

Female students highly vulnerable to stalking

Development experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female students are highly vulnerable to sexual harassment including stalking on their way to and from school, which can increase their drop out rate, said development experts at a workshop yesterday.

Early marriage is another impediment to female education, said the development workers working in education sector at the daylong workshop titled 'Gender equality in education: Beyond numbers' at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

The workshop was jointly organised by Unicef, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) under the umbrella of UN female Education Initiative (UNGEI).

After grade 7, the dropout rate for girls increases significantly and surpasses the rate for boys, especially in rural areas. It is estimated that approximately 1.5 million girls in the country are not enrolled in primary schools, they said.

All, especially lawmakers, government, NGOs, development partners and civil society, must give priority in female education, their enrolment, retention and acquisition of skills, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at the concluding ceremony of the workshop.

"The role of lawmakers within their constituencies is imperative and they

need to come up with strategies that would benefit boys and girls nationally whilst also addressing local needs," he said.

According to the Directorate of Primary Education Annual Performance Report 2010, the primary school net enrolment rate for boys is 99.1 percent, higher than for girls standing at 89.1 percent. Meanwhile, 50 percent of 34 lakh madrasa students are girls.

State Minister for Education Motaher Hossain suggested lawmakers to visit schools in their own constituencies so that they get an idea about the quality of teaching, teacher-student attendance and assess problems to recommend to the ministry for taking measures.

Unicef representative Carel de Rooy called on the female as well as male lawmakers to come forward and bring gender equity in education.

Nepali Congress Member Suprava Ghimire explained to participants how female lawmakers are playing an active role in promoting female education in Nepal.

CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K Chowdhury, also former adviser to a caretaker government, said public representatives could play a huge role in promoting gender equality.

"Female lawmakers are a wonderful resource to mobilise and motivate families and local communities to uphold the rights of women and girls," she said.

Speaker Abdul Hamid, Chief Whip

Abdus Shahid, Women and Children Affairs State Minister Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Member Momtaz Begum, Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi Prof Veena Sikri, and DSHE Director General Noman Ur Rashid addressed the workshop.

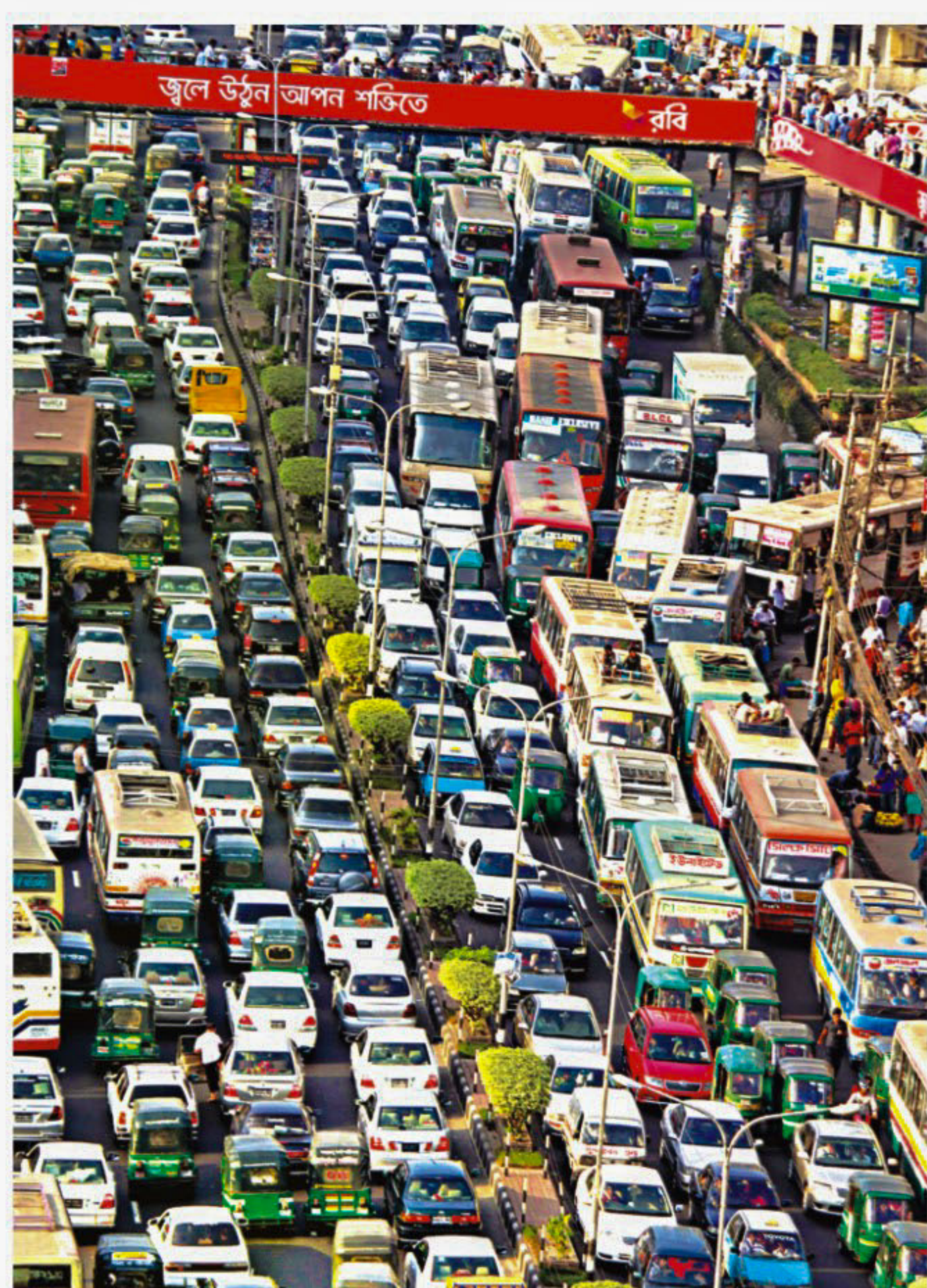
Discussion on Gender Equity

Meanwhile, former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan yesterday said women community has a huge power for the economic development of Bangladesh.

He said Bangladeshi women have already played a significant role in the sectors of micro-credit, garment industry and birth control and thus enriched the economic growth of the country.

National Council of Disabled Women, National Grassroots Disability Organisation and ADD in association with Manusher Jonno organised the discussion to mark the 19th International Day of People with Disabilities titled 'Gender equity and role of civil society and NGOs in empowerment of women with disabilities' at BIAM auditorium in the city.

Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim said women with disabilities face three-dimensional obstacles -- firstly women become deprived of facilities as they are women, secondly they suffer from physical disabilities and thirdly they suffer from poverty.



City dwellers experience extreme traffic gridlock yesterday, despite it being a weekend. The photo was taken from Farmgate area at noon.

Use agri loan properly, repay on time

Matia urges farmers

UNB, Sherpur

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday urged farmers to play their role in strengthening country's economy through proper utilisation of agricultural credits.

She also urged the farmers to repay the loans in time to ensure their future access to agriculture credits.

Matia was addressing a function as the chief guest while inaugurating a new branch of Krishi Bank at Kakarkandi in the district. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman was the special guest at the function.

Earlier, both of them joined another function at Sohagpur in Nalitabari upazila and distributed Trust Bank cheques as donation to widows of martyred freedom fighters.

Addressing the function, Atiur said majority of the freedom fighters were village farmers and their family members. "But they still remain neglected. It's the responsibility of all in the society to befriend such distressed people."

He said the government has been working to reach banking facilities to the people in remote areas.

The government initiative will get further boost with the opening of more bank branches in such areas and introduction of mobile banking, he added.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank Chairman Dr Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled was present at both the functions.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges view with the lawmakers of Dhaka at Gono Bhavan in the city yesterday.

Ulema Mashaikh leaders meet Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Sammilita Ulema Mashaikh Parishad last night met BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to discuss its action programme for removal of the director general of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh.

A 20-member delegation led by its President Moulana Mohiuddin Khan also discussed with Khaleda Zia on the National Education Policy, religion in the constitution and scrapping of the 5th Amendment of the constitution.

The meeting held at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office ran for about an hour from 8:30pm.

After joining the meeting, Sammilita Ulema Mashaikh Parishad leader Alamgir Majumder said they discussed the possible programmes, including hartal.

BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Khan and Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir were also present.

Resolve anarchy in industrial sector with sincerity: Sahara

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday urged the members of Industrial Police to resolve any unwanted situation in industrial sector with their merit and sincerity.

She was addressing as the chief guest at a discussion meeting on the activities of Industrial Police-3 of Chittagong unit on Port Labour Colony premises in Chittagong.

The activities of this newly formed branch of police is not the same as the general activities of police. It's a specialised branch engaged

in resolving all sorts of unwanted situation in industries especially in garment sector, said Sahara.

Sahara said, "Industrial police should maintain a cordial relationship with both the workers and the owners."

Industries Minister Dilip Barua; Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen; State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku; and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker spoke among others in the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by IP Director General Abdus Salam PPM.



Suhrawardy's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 47th death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy will be observed in the country today.

Different organisations have arranged programmes to observe the day.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote leaders will place wreaths on his grave and hold meetings to mark the day, says a press release.

Shaheed Suhrawardy Jatiya Smriti Parishad and Bangladesh National Personality Research Centre will also jointly organise a discussion on the Suhrawardy's mazar premises at 8:30am in the city.

Awami League lawmaker Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun will be present as chief guest while AL presidium member Obaidul Kader will be present as the keynote speaker at the programme.

DU Kha unit interview from Dec 18

DU CORRESPONDENT

Interview of successful candidates of Dhaka University Kha unit admission examination will be held from December 18 to 23.

Subjects under Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences will be distributed to 400 students everyday according to merit list, says a press release yesterday.

Arts Faculty Dean Prof Sadrul Amin said 2,400 students from 4,737 successful candidates have been asked for the interviews according to the merit list.

Prevent repression against women: Deputy speaker

BSS, Dhaka

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shawkat Ali yesterday urged the people of all spheres to come forward for preventing woman repression in the country.

Women repression is a social crime and it should be stopped, he told a seminar on 'Social crime and women repression prevention' in the auditorium of Monisingh Smriti Trust Bhavan in the city, an official release said.

Referring to different social problems, the deputy speaker said unplanned population growth leads to many social problems, including unem-

ployed problem.

He called for taking necessary steps to check unplanned population growth to attain the desired development of the country.

Shawkat said, "We would be able to remove eve-teasing from the country."

He stressed the need for proper application law to check social crimes.

Senior journalist and columnist Ajoy Roy, Director of National Mental Health Hospital Prof Dr Md Golam Rabbani addressed the seminar with Co-Chairman of Seba Bangladesh Foundation Prof Dr Abdur Rahim in the chair.

Accident or murder?

Fair probe into Nurul Islam's death sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members, friends and colleagues of late Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam yesterday demanded a transparent and neutral investigation into the fire incident at his Lalmatia residence in the capital that had killed the politician and his son Tamohor Islam two years ago.

Staging a silent protest programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club, they also urged the investigation agencies and the government to set a specific date for publishing the formal probe report.

They formed a human chain from 10:00am to 11:00am.

Moutushi Islam, daughter of the late leader, also demanded the investigators focus on the pieces of evidence collected from the residence after the incident.

She also urged the investigators to probe the incident of threats to her father over the phone by some people before the last parliamentary election.

"Two years have elapsed but we are still confused whether it was an accident or murder," Moutushi said, adding it appears that it was a planned killing.

Quoting a government body, she said a short circuit did not cause the fire, as the refrigerator was unplugged.

The fire on December 3, 2008, burnt Tamohor alive on the spot, while Nurul succumbed to his injuries at Combined Military Hospital the following day.

Awami League-led grand alliance nominated Nurul to contest from Noakhali-1 constituency in the 2008 parliamentary elections.

ACCIDENT KILLS 1 Dhaka-Ctg highway blocked

UNB, Narayanganj

Dhaka-Chittagong highway was blocked for two hours following death of a local in road accident at Lolati in Sonargaon early yesterday.

Mojibur Rahman, 55, son of Abbas Ali of Lolati village at Kanchar in Sonargaon, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after admission.

Police said an auto-rickshaw hit and seriously injured Mojibur when he was crossing highway at Lolati on Friday afternoon.

Angered at his death, local people blocked Asian Highway for two hours.

The blockade was withdrawn at 11:00am following an assurance from the deputy commissioner.

Women helped war victory significantly

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women with their participation in the Liberation War contributed significantly to achieving and confirming the victory, speakers told a roundtable yesterday.

Experiences of the male freedom fighters can be learned from various books and literary works, but difficult to find in the records of the mothers and women who fought alongside men, they said.

The roundtable on "Women in the Liberation War" was organised by the fortnightly magazine Anannya at YWCA auditorium in Mohammadpur of the city.

Editor of Anannya Tasmima Hossain, who chaired the programme, urged the women freedom fighters to communicate their stories from the war of liberation to the young generation.

Former army chief Lt General M Harunur Rashid was present as the chief guest at the roundtable attended by a number of women freedom fighters, teachers and students.

DHAKA TODAY

Consultation
International Organisation for Migration will hold a technical consultation. Venue: Lakeshore hotel, Gulshan-2, Time: 9:00am.

Seminar
International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will arrange a seminar. Venue: IUBAT, Uttara, Sector no-10. Time: 10:00am.

Golden Jubilee
Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University will celebrate its golden jubilee. Venue: IER campus, Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) and Plan Bangladesh will organise a discussion. Venue: Sheraton hotel, Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
South Asian Women in Media, Bangladesh Chapter will organise a seminar. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Workshop
Royal Danish Embassy in Bangladesh will arrange a workshop. Venue: Radisson hotel, Time: 10:00am.

Photography competition
North South University Photography Club will organise a photography competition. Venue: Recreation hall, University campus, Time: 10:00am.

Ershad for electoral reform

BSS, Laxmipur

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday demanded reforms in polling system for electing public representatives in terms of the proportion of votes.

He was speaking as the chief guest at Jatiya Party district unit conference at Nasir Ahmad Bhuiyan Auditorium in the district sadar.

The former president said deviation from the democratic ideals gave birth to the 1/11. He sought restoration of the ideals.

There is no alternative to introduction of provincial system in the country for good governance, he said.

MR Masud, convener of the conference preparatory committee, presided over the programme.

JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladar, MP, Adviser Rintu Hawladar, and District Awami League President M Ala Uddin were among the speakers.

WEATHER TODAY

Light fog over river basins likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, said Met Office.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28am.

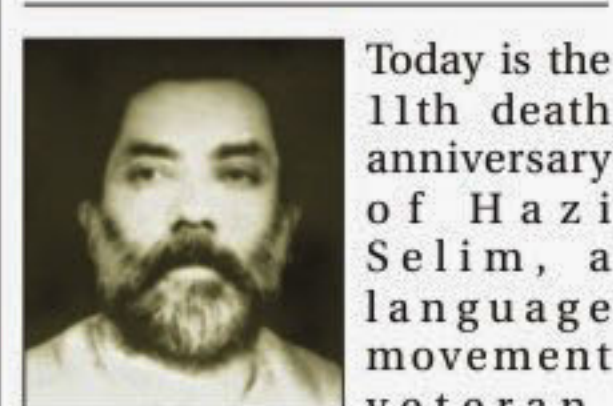
Country's highest temperature 31.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.9 degrees at Srimongal.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	16.2	59	59
Chittagong	29.8	17.4	92	71
Rajshahi	28.0	14.0	85	78
Sylhet	29.5	16.0	57	70
Cox's Bazar	31.4	20.2	78	75



A human chain is formed in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding trial and punishment of the killers of Gonotantri Party President Mohammed Nurul Islam and his son Islam Tamohor.



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Hazi Selim, a language movement veteran, says a press release.

He was injured during the language movement on February 21 in 1952.

He was the president of East Pakistan Gold Association, an acting administrator of Dhaka City Corporation and chief adviser of the Saptahik Joyjatra.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.



Today is the first death anniversary of Saifullah Laskar, former joint president of Bangladesh Krishak Sangram Samity, says a press release.

Laskar was murdered by unidentified assailants in Satkhira on this day in 2009.

Bangladesh Krishak Sangram Samity has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day, which includes placing wreath on his grave and a memorial discussion at the Satkhira New Market ground.



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