Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Sunday, September 6, 1998 The Children's Plight

The newspapers are experiencing difficulty in finding apt nouns and adjectives to fit the rising and tarrying waters. Generally thoughts of coping with enormous floods centre on handling the aftermath. This time the water-mark has pegged itself still at points not below the '88 high for 50 days on and more. If it stays thereabout for a month more, as is being predicted, it will become a question of physical survival for tens of millions.

The relief workers are at a loss to devise ways to reach food, medicine and water effectively to marooned families. Pre-cooked food is the need in most of the deluged areas — and how to respond to this? The only thing coming handy this time is the easy availability of the 'shallow' or 'trawler' or the motorised country-boat.

One thing keeps popping up inexorably into the thousand pictures that have come out of the waters in the newspapers. Children. All of them staring us in the face, or into our conscience may be. They are the most vulnerable. And they are so many! A million and a half of them joining our population every year. Our flood thoughts have been awfully distinguished by the absence of any concern for the children. We have been less than honest to think that if the family lives, so will the children. That's not simply true. Particularly in trying situations. Tarashankar's Tarini Majhi trampled his beloved wife underwater in such a situation. It is not true that families care specially for the children in times of suffering. And the children need something more than is received through standard relief to survive such ordeals.

How will indeed the children survive this extra September of the pervasive water sheet? And can they survive the challenge of the receding waters? Survive cholera and malnutrition? Both our civilisation and humanity are going to be tested this time by the yardstick of responsibility towards our children.

This, our concern for children, comes at a time when we are receiving encomiums for inhibiting significantly the rate of new births — racing down to 2 per cent or even lower. Considering our capacity to fend for the new mouths, we hardly can rejoice over the good performance. As during the floods so during the dry months, our children are an appendage hardly given a thought on the state, social or even a literary level. This is a defect that

Appalling Conduct What happened at the Manik Mia Avenue last Friday was nothing more than a storm in the tea cup. A small argument as it was, it should have been settled amicably, locally and instantly and commonsensically. There was no way it could be allowed to spill into an inebriate donnybrook leading to such mindless and mammoth destruction of public property. We feel both police and the caboodle at the spot showed deplorable want of control over temperament and a dangerous propensity towards lawlessness. We hold the two police men — reportedly at the centre of the skirmish -- chiefly responsible for the flare-up. It was their eack-handedness which made a complete hash of a simple, innocuous situation. Police had no business misbehaving with the youngsters out to have some fun on the weekend afternoon. That particular place around the parliament house has long become a spot of recreational resort of sorts for the smoke-choked and space-starved citydwellers. Hundreds of people roam around there, especially on weekends. What national security was being breached by the movement of some skaters? What is more important who gave police the right to indulge in gross abuse of their authority by assaulting the so-called 'offenders'? There are specific laws to deal with a case of trespassing. If police had to be such uncompromising enforcers of law they could have done that by being within the parameters of law. Instead of that what they did was close to gangsterism in that they came back reinforced to pounce on the crowd in a retaliatory rage. There must be some difference between the law breakers and law enforcers. This alarming tendency — of indulging in brutal excess in the face of not necessarily defiant attitude - has become a

pretty consistent pattern with the law enforcing agency. This is not to condone the public behaviour which was condemnable to say the least. It is understandable that deteriorating law and order and the increasing presence of police sometimes as reactive perpetrators tend to make a compelling case for public rage against police atrocity but this society has had enough of provocation. It just can't take any more of confrontational situations. We demand of the authorities to immediately make a move for improving the police-people relationship.

NAM's New Agenda
When Non-Aligned Movement was launched in the thick of bipolar rivalries as a moderating influence between two ideological extremes western media took a sling-shot at it: "well, the very fact of its being a grouping meant it was aligned, self-affiliated and, therefore, non-neutral." The flak it drew betrayed a certain awe-struck envy at the emergence of a third voice in world affairs.

While the contextual political relevance of NAM has significantly dwindled after the dissolution of camp politics ironically the critics' original aphorism that it was 'self-affiliated' should now perhaps be the movement's emblem in the changed perspective. In other words, it is expected to reemerge as a cohesive force aiming to steer clear of the regional multi-polar pulls and counter-pulls that bear a bad omen for a balanced equitable global order in no less a degree than the dangers being spelt to it by the world's only super-power's self-righteous a cross-the-sky excess. We note with some satisfaction the NAM's concern over 'selective and unilateral actions by states' in oblique condemnation of the US missile strikes on suspected terrorist targets in member-states Sudan and Afghanistan. The call for an international summit on terrorism under the UN auspices could not have come a day earlier. Fears have also been expressed about 'the development of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and a rampant traffic in armaments in recognition of the regional scenarios. It is by such positionings that NAM can find its political feet back again. NAM is basically required, however, to embody a robust economic content in order that the marginalisation being suffered by the developing countries following economic globalisation can be overcome as new opportunities presented by it are utilised as well.

Lest it became irrelevant for the next millennium NAM's reincarnation process better be speeded up.

Indo-Bangla Trade and Multilaterism

NDIA-Bangladesh trade is The benefits of aggressively looking out for further trade links with the outside world especially the high an important subject which A has considerable bearing on income and fast growing countries will be much greater for Bangladesh than getting tied up with slow the future pattern of growth of growing and strife torn countries of South Asia. Bangladesh. One cannot deal with it in a cavalier fashion.

ented questions which cannot be dealt in this short space.

For an objective analysis, one

has to take a hard and dispas-

sionate look at what has been

happening in this area and

then examine the future

prospects of trade and growth of

Bangladesh. Besides, one also

has to take note of theoretical

advances in this field for

should first note that bilateral

trade with India existed ever

since 1947 but the regional ap-

proach to trade came after the

establishment of SAARC in

1985. But SAPTA became effec-

tive in 1993. However, if one

looks at the trade data between

Bangladesh and India from the

mid-1980s to mid-1990s, one

finds that there is a persis-

tently growing gap between an-

nual imports and exports of

Bangladesh. Even in 1996-97,

the size of the deficit is US \$

950. This is only the official

unofficial import, or smuggling

in, is of the order of about US \$

1 billion or more while export.

or smuggling out, is in the range

of about US \$300- US \$ 400

million leaving a gap of an-

other US \$ 600 million or more.

One is simply struck by such an

ever growing trade gap which

that crop up in one's mind : (i)

how is it paid for ? (ii) does it

matter to Bangladesh at all?

and (iii) what will happen to

Bangladesh if she joins the

proposed South Asian Free

Trade Arrangement (SAFTA) in

How is the Deficit

(i) The annual deficits with

Financed?

India are financed by

Bangladesh by paying in hard

currency. There is "No Free

Lunch" anywhere in the world.

However, for the official trade

imbalance, the government has

to settle it in the internation-

ally approved currencies. But in

the unofficial trade or smug-

gling, it is also settled by giving

hard currency either by way of

supplying the country's im-

ported items, or by gold and

other valuable metals or by di-

verting Bangladeshi expatri-

ates' foreign exchange earnings

through private Indian chan-

nels. (These are found out by Dr.

Atiur Rahman and Mr. Abdur

Razzaque as reported in an ar-

ticle. "Potent Policy for 'Infor-

mal Economy' to Check Smug-

gling". The Daily Star, August 4,

the country's hard earned for-

eign currency? This raises a

number of social welfare ori-

Is this the best way of using

2001, as it is stipulated now? .

There are three questions

has become chronic.

Some estimates of the recent

On the empirical side, one

drawing right conclusions.

However, one should appreciate here that if this unofficial trade could be made official. then the government could collect a few million dollars of revenues from Customs Duties, VAT, Supplementary Duties and Advanced Income Tax etc., which would have enriched the government treasury. Apart from a loss of social surplus, which could have been used for the development of infrastructure, "public goods" and "meritorious goods" etc., illegal trades also create price distortions in the same category of goods some of which are officially imported while others

are smuggled in. In addition, illegal trades can also involve the importation of "bads" rather than "goods and services" which results in a travesty of welfare improvement through trade.

Does the Trade **Imbalance Matter?**

(ii) Does such a chronic trade imbalance which runs to over US \$ billion a year, in both the official and unofficial trades, matter to Bangladesh? The answer is definitely "yes" for a number of reasons.

First, if the deficits in the India-Bangladesh bilateral trade keeps growing over the years, the country will face pressure to export more to the outside world and send more Bangladeshis abroad to pay for these recurring deficits. Multilateral trade has to be vigorously pursued.

Second, such chronic bilateral deficits represent the failure of first and second rounds of SAPTA concessions given in terms of tariff reductions on larger number of commodities to the low income countries of SAARC like Bangladesh to eliminate such deficits. This is where the 40% value-addition requirement (or the general "source of origin" condition in any regional bloc formation) and the subsequent "zero-rating of tariff" for easy access to Indian market of Bangladeshi or other low income (SAARC) countries' goods become critical. Everyone knows that the nominal tariff reduction is the first step in trade liberalisation and the more vital step is the elimination of quantitative restrictions and non-tariff barriers.

Third, in this connection one must appreciate that Bangladesh had drastically reduced her Unweighted Average Tariff (UAT) from 94% in 1989 to 25% in 1994-95 before, This liberalisation process started

in Bangladesh earlier than in India. Compared to this, India's UAT in 1994-95 stood at 41% giving India some initial tariff advantage which seems to have partly contributed to a surge in imports of Bangladesh around this period. One may of course point out that India's Import-Weighted Average Tariff (IWAT) was 19% while Bangladesh's IWAT was at 21%

But one must remember here that IWAT rate is not very relevant in this case since India's imports are largely restricted by her Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) but in the case of Bangladesh these were substantially eliminated. Therefore, during the period 1995-97, the reciprocal tariff and nontariff reductions had to come certainly from India.

in 1994-95.

basic questions in my mind as to (i) whether Bangladesh has been deriving any real benefit from its membership of SAPTA and (ii) whether Bangladesh will really benefit by joining SAFTA. As I have been observing, analysing and writing on these issues over the last three years, I am convinced that joining SAFTA will be a great mistake and Bangladesh should stay with SAPTA as far as it has gone. Devoting too much time, effort and resources in the hope of getting favourable terms from SAPTA will be unrewarding, if not a complete waste. Why am I saying this?

Joining a regional bloc is more a hindrance than an assistance to global trade liberal isation. This is because once a free trade area is created by



I usually use a special term

like "strategic goods" to differ-

entiate such trade from the or-

dinary traded goods. For exam-

ple, no major advanced country

will sell military hardware or

even advanced aircraft to an

unfriendly country. Not only

military hardware but even

foodgrains are not sold to a

country until and unless some

non-economic conditions of

the sellers are fulfilled. Real

world is far more complex than

what simplistic trade models

trades generate social welfare

Should Bangladesh Join

(iii) The above considera-tions have led me, to raise two

SAFTA?

of textbooks assume. Do all

gradual elimination of tariff sensitive factor is that, these and other barriers for the huge amounts of deficits are member countries, there is aunow being used by India (extomatically a tariff barrier pressed in a recent Foreign Secbuilt against the non-memretaries' meeting of the two bers. For the members, tariff countries) as a bargaining chip reduction has a "trade diversion to extract "transit facilities" effect" (i.e., trade from outside Chittagong Port and Railway will be diverted to the free trade lines etc.) from Bangladesh region) as well as a "trade which has given rise to tencreation effect" (i.e. the free sions between the two friendly trade region will generate new countries. A little reflection opportunities for producing shows that trade is used not and selling new products as only here but also in many well as the greater volume of other instances in the world esthe existing products). The free pecially by big powers as a trade area is beneficial for the strategy for realising other obmembers as long as the "trade ectives which may not render creation effect" becomes greater 'equitable mutual benefits" to than the "trade diversion efboth the trading partners as economic textbooks assume.

My assessment about SAFTA is that since Bangladesh and India are two competitive economies in almost all the major items that Bangladesh exports, and since India has an edge over Bangladesh in all these goods in terms of costs of production since it produces from raw materials to the finished manufactured products, Bangladesh will not be able to sell its manufactured products (except a few items like Jamdani sari and jute etc.) in India even if all trade barriers are removed. In the fiercest competition that will follow, most of the newly emerging Bangladeshi industries will face a major setback if not totally annihilated, in

less tariff structure is so ar

ranged that exports of Bangladesh are not diverted. There is, of course, a range of tariff cuts that WTO allows the regional blocs.

However, in that case, that is, if there is no major "trade diversion effect". then the scope of "free trade area" in the SAARC countries will be limited to only newly created products for the partner countries. One can guess that the extent of such activities will be very small and SAFTA will be just a marginal extension of SAPTA for which there is no need to burn one's midnight oil. Bangladesh would be better-off by exploring markets for its products abroad as it has become successful in marketing its new RMG and Knitwear products since 1980. One must also remember that South Asia is a slow-growing region and its demand for Bangladeshi products will be relatively limited compared to the demand in the high income countries of EU and North America and the fast growing countries wherever in the globe they may be.

Further, the political climate in South Asia has deteriorated since the explosions of atomic devices by both India and Pakistan. One doesn't feel very sure of political stability needed for the success of free trade venture in this region. Bangladesh will be better off by concentrating on market links abroad than in the strife-ridden South Asian subcontinent.

Recent Theoretical Debate

Although the workhorse of international trade is the Heckscher-Ohlin model, which has been found to be valid time and again by many researchers and also is the basis of WTO, there has been an intensive theoretical and econometric testing of a new model on the benefits of regional blocs in recent years. The GRAVITY MODEL, following Newton's

ideas of gravitation of forces,

has useful application in social

sciences and in economics as This model tries to explain the pattern of trade flows emphasizing the "origin" and "destination" of goods in the trading blocs formed by neighbouring countries. The question is whether by being members of regional blocs, countries move faster towards global free trade or not. The results have not been very conclusive. In the case of NAFTA, it was found that Mexico has enhanced its credibility to greater reform measures after becoming its member which is an advance-

ment since bloc members usually reverse their commitments to reform, as we see in many other countries including South Asia. There is also some. but not overwhelming, evidence of members becoming pro-reform in APEC countries. But there are other blocs where there is hardly any substantial advances towards reforms for global free trade.

However, regional blocs with special trading arrangements have supporters as well as critics. It would be enlightening to report the views of some of the leading trade theorists. J. Bhagwati considers formation of regional blocs as an unnecessary "de tour" in the way of multilateral trade liberalisation while Ann O. Krueger thinks that free trade areas are obstacles to global trade liberalisation since their "rules of origin" condition for members is a way of increasing protection against non-members.

Further, she also strongly argues that while multilateral trade reform simplifies rules of trading which go to cut down administrative costs and "rent seeking", the "rules of origin" of regional blocs, as we saw in SAPTA also, represent a step in the opposite direction. Therefore, regional blocs are a hindrance to global free trade. I have complete agreements with this group of trade theorists. However, the supporters argue that a regional bloc creates a platform for discussing various new issues and approaches to be discussed as a preparation for moving towards WTO.

But for this . I take the view that, there is no need to create "origin -destination rules" distorting the existing multilateral trade pattern of the member countries. A less tight-knit forum for discussing group interests can be formed to achieve this goal without going through the maze of preferential trade rules which can hardly assure " equitable beneficial trade" among unequal members "without side payments". The latter is not usually abided by as we saw in the case of SAPTA.

Concluding Observations

The benefits of aggressively looking out for further trade links with the outside world especially the high income and fast growing countries will be much greater for Bangladesh than getting tied up with slow growing and strife torn countries of South Asia.

SAPTA has not been working efficiently but it is a reality that has to be accepted. However, careful attempts should be made to make its rules more efficiency promoting so that mutually beneficial and equi-"table" trade can be sustained. Otherwise, it will be source of constant tension.

Indo-Pak Ties after Nuclearisation: Is a Thaw Possible?

Another meeting between the leaders of two countries may be helpful although no qualitative change

in the usefulness of discussions is possible unless there are signs of

accommodation replacing rigidity by either side.

HE relations between India and Pakistan are a ▲ matter of great interest. particularly after the two countries have nuclear power. Their traditionally hostile ties mark more than fifty years of their existence as sovereign nations. Two neighbours. carved out as independent states from the British-ruled India in 1947, have fought three wars and their bellicose relationship is a subject of concern and anxiety not only for the regional countries but for the

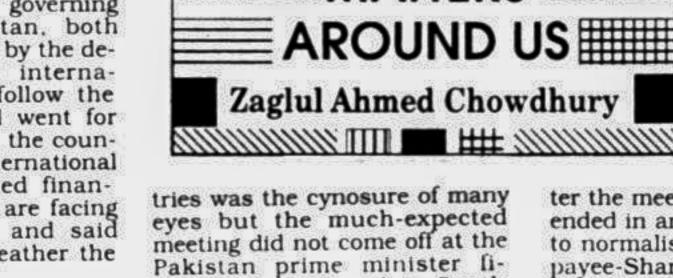
entire world.

But this nature of ties took a further nose-dive only a few months ago when a dangerous element has been introduced in the New Delhi-Islamabad typical milieu in the form of nuclearisation of two countries. World attention is focused on the South Asian region since May this year because two principal nations of the area detonated nuclear devices one after another - India doing it first and Pakistan following the suit. India first exploded atomic devices in 1974 but their second explosions in May last came rather surprisingly as a new government in the South Bloc detonated the devices even before it could firmly settle on power as it was government of coalition partners who came together to prevent the other major contenders for governing the country. Pakistan, both alarmed and angered by the development, ignored international calls not to follow the Indian example and went for similar actions. Both the countries came in for international criticisms and invited financial sanctions. They are facing economic problems and said they are trying to weather the

But what is worth watching the state of their bilateral relationship and the changing pattern in it as a sequel to both countries now having the dangerous nuclear prowess? Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vaipyee and his Pakistan coun-

Nawaz Sharif were to meet at Durban on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement to carry forward the complex issue of finding ways and means to improve their delicately pugnacious relations. Such a meeting of the leaders of the two coun-

MATTERS ## AROUND US



nally did not travel to South Africa for other pressing rea-

This would have been the second meeting between the heads of the government of the two countries since May when both exploded atomic devices. They earlier met in Colombo during the SAARC summit and sought to play down the simmering tensions that flared up in the bilateral ties in the wake of their nuclearisation. Their talks were not without results although the foreign secretary level meeting that took place al

ter the meeting quite expectedly ended in another futile exercise to normalise the ties. The Vajpayee-Sharif talks - although not a lengthy one since were held in the fences of the SAARC conference — was not meaningless in the sense that the discussions did help cooling the heat

as far as possible. Given the character of the relations that worsened markedly since last May, even the pledges by two countries of ellorts to improve ties were

certainly a step forward. However, the tensions along the border after the meeting of their prime ministers did not subside as firing incidents increased — once again not sur-

prisingly. In this situation both New Delhi and Islamabad blamed each other. But the meeting in Durban was expected to arrest this deteriorating developments since their first meeting. The meeting did not come off — much to the dismay to those who want to see lessening of the tensions between the two countries as far as possible for the interest of the South Asian region.

India and Pakistan held several rounds of talks last year at the level of foreign secretaries alternatively in New Delhi and Islamabad. Both countries say they attach importance to such meetings but admit that the discussions every time were infructuous although both say parleys help improve the climate at least. India says it is keen for improving the relationship but Pakistan insists that the core issue of their bitterness — "Kashmir" — be discussed which India describes as its integral part. Pakistan wants self-determination of the people of Kashmir. The stale-

mate persists. Against this background, another meeting between the leaders of two countries may be helpful although no qualitative change in the usefulness of discussions is possible unless there are signs of accommodation replacing rigidity by either side. Meeting at the summit level, however, always casts a sobering impact even though no tangible and substantial results are expected at the given situation.

Now that two prime minister are expected to meet in New York during the coming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session for their second meeting since the nuclear blasts, one can pin hopes that such discussions would improve the political environment between the two neighbours. Indo-Pakistan progress in real terms in bettering their vexed ties is difficult to conceive but summit meeting at least helps reducing the tensions.

Vajpayee-Sharif meeting in the near future may serve a good cause not only for them but also the South Asia which feels the welfare and interest of the region lie much in the betterment of the relations between two principal actors of the regional scenario.

23-2=21

Sir. From the very day Awami League formed government in '96, they have started blaming the past governments for everything with a set of words, misrule or misdeeds of the 'Last twenty-one years'.

In the meantime two years have passed in Awami League's regime but it is very funny that like a needle stuck in the groove of a gramophone disc they are still uttering the same phrase! As it is most unlikely that by these words they are acknowledging their own failure so it would be wise to change the slo-

gan as time goes on. It should be like this 'twentyone years before the last two years' and so on.

Nur Jahan East Nasirabad, Chittagong.

Is this a curse?

Sir, The flood situation has turned grave. Water is not receding. Dhaka has also become a city of flood. With flooding of septic tanks and dirty ditches. Dhaka has become a nasty city.

Flood is a natural calamity. But nature is controlled by Almighty Allah. In the Holy Quran Almighty Allah said at different chapters that He punishes mankind with natural calamities (like flood). Our national, social and individual

activities have made us deserving this wrath of the Almighty. In national life we are doing immoral activities. So to save us from the wrath of the Almighty we should amend ourselves and pray to Him for forgiveness.

AFM Moeenul Islam Chandgaon RA, Chittagong.

Helping with a heart

Sir, I appreciate the Prime Minister's response and action to the incident of 27 July in which a young woman was killed and over a hundred others were injured in a clash between police-administration and landless people at Baburabad village in Debhata thana.

But the response should have been prompt and earlier. Transferring some officials from administration will not resolve the matter. Those who are involved should be punished, no matter who they are.

It is learnt that two of the lease holders are government party leaders. Therefore, it is very usual for the leaders to influence officers not only to lease the Jal Mahal to the leaders, but also to execute the lease so that the leaders can get the possession of the Mahal.

Though I hail PM's decision and action, I do not agree that the land should be given to the

lease holders. Instead, the lease should be withdrawn. The existing Jal Mahal should be distributed to the landless in such a way so that they can form some sort of cooperative and get loan from Grameen Bank, ASA, BRAC or other NGOs and cultivate shrimps to sustain their lives as well as to earn foreign money by exporting shrimps.

Since the NGOs are helping landless throughout the country, it would be a great opportunity for them to help these peo-

Jamir Chowdhury Research Associate Morgan State University. Baltimore, Md 21251, USA.

'Campus Violence...'

Sir. In the write-up "Campus Violence and Women", Ms Ruksana Ahmed claimed that the Dhaka University Campus (DUC) is unsafe for women after dark and female students are often "eveteased", harassed. Before making such remarks there are some incidents, issues and facts which should be considered.

(a) In the Western countries. university counselling offices and brochures advise women to move cautiously after dark.

(b) In Dhaka University female students are actively involved in political activities.

(c) Last year, female students residing in the residential halls protested successfully against the "sunset rule" which required them to be back in their dormi-

tories before dark. (d) Last year three male students assisted a female student who had been assaulted by her driver.

male students going to rooms of male students residing in the dormitories. (f) Middle class and poor

(e) One commonly sees fe-

families are often hard-pressed to bear educational expenses and students are forced to seek part-time employment to bear their own expenses. And such male students are required to seek employment immediately after graduation to support their families. Session jams only aggravate these problems.

(g) One of our classmates was pregnant and "special arrangements" were made for her to take the course final, tutorials. tests, etc. Such "privileges" were denied to other classmates who had strong grounds to be considered for. One male classmate was even forced to give a test with a 102 C fever! (He had missed the previous test and could not miss this test).

And finally would Ms Ahmed tell us how many female students/faculty members (not participating in disruptive po-

litical activities) have been injured or killed in incidents of campus violence? For a society to develop issues must be ana lyzed from a balanced perspec-

A concerned citizen

Floods and SOFA! Sir. The flood now raging

almost throughout the length and breadth of Bangladesh including the capital's posh diplomatic enclave etc..., is expected to worsen with each sunrise till Sept, 1998, as appears in the print media. The moot question of donor involvement has of late arisen and also, the 64 million dollar question, raised by those who apprehend corruption involving such massive relief operations.

Already we find that, there is a yawning gap of approximately 9.5 lakh m/tons (shortage) of foodgrains now, vide DS 20/8/98 quoting Mr Kibria the FM, this quantity is bound to increase once the flood recedes and true pic is revealed.

And, is the 64 million dollar question raised means, in other words the lack of hovercraft which can travel both on land and water, sea-craft etc..., etc.... once used by the American sea angels during the 1991 cyclone in the Chittagong division.

SOFA could have automatically triggered the floodgates of relief and rehabilitation assistance notably from USA but also from the other western countries through the electronic media. The stranded poor and helpless daily wage earners now dying silently would have been the beneficia-

I, now appeal to those socalled patriotic intellectuals of both progressive and not so progressive camps to pursue the donors till such time the USA and Western countries have not respond to their calls. Hell bent on successfully scuttling the SOFA, will their patently labelled lenders give a damn to their appeals, for them only the fear of US and Western interventions can empty their wallets of pittance relief. Floods, cyclones for them are opportunities to fatten their profits the bigger the magnitude the better for them.

Lets hope and pray this del-

uge will at least open the eyes of such so-called intellectuals who are rather buggedup with vainglorious historical past and cannot differentiate between pragmatism and partisan, meaningless collective rhetorics, bereft of reality.

Salahuddin Y Jamal Firozshah, Chittagong