

Dhaka Day by Day

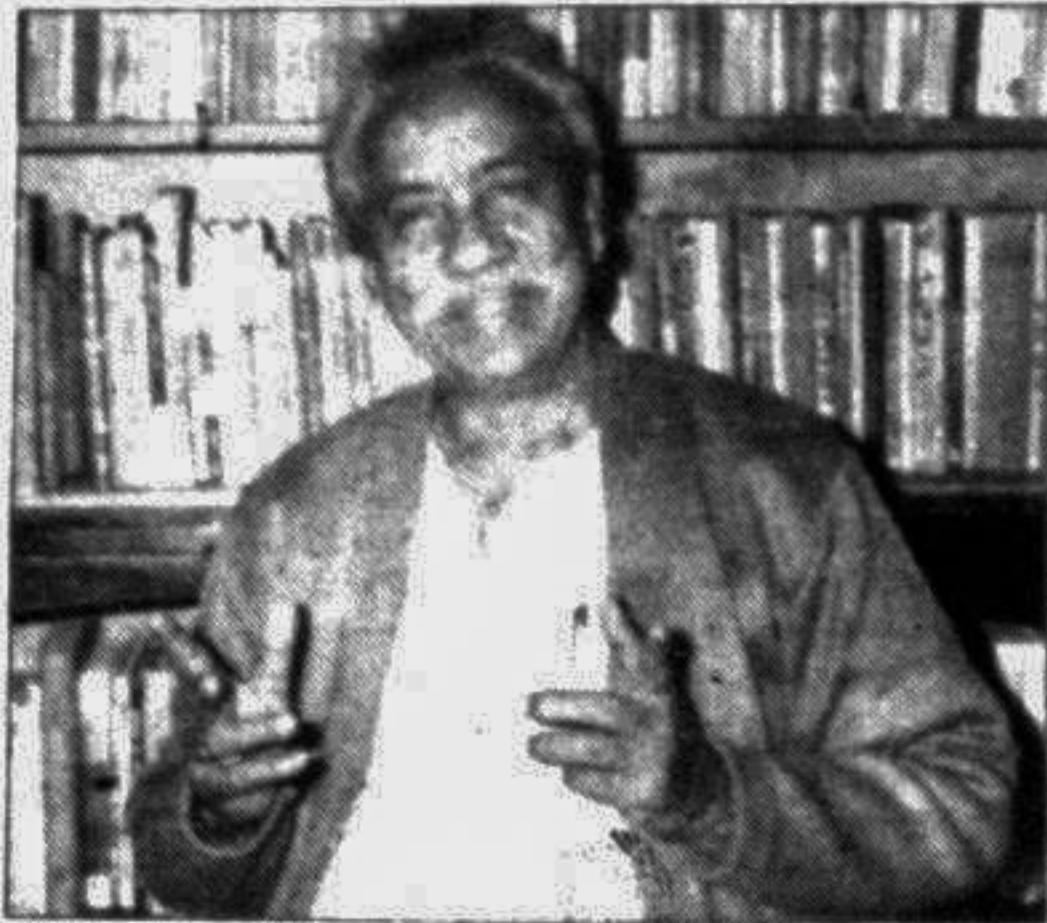


Ekushey Special

'Movement' that Moved Millions

Interviewed by Rahat Fahmida and Written by Ifikhar Ahmed Chowdhury

"On February 13th 1952, my friend Golam Mahboob and I were returning from Narayanganj after campaigning for the rights of language. On our way home we came across a blind beggar. My friend Mahboob hurled a challenge at me saying if I could convince that beggar to provide us some funds (only what he can afford) for the language movement, I readily accepted the mammoth challenge. I spoke to him about our demand of 'Rashtra Bhasa'; after a while, being fully convinced of our rights, he offered us some money to keep the movement going. So deep-rooted was the people's involvement in the language movement," Gazdul Haq, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court since 1957 and a "very active proponent of the language movement, was sharing his memories of the bygone days during an interview with The Daily Star.



Mr Haq recalled that at first the demand for Bangla as the state language was not as forceful as it later became. After Mohammad Ali Khan Jinnah's speech at Race Course Maidan, where he declared, only Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan, the simple proposal of placing Bangla alongside Urdu and English gradually transformed into a spontaneous demand to have Bangla as the state language. He recalled that in the Constituent Assembly in 1948, politicians of this region proposed that Bangla should be allowed, side by side with Urdu and English, as an official medium of correspondence. But it was the only time such a proposal was made. After this the situation rapidly deteriorated and the demand for Bangla as a state language of

Pakistan became more strengthened. The advocate said that the "Bangla-Urdu Duiyee Chat" slogan did not exist. "Rashtra Bhasa Bangla Chat" was the slogan. This seemed to be the process through which the demand grew into movement and the movement leaped from its childhood to maturity.

As a political activist of the time Gazdul Haq advocated the freedom of the political prisoners, like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with other students and politicians of the time, were held captive. Students who were inclined to politics and even politically conscious, non-involved students, participated in demonstrating against Pakistani oppression and the centrally appointed provincial rulers of the time. Mr Haq emphasised that, anyone who was a part of the movement was taken into captivity. Even having the look of a student, was an

excuse for a visit to the jail. Talking to Gazdul Haq, it was clear, that the situation killed the spirit of the revolutionaries every day and night, without warning. And in that awful uncertainty they lived as close as men could be, and wondered when they would achieve their goal. They knew too well whom and for what they were fighting against.

Corrigendum : In this column of our February 16 issue there was an inadvertent mistake in the sentence quoting Kalim Sharafi, "you can observe Ekushey with reference". This should be — "You can observe Ekushey WITHOUT reference". The mistake is regretted.

Correction — K. G. Mustafa

Due to an error, K. G. Mustafa's recollection of events at the office of The Daily Sangbad on the night of February 21, 1952 were unfortunately misreported in Dhaka Day by Day of Feb. 18, 1992. Mr. Mustafa has written in to explain in greater detail what took place at Sangbad:

"On the night of February 21, I went to Sangbad at around 9.30 pm. The News Editor, Syed Nuruddin said to me that the Editor, Khairul Kabir, had asked him to print only the official version of the movement. The News Editor also suggested to me that the Union of Journalists should give a call for strike to stop the publication of the government version.

"I disagreed with him. Other Union leaders who were available also agreed with me. So, the proposal for strike was turned down.

"From February 22, I stopped going to Sangbad as I had to work full-time along with other Communist Party underground leaders for the success of the movement."

K. G. Mustafa would also like to point out that the Editor of the Azad at the time was Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, and Sirajuddin Hossain was the News Editor. The two men refused to print the government version of the movement, and printed their staff reporters stories which reported the movement boldly and accurately, under banner headlines.

Special radio programme on Ekushey

In observance of the Shaheed Day today Friday Radio Bangladesh has made arrangements to broadcast special programmes in a continuous transmission from 6.30 a.m. to 11.30 pm, reports BSS.

Milon Murder Case Two more witnesses declared hostile

By Staff Correspondent Two more witnesses in the trial of Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder were declared hostile in the court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Wednesday.

The witnesses were Al-Kaiser Tiklu, a former worker of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) led student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League and Sheikh M Nazrul Islam, a businessman.

Both the witnesses said that they were not eye-witnesses of the murder and did not see anybody killing Dr. Milon.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Razzak Ali and the defence lawyers Ramzan Ali and Amad Hossain cross examined the witnesses. The judge, M. Ismail Mia, adjourned the court till 11 am, February 20.

JCD sweeps Rajshahi Medical College polls

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) won 12 seats out of 17 in Rajshahi Medical College Students Union (RUMECU) election held here on February 18, reports UNB.

S M Baki Billah and M A Kamal of JCD were elected the Vice President and Secretary of RUMECU respectively.

Chhatra Oikya Parishad (COP), an alliance of seven left leaning student organisations won three secretarial posts.

JCD and COP won equal points for Assistant Sports and Assistant Women's Secretary posts.

Awami League backed Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir failed to win any post.

Obituary

Raushan Ara Begum, wife of renowned gynecologist Dr. Nurul Islam died in of a massive heart attack at her Green Road residence in the city early Wednesday, family sources said. She was 63, reports BSS.

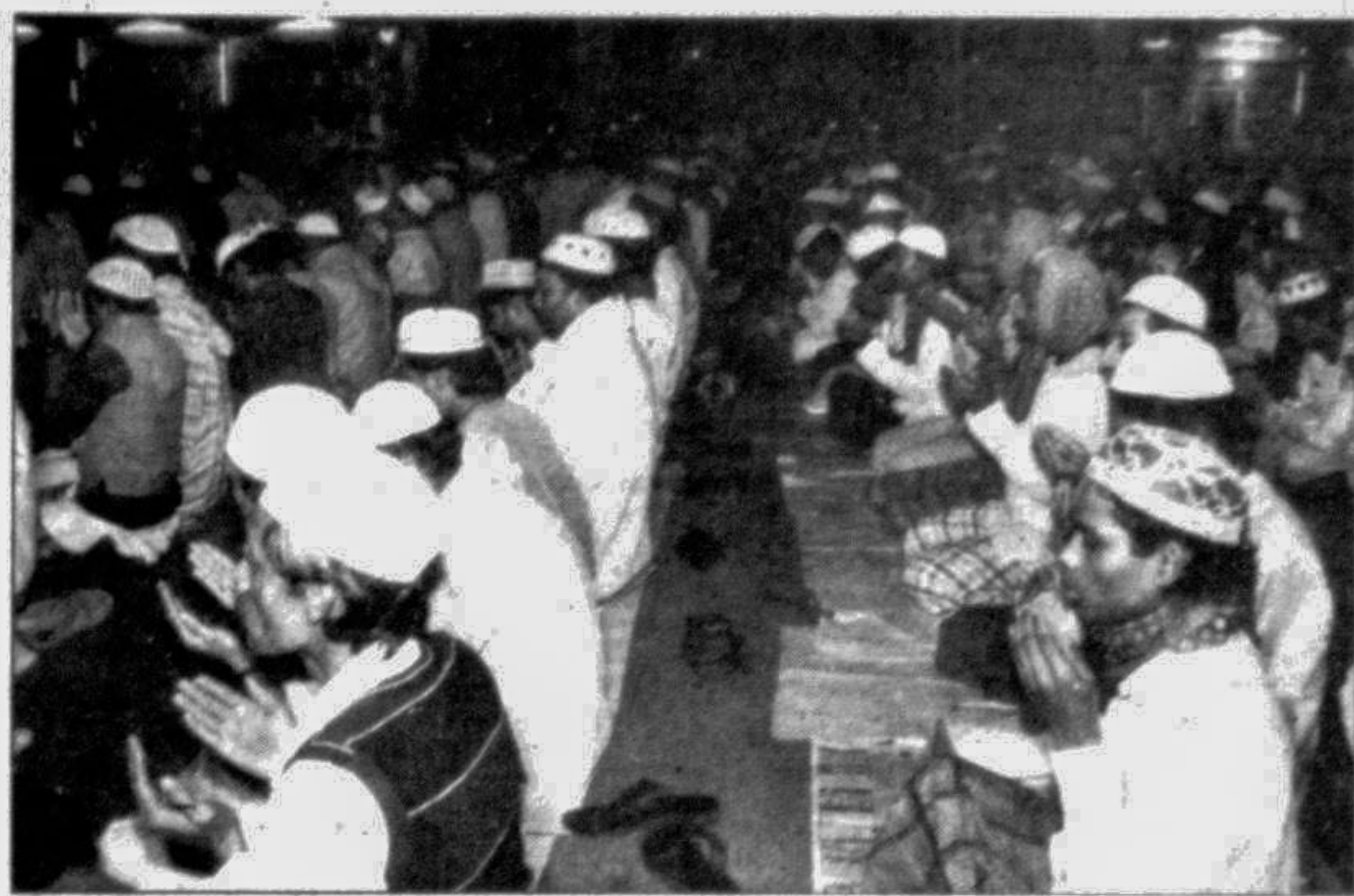
Pry teachers to be paid from revenue budget

The central leaders of Bangladesh Government Primary School Teachers Association had a meeting with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Eunus Khan at the Ministry of Education Wednesday afternoon, reports BSS.

The matters relating to introduction of separate scale for assistant head masters, re-organisation of welfare trust for primary school teachers, absorption of teachers from development heads to revenue heads and payment of house building loan for the primary school teachers came up for discussion in the meeting.

The Education Minister assured the leaders that the teachers, who are being paid from development heads, will be paid from revenue budget of the government and that the other demands will be fulfilled in course of time.

Chief adviser of the association Abu Abbas, convener of the association Suzzaman, joint-convener Mahfuzul Haq Bhuiyan and Abdul Awal Talukder were present.



Special munajat seeking divine blessings was offered at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque on the night of holy Shab-e-Barat.

Youth rally depicting life of old city dwellers soon

A delegation of old city dwellers called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Wednesday, reports BSS.

They discussed with the President preservation of tradition and heritage of old Dhaka.

The delegation also apprised the President that a youth rally will be organised soon in the city depicting the traditional life of the old city dwellers.

While talking to them, President Biswas said the tradition should be preserved properly so that the posterity could be acquitted with the past.

He said civilization and history of the country enriched through evaluation and the contribution of those who played significant role in creating these glorious tradition

must be evaluated. Earlier, juvenile writer Ali Imam presented the President of his publications.

Among others, Reaz Ahmed, Sukkur Saleq, Alhaj Shamsul Huda and Abul Hasanat — all old city dwellers were present on the occasion.

Later, a group of students of different law colleges met the president at Bangabhaban.

The students belong to Law Students Federation placed before President a memorandum on their academic problems.

He advised them to prepare themselves with self confidence to serve the country in future.

Kutubuddin and Akhtaruz-zaman Akhtar, President and General Secretary respectively of the federation were present on the occasion.

Rival student groups clash

RANGAMATI, Feb 20: Two leaders of Awami League-backed Chhatra League were injured when a rival group attacked them today at Tabalchhari in the town.

Mintoo Murma (22) Jamal Hossain (23), General Secretary and Organising Secretary of district Chhatra League, were admitted to Sadar hospital with serious head injuries, police and hospital sources said. They were attacked with sharp weapons allegedly by a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

FAO programmes discussed

Peter John Myers, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representative in Bangladesh, called on Food Minister M Shamsul Islam at his office Tuesday, reports UNB.

The FAO representative informed the Minister about the programme taken by the organisation aiming at development of food and agriculture sectors in Bangladesh.

The indispensable role of agriculture and food for building up the economic infrastructure of the country were highlighted

Power supply suspension

Power will be suspended today and tomorrow from 9 am to 4 pm at areas under Shah Shabbir Lane Feeder, Mirpur First Colony, Second Colony, Mirpur Mazar Road. On Saturday at same hours at Mirpur South Bishil, Mitali Hawkers Market. On Saturday and Monday at same hours at areas from Gulshan Road 20 to 37, Gulshan Central Avenue West side. On Sunday at same hours at Lutfur Rahman Lane, Mirpur Section-I F Block-states, says a DESA press release.

Hosne Ara gets Shishu Academy Award

By Staff Correspondent Juvenile litterateur Hosne Ara was awarded the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Award for the Bengali year 1398.

Hosne Ara, the niece of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah and the wife of journalist Mohammad Modabber also received Bangla Academy Award for juvenile literature in 1961.

Qul-khwani

The Qul-Khwani of Dr. Mozammel Haq, Director General of Secondary and Higher Education was held at his Eskaton Residence in Wednesday today after Asr prayer, reports BSS.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna Divisions and the regions of Comilla and Sylhet while weather is likely to remain nearly dry elsewhere in the country till 6 pm today (Friday), according to Met office.

Night temperature likely to rise by two to three degree Celsius over the country.

The maximum temperature in the country, 28.7 degree Celsius, was recorded at Satkhira while the country's minimum, 8.4 degree Celsius was reported from Dinajpur and Srimangal Thursday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5.57 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6.27 am.

The temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.6	13.8	64	45
Chittagong	26.8	14.8	72	87
Rajshahi	27	9.7	71	65
Khulna	28	13.3	75	71
Sylhet	25.5	10.2	70	69
Dinajpur	26	8.4	73	58
Cox's Bazar	27.7	16.5	48	52
Mymensingh	25.8	11.8	66	57



Child artistes rending patriotic songs Thursday at a cultural function at Shishu Academy auditorium in observance of Ekushey

Seychelles keen to recruit Bangladeshi teachers, docs

Seychelles will expand bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh in the fields of education, manpower and culture, reports BSS.

This was stated by the visiting Education Minister of Seychelles, S Simone Testa, when she called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Wednesday.

She said Bangladeshi experts could assist in the development process of her country and frequent contacts had to be established in this regard between the two countries.

Appreciating the skill and hard work of Bangladeshi people, Testa said on her return she would suggest to explore the possibility of recruiting experts from Bangladesh.

The Seychelles Minister said she had very cordial and fruitful discussions with the leaders and officials of Bangladesh regarding educational and cultural exchange programme. Her country, she added, was eager to send students to Bangladesh for studying in different trades.

She also appreciated the women's participation in the

national development and law making process in a democratic government.

Reciprocating the sentiment, President Biswas said the present government laid emphasis on spreading education for all through Mass Literacy Programme.

The President informed the visiting minister of the Higher Education System of the country and hoped that cooperation between the two countries would be expanded in this regard.

President Biswas also apprised the minister, the steps taken by the present democratic government in population control, improved technical education and industrial sectors. He also highlighted the women's participation in nation building activities.

The President conveyed his best wishes to the President of Seychelles and hoped to work together in improving the socio-economic condition of the two peoples.

Calls on Sircar

Simone Testa, called on Health and Family Welfare

Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf at the latter's secretariat office Wednesday.

They discussed matters of common interests, possibilities of manpower export such as Bangladeshi doctors, paramedics, nurses and health technicians to Seychelles.

Testa also discussed the possibilities of placement of Seychelles students for medical education in Bangladesh.

The Education Minister of Seychelles, Simone Testa called on Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar at his office in the city Wednesday.

They discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interests with particular reference to recruitment of teachers from Bangladesh for Seychelles.

Speaker leaves for Sudan today

The Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali will leave Dhaka on February 21 for Khartoum on a six-day official visit to Sudan reports BSS.

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