

Hyperactivity Syndrome: At Home and Abroad

by Md Asadullah Khan

Without a clear understanding of what causes the syndrome now known as "attention deficit hyperactivity disorder" (ADHD), people and even teachers have no surefire way of distinguishing true hyperactivity from other disabilities or just plain bratty behaviour.

SOME people holding high positions in society and the government often behave most erratically bringing down the image of office they hold plunging them into total ignominy.

Whether or not, Goodwin's amateur psychiatry is clinically correct, he has dared probe a dim corner of Washington history, a suppressed repository of whispered stories written in shocked disbelief, describing Johnson's stalking in the corridors of the White House and fuming about the enemies he saw around him.

loyal to Lenin and who might have considered questioning his authority. Both despots believed utterly in themselves and were indifferent to the suffering and destruction caused to achieve their ends.

So much is now known about Lyndon B Johnson, a former President of the United States of America. Even before the Vietnam war consumed Lyndon Johnson, his dark rantings shocked the White House Press corps.

Richard Goodwin, a former speech writer and an aide to Lyndon B Johnson who has made these recollections public, characterises Johnson as a paranoid. Goodwin's account recounted that Johnson was at times literally crazed and that his episodic madness helped propel the US into a "needless tragedy of such immense consequences" (Vietnam) that even now, the prospect of a restoration of normal relations remains a distant dream.

Stalin on the other hand was rough, conspiratorial and despised authority. Unlike Hitler's portrayal of himself as a man of destiny, Stalin's style was stealthy and behind the scenes. And once he became the master, he ruthlessly annihilated all those who once were

conscience shames. The encounter of a chief executive in a certain organisation with one office head under him, day in and day out that the writer of this piece had the misfortune of witnessing, is worth recalling here.

the chief executive had with another office head under him. In a naked expression of his disliking for the said office head, he got the head's office room locked, retaining the key with him and the helpless officer could not enter into his office after expiry of his leave period.

When the office head urged him to calm down, and sit in his office to discuss things that might have disturbed him, his voice grew all the more thunderous bordering on insanity.

Many of these hyperactive bureaucrats have ascended the hierarchy most stealthily and not by the quality of their work, probity or tested merit. Their weaknesses in most cases turn into wickedness and this is especially true of academic institutions where academic excellence of people must be tinged with temperamental sobriety and restraint.

People must read with shocked disbelief an encounter

For a disorder that is as widespread and as closely studied as hyperactivity, scientists know precious little about it. Lots of adults and even children, for that matter have trouble paying attention and keeping still.

The situation just described is typical of the entrenched administration or establishment in the country. Perhaps office administration is a new thing in the country and top bureaucrats in different tiers of the administration have hardly been able to switch over from the feudal or colonial system to a democratic setup that is still in the making.

Hyperactivity is thought to affect as many as 4 per cent of school-age children, appearing eight times as frequently in boys as in girls.

Dhaka Day by Day Cyber Cafe in Dhaka

by Raffat Binte Rashid



You are flipping through the pages of a book in the Library of Congress and sipping coffee with friends here in Dhaka! How hi-tech can you become?

Well "Cyber Cafe" is the height of your reach, at least for now. The Cyber Cafe at Dolce Vita, the first of its kind, in Dhaka offers a full service coffee shop along with computers for inter-net surfing and other business services including fax.

Supposing you want to download a software, a document, or even few fonts, you will have the access here, because we will give you print-outs and diskettes. To protect the hard disk from virus we will not accept any disks from clients, instead, we supply that for certain charges.

Green is Greying Fast

by Abu Sayed

Bangladesh has forest cover in about 16 per cent of its area in 1972. It depleted to seven per cent in last 25 years as successive governments failed to conserve forest resources and cast a blind eye on the need for afforestation.

BANGLADESH'S greenness is fading fast. According to environmentalists, a country must have at least 25 per cent of its land covered with forest to maintain ecological balance.

an official at the Department of Environment. Bangladesh has forest cover in about 16 per cent of its area in 1972. It depleted to seven per cent in last 25 years as successive governments failed to conserve forest resources and cast a blind eye on the need for afforestation.

continues unstoppped? It will have deadly consequences, scientists warn.

(1995-96) alone under a community-based afforestation programme which grants 65 per cent ownership to the community.

In Bangladesh only seven per cent of its land is now covered with forest, a decline by 9 per cent since 1972. As a result some parts of the country, especially the northern region, are turning into virtual deserts.

Organised gangs plundered the once-rich forest resources without much resistance. S M A Jallil, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest, argues his department severely lacks logistics and manpower to protect the forests.

According to some scientists, the Bay of Bengal may swell three feet in next five to 10 years because of greenhouse effect, submerging 10 per cent of the country.

The survival rate has sharply improved, up to 90 per cent, mainly because of community participation. The government spent Tk 72 crore in 1995-96 for its afforestation programme and plans to spend Tk 97 crore more during the current fiscal year.

Areas such as Sylhet, Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Khulna and Mymensingh account for 12 to 16 per cent of the forests. Northern region, in contrast, has only 1.5 per cent of forest cover. This is something that may result in ecological disaster, experts say.

There are more than one factors responsible for the depletion of forest resources: fast growth of population putting pressure on limited land; encroachment and corruption. Allegations are rampant that a section of unscrupulous forest employees are responsible for the fast process of deforestation.

Not everything is, however, hopeless. Of late, a social awareness on afforestation is on rise, thanks to some NGOs who are implementing community afforestation programmes.

Yet, the situation demands bigger initiative. Laws and regulations against deforestation and illegal felling of trees are not much effective. There is a ban on burning of wood in brick fields which is frequently flouted.

Compare Bangladesh with some other countries. For example, Japan has 63 per cent of its land covered with forest, Russia 51 per cent, Myanmar 67 per cent, USA 34 per cent and India 22 per cent.

What can happen to Bangladesh if the deterioration

Forest department said 6.60 crore saplings were planted across the country in last year

— News Network

Disagreeable Rules

MUCH controversy later, EU countries have finally agreed upon rules to allow the sales of genetically engineered products. While food companies are naturally relieved at the outcome, the EU decision has sparked off protests among the environmentalists who have campaigned for long against the import of such products into the region.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Entertainment guide listing TV channels (CHANNEL V, ZEE TV, PTV, SONY ET), movies (STAR MOVIES, EL TV), and sports (STAR SPORTS) with their respective schedules.

Garfield comic strip by Jim Davis, featuring the cat Garfield and his owner Jon. The comic includes dialogue bubbles and a signature 'JIM DAVIS 1-22'.

James Bond comic strip by Ian Fleming, featuring the character James Bond in a dramatic scene. The comic includes dialogue bubbles and a signature 'DRAWN BY JOHN McLUSKY'.