

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

One-legged rickshawpuller says nothing is impossible

by Nilufar-Zahan-ara Ferdons



'I hated going from door to door asking for alms.'

Rickshaw pulling is not the obvious job for a one-legged man, but 18-year-old Mohammed Mokbul Hossain would do anything other than begging.

"I hated going from door to door asking for alms" he recalls with tearful eyes. "I was so unhappy".

When he first thought of taking to the saddle his friends told him he was crazy.

"It's not possible," said one. "You'll never do it".

That was three years ago. He ignored their doubts and taught himself the job. Then he moved from Rangpur to Dhaka where he pedals for Tk 25-35 day, with which he look after his mother.

No-one is prouder than his mother, who was with him the day 12 years ago that he was pushed or fell from a crowded train and woke up in hospital to find his right leg had been amputated.

"I am happy that you are not a beggar" she tells him now. "Though crippled, you are a self-reliant man".

His friends, too, are full of admiration, praising his strong-mindedness.

Some rickshaw pullers are more hostile. They insult him or make jokes. Some call him a fool. He admits he is hurt by their taunts, and by the passengers who fear to ride with him.

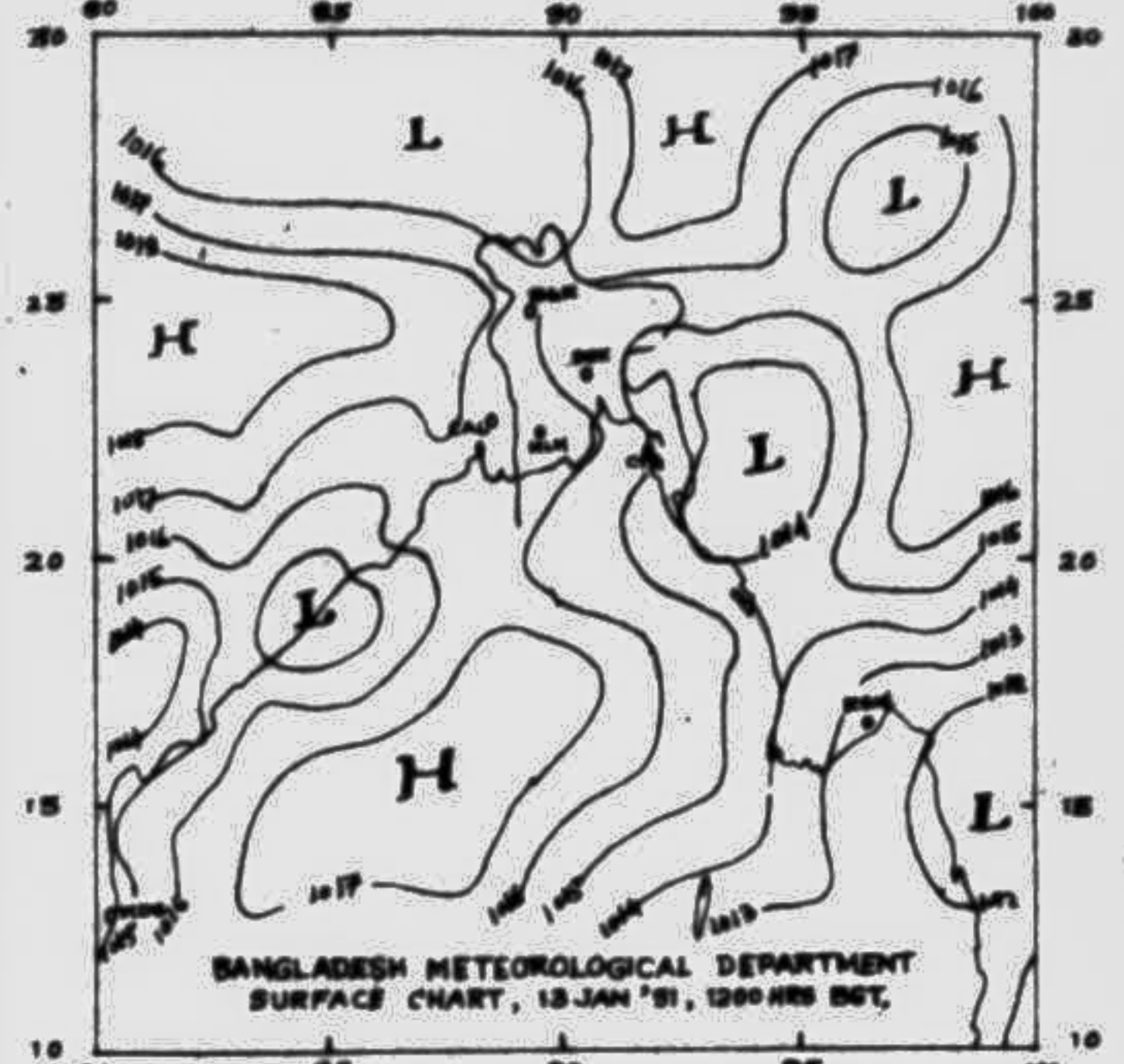
He points out that he is a skilful driver. He is fast, too. Pullers and their passengers often do not even notice his handicap as he overtakes them. One passenger who did notice a doctor advised him last week to go to a rehabilitation centre at Tongi to learn a technical skill.

"I went," he says, "but I didn't get a chance. I was told there was no vacancy".

Despite the strain of hours of pedalling—the toughest moments are starting the rickshaw from a stationary position—he attends Motilal modish-chool every evening as soon as he has finished work.

He is looking for more suitable work. His ambition is to establish a betel-leaf shop. He gets the chance to run a shop, he will probably make a success of it. As he says: "I believe anyone can do whatever he wants, by hard work of practice, whatever the physical problem."

Met Office says, on Sunday a westerly low was persisting over eastern Madhya Pradesh.



Weather

By Staff Correspondent

A mild or moderate cold wave may sweep Bangladesh today (Monday) and tomorrow, according to a forecast by the Meteorological Department.

The sky is likely to remain partly cloudy today or till Tuesday morning, the forecast says.

During the same period light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna division and the regions of Noakhali, Feni, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, elsewhere the weather is likely to remain mainly dry.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate cold wave likely.

Extended outlook for another five days: Little change.

The night temperature on Saturday rose by one to five degree Celsius at some places and remained nearly unchanged at many places.

During the 24 hours ending at 4 p. m. on Sunday light drizzle occurred at one or two places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Comilla and Sylhet. Weather remained mainly dry elsewhere.

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Bihar, West Bengal (in India) and adjoining areas of Bangladesh, while the seasonal low lay over South Bay extending its trough to Andaman Sea.

The maximum temperature recorded in Dhaka city on the day was 24 degree Celsius and the minimum 17.4 degree Celsius. Relative humidity was 79 per cent in the morning and 78 per cent in the evening.

Temperature recorded in major cities and towns of Bangladesh on Sunday:

City/Town Maximum Minimum degree (Celsius)

Chittagong	27.4	18.5
Khulna	22.4	16
Rajshahi	23.5	13.7
Comilla	24.6	16.5
Sylhet	26	14

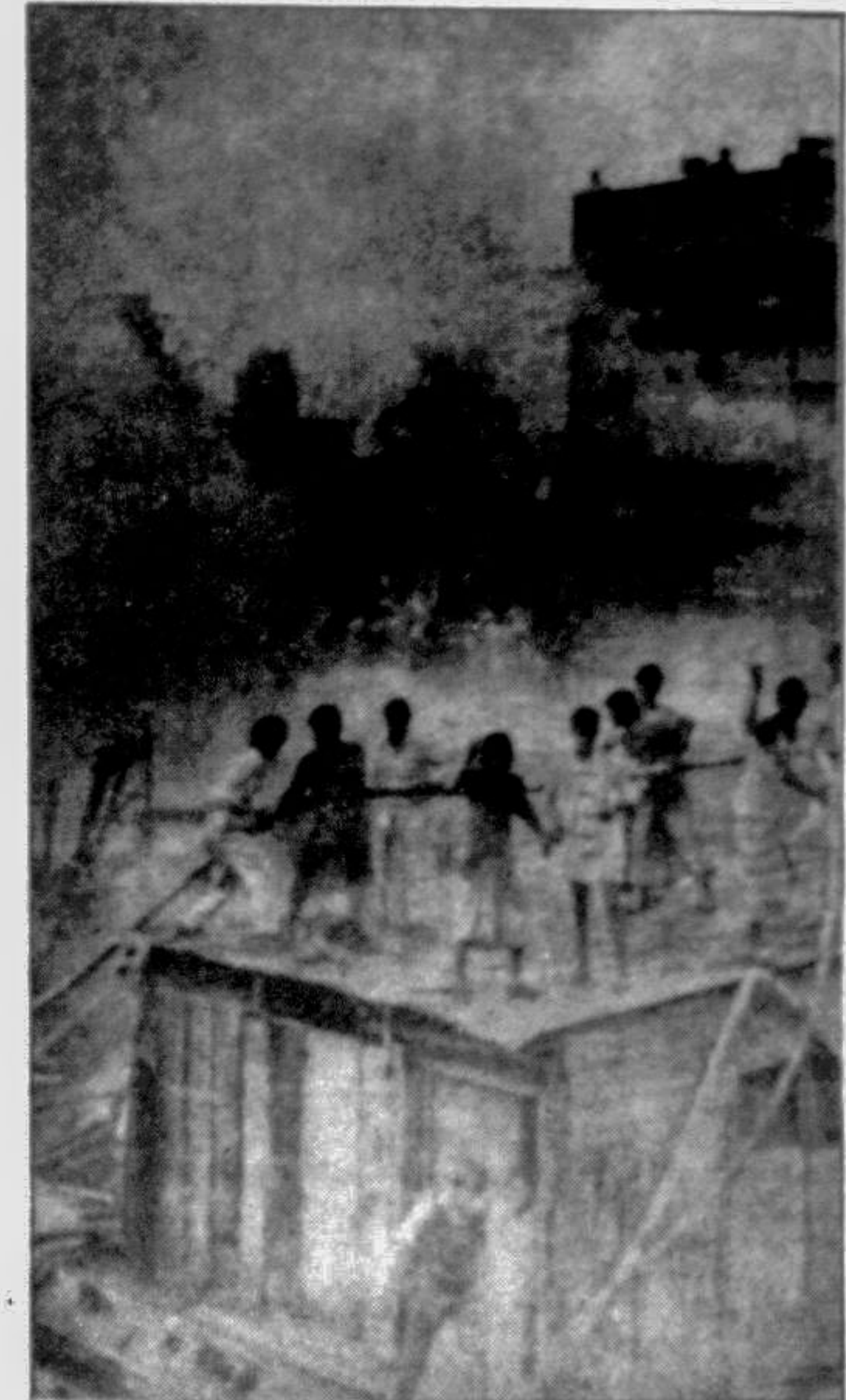
Bogra	25.1	13.5
Rangpur	23.5	11.8
Jessore	22.2	15.6
Barisal	23.4	16

The lowest minimum temperature 11.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur on the day.

Minimum temperature of major cities of the region:

New Delhi	5 degree (Celsius)
Colombo	22
Bangkok	24
Singapore	24
Tokyo	15
Beijing	19

In Dhaka, the sun sets today at 5-32 and rises tomorrow at 6-44 a. m.



Several slum-dwellings were destroyed by a big fire at Naya Bazar in Dhaka city on Sunday. -- Star Photo.

WASA officials arrested for taking bribe

The Anti-Corruption Department has arrested three persons including two employees of the WASA for involvement in the irregularities of the WASA bills by turning the meters back, reports BSS.

The arrested persons are the Revenue Supervisor of Zone 3, Abdul Kader, Mechanic of the Meter Department Mohammad Araz Ali and middleman (dala) Mohammed Fahu.

An official press release Wednesday said that this group demanded Taka 2,500 from Mr. M.H. Chowdhury as graft in exchange for reducing the bills by turning back the meter.

'Islam provides justice to working class'

Islam provides justice to the working class, who would get ownership in the mills and factories in phases if Islamic state is established, Acting Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan said yesterday, reports BSS.

Addressing a workers' gathering at Joypurhat Sugar Mills, he said Islamic principles stipulated a balanced distribution of wealth so that justice and fairplay could be done to all.

Mr. Khan said his party was contesting the elections to establish Islamic principles and urged all to vote for his party candidates.

The Acting chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami said election of corrupt and characterless people to parliament would not serve the purpose of the nation. He called upon all to choose right persons so that the people were benefited.

8,693 foreign money order

During the month of December, 1990 Bangladesh post office received a total number of 8,693 foreign money order in Pounds, Dollars and other foreign currencies sent by Bangladesh nationals living abroad, reports BSS.

Gulf situation discussed

Bangladesh and Australia Saturday discussed the current explosive Gulf situation and possible impact of war in the tension ridden Zone, reports UNB.

The two countries also exchanged views on bilateral relations and other international issues of common concern when the visiting Australian leader Senator Robert Hill called on Foreign Affairs Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the Foreign Office, an official said.

Senator Robert Hill, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in the Australian Parliament, arrived here on Friday

Milon Smriti Parishad

SSMCH Correspondent

A 101-member committee was formed with Dr. M.A. Majid as convener and Dr. Mainul Hasan Sadeque as General Secretary of Shaheed Dr. Milon Smriti Parishad.

The committee was formed at a meeting yesterday afternoon at the BMA Bhaban.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, mother of Dr. Milon, Mrs. Selma Akther, Dr. Strajul Islam, Dr. Gaji Abdul Haque, Dr. A.B. Bhuiyan, Dr. Syed Moddasser Ali, Dr. Md. Tahir, Dr. Kabiruddin Ahmed and Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin.

Body to evaluate activities of Pathakali Trust

The first meeting of the reconstituted Trustee Board of Pathakali Trust was held in Dhaka yesterday with Education Adviser and Chairperson of the Trust Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the activities and financial position of the Trust and decided to form two sub-committees to evaluate its financial position and also the status of the schools run by it in Dhaka.

It also decided to evaluate the status of the schools at district levels through the respective District Primary Education Officers and to carry on two medical centres at Fatullah and Munshikhola. The decisions were taken to carry on the activities of the Trust in principle so that the future elected government can take final decisions about Pathakali Trust.

Education Secretary and Vice-Chairperson of the Trust ANM Eusuf and members of the Trust F. I. Abed, Rokhuzzaman Khan, Dr. Mahboob Hossain, DG of BIDS, Mrs A. N. Rasheda were present.

2 Bangladesh children win Nehru Gold Medal

Iqbal Hossain (15) Sayeduzzaman Pina (16), two members of the Central Kanchi-Kanchar Mela, have won Jawaharal Nehru Memorial Gold Medal awards in Shankar's International children's competition in painting, 1990, held in New Delhi last week, reports BSS.

Three other members of the Kanchi-Kanchar Mela: Shabbir Alam Mahmud (16), Shymol Biswas (14) and Ajmir Hossain (14) have won the silver medal in the competition.

Officials urged to create atmosphere for free polls

FARIDPUR, Jan 13: Presidential Adviser, incharge of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women Affairs and Youth and Sports Mr Alamgir M. A. Kabir Called upon Saturday the officials to help create congenial atmosphere for holding the coming elections impartially, reports BSS.

The Adviser was addressing the district and upazila level officers of Social Welfare, Women Affairs and Youth and Sports of greater Faridpur district.

The adviser asked the officials to render their all-out efforts for realizing the hopes and aspirations of the people for holding free and fair polls.

Earlier, the Adviser visited the Faridpur Children's Home (Shishu Sadan) run by Social Welfare Directorate. He went round different sections of the home. He expressed his dissatisfaction to see the condition of the toilet and bed rooms of the inmates.

Later, the Adviser distributed interest-free loan among the poor people under the Urban Community Development Project of Social Welfare Directorate at the Hitoishi school premises. The adviser also visited the Muslim Mission Orphanage, a locally-run institution.

10 pc rise in Biman fare

Biman, Bangladesh Airlines, has made a rise of 10 per cent on air freight from January 10, a Biman press release said Saturday, reports BSS.

The decision has been taken considering the Gulf crisis and the escalation of price of aviation fuel. Although the IATA International Association for Travelling Agency decided to increase air freight charge by 26 per cent, but Biman considering the present economic condition of the country has effected a minimum rise of 10 per cent.

Biman said, before the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the systematic average price of aviation fuel per American gallon was 77 US cents. But at present Biman is paying 1.77 US dollar on an average per gallon of aviation fuel.

DU graduates election March 12

DU Correspondent Election of 25 representative of registered Dhaka University Graduates will be held on March 12.

The last date for submitting nominations is January 26 and withdrawal of nomination papers is February 9. Final list of the candidates will be published on February 11.

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Monday

US Embassy staff cut likely

By Moinuddin Naser

5-00 Opening announcements and recitation from the holy Quran.

5-10 News in Bengali.

5-20 Programme profile.

5-22 Recitation from the Geta.

5-25 Cartoon film: 'Frankenstein, Junior and the Impossible'. Animated cartoon series starring Frankenstein, Jr, a lovable monster robot, 30 feet tall and phenomenally strong, who is able to talk and think. Also starring the impossibles, a tobnotch rock-and-roll trio who in reality are super crime fighters known as Fluid Man, Multi Man and Coil Man.

The US government has warned all its missions in South Asia as well as the Gulf region of the possible austerity drive in the wake of a war to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

According to diplomatic sources, after the January 15 deadline set by the United Nations Security Council, there will be no other alternative than a war to seek a solution to the crisis.

The US missions abroad have been given indication that Washington may decide to retrench the non-essential staff of the missions in order to cut.

The US mission employees in Pakistan have already been given option to retire on voluntary basis. The American nationals, whose jobs are not essential have been asked to leave the country before January 15.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh government is regularly reviewing the Gulf situation. Ambassador to Iraq Osmany recently came to Dhaka for a briefing on Bangladesh stand on the Gulf crisis in a changed situation. He was instructed to take precautionary measures to save life and property of Bangladeshis who are living in Iraq and the frontline states.

The Bangladeshis living in these countries have already been advised to return home before January 15.

Meanwhile, in view of the possible situation in the wake of a Gulf war, the British High Commission as well as the American, Australian and French embassies have advised their citizens in Iraq to leave

5-50 Coaching programme for the students of secondary level.

6-15 Sports programme.

7-00 TV Debate '90: Debate session for the College and University students.

8-00 News in Bengali.

8-30 Samprotik: TV reporting on contemporary issues.

9-00 World music.

10-00 News in English.

10-30 English film 'Lucy': Lucille Ball transcended

11-30 News in Bengali.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 - Sunday

5 Paris, today

9 Small lump

12 Turkish regiment

13 Simple

14 Anglo-Saxon money

15 Designate

17 Reporter

19 Lure

21 Path

22 Goddess of discord

24 Concerning

25 Study

26 Wocasin

27 Violin: colloq.

29 Tantalum symbol

31 Anger

32 Hypothetical force

33 Sun god

34 Criticize

sharply

35 'Dirty Harry' star: inits.

36 Football team

38 falsehood

39 Sum up

40 Babylonian deity

41 Seasoning

42 Site of Taj Mahal

44 Hatred

46 Order

48 Halloween option

51 Garden tool

52 Newspaper paragraph

54 Aims box

55 Finish

56 Beatty film

57 River in Belgium

DOWN

1 Immovable

2 MacGraw of

3-Framework of seabird stripe

4 Vera or Sarah

5 Negative prefix

6 Lapsed

7 War god

8 Recent

9 'Pretty' --

10 Island off Ireland

11 Great (dog)

16 Printer's measure

18 Wild plum

20 Self-esteem

22 Heroic event

23 Unusual

25 Social group

27 Fleet

28 Vision

29 Caudal appendage

30 Dilapidated

34 Participants

36 Kind of cheese

37 Sold

39 -- Forces

41 Wander

42 Pain

43 Hired gunman

44 Grafted: heraldry

45 That thing

47 Ventilate

48 High card

50 Sailor: colloq.

53 Ed.'s concern

Answer to Previous Puzzle

BONES PAVED
LANATE ADORES
EN PONDS DIET
ATE NORSE SPA
PALS REEDS ER
SMILE WRITERS
TALE SLAV
PREPARE ETANA
RE STRAP EDEN
EDS EASEL EST
SCOT TENOR TE
SAFARI DROOLS
PANIC SEDGE

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