

Dhaka Day by Day

'Each Place Has its Own Charm'

by Fayza Haq

Mr Toshio Saiki, the new Japanese ambassador is here in Bangladesh for two months only, but he has fully felt the pulse of the country. "I saw how people were dashed by the cyclone, and yet they immediately started reconstructing their life after the disaster. The people of Bangladesh do not give in to despair. They go on struggling," Mr Toshio commented with sincerity and with grave intensity.

Mr Toshio was in Zambia before he came to Dhaka. He has been posted before, in his career as a diplomat for 33 years, in places like Europe, Canada, S. Arabia and S. Africa. He commented about these places, "Each place had its own charm." But it was apparent that he liked his eight years stay in Germany best of all, as he knew the German language and admired German culture and history.

The ambassador said jokingly that he had entered the profession almost accidentally. He was studying German history of the nineteenth century when he decided that he was not cut out to be a professor. He then joined the diplomatic service. "My knowledge of German helped me," he recounted.

"After three years in Africa I am glad to be back in Asia," Mr Toshio confided. He said that he felt very much at home in Bangladesh is just not a part of the Indian Subcontinent. It is an integral part of South Asia and has many elements in common with places like Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The people of Bangladesh are softer and gentler than people in other parts of the Subcontinent," he believed.

"You have the rice culture behind you as in Japan and the rest of South East Asia. The people of the rice culture always persevere. They accept what happens to them. They will go along with nature. That is the source of their resilience," he commented.

On the second day of his arrival he went for a cultural evening. He admired the music and dancing there. "There was no remarkable common element between the art and music of Japan and Bangladesh, as far as my first impressions went. But yet our roots are the same as we belong to the Asian culture. We are bound to have something in common," he said.

"We Asians are emotional and sentimental. The people from the west have their emotion too, but their feelings are of a different type." The envoy said that he was looking forward to the enjoying of the cultural life of Bangladesh but right now he was up to his ears with relief work for the cyclone affected people.

Talking about long term economic aid to Bangladesh, he said, "We want to help Bangladesh consolidate its infrastructure in transport, energy, and production of fertilizers. We

are also cooperating in the field of agriculture and irrigation. We have donated the Meghna bridge. In the same way we will start with the Gomti bridge connecting Dhaka and Chittagong."

What about the prospects of employing Bangladeshis in Japan? "We have certain shortage of labour in limited sectors in small and middle sized industries. But we are a homogenous nation. We are worried about possible friction between foreign workers and our people. If we open the door to Bangladesh, we have to do the same to the Chinese and other Asians. We don't want a surplus population to pour in. The best solution would be promotion of Japanese investment so that Bangladeshis are employed in Bangladesh by Japanese enterprises. That way everyone would be happy," he replied.

As regards the Japan Overseas Corporation Volunteers he felt that they were working very hard. "They are young, serious and working on a voluntary basis in a self-imposed mission. I am impressed by their activities," he remarked.

Discussing the Japanese language and the Ikebana school, he felt both were very popular. "Last year alone there were 700 applicants," he said. Mr Toshio also discussed exchange programmes under the Japan Foundation which arranges for the exchange of scholars, artists and scientists.

Dwelling on the recent cyclone the ambassador said, "I was invited to go and see the disaster, and felt a great shock at all that I saw." What was Japan doing to relieve the agony of the cyclone? "Altogether we have given a relief of US \$ 20 million. Of this US \$ 10 is in the form of food aid, and the rest as medicines and emergency materials such as water purifiers."

Mr Toshio has no problem with the Bangladesh cuisine, although at first he was afraid that it might be "hot and sharp." He loves to wear the "punjabi" at home but does not wear it outside for fear of offending anyone. "I understand you wear it on special occasions such as when you go to your mosques," he said. About the Dhaka rickshaws, he said in jest that someone introduced them to Bangladesh from Japan. He is also delighted that "Oshin", the popular TV serial has found such a resonance with the local viewers. "This shows the similarity in traditional mentality," he commented.

Although his family is not with him at the moment — he is expecting his wife to join him in winter — he fills his free time with golf and listening to his favourite Bach and Mozart. He has two grown-up daughters, but they too are back in Japan.



Toshio Saiki: I am glad to be back in Asia.— Star photo

Anniversary of Zia's death tomorrow

The 10th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman will be observed throughout the country on May 30 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) founded by Shaheed Zia and its front organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the day.

The party flag will be hoisted at half-mast at all party offices in the country on the occasion. The programmes of the day will be highlighted by holding of Quran khwani, milad mahfil and discussion.

EUCSU polls likely in July

By BUET Correspondent

The election of Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) is likely to be held in mid July, according to a source.

The source further added that the major partners of the All-Party Students Unity, BUET unit, are planning to contest the EUCSU election separately. The main rivals Bangladesh Nationalist Party backed Jatjatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatjia Samajtantrik Dal backed Bangladesh Chhatra League, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front etc.

PROGRAMME

Rotary Club

Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today (Wednesday) at 5-30 pm at Sonargang Hotel.

Discussion on Shilpachariya

Bangla Academy will organise a discussion to observe the death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin at the academy seminar room today (Wednesday) at 5 pm. Professor Nazrul Islam will present the paper.

Seminar on cyclone

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will organise a seminar on 'cyclone, tidal surge, environmental problems and solutions' at the Engineers' Institution tomorrow (Thursday) at 5 pm. Dr. Aminul Islam, Dean, Science Faculty, Dhaka University, will present key-note paper.

Kamalkali

Kamalkali, juvenile organisation, has taken up day-long programme tomorrow (Thursday) to observe the tenth death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

The organisation will offer fatcha, floral wreath at the mazar of Ziaur Rahman at 9 am and discussion and milad mahfil will be held at Block-C, Road No. 10, House No. 14, Mirpur Section 6 at 1 pm. Health and Family Planning Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf will be the chief guest at the discussion. Lalbagh and Kotwali branch of Kamalkali will arrange a discussion and milad mahfil at Shah Abdul Hamid Kalandar High School after Asr prayer.

'Jainul Abedin brought commoners into canvas'

By Staff Correspondent

Shilpacharya Jainul Abedin's profound understanding and love for the local traditions and culture and his contribution towards enriching the same were recalled by speakers at a seminar held in Dhaka (Tuesday) in observance of his 15th death anniversary.

Organised by the Shilpakala Academy, the seminar was presided over by Professor Kabir Choudhury. Opening the

evening discussion, Kamal Lohani, Director General of the Academy pointed out that Jainul Abedin was the foremost artist to have established a common link between man, earth and nature. He also recalled his contribution towards setting up the Art College in Dhaka.

Addressing the seminar, Shawkat Osman recalled in an emotionally-choked voice his

close association with the artist and described him as a "great personality".

Describing Jainul Abedin as a man who could love and protest in anguish at the same time, Dr Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir said that the artist's work analysed humanity and nature. "He established realism and he was the one who first brought the common people into the canvas," he observed.

TV Wednesday

- 5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Guran
- 5-15 Recitation from the Gecta
- 5-20 News in Bangla
- 5-30 Jatra
- 7-05 Hijal Tomal: Group folk songs
- 7-25 Dance
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Sangbad Parikrama
- 9-00 Film—MacGyver
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Reporting on relief work
- 10-40 Shapdotdinga
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-45 Close Down

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or thundershower with a few moderately heavy falls at places accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions and at a few places over Khulna Division.

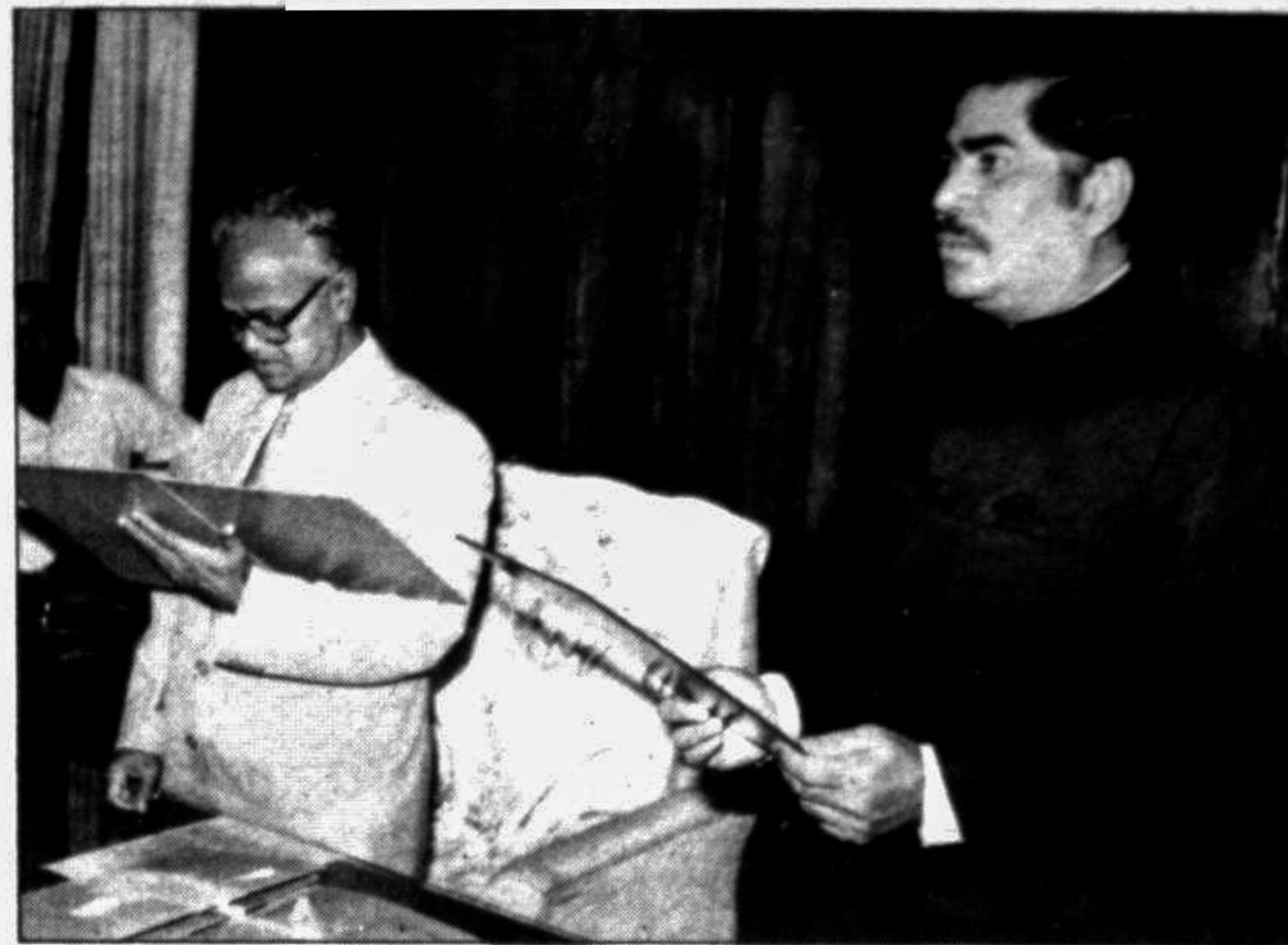
Meanwhile rain or thundershower occurred on Tuesday at most places over Dhaka Division and at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi Divisions. Chief amount of rainfall recorded were Dhaka 10 cm, Chandpur and Patuakhali 3 cm.

Day temperature remained nearly unchanged. The highest temperature of 36 degree Celsius was reported from Satkhira.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change. Sunset on Wednesday: 6.41 pm. Sunrise on Thursday: 5.12 am.

Temperature and humidity of some cities recorded on Tuesday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.2	22	96	92
Chittagong	33.2	26.6	79	69
Rangpur	30.2	25.4	97	86
Sylhet	30	24.5	87	81
Rajshahi	30	25	91	91
Faridpur	30.5	21.5	85	80
Khulna	35	27.6	80	95
Satkhira	36	28.6	72	88



Former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed being administered oath as MP by Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in his Parliament chamber on Tuesday. Story on Page 1 — Star Photo

2 per cent Bangladesh's population diabetics

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Tuesday appealed to all sections of society to follow the example of selfless dedication of service to the humanity set up by the great personality, late Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim, who founded the massive diabetic centre, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the "Diabetic Awareness Day" organised by the Bangladesh Diabetic Society at BIRDEM auditorium in Dhaka, the Acting President paid tributes to Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, who he said, had set up a unique example of service to the suffering humanity.

Presided over by Alamgir M A Kabir, former Presidential Adviser and President of the Society, the function was addressed by Prof. Wahiduddin Ahmed, and Syed Mohammad Ali, Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General of the society.

Justice Shahabuddin said he personally did not attend such functions. But he said it was due to his deep respects to the immortal memory of Prof. Ibrahim that he had finally consented to come over here today.

In this context, the Acting

President extended his whole-hearted cooperation to the institution and urged the concerned authorities to keep watch so that the standard to service set up by Prof. Ibrahim was not downgraded.

He said the organisation, which was founded by Prof. Ibrahim with only a handful of patients, has now about a lakh registered patients. The BIRDEM has also become an associate organisation of the World Health Organisation since 1982, he pointed out. He also wished expansion of its physical facilities and standard.

Metric system week from June 8 in Rajshahi Div

RAJSHAHI, May 28: The fifth metric system implementation week '91 will be observed from June 8-14 all over Rajshahi Division with a view to ensuring accurate weight and measurement, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution of Rajshahi Division chalked out an intensive programme to introduce metric system in every nook and corner of the division.

Describing the hospital as the "Tajmahal" of late Prof. Ibrahim's service to the humanity, Alamgir Kabir said the organisation is promise bound to maintain its standard.

Explaining the significance of the day's observance, he said creating awareness among the people about the disease was one of the main objectives of the function. In this context, he sought full cooperation of the media.

Prof. Wahiduddin Ahmed said the society has been observing February 28 every year as the "Diabetic Awareness Day" to create greater awareness among the people about the disease. But he said this year it was deferred to May 28 due to unavoidable reasons.

Prof. Wahiduddin quoted a survey as saying about 2 per cent people of Bangladesh have been suffering from diabetes while only 92,000 get treatment in the Dhaka-based main hospital and about 35,000 in the society's 21 branch hospitals across the country.

Earlier, the Acting President distributed certificates among eight diabetic patients who had set up a unique example of discipline and punctuality.

Friendship Assoc team to visit China

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh-China Friendship Association has decided to send a seven-member delegation to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Overseas Friendship Association of China.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association at Gulshan with Sarwar Alam MP, Vice President of the Association in the chair.

The Meeting also decided to hold Biennial Conference of the Association soon.



Tender Notice

Description of Work: Electrification work from Shibnagar to Peerpur village under Chatak upzila (ADP). **Eligibility of Contractors:** Legal A, B, C class enlisted electrical contractors of Power Development Board. **Valid A, B, C licence must be shown before purchasing Tender Schedule.** Estimated Cost: Tk 2,83,404/50. Cost of Tender Schedule: Tk. 200/-. **Place of Availability of Tender and Date:** Chief Engineer, Central Zone, Power Development Board, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer, Sylhet Electric Supply Circle, PDB, Sylhet/Agrani Bank, Zinda Bazar Branch, Sylhet and subject to the approval of the undersigned up to 18-06-91. Date of receiving and opening: Upto 12-30 PM on 19-06-91 and same day at 1 PM.

Executive Engineer Distribution, PDB Sylhet

Bid/Jan.—1389(3)90-91 DFP (BA)—4308-25/5 G—158

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Pile
- 5 Bill of fare
- 9 Condensed moisture
- 12 Above
- 13 "The..." (Peck/Remick film)
- 14 Period of time
- 15 Sandy waste
- 17 Irving ID
- 18 Sn in its symbol
- 19 Act
- 21 Cornered
- 23 Silver
- 27 Pronoun
- 28 Choose
- 29 Perch
- 31 Hindu cymbals
- 34 Hebrew letter
- 35 Tiresome
- 38 Maiden loved by Zeus

DOWN

- 1 Brick-carrying device
- 2 Night before
- 3 Defeated by
- 4 Forecast
- 5 Choral composition
- 6 Printer's measure
- 7 Teachers' org.
- 8 Single item
- 9 Hate
- 10 One of HOMES
- 11 Staff
- 16 Leased
- 20 Outlines; schemes
- 22 Urch ID
- 23 Clan
- 24 Entreaty
- 25 — Mans
- 26 — de Janeiro
- 30 "The Time"
- 32 Assistant
- 33 Defeat
- 36 Owing
- 37 The Four —
- 40 "The Six Million — Man"
- 43 Teutonic deity
- 45 Iron symbol
- 47 — Bowl
- 48 Spurt forth
- 49 Mixture
- 50 Break suddenly
- 54 Moham—medan leader
- 56 Coriend
- 57 Guido's high note
- 58 Soak, as flax
- 61 Chaldean city

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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The next step was to send out applications for the research fellowship. And believe me it took some doing. Hunting for addresses. Electric-typing each application. Photocopying all the certificates. And stamps, stamps, stamps. Posted each envelope personally. Settled down to a long wait. The postman became Man of the Year. But every evening found an empty mailbox. Until a moment ago. "It's Harvard, no less!" I think I deserve a Gold Leaf now.

If you don't deserve it, who does?

GOLD LEAF

Rich • Smooth • Rewarding

সর্ববিধ স্বাস্থ্যকর : মৃদুপান যাচের জন্য স্বাক্ষরিত