

Sandwip BNP demands fresh poura polls

BSS, Chittagong Sandwip Poursabha unit of BNP again denied the allegation of intimidation in last week's municipal election and demanded fresh polls.

people to contest the polls. Held at the local press club, the press conference was also addressed by Sandwip thana BNP vice-president Advocate Mohammad Abu Taher, Poursabha unit joint secretary Mohammad Manan Ferdous Swapan, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal president Mohammad Alamgir Hossain Thakur and Belayet Hossain.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka Abdul Hamid Molla FCA, a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), died of a cardiac arrest at his Banani residence on Thursday night at the age of 66.



World Youth Day pilgrims play in the fountain at Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto on Friday before the start of the Way of the Cross Ceremony as part of the World Youth Day Ceremonies in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Women have better memories

AP, Washington The reason wives are better at remembering emotional issues than husbands may be because women's brains are wired to both feel and recall emotions more keenly than those of men, a new study found.

When groups of women and men were tested for their ability to recall or recognise highly evocative photographs three weeks after first seeing them, a team of psychologists found that the women's memories were 10 to 15 percentage points more accurate.

The study, appearing Tuesday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, also used MRIs to image the subjects' brains as they were exposed to the pictures. It found that the women's neural responses to emotional scenes was much more active than the men's.

Other authors of the study are...

John E. Desmond, Zuo Zhao and John D. E. Gabrieli, all of Stanford University.

The findings are consistent with earlier research that found differences in the workings of the minds of women and men, said Diane F. Halpern, director of the Berger Institute for Work, Family, and Children and a professor of psychology at Claremont McKenna College in California.

Halpern said the study "makes a strong link between cognitive behavior and a brain structure that gets activated" when exposed to emotional stimuli.

"It advances our understanding of the link between cognition and the underlying brain structures," she said. "But it doesn't mean that those are immutable ... that they can't change with experience."

Halpern said the study also supports earlier findings that women, in general, have a better autobiographical memory for anything, not just emotional events.

She said the study supports the folkloric idea that a wife has a truer memory for marital spats than does her husband.

Other authors of the study are...

emotional memory of 12 women and 12 men using a set of pictures. Some of the pictures were ordinary, and others were designed to evoke strong emotions.

Each of the subjects viewed the pictures and graded them on a three-point scale ranging from "not emotionally intense" to "extremely emotionally intense."

As the subjects viewed the pictures, images were being taken of their brains using magnetic resonance imaging. This measures neural blood flow and can identify portions of the brain that are active.

Canli said women and men had distinctively different emotional responses to the same photos. For instance, the men would see a gun and call it neutral, but for women it would be "highly, highly negative" and evoke strong emotions.

Neutral pictures showed such things as a fireplug, a book case or an ordinary landscape.

The pictures most often rated emotionally intense showed corpses, grave stones and crying people. A picture of a dirty toilet prompted a strong emotional response, especially from the women subjects, Canli said.

All the test subjects returned to the lab three weeks later and were surprised to learn that they would now be asked to remember the pictures they had seen. Canli said they were not told earlier that they would be asked to recall pictures from the earlier session.

Zinc supplements may harm unborn babies: Study

REUTERS, London Zinc supplements given to women in the developing world during pregnancy could be harming the mental development of their children, doctors said on Friday.

Research has shown that zinc supplements improve infant growth and protect young children in poor countries from infectious diseases but scientists at the Centre for International Child Health in London said they also have negative effects.

In a study of 168 children in Bangladesh, they found that babies whose mothers took zinc supplements during pregnancy had lower scores on mental and

psychomotor tests than children whose mothers had been given a placebo.

"Prenatal supplementation with zinc alone in poor women from Bangladesh does not seem to confer benefit on the infant's mental development," Professor Sally Grantham-McGregor said in a report in The Lancet medical journal.

"Such treatment should be considered with caution."

The scientists do not know how zinc supplements during pregnancy influence child development. One theory suggests they could cause deficiencies in other micro-nutrients in the infant or may have a direct influence on

brain development in the womb. The researchers acknowledged zinc deficiency in developing countries is a problem because of a diet low in animal protein and high in fibre and that under-nutrition is detrimental to children's development.

But they suggested other supplements may also be needed to improve the health of both the mother and child.

The next step would be to examine the effect of more comprehensive supplementation to improve maternal nutrition status during pregnancy on a broad range of outcomes including infants' development," McGregor added.

50 CU teachers condemn police attack on DU hall

CU CORRESPONDENT

Some 50 teachers of Chittagong University (CU) have condemned the brutal police attack on the female students of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University (DU) in the early hours of Wednesday.

In a statement issued here on Friday, they termed the incident as inhuman and barbaric. They said the incident was unprecedented and beyond their imagination.

The teachers said it was a matter of great shame that the police attacked the sleeping students of a female dormitory, pulled them out of their rooms and took them to thana. They condemned the incident as 'most disgraceful'.

The signatories to the statement included Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Gazi Salehuddin, Prof Hasanuzzaman, Prof Imran Hossain, Prof Iftekharruddin Chowdhury, Prof Khan Towhid Osman, Prof Shah Alam, Prof Dhali Al-Mamun, Prof Souren Biswas, Assistant Prof AKM Tofazzal Haq, Assistant Prof Kamalendra Narayan Das, Assistant Prof Sirajuddollah, Dr. AFM Aurangzeb and Dr. Irshad Kamal Khan.

DHAKA TODAY. Award giving ceremony, FICCI meeting, Seminar, Rally and procession, AGM, Roundtable, HIV/AIDs seminar.

WEATHER TODAY. Moderate rain likely.

UNB, Dhaka Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at few places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are likely at places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions during the period, Met office said, adding that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and Chuadanga and the lowest of 24.4 degree at Bhola.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:44 pm today and rises at 5:26 am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 6 columns: City/Town, Max Temperature, Min Temperature, Humidity in percentage, Morning, Evening.



A handout of the Beagle 2 landing craft that will be launched from a spacecraft orbiting Mars in 2003 as part of a 4 billion pounds European Space Agency project.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Local Government Engineering Directorate. Office of the Executive Engineer, Manikganj. Tender Notice No. 23/2001-2002.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer, Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet. PWD Tender Notice, Tender No. 02/2002-2003 (3rd Call).

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