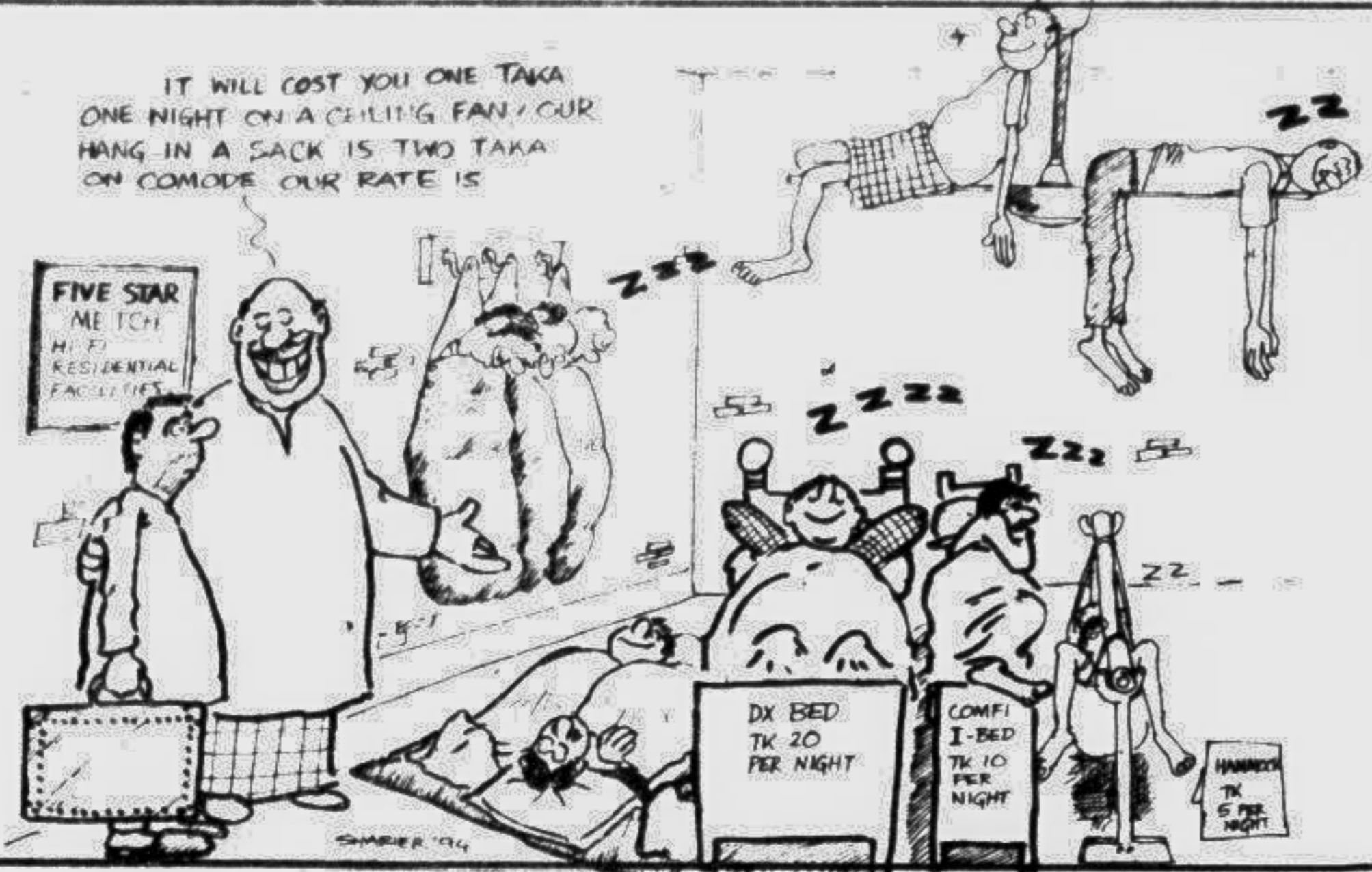


Dhaka Day by Day A Messy Business

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



IT WILL COST YOU ONE TAKA ONE NIGHT ON A CHILLING FAN/CUR HANG IN A SACK IS TWO TAKA ON COMODE. OUR RATE IS...

With thousands of people migrating every-day to Dhaka the city of dreams, it is no wonder that the biggest problem this mega city faces is housing. When we see the myriads of heads bobbing up and down in Motijheel, Farmgate or Gulistan, the first question that comes to mind is: "Where do these people live?"

Majid admits he spends as little time as possible in the room, treating it just as a place to crash out at night. "After work," says Majid, "I don't go back there. I just spend the time going to the stadium to watch a game or the cinema or just hang around the shops until 10 pm."

Security too, in some of these messes, is not ensured. Located in the poorer, crowded areas of the city, alcoholism and drug addiction is common. "Sometimes," says Helal, a darwan of a biscuit factory, "the neighbourhood mastans, high on heroin or Bangla Mod (local spirit) barge into the rooms at night to play cards and drink or dope. There is nothing we can do: if we protest, we may be beaten up or even killed."

Living in a mess is also quite expensive. Majid pays 300 taka per month just for the room, plus 600 taka for food. "Every month I have to borrow money," he says, "since I have also to send some to my parents in Faridpur."



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman speaking at a seminar on "The Problems and Prospects of Primary and Mass Education in Bangladesh" at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Education admn weakest: Saifur

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman yesterday criticised administrative lapses in education sector, saying the nation is not getting the return of investments made in this sector due to its weak administration, reports UNB.

"Education administration is the weakest, for which we are not getting proper return of our money we invested in addressing a seminar here yesterday afternoon."

Citing his home district Sylhet as an example, the minister said he found most teachers not taking classes properly. He also hardly found the education officers in their places during the last three years.

"If the situation is not improved, we will not get the return of the huge investment we're making in the sector," Rahman told the seminar on "The Problems and Prospects of Primary Education in Bangladesh" at Jatiya Press Club.

'Water demand can be met by cutting system loss'

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday stressed on reducing system loss of water to meet the total demand by city dwellers, reports BSS.

He emphasised that unless loss in Dhaka was brought down "significantly," all efforts to supply water in the metropolis would be futile. The present system loss is about 51 per cent, he mentioned.

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Bangladesh Literacy Society (BLS) organised the seminar where its Secretary General Prof Mohammad Osman Ghani presented the key-note paper containing 29 recommendations for removing existing problems and proper implementation of all programmes taken in the area of primary and mass education.

Secretary of Primary and Mass Education Division Kazi Raquibuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof M Shamsul Haq, former Director General of Higher Education Directorate Prof Abdul Rashid Chowdhury, former DG of Primary Education Directorate Dr Zahurul Islam Bhuiyan and Dr Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, Prof Abu Hamid Latif and Prof Siddiqui Rahman of Dhaka University took part in discussion.

Giving an elaborate description of government expenditure on education, the minister said a total of Tk 4,100 crore, including expenses for sports and cultural activities from the allocations of sports and cultural ministries, would be spent for education during the current fiscal year.

The government has earmarked Tk 3,600 crore in the education budget, of which 51 per cent will be spent only for primary education, he said, adding the expenditure for social sector will stand at 35 per cent of total allocations in the revenue and development budgets.

The Finance Minister indicated that the budget for the education sector might be increased. "If I can save a single furthing, I will divert that to the education sector."

Responding to a demand for an allocating eight per cent of GDP for education, Rahman said despite the lowest tax-GDP ratio in the region the country had been spending more than three per cent of its GDP for the education sector.

Termining education core element of human resource development, he said the countries in the sub-continent were lagging behind as they did not invest properly in the education sector.

Keeping the situation in view, the government is investing heavily in the sector, he said and referred to various development works in the education sector, including the food for education programme and recently-introduced stipend programme for girl students.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said that one polytechnic institute would be established in each of the 64 districts of the country in phases, reports BSS.

Making a statement on a private member resolution by BNP member Khairul Enam (Lakshimpur-3) for setting up a polytechnic institute at Lakshimpur, the education minister said that there were 20 polytechnic institutes including one for women in the greater district headquarters.

Sircar said the BNP government had introduced technical subjects like agriculture, animal husbandry, secretarial science, carpentry, at the SSC and HSC levels with a view to expanding the foundation level educational curriculum in the country's education system.

He said that the expansion in curriculum at the SSC and HSC was effected to enable drop-out students to take up self-employed professions of their own liking.

Later, Enam withdrew his resolution which was approved by the House by voice vote.

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ROK envoy meets Speaker

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Jong Kwon Byun called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at his Sangsad office yesterday, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on issues relating to functioning of parliaments in Bangladesh and Korea.

Happy Birthday to TITO Jamal

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WANTED. A project of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and administered by a UN organization is looking for an independent 2-storied building for office accommodation, preferably in Dhanmondi.

Career Opportunity. To meet our growth objectives, particularly relating to the marketing and distribution of the internationally renowned Nestle range of products, the following opportunities have arisen. We are looking for a select number of young and dynamic individuals to fill up three available positions.

CITIBANK OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED. Citibank, a U.S. bank, needs 5000 to 7000 square feet of office space in a good building in Motijheel/Dilkusha on long lease.

HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS FOR SALE. Airconditioners, refrigerator, washing machine, dining table and chairs, beds, chests of drawers, living room cabinet, side board, cane set with cushions, book cases, desks, carpets, fans, gas water heater.

Bangla-Pak JEC meet July 12. A three-day meeting of Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will begin in Dhaka July 12, diplomatic sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

BTV Friday Morning Session. 8:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary. 8:10 News in Bangla. 8:15 Aoi Dushan. 8:40 Our Friends the Dolphins. 9:00 Environment. 9:30 Film show: Flatman. 10:00 News in English. 10:05 Moner Mukurey: Fire Dao Aranya (1st part). 11:15 Film show: Tarzan. 11:40 Programme of Health: Prescription. 11:55 Musical programme: Morani.

What's on today...

Exhibition on Driftwood: A two-week long exhibition by Ferdous Priyabhasini. Artist Rafiqun Nabi will inaugurate the show. Chief guest: Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui. Venue: Jojon Art Gallery. Time: 6:30 pm. The show will remain open from 3 pm to 8 pm everyday till July 20.

Institute of Architects: A seminar and a function will be held to mark the World Architecture Day. Chief guest: DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Special guest: BUET VC Prof Dr Mohammad Shahjahan. Venue: BUET auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

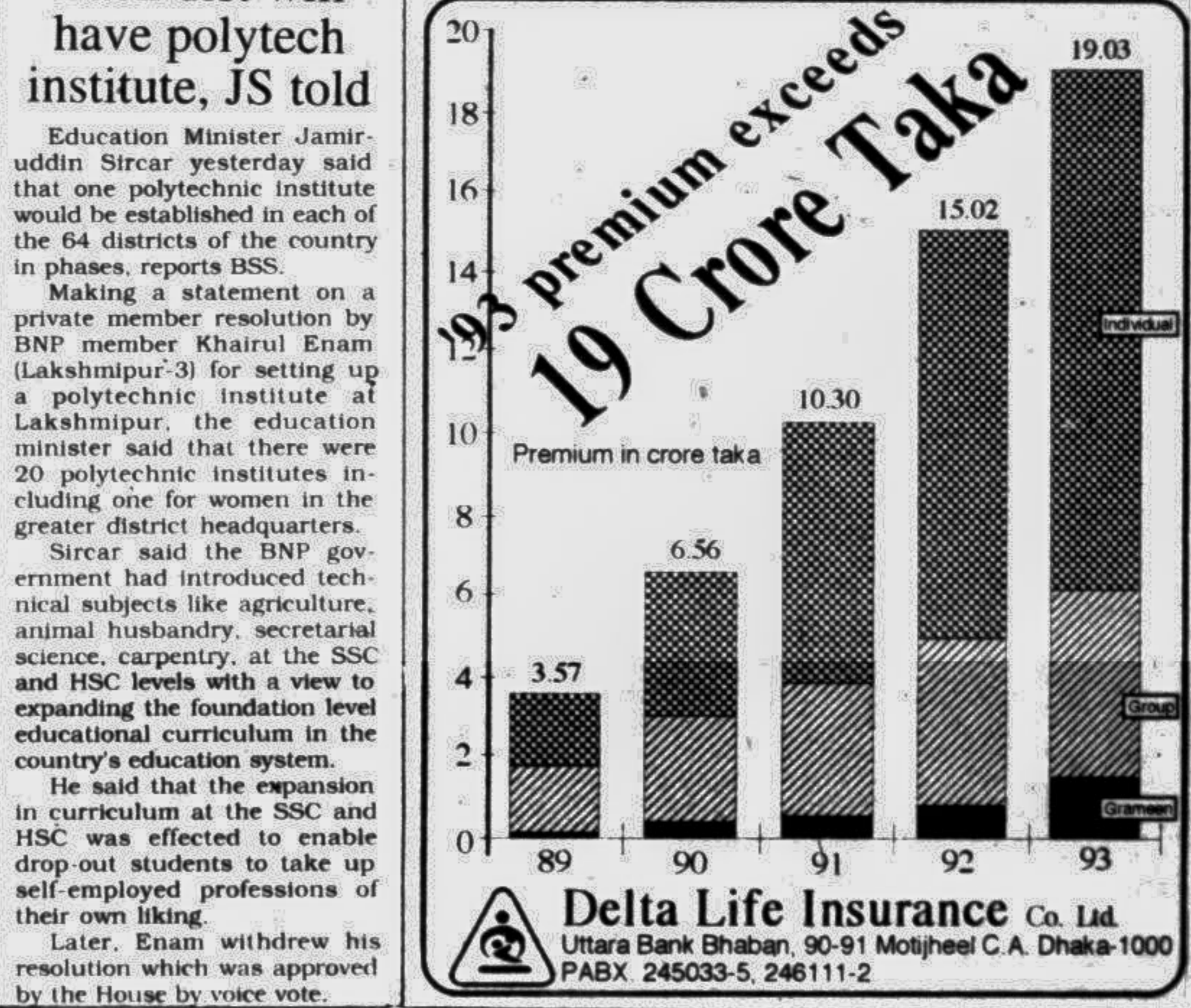
Innerwheel Club: The annual district assembly will be held. Chief guest: Dr Sufia Ishtiaq. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10 am.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershower likely to occur at most places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Dhaka divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature (Max/Min in Celsius), Humidity in percentage (9am/6pm).



Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited (A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla). International Re-Tender Notice. ICB Tender No. BGS/FP/CFE-32 (Re-Tender)/94.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি. গ্রাহ্যকাল সেবাদায়ক কাজ করার জন্য গ্রাহ্য মহিলা ও পুরুষদের কাছ থেকে নিম্নলিখিত পদে সরাসরি আবেদন করুন.