

Dhaka Day by Day

Spate of Medicinemen

by Fayza Haq

In Dhaka city everyone is suffering from some complaint or the other, every other day. If it is not sinus, it is a plain chronic headache, or a runny tummy, or fever.

Though doctor's clinics have mushroomed all over the place from Green Road to Dhanmondi, Banani and beyond, yet people want to save money, time and effort and take recourse to accepting suggestions from friends about what medicines to use.

My aunt, for instance, was seriously ill with headaches, but my cousins did little or nothing about it, until friends suggested a scanning and a visit to the neuro-physician. The advice that people give you about your state of health really works on you like some prayer.

In many of the offices I have worked in, people depend on Disprin or other kinds of Aspirin and individuals even swear by them.

Whether it is a headache or a sinus problem, fever or a simple running nose, your colleagues and confidantes will advise you gravely about this magic medicine called Aspirin. I know a senior colleague of mine who has a mountain of Aspirin on his desk everyday, which he slowly but surely consumes, as the day progresses and the week wears out. Your friends tell you that the best way to avoid a heart attack is to have half a Disprin or Aspirin at night. There are articles on this issue in medical sections of magazines too.

If someone is feeling miserable because his girl-friend has ditched him or if the husband is taking an unusual interest in some flashy young woman in his office, friends rush to tell him or her that the best medicine for a heartache is Frisium. Others nod in agreement.

In our society there is no hope of going to a pub and drowning one's miseries. If you happen to be a woman the prospects of boozing in the public is out, even in the west, if you care for your reputation. You may not have any trust in psychiatrists. Perhaps earlier they dozed you too much or suggested serious steps like electric shocks or long-drawn out therapies in specialised clinics. So you stick to your friends and when they suggest Seduxen or Valium, you fall for it, and do not consider even having the opinion of the doctor.

If the medicine is doing fine for your friends at your work place and for your acquaintances, it should take care of you too, you feel. Sometimes when one friend visits another with her or his problems, that person is not only given coffee, cigarettes and sympathy but also some Seduxen tablets.

I know of a case when someone had a terrible cough and sore throat that lingered on for months and which the antibiotics did not help check. Friends then suggested throat lozenges and cough syrup, and this friendly suggestion ultimately actually worked miracles where the doctor's antibiotics had no effect. This is not to say the doctors did not know what they were doing. This is simply to point out how the words of friends carry great weight.

In our city diarrhoea is so often rampant. Everyone you know suffers from it from time to time throughout the year. Some suggest Flagyl and others Lomotil. Your friends and colleagues hover around you as you pour out your problems. You are immediately given numerous suggestions of remedies people are sure are wonder cures, apart from the intake of saline water. "Take green coconut water" suggests one, "Mix salt and gur" in a jug of water and have it all throughout the day, "Take raw tea with a banana" are the stream of well-meant suggestions. With the heat and the various germs floating in the air since the recent cyclone, people in the city have also been assailed by huge and painful summer boils. "Put Savlon cream on it" says one, "Use Iodex after using Boric powder and warm water" advises another. With the fee of the doctor's visit being nothing less than Tk 100 each time, and the roads leading to the clinics being submerged, you think it is so much more sensible to lie low, and take one of the remedies offered to you by your well-meaning friends, companions, colleagues or relatives.

Even when there is something severe as pain in the chest or throat or sinus pain on the cheeks and forehead, you take the advice of "Cut out the cigarettes, suck lozenges or pieces of ginger" or "Rub warm mustard oil and garlic on the chest" or "tie a betel leaf with coconut oil and 'chunum' all heated up on the throat".

I have known homeopathic medicines to pass hand too without any consultation with the doctor. Yet the psychological belief that if it has worked with my friends, it will do for me too, works wonders.

When it comes to beauty care like treating of greasy hair, or pimples on the face, or fighting the midriff flab, the amicable advice of friends like "cut out the sweets", "Go for walks", "Avoid greasy food" is taken instead of consulting a beautician or a skin specialist.

Even in case of the new mother's battles with her three young children, the young woman does not necessarily rush to the doctor, when her daughter cries all night, but resorts to what the neighbour suggests, especially if it is a Friday and the clinics are shut.

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A leader of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) addressing a rally in front of the National Press Club on Sunday. — Star photo

Massive public works plan from next month

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said in Dhaka Sunday that the government would undertake massive public works programme from the next month to reactivate the national economy, reports BSS.

Speaking at a briefing session on the state of national economy sponsored by Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (OCAAB), the Finance Minister said that there was no dearth of resources for funding the development programmes. The size of the annual development programmes would remain intact this year, he hoped.

The Finance Minister said the procedure of the liberalised import policy would be further simplified and relaxed and the margin of letter of credit for the purpose of import would be reduced further.

Dwelling at length on the different aspects of the national economy the Finance Minister reiterated the commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to ensure the welfare of the people through better management of the financial matters with accountability and transparency.

Rahman said: "I am convinced that we have resources

and manpower for improving the lot of the people particularly in the rural areas. The only thing we need management of the economic and financial matters appropriately with honesty and accountability," he said.

Earlier, the president of OCAAB, Zagiul Ahmed Chowdhury, welcomed the Finance Minister while the General Secretary Shehabuddin Ahmed Nafa presented the vote of thanks.

The Finance Minister laid out enhancing the mobilisation of internal resources for fund-

Shamsul Islam takes oath as minister

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed administered the oath of office to Shamsul Islam Khan, MP, as a cabinet minister at a simple ceremony at his official residence Sunday morning, reports BSS.

Mr Khan was the Minister for Industries before the reestablishment of parliamentary form of government. He could not take oath following formation of the new cabinet as he was away to the United States on an official visit.

Mr Khan would continue to hold the same portfolio.

ing the development programmes in the back-drop of aid fatigue by the donor countries and agencies.

He said the government had decided to expand the credit facilities particularly in the rural development sector. "We should double the investment in the agriculture sector, which is the most suitable area for creating job opportunities for the unemployed."

Regarding the proposed disinvestment programme scheduled to begin soon the Finance Minister said public sector enterprises and industrial units would be disinvested in a massive way for injecting dynamism in the economy.

He said under the disinvestment programme, the government would also release the shares of the multinational companies.

He said half of the shares of the proposed industrial units to be disinvested would be distributed through Industrial Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) so that the middle income group people could purchase them. The rest half of the shares would be channelised through the stock exchange market with a view to reactivating the stock exchange, he added.

Khaleda welcomes Bush's plan to destroy N-arms

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday welcomed the US President George Bush's unilateral announcement to destroy and reduce different types of US nuclear weapons, reports BSS.

In a message to the US President Begum Zia termed the announcement as epoch making and historic. She said the unilateral announcement of the US President would contribute immensely, significantly and positively toward all round peace and development of the world. "We hope that other countries having nuclear weapons will come forward to contribute duly in dismantling their nuclear weapons on the basis on President Bush's announcement", she added.

She also hoped that immense wealth to be released following the disarmaments of the nuclear weapons would be spent for the welfare of the mankind and saving them from poverty, hunger and diseases.

Anniversary of Abdul Karim's death today

The 38th death anniversary of Abdul Karim Sahitya-Bisharad will be observed today (Monday). In observance of the day, various socio-cultural organisations will hold discussions on the life and works of the late Sahitya-Bisharad. C'utttagong City Corporation has changed the name of the road 'Love Lane' and renamed it 'Abdul Karim Sahitya-Bisharad Sarak' to show respect to Abdul Karim, says a press release.

Monday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.15 Reading from the Octa
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Cartoon Film: The Yearling
- 5.55 Sports programme
- 7.05 TV debate
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Health programme
- 9.00 Sanglap
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: Hot Pursuit
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Closing

South Korean envoy calls on PM Dhaka's role lauded for global peace

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday hoped that South Korea would always work together with Bangladesh in international fora including the United Nation for global peace and welfare, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was talking to the South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Shing Shug-Oh who called on her at her Secretariat office in Dhaka.

During the talks the Prime Minister mentioned the remarkable progress achieved by South Korea in the economic field.

She hoped that South Korea would come up with joint venture projects taking the advantage of the present atmosphere created for foreign investment in Bangladesh with the introduction of new industrial policy.

Begum Zia said with the increasing threat of synthetic fibre to environment South

Korea could import jute from Bangladesh in large number. The South Korean Ambassador conveyed the congratulations of the South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo to the Prime Minister on her assumption of the office of Prime Minister under the Parliamentary system of government.

He hoped that during his tenure in Bangladesh he would be able to strengthen further the relationship between Bangladesh and South Korea in all fields of development.

The Ambassador thanked Bangladesh for its role in giving South Korea admission to the United Nations. He also lauded the role of Bangladesh in different international fora to establish global peace and welfare.

Begum Zia assured the Ambassador of all cooperation for furthering the bilateral relations between the two nations for their mutual benefit.

Indian NDC team leaves for home

A 17-member team comprising student-officers from Indian National Defence College (NDC) led by its senior directing staff Sri G S Lyer left Dhaka Sunday after a six-day study tour, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

The members of the team were seen off at the Zia International Airport by senior armed force officers.

During its stay, the Indian NDC team paid courtesy call on the Acting President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. They also called on Ministers of Finance and Agriculture, Chiefs of Staff of the three services and other high civil and military officials including Acting PSO to the Supreme Commander and the Defence Secretary.

Waliur made envoy to Kuwait

The government has decided to appoint Waliur Rahman as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait, reports UNB.

Waliur is at present the country's Ambassador to Italy, said a foreign office press release.

'TV news, programmes to be people oriented'

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda Sunday said in a developing country like Bangladesh, television had a great role and responsibility in the overall socio-economic uplift of the people and building up the country through broadcasting of news and programmes, reports BSS.

Explaining the significance of maximum broadcasting of development stories and nation-building activities in television, he laid emphasis on making television news and programmes more people oriented.

The Information Minister was addressing senior officials of Bangladesh Television at the Television Bhavan in Dhaka.

Barrister Huda underscored the need for application of talent, efficiency and experiences of the officials in making the television programmes more lively and attractive. He said the present democratic government would build up Bangladesh Television as a totally people welfare oriented organisation. In this regard, he stressed on broadcasting of television programmes according to the need and demand of the people and it must be modernised according to the

Autocratic rule destroyed all systems: Sircar

Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar Saturday called upon the people to put their best efforts for materialising the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman through the implementation of 19-point programmes of BNP, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a reception accorded to him at Shukrabad in Dhanmondi organised by BNP Ward No-69 of the city.

Minister for Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Goyeshwar Roy was the special guest on the occasion.

The Education Minister said the BNP under the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman had opened up a new chapter in politics through establishing multi-party democracy and the BNP under Begum Khaleda Zia had ushered in a new era in the history through establishment of parliamentary form of govern-

ment. He said President Zia been alive the progress and prosperity of the country would have been unhindered. He added that the autocratic rule of nine years had destroyed all system and discipline in all sectors of life.

The State Minister Goyeshwar Roy said people had given their verdict in favour of BNP for improving their conditions. He added that BNP government will do everything possible for the betterment of the people as the party had fought against the autocracy uncompromisingly.

Praised over by Suruj Mia, BNP President of Ward No-69 unit, the meeting was addressed by President and Secretary of City Chhatradal Abul Khair Dhuyyan, Nasiruddin Ahmed, President of City Jubodal, Abu Sayed Khan and Jubodal leader Jamal Sharif Hira.

Shahabuddin greets Shamsul Islam

The Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Sunday congratulated Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan for being awarded "The Royal Order of the Plimsoll Mark" by the World Trade Centre of New Orleans, USA, reports BSS. Khan was given the honour for his contributions toward increased trade and investment between USA and Bangladesh.

BCIC Apprentice Recruitment Notice

Applications are hereby invited from citizens of Bangladesh for recruitment of the following category of apprentices in the Training Institute for Chemical Industries under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation:

1. Name of post : Apprentice Grade-2
2. Age (as on 31.12.91) : 18-26 years.
3. Educational qualification : H.S.C (Science) (at least 2nd division with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics) or S.S.C (Science) with two years certificate course from any recognised Government Technical Training Centre (Vocational Institute) on — Electrical / Electronics / Turner (Lathc)/Machinist / Welding / Fitting (valve) / Millwright / Banch Fitter trades.
4. Training allowance : Tk. 800/= (Eight hundred) per month—Consolidated.
5. Terms of Apprenticeship : Selected candidates shall have to undergo Training for a minimum of 12 (Twelve) months in the Training Institute for Chemical Industries. On successful completion of Apprenticeship the concerned persons will be awarded certificates and released from the Institute immediately. The authority will not take any responsibility for providing job to the apprentices. However, if any specific requirement exist in any factory under BCIC or in Karnafuly Fertilizer Co. the apprentices may find job opportunities depending on requirement, as skilled Operator/ Technician Grade-2 in appropriate wage scale. It may be noted that the nature of the job is not suitable for female candidates.
6. Application procedure : Applications, duly signed by the candidates consisting of the following particulars in the given order should reach the Training Institute for Chemical Industries, Post Office : Sarkarkhana Ghora-sal, Narsingdi on or before 24th October 1991.

- (1) Name, (2) Father's Name, (3) Permanent Address, (4) Present Address, (5) Nationality, (6) Date of Birth, (7) Religion, (8) Marital Status, (9) Educational Qualification, (Name of Examination, Institute, Year, Division, Subjects).

The following documents/ certificates duly attested by 1st class Government officer are to be enclosed in the given order along with the application :

- a) Two copies of recent passport size photographs,
- b) S S C Certificate, c) S S C Marksheet, d) H S C Certificate or T T C Certificate, e) H.S.C Marksheet or T.T.C Marksheet, f) Nationality Certificate issued by the Chairman of respective Union Parishad / Municipality.

N.B : No affidavit in respect of age shall be acceptable. Incomplete, inconsistent and late received applications will be treated as cancelled.

BCIC- 864-25/9
DFP (BA) 7856-26/9
G-597
Project Director

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