

THE WEEK THAT WA

Death anniversary of Surya Sen:

The day of hanging of the great revolutionist and front-line soldier of Anti-British Movement, Master Da Surya Sen was observed in the port city on January 12.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations arranged different programmes including discussion meetings on the occasion.

The speakers at the meetings called upon people from all strata of life to be imbued with the spirit of Master Da and come forward to help build a violence-free and prosperous Bangladesh.

Muktijoddha Shilpi Samonnaya Parishad held a discussion at its office. With the Parishad Co-chairman Golam Mostafa Kanchon in the chair renowned social scientist Dr. Anupam Sen, Parishad Secretary General Sheikh Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury, Prokash Sheel, Rajib Barua Tipu, Tapan Das, Tarun Chakrabarty, Susmita Sarker, Moni Nasrin Akter, Susmita Barua and Bikash Roy spoke in the meeting

The Parishad also placed wreaths at the portrait of Master Da Surja Sen on JM Sen Hall premises

The co-fighter of Master Da Surya Sen and elderly revolutionist Benod Bihari Chowdhury addressed a discussion organised by Chhatra Front Cto City unit. In his speech Benod Bihari said lesson and spirit of Master Da's life can help the right prevail over the wrong.

BSD leader Razekuzzaman Ratan, Fakhruddin Kabir Atique and Panna Das also took part in the discussion with Sanjoy Ghosh in the chair. Workers' Party, Chittagong District Committee also organised a discussion meeting with the committee secretary Comrade Nasir Uddin Nasu in the chair and placed wreaths at the monument of Master Da.

CCC meeting with engineers:

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) engineers exchanged views with the local development authorities here on Sunday. They reviewed the progress of different projects undertaken for the development of the port city.

The meeting with CCC mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the chair stressed the launching of coordinated activities to solve the problems of the city. The speakers also underscored the need for formation of experts committee in some fields and committees comprising public representa-

tives and local people to supervise the progress of different projects. The meeting urged for more sincerity among the engineers to maintain quality and standard in every construction works. The meeting discussed work policies, proposed foreign financed projects, renovation and excavation of Chaktai canal and other canals and construction of alternative roads to ease the traffic congestion of the city.

Friendship Society formed: Bangladesh-

Iran Friendship Society was formed here with Dr. Abul Kashem of Bengali department of Chittagong University and Syed Amzad Hossain as its president and general secretary respectively.

The Society was formed at the consent of Shahabuddin Darayi, the cultural counsellor of Iranian Embassy in Dhaka and at the proposal of Prof Dr. Monjur Morshed Mahmood, chairman of Sufism Research and Human-welfare Centre.

In the proposal it was said that there were similarities between culture, civilisation and tradition of Iran and Bangladesh. The formation of such a society would strengthen and improve the friendly

ties and relationship between the peoples of the two countries.



A festival of engineers

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The recently concluded three-day convention. sixth in all in Chittagono since the independence, had evoked exuberant enthusiasm among the members of Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) across the country.

The convention venue -- IEB Chittagong centre -- had virtually turned into a festive place where more than 2500 engineers from

home and abroad gathered, met

each other, exchanged pleasantries and views on different issues. It was

like a big reunion of engineers.

three-day august occasion.

important issues

tions.

and prosperous Bangladesh. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid attended the closing ceremony of the convention as chief guest instead of Leader of the Oppostion in Parliament Sheikh Hasina. He. however, read out a written statement of Sheikh Hasina who could not be present at the convention due to fever.

Memorial lectures: One of the features of this year's convention

and Prof Dr. Iqbal Mahmud key speaker at the MA Rashid memorial ecture. IUT Vice Chancellor Prof M Anwar Hossain presided this lecture styled 'Code of ethics and professional conduct for engineers: Some inter-country comparisons. President of Engineers Institution of Sri Lanka Dr. Ratnayeke also spoke

at the lecture. The topic of Dr. FR Khan memorial lecture was 'Earthquake and the imminent disaster.' Noted engineer,



Deputy Leader of the opposition in parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid speaks at the closing ceremony of the 47th convention of engineers.

Prof Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury chaired the lecture that was attended, among others, by Dr. Iqbal Mahmud as chief guest and Prof M Azadur Rahman the key

Seminar: A national seminar on "Globalisation a Challenge for the Developing Countries: Bangladesh Perspective" was held on the closing day. The main idea for selecting this theme was to bring this burning issue before the engineering community, increase the awareness thereby to develop the professional attitude and academic qualification to face the challenge of globalisation that is now knocking at the door.

After discussion at length on various topics, the participants made some recommendations. The recommendations are:

1) Globalisation is putting construcapproaches from all quarters are

the same time, earnest efforts should be made to develop and use coal resources particularly for the production of power and to reserve and conserve gas as much as possible.

3) Reform is a continuous process while the power sector is a capital intensive one. Hence, the reform agenda should be based on the country needs and recognise the economic reality of the country. The domestic views should be merged and consolidated with views of the devel

The great mezban fiesta of Ctg

MOHIT UL ALAM

Mezban', a Persian word, means the host. But in Chittagong the word commonly refers to a great beef fiesta held to celebrate an occasion in the Muslim community. The major occasion for the mezban is, of course, the 12th day of Rabiul Awaal to observe the birth and death anniversary of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Chittagong Muslim families, however, do not lack in occasions to hold the mezban fiesta. Death of every kind, in fact, calls for a mezban. Death of a father, or of a mother, or of a child, or of a close relative is ritualised by a mezban, provided the family of the deceased is capable of spending. A mezban is also organised to celebrate the success of a child in the family, or to mark the birth of a son after the parents are blessed with a few daughters, or to announce somebody's moving to his own new house. Mezbans are also held on the occasion of an inaugural of the branch of a bank or the foundation of a prep school or starting a daily PHOTO: STAR newspaper. A mezban in Chittagong takes place, so to say, at the drop of a hat.

> the traditional hospitality of the Chittagonians. You may feel shy of going to a marriage feast, if you're not invited there. But there's no tarrying in mezban. You can always join a mezban dinner -- invited or uninvited. The host may forget to invite you, but it is your solemn duty to go to a mezban if you just hear about it. As they express in the typical Chittagonian humorous way that you can forget to invite me, but how can I forget to invite myself! That is the reason why an average mezban in Chittagong always prepares food for a few hundred more extra guests than are actually invited

Mezban is very much a status symbol, mind you. Rich families try to outshine one another in holding a mezban. The family whose mezban is attended by a greater number of quests and a better set of VIPs naturally wins. This family has

proved that it has more money. Mezban is absolutely a onenenu dinner. It's beef and beef and more beef. Such beefy affair needs to be beefed up by a beefy discussion so that nobody can beef about saying that I didn't put enough beef nto this beefy matter. An average mezban in

Chittagong at a rich man's house is prepared for three to four thousand people. An average bull chosen for sacrifice at a mezban provides about 120 kg of meat, which can be consumed by around six hundred beefeaters. So a rich host has to slaughter as many as five to six bulls to feed his guests. If the cows cost him around one lakh taka, then he will need another one lakh for rice

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia giving away certificates among the engineers for outstanding achievements at the inaugural ceremony of the 47th convention of engineers. was the arrangement of six memorial lectures initiated as a mark of honour and respect to some late and distinguished engineers of the country.

PHOTO: STAR

Delegates and dignitaries from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and On January 4, the day before the convention began, Engineer Nepal truly added extra grace to this Quamruzzaman memorial lecture The convention from 5th to 7th of was held while on the first day of the convention (January 5) four lectures were organised. These were: January was marked with the formal inauguration by none other than the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, six Engineer MA Jabbar memorial lecture. Engineer Md Shahiahan memorial lectures in respect of some deceased but wellknown memorial lecture, Engineer Dr. MA engineering personalities who had Rashid memorial lecture and also been the former members of Shaheed (martyred) Engineers IEB and a day-long seminar featur-ing some 12 papers on several memorial lecture. Dr. Engineer FR Khan memorial lecture was held on the second day (January 6).

Nurul Karim, honorary secretary Water Resources Minister LK of IEB Chittagong centre, was found Siddiqui was present as chief guest charged with emotion to some and Prof Dr. M Anwarul Azim the key extent while talking to The Daily Star about the convention. "The convenspeaker at the Jabbar memoria ecture. President of World tion held in Chittagong after 8 long Federation of Engineers' Organisation (WFEO) Prof Jose years has generated great deal of Medem Sanjuan chaired this lecture festivity and aspirations among the titled 'The Route to Global engineering community. It also gave us tremendous opportunity to place Engineer.' IEB president Quamrul Islam Siddique, honorary secretary our position, problems and desire before the prime minister and her Md Nurul Huda and Engr. Md government and at the same time Monwar Hossain also spoke in the lecture. draw her attention to our expecta-

The topic of Md Shahjahan memorial lecture was 'Globalisation of higher education: Bangladesh perspective.' Presided over by M Anwarul Azim, the lecture was attended, among others, by Minister for Forests and Environment

Shahjahan Siraj as chief guest and

Engr. Syed Muzaffar Ali from

Pakistan as special quest. Prof Dr.

M Anwar Hossain, Vice-chancellor

BRAC University Vice-chancellor

speake

tion industries of developing countries like Bangladesh in severe competition and pressure. Hence a balanced development of industry together with an efficient technology transfer is essential. More professional essential for building a sustainable construction industry.

2) During the present era of globalisation, the Bangladesh economy has been liberalised and opened for foreign direct investment. Though it was done to reap benefits of physical higher competition efficiency, there are risks along with rising debt service payments especially in the energy sector. To this end, the interest of people of this generation and future ones of Bangladesh should be protected. People need to maximise every unit of gas resources and link it to develop other productive areas. At

opment partners. 4) Water sector in Bangladesh should be taken care with judgement to ensure access to local poor people. To resolve the conflict on international rivers, all the countries that share the water sheds should have an integral plan for the best possible utilisation of water resources. Efforts are needed to increase trust among co riparian countries and sign agreements on the basis of rational analysis of scare resources with due recognition to the interest of the downstream countries sharing the water shed.

5) Already in some areas of Bangladesh, ground water mining has been observed. To overcome the situation, crop diversification is essential for better water management and

to achieve better irrigation efficiency. 6) The strategies for improving literacy, learning opportunities and infrastructure should be explored to take the best possible advantage of information revolution and the great wave of technology.

7) The increase of the use of less polluting and environment friendly modes of transport together with efficient traffic management system is essential for a sustainable transport sector 8) Innovative technology, govern-

ment commitment, considerable resources, trained local personnel are essential for achieving a sustainable and effective road safety programmes

mous quantity of beef, rice is added as an adjunct. This is not fine rice, but the locally produced plain rice, which smells of the raw sack in which it was bought, but which definitely increases your appetite. Plus, the scent of the cooked beef

and spices as well as for the cook

Now, to help devour this enor-

and the decorator.

goes far away into the neighbourhood hitting the nostrils of men and dogs alike. Beef at a mezban is served in three different preparations. The meaty part of the thigh of the bull is cut into small pieces and then collected in a big pan and then cooked hot with very thick gravy. This is the tastiest part of the mezban menu. The gravy-soaked soft fibrous pieces of flesh do get kneaded with the hot white rice so well that when one sends the first morsel of food into his mouth, one realises why mezban is so popular a feast. The second serving is the beef mixed with lentils. For some eaters, this is a superior menu too. But the real beefeaters resent this menu because of its corruption with lentils. The third preparation is the soup of the hock and knee bones ('nala' in Mezban is a very strong part of Chittagonian dialect). The soup is thick and ochre-coloured, and the shinbones are dunked into them

This dish actually is not served at every table, but at the tables where more selective guests are entertained. The marrow-bones are long emptied of their marrow because the first batch of guests may have sucked it off and returned the emptied bones back to the bowls, so their repeat visits to the table are just for the sake of formality, which the guests of the subsequent batches know verv well, and is known by the

host too. But no embarrassment! The mezban culture of Chittagong has become known all over the country now. The Chattagram Samity at Dhaka holds the annual mezban in which they invite all the VIPs of Dhaka. In Chittagong also, we've got many non-Chittagonian friends and colleagues who never want to miss a

mezban And, some crazy mezban lovers throw their cautions about blood pressure, diabetes, heart ailment and cholesterol to the wind, as they gleefully partake of the mezban feast. Some pious people think that since mezban is a sacrificial feast it does no bodily harm, and some weaklings think that the mezban beef triggers off their manly power. Toeing this theme, an eater at a mezban was bragging to his friends at the table that he would 'eat it' very successfully that night. His young child was also eating with him at the same table. Listening to his father, the young boy suddenly cried out in joy saying that he would also eat it. The Chittagong cooks who pre SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Women Entrepreneurs (WE), Chittagong organised a press conference at a local hotel in the city recently. WE Chittagong president Monowara Hakim Ali speaks at the conference.

HQ to be brought Rly

back:Communication Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat said the headquarter of Bangladesh Railway would be shifted to Chittagong again. After the joining of Bangladesh Railway with Trans Asian Railway, Chittagong would be the nucleus of railway activities as per the need of time and necessity, he added.

While inaugurating the renovation work of old Railway Station Building nere on Thursday he said the construction work of Chittagong-Ghundum rail trucks via Cox's Bazar would start soon. Initiative has been taken for construction of Chittagong-Luksham- Dhaka line while the government was actively thinking of bringing Chittagong Hill Tracks under railway network through renovation and extension of Nazirhut line, he said.

He said to pave the way for joining Bangladesh Railway with international railway, Dhaka-Chittagong rail tracks would be made double and electric train would be introduced in this section. Syed Rezaul Hayat said a recommendation would be forwarded to the government to set up of a railway museum soon. He underscored the need for preserving railway land and directed to continue the ongoing eviction drive to recover railway lands under illegal occupants.

The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by Director General of Bangladesh Railway AKM Rezaul Karim, Director of Grameen Phone Justin Morok, Yeahia Mokarram and high railway officials and the Forum for Planned Chittagong leader Engr. ABMA Baset.

New body of Ctg Press Club takes

OVEL: The newly elected executive committee of Chittagong Press Club for the year 2003-2004 took over the charge here on January 11. A joint meeting of the outgoing and new coming was held at the club office with the outgoing president Akhter Un Nabi in the chair. In the meeting the outgoing general secretary Faruq lqbal informed the newly office bearers of the latest position of all the movable and immovable property of the club. The newly elected president Abu Sufian, immediate past senior vice-president Mostaq Ahmad, new senior Vice-president Ali Abbas, Vicepresident AZM Haider, General Secretary Kalim Sarwar, Joint Secretary Rashed Rauf, and Treasurer Nawsher Ali Khan also spoke in the meeting.

Bring dynamism in port activities:

Food Minister and Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal president Abdullah Al Noman called for united efforts for maintaining development and productivity to bring in more dynamism in the activities of Chittagong port

The food minister, also the Joint Secretary General of BNP made this call while addressing a workers rally on Bondor Dock Workers' Management Board booking office premises here on Friday. Chittagong Dock Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (CBA) organised the rally demanding implementation of several points including security to the dock workers' service, introduction of incentive scheme, enlisting the fired 30 sweeping workers in the board. Noman underscored the need for building the workers and farmers more efficient and strong for a prosperous country. He called upon the authority concerned to accept the demands after discussion with CBA leaders

reap great amount of ard and knowledge about global scenario for our member engineers."

The IEB secretary said, "The six

memorial lectures graced with the participation of delegates from

home and abroad had obviously

matched to the international stan-

Opening and closing ceremony: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugu-PHOTO: STAF rated the convention at a colourful function on the IEB Chittagong centre premises in the morning on January 5. In her speech she urged the engineers to help build a better

of Islamic University of Technology (IUT), spoke at the lecture as the main speaker.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman was present as chief guest

Formal leadership education is essential to have better understanding of leadership situations. New critical decisions and values, innovative ideas and appropriate imperatives concerning proper scope of organisational techno-economic activities are urgently needed.

CGVC to be made university

ABDULLAH AL-MAHMUD

Chittagong Veterinary College would be upgraded to a university soon for further promotion of veterinary education.

The government is determined to develop the agriculture and livestock sectors for building a healthy economic structure in the country. Various programmes have already been taken to this end where small entrepreneurs and veterinary colleges can play a significant role.

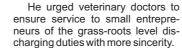
The ministers said this while they were addressing the three-day commencement ceremony of the 2001-2002 academic year of Chittagong Government Veterinary

College (CGVC) recently. They also talked about different initiatives and measures taken by the government in this regard.

The ceremony was held on the CGVC premises at Pahartoli in Chittagong.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman in his address as chief guest at the concluding session of the ceremony on January 4 said the college would be upgraded to a university soon.

The food minister called upon the private sectors including small entrepreneurs for making the already taken massive programmes for the development of livestock sector in the country a success.



Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Fisheries and Livestock Minister and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka also addressed the ceremony as chief guests on the second and inaugural day respectively Chittagong veterinary college

started its journey with only two class-rooms, five laboratories and an office room on the premises of Government Poultry Firm at Pahartoli in 1996 to see a laudable development in the last seven

PHOTO: STAR



years. It has developed in both size and academic activities with the government allocation of Tk. 19 crore 44 lakh during this period.

At present the college has a fourstorey building, eleven laboratories including five classrooms, office and computer laboratory. It also has a 280-seat male dormitory and a female dormitory with 50 seats. Besides, there are residential quarters for the teachers, officials and employees, a hospital with surgery and gynae units and satellites clinical centre. The college library has a rich collection of 4907 books as against the initial figure of 50

only Principal Dr. Nitish Chandra Debnath said the college confers graduation level DVM (Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine) certificate to the successful students after completion of a four-year course in semester system and one-year interne-ship.

The college conducts activities of 22 disciplines through its nine academic departments. It imparts education on basic veterinary and practical knowledge of animal production. The students are taught through tutorial system side by side with the regular classes, the principal said

When asked about their reaction to the assurance of turning the college into a university, Assistant Professor Paritosh Kumar Bishwash said, 'we are happy with the announcement'

"It is interesting that the demand for turning the college into university was raised from the well-wishers of the college and those of Chittagong," he added

In this regard he said, it had to cross many hurdles of land dispute SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

PHOTO: MONIRUL ALAM

Random selling of guest birds at different markets in Rangamati town is a common feature in the winter. The picture was taken from the Rangamati town centre of Banarupa.

Chittagong Government Veterinary College at Pahartoli.