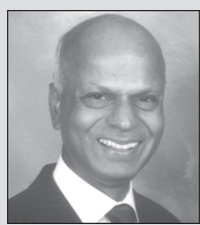


The arrogance of power and its consequences



CHAKLADER MAHBOOB-UL ALAM writes from Madrid

MAKE no mistake about it -- this is an unprovoked invasion of a small war-torn embargo-laden Muslim country by the United States, the world's most powerful military and economic power. It bears every hallmark of naked imperialism. The US president George W. Bush can rightly be proud of at least one organ of his vast and multifarious government, that is his propaganda machine. True, it has taken a lot of hard and patient work but it has indeed been an incredible performance. For months the American administration has slowly but steadily instilled fear of an unknown, ill-defined and diffuse enemy called international terrorism in the hearts and minds of the American people. The Bush team's daily appearance on the television and active participation of the ever-deferential, protective US media (with a few notable exceptions) in the hyperpatriotic campaign of disinformation and misinformation have convinced a large part of the American population that Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein is personally responsible for the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers of New York and that he is planning further terrorist attacks in the United States and therefore he must be destroyed. How? A swift surgical military operation will remove Saddam Hussein from power. The Iraqi people will greet the American troops with cheers and flowers for liberating them from a tyrannical regime. The Western world will breathe a sigh of relief because with the death of Saddam Hussein international terrorism will disappear. Bush knew that it would take some time to prepare American public opinion and to put the country on a war footing. So while his diplomats talked at the United Nations trying to give the impending war a veneer of legitimacy, he made the war preparations on a massive scale and deployed a huge army of more than two hundred and fifty thousand troops in the Middle East. Finally, on March 20th, Bush launched his "Operation Iraqi Freedom" campaign and thousands of bombs and cruise missiles started falling on the Iraqis "to liberate them".

The litany of Bush's justifications for this war has now been reduced to two reasons: First, to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction because in his opinion, Iraq poses a threat to its neighbours in the region and to the US. Second, to liberate the Iraqi people by overthrowing Saddam Hussein's regime, which according to him has consistently violated human rights. In a recent speech at the ultra-conservative American Enterprise Institute, Bush outlined his vision of post-Saddam Middle East. "A new regime in Iraq would serve as a dramatic and inspiring example of freedom for other nations in the region. "Mr. Bush thought that the introduc-

tion of democracy will have a domino effect in the entire region. Presumably what he meant was that Iran, Syria and Libya will get the message: The US wants to be feared by you. Either you accept our (American and Israeli) dictates on all affairs including Palestine or be destroyed. Bush has even given vent to his intimate thoughts about a grand design to redraw the map of the entire region, which presumably includes Afghanistan and central Asia. (Bush thinks, since he has the moral clarity to serve "a just and faithful God", he has the right to intervene whenever and wherever he sees fit without the consent of the United Nations or for that matter anybody else.)

Does Iraq really possess any weapons of mass destruction? There is no doubt that in the past Iraq did have an active nuclear programme. But the reactor was destroyed by Israel in a surprise attack, most certainly with the consent and support of the US. Only a few days before the current invasion, the United Nations weapons inspectors confirmed that they had not found any trace of any nuclear arms or for that matter any such programme for the production of nuclear weapons in future. By the way, if one of the objectives of the US invasion was to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, many analysts think that this action will have just the opposite effect. In other words, in order to safeguard themselves against US arbitrariness like preemptive strikes, smaller countries (even the so-called irresponsible ones) will try to acquire nuclear weapons by all means. (Arthur Schlesinger, the famous American historian expressed a similar opinion in a recent article.)

As we have seen recently in the case of North Korea, the US will think twice before attacking a nuclear power, even though it is a small country because of the fear of immediate retaliatory actions. After the first Gulf War and twelve years of sanctions, whatever weapons of mass destruction (a few outdated SCUD missiles and probably small amounts of chemical and biological material -- probably most of it by now obsolete) Iraq possesses are insignificant in comparison with what is owned by fifty other countries (among whom Israel figures prominently) in the world. By the way, most of these weapons were supplied by the US and its allies. In any case, the country that owns most of the world's weapons of mass destruction is the United States. Its military budget is more than the combined budget of the next ten military powers in world ranking. The argument that is put forward why Iraq should not be allowed to have any weapons of mass destruction is because it has used biological and chemical weapons -- which in my opinion, cannot be justified under any circumstances -- against its enemies before. Using the same logic, the US should not be allowed to have any weapons of mass destruction either because it is the only country in the world which has used nuclear bombs against innocent civilians (in Japan) and other weapons of mass destruction (in the Vietnam War). Anyway, it is clear that Iraq with its few outdated missiles and an insignificant amount of obsolete biological or chemical weapons does not pose a threat to Israel and definitely not to the US.

Saddam Hussein's government

does not have good track record on the issue of human rights. Actually, I would go even further. In order to perpetuate its powers, this dictatorial regime has often violated human rights. So Bush says he wants to liberate the Iraqi people by overthrowing the regime. Why only the Iraqi people. Most, if not all of Bush's allies in the region are dictators or autocrats and do not have better track records on human rights? Why does he not want to liberate their peoples as well? What about Sharon? Is Sharon's record any better? As Edward

promised freedom from the Turks by the West. Eventually, all those promises ended up in their being colonised by the British and the French, two fine examples of Western democracy. How can they trust the West again? (In any case, let us try to drop hypocrisy for a moment. If the central purpose of this war is to control the natural resources of Iraq, the US will have to set up a puppet regime. On the other hand, if real democracy is introduced, the resulting government will be nationalistic, pro-Palestinian and vehemently

Persian Gulf area. This arrangement lasted for a quarter of a century until the Shah was overthrown by an Islamic revolution in 1979. In December 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.

Both of these events were considered as serious setbacks for the American foreign policy. As a result of the Iranian Revolution, the US lost control over the Iranian oil. It was also afraid of the spread of Islamic Revolution to other oil-rich nations of the Middle East. The subsequent hostage crisis led

Afghan, Arab and Pakistani Mujaheddines. They were imbued with the strong principles of Wahabism, so that they would sacrifice their lives in fighting the infidel communists. When Reagan left office in 1989, the Americans had reasons to be happy about the success of their foreign policy, which had avoided large-scale direct American military participation in international conflicts. It seemed proxy wars yielded better results than full-scale wars with direct military participation. The Iran-Iraq

rest of the story is well-known to the readers. The Iraqi army was thrown out of Kuwait by the Americans, a strict embargo was imposed on Iraq. (Hundreds of thousands of people have since died in Iraq because of this embargo) and no-flying zones are established (without UN sanctions) ostensibly to protect the minorities but in reality to provoke the downfall of Saddam Hussein. Bush Sr. proudly proclaimed, "By God, we have kicked out the Vietnam syndrome once and for all."

But Saddam Hussein did not fall as the American strategists had expected. On the contrary, he consolidated his hold on power in Iraq, crushed the Shia and Kurdish rebellions with brutality (the US did not intervene) and extended his influence in the Middle East by helping the Palestinian freedom fighters. He annoyed the US even further by signing multi-billion dollar deals with Russia, France and China to supply oil. (It is possible that Saddam Hussein could have avoided the current American invasion had he given 100% of Iraq's oil to the US.) On the Afghan front, a complete breakdown of law and order eventually led to the establishment of a medieval style fundamentalist regime under the political guidance of a former CIA-trained Mujaheddine called Bin Laden, who had two important grudges against the US. The US had promised help to rebuild Afghanistan once the Soviets were defeated on the battle field. The freedom fighters felt completely abandoned when the US more or less washed its hands off Afghanistan. The second reason for the grudge was no less significant. Imbued with a sense of nationalism and Wahabism, many of them considered the permanent presence of American troops on the Saudi Arabian soil as sacrilegious. The American government realised that they had created two "monsters". In order to exercise absolute control over the natural resources of the Middle East and Central Asia, (oil and gas), to have hegemonic economic and trade domination all over the world and to guarantee Israel's existence and expansion (as Rumsfeld likes to refer to the occupied territories in Palestine not as occupied territories but as "disputed territories"), they (Saddam Hussein and the Mujaheddines) had to be snuffed out.

In 1992, Dick Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz prepared a paper on future American foreign policy. They recommended to Bush, Sr. that the US was powerful enough to discard its alliances with other nations and use its vast military power to prevent the rise of any "potential future global competitor" and to stop nuclear proliferation. Again in 1996, Richard Perle and Douglas Feith drafted a document in which they recommended a regime change in Iraq, which in their opinion would help resolve the Palestinian problem because removal of Saddam Hussein would mean a change in the "balance of power" in the Middle East. In September, 2002, in its national strategy statement, Bush administration confirmed its intention to maintain the country's overwhelming military superiority and take whatever action that was necessary to prevent the emergence of a rival. The attack on 9/11 had already given the US the perfect excuse to put this plan into action, hence this war.

So, the central objective of the

American foreign policy is to acquire global hegemony through war. Bush's neo-conservative ideologues "have already mapped out a string of preventive conquests -- Iran, Syria, North Korea, Pakistan, its friendly president is ousted by Islamic militants, perhaps eventually China. They argue for more immense Pentagon budgets to build forces configured for pre-emptive strikes." (Bill Keller of *New York Times* in *IHT* of Feb. 10, 03) One of these neo-conservative ideologues, Michael Ledeen of the American Enterprise Institute is even more ambitious, who recently described this war as "an epochal war... Iraq may turn out to be war to remake the world." -- I suppose, to remake the whole world in a way that suits the United States. So, with this 21st century replay of European colonialism, Bush "is beginning to define in blood the new American *impe-rium*".

It seems Bush and his advisers do not realise that hegemonic power of any nation will always trigger challenges from its "subject races", which in due course will create more conflicts and terrorist activities and not less. It is a pity that blinded by power and arrogance, Bush has preferred to ignore the lessons learnt from the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Like the Israelis in Lebanon, the Americans will eventually be forced to leave Iraq. If the objective was to intimidate the Arabs and the Muslims into submission, it will create just the opposite effect. But meanwhile the world will unfortunately become more unstable and the cycle of violence will grow because of the collective humiliation inflicted on the Arabs and the Muslims.

Still, not everything is going as planned by Washington's cocky theorists. One of the consequences of the arrogance of American power has been the rise of anti-Americanism all across the globe. There is so much resentment against and distrust of the United States in the world that in spite of enormous pressure exerted on the Security Council members, the Bush administration could not bully them to go along with its war plans. Its unilateral policies on global warming, missile defence, trade, generic medicines, immigration, International Criminal Court, its treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo have generated so much ill will across the globe that the world public opinion is decidedly against the United States. There is hardly any support for the US at the popular level in any country. As Edward Said wrote recently, "...it is also a great and noble fact that for the first time since World War Two, there are mass protests against the war taking place before rather than during the war itself. This is unprecedented and should become the central fact of the new globalised era into which our world has been thrust by the US and its super power status." It is also of great historical importance that there has been no "clash of civilizations", as predicted by another of those pseudo-intellectuals of the regime. All or most of these millions of people, who have demonstrated and are still demonstrating in the West including the US are Christians. All the church leaders including the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury have criticised America's readiness to spread war across the globe. How long can the United States swim against this rising tide?

LETTER FROM EUROPE

It seems Bush and his advisers do not realise that hegemonic power of any nation will always trigger challenges from its "subject races", which in due course will create more conflicts and terrorist activities and not less. It is a pity that blinded by power and arrogance, Bush has preferred to ignore the lessons learnt from the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Like the Israelis in Lebanon, the Americans will eventually be forced to leave Iraq. If the objective was to intimidate the Arabs and the Muslims into submission, it will create just the opposite effect.

Said recently pointed out, "torture, illegal detention, assassination, assaults against civilians with missiles, helicopters and jet fighters, annexation of territory, transportation of civilians from one place to another for the purpose of imprisonment, mass killing (as in Qana, Jenin, Sabra and Shatila to mention only the obvious), denial of rights to free passage and unimpeded civilian movement, education, medical aid, use of civilians as human shields, humiliation, punishment of families, house demolitions on a mass scale, destruction of agricultural land, expropriation of water, illegal settlement, economic pauperisation, attacks on hospitals, medical workers and ambulances, killing of UN personnel", are committed almost on a daily basis by Sharon's so-called democratic government. It should be pointed out here that all this is done "with US equipment, US political support and US finance". If, in spite of this phenomenal record of human rights abuses against the Palestinians, Sharon is considered as a "man of peace" by Bush, how does he arrive at the conclusion that Saddam Hussein is the Great Satan?

Bush says, he wants "to liberate" the Iraqi people. How, by blowing them to bits with the help of Tomahawk cruise missiles? Again, he says, he wants to bring freedom and democracy to the Middle East. What sort of freedom is he talking about -- by turning it into a colony, as was evident when the first US troops in Iraq raised the US flag at Umm Qasr? What sort of democracy is he referring to? As Ellen Shire wrote in the International Herald Tribune of March 25, 2003, "In Bush's democracy the environment is suffering, a woman's right to choose is being slowly eroded and the death penalty is the law. Separation of church and state is practically non-existent. Civil rights are being trampled upon and opposition is considered unpatriotic. This is the idea of democracy Bush is trying to export to the Middle East by way of force." Who has appointed Bush and his cocky theorists as the agents of freedom and democracy? In any case, Bush has very little credibility in the Arab world. Why has he not done anything to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinians? The Arabs, in general are sceptical about Western intentions. After the end of World War I, they were



Destroyed locality, victimised humanity in Iraq.

anti-American. So, who do the Americans think they are trying to fool?

If these are simply lame excuses put forward by Bush to justify this war, which was planned long before he came to the White House, then what are the real reasons for such an action? For this we have to go back to the ignominious role played by the US government in organising a coup which overthrew the democratically elected government of Iran in 1953 and the subsequent incarceration of the deposed prime minister for life. (I have another reason to go back so far in history to disprove the theory that the poor US has been forced to take on the role of the "reluctant sheriff" for noble objectives -- such as maintaining peace among irrational and irresponsible third world countries -- and not for selfish reasons. Only difference between then and now is that the CIA undertook covert operations in the past to change regimes and now the US openly uses force to further its own national interest.) The Shah was brought back from exile and a completely pro-western government was installed in Tehran. The primary objective was to obtain the control of Iranian oil and appoint an unofficial gendarme in the person of the Shah to protect American interests in the

to the downfall of President Carter and the rise of the ultra-conservative Reagan. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was described by Carter as "a stepping-stone to their possible control over much of the world's oil supplies." Traumatized by their defeat in Vietnam, the Americans decided not to send their armed forces in Iran to contain the Islamic Revolution. They also decided against direct military intervention in Afghanistan for the same reason. Instead, they opted for proxy wars. In this venture, it obtained financial support from its Arab allies (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait). Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein was willing to help the Americans, provided it served his own interests. So, suitably armed by the US and financed by Saudi Arabia and its allies, in September, 1980, in clear violation of international law, Iraq invaded the Khuzistan province of Iran. (The US also sold arms to Iran in a clandestine manner. It should also be mentioned here that during the Iran-Iraq War, Saddam Hussein's regime used poison gas, supplied by Western countries. As far as I know, at that time the US did not show any humanitarian concern for these atrocities.)

On the other front, the US confronted the Soviet Union through

war and ended with terrible human and financial losses for both of these Muslim countries. The expansion of Islamic Revolution of the Iranian brand had been halted. The Soviets had been defeated in Afghanistan by the Mujaheddines (freedom fighters), which had sent shock waves throughout Soviet society. It soon led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet empire. And all this had been achieved without any significant loss of American lives.

Having obtained its immediate objectives, the US abandoned both of its "allies" -- Saddam Hussein and the Mujaheddines. Saddam Hussein was dubbed as a power-hungry dictator and the Mujaheddines became American eyes. Saddam Hussein, who considered himself as a friend of the US (after all, there were very close ties between the Pentagon and Iraqi armed forces) made a serious miscalculation about American determination to protect its oil interests in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In August, 1990, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and annexed it as part of Iraq. (This is yet another example of the Iraq president's unscrupulous foreign policy.) Feeling threatened, Saudi Arabia called for American military intervention. The

Emotional catastrophe: An often-ignored aftermath of war

DR. SYED KAMALUDDIN AHMED

IT was a box news in a vernacular daily the other day and then it became an immediate experience only last Sunday evening. I was in my professional consultation and just finished seeing a patient, and it happened all on a sudden. A young child of about seven or eight pushed open the door and rushed to my desk with a young couple (his parents, I discovered later) and my door attendant behind. He was all panicked, appeared to be in a hurry and with very little inhibition for being in front of a stranger. He addressed me 'uncle' and asked rightaway "would there be any war in Bangladesh? Are they going to kill children here too?". I was startled, little puzzled may be, and failed to find a word for a moment. I won't say I was in a state of shock but definitely little perturbed, to be very honest. My 24 years of psychiatric training, learning and experience became numb for a moment, I am sure. The parents were very apologetic at the behaviour of the child and looked equally disturbed. I got myself back to the business and asked the family to take their seats, tried to calm the child down and pacify the young parents. The mother started complaining about her husband's prolonged hour of TV watching and discussing the issues in front of the boy. Father remained silent, and looked shrunken with clear signs of guilt on his face.

The story was that the child, a kindergarten student, heard and watched in the television all the horrifying stories of the Iraq war and how the children were killed and many were in agony with injuries in the hospitals. In the morning of that beginning of school week he refused to go to school, started complaining discomfort in his chest and later crying and asking his parents whether there would be any war in Bangladesh and

would children be also killed. Parents first ignored it and thought it to be a plea for not going to school, then tried to pacify him in their own way but ultimately failed to manage and rushed to my consultation. The child was really in a great pain! I had to apologise to my other clients, who had prior appointments, for the child had no such appointment but needed an immediate attention. At the same time I must apologise to the young parents of the child for little deviation from my professional ethical norms of 'not disclosing any information about professional clients'. But I believe the parents would understand my intention and definitely appreciate that their actual identity is not revealed in this communication.

The box news in the daily was that a young girl of about the same age in a northern district became sick after watching and listening all the brutalities of war, withdrawn herself and started refusing food, and had to be hospitalized with no apparent sign of any physical illness. One may argue that the happenings are only isolated incidents but would definitely agree that it is happening in a small corner thousands of miles away from actual battlefield. Here is a child in front of me, who never had such a horrific experience and had seen those only on TV screen. Let us forget for a moment that we are in Bangladesh and take all our imaginations to the lands of Iraq. We would only experience, you would probably agree, the never-seen and never-felt catastrophic traumas that are generally outside the range of usual human experiences. It is not only the children, the adults equally have to experience all the traumatic events available or one can name on God's earth during the madness of a war. Fortunately, scientific literature in its natural wisdom ultimately recognized the phenomenon of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a disease entity. It

In a natural disaster, when there people en masse are traumatised there are others available to sympathise, help and work together to rebuild. Even in those circumstances, because of prevalent belief about ulterior motive of the people in assistance, suffering people often become suspicious and question their purpose. What may happen then to the people of Iraq when they do not see anybody around during the days of killing and destruction, and suddenly discover people of different faces coming with all their help and goodwill gestures to rebuild their country?



Traumatized Iraqi child in her war damaged home

defines the psychological stressors that may cause this painful condition as "serious threat to one's life or physical integrity; serious threat or harm to one's children, spouse, other close relatives or friends; destruction of one's home or community, or seeing another person who is mutilated, dying or dead, or victim of physical violence". The war in its truest term is nothing but a wider elaboration of stressors mentioned above.

World War I introduced us to a new phenomenon called "soldier's heart" or "shell shock", the conditions simulating severe form of anxiety among

the soldiers coming back from war circumstances. Second World War added a new dimension to the phenomenon by identifying similar conditions among the civilians in general, survivors of atomic bombing in Japan, and those of POW camps and Nazi concentration camps. Scientific evidence suggests similar conditions to be an inevitable consequence of any man-made or natural catastrophic disaster. Surveys among World War II POWs, Vietnam veterans, survivors of Mount Saint Helen volcanic eruption, and similar other population revealed a consistent finding that a significant

number had to bear the consequences of psychological trauma due to disasters. Severity and intensity of consequences and also their continuation depend on, among others, the intensity and duration of trauma, its nature that is whether it is man-made or natural, and on the social environment of trauma and post-trauma period. Severity and intensity of the trauma caused by current onslaught of an unnecessary and unjust war does not probably need any qualification. People of Iraq did not have the good fortune of a life immunized against oppression for long and only future knows what will happen if the country would ever have to go under an occupation. Multitude of man-made disasters indeed!

Disaster caused by war is not only a result of an 'act of commission' only; simultaneously there is an 'act of omission' also, if we call it so. There are conscious and direct violent acts like killing, and destruction of long built habitations and civilization. On the other hand, there are scarcity of food, medicine and water supply, and disruption of minimum living amenities happening as so-called-by-product of a war savage, never mention the long-term consequences of tons of ammonitions used for the purpose. War trodden population and with the advent of its multidimensional media coverage, the helpless observers all over are watching this ruthless 'mass destruction' of a modern day war every

moment. It is a kind of getting traumatized en masse or in a group that is a much more complicated and difficult situation. Everybody is a victim and none is a savior! There is none to provide support to aggrieved ones, there is destruction of social and cultural fabric of a nation, and there remains very little opportunity to salvage oneself or recover in a group. It has been found that manufactured disaster result in graver consequences than natural catastrophe.

It is not only the people of Iraq who would have to bear all the consequences of an act of mass destruction, the Coalition Forces at the same time would possibly have the bites of their human conscience, guilt feeling and ego conflict, rejection by the conscientious and rational free world, and also humiliation out of hatred of their own people. The soldiers in the forefront are usually relatively younger cohorts of population and research evidences suggest that younger population suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder more than their older counterpart. Children who are exposed to traumatic experiences early in their age lives with the possibility of developing the psychological consequences even with a milder trauma later in their life. Iraqi population is involved in war situation off and on for nearly half a century, and they saw actual combat situation couple of times over last 25 years. There are scientific evidences that people living in less privileged condi-

tions have more vulnerability of emotional consequences of severe trauma than those living in a relatively better situation.

Leadership of black population in USA is concerned about developmental retardation of their underprivileged community as a budgetary consequence of war. It is time for them to include the issue of emotional management too in their agenda if they want to safeguard the interest of their community. More than 20 per cent of American recruitment are from black community, it is reported. Study among Vietnam veterans showed that there was more indulgence in alcohol and drugs and also aggressive-impulsive behaviour of the population than the general population. Stories of Vietnam veterans' preference for jungle life and social isolation should not be very far from our memory. Then consider the fate of Iraqi population who are under dictatorial rule for so many years and UN imposed sanction for more than a decade.

Children and adolescents in their formative years, it is suggested, if get traumatised, may manifest in a different way. They may develop disease proneness, vulnerability to emotional stress, poor self-esteem, passive aggressivity, and even self-mutilating behaviour including suicide on minor provocation. They show, in most instances, poor scholastic performance, inadequate adjustment capacity, and vulnerability to drugs and alcohol. US President and his advisers are now planning for new Iraq administration and rebuilding of post-war Iraq. They appear quite candid about their role in future Iraq. British Prime Minister in all his modesty wants a definite role of the United Nations, France, Germany and also Russia started showing signs of softening of their stance against war. Who knows what is in their mind about future of Iraq and their role in its rebuilding.

Would all their good intentions for such a 'noble cause' ever consider rebuilding of 'emotional mass destruction' of Iraqi men, women and children caused by current war?

In a natural disaster like flood or earthquake, when there people en masse are traumatized there are others available to sympathise, help and work together to rebuild oneself and the community. Even in those circumstances, because of prevalent belief about ulterior motive of the people in assistance, suffering people often become suspicious and question their purpose. What may happen then to the people of Iraq when they do not see anybody around during the days of killing and destruction, and suddenly discover people of different faces coming with all their help and goodwill gestures to rebuild their country? Hatred, paranoia and hostility may jeopardize all the good intentions of supposedly post-war rebuilding of Iraq. Iraqi people would probably have to relearn to trust and love others, for their craving for love has been deprived for so long!

The young boy will come to see me this week, that was what was decided before they left my consultation. I do not know how he is doing now. I can imagine his father is no longer spending long hours watching TV, his mother is trying to find answers to many more questions the child may ask. I am, as a professional, still in a dilemma about a query I could not attend during my conversation with the boy that day. "Children did not do any wrong. Ammu says God loves them, then why they have to die? Does not God love children there any more?" the boy asked and I was dumbfounded for a while. I am still looking for an answer and I wish I had one.

Dr. Syed Kamaluddin Ahmed is a mental health professional.