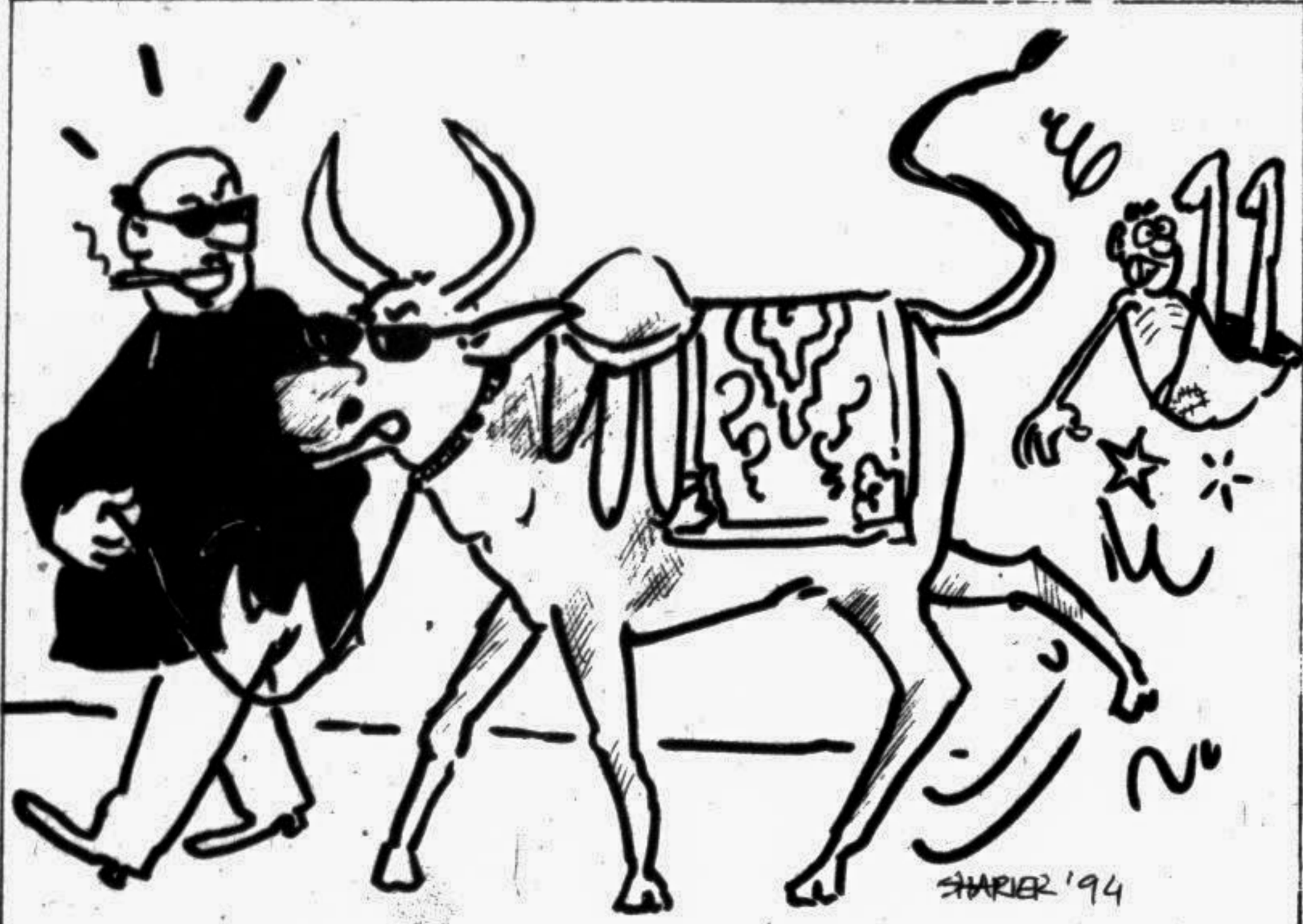


Dhaka Day by Day

An Annual Sacrificial Price

by Iftikhar A. Chowdhury



Since the Qurbani is done and over for the time being, it is now a great relief to think that one wouldn't have to go through the ordeal of purchasing a sacrificial animal within a given budget from a cattle haat (market). Such temporary cattle markets are often a bizarre assortment of men, animals, cattle wastes, stagnated rain water and mud. Walking through these unhealthy market places one would probably say to himself, never again. But the same person would invariably present himself next year in the cattle haat. So, the ordeal continues.

Already much has been debated on the subject whether there is a good alternative to sacrificing animals and at the same time upholding one's religious responsibilities. Obviously, there are many who believe that the wholesale destruction of a huge number of livestock in a single occasion is a futile exercise. There are many among the affluent people of the country today, who have resorted to other means of spending their money for Qurbani in other benevolent projects, such as, contributing to a madrasah, a school fund, or an orphanage etc. Among these people, some avoid buying sacrificial animals, just thinking about the troubles the purchasing of one of these animals entail.

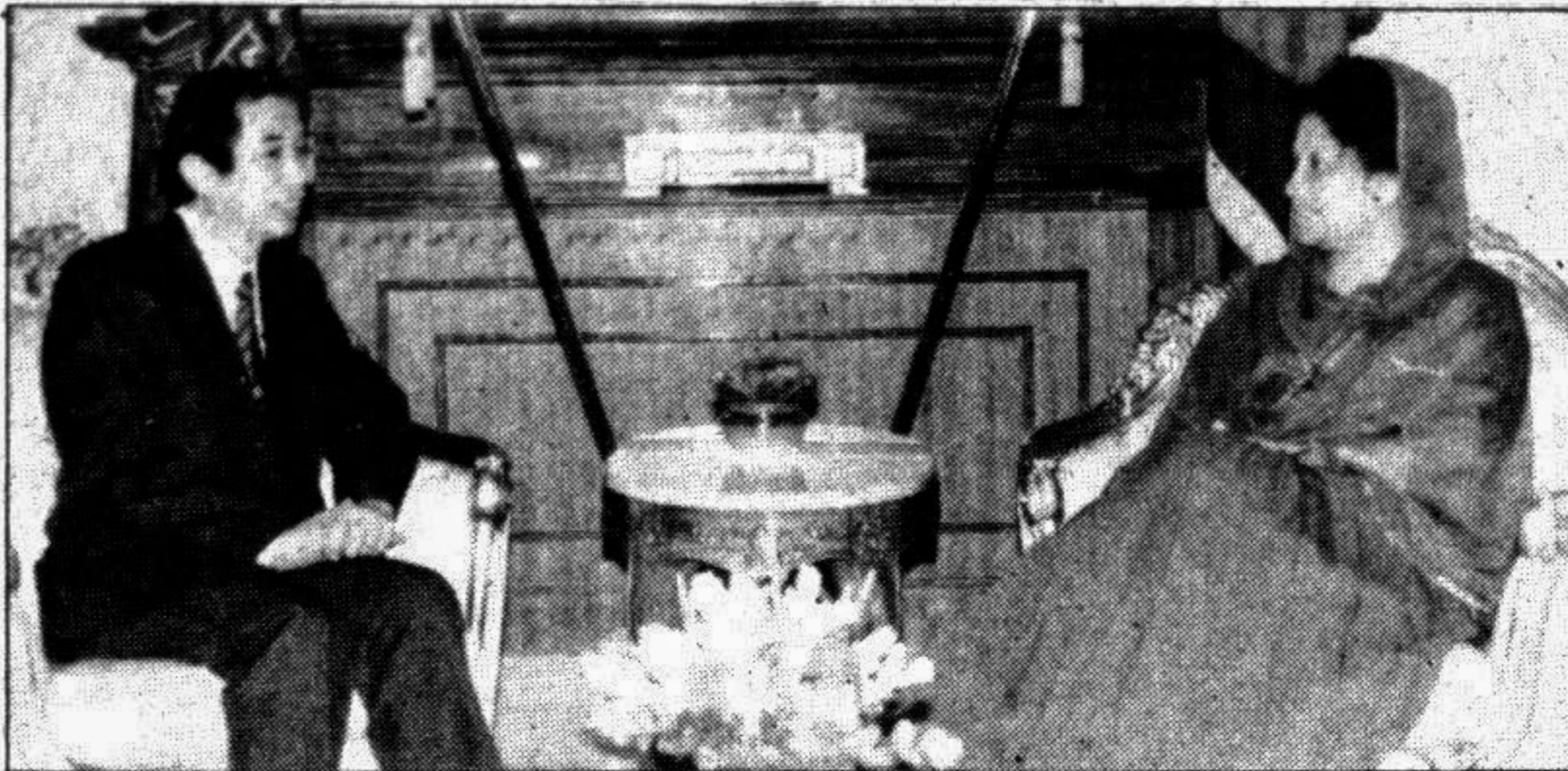
So, it is no wonder when you see a man or a group of men coming out of a cattle haat absolutely elated, holding in a tight grip the rope that is tied to the neck of a bull or a goat. The Napoleonic success has been achieved after no less a war campaign than the French General's most crowning one. As the process of buying is painstakingly troublesome, the joy of striking a successful bargain too is bound to be proportional. The ones who are about to embark on a purchasing mission would ask what price a successful buyer had to pay for the animal and also cast an envious look at him

because he, doing his part, is happily heading home and their ordeal is just to begin.

This year's Dhaka cattle markets recorded a relative decline in price just the day before Eid-ul Azha. Those who made their purchase before that day were in for a great shock as the supply of cows in the markets was fewer than the demand. So, earlier the price was much higher. But those who thought it risky to wait till the last day made their purchases, making a great deal of compromise with their purse. Luckily, there was a large supply of livestock on the day before Eid-ul Azha and the price fell accordingly. So, those who bought cattle earlier had to rue over their decision earlier. But the opposite could also have taken place if the additional supply was not there. "So why take the risk?", said one buyer. "Either you gain a little or you lose a little. It doesn't matter as long as the purchase is made and used for a good cause," he defended his position.

When asked if he had made his purchase, one buyer at Gabtali haat said that he had been to Azimpur, Kamalapur, and the Dhanmondi markets but couldn't buy within his fixed budget. Instead, in the process of buying in the over-crowded haats, he was dealt a back-volley by a cow and was also 'mildly' charged by a bull. Now he believes, it takes a well-built man and an armoured-suit to survive and make a purchase in a cattle haat.

Another buyer, shocked as he was by the exorbitant price demanded for a bull (Taka 12,000), told the seller that even his own price wouldn't be half as much if he were to be sold in the same market. At this the seller replied that he would not even go for Taka 12, no matter how hard he tried. This is an irony probably never to be ironed out from our society where matter or (animal) costs more than man.



The new Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh Tran Viet Tan called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Work-oriented edn system to be introduced: Sircar

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said the government is trying to introduce a pragmatic education system with a view to alleviating poverty from the country, reports UNB.

The minister said this while addressing the concluding session of a national workshop on "Role of Secondary, Technical and Higher Education in Human Resource Development and Poverty Alleviation" at NAEM in the afternoon.

He said the courses and curriculum of the schools and colleges were being redesigned for introducing work-oriented and effective edu-

cation system.

Agriculture has already been introduced as one of the compulsory subjects at secondary level and some courses on trade will also be introduced in schools and colleges, the minister told the function.

Presided over by the Chairman of University Grant Commission Prof M Shamsul Haq, the function was addressed by Mizanur Rahman Shelly and M Mujibul Haq.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the two-day workshop on May 28. Some 80 educationists, experts and policy makers took part in the workshop.

Vietnamese envoy meets Khaleda

The newly appointed Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh, Tran Viet Tan, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

Begum Zia welcomed the envoy and congratulated him on his new assignment.

Project on Shilpacharya collection house

The government has formulated a project on "Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Collection House (Sangrahshala) and Regional Museum" for developing the existing Shilpacharya collection house and Mymensingh museum, reports UNB.

The collection house is at present being run under a local Trustee Board Authority.

This was disclosed in the 27th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Cultural Affairs yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with State Minister Prof Jahangir Ara Begum in the chair.

The meeting was informed that National Museum Authority will hold a two-month long painting exhibition this year with collections of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Artist Kamrul Hasan and Rasheed Chowdhury.

Govt plans to set up fire stations at thana level

The government is planning to establish 25 more fire stations at thana level to extinct fire and carry out rescue operation, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at the 18th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs at Sangsad Bhaban with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair yesterday.

Meanwhile, the primary work to set up a fire station in Sirajganj district has begun.

The activities of the Fire Service Department and Civil Defence also came up in the meeting for discussion.

NCST to monitor research projects regularly

A meeting of the executive committee of National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) yesterday decided to monitor regularly the research and development projects executed by different scientific and technological (S and T) research organisations in the country, reports BSS.

The meeting also decided to set up a monitoring and evaluation cell at the Science and Technological Ministry and formation of evaluation committees consisting of senior scientists in different fields.

State Minister for Science and Technology and chairman of the executive committee of NCST Prof M A Mannan presided over the meeting held at the conference room of the ministry in the city.

State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan was present.

Vice-Chancellor of Engineering University Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of Open University Dr M

Shamsher Ali, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Mahabubur Rahman, Additional Secretary in-charge of Forest and Environment A H Pasha, Additional Secretary in-charge of S and T Anwarul Islam, BCSIR Chairman Dr M Waliuzzaman and BAEC Chairman M A Quyum were also present.

The meeting reviewed the progress of implementation of the decisions taken in the last NCST meeting.

BCDJC workshop from June 1

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) will hold a three-day long training workshop on budget reporting starting from June 1.

Information Minister Barister Nazmul Huda will inaugurate the workshop.

Russian Food & Cultural Festival

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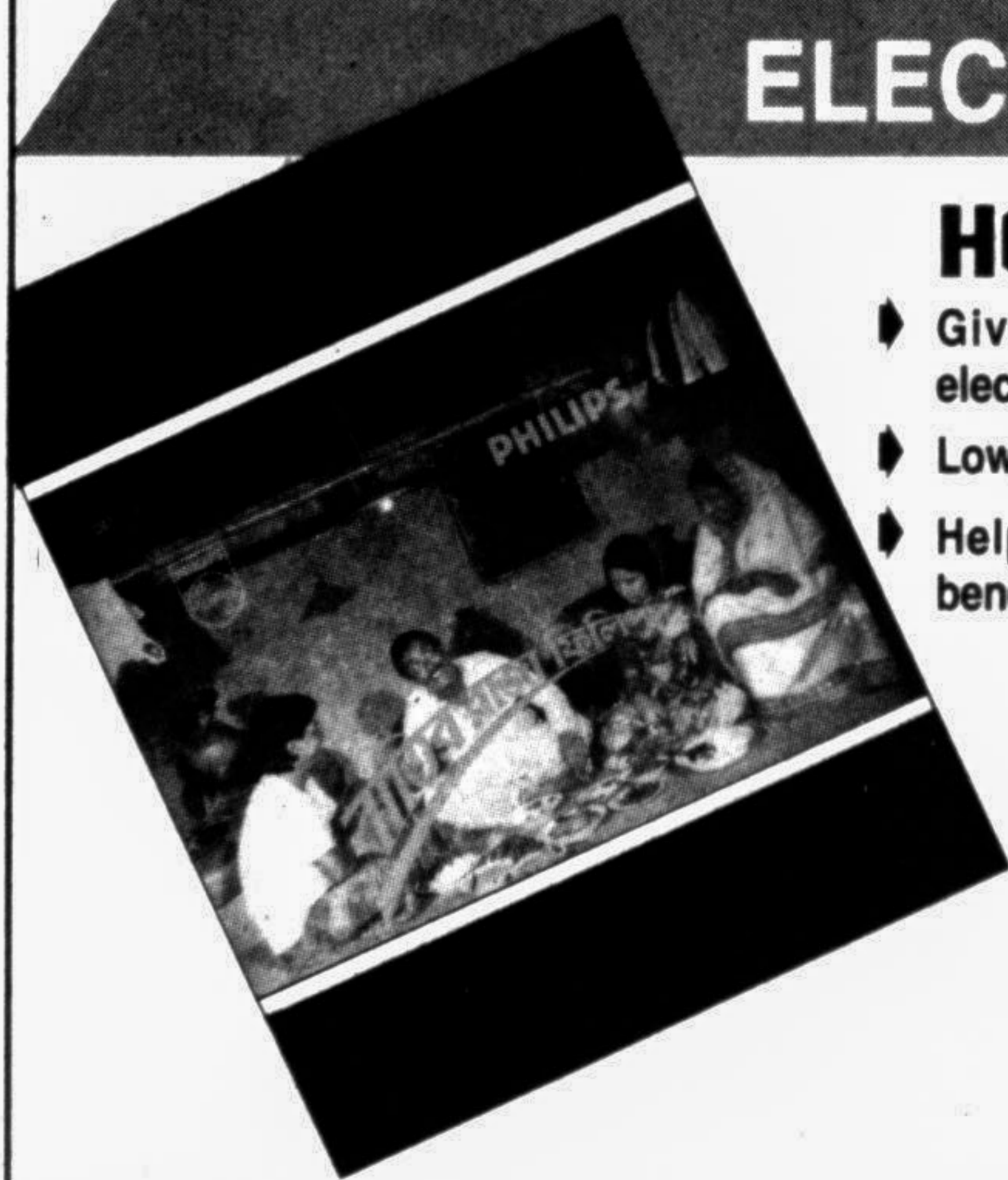
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JS body discusses draft nat'l children policy

The 26th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed various aspects of the draft National Children Policy, prepared by the ministry.

Definition of children in respect of maximum age limit, according to the draft, also came up for discussion.



Monday

- 4:30 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- 4:45 Programme summary Documentary: Growing up Children
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Sports programme
- 6:05 Magazine programme
- 6:50 Open University
- 7:15 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Population programme
- 9:00 Special programme on the occasion of death anniversary of President Zia
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Magazine programme
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

What's on today....

Zahir Raihan Film Society: Will screen the film Nadi-O-Nari (The River and the Woman) directed by Sadek Khan. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 6 pm.

Adhunik: Will hold national council. Chief guest: Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan. Venue: Institution of Engineers. Time: 10 am.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: Regular weekly meeting. Speaker: Rt M A Wahab. Subject: Why I am a Rotarian. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm

Weather

No change in temperature

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh during the next 24 hours, reports UNB.

Met office said weather may remain mostly dry elsewhere over the country during the period. It is likely to deteriorate gradually for another five days.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the next 24 hours.

Country's highest temperature 37.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and minimum 23.5 degrees at Sylhet yesterday.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:41 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.7	28.0	78	93
Chittagong	33.0	27.4	77	77
Rajshahi	37.8	25.5	75	85
Khulna	35.8	28.0	74	63
Barisal	34.2	27.8	80	72
Cox's Bazar	33.8	27.2	72	73
Sylhet	31.0	23.5	82	86
Dinajpur	33.6	26.1	83	78

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