

Past of Ctg holds

FROM PAGE 1
held from March 30 to April 10.

Referring to the fighting spirit and role of the people of Chittagong people in the anti-British movement, pre-liberation movement and the Liberation War, the speakers at the closing day yesterday hoped that the land would inspire the whole country towards economic development.

They claimed that Chittagong Port was one of the ancient sea ports in the world with 2,000 years of history behind it and hoped that it would continue to play a vital role in trade and commerce in the region for many more years ahead.

The second and last day of the conference was featured in three sessions -- 'Pre-history and Pre-mediaeval Chittagong', 'Mediaeval Chittagong' and 'Chittagong in the Colonial and Bangladesh Period'.

A total of 11 keynote papers were presented at the sessions.

Later, a cultural programme, including a group recitation 'Joy Nipirito Manusher Joy' by Abrity Sangathan, solo recitations and songs were performed in tribute to National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

In the first session, Prof Jayanta Sinha Roy, assistant professor of archaeological department of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Suchandra Ghosh, associate professor, Ancient Indian History and Culture, Calcutta University, Shariful Islam, assistant keeper of Bangladesh National Museum, and Prof Dr Shahnaz Husne Jahan, Department of General Education, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh presented their papers. Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury, supernumerary professor, Dhaka University, chaired the session.

The four papers focused on 'Prospects of Pre-historic Archaeological Research in the Hilly Regions of Chittagong', 'Agrarian Economy of Samatata and Harikela', 'Early Deva Kings of Harikela' and 'Trade and Technology of the Early Mariners of Chittagong'.

Prof Suchandra Ghosh in her paper mentioned that the history of the two adjoining sub-regions, Samata and Harikela, also known as trans-Meghna region, is always known for a host of similarities.

But later, separate identity of Harikela was found with more sources like land-grant charters or copper plates, coins and Chinese traveller's accounts, she said.

This region was so rich in early mediaeval Bengal because of a very strong monetary and agro-based economy and a riverine port town in Samatata and a sea port in Harikela.

Prof Ghosh also mentioned both the private and the royal ownership of land in the locality during the era of the Dev kings in the 9th and 10th centuries.

Dr Shahnaz, while presenting her paper, claimed that the history of Chittagong Port is of around 2,000 years and the existence of such an ancient and yet alive and active port is

BNP refutes

FROM PAGE 1
Court that the ISI had funded the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's campaign for the polls in 1991. Daily Mail Online reported the ex-ISI chief's court statement.

Fakhrul was addressing a programme arranged in the capital by Jatiyatatabadi Swachhsebok Dal on the first death anniversary of BNP leader Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

The acting secretary general said, "We want to state categorically that our party never takes anyone's money to contest elections. Rather, there are allegations that it's you [ruling Awami League] who take money and other favours from foreigners."

"You are alleged to have taken money from Pakistan in 1996 to help pro-Pakistanis."

Fakhrul alleged that the government had been using Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, the state-owned

news agency, to spread propaganda. The BNP would soon make a formal protest against it.

Speaking at the programme, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque said, "If we join parliament, the ruling party has got to be cordial."

The BNP may discontinue attending the session if the treasury bench's behaviour towards the opposition spoils the environment of the House.

On March 3, the UAE-based daily Khaleej Times reported that Air Marshal Asghar Khan, former commander-in-chief of Pakistan Air Force and veteran politician, in a petition filed with the Pakistani apex court said the ISI had paid Rs 50 million to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia ahead of the 1991 elections, which the party won.

They families then contacted the Chunarughat UNO, who arranged for negotiations with the victim's family through the UNO of Tongibari.

The Chunarughat UNO took the representatives of the convicts to Munshiganj. Tongibari UNO Md Rafiqul Islam and Vetta UP Chairman Shawkat Ali Khan were present during the negotiations.

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