

Loan Defaulters' Candidacy

Public opinion, as reflected through the media, has grown palpably articulate on the question of disallowing loan defaulters from being candidates in the next General Elections.

We are wholeheartedly for this initiative to bear fruit in the firm belief that an embodiment of a concrete step such as this one, in the Code of Conduct, is worth so much more than pious platitudes and vaguely-worded resolutions in defence of fair polls.

Simply stated, wilful defaulters are no respecters of law and we cannot have citizens who are not law-abiding as candidates for the most crucial of our polls — the parliamentary elections.

Then, one tangible way of combating the tyranny of black money and muscle-power at the polls will be to keep the wilful defaulters of huge bank loans out of the electoral gambit.

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Make It Work This Time

At long last, the Western powers have seemingly risen to the occasion. The NATO jets have been engaged in massive air operations against the Serb artillery positions around Sarajevo.

Now that the NATO has made its intention clear, the Serbs can no longer hope for a greater Serbia. In fact, Croatia initiated the process of stifling that Serbian dream and the NATO can give a finishing touch to the operation.

Attacks such as the recent ones could very well be carried out immediately after the Srebrenica debacle and the massacre of civilian population that followed it.

The Serbs' immediate response to the bombing has been one of defiance. But developments elsewhere suggest that a disunity between Serb political leadership of Radovan Karadzic and military command headed by Ratko Mladic may make the task easier for the NATO offensive.

Game with a Future

A relatively new game, handball, has done for the country what the more popular and traditional sports like football and cricket have so far failed to do.

Bangladesh was charged with the responsibility of organising the tournament virtually at the last moment. On that count, the host country has responded quite admirably to make the tournament a success.

The championships of both girls and boys have deservedly gone to India. Particularly, the Indian boys were technically superior to the rest of the participating teams.

The advantages of the game is that it can be played in a small place and the goal-scoring spree can be a great crowd-puller.

It was mid-August in 1947. Now 48 years ago but the memory of those days is as clear as that of yesterday's happenings.

Are you leaving? some of our Hindu and Sikh friends would ask us whenever they came to say goodbye before migrating to India.

Some tension, however, began to build a few days before mid-August, following the influx of Muslim refugees, who told and retold the tale of their sufferings at the hands of Hindus and Sikhs in India.

We were having lunch on August 15 when there was quick shuffling of many feet beneath our flat and full-throated slogans: khon ka badla khon se lenge (blood for blood).

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I Saw Murder and Worse

It was not possible to prevent reprisals when killings continued in India. We, the non-Muslims, felt guilty but still thought it unjust that the sins of Hindus in India should visit us. We expected things to settle down.

A few of our Muslim friends came soon after and drove us to a house in the cantonment. This belonged to one of them but was vacant.

As days went, the cantonment also became unsafe. Stories of atrocities were fouling the climate. It was not possible to prevent reprisals when killings continued in India.

Cries of a boy woke me up one morning at our cantonment house. "Forgive me," and "I apologise" was all that I heard but did not know why he was saying so.

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growing global transaction and communication which may enable the community of nations to redefine relationships in problem-ridden areas such as demographic pressure or population boom, migration, environment, terrorism etc.

It would be proper to suggest that in South Asia there has been some kind of reflection of the new international order and systemic change, with changing perception and disappearance of the old alignment pattern.

In this changing context there is indeed a new window of opportunities offered to redefine relationships in areas such as population pressure, gender participation, migration, environment, terrorism, economy, market mechanism and so on in South Asia as well.

It is true that there has been a renewed attempt internationally to strengthen collective security, with new ground rules of interaction still being framed.

of the burning issues of the contemporary world, like AIDS, poverty, population control, environment pollution, violation of human rights, terrorism, oppression on women, drug abuses, smoking, etc.

We, therefore, urge the UN and its member states to take up this very timely proposal for the greater welfare of mankind.

It is a fact that morality is the ultimate solution to most

But the incident shook us. We thought that it would be better for us to spend some days in India till normalcy returned. Still it did not occur to us that even when there was normalcy, our return would not be possible.

I was lucky to find place in a convoy, which took the GT Road to Amritsar through Gujranwala and Lahore.

thought we could easily throw away in India. Still we did not think that it was the last visit to our own house.

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ethnic conflicts and problematic bilateral relations; yet most of the South Asian neighbours have sought to cope with the issues of economic concern.

Despite the existence of conflicts, the conflictual parties themselves seem acutely aware of the fact that getting embroiled in further conflict would not serve their best interest or purpose.

However, South Asia itself is not oblivious of the global change and is seeking to repair their disrupted power equations, both India and Pakistan being active to counter each other in pursuing their subregional power aspirations as well as in seeking broader regional and international alignment.

What is needed in South Asia, above all, is a determined effort to break the intellectual logjam and to avoid the situation of a zero-sum

on this proposal in near future if they deem it acceptable.

A N M Saleh Assistant Professor Rajshahi University

Let's help them Sir, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia deserves appreciation for her bold initiative in creating a 'Bosnian Muslim Solidarity Fund' to raise money for helping the Muslims of war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Men and women with their belongings bundled on their heads and their fear-stricken children trailing behind — they were a tragic spectacle of force and submission, of savagery and shame.

I wondered where the rivers of humanity would end up? None probably knew; no one cared. How did it matter now when they had left the homes they had lived in all their lives and the friends they had cherished?

It was the same scene reenacted when I crossed into India. The victims had taken the place of non-Muslims. There was no difference in ferocity or cruelty.

Nearly 20 lakh people lost their lives and 200 lakh their homes and hearths.

In this context also, the Southeast Asian and East Asian countries could perhaps provide a useful model for the South Asian nations in avoidance of conflict as well as in expanding areas of cooperation; the latter could thus accept asymmetry where there is an unavoidable reality, whereas the actor whose power is one of asymmetric order may reciprocate by way of magnanimity.

Whether or not there is a linkage of civilizational conflicts in South Asia, projected by Samuel Huntington as a post-Cold War global phenomenon, there is doubtless a fear psychosis involving the very big and the smaller neighbours of South Asia in a contentious perceptual frame of 'insecurity of the dominant community' threatening to tear up the larger India or a fear complex of the smaller neighbouring countries who see the danger of being engulfed as a result of doctrinal articulation of the perceived regional 'hegemony'. These

Muslims confronting world's worst ethnic cleansing by the Serbs.

We sincerely and strongly hope that the world conscience would come forward to help the Bosnian Muslims save their lives from the hands of the brutes.

Meanwhile as reported in the press, an account, bearing number 33004969 has been opened at Sonali Bank and people have been requested to deposit their donations to the above account in any branch of the Sonali Bank. It's heartening. Let's have the zeal to help them!

Thousands of women were raped or kidnapped and thousands of children never found their parents. It was a tragedy that has found no faithful account.

The subcontinent was a victim of religious frenzy. I resolved to myself that when we build tomorrow's India, we would see that none was killed because he had a different religion.

When he died within a few months of my deciding to stay on in India, I wept openly and unashamedly in public. This was my catharsis, my penance on behalf of the nation which did not come up to his standard of love, harmony and communal amity.

crisis of governance, but all these have external dimensions, and both internal and external problems often interact. For governments do often use or misuse the people and exaggerate the psychological component of external threat perception.

negative fear psychosis or fear complex involving the very big and the smaller powers can only be tackled by establishing civil societies in each of the state entity — overcoming internal vulnerabilities — and by strengthening the people-to-people contacts.

The countries of the region certainly do have their internal vulnerabilities or

replaced Hollywood as the capital of the motion picture world. Steven Spielberg came here to make "Jaws," and he begat Mia Farrow, who begat John Belushi, who begat Spike Lee, who begat all the movie friends of Bill.

This summer the movie colony stars spotted on the island have included Michelle Pfeiffer, Kevin Costner, Ted Danson, Sharon Stone, Mary Crosby, Rosanna Arquette, Mike Nichols, Merv Griffin and heaven knows how many executives from the major studios.

Fruto, who wants to keep the island the way it was before talking pictures came, said he was scared silly. "I know they're all coming."

Fruto was on a roll "Rumor has it that Rupert Murdoch has bought the Home Port Restaurant and will make it a studio commissary for 20th Century Fox."

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South Asia and the New World Order

by Dr Abul Kalam

IN the swiftly changing order of human relations at macro-level, taking the shape of what is often called new international order, the position of South Asia needs to be re-appraised and redefined.

It is so often suggested that the collapse of communism and the disintegration of the USSR facilitated the emergence of a new system embodying the vast network of worldwide human relationships at all levels; but to many the new international order is illusory and stillborn.

However, the division of the international system along the old Cold War line has disappeared with the change of role perception. There has also been a disappearance of the old ideological divide, which, coupled with the disappearance of old international alignment pattern, conditioned global security notions, leading to open market and/or marginalised economic approaches, initiatives and policies.

The emerging issues of market orientation, democracy, human rights, re-emergence of religious fundamentalism have all become issues of worrying concern of one type or another.

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