

Dhaka Day by Day

A gold each for teenagers

by Fayza Haq

When sixteen year old Sayeduzaman (Pinu) heard that he had won a Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial award (a gold medal) he found the news unbelievable. The year before he had won a silver medal at the same competition in New Delhi.

Pinu, who has studied painting for six years, coming twice a week to the Dhaka Central Kuchi Kachar Mea, was sitting at his sister's house in Savar when he got the news.

The young painter has won many awards before like the silver medal from Japan in '85, a US \$50 prize from Bangkok, a certificate for best work from Korea in '85, and the Bangabandhu Parishad in '86, '87 and '88. He has twice been awarded prizes by the Shilpakala Academy. The Bangla Academy has given him four prizes. The Grindley's Bank has used his painting in its calendar last year and this year as well.

"I like to paint natural scenes, mainly of the countryside, in water colour. I portray different aspects of the village in my work. This includes the typical winter scene, a sunset, a village market, a boat race, a traditional fair and country women. My style is realistic and I am not into moderns or symbols as yet," Pinu says about his subjects.

Pinu usually paints from his roof top, or sitting in his verandah. He has an easel, and takes about three hours over each painting. Sometimes he does not work from memory but goes to the actual scenes for inspiration.

Among the people who have encouraged the artist is his aging grandfather. At home he is given money by his family, specially his father, to buy his painting equipments.

The painter, who works on Thursdays and Fridays at the Kuchi Kachar Mea, is egged on and inspired by his teachers Arzurur Rahman and Md. Kamal. "They keep telling me that if I practise hard I will do well. His favourite artists are S.M. Sultan and Zainul Abedin. Pinu is delighted to get free paints and paper from the school where he studies.

The young artist hopes to continue painting and plans to be an architectural engineer. "In

that way I can go on with my hobby. I do not believe I can make a successful living out of being an artist who believes in art for art's sake." His other pastimes are cricket, gardening and listening to pop music. He studies at Government Science College, Farmgate.

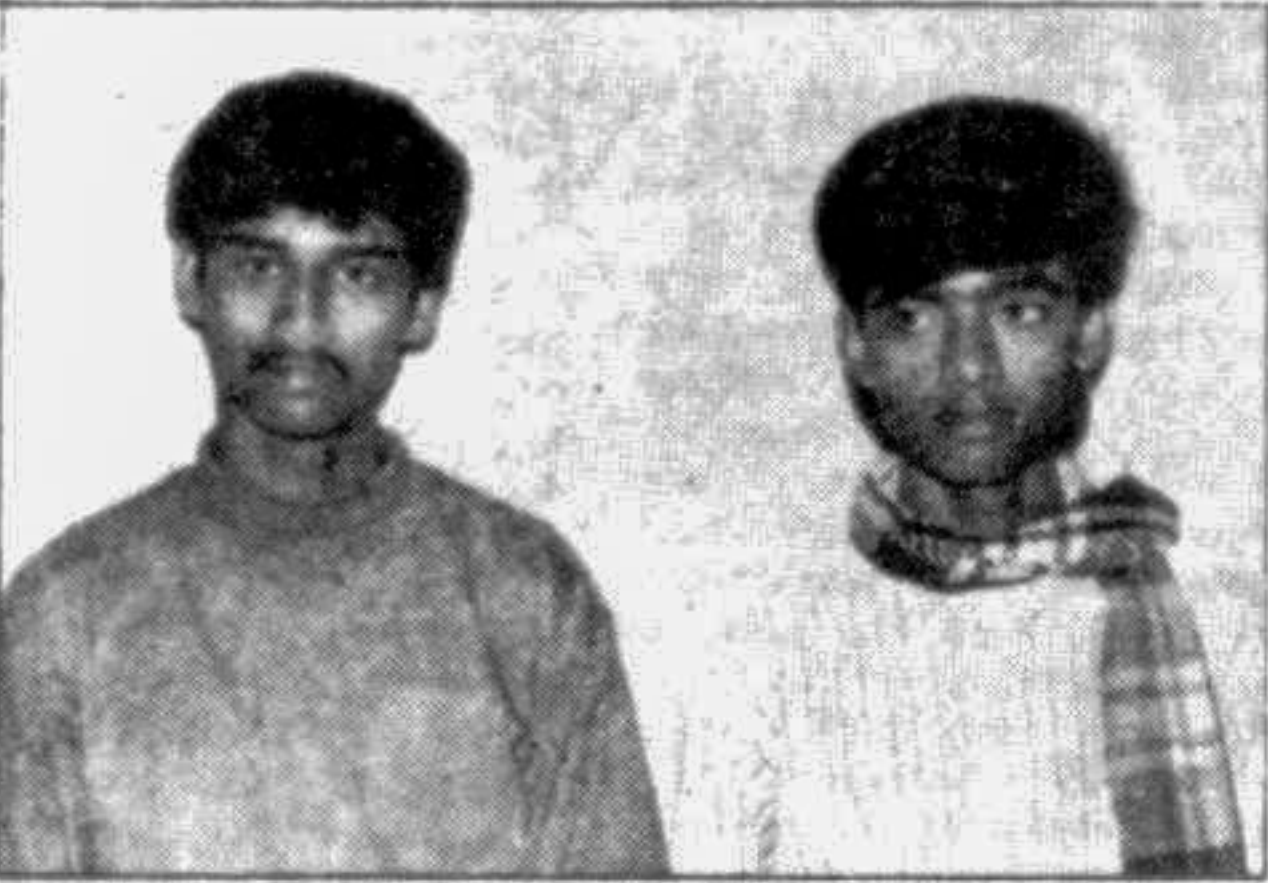
Mohammed Iqbal Hussain is the other teenager who has won a Jawaharlal Nehru gold medal. Iqbal too found it impossible to believe his good luck. It was only when he received his letter of congratulation that he was finally convinced of his success. Everyone at his house was totally delighted with the news of his having done so well.

The young artist who finds canvas and oil too expensive, likes painting jungles, and lonely places where one finds only Nature. He enjoys portraying farmers at work too. Sometimes, if people request,

Iqbal does portraits as well. He loves making Eid cards and Bangla New Year cards.

"When I sit to paint I do not get up till it is finished. It usually takes over an hour to finish a piece," he says about his work.

Although his examinations are close at hand, Iqbal likes to travel and paint. He often goes to nearby villages and also to



The golden boys from Bangladesh

Kamallapur railway station to get themes for his water colours.

Iqbal, who has been studying at the Kuchi Kachar Mea since '86, is greatly moved by the works of Zainul Abedin and Hashim Khan. He plans to study at the Art College after his SSC examinations. He yearns to progress beyond the paper and water colour.

Even the school where he studies is encouraging as it has given him Tk. 3000 to travel to New Delhi to collect his award. He is glad that his family has no objection to his taking up art as his career in life.

Like Pinu, Iqbal has won many awards. He has got "Jatiya Sishu Purushkar" for '88 and '90. He got awards from the Shilpakala Academy and Bangla Academy in '87 he also won the President's award from Motijheel Model High School in '90. He has 35 other local prizes besides these.

President offers Zohr prayer at Ijtima

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Sunday drove to Tongi and offered Zohr prayer along with thousands of devotees who converged at the Bishwa Ejtima site in Tongi on the bank of river Turag from across the country and abroad, reports UNB.

The second biggest muslim congregation began Saturday is being attended by devotees from USA, UK, Canada, France, Australia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Burma and Thailand.

Islamic scholars and the ologians are delivering speeches highlighting different aspects of Islam.

The Ijtima management committee has made elaborate arrangements for the convenience of the devotees. Separate pandals have been erected and restaurants opened for the devotees.

Bangladesh Railways and inter-district passenger carriers have arranged special services to facilitate transportation of devotees to the Ijtima.

A big pandal covering an area of one square mile has been erected to facilitate the devotees to perform the religious rites relating to the Ijtima.

The "Akheri Munajat" will be held in the early hours today (Monday). Amir of the Bishwa Tablig Jamaat Hazrat Moulana Enamul Ehsan will conduct the Munajat.

PROGRAMME

Rokeya memorial lecture

Rokeya Memorial Foundation Lecture will be held today at Rokeya Hall auditorium, Dhaka University. The lecture is a part of the annual programme on Begum Rokeya organised by Rokeya Memorial Foundation, according to press release.

Seminar on military rule

A seminar on "Military Rule in Brazil, 1964-1985: A Critique" will be held at the Social Science Research Centre, Dhaka University, at 3 pm today, says a Press release. The paper will be presented by Ruksana Kabir, Assistant Professor of the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University. Professor Talukdar Moniruzzaman, Professor Nurul Momen, Mohammed Shahiduzzaman, Dr Dalin Chandra Barman and Mr. Sardar Amin will participate in the discussion.

Rose Society

The annual general meeting of Bangladesh National Rose Society will be held on January 24 at Khady Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road in the city, says a press release.

Mohila Parishad confce

The national conference of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will be held on January 24 at the Institution of Engineers and Technology, says a press release.

Hindu Oikya Jote

Mr. Manindra Nath Sarkar, Chairman of the Hindu Oikya Jote, in a statement on Saturday condemned the United States and its allies' sudden bombing on Iraq.

He said the naked aggression of US violated the world peace.

Mr. Sarkar urged the immediate withdrawal of American soldiers from Saudi Arabia for restoration of world peace. He also urged Bangladesh authority to withdraw the contingent of Bangladesh army from Saudi Arabia.

Campaign for peaceful polls begins Jan 24

By Staff Correspondent

Sixteen organisations will begin a three-day programme from January 24 to campaign for holding the elections in a peaceful and impartial manner.

According to a press release, the programme will start with a public rally at Baitul Mukarram at 4 p.m. on the day.

The organisers include Sammilita Sangkritik Jote, All-Party Student Unity, Sammilita Pchajibi Parishad, Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Oikyabadha Nat Samaj, Group

Theatre Federation, Ainjibi Saminnaya Parishad, Bangladesh Medical Association, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association.

A pro-democracy march will start from the National Press Club premises at 9 a.m. January 25. The march towards the Dhaka-Chittagong highway will be participated by people from all walks of life including professionals, teachers, students and cultural activists.

WFP to give Tk 453 cr food assistance

Bangladesh will receive US dollar 127.52 million equivalent to Taka 453 crore as food aid from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) under the two separate agreement signed between the Bangladesh Government and the (WFP) in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

The Additional Secretary of the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance Dr A K M Mashtur Rah-man and the Director of Operations of WFP Mr Gaston Eyben signed the two agreements on behalf of their re-

spective sides. Under the first agreement, the WFP will provide 401,400 tonnes of wheat worth about US dollar 82.70 million equivalent to Taka 294 crore for Food for Work Programme.

Under the second agreement, the WFP will provide

208,038 tonnes of wheat, 1728 tonnes of pulse and 648 tonnes of edible oil worth about US dollar 44.82 million equivalent to Taka 159 crore for Vulnerable Group Development Programme



A BUMPER HARVEST OF GARBAGE—The Dhakaites have a nightmarish experience with garbage, piled up here and there daily. Although the City Corporation has of late stepped its garbage-lifting operation, things remain still in disarray. While the trucks carry tons of garbage late in the morning, spewing its odour to the passers-by, they still refuse to do away with its roots. The Star photo, taken by Enamul Haq on Saturday, shows glaringly how stubborn the trucks are in keeping up the tradition.

Chill a little less in Dhaka

Millions suffer as cold wave persists

By Staff Correspondent

The night temperature over Bangladesh fell further by one to two degree Celsius on Sunday, making the weather colder. The Meteorological Department says the weather was two to six degree Celsius colder than normal.

As a result, millions of Bangladeshis are having a real ordeal as they do not have the purchasing capacity to get old warm clothes, being sold at throw-away prices.

Rajshahi continued to be

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

Cities/towns	temperature in Celsius		humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 a.m.	6 p.m.
Dhaka	22.7	12.7	65	54
Chittagong	25.0	13.7	79	65
Rajshahi	22.2	05.4	72	61
Khulna	24.3	08.2	84	59
Sylhet	23.1	10.0	95	63
Dinajpur	21.2	08.4	70	69
Rangpur	20.6	07.0	82	51
Barisal	24.2	11.3	88	72
Bogra	23.3	07.4	68	58

the coldest as the night temperature fell to 05.4 degree Celsius. Met Office says the cold wave may continue and the temperature over the northern part of the country may fall further.

Met Office has forecast dry weather for 36 hours ending Tuesday morning.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change.

The westerly low on Sunday moved eastwards and lay over eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar plain, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and northern part of

Bangladesh. The seasonal low lay over south Bay.

In Dhaka city, the minimum temperature rose slightly making the weather less chill. The minimum temperature recorded on the day was 12.7 degree Celsius compared to 11 degree Celsius recorded on Saturday. The maximum temperature was 22.7 degree Celsius. The relative humidity was 65 per cent in the morning and 54 per cent in the evening.

Minimum temperature recorded in major cities of the region on Sunday were:

New Delhi	06	degree
Celsius		
Kanchi	10	
Bangkok	24	
Singapore	23	

Arrest Ershad's associates within 3 days: APSU

All-Party Students Unity (APSU) Sunday demanded recovery of unauthorised arms and arrest of close associates of ousted President Ershad within 72 hours, reports BSS.

The APSU, in a memorandum, submitted to the Home Secretary, also demanded the arrest of illegal arms holders, killers of Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon.

Later, APSU leaders held a brief rally in front of the secretariat at noon. It was addressed by Saif Ahmed General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (N-S), Asim Kumar Ukil, General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) and Kamal Hossain, President of Jatiya Chhatra League.

Memorandum submitted

Freedom Party on Saturday submitted a memorandum of five-point demand to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad, asking him to meet it or resign in failure, reports UNB.

The party Saturday brought out a procession which, led by its chairman Colonel (Retd) Syed Farook Rahman and Vice-Chairman Major (Retd) Bazil Huda, marched near President's Secretariat and held a brief rally.

The party leaders later submitted a memorandum addressing the President. Its demands include Radio and TV coverage of all parties including the Freedom Party, repeal of the Special Powers Act of 1974 and dropping of "controversial persons" from President's advisory council.

Addressing the rally, Colonel Farook alleged the caretaker government "has failed to maintain its neutrality" and was serving interests of a "special political quarter".

Workshop on science

The four-day international workshop jointly organised by the Science and Technology Division and European Communities scheduled to begin today at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka city has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

An official handout said in Dhaka on Sunday the new date of the workshop will be announced in due course.

Gulf war dampens election campaign

The outbreak of the war in the Gulf has sparked off intense interest, speculation and worry in the country about the shape of things to come, reports BSS.

Numerous processions have been staged in Dhaka in past two days in favour of Iraqi President Saddam Hussain.

Since the war started, news of the hostilities has taken precedence over domestic politics both in the press and in public debate.

Reports of the war are on everyone's lips as people crowd around radios to keep themselves abreast of the latest developments.

Television is particularly popular because it shows actual scenes of the war, which has so far been dominated by aerial bombardment and launching of missiles without involvement of ground troops.

Reports from outside Dhaka speak of a similar public concern.

Five-party combine

A delegation of the Five-party combine, led by its Convener and BSD chief Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, on Saturday called on the Presidential Adviser on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office and discussed with him the Middle East situation and its effect.

They urged the Foreign Adviser to condemn the US attack on Iraq and bring back the Bangladesh soldiers now in

Saudi Arabia. They also requested him to look into the security of the Bangladesh nationals living in the Middle East.

According to a party press release, the Five-party combine will hold demonstration on January 22, demanding cessation of the Gulf war and withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Gulf and bringing back the Bangladesh soldiers.

Concern over Gulf war

Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Bangladesh on Sunday expressed its concern over the outbreak of the Gulf war, reports BSS.

In a joint statement to the press in Dhaka, Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, President, Mr. Khondakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Justice Abdul Malek, Vice-President and Barrister K.S. Nabi, Secretary-General of the Institute, condemned the invasion and annexation of sovereign state of Kuwait by Iraq.

For the sake of the world peace, the leaders of the Institute appealed to the United Nations for immediate convening of an international conference to resolve the Gulf crisis and the establishment of a sovereign Palestine State.

In Dhaka, thousands of devotees at Baitul Mukarram national Mosque prayed for an immediate halt to war and restoration of peace in the Gulf.

Mujaheed Bahini

Supreme Commander of Bangladesh Mujaheed Bahini Major (Retd.) M. Afsaruddin on Saturday urged the government to bring back the Bangladesh army from Saudi Arabia. It was a decision of former autocratic President Ershad without the consent of the people, speakers in the rally said.

They condemned the attack on Iraq and said this was the outcome of a big conspiracy.

The rally was followed by a protest march.

Kuwait Society

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Kuwait repatriates Bangladesh Society has called upon the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to halt the Gulf war by withdrawing his troops from Kuwait.

The organisation's President, Mohammad Ramzan Ali Bhuiyan, and Vice-President, Sayeed Lutfar Hossain, in a statement on Saturday blamed Saddam Hussein for creating the ground for war in the region by invading Kuwait on August 2.

About 70,000 Bangladeshi repatriates from Kuwait have become unemployed in the wake of war in the Gulf.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Zoo animal
 - Samarium symbol
 - Armed band
 - Musical composition
 - Burles
 - At home
 - Choir voice
 - Wild buffalo of India
 - Fuss
 - Dolphinlike cetacean
 - Twice: prefix
 - Punishment
 - Conjunction
 - Fiber plant
 - Sow
 - Hebrew letter
 - Negative prefix
 - Algonquian Indian
 - Musical: as written
 - Diphthong

Answer to Previous Puzzle

APT PI STOAT
DEALER LOADED
OR ATELIER NE
IF SNAG SENT
LORE ECHO TIE
EDEMA ETTE SR
TIME SIDED
MA ROTE CITED
ANA SERG TOLL
GIGS SORE NU
TM POISONS DI
CANADA STOLEN
LITIN SE OIS

- DOWN**
- 4 Bear mug
 - 5 Food from heaven
 - 6 Baseballers from Pittsburgh
 - 7 P. ---, M. L.
 - 8 Pierce
 - 9 European inch
 - 10 Sea eagle
 - 12 Near
 - 14 Anton ID
 - 17 Lubricates
 - 20 Choose
 - 24 Comfort
 - 25 Still
 - 27 Semi-precious stone
 - 28 Fume
 - 29 Leaning tower city
 - 30 Metal
 - 32 Sunrise
 - 36 High card
 - 37 Cary Grant/Audrey Hepburn film
 - 42 Spoken
 - 44 Mature
 - 46 Railroad station
 - 48 Ceremonies
 - 49 Mental images
 - 51 Apportion
 - 54 Merriment
 - 55 Microbe
 - 56 U. ---, S. ---, Q.
 - 57 Three-toed sloth
 - 58 "Unsolved Mysteries" host: initials
 - 62 Teutonic deity
 - 64 Lupino ID



The seminar on theatre journals in Asia: Cooperation through communication, organised by the Bangladesh Chapter of the International Theatre Institute in Dhaka concluded on Friday. Foreign delegates are seen taking part in the deliberations. —Star photo

হজে যেতে আগ্রহীদের জন্য সুখবর



বাংলাদেশের অন্যতম প্রধান বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক
রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড দেশব্যাপী সকল শাখার
মাধ্যমে হজের টাকা জমা নিচ্ছে।

রূপালী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখায় হজের টাকা
জমা দিয়ে আপনার পবিত্র হজ পালনে আমাদের
সেবা করার সুযোগ দিন।

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

উত্তম সেবার নিশ্চয়তা