

Beyond Sunset Industries

MUTUALITY of interest is the sustainer of good economic relations between two countries. It is also the key with which that pair of countries can unlock prospects for an expansion of the existing relationship into newer horizons. This should hold true even between two economies of varying sizes and strengths.

We are glad Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur ties have stood the test of time and are poised now to grow as the vibes from our PM's visit to Malaysia indicate. At a time like this however we should stress the need for recognising reciprocity and complementarity as the foundations for a more rewarding relationship to be fostered between us in years to come. Mahathir knows better than everyone the value of give-and-take in bilateral relations himself being a stickler for this in his relations with other countries.

There are 1.50 lakh Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia. They remitted US\$ 67.52 million during the last fiscal to their homeland. That was our gain alright, but when Mahathir Mohammad held out assurances of continuing recruitment of Bangladeshi in his country during our PM's visit he paid rich tributes to the 'useful contributions' the expatriate Bangladeshi were making to the Malaysian economy. That is the spirit which ought to help us break newer grounds in the correlated fields of investment and trade as we go on.

The total Malaysian private sector investment in Bangladesh stands at US\$ 1.32 billion making her the third largest investor on the Board of Investment list. The investment profile looks impressive with 34 projects having been registered with BOI. This buoyant mood is taken forward by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's latest offer to Malaysian businessmen that they are welcome to invest in 12 areas mainly encompassing the infrastructure-building concerns of Bangladesh.

Coming to relocation of 'phased out' Malaysian agro-based units in Bangladesh in the backdrop of that country 'going high-tech' all we have to say is this: let's not confine ourselves to sunset industries, we need to set our aims higher than resting content with 'relocated' industries. Malaysia's own transition from a developing to a developed country happened not by virtue of hosting sunset industries. If there is any lesson to learn from Malaysia it is the highly aspirational nature of her economic goals that made them a cut above others. The question is: are we to remain drawers of water and hewers of wood sticking with the dregs?

Leave Ambassadors Alone

WITTINGLY or unwittingly, the opposition BNP has sometimes made controversial news with foreign diplomats calling on their leader Begum Khaleda Zia as a matter of diplomatic etiquette. Courtesy calls paid to the Leader of the Opposition by ambassadors are a routine affair that should not be even seen to be utilised for gaining any mileage over political opponents. What transpires at these tête-à-têtes is not supposed to be made public, far less be claimed as a tacit support to the opposition on a particular issue.

On July 29, at the briefing after the outgoing Dutch envoy had paid a courtesy call on Khaleda Zia, MM Rezaul Karim, an adviser to the BNP chief, told newsmen that Mr. Haas shared the opposition view that the Speaker of the Parliament was not neutral. Embarrassed at being unnecessarily dragged into controversy the Dutchman issued a rejoinder the next day in clarification of his position. The discussion on "the role, responsibility and performance of the Speaker of the parliament", Haas claimed, came as a logical ancillary to the opposition leader's explanation about "absence from the parliament." Also, some newspapers were blamed for having "to a certain extent been selective and not in the right proportion" while reporting the matter.

We really wonder what political benefit has the opposition derived by unnecessarily giving rise to misgivings and misconceptions about the country's leadership in the international community. How could Mr. Karim commit such a *faux pas* being a diplomat and a long-time ambassador himself? Does he not know that issues discussed at a courtesy meeting had better be kept confidential? In an attempt to politicise the diplomats, the opposition, we must say, has put the country's politics into disrepute. The whole situation is thoroughly unpleasant and the BNP is responsible for it.

Our call to the opposition would, therefore, be to refrain from dragging the diplomats into our internal affairs. Just leave them alone.

Gate-keeper Becoming Poacher

IT is not very common but not uncommon either. An intriguing story of gatekeeper becoming poacher was printed in the Prothom Alo on Wednesday. The nocturnal escapades of an assistant sub-inspector of Palash Thana of Narsingdi district who overstepped his jurisdiction into Narayanganj town made a sensational story. This has shaken the businessmen of this busy commercial centre of the country. ASI Alauddin of Palash police station, armed with guns and an old warrant of arrest against a businessman named Swapna Saha, boarded a microbus along with a constable and headed for Saha's house. On reaching the spot at 3 o'clock in the night he called out the businessman and asked him to accompany the former to the police station. But in actuality, the ununiformed police officer and the constable decided to take him to his business office at gun point. They called the manager from sleep and opened the shop, took taka sixty-five thousand from the cash box and apparently started for the police station. But lady luck was not amused. A police patrol party of Narayanganj challenged the microbus. As Alauddin could not satisfy the inquisitive second officer of Narayanganj thana, Rafiq he let him depart with a bundle of notes amounting to taka fifty thousand. The original sinner made good his escape with only Tk fifteen thousand. Rafiq duly handed the money over to Swapna.

The pre-dawn drama which smacked of Hindi film stories ended there. But the question remains how long people will be harassed by police for cases settled a long time back? Alauddin got hold of an old warrant and succeeded in blackmailing Swapna Saha with it. Only last Monday Swapna got bail from Narsingdi court. The offending policemen should be brought to book in the greater interest of bolstering public confidence in the law enforcers.

SINCE the historic Summit in Pyong Yong between President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea and Kim Jong Il of North Korea, events have been moving at a breathtaking speed. The reunification of Korea appears unstoppable.

In 1945 following the defeat and surrender of Japan after the first World War, Korea emerged as an independent state after a long period of Japanese colonial rule. If the Japanese departed it did not mean the end of the trials and tribulations of the Koreans. There was a Soviet military presence in the north of Korea whereas the south saw the presence of US troops. In 1949 Soviet troops withdrew from Korea whereas the US troops continued their presence in the South.

War broke out between the south and north in 1950. The UN which was a virtual pocket organisation of the US passed a resolution which decided to send troops to Korea. It has remained a mystery why the Soviet Union did not oppose the resolution in the UN. The US raised a sizable force to meet the attack from the north. At one point China was drawn into the conflict as the UN troops crossed the Yalu river against strenuous Chinese objections. The war ended in 1953 with a ceasefire and a line was drawn on the map separating north from south at the 38th parallel. The

situation has remained frozen to this day.

As the Cold War raged, South Korea went into the western camp with nearly 30,000 US troops stationed there. North Korea joined the Soviet camp. Whereas the economy in the south appeared to prosper the state controlled economy of the north on the Soviet pattern did very poorly.

An astonishing event took place in June of this year. President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea paid a state visit to North Korea and the emotional reunion of the leaders of the two sides left everybody speechless. The US propaganda had created a smoke screen around North Korea and found epithets like 'recluse', 'isolationist' etc. By appearing at the tarmac and warmly embracing Kim Dae Jung, Kim Jong Il broke out of his isolation in one swift blow. The visit was a huge success and a fresh wind of friendship and concord started blowing through the two parts of Korea. Although there was a lengthy agenda for talks, it finally centred around a single point how to arrange for reunification.

An official delegation from

North Korea has just visited South Korea and held very useful talks. The atmosphere is one of harmony in the way it started between the two heads of states in June last. The main purpose of the delegation appears to maintain the momentum for reunification. It is in this order of things that President Kim Jong Il of North Korea will return the visit shortly.

North Korea has been receiving top level visitors including President Putin of Russia. They are reported to have agreed that North Korea will cease making offensive missiles. She is also reported to have forsaken any nuclear ambitions.

The Foreign Minister of North Korea has attended the recent ASEAN Summit and since this

attraction. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State had an exclusive meeting with the North Korean Foreign Minister and did not find him 'recluse'. The North Korean Foreign Minister had exclusive meetings with the Chinese Foreign Minister as well. It would appear that the entry of a unified Korea into ASEAN is only a matter of time.

These dramatic events in the Korean peninsula has created quite a headache for the only superpower the USA. US had managed the situation in East Asia according to her enlightened interest. After a long and costly war she had to quit Vietnam and in the process Vietnam got unified. After traumatic events Cambodia has emerged out of the US orbit but the situation refuses to stabilise. US has pulled out her troops from the Philippines. The tug of war between China and the US continues over the question of Taiwan. China has clearly laid down the line. It is one China with Taiwan a part of it. The US, like the rest of the world, recognises one China only and Taiwan continues her existence thanks to the covert US support.

By far the most dramatic devel-

End of Isolation for North Korea

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The Horizon This Week

Arshad-uz Zaman



Breakthrough...

was the first time North Korea was attending this top level meeting, he became the centre of all

opment is in the Korean peninsula. The events came so fast and in such an unexpected fashion that it left almost all observers breathless. The question that the US has to face is how to arrange for a peaceful return of her 30,000 troops from South Korea. It goes without saying that the US would not like to see her troops in costly adventure away from home. A totally new situation has been created since June last. That the US is considering a peaceful denunciation of the entire situation is evident from the fact that the US Secretary of State has not wasted any time to establish a dialogue with North Korean leader of an appropriate level.

A wind of change is blowing through the world. Artificial borders separating people are crumbling. We have seen the most dramatic fall of the Berlin Wall in the late eighties changing the geo-political situation of Europe. In the matter of emotional content events in Korea are comparable to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Events, whether in Korea or Germany have demonstrated that when people decide to unite, there is no power on earth that can keep them separate. The sooner we learn this lesson the better it will be for humanity.

The Term of Caretaker Government and Holding of Free and Fair Election

by Dr. Muhammad Masum

Since the constitution stipulates that the general elections must be held within three months after the dissolution of the parliament, a constitutional amendment is necessary to extend the term of the caretaker government. For this to happen, both the government and the opposition must reach a consensus.

neutrality of the administration during the elections. Months before, a number of senior bureaucrats including leaders of professional bodies had joined 'Janata Mancha' that served as the rallying point for the movement against the previous regime. These bureaucrats had considerable influence over the administration. The caretaker government should have removed them from important positions for the sake of fair elections, but this was not done. It is, therefore, difficult to assert that the administrative machinery maintained absolute neutrality during the elections.

An independent and powerful election commission, aided by non-partisan administrative machinery, is a prerequisite for free and fair elections. It was not at all possible for the last caretaker government to ensure strict

I asked the former advisor why the caretaker government did not

take the above step. He replied that the caretaker government had only three months at its disposal to hold elections and hand over power to an elected government. It was not possible for the caretaker government to recast the administration within such a short period of time.

The present government has already completed four years in office. In a year's time, a caretaker government will take over and conduct the next general elections. Naturally, the question arises whether the caretaker government can at all hold free and fair elections under the present circumstances.

I have a friend in the administrative cadre. Now a joint secre-

tary, he served as Deputy Commissioner in different parts of the country for a long time. According to him, though the administrative machinery is supposed to remain absolutely neutral during the hustings, politicization under political regimes casts a shadow of doubt on its neutrality in the subsequent elections. In the absence of a mass upsurge in support of any particular political party, civil servants in important positions might influence the election results in favour of the party of their choice. For instance, they might try to arrest political opponents under the Public Safety Act since this act allows, under specific allegations, detention for three months or

more. Even if the complainants are to be concocted, the officials concerned will not face disciplinary action. It is, therefore, possible for a political party to use its supporters in the administrative machinery to enjoy undue advantages even after handing over power to the caretaker government. Hence, the caretaker government must take all necessary measures to ensure that the administrative machinery cannot influence the election results in any way.

The recent appointment of a retired bureaucrat of 'Janata Mancha' fame to the election commission has made things even more difficult for the next caretaker government. It must

ensure neutral conduct not only of the administration but also of the election commission during its tenure.

Obviously, the question to consider is whether the caretaker government can do all this within its brief three-month term. If not, what is the way out?

Taking our cue from the observations of the former advisor to the caretaker government, we can safely conclude that the term of the caretaker government should be extended at least by another three months. The caretaker government will use this extra time to clean up the administration before the next general elections.

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Dengue: Homeopathic Tips

by Sarwar Ahmed

One must be very careful not to over medicate. If one is using the proper small amount of a medicinal solution that is made, such symptoms should only be from a few hours to one to three days. That should not pass the 4th day. A symptom that lasts longer than four days should be considered significant and carefully managed.

DENGUE fever is an acute disease caused by a virus. The pathogenic vector is the female Aedes mosquito, usually Aedes aegypti. The incubation period is 3-15 days, symptoms may be seen between 7-10 days.

It is found in the tropics and subtropics, especially along coastal areas of North America, South America, West Indies, Mediterranean seaboard, Egypt, Middle East, North, Central and South Africa, Greece, Russia, Turkey, India, Bangladesh, Pacific Island, the Philippines, Thailand, South East Asia, Solomon Islands and Northern Australia.

Dengue is also called 'Breakbone Fever' due to the symptoms of the disease.

Symptoms

1. Prodrome (stage before fever starts): malaise (not feeling well) and headache for two days.

2. Acute onset: fever, back pain, joint pain, generalized body pain, pain on eye movement, nausea, vomiting.

3. Fever: Continuous high fevers with break on fourth of fifth day, usually lasting for 7-8 days.

4. Rash: starts in 1-2 days on chest, hands, legs. Before the rash appears, dengue is difficult to distinguish from malaria or influenza. The rash makes dengue certain.

5. Convalescence: slow.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified dengue according to severity of the disease.

Grade 1: Fever with pain, nausea, headache.

Grade 2: Grade 1 plus spontaneous bleeding from skin, gums and gastro-intestinal tract.

Grade 3: Grade 2 plus circulatory failure.

Grade 4: Grade 3 plus shock with undetectable blood pressure and pulse.

Homeopathic Remedy

Use the remedy, Eupatorium perfoliatum 30c as a preventive as well curative (Grade 1) remedy for dengue. It is easier to prevent than treat.

PREPARATION OF THE SOLUTION

1. Take a clean unused bottle which can contain 125 ml of water. Homeopathic pharmacies carry 4-ounce-bottles (which is approximately 125ml). Ensure that the bottle is cleaned with hot water. Fill the bottle with 100 ml

drinking water (boiled and cooled).

2. Take one globule of Eupat. Per 30 and place it into the bottle containing the water. Use a spoon to transfer the globule. Do not use your hand, fingers.

Usually this medicinal solution is preserved with a few drops of medicinal alcohol. If this is not available, keep this solution for a week only and dispose off. Prepare a fresh solution once a week.

3. Shake the bottle just prior to ingestion five times. This slightly raises the potency and activates the remedy.

4. Take one teaspoon of the medicinal solution (after shaking) and place it into 125 ml of water in another separate dilution glass and stir vigorously (20 times at least).

5. Take one teaspoon from the dilution glass as a dose. Most cases are started with one teaspoon and the amount increased only if necessary. Children should be given 1/2 teaspoon, infants 1/4 or less of a teaspoon.

Throw away any remaining solution in the dilution glass.

6. A new dilution solution has to be prepared any time a dose has given.

Give one single test dose and wait and watch for at least 4 days. If the first dose causes symptoms you already have sufficient action for some time. If you see no symptoms repeat the dose every four days for three doses as long as there are no symptoms. Then repeat the dose once a week. Any time you see the appearance of new symptoms stop the dose. As the epidemic wanes, slow down and stop the dose.

At the first sign of symptoms, the remedy should be stopped immediately. This shows that enough medical reaction has been activated to provide protection. Our vital force cannot be effected by two similar diseases at the same time. The strong homeopathic potency will prevent the weaker natural disease from entering the organism. This starts to provide primary protection immediately. Over time the natural resistive power of our vital force will provide a secondary protection.

The writeup is adapted from a letter to the writer (sarwar@asia.com) from Dr David Little, a practicing homeopath.

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symptoms in the eyes of the patient which takes on a slight glassy look. Their look and actions remind one of a person who is going to get sick "tomorrow".

If the person just doesn't look or feel right, even if he/she can express exactly what is wrong, it is a sign to stop the remedy and wait and watch. These are signs that the remedy will soon produce symptoms if the dose is continued in the same manner.

Signs after Administration of Dose

If the person aggravates it is a sign that he/she is very susceptible and would be the first to get sick.

Here one must be very careful not to over medicate. If one is using the proper small amount of a medicinal solution that is made, such symptoms should only be from a few hours to one to three days. That should not pass the 4th day. A symptom that lasts longer than four days should be considered significant and carefully managed.

Those individuals who show no reaction to the repetition of the dose usually have little susceptibility to the similar natural disease. Most likely they would not get the natural disease as there is no