

Dhaka Day by Day

Sentimental Return

By Sabir Mustafa

It was a supreme, tragic coincidence that the day Dr. M. N. Huda died last Sunday, Samar Ranjan Sen was visiting Dhaka only for the second time since he left his native city for Calcutta way back in 1948.

Dr. Huda was one of Samar Sen's very first students of economics at the University of Dhaka. That was in the early 1940s, and S. R. Sen had just become Dhaka University's first ever doctorate of economics. Huda the pupil went on to become one of Bangladesh's most prominent economists, while the master enriched India's world of economics, politics, philosophy and administration.

Samar Sen came to Dhaka last week to attend the 41st anniversary celebrations of the Gandaria Mahila Samity, founded by his mother Ashalata Sen in 1950.

Ashalata Sen herself was an exceptional personality, having been a member of Bengal's and later East Pakistan legislative assembly from 1946 to 1955, representing Gandaria. For the next 10 years she devoted herself to social work, which included donating her family home to the Montia Rahman High School in Gandaria.

At 76, S. R. Sen still possesses a stunning memory and clarity of thought that is progressive in the best sense of the term.

During a recent conversation at the residence of Professor Abdur Razzak, one of his many illustrious colleagues from his Dhaka University days, Samar Sen sailed effortlessly through the vast expanse of past history and present conflicts, of collapsing empires and rising states.

But the collapse of empires does not mean the process of change is characterised only by a desire to break-up old associations.

"At the same time, there is another tendency and that is to unite, like the move towards federalism in Europe, the closer economic and political cooperation among countries of South-East Asia, and South Asia. What is going to emerge from this tug-of-war of two trends pulling in opposite directions is difficult to predict, because there are now, unlike the old days when nationalism was the one basic factor, so many forces at work," Sen said.

Samar Sen, regards the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as essentially a Bangladeshi achievement.

"It was Bangladesh and in particular Ziaur Rahman who proposed SAARC first. This is a major contribution of Bangladesh and people should remember it," S. R. Sen, who was one of the three members of a committee set up by the late Indira Gandhi to study and recom-

mend ways to reform the political structure of India, and in particular the relations between the States and the centre, said.

At the personal level, the changes in the fortunes of Dhaka University could not but make Samar Sen nostalgic as, he admitted, memories of youth always look sweet in old age. But Sen's appreciation of Dhaka University of yesteryears is based more on observation than more emotions.

"I have travelled through 75 countries and studied at some of the finest places in the world. But the Dhaka University of the 1920s and 1930s was undoubtedly one of the best in the world. The first vice chancellor, Sir Phillip Hartog, brought in some of the finest teachers from other parts of India and also England, introduced the residential halls system, built-up excellent teacher-student relations and maintained a superb and peaceful atmosphere. It was a wonderful university," he recalled.

Samar Sen was in England at the time of India's partition, and resumed his work as a teacher on his return. Although he avoided politics, his popularity with students, coupled with his mother's prominent role in parliament made him an object of official suspicion.

Dr Mahmud Hassan, the vice chancellor, advised and persuaded Sen to leave Dhaka to avoid trouble with the police.

On June 4, 1948, Samar Sen boarded the steamer Kiwi at Narayanganj ghat to leave his homeland and mother behind. On the first class deck, he met Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy.

The great political leader was being deported to Calcutta the same day because he had spoken out against Muhammad Ali Jinnah's statement that Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan. As far as the authorities were concerned, Suhrawardy too was engaging in anti-Pakistan activities.

Twenty-three years later, Samar Sen had another chance to serve the land of his birth.

During Bangladesh's war of Liberation in 1971, Dr. S. R. Sen, then an Indian Executive Director at the World Bank, provided invaluable advice and assistance to many Bengalees living and working in Washington.

Following liberation, Dr. Sen served as Bangladesh's representative at the Bank for six years till 1978, with A. M. A. Muhi, Matul Islam and M. Syeduzzaman serving as Alternate Directors under him.

Back at Gulshan, December 22, 1991, Prof Razzak brought the sad news of M. N. Huda's passing. Samar Sen looked as if one of his own relatives had just passed away.



Samar Ranjan Sen

Christian team meets President

A 16-member delegation of Bangladesh Christian Association called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Tuesday morning, reports BSS.

Led by its President Luis A. Costa, the delegation greeted the President on the occasion of the Christmas Day today (Wednesday) and presented a X-mas cake to him.

Exchanging views with the Christian delegation, President Biswas said Bangladesh would always uphold the tradition of its religious harmony and peaceful co-existence among all religious communities.

He said the Constitution of the country has guaranteed equal rights and privileges to all citizens and the Christian community was also enjoying it.

He said an elected government has been installed in the country which was putting all out endeavours to ensure peaceful development activities for achieving prosperity.

He urged the community members to extend their full cooperation to the government in achieving a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

Later, the President marked the beginning of the X-mas day celebrations by cutting a Christmas cake.

Dhaka zoo plans to produce cross-bred animal

A new variety of animal 'Tigon' with the crossbreeding of a tiger and a lioness is expected to be produced in the Dhaka zoo next year, zoo officials said, reports BSS.

According to the officials, one cub of a Royal Bengal Tiger and another of an Indian lion have been allowed to 'live together' since they were born in the zoo about 14 months back.

They are growing up normally in the same cage and their growth rate is satisfactory, zoo officials said.

Both the tiger and the lioness are near to attain puberty and the lioness is likely to conceive next year, they said adding that the gestation period of this species is 130 days.

The officials, however, said tigon is nothing new as this cross-bred animal was produced in different zoos across the globe including the Calcutta zoo.



Shailla second among girls

Shailla Shafi stands sixth in the combined merit list and second among the girls in the HSC (Commerce) Examination from University Women's Federation College, Dhaka, says a press release.

She obtains 791 marks with two letters. Shailla is the daughter of Dr M. Shafi, Professor of Zoology, University of Dhaka.

Wednesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Reading from the Gorta
- 5.30 Campus
- 6.00 Samachar
- 6.30 Sports programme: Highlights of 2nd day's SAF Games
- 7.05 Hijaal Tonal
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Sangbad Parikrama
- 9.00 Film show: MacGyver
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Special programme on X-mas Day
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Thursday's Programme
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Drizzle to continue

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or drizzle will continue over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and the regions of Comilla, Noakhali and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday, Met office forecast.

Night temperature may fall by one to two degree Celsius during the period, it also said.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Tuesday were:

	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	22.7	20.1	89	90
Chittagong	27.4	18.5	80	
Khulna	26.9	19.0	87	91
Rajshahi	23.6	16.1	96	
Dinajpur	23.4	11.0	89	89
Mymensingh	-	17.6	96	
Srimangal	26.2	15.0	89	92
Cox's Bazar	27.2	17.4	68	82
Barisal	25.4	18.4	97	89



President Abdur Rahman Biswas cutting the X-mas cake at the Bangabhaban on Tuesday. —Star photo

'X-mas spirit can establish peace'

The Archbishop of Dhaka, Michael Rozario, on Tuesday said love of humanity - the real message of the Christmas Day - can establish peace in society, reports BSS.

The holy X-Mas Day with the message of love and peace comes and passes every year, but, it is a matter of question this year also: To what extent we have fulfilled its message, he said in a message on the eve of the X-Mas Day.

The Archbishop said this year's X-Mas Day was of special significance in Bangladesh which saw the transition to democracy through neutral parliamentary elections and the devastating storm and tidal surge of April 29 which killed thousands of people and destroyed huge wealth.

He said it was a very unfortunate event for the whole

world, but the international assistance had stood beside the people of the country for the distressed millions during that time.

"It is a good instance of love for humanity," he said adding that it was the religious responsibility of all of us to extend our helping hands to those in distress either for natural calamities or other reasons. "This is also the call of the Almighty creator to help others in distress," he said.

The Archbishop recalled with pride the birth of Jesus Christ about 2000 years ago and said he descended to the earth in a poor condition with the message of peace to rid the mankind from sin.

Rozario wished peace and love for all in Bangladesh and other countries of the world.

Extension work on Panthapath uncertain

Serious land disputes and alleged wrong measurement have brought uncertainty in completion of the extension work on Panthapath, reports UNB.

The 3,300-foot-long and 80-foot-wide track, connecting Green Road with Mirpur Road, was scheduled to be completed by the end of next January, RAJUK sources said.

Surveyors have committed gross mistakes in the demarcation of the road, local residents complained. "We have been willfully wronged by underhand dealing," said one of those affected by the mis-measurement.

Re-survey was conducted on Tuesday following disputes, but its results failed to set the pillars of original line for the road.

Fresh land acquisition will reportedly cost the government an additional amount of Tk 80 lakh.

District Kanongo Mohammad Hanif admitted the faults in previous surveys: "There's deviation found today."

Assistant Director (Land) of RAJUK Lutfur Rahman, also present on the site, could not give any convincing result of Tuesday's survey conducted at the appeal by affected residents of the area.

Informed sources said the

linkroad was originally planned to be constructed over khas land and the nearby canal which could not be done for unknown reasons.

The plan of the road has been changed since the first one in 1989.

Sheraton to celebrate Christmas

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel has chalked out a special programme in celebration of the X-Mas Day and the New Year's Day, reports BSS.

On Christmas Day, Father Christmas will offer gifts among children at the Bithika Restaurant. The lobby will be decorated with Christmas Tree and Ginger Bread House tastefully.

Besides, Christmas Gala Buffet Lunch will be served at the Bithika Restaurant and the Vintage Room, a Sheraton press release said.

On the eve of the new year, Gala Buffet dinner and a special Gala dinner will be served at the Bithika Restaurant and the Vintage Room respectively, the press release said.

MN Huda's qulkhwani today

The qulkhwani of renowned Economist and former Finance Minister Dr. M. N. Huda will be held today (Wednesday) at his residence after Asr prayer, reports BSS.

All his friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani at House No 57, Road No 6 (A) Dhanmandi R/A (opposite to the southern part of Idgah mosque) by his family members.

Death condoled

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafez expressed profound shock at the sad demise of eminent economist and former Vice President Dr M N Huda, reports UNB.

Kholiquzzaman

President of Bangladesh Society of Economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad also condoled the death of Dr Huda. The Bangladesh Society of Economists also expressed sympathy for the members of the deceased family.

Economics Dept Alumni

The executive committee of the Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association expressed its profound sorrows at the sad demise of its illustrious member and reputed economist Professor M N Huda.

Birthday Greetings

To our loving Grand Dad Happy Birthday From Mehreen & Maisha

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact: Advertisement Manager Phone: 246023-4, 863035

Announcement

Change of Name of the Company

It is notified for information of all concerned that as per special resolution of the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Company dated 9th March, 1991, the name of the Company is changed from Pragati General Insurance Company Limited to PRAGATI INSURANCE LIMITED and this will be effective immediately on receipt of the approval of the Government.



PRAGATI GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
90-91, Motijheel C.A., Uttara Bank Bhaban
(9th & 10th Floor), Dhaka-1000.

Govt. of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Noakhali

Memo. No. C-430/

Short Notice Inviting Tenders (2nd Call) On Emergency Cyclone Damage Restoration Works

Please find Annexure-1 Tender Notice for Contracts for Emergency Cyclone Damage Restoration Works under Second Flood Damage Restoration Project for Chittagong Zone, under Noakhali Road Division.

Eligibility of Bidder :-

- Category of Enlistment: RHD, enlisted contractors category A, B, General.
- Type of work completed: Bituminous pavement work.
- Total work value last five years: Tk. 100 Lacs — Category A & B.
- Previous minimum single contract package: Tk. 20 lacs.
- Period of experience: Minimum 5 years in RHD, Bituminous pavement works up to and including 01.12.90.
- Sale of Tender: 16th December, 1991 during office hours.
- Last date of Tender sales: 28th December, 1991.
- Submission of Tender: 29th December, 1991 12-00 hours.
- Opening of Tender: 29th December, 1991, 12-45 hours.
- Tenders to be received by:
 - Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Ctg. Zone, Ctg.
 - Superintending Engineer (RHD), Chittagong Roads Circle, Ctg.
 - Superintending Engineer (RHD), Project Control Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
 - Executive Engineer (RHD), Noakhali Road Divn.
- Executive Engineer (RHD), Chittagong/Cox's Bazar/Noakhali/Planning and Programming Divn., Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
- Cost of Tender Documents: Tk. 200.00 (Two hundred) Per Contract Package non refundable and Tk. 25.00 (Twenty five) only for BD Form No. 291.
- Contract Packages: As in List.

Road Division	Contract No.	Name of Road	Estimated cost (in Taka)	Earnest money	Eligibility of bidder RHD enlisted	Type of work completed previous experience	Total work value last 5 years Tk.	Time of completion (days)	Date of submission
Noakhali	CYC/NK-18/1	Sonapur-steamarghal	68,99,868/00	1,37,997/36	A.B.G.L.	Any road works under RHD	100.00	120	29-12-91

DFF (G) 15615-19/12
G-1123

Md. Shahidul Haq
Executive Engineer, RHD,
Road Division, Noakhali.

What's on today

Seminar on democracy

A seminar on the problems of democracy and its solution will be held today (Wednesday) at 10 am at the office of the 'Ananya Sangkritik Andolan' at Tejgunipara.

The seminar jointly organised by the Bangladesh Jatiya Sahitya Sangsad and Nazrul Jatiya Sangkritik Academy on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Victory Day will be attended by Dr. Ashraf Siddiqi, Chairman, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) as chief guest and by Advocate Nurul Haq Majumdar, poet Nahid Roksana, banker Jinat Ara as the special guests.

Tenashinas medal '91

The prize distribution ceremony of the Television Natya Shipi O Natakak Sangsad (Tenashinas) will be held today (Wednesday) at 6 pm at the Guide House auditorium at Baily road.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, Minister for Information will attend the function as chief guest and Information Secretary Nuruddin Al Masud will attend the function as the special guest.

The function will be addressed, among others by Fatuzz Razzak, Director of the Bangladesh Television, Mustafizur Rahman, General Manager of BTV and Ziaul Huda Uzzal General Secretary of the Tenashinas with Syed Hasan Imam in the chair.

Loko Natya Dal

Loko Natya Dal, a drama group has organised a function today (Wednesday) at 4 pm at the Ball Room of Hotel Sonargon to accord reception to the actors and drama workers of the group.

Chattagram Samity Reunion

The Chattagram Samity in Dhaka has organised a reunion of the inhabitants of Chittagong in Dhaka today (Wednesday) at 10 am at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

Bangladesh Art Film Culture

The inaugural function of the three-day seminar on film will be held today (Wednesday) at 10 am at the German Cultural Centre under the auspices of the Bangladesh Art Film Culture.

Computer Society election

The election of the executive body of the Bangladesh Computer Society will be held today (Wednesday) at the civil building of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Voting will start at 9 am and continue upto 1 pm.

Bangladesh Chhatra Samity

A four-day programme of Bangladesh Chhatra Samity on the occasion of its 15th founding anniversary will begin today (Wednesday) at its central office premise.

The programmes include discussion, seminar, cultural function and colourful rally.

. . . . and tomorrow

Bangladesh Junior Chamber

Inaugural function of the 20th national convention of Bangladesh Junior Chamber will be held tomorrow (Thursday) at 10 am at the Hotel Sheraton.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the function as chief guest while Mirza Abbas, Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation will be present as the special guest.

Rainbow Film Society

Rainbow Film Society will celebrate its 14th founding anniversary tomorrow (Thursday) through organising a rally, film show and a prize giving ceremony at the German Cultural Centre at Dhanmandi.

Diploma Engineers Assoc

The two-day conference of the Diploma Engineers Association of the Water and Power Development Board will begin tomorrow (Thursday) at 9 am at the Wapda auditorium. Energy and Mineral Resource Minister Dr. Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain will attend the function as chief guest and State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharraf Hossain Sajahan as the special guest.