

No iron-rich diet for patients with coronary heart disease

Those suffering from high cholesterol related coronary heart disease should avoid the iron-rich diet.

This was revealed in a research conducted by Prof Mohammad Suhrab Ali, Chairman of Biochemistry department at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), reports UNB.

Prof Ali along with his associates carried out a year-long research work at BSMMU to evaluate the relationship between body iron status and lipid profile in Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) patients.

The research result showed that high serum (liquid part of blood after clotting) iron may worsen high cholesterol related coronary heart disease.

Canadian investor praises quality of garments

George Heller, President of Zellers, the biggest chain-shop in Canada, yesterday said that the quality of Bangladeshi garments is very high and suggested that the people of his country be informed about it through massive publicity, reports BSS.

"Bangladesh has been able to maintain high quality of its readymade garments and its price is comparatively low than those of the others countries," Heller said.

George Heller who is now on a visit to Bangladesh said this when he called on Mostafa Golam Quddus, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at the latter's office in the city.

He underscored the need for arranging visits of the foreign entrepreneurs to encourage them buying Bangladeshi garments. Heller also advised the BGMEA to open a special 'service desk' at the Dhaka International Airport for foreign buyers. The BGMEA president invited Heller to come forward and invest in the garments sector.

Steven Tseng, executive manager, Linmark International and Enamul Kabir, Merchandise Manager, Linmark, Bangladesh were present during the meeting.

Chehul of Begum Syed Mustafa Ali tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
Chehul of Begum Syed Mustafa Ali, mother of eminent journalist late S M Ali, founder-editor of 'The Daily Star', will be held on Friday at 3 pm at her son's residence at 14/15 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, says a press release.

A mild *mafil* will be held on the occasion.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the *mafil* and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

PM, FM greet Turkish counterparts

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has congratulated Bulent Ecevit for his appointment as Turkish Prime Minister, reports UNB.

In a message yesterday, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh and Turkey have excellent relations, which have developed over the years in depth and dimension.

"I hope that the existing fraternal relations between our two countries will be even further strengthened and consolidated in the coming years," she said.

The Prime Minister also wished good health, success and happiness of the new Turkish Prime Minister and continued peace, progress and prosperity for the friendly people of that country.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has greeted Ismail Cem for his appointment as Foreign Minister of Turkey.

The Foreign Minister, in a felicitation message yesterday, wished him every success in his high office.

He hoped that the close bonds of friendship and cooperation, which characterise the relations between the two countries, will continue to grow in future.

Ekushey February programmes

Shilpakala Academy and Islamic Foundation will participate along with other organisations.

To pay tribute to the language martyrs, discussion meetings, seminars, cultural functions, recitation programmes and Bengali handwriting competition will be arranged.

The meeting discussed various aspects of ensuring peace and security in and around the Central Shaheed Minar.

The day will be a government holiday.

National flags will be hoisted half-mast atop all schools, colleges, universities, and government, semi-government, autonomous and non-government buildings.

Different road islands of the city will be decorated with festoons inscribed with Bengali alphabets.

Fateha will be offered at the Azimpur graveyard and special prayers will be held.

Special prayers will also be held at all mosques, temples, churches and other places of worships.

Bangla Academy will organise a month-long book fair where National Book Centre, Nazrul Institute, Bangladesh and Shilpakala Academy and Bangla Academy were present.

People deprived of medicare in Panchagarh

PANCHAGARH, Jan 13: People are deprived of medicare due to shortage of doctors, life-saving medicines and medical equipment in the Sadar Hospital and five rural health complexes, reports APB.

Civil Surgeon Dr A Jalil Sheikh told APB that only 27 medical officers are now working in these hospitals against 67 sanctioned posts.

The problem has been further aggravated as many of the medical officers devote most of their time to private practice. It is a common allegation that patients usually find no doctors at these health centres.

Five posts of dental surgeons have been vacant here for a long time. There are no senior consultants or gynaecologists in the Sadar Hospital. There is

also a critical shortage of trained nurses and other medical personnel in all these centres.

Shortage of medical equipment is another serious problem. The health centres at Tetulia and Atwari thanas have no X-ray machines and the one in Boda thana health centre is out of order for a long time. Most of the patients have to go to Thakurgaon or Rangpur for X-rays.

Medicines are seldom found at the health centres. Patients have to buy medicines from outside.

The Panchagarh Sadar Hospital has only 31 seats. The prime minister had given an assurance that the number of beds would be raised to 100 but nothing has been done so far.

Gunther IV wants his paws on Stallone's house

MIAMI, Jan 13: The richest dog in the world — according to the Guinness Book of World Records — wants to get his paws on Sylvester Stallone's Miami mansion, reports APB.

"It's unclear how the dog indicated he wanted to buy the home," El Nuevo Herald reported Tuesday.

But spokesman for the potential buyer confirmed that "Gunther IV" — a German shepherd who inherited a fortune from his father, Gunther III, who used to bark in a music band in Europe — was indeed looking for a place to lay his bones.

The Gunthers are descended from a line of German shepherds long enough to halt traffic, El Nuevo Herald said.

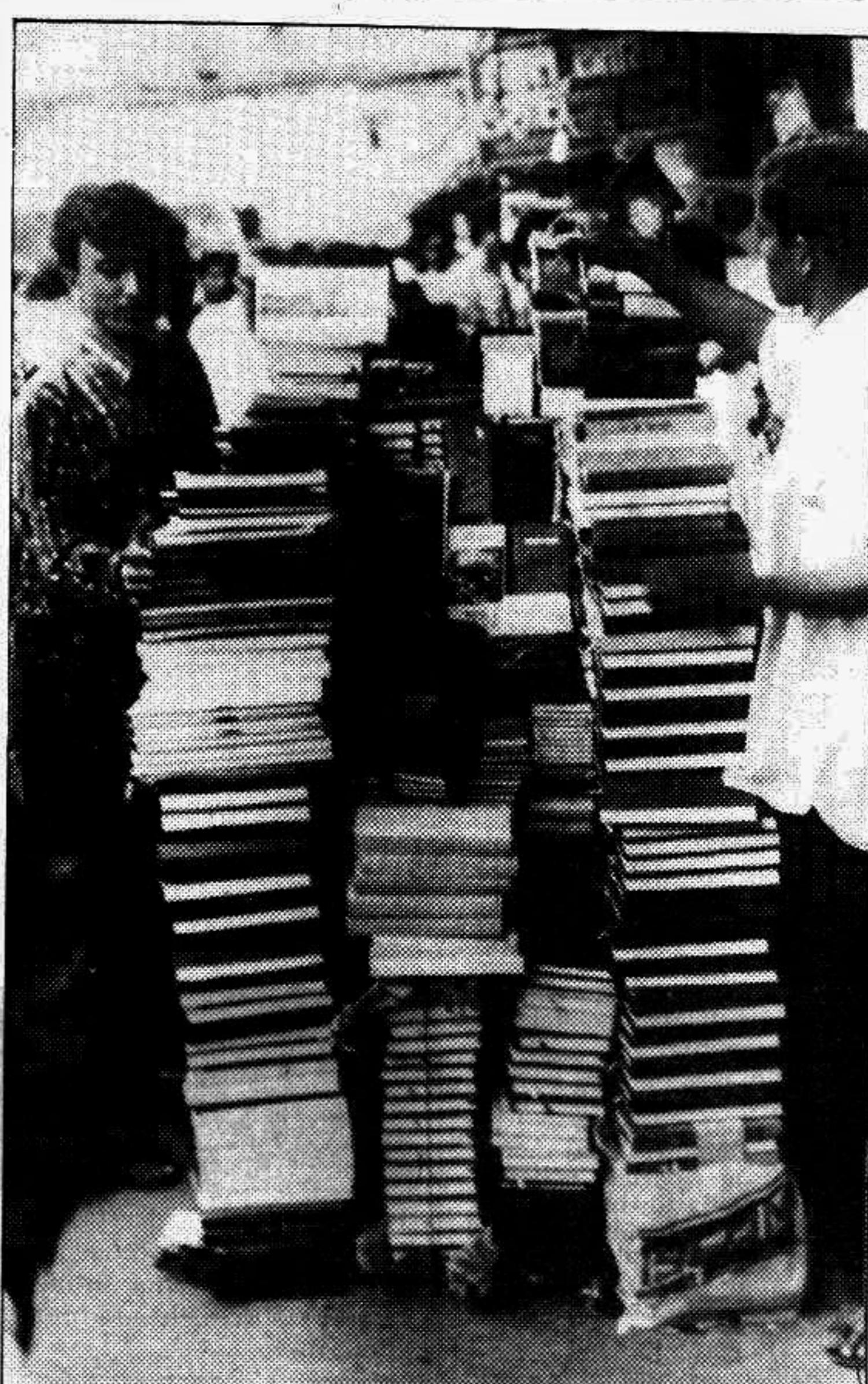
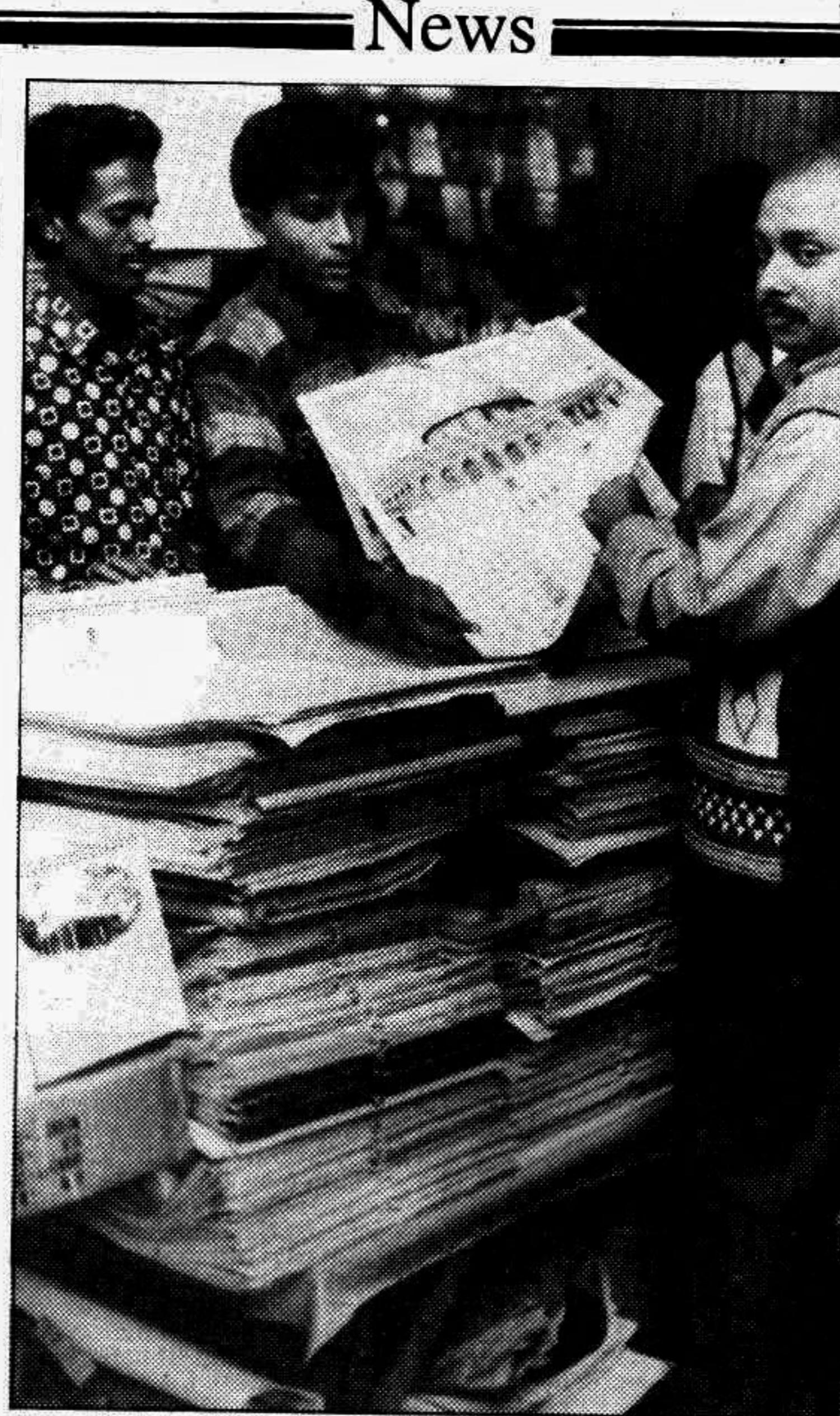
German Countess Karlotte Liebenstein liked Gunther III so much that upon her death in 1992 she left him a 65 million dollars. Since then, the fortune has mounted to 200 million dollars reports say.

Gunther already owns luxury mansions in Italy and — The

Orion Express Hotel chain is also sniffing around the mansion, but the city would have to change the zoning, a move neighbours oppose.

The dog's spokesman will make an offer under 27.5 million dollars, according to the El Nuevo Herald report.

The president of the neighbourhood Association of Luxurious Cliff Hammocks, Alana Grajewski, told the paper she wouldn't mind if Gunther IV were to buy Casa Stallone (and rename it Casa Doggone) because she owns a female German Shepherd herself and "she's available."



News



The Gregorian New Year is a time when many government or semi-government bodies publish diaries and calendars. It is usually justified as a part of client service. While scores of taka worth of public money is spent on such public relations exercises, corrupt officials channel these calendars and diaries to the open market for sale for a share of the earnings. A stroll in the Baitul Mukarram shopping area will probably get any visitor a number of calendars and diaries of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies, including those of the nationalised commercial banks and Bangladesh Biman.

The two photos, snapped by our chief photographer AKM Mohsin yesterday at 3:30 pm, show a huge stock of such

Rise in attacks on Christians in India Int'l community starting to voice concern

NEW DELHI, Jan 13: The international community is starting to voice concern over the rise in attacks by Hindu militants on India's tiny Christian community, diplomats said today, reports AFP.

The recent surge in anti-Christian violence, including half-a-dozen Christmas arson attacks on churches in the western state of Gujarat, is damaging India's standing overseas just as it is emerging from diplomatic isolation imposed after nuclear tests last May, they said.

Visiting Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker became the first foreign head of government openly to address the violence. He told reporters Tuesday that the "size and volume" of the attacks had prompted him to raise the issue in his talks with Indian leaders.

Pope John Paul II may also have had India partly in mind when he spoke to foreign ambassadors to the Vatican on Monday about the "episodes of violence" that have caused "tragic suffering to be Catholic community in Asia."

Numerous countries, especially European states, have so

far used closed diplomatic channels to voice their concerns to New Delhi over the attacks.

In an interview published today in the Indian Express newspaper, German Ambassador Heinrich-Dietrich Dieckmann said the violence was "an internal Indian affair with international implications."

"Hinduism is tolerant religion but this (the attacks) is not an expression of tolerance," Dieckmann said.

Germany holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, which diplomats say, is considering making more public representations if the private contacts fail to make headway.

Juncker, however, told reporters Tuesday he opposed any formal EU resolution censuring the Indian government. "My advice to all these countries is to stay away from lecturing other parts of the world," Juncker said.

India's Christians, who represent a mere 2.5 per cent of the overwhelmingly Hindu 975 million population, say they have never felt so threatened since independence from Britain and the attacks.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi, whose BJP party has close links with the VHP and other militant outfits involved in the violence, has pledged to end the attacks.

If solutions are desired in a serious manner that serve the Arab nation's interest, they should be based on Pan-Arab security," the spokesman was quoted as saying by the official Iraqi newspaper today.

The statement appeared to tone down some of the rhetoric against some Arab states, although the spokesman still called for Arabs to condemn supporters of the US and British strikes.

He said the right solution to the crisis should "consider any aggression from a foreign faction upon any Arab country as an aggression on the Arab nation as a whole".

The spokesman did not specify Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as backers of the US-led strikes although Iraqi media and officials have earlier campaigned against the two Gulf states.

Eight-week-old gets artificial skin

MIAMI, Jan 13: An eight-week-old baby received a graft of artificial skin in the first operation of its kind, a spokesman of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital said, reports AFP.

Tori Cameron, of Boca Raton, Florida, was born on November 12 with a genetic disease affecting some 100,000 US children. Epidermolysis bullosa leaves the skin so sensitive that the lightest touch can raise blisters like a second-degree burn, so Tori's parents have never been able to touch her.

She received the graft of *apigraf* skin made by Novartis, a New Jersey pharmaceutical company. *Apigraf* is made from a sample of human skin cells grown to 200,000 their original size in cow collagen, a protein derived from teeth, bones and other hard tissues.

The original cells came from the foreskins of newborns who were circumcised, a common practice in US hospitals.

Forty per cent of the skin on Tori's body had already been replaced with *apigraf*, which was applied in square, almost transparent, patches 2.5 centimetres a side.

Tori's father Randy Cameron said "it's kind of amazing that my daughter is going to be the first to do it, but it's not the kind of achievement a father dreams about," the Miami Herald said.

New committee of Islamia Eye Hospital

A 15-member managing committee has been formed to run the Islamia Eye Hospital for the current year, reports BSS.

The new managing committee was formed at the Annual General Meeting of the Islamia Eye Hospital society held here recently. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salauddin Yusuf took the initiative in forming the managing committee.

M A Behzad Ispahani, Sheikh Kabir Hossain and Brigadier Dr Khurshid Uddin were elected chairman, vice-chairman and treasurer respectively.

The other members of the committee are: M M Ispahani, Prof A Matin Patwari, Prof Abu Ahmed Chowdhury, Major General Mukhlesur Rahman (Retd), Prof M Mustafizur Rahman, Prof A Q M Haroon, Prof Syed Modasser Ali, Prof Raushan Ara Rahman, Dr M A Majid Khan, Dr K Chakma, Dr G M M Chisti and a joint secretary to be nominated by the minister of health and family welfare.

Arafat greets Sheikh Hasina

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of the forthcoming Eid-ul-Fitr, reports BSS.

In a message Arafat said, "As our Islamic ummah celebrates Eid-ul-Fitr, I have the great pleasure to convey to you and through you to your brotherly people and your esteemed government on behalf of Palestine and on my own behalf, heartiest congratulations."

The Palestinian president wished good health and happiness of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion.

Arafat renewed his deep appreciation for the "principled, brotherly and supportive stand" of Sheikh Hasina for realising the just causes of the Palestinian people in different stages of their struggle including establishment of the independent state of Palestine with Al-Quds as its capital.

The Palestinian president expressed his hope that Bangladesh's support and brotherly stand for the Palestinian people would further grow and continue. He wished progress and half, heartiest congratulations.

Iraq to prefer balanced talks to solve impasse with US, Britain

BAGHDAD, Jan 13: Iraq, in an apparent shift of policy, said it would prefer a balanced dialogue to solve its impasse with the United States and Britain following their military confrontation, reports Reuter.

"Iraq sees a need for a balanced dialogue based on good intentions under the umbrella of the Arab nation to find practical solutions to the situations," a spokesman said after President Saddam Hussein met top 9 aides late on Tuesday.

"If solutions are desired in a serious manner that serve the Arab nation's interest, they should be based on Pan-Arab security," the spokesman was quoted as saying by the official Iraqi newspaper today.

The statement appeared to tone down some of the rhetoric against some Arab states, although the spokesman still called for Arabs to condemn supporters of the US and British strikes.

He said the right solution to the crisis should "consider any aggression from a foreign faction upon any Arab country as an aggression on the Arab nation as a whole".

The spokesman did not specify Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as backers of the US-led strikes although Iraqi media and officials have earlier campaigned against the two Gulf states.

Eight-week-old gets artificial skin

MIAMI, Jan 13: An eight-week-old baby received a graft of artificial skin in the first operation of its kind, a spokesman of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital said, reports AFP.

Tori Cameron, of Boca Raton, Florida, was born on November 12 with a genetic disease affecting some 100,000 US children. Epidermolysis bullosa leaves the skin so sensitive that the lightest touch can raise blisters like a second-degree burn, so Tori's parents have never been able to touch her.

She received the graft of *apigraf* skin made by Novartis, a New Jersey pharmaceutical company. *Apigraf* is made from a sample of human skin cells grown to 200,000 their original size in cow collagen, a protein derived from teeth, bones and other hard tissues.

The original cells came from the foreskins of newborns who were circumcised, a common practice in US hospitals.

Forty per cent of the skin on Tori's body had already been replaced with *apigraf*, which was applied in square, almost transparent, patches 2.5 centimetres a side.

Tori's father Randy Cameron said "it's kind of amazing that my daughter is going to be the first to do it, but it's not the kind of achievement a father dreams about," the Miami Herald said.



Ziaur Rahman organised a discussion meeting at the Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association auditorium in the city yesterday to mark the birth anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman.

9 shops gutted by fire in Netrakona

By Staff Correspondent
The *qulkhwani* of Said-ur-Rahman, member of Anjuman Mulfid Islam, will be held on January 10 at Hossainpur Eidgah maidan after the Juma prayers.

A *mild mafih* and discussion meeting will be held, says a press release.

Rahman died on January 10 at Surahardy Hospital. He was 54. He was member of various social welfare oriented organisations, including Hossainpur Degree College, Fazlul Haq Mohila College, Dhaka, Dholaiapar Social Welfare Sangstha and Taherpur Islamia Senior Madrasa.

Local people extinguished the fire after more than two hours.

There is only one fire station in the district headquarters which cannot render service to remote areas.

The parties also agreed on forming six joint policy-making