

## 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 Monija 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-



Samar Ranjan Sen

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 Hosen 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. Muhith, Matiul 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.

## Arrest of Faruq's killers demanded

First death anniversary of student leader Faruquzzaman Faruq was observed in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Faruq, a student leader of Chhatra Mohit of Chittagong University unit, was killed in a clash between All Party Student Unity (APSU) and Islami Chhatri Shibir on this day last year.

To observe the day, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) placed wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday morning.

It also organised a rally which was addressed by Chhatra Mohit President Nur Ahmed Bakul and Chhatra League (N-S) General Secretary Shahi Ahmed.

They strongly criticised the government for not taking any action to arrest the terrorists and killers of Faruq.

The student leaders demanded immediate arrest and trial of all killers.

Leaders called upon the student community to rally round under the banner of progressive student groups to resist the fanatic religious traders.

BUET winter vacation begins Dec 28

By DU Correspondent

The seven-day winter vacation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), will begin December 28.

All Departments and offices will remain open during the vacation.

The university will open on January 4, 1992.

## 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 that time.

He said an elected government has been installed in the country which was putting all our 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 "Tiglon" 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 Tiglon is nothing new as this cross-bred animal was produced in different zoos across the globe including the Calcutta zoo.

Shaila second among girls

Shaila 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. Shaila is the daughter of Dr. M. Shafi, Professor of Zoology, University of Dhaka.

Assistant Director (Land) of RAJUK Luisar 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



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.

"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 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.

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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.

Only painting paper would be provided to the contestants who should carry with them other necessary materials on the day, a Mela press release said.

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 mismeasurement.

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 Kanongi Mohammad Hanif admitted the faults in previous surveys: "There's deviation found to-day."

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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 three 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 qulhwani today

The qulhwani 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 qulhwani at House No 57, Road No 6 (A) Dhanmandi R/A (opposite to the southern part of Idiagh mosque) by his family members.

## Death condoled

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Haqif 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.

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