagong. — Star photo

Resist conspirators, PM urges FF's

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the conspirators, who were out to destroy the spirit of the Liberation War, have become active again to create an abnormal situation in the country, reports UNB.

They are trying to push the country towards an unusual situation in a planned manner... They have killed people and police in Chittagong without any reason," she said and called upon the freedom fighters to remain alert against any conspiracy.

She also urged them to resist those who want to create hindrance to ongoing development process aimed at economic emancipation of the masses. Political stability is a must for economic development of the country, she added.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating a self-employment generating project, 'Muktijodha Sanirbar Prokalpa,' of the Muktijodha Sangsad for

the distressed freedom fighters at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

Under the project, distressed freedom fighters will be provided with interest-free small credits for their self-employment.

At the initial stage, two freedom fighters from each thana of the country and two from each ward of the capital city have been brought under the project and given Tk 15,000 each as loans.

Sheikh Hasina handed over certificates of loans to some 101 freedom fighters at the inaugural function. All distressed freedom fighters will be brought under the project in phases, she said.

The Prime Minister said freedom fighters must get their due honour and added that the government is taking steps for their welfare.

She said steps have been taken to preserve the graves of the freedom fighters across the country and decision was taken to maintain a job quota for the children of the freedom fighters.

Political cases

From Page 1

tion," he said adding, "We'll actively consider withdrawing other kinds of cases."

Nasim, the Awami League stalwart negotiating with the BNP to break the political standoff, further said he also communicated the ruling party's willingness to form parliamentary standing committees on Sunday. He hoped BNP would send their nominees for the committees as the Treasury Bench had already announced its readiness to accommodate all the 113 MPs of the party in those committees.

According to sources, the Home Ministry investigation did not find any case against 10 out of 19 BNP lawmakers who, the opposition party claimed, were victimised.

Earlier, BNP had given to Nasim a list of political cases filed with 54 thanas across the country against its MPs and other partymen.

AL leaders

From Page 1

visit to Barisal.

Addressing the rally, Mayor Mohammad Hanif called upon the ruling party workers to resist the violence unleashed by BNP and its anti-liberation lackeys.

He also announced a *gayebana* janaza at the Baitul Mokarram National Mosque after Juma prayers today for those killed in Chittagong.

Refugee repatriation

Official team leaves for Tripura

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 13: A five-member official delegation left here today for Indian state of Tripura to work out details of the fourth phase of repatriation of tribal people scheduled to begin on November 21, reports BSS.

The officials led by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khagrachhari hill district Mohammad Ismail will discuss ways to make the repatriation process smooth and will procure lists from their Indian counterpart, officials said.

Meanwhile, the hill district administration has taken all necessary measures to make the fourth phase of the repatriation a success.

Strike at BUET

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JCD and BCL brought out protest processions after this incident late Wednesday night.

The Chhatra Dal later called a student strike. Leaders of both BCL and JCD then sat down together to resolve the situation. BCL asked JCD to withdraw the strike but JCD did not respond positively. Then the BCL also called a strike.

The main gate of BUET was obstructed by both BCL and JCD yesterday morning. No further violence was reported till the writing of this report.

Fire

From Page 1

fire fighting vehicles were engaged to fight the blaze. Fire Brigade said.

The fire broke out when a tank lorry was being filled with diesel from the terminal. Fire Brigade officials said. The fire also damaged three trucks and a tank lorry.

An official of Padma Oil Company said an enquiry committee would be formed to find out the cause of fire.

Iraq expels US arms inspectors

BAGHDAD, Nov 13: Iraq today ordered all American weapons inspectors in the country to leave immediately, raising fears of a possible US military strike in retaliation, reports AP.

The order was announced by the Iraqi News Agency after a meeting by the Revolutionary Command Council headed by President Saddam Hussein.

Khasru

From Page 1

the minister to accept it in public interest. "The objective of bringing the bill is to ensure the appointment of an ombudsman. Passage of the bill is not the goal," she said.

The House, however, rejected tabling of the bill.

On the private members' day yesterday, the House also rejected three other bills by Golem Mohammad Kader of JP. The bills concerned Criminal Offence (Appointment of Investigation Officer) Act, 1997, The Civil Courts (Amendment) Act, 1997 and The Financial Loan Court (Amendment) Act, 1997.

Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad of JP withdrew his resolution on setting up a technical school at Muradnagar in Comilla following assurance by Education Minister A S H K Sadek and that of Delwar Hossain Saidee of the Jamaat-e-Islami was rejected by voice vote. Three other resolutions by BNP lawmakers Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan, Sarwar Jamal Nizam and Md Mosharraf Hossain were not raised due to their absence from the House.

The session was adjourned at 9.12 till 4 pm on Sunday.

Bangabandhu

From Page 1

and quarter master JCO that the soldiers had taken arms and ammunition from the armoury, he said.

The witness said when he asked them whether tanks had gone out or not, they informed him that those were waiting outside for Major Farook who was talking with CO of the Artillery Major Rashid behind the quarter guard.

The witness said he went there and found an open jeep fitted with an LMG; then Major Farook asked him to look after the regiment and keep the gate closed.

He said he asked Farook, "Sir, where are you going?" In reply, the acting commander of the 1st Bengal Lancer Major Farook said, "We are going to topple the government."

"Sir, was Shahuliah saheb informed of this?" he asked.

"I don't find it necessary" was the reply from Farook according to Syed Ahmed.

Maj Khairuzzaman granted divn in jail

The High Court has granted division to Major (ret'd) M Khairuzzaman, an under trial prisoner in Dhaka Central Jail, said a press release, reports UNB.

Former Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Major (ret'd) Khairuzzaman was arrested on August 13, 1996 under Special Powers Act for his alleged involvement in the jail killing on November 3, 1975.

Advocate Mahabubur Rahman moved the petition on behalf of the accused.

Partners' board meets in city from Monday

From Page 1

Ministers and officials from 10 developing countries including Bangladesh will attend a three-day meeting of the Board of Governors of Partners Initiative in Population and Development, an inter-governmental alliance, beginning in the city on Monday.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed is expected to inaugurate the meeting, which will formalise membership of China in the group, according to official sources.

Bangladesh will be represented by Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf.

This will be the third meeting of the Partners Board with the first one in Harare in 1995 and the second in Mexico City last year.

Apart from Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe are currently on the governors' board of Partners Initiative.

Besides China, Pakistan and India are also seriously considering membership of the group, the sources said.

The Dhaka meeting will review progress made so far in the South-South cooperation and chart new strategies. Balla Musa Silla, acting Executive Director of the Partners Initiative told newsmen yesterday.

Tension prevails in 3 DU halls

By DU Correspondent

A tense situation was prevailing in three dormitories of Dhaka University dominated by the Chhatra League till last night following a clash between two rival factions of the party over gaining control of the halls on Wednesday.

The two factions — one led by Shamim Ahmed and the other jointly led by Babul Talukdar, Aminul Islam Ratan and Swakat Hossain Nannu, an outsider in the campus — locked in a clash on Wednesday morning which left at least 10 people injured.

Additional police were deployed in the dormitories to avert any further violence. Police were seen checking identity cards at the entrance of the Zahurul Haq Hall.

BNP MPs MK Anwar, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Major (Ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Amanullah Aman, Joyal Abedin Faruque and Nazimuddin Alam were present.



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Kushtia University College ground yesterday. — Media Syndicate photo

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Foil conspiracy to lease out CHT: Khaleda

KUSHTIA, Nov 13: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the people to foil the "conspiracy of the government to lease out the Chittagong Hill Tracts to India," reports UNB.

"The people will not accept any unequal, unrealistic and unconstitutional agreement with the insurgents," she told a huge public meeting at the Kushtia Government University College ground this afternoon.

The Leader of the Opposition reiterated her call for unity of all patriotic, nationalist and Islamic forces to protect the country's independence and sovereignty which, she said, "is now at stake" in the hands of the present government.

The government has planned to sell out the country's independence only to consolidate its power which it had grabbed through conspiracies at home and abroad, she alleged.

Begum Zia asked the huge crowd whether they want the flag of independence in the hands of BNP, or the shackles of bondage in the hands of Awami League. Raising their hands, the crowd replied in favour of independence.

Criticising the government for banning public meeting on the streets in capital Dhaka, she said, "They have done it to prevent the opposition from demonstrating against the government's misrule."

The BNP Chairperson said

Int'l industrial fair opens at Ctg today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 13: An international industrial fair, first of its kind in the country, will begin in the port city from tomorrow.

Addressing a press conference here today, President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCC&I) Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, MP, said that the governments and private organisations from five foreign countries would participate in the industrial fair where 240 stalls and five pavilions will be opened.

Home Ministry would come up with proof of the allegations made by his party colleagues in parliament.

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, who was present at the dias on that day in Chittagong, said: "The AL terrorists used the uniforms of metropolitan police while attacking our rally. According to reports received later, the problem began when some people sitting inside a police jeep threw a cracker on the crowd, and they were in police uniforms without names inscribed on it."

Replying to a question, Chowdhury said that he was preparing to lodge cases against some people responsible for the incident soon.

I will quit JS

From Page 1

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BNP: Dialogue

From Page 1

Bhuiyan said, noting that cases have been lodged against M K Anwar and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury after the list was sent to the government.

Asked to clarify reports that there are some cases against the BNP legislators that were lodged during BNP rule, Bhuiyan said: "During the February 15 general elections, AL and BNP leaders lodged cases against each other in several places. There were some police cases too."

"Considering the political nature of the cases, the BNP government did not make any attempt to withdraw the cases lodged even against the party MPs. But after taking over of power, the AL government managed to get their people out of the cases, while the charges against the BNP leaders remained."

UNB adds: Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing the press conference said the BNP is ready to sit for dialogue with the ruling party if it creates a congenial atmosphere.

"We are eagerly waiting for a congenial atmosphere," he said, adding "So far, there was no formal discussion."

Prof Chowdhury said the atmosphere for dialogue can be

Roundtable on business summit

From Page 1

"The essence of the Business Summit is that it will let us take a look into what needs to be done regarding our infrastructure, like shipping and port facilities, banking sectors and other vital areas. We think the summit will send a signal not only within South Asia but also outside South Asia, having a lot of economic and political impact."

Farooq Sobhan said that the geographical links that tie the three nations could be exploited fully for economic benefit if transportation links including transit facilities were opened up fully.

Former foreign secretary Fakhruddin Ahmed observed that the Business Summit would supplement the SAARC concept at a higher altitude.

"The summit will enable the three nations to fine-tune further areas of economic cooperation and discard distrust and suspicion that exists," he said.

Obaidullah Khan felt that the summit was a 'confidence building exercise.'

Khan said the summit would enable the concerned countries to take a look at the infrastructure, transit and port facilities in this part of the region.

He observed that one should not perceive Bangladesh as 'pro-India or pro-Pakistan but as pro-region'.

Mahub Jamil expressed

বিদ্যমান হযরত মুহাম্মদ (সাঃ) বলেছেন: "যে ব্যক্তি নিজ মুখে মুসলমান হবার দাবী করে তাকে আমার জন্য মুসলমানদের তালিকাভুক্ত কর" - হযরত বিদ্বান, উমদ

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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