

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Domain of Quacks

by A S M Nurunnabi



When somebody falls ill, it is his natural instinct to try to get well quickly. For the vast majority of our people who are poor, it initially involves a "wait and see" game just to find if nature by itself will help the recovery process. When that course fails, he tries a variety of potions suggested by friends, relatives or neighbours. In most cases he cannot afford to go to a qualified doctor and buy his medicines. So if the suggested potions fail to yield result and if a quack doctor happens to be within his reach, he falls an easy prey to his spell, because his 'medicines' are cheap and his demagogic manner assures him of complete recovery.

In the villages these doctors comparatively hold more sway. In the urban areas and even in a metropolitan city like Dhaka, their sway is no less considerable. The greatest tool of their trade is their gift of the gab. This enables them to easily draw and audience at any place. With the oratorical qualities of a Demosthenes, the quack doctor describes the remedial qualities of his medicines for any conceivable illness under the sun from stomach upset to cancer. Their prescriptions for myriad maladies are made attractive by assured cure and money refund guarantee, although the victims of their spell do not know for sure how their guarantee would be honoured in view of their constant movement from one place to another.

These charlatans in most cases are past masters of ready wit and human psychology. If anyone in their audience expresses any interest in their medicines, there is no getting away for him from their enticing tricks.

Though they can easily draw at any location, some of their favourite haunts are any open space at Sadarghat, Motijheel, Stadium, New Market.

Lately they have adopted with great success

the electronic media of cassette recorders, with which they record their orations and play them back as needed. Previously they used loudspeakers while addressing an audience. The new gadget has given them several advantages. This has spared them the physical strain in repeating their address to an audience. They can tape their words in such a way as to exercise maximum impact on their audience. The portability of the gadget provides them with greater mobility and access to larger audience at several places during a day. This inevitably leads to a greater number of customers. Some of them seek to enhance crowd-drawing power by playing popular songs on their cassette players.

The interesting part of the story is that even those who do not normally believe in these potions and their curative qualities, sometimes feel the temptation to try them when any malady continues to trouble them in spite of other treatments. Here also the demagogic influence of the pedlars coupled with the cheapness of the potions wins the day.

It is apparent that the success of their trade is largely due to the gullibility, illiteracy, and superstition of their customers. There is no easy way of checking this hazard to public health, unless the poor people at large are assured the light of education and easy access to more facilities for scientific treatment. That is, of course, a tall order in a poor country like ours. Though the operation of these quacks is manifestly harmful, there is no evidence yet of any effective step for controlling it.

Meanwhile, the quack doctors will continue to hold their sway at any place they may choose, adding an interesting facet to the variegated scenario of life.

Silk estate to be set up to solve problems of private entrepreneurs

RAJSHAH, May 21: State Minister for Textile M A Mannan has said that the government was contemplating formation of an Advisory Committee to make the Sericulture Board more dynamic through solving various problems of the silk sector, reports BSS.

He said a silk estate would also be set up to solve the problems of the private entrepreneurs for upholding the heritage of the Rajshahi silk.

The State Minister was addressing a seminar on 'Problems of silk industries in Bangladesh and its remedy' jointly organised by Bangladesh Silk Industry Owners Association and Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry here yesterday.

It was also addressed, among others, by City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Textile Ministry Shahjahan Siraj, Shahidullah Khan, Abdul Rouf, local MP Azizur Rahman, and

President of Silk Industry Owners Association Moyenuddin Ahmad Manik. Chamber President Mostafizur Rahman Suja presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

Mannan stressed the need for proper distribution of disinfectant layings, cocoon, silk yarn and mulberry saplings to the concerned trained people to flourish the silk sector. He also called upon the officials of the Sericulture Board to play their due role in this regard.

Earlier, the State Minister and the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Textile Ministry visited some private sector silk industries, sericulture factory and its research centre and were apprised of various problems of the sector.

He expressed his dissatisfaction over the last few years' performance of the Sericulture Board and directed for taking punitive measures against persons who were responsible for failure to achieve targets of the board.



Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali with the recipients of Sir Jagdish Basu gold medal award. — Star photo

Jagdish Basu gold medal '91 awarded

Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali yesterday underscored the need for recognition and reward of national talents in various fields, reports BSS.

He was distributing Sir Jagdish Chandra Basu '91 gold medal at a ceremony organised by Sir Jagdish Chandra Basu Smriti Sangad at Sonargoon Hotel here.

Shaikh Razzaque said various steps should be taken to encourage for such kind of recognition of talents.

Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Editor, weekly Ganobichar, presided over the meeting.

Ten distinguished persons got the gold medals. They are: Dr M Shamsur Ali — Science, Major General (Retd) Dr A R Khan — Medical Science, Shaikh Salim — Journalism, Humayun Jahir — Social Welfare, Ferdous Rahman — Songs, Abdul Halim Akanda — Industrialist, Abdul Kadir Mridha — Management, Atiqul Islam Bhuiyan and Shahjahan Kabir — Banking and Mohammad Jakaria Bhuiyan — Industrialist.

Reexcavation of sewers in Rajshahi begins

RAJSHAH, May 21: Rajshahi City Corporation has started reexcavation work of seven main sewers of the city at a cost of Taka eleven lakh to drain out water in rainy season, an official handout said, reports BSS.

Due to illegal installation of shops on the drains, the reexcavation work is facing problem. The city corporation authority warned the illegal shop owners that stern action would be taken if they did not remove the shops from the drains. The authority also sought cooperation of all concerned in this regard.

Qulkhawani

The qulkhawani of Nurul Hossain Talukder, chief of the editing section of the daily Ittefaq will be held today (Friday) after Asar prayers at his house at 56/C South Mugdipara here, reports BSS.

Relations, friends and well-wishers have been requested by Begum Talukder to attend the qulkhawani.

Call to turn Biman into profitable concern

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan Thursday called upon the Biman employees to take a fresh vow to turn the national flag carrier into a truly service oriented and commercially profitable concern, reports BSS.

The State Minister was speaking at the certificate awarding ceremony of the second batch of apprentice mechanics of the Bangladesh Airline Training Centre (BATC) at its auditorium here.

Mannan urged the mechanics to make themselves truly capable in maintaining Biman's fleet of aircraft. He hoped that the trained mechanics would be able to help the airline improve its schedule along with regularity and reliability.

Public Notice

It appears that the following documents in original in respect of property situated at Plot No. 22 of Block NW(D) of Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka, are lost:

- 1) Lease Agreement being Deed No. 4053 executed and registered on 22nd April 1961 between Mr. Fidaul Rahman S/o Dr. Zahurul Islam & DIT.
- 2) Deed of Conveyance No. 6962 executed and registered on 7th June 1963 between Mr. Abdul Ahad & said Fidaul Rahman.
- 3) Deed of Assignment No. 5594 executed and registered on 12th March 1964 by the said Fidaul Rahman and Mr. Abdul Ahad.

If these are found then kindly deliver to me at the following address:

Narmeen S Husain
6 Circuit House Road
Shantinagar, Dhaka-1000.

D-280

Sales Notice

At Katasur under Mohammadpur Police Station 4.63 acre of low land and 1.05 acre of land at Tejgunipara attached to Industrial Area of Tejgaon Police Station will be sold on urgent basis.

Interested buyers are requested to Contract the under signed, the representative of the owner of the land.

Md. Abdul Mobin
Advocate
124/1 New Kakrail Road,
Shantinagar (1st floor),
Phone: Chamber: 410646

Res: 861841

HERE and THERE

BCTA

Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) Dhaka district at a meeting Thursday expressed grave concern over the recent incidents of humiliating teachers at various places in the country and called upon all to protect the professional dignity of the teachers.

The meeting presided over by Principal Badiuzzaman. It was attended by the Vice-Chairman of the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association Quazi Faruq Ahmed as chief guest while Prof Asadul Huq, Office Secretary of the federation was present as the special guest. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof Farid Ahmed, Prof Mohiuddin and Abdul Rahman.

Telegogajog Sramik Karmachari Union

Bangladesh Telegogajog Sramik Karmachari Union has decided to observe protest week from May 26 if the concerned authorities fail to take punitive measures against the persons involved in attacking on the leaders of the union on May 15.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the union held on May 20 at its office at 4 pm.

Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad

Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad at a meeting Thursday called upon all to make its convention to be held on May 31 a success.

The meeting presided over by Syed Delwar Hossain, General Secretary of the National Labour Federation was addressed, among others, by Nurul Islam Ratan, Ruhul Amin Majumdar, Tabarak Hossain, Wali Ahmad Patwari, Sadakatul Bari, Jahangir Alam, M A Ahad, Khalekuzzaman and Fani Bhushan Das.

Islami Chhatra Majlish

Islami Chhatra Majlish Dhaka City Unit Wednesday in a rally near the South gate of Baitul Mokarram demanded decrease of prices of education materials, financial aid for poor students and introduction of unemployment allowance.

Samoy

Prof Kabir Choudhury opened a three-day 'Pathanotok' (street-play) festival at the central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yesterday afternoon.

Samoy, a cultural organisation, organised the drama festival titled 'Muktir Chetona Pathanotok-92' (street-play with the spirit of emancipation) in connection with the organisation's 15th founding anniversary.

Ramendu Majumder, Ataur Rahman and Saidur Rahman Miron also addressed the opening session.

BCL(M-B) Confce

The Jagannath College unit conference of JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League (M-B) was held on the college campus yesterday.

City branch general secretary of the organisation Manjur Ahmed Manju inaugurated the conference at 10 in the morning. Former BCL chief and present president of Jatiya Sramik Jote Shirin Akhter attended the function as chief guest.

Sanghati

Sanghati, a family welfare association has initiated its venture to construct a road between East Hajipara and East Rampura Thursday.

The 30 feet wide road's construction was inaugurated by the Minister for Jute A S M Hannan Shah.

Sanghati on this occasion arranged a programme in which former ward commissioner Obayedul Islam Milon and Ataur Rahman were present as special guests.

Presided over by Sanghati President Advocate Zahid Hossain was addressed, among others, by Abul Khaer Patwari, Advocate Habibullah Sarkar and others.

BASSKF

Leaders of Bangladesh Sarkari Adhasarkari Besarkari Shayattasashita Sramik Karmachari Federation (BSSKF) Thursday handed over a memorandum on behalf of workers of different sectors to the Ministry of Labour and Manpower.

The memorandum demanded withdrawal of any decision to retrench workers and fixing a new pay scale for the workers with the lowest scale of Tk 2000.

Obituary

Akhter Zaman, son of late Abdul Majid of Bikrampur and a grandson of late Khan Bahadur A K Kabiruddin Ahmad of Faridpur, died of old age complications in Calcutta (West Bengal) Wednesday, family sources said here yesterday. He was 75.

Zaman left behind his sister Mrs. Asma Ahmad and a brother Kamal Zaman.

JS body on relief meet held

The third meeting of the Parliamentary standing committee of the Relief Ministry was held yesterday at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan with State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan in the chair, reports BSS.



A procession of the BUET students Thursday in the city marking conclusion of academic year 92. — Star photo

Friday

Morning session

- 8.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 Amra Naton
- 8.40 Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Tooki Taaki
- 9.10 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.05 Moner Mukurey
- 12.20 Closing

Evening session

- 3.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 3.12 Recitation from the Tripitak
- 3.15 Alor Dishari
- 3.30 Movie of the Week
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Sports programme: Football
- 6.45 Shikshangon
- 7.05 Malancha: Songs programme
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Musical programme
- 9.00 Sataropa
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama Series: LA Law
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Saturday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Day temperature likely to fall

By Staff Correspondent

Rain and thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions, during the next 24 hours.

Day temperature likely to fall by 1 or 2 degree Celsius over the country. Met office forecast adding that little change would be noticed during the next two days.

Meanwhile several parts of the country experienced heavy rainfall with the highest 82 mm at Teknaf during the last 36 hours till Thursday evening.

According to the Met office, Sylhet had 58 mm, Kutubdia 54, Cox's Bazar 44, Majdicourt and Rangpur 36 each, Khulna 32, Swandip and Patuakhali 28 each, Satkhira 29, Bhola and Chittagong 27 each, Feni 24, Dhaka 22, Rangamati 21 and Comilla 14 mm rain.

Day temperature remained nearly unchanged over the country except in Comilla, Feni, Sitakunda, Rajshahi and few other places where temperature fell by 2 to 4 degree Celsius.

The highest temperature of 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded in Jessore Thursday.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Friday) at 6.38 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.13 am.

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

	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.4	21.4	77	68
Chittagong	30.4	20.3	72	77
Rajshahi	32.7	22.0	78	68
Khulna	31.8	20.0	68	78
Cox's Bazar	32.0	20.4	67	82
Sylhet	29.5	18.0	77	67
Dinajpur	30.5	20.0	82	63
Chaudanga	32.6	22.0	79	63

World Bank Vacancy for an Irrigation Engineer

The Job: Supervised by Chief of the Agriculture Unit in the Bank Office at Dhaka, the incumbent will be one of the two Engineers responsible for supervising the Bank financed civil works, operation and maintenance of flood control, drainage and irrigation projects, river control works, review of Flood Action Plan Reports and the evaluation of impact of projects on agriculture production.

Qualification: The ideal candidate would be 40-55 years of age, have a Masters or equivalent degree in Civil Engineering (relaxable in the case of outstanding candidates with overseas training), be fluent in spoken and written English and be knowledgeable in computer based analyses.

Experience: The minimum requirement is 15 years of experience in planning, designing, construction, operation and maintenance of flood control and irrigation projects, of which 5 years should be in senior management positions. Interest in irrigated agriculture would be of advantage.

Remuneration: The World Bank pays competitive salaries and benefits.

Joining Date: The World Bank would prefer that the candidate could join by August 1, 1992.

All applications will be treated with strict confidence.

Please apply with a copy of your cv no later than 15 June, 1992, at the address given below:

World Bank Resident Mission Bangladesh
(Ref: Irrigation Engineer)
3A Paribagh, GPO Box 97
Dhaka-1000.