

Dhaka Day by Day

Dolls with magical powers

by S. Y. Bakht

Dolls hold a special place in the cultures of all nations. Since ancient times they have been created for various purposes— as playthings for children, as objects endowed with magical powers, or simply for the purpose of display and appreciation.

Japan perhaps cherishes its unique doll-making tradition more than any other nation.

An exhibition of traditional Japanese dolls and a collection of photographs on Japan was inaugurated at the National Museum last Friday by Professor Iazuddin Ahmed, Adviser to the President in charge of Culture and Food Ministry. Mr. Takio Iguchi, Ambassador of Japan, was present on the occasion.

Sponsored jointly by the Embassy of Japan, The National Museum and in cooperation with the local branch of the International Penpals Club, 79 dazzling Japanese dolls and 125 large coloured photographs depicting everyday Japanese life are on display. In addition, 22 photographs of Japanese landscapes by local photographer Sudatta S. Barua are also on display.

According to Tetsuro Kitamura, an expert on the subject, the history of Japanese dolls is extremely old dating back to about 3,000 years B. C. The dolls are made from wood, paper, cloth or clay, and a wealth of techniques are employed to create a quiet beauty of expression and a rich display of colour. Because they exhibit a high-level of artistic workmanship, dolls in Japan are no longer confined to being the simple playthings of children, but have attained the status of a formative art.



A child delights in a doll

constituting a separate genre within the field of handicrafts.

This exhibition is expected to draw a large crowd of local doll-lovers, as after all Bangladesh too has a century-old tradition of doll-making with such inexpensive materials as clay, cloth and straw. Terracotta dolls have long been famous in this region. Although, more expensive materials like copper and bronze have also come in to increasing use in the country's handicraft industry.

As far as we know, we haven't had any exhibition of our dolls in any foreign country. It is about time that we had one, perhaps in Tokyo where the Asian Cultural Centre of UNESCO has done a magnificent job in promoting closer cultural ties among Asian countries, including between Japan and Bangladesh.

With a view to portraying the cultural image of Japan, the exhibition is scheduled to continue till January 25 and is open from 10 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. everyday except Thursdays.

In a related event, a week-long Japanese film festival is under way at the Public Library auditorium. Jointly sponsored by the National Film Archive and the Embassy of Japan, 11 feature films by leading Japanese film directors are being screened and this will continue till January 16.

Not surprisingly, the film festival has drawn a large crowd and the sad news is that all the seats have been booked in advance.

1.35 lakh rice tons procured

The overall food situation of the country was reviewed at a high-level inter-ministerial meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) held in Dhaka Tuesday with Food Adviser Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed in the chair, an official handout said, reports BSS.

Adviser for Planning Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Adviser for Agriculture, A. M. Anisuzzaman, Food Secretary, Finance Secretary, Statistics Secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary and other high officials of the concerned ministries were present in the meeting.

The meeting had a discussion on overall food situation in the country including food production, government stock position, food procurement position and present price situation of food grains. It expressed satisfaction over food production and stock position.

The meeting stressed the need for increasing the government food stock position by strengthening procurement drive.

The farmers would be provided with some facilities in terms of agricultural inputs for increasing the irri-boro production. It was also informed.

Demand for removal of Eden College Principal condemned

Bangladesh Federation of Business and Professionals Women's Clubs (BFBPWC) Tuesday strongly condemned the move by some unruly students of Eden University Girls College to remove their Principal Mrs. Jahana Hq. Reports BSS.



The threat of a catastrophic Gulf war has shaken all Bangladeshis including the gentleman in the car. "Clock ticks towards war" — the headline of Tuesday's issue of the Daily Star brought to the fore horrors of the war likely to hit the South Asian country hard — Star Photo

Gulf war scare in city

By Staff Correspondent

Gulf War scare has, of late, gripped the city with distinct uneasiness. The citizenry is as the danger of war is looming large.

The Government on Tuesday held a high level meeting on the situation. In the event of a war, moves are on to import oil from Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and Indonesia. The government was also stressing on the contingency plan which will be beefed up, said an official source.

Many citizens are expressing cautious optimism that the

last ditch attempt might save the mankind from an impending catastrophe. But most of the citizens interviewed were of the view that chances were slim for avoiding a war.

Many experts expressed their fear that Bangladesh economy would receive a severe jolt in case the war breaks out. The business circles are concerned at the consequences of an impending war. But the dishonest traders were reportedly resorting to hoarding taking good advantage of the situation.

The relatives of the Bangladeshis staying in the

Gulf region have become quite concerned as the alarm sound for war gets momentum.

Bangladesh Biman has cancelled eight international flights to the Gulf states. Emergency messages have been sent to the ships bound for the Gulf ports. With the cancellation of the Gulf flights, the Bangladeshis seeking repatriation from the Arab states would be in trouble.

The hotels, restaurants and offices have been witnessing widespread discussions on the Gulf war which might erupt any moment from now on.

1.5 lakh ton EC food aid arrives

The head of delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Bangladesh, Ambassador Jacques Bailly, visited Chittagong to see the delivery of EC food aid to Bangladesh, according to a Commission press release in Dhaka, reports BSS on Monday.

Four ships carrying food aid from the European Community to Bangladesh arrived in Chittagong since mid-November, containing 1,50,000 tonnes of wheat. This wheat, plus 2,200 tonnes of vegetable oil which is expected to arrive in Bangladesh in the coming weeks, was pledged by the EC under its 1990 food aid programme.

The Ambassador met officials of the Chittagong Port authority and the Ministry of Food, the Ministry of Food's godowns and silo and observed the unloading of a ship in the port carrying EC wheat.

Arms, ammunition recovered at Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 15 — Khulna Metropolitan police has recovered 25 unauthorised arms and 147 rounds of ammunition from different areas of the metropolis since December 26, reports BSS.

Five persons were arrested by police in this connection.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna Range, Mr. Shahidul Haq, who is also in charge of Metropolitan Police of Khulna, displayed the recovered unauthorised arms and ammunition to local journalists at the Metropolitan Police Headquarters here Tuesday. He said that the police tried to recover all unauthorised arms and ammunition before the polling date next month, in order to help holding of free and fair parliamentary elections.

Japanese assistance to BAEC assured

A three-member delegation from the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation (PNFC) of Japan visited the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) from January 12 to 15, according to BAEC press release.

The delegation met the Chairman, Members and Director, International Affairs Division of BAEC and held preliminary discussions on the R & D programmes of BAEC. It visited different laboratories of Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (AEC), Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (INST), Institute of Food and Radiation Biology (IFRB), Institute of Computer Science (ICS), Institute of Electronics and Materials Science (IEMS), AERE, Savar and Institute of Nuclear Medicine (INM), Dhaka. They also discussed about the present and future of nuclear programmes.

Deputy Director of PNC and his associates Mr. Junji Seki and Mr. Tatsou Fijii expressed satisfaction at the current R & D activities of BAEC.

The delegation also called on Dr. M. A. Mannan, Chairman, BAEC and assured him all-round cooperation under STA Scientific Exchange Programme between Bangladesh and Japan in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy.

Radio Japan Listeners Club

The listeners of Radio Japan in Dhaka recently formed Radio Japan Listeners Club with Masud Mannan and Muhammad Jamaluddin as President and General Secretary respectively, says a press release.

Associates of autocrats still active: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to resist the enemies of democracy and alleged that the associates of the autocratic rulers were active to foil the election by creating anarchy in the country.

She said that the enemies of democracy have created a state of terror in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Faridpur, Madaripur and other places and they want to bring back autocracy. "The people should build up political resistance against them and make the ensuing election free from all obstacles", said Hasina.

The Awami League chief was addressing a gathering of party supporters in front of Bangabandhu Bhawan Monday afternoon. The leaders and workers of different wards committees of Dhaka city Awami League assembled there in a boat processions.

Khaleda begins polls campaign in Sylhet from January 16

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will start her election campaign from Sylhet on January 16, party sources said in Dhaka on Monday, reports UNB.

Her month-long election-campaign for the 5th parliamentary polls, scheduled for February 27, commences with 'Jharat' to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R).

Begum Zia is also scheduled to address a rally in Sylhet where her husband and founder of BNP late President Zia started his election campaign in 1979.

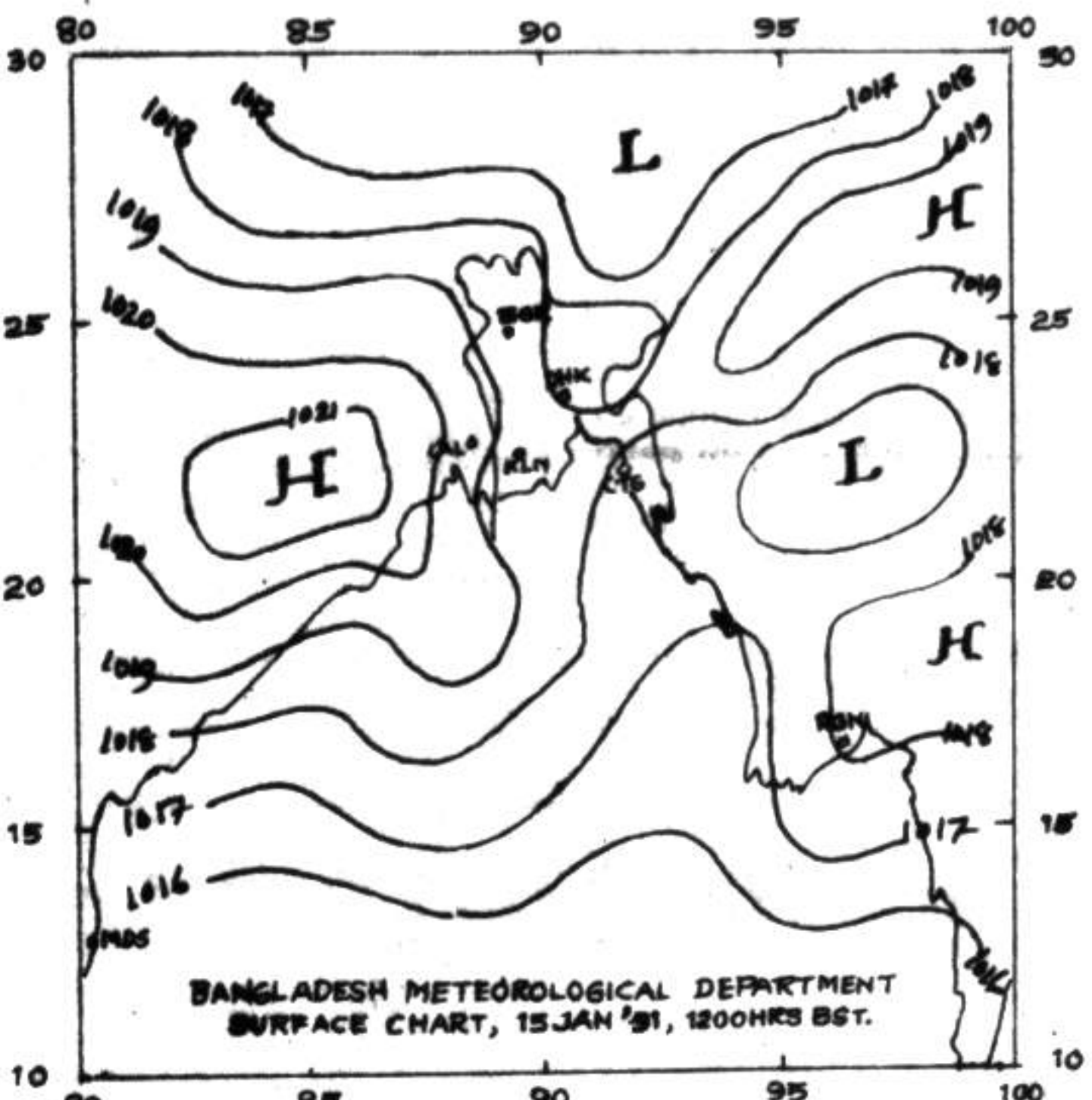
Peace rally

The Peace and Friendship Association Tuesday held a Peace Rally in front of the National Press Club with a view to creating public opinion against war.

The rally was addressed by the General Secretary of the Association Md. Maruf Hossain, Joint Secretary Sheikh Masjur Rahman and Sayed Fazlur Rahman.

The speakers urged the United Nations to help create anti-war opinion throughout the world and demanded of the super powers to take necessary measures for a peaceful solution to the Gulf and Middle East issues.

Earlier the association brought a peace procession in the city.



Temperature to fall further

By Staff Correspondent

The night temperature over Bangladesh will fall further as the moderate cold wave will continue for a few more days, according to the Meteorological Department forecast yesterday.

Dry weather is likely with partly cloudy sky at places till Thursday morning.

The night temperature fell by one to three degree Celsius last night. However, it was one to five degree Celsius above the normal for the time over the country except Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Sylhet, Jessore and Khulna where the temperature was below normal by one to three degree Celsius.

According to Met Office, the night temperature may fall further by one to three degree Celsius by this (Wednesday) morning.

Outlook for subsequent two days: No appreciable change. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. Yesterday, the westerly low lay over northern Bangladesh.

Assam and the neighbouring areas. The seasonal low lay over South Bay extending through to the Arakan coast.

The weather remained dry all over the country. The lowest minimum temperature 7.8 degree Celsius -- was recorded at Dinajpur.

The maximum temperature recorded in Dhaka yesterday was 23 degree Celsius and the minimum was 15 degree Celsius. The relative humidity was 58 per cent in the morning and 60 per cent in the evening.

Temperature recorded in other major cities and towns yesterday.

Cities/Towns	Max	Min
Chattogram	24.4	17.1
Rajshahi	23	9.2
Khulna	23	12.4
Coxilla	NA	14
Sylhet	24.7	10.5
Barisal	24.6	9.5
Comilla	23	9
Jessore	24	10

Minimum temperature recorded in other cities of the region yesterday
Kanchia 07 deg (C)

Here and There

Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) has taken up a programme to help the seriously injured and the families of martyrs of the people's movement of 1990, reports UNB.

The fund for the purpose will be floated after collection of one day's salary from the NGO employees.

This aid programme will be restricted to those who sustained injuries and martyr families on a nationwide basis from October 10 to December 6, 1990, says a press release.

Economics Study Centre

Economics Study Centre of the Department of Economics, Dhaka University Monday organised an open forum for discussion to be participated by political parties on the present economic crisis in the country, reports BSS.

The three-day seminar on the transition from current economic crisis on the basis of economic policy, planning and

programme of parties reflecting their manifesto began in the city with Dr. Moutazuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the department presiding, a press release said.

Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rono (Workers Party) and Mr. Anu Mohammad (Ganatantrik Jote) presented party policy, planning and programme in the economic front. Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed and Mr. Ataur Rahman took part in the discussion, the press release added.

World Muslim Youth Movement

By Staff Correspondent
The World Muslim Youth Movement has demanded unemployment allowance and loan for the employed.

In an eight-point charter of demands issued on Monday, the organisation demanded an exemption of interest on loan exceeding Tk.7,000.

It also demanded making agricultural inputs available to

farmers on easy terms and granting loans at low interest.

Kuwait-Iraq Forum rally

A rally organised by 'Kuwait and Iraq Repatriated Bangladeshi Welfare Forum' will be held in front of National Press Club in Dhaka today (Wednesday) at 11 am, a press release of the forum said, reports BSS.

The former President of National Press Club, Mr. Oias Kamal Chowdhury, the President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Mr. Rezauddin Ahmed and the President of National Press Club, Mr. Mozammel Haq, will address the rally.

Mujaheed

The Mujaheed Bangladesh Organisation has urged the Government not to bring back Bangladeshi soldiers from Saudi Arabia.

At a rally in front of Baitul Mukarram, Deputy Chief Commander of the organisation Md. Moiruddin said, if the soldiers were brought back it would tarnish the image of Bangladesh in the Middle East.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Type of cross
- Tennis strokes
- Hail
- Go astray
- Object of affection
- Blind
- Experimental
- Intricate
- South American animal
- Play attention
- Compass point
- That woman
- Otherwise
- Article
- Goddess of healing
- Marsh bird
- man (strong person)
- DDE

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	A	P	T	H	E	R	G	R	A	B
A	R	A	R	A	M	A	G	R	I	O
S	E	R	I	E	S	H	E	L	P	E
P	A	I	N	S	L	O	O	S	E	
T	E	N	T	A	S	P	S			
B	O	Y	E	R	O	D	E	E	L	K
U	R	A	D	O						
Y	E	S	O	P	E	R	A	T	O	
T	O	P	S							
A	W	A	R	E						
D	E	P	E	N	D					
E	L	L	A							
S	L	E	D							
T	E	N								
E	S	S	E							

DOWN

- Narrate
- Sea in Asia
- Courteous
- Money, in
- Rome
- Poem
- Fuse
- Crafter
- Pupil
- Hindu
- cymbals
- New Deal
- city
- Through
- Eastwood ID
- Coroner, abbr.
- Hasten
- XVII x III
- Wash cycle
- Lampreys
- Pronoun
- Courageous person
- Piece out
- Stitch
- Caymah
- Nod
- Three-toed sloth
- Dark red
- Make certain
- Cuplike spoon
- Ed's concern
- Sun god
- Anglo-Saxon slave
- Lamb's pen
- John
- Pedal digit
- Possess
- River
- Dine

United Feature Syndicate

Aerospace defends ATP viability

British Aerospace has defended the technical viability of the ATP aircraft it sold to Biman saying, the planes are "fully serviceable and ready to fly."

A British Aerospace news release faxed to UNB from London today said the Dec. 28 incident which forced an emergency landing of an ATP plane in Rajshahi "does not warrant any grounding action of ATP aircraft."

Biman has grounded the two ATP aircraft it recently purchased from the British Aerospace after the Rajshahi incident.

An ATP plane, flying from Dhaka to Rajshahi, averted a major disaster on Dec. 28 after the pilot made an emergency landing prompted by a fire in one of the aircraft's engine.

The authorities have also ordered a probe into the incident.

Heartiest Congratulations on the Launching of

The Daily Star

Wishing it all Success

UBICO Dhaka