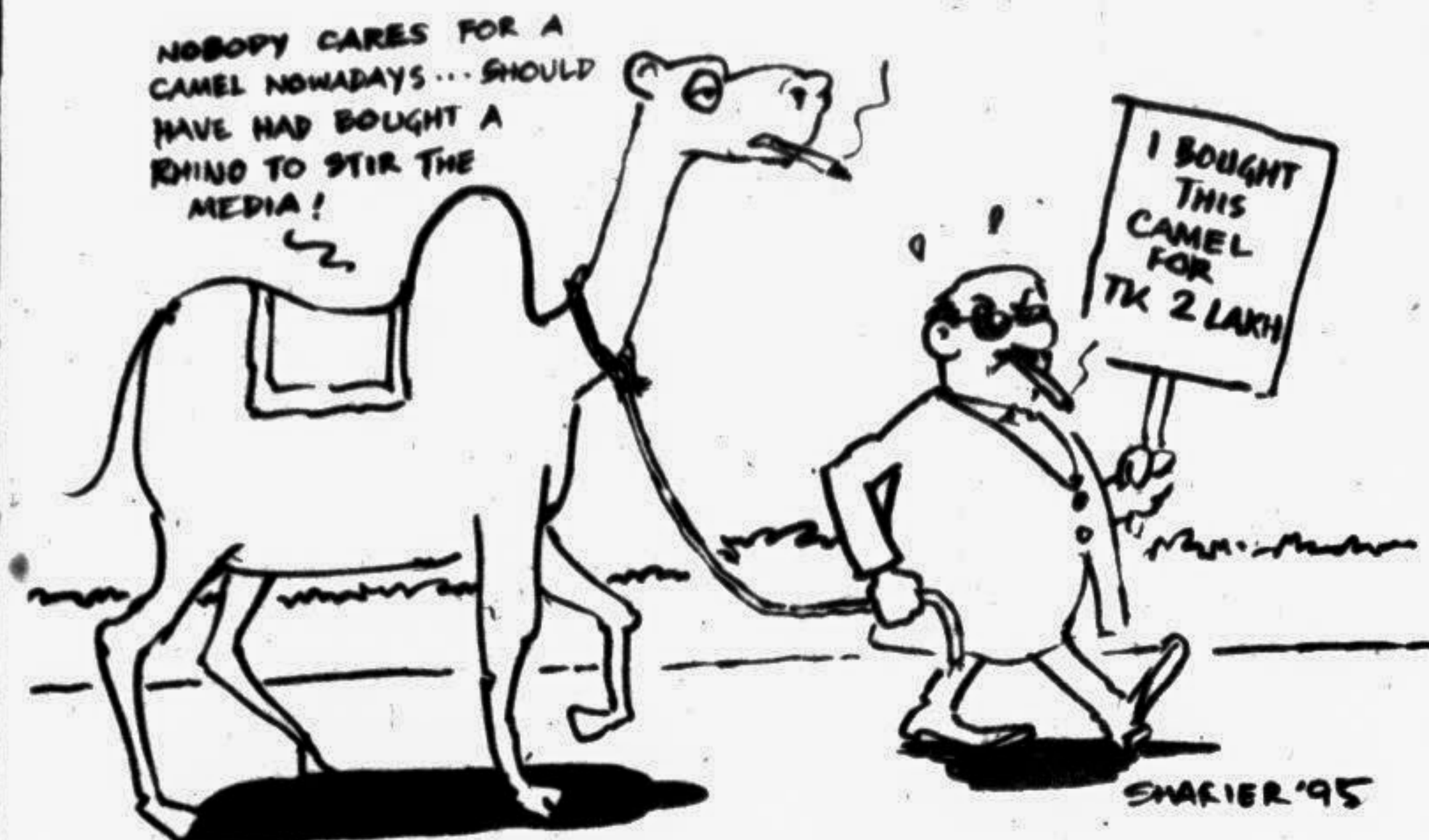


## Dhaka Day by Day

### Camels and Cows for Korbani Eid

by Schrezad Joya Monami Latif



Sharan and her good friend Rana were driving down Mirpur Road on their merry way to one restaurant or the other when Rana had to, all of a sudden, screech violently on her brakes. Sharan's jaw hit the dashboard. She screamed aloud, more in indignation than pain. They both surreptitiously glanced at each other and then ahead at what had caused their sudden halt. It was a big, black cow, large enough to be an ox that had all of a sudden come into Rana's view. The two girls gasped at the audacity of the animal which unknowing that it could have been under the car's wheels if not for Rana's quick reflex, ambled on its way, past the car and further into Mirpur road. The cow was dressed festively in red and gold party garlands and bells. It didn't seem to be with any other herd of Korbani animals that one often sees ambling down Dhaka streets. Sharan and Rana concluded that it had somehow misplaced itself and was now lost. Poor cow! One commented to the other, poor cow indeed.

As if the ever increasing number of cars, scooters and rickshaws isn't enough, it seems that for the last week two our streets have been overtaken by cows, goats and according to a few newspapers, camels. The camels actually are an exaggeration. One camel has been brought from India, Rajasthan desert, one as-

sumes. Word has it that the going rate is for Taka two lakh. Camels are not popular in Korbani in Bangladesh and never have been. First of all, where would we get the camels from, an animal most of us have never seen except on television and story books? Secondly, camel meat has never been on anyone's top list for delectable meat dishes. In Arabia, people eat camel but for lack of the availability of other kinds of meat. The meat is not only very smelly but tough as well. Whoever heard of camel steak, medium rare? Giving a camel as Korbani is more of a show of wealth than anything else. It gives out the message, look how rich I am, I have spent Taka two lakhs on my animal sacrifice this Eid. How many people will be able to digest the meat? Just the thought of how the camel is slaughtered would have one reeling in disgust and horror for days.

Camels aside, the entire city is already smelling of cows and animal dung. There are apparently 17 'hats' all over and animals are selling like mad. That would explain the thin crowds in Elephant road and other shopping areas of Dhaka, than is usually seen on Eid. And lastly one can only groan and moan at the thought of all the rotting remains intestines and skin that will line our drains and stink up the city, days after the Eid.

### PM holds reception

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday hosted a reception on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha at 30, Hare Road in the city, reports BSS.

Ministers, members of Parliament, high civil and military officials, judges, vice-chancellors, professors, leading industrialists and businessmen, journalists, freedom fighters, cultural activities and crippled persons attended the reception.

Begum Zia exchanged Eid greetings with them and enquired about their well-being.

Earlier, the Prime Minister hosted a separate reception for the diplomats at 30, Hare Road marking the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

Ambassadors, high commissioners and Charge d'Affaires of different countries and chiefs of various UN organisations and international agencies with their spouses attended the reception.

### 'Cooperation with UK to continue'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas expressed his satisfaction over the state relationship between Bangladesh and Britain and hoped that cooperation and friendship at various levels would continue, reports UNB.

The president said this when State Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development Baroness Linda Chalker and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Tony Baldry MP called on him at his hotel in London on Thursday, according to a message received in Dhaka.

President Biswas exchanged greetings with them and expressed his thanks to the British government and the Queen Elizabeth II for the invitation and hospitality extended to him to attend the VE Day celebrations, marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

During the meeting, Tony Baldry who recently visited Bangladesh with trade delegation, recalled his visit and pointed out that there are tremendous possibilities of expanding the trade between the two countries and raising British investments in Bangladesh.

He also expressed the belief that the political stability in Bangladesh would prevail for its economic growth to support democracy and its institution.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Dr A F M Yusuf and officials from both the countries were also present.

### Dwellings gutted

Eleven houses were gutted in two fire incidents at a slum and a bazaar in the city Thursday, reports UNB.

Fire service sources said fire burned to ashes nine houses in a slum in front of FDC (Film Development Corporation) at Kauranbazar Thursday afternoon.

The cause of the blaze that broke out at 1:05 pm could not be known, they said.

Police said a fire reportedly originating from an oven about 4:50 pm gutted two tin-sheds at Matabbarbazar in Kamrangir Char under Lalbagh thana.

In another fire, old garments and polythene were burnt at the first floor of Nayabazar Yusuf Market on Wednesday night.

### Housewife killed

A housewife was allegedly strangled by her husband at Kalidaspatti village in Dhamrai thana in Savar on Eid day for dowry, reports UNB.

Police said Shafiqul Islam Dolu Mia, 35, of Ulail village married Josna Begum, 30, daughter of Liakat Ali, ten years ago.

Since then, Dolu Mia has been demanding Tk 50,000 from his father-in-law as dowry. But poor Liakat could not meet the demand.

Villagers said, on Eid day Dolu strangled his wife and fled the village. Josna was mother of two children.

A case was filed with Dhamrai thana.

### Obituary

CHITTAGONG, May 13: Shakina Begum Chowdhury, mother of Jasim Chowdhury Sabuj, staff correspondent of the daily Sangbad died of a heart attack at her village home at Kaliash under Satkania thana here on Thursday last, according to her family sources today, reports BSS.

She was 62.

Late Shakina Chowdhury left behind three sons, three daughters and a large number of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Kaliash. Her quikhwani will be held at her village home tomorrow.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia exchanging Eid greetings with Chief of Army Staff Lt General A S M Nasim and Begum Nasim at her Hare Road office on Thursday. — PID photo

### Bangladesh shining example of communal harmony: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the Buddhist community to contribute to nation-building activities for making the country self-reliant through collective efforts of all, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh is a shining example of communal harmony. We all are Bangladeshi. We, irrespective of caste and creed, shall have to work for building Bangladesh as a beautiful abode for future generation," she said.

She was talking to a delegation of Bangladesh National Buddhist Federation and Bangladesh National Buddhist Youth Federation when they called on the Prime Minister at her office to greet her on the eve of Holy Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhists.

The Prime Minister said it is the responsibility of every citizen to work for the development of the country and urged them to come forward rising above all petty interests.

"We do not discriminate against anyone in respect of caste or creed. We uphold humanity and count on everybody as Bangladeshi," she told the Buddhist community leaders.

Begum Zia said her gov-

ernment was relentlessly working for eradicating poverty from the country and serving the poor and distressed for changing their lot.

She said the BNP government has lifted the country to a dignified position in the comity of nations and called upon all to work unitedly for further consolidating the gain.

"There will be no problem of the country if we work together for the national interest."

The Buddhist delegation presented her with a bouquet on the occasion of Buddha Purnima that marks the birth, the enlightenment and the great passing away of Lord Buddha, and expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for her kind attention to the community.

They lauded Begum Zia's sincere and relentless work for developing the country and making the countrymen happy.

The delegation, led by federation president Dr Sukam Barua, apprised the Prime Minister some of their problems and requested her kind consideration.

Begum Zia assured them of looking into their problems and wished the community every success.

### Opposition trying to confuse people: Anwar

Shipping Minister M K Anwar accused the opposition for 'trying to confuse the people by clamouring on constitutional issues,' reports UNB.

Referring to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's announcement of resignation from power 30 days before election, he mentioned that she has repeatedly appealed to the opposition to sit for a dialogue to resolve the political stalemate.

The minister was addressing a workers' rally of BNP at Chandanapur in Homna thana in Comilla yesterday.

"BNP does not pursue politics of hollow words or false promises, rather its politics is based on works, the Shipping Minister said.

The BNP government is implementing 19 points programme initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to fulfill the basic needs of the people, he added.

He called upon the party workers to ensure enrollment of children in schools along with carrying out organisational activities.

Organised by Chandanapur Union unit of BNP, the rally was also addressed by BNP leaders — Sirajul Islam, Abdul Hakim Akand, Zahirul Islam, Habibullah Sarkar, Abdul Kader and Alamgir Sarkar.

### Pak envoy meets Salam

The new High Commissioner of Pakistan, Karam Elahi, called on the secretary general of BNP and LGD and Co-operatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder at his residence in the city Wednesday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

### Trader rescued

Police arrested two members of the 'Chokh Bandha Party' and rescued a businessman held hostage by them from a village in Dhamrai thana in Savar Friday night, reports UNB.

The arrested were named Riaz, 25, and Wazuddin, 30.

Police said Ali Hossain, kidnapped on May 10 from his house at Gaowail village, was rescued from a house at Dhulirvita village.

The kidnappers allegedly demanded Tk 2 lakh in ransom from Ali.

Police raided several villages in search of Ali and rescued him from Dhulirvita.

A case was filed with Dhamrai thana.

### Best Show in the town!!

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Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rashed Ahmed explaining to Crown Prince Naruhito the environmentally friendly nature of jute bags which could help preserve environment in Japan. Also seen in the picture is Yukio Aoshima (L) the Governor of Tokyo. — PID photo

### NSU summer session begins tomorrow

The summer semester of North South University (NSU) will begin tomorrow, says a press release.

A freshers' reception was held on its campus at Barani in the city yesterday.

NSU president Muslehuddin Ahmed welcomed the new owners.

Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi and Zafar Karim of the university also spoke on the occasion.

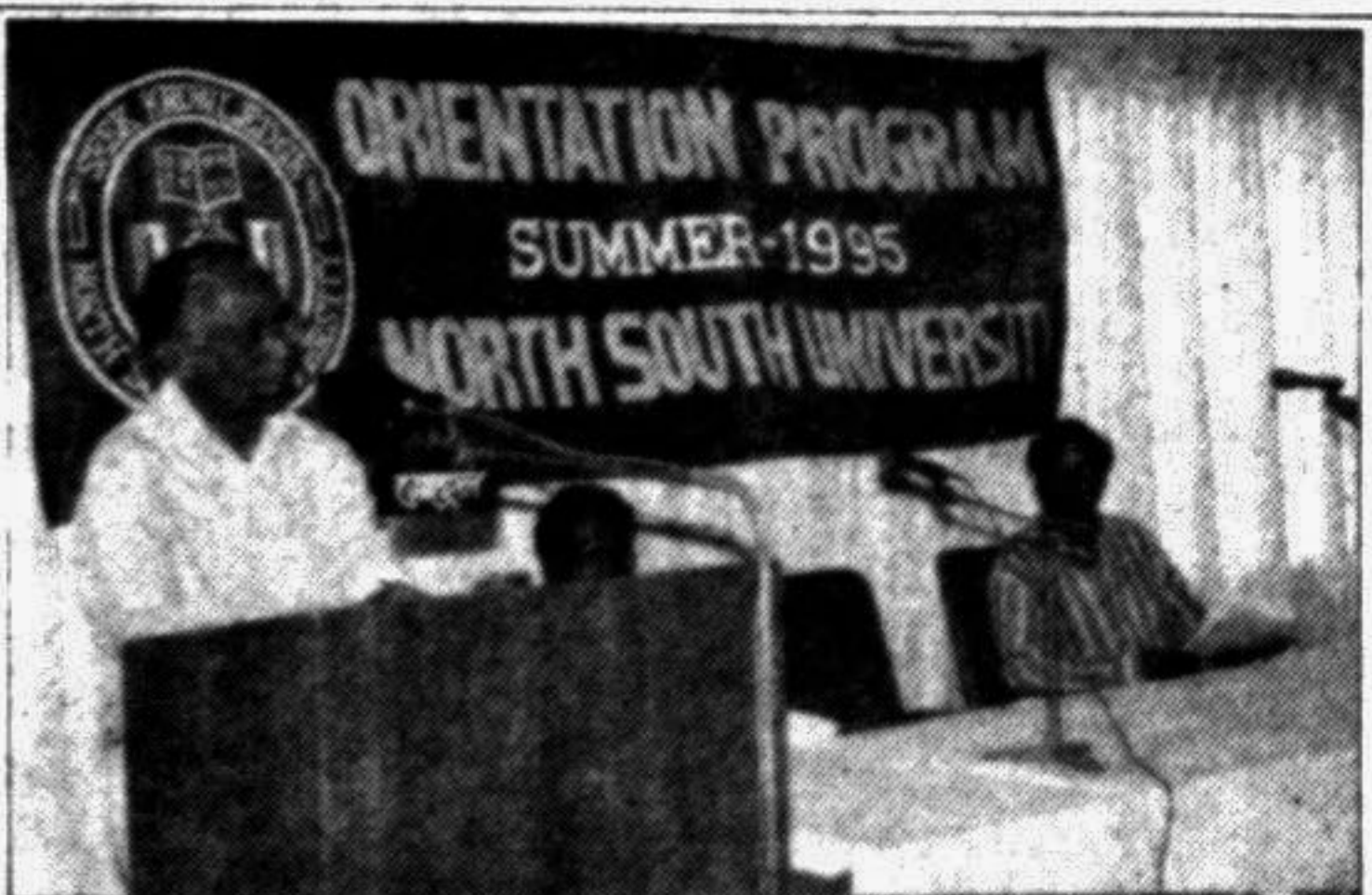
### Matin meets Saudi counterpart

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury had a very fruitful discussion with his Saudi counterpart Prince Naif Bin Abdul Aziz at Meena palace in Makkah on Thursday, reports BSS.

During the one-and-a-half-hour meeting which was held in a very cordial atmosphere the Saudi Interior Minister assured of all possible steps to solve any problem faced by the expatriate Bangladeshis in the kingdom.

They discussed various aspects of bilateral relations including strengthening of economic relations. They also identified some fields for bilateral cooperation and took some important decisions.

Bangladesh Home Minister expressed his gratitude for the feelings expressed by his Saudi counterpart. He extended an invitation to Prince Naif to visit Bangladesh which was accepted by him. The schedule for the visit will be finalised soon.



North South University president Muslehuddin Ahmed addressing the freshers' reception on the campus in the city yesterday

### Weather

#### No change in temperature

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says, no appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days weathermen predicted that rainfall activity is likely to increase. Giving extended outlook for another five days Met Office says, weather may improve at the end period.

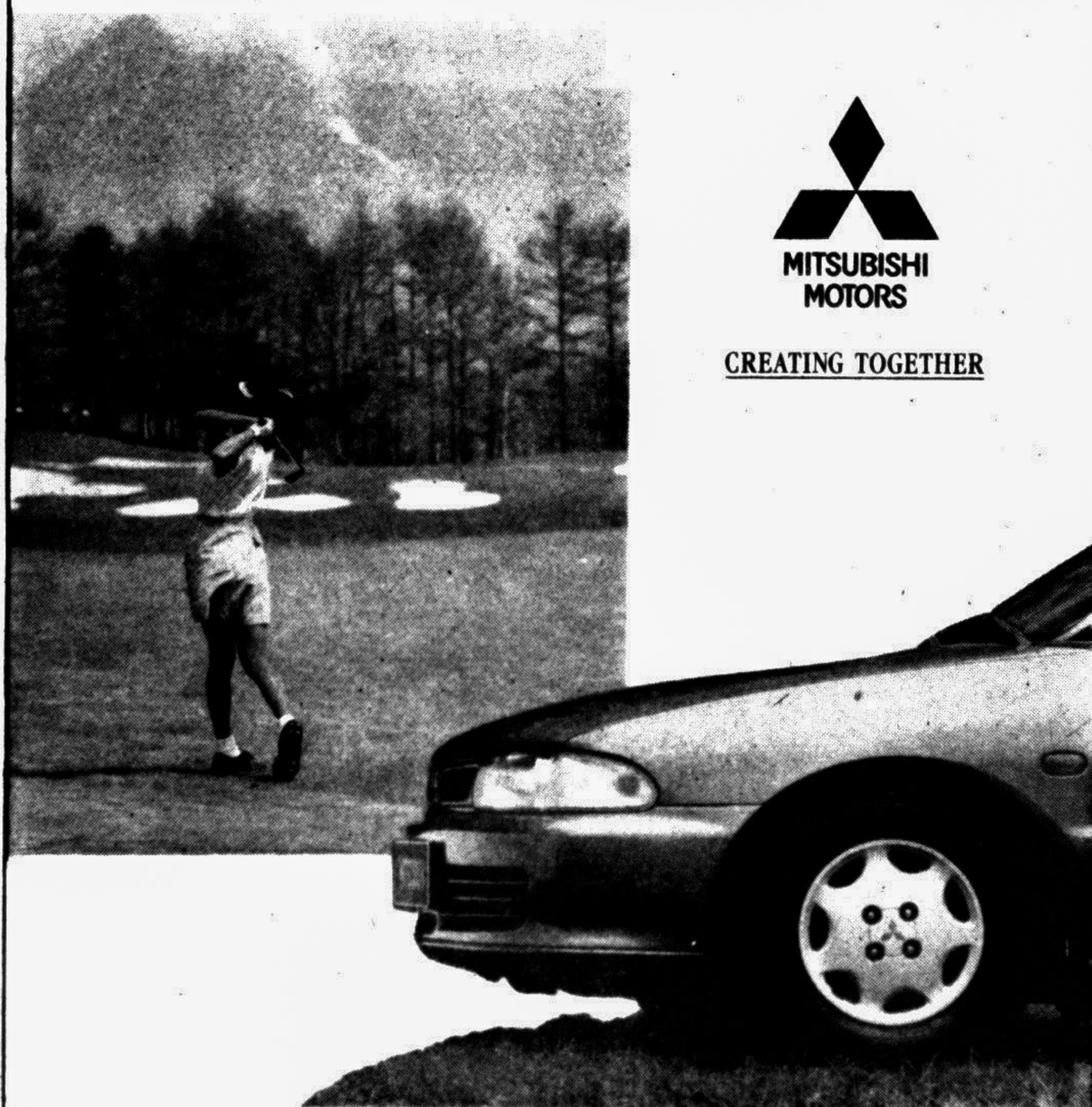
The country's highest temperature 36.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest 24.0 degrees at Patuakhali.

The sun sets today in Dhaka at 6:33 pm and rises, tomorrow at 5:16 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	36.2	26.5
Chittagong	34.4	25.9
Rajshahi	35.0	24.4
Khulna	33.0	24.5
Barisal	32.4	26.0
Sylhet	35.2	25.5
Cox's Bazar	34.5	26.0

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