The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Thanks for Standing by Us

Dhaka, Monday, September 7, 1998

Bangladesh's fervent call for global support made on August 26 to cope with a colossal human tragedy rapidly unfolding with an alarming aggravation of the flooding has evoked a 'flash' appeal from the UN, based on a thorough first-hand assessment of our requirement. The UN organisations and member-states are tapped now for 223 million US dollar in emergency relief and rehabilitation aid pending a further appeal to be put out for longer-term rehabilitation as and when the waters recede.

The first UN appeal more or less covers Bangladesh's indicative need for immediate relief and, hopefully, the US \$400 million sought by her for stretched out rehabilitation in the wake of floods would also be squared up. Could we as a newspaper add our humble voice to the garnering of international humanitarian support and its rapid delivery at the Bangladesh end?

We take heart from the thrust being given by the UN to the most vulnerable sections of the people children and women - who are homeless and landless risking starvation and disease over the next three to four months.

Members of the Commonwealth, another huge constellation, principally of Afro-Asian countries, have been urged by its Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku to stand by Bangladesh in rebuilding the wrecked lives of flood victims. Asian Development Bank, a multilateral financing institution having a considerable influence on Bangladesh's development process has also indicated its willingness to provide a special fund to help reconstruct the country's damaged infrastructure.

These are systems we are talking about — the UN, Commonwealth and ADB - which have well-developed reflexes and quick-response-time sensitivities all rolled into time-tested mechanisms from frequent touch-downs on contingencies in disaster-prone developing countries. We greatly value their expert assessment of a crisis situation Bangladesh is currently reeling under. We thank them for closely following the course and entrails of the natural devastation and coming up with a prompt support in our hour of need.

Now the national structure — at the political, administrative, municipal and rural self-government levels - screams for a matching activation to be able to utilise the support efficiently and optimally.

Needs Proper Study

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tapped a rich seam of potential when she proposed establishment of an Asian Energy Grid in her address at the seminar on investment in South Asia organised by FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry) in the city yesterday. There is little doubt that the proposal has a distinct ring of novelty about it but it is still in a very rudimentary stage and lacks in vital details. Only immediately traceable area that the PM's proposal envisaged was the possible dominion of the Grid. It realised, she said, the Grid might eventually extend all the way from Turkmenistan to Singapore. It hardly requires any facts and figures to say that such an integrated and extended energy highway would be a harbinger of a breakthrough for this region — a region that has come to be known for its relentless struggle with poverty and the deadening weight of overpopulation.

Sheikh Hasina did no disservice to the existing notion and scientific truth that the region is a vast storehouse of natural resources and it only requires proper handling and the optimal use of them for Asia to close its gap if not exactly catch up with the developed world. Central Asia has always been there on the list of energy-rich zones for its oil and gas reserves. Of late South Asia led by Bangladesh has whaled under the global focus for the great wealth of gas in its bowels. After a long, long time a chance finally beckons Bangladesh to turn its identity tag on its head if only she can make a proper use of her energy resources. Indeed the international recognition of Bangladesh as an energy-rich land and the flurry of activity to tap the resources hold Bangladesh's fight to alleviate poverty in a much better stead than any time in the

Under the circumstances the PM has struck a most relevant and optimistic note with her proposal for setting up the Asian Energy Grid. We look forward to a proper study of her proposal by the ex-

perts at the appropriate forum. Crime's Reach!

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition was found stolen from the malkhana of the Khulna Metropolitan Police on Saturday morning. Among the missing firearms were eight guns and 11 revolvers, all foreign-made. Besides, seven indigenous-origin guns and revolvers, 566 rounds of assorted ammunition and Tk 92,200 in cash were also missing. The ventilator of the malkhana was found broken as also the locks. But police officials said this was only a ruse to distract from the fact that things were being removed from the malkhana over a long period. Three constables who were guarding the malkhana at the time of the unearthing of the theft were put under suspension. The court sub-inspector in charge of the malkhana together with another constable were also suspended.

The Khulna theft is quite a record-breaking event and police can indulge in glory of the dubious kind. All the stolen items came from raids for illegal arms spanning some 18 years and were kept there to be produced as exhibits at the time of court hearing of related cases.

The Khulna court malkhana robbery can be very aptly expressed by the Bengali aphorism relating to the fences eating up what they were supposed to guard.

Once the malkhana has proved vulnerable, there may be many wanting to take a cue from it. With the rise of terrorism there is a ready and demanding market for small arms and ammunition. The thieves stand to gain much for their trouble. This must be stopped. If Khulna court malkhana scandal is the first of its kind, it must be made to be the last. There must be a limit to crime's reach.

The Hindukush: Asia's Strategic Crossroads

The attempt to build the Afghan state through the centralisation inherent in relentless military force has evidently failed in the past. It will not work even now. As a result, as in the past, Afghanistan will continue to remain a chessboard for international power play with no immediate prospect of a reprieve from the brutalisation perpetrated by its rulers for their own survival.

over it leaving behind hardly anything except some sediments from which grew myriad tribes and clans bearing the distinctive marks of their ancesgious seminaries of Pakistan, tors. The people of diverse scoring a decisive victory in the racial stocks and ethnic monorthern city of Mazar-isaic dotted the harsh land with equally diverse landscapes Sharif. The Talibans are now virtually in control of whole of astride the mighty Hindukush range. They were conveniently Afghanistan and apparently incorporated by the Turks, the without any challenge to their authority. In fact, the Taliban Persians and the Moghuls in their domains till the founding. forces have now reached the infor the first time, of an indigeternational borders of Uzbeknous Afghan kingdom under istan and Tajikistan. But how Ahmed Shah Durrani. But a much does it really mean for a stable order and lasting peace modern Afghanistan, as it has been carved out now as well as a in Afghanistan? unified identity of its people is a International recognition to creation only of the late ninethe Talibans is unlikely to teenth century. And the expercome overnight in spite of their iment of Aighanistan's statesweeping military victory. United Nations Secretary Genhood had almost been a nonstarter ever since. Throughout

T was like a flowing river.

vaders and adventurers went

the period of 'great game of

British and Russian imperial

ism during the nineteenth cen-

tury Afghanistan remained in a

state of flux and the notion of

its independent statehood was

British installed pliable Emirs

during the late nineteenth cen-

tury, or the Afghan Kings of

post-British era. Afghanistan's

lack of a central authority in a

country riddled with irrecon-

cilable ethnic and tribal divi-

sions. Even during the commu-

nist rule of the eighties the

ethnic factor, among others,

took its toll. Afghanistan's tor-

tuous history of post-Najibul-

lah rule from 1992 to '98 now

seems to have reached a defin-

ing moment with the Talibans,

who originate from the reli-

far from reality.

The waves of conquerors, in-

eral Kofi Annan has appealed to the Talibans to stop fighting and negotiate a peaceful settlement with its opponents. Ahmed Shah Masood, the Taliban's most unrelenting foe, is still holed up in the Panjsher valley near the capital Kabul. Whether it was the period of Although it is now extremely difficult to wish away the reality of Taliban factor in Afghan affairs, it is equally unlikely that Masood's ethnic group, the chronic problem was that of the Tajiks would ever reconcile to being ruled by the Pashtuns who constitute the Taliban forces. The Hazars of the Hizb-i-Wahdat, also known to be doughty fighters, may continue to wage a guerilla war.

The Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostam's Jumbish-i-Meili still commands the loyalty of the Uzbeks despite his recent failure as military tactician. In the meantime the experts attribute the mid-August (1998) defeat of the anti-Taliban alliance in the North to the alliance's internal schism. It is alleged that the Taliban offensive gained momentum after many Uzbek and Tajik commanders owing allegiance to Northern alliance shifted their loyalties after accepting bribes from the Taliban. In recent months the alliance partners spent much of their times fighting among themselves.

In contrast, the Taliban which emerged as a major force

ibans among the bulk of the population, the people are. however, grateful to them for improvement in the security situation.

Apart from the historical records of inter-ethnic shifts of power and a great difficulty in the imposition of a central authority in a notoriously multiethnic milieu, the international reaction to recent Afghan developments will be disincentive for the Talibans. Russia, Iran, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have openly ex-



in Afghan affairs in 1994 has repeatedly proved that it was a united force held together by fanatical religious zeal. The fact that an overwhelming majority of Taliban leaders are Pashtuns, Afghanistan's largest ethnic group, is also an important factor contributing towards its ascendancy. Moreover in the areas that the Talibans control its leaders have ensured strict law and order - something the Mujahideen groups failed to ensure during 1992-1994. Although there is no great

affection for the fanatical Tal-

pressed their fears about recent developments in Afghanistan. The country that has been most affected by recent Afghan development is Iran after the Taliban has, through its recent actions, made it clear that it wanted to settle scores with Tehran. Iran views the Taliban as a creation of Pakistan, the US and Saudi Arabia to counter Iranian influence in the region.

The experts view that in the long run the Pashtun-dominated Taliban will have serious problem with its patrons in Pakistan. Although half the

Pashtun population live in Pakistan there are long-standing territorial claims, with the Pashtun resenting being dominated by Pakistanis. Many people believe that it is the matter of time before the Pashtuns

begin to strain at the leash.

Already there are indications of the Taliban postures independent of both Pakistani sponsors and American patrons. The Americans are increasingly critical of largescale opium production in Afghanistan. It is alleged that the profits from the poppy cultivation running into billion of dollars may have helped the Taliban finance its recent military operation. Also the Americans are wary of Taliban brand of fundamentalism which might as well spark 'Islamic revolutions' in Afghanistan's neighbourhood. China, which is not immediately affected by Afghan developments, however, remains worried about its likely fallout on her restive Xinxiang province where an incipient Islamic resurgence has since been brewing up.

After the Soviet collapse Pakistan's intention was infused with a more immediate pecuniary motive, that of gaining direct access to the mineral riches of the successor republics of the Soviet Union in Central Asia while avoiding any irksome dependence on the Islamic regime in Iran. Taliban's growing attitude of independence may dash those expectations of

courses with the world's re-

maining Superpower. She used

the fact of her female gender

representing an Islamic coun-

try to extremely good effect,

making it an asset of some con-

sequence. Her advice has to be

taken with value, not rejected

CA15? To start with let us not

have any controversy over the

fact that it is in fact the Quran

and Sunnah that rules over all

the laws of the land, Pakistan

Which brings up back to

as unnecessary criticism.

Pakistan. Even the official western policy lapsed into a phase of indifference after the Soviet collapse. Interests were awakened only when commercial motives began obtruding rather blatantly. After the recent Taliban mil-

itary exploits which is almost

decisive in character it is now frequently asked: how far the Taliban's success reflects the popular appeal of its ideology and how far the clouts of its powerful backers? The questions have implications for assessing the durability and stability of a ruling arrangement under the Taliban. The answers to the questions can be summed up through what is the common impression of the analysts across the region. The 'Islamic state' as a political prospect in Afghanistan was indeed extinguished in the brutal confrontation between the Hezb-e-Islami and Jamaat-e-Islami after the fall of Najibullah. The Taliban embodies, at the best, a variety of fundamentalism that could lead to localised displays of zealotry, but its ability to consolidate and administer a national state is negligible - let alone the question of more deli-

The attempt to build the Afghan state through the centralisation inherent in relentless military force has evidently failed in the past. It will not work even now. As a result, as in the past, Afghanistan will continue to remain a chessboard for international power play with no immediate prospect of a reprieve from the brutalisation perpetrated by its rulers for their own survival. The net casualty is an Afghan state which would remain an elusive goal.

cate and complex Islamic state.

Born-again Muslims

How can we as Muslims militate against anything derived from the Quran and Sunnah? There may be parts of the Amendment that can be debated (and even amended) so that no part of the community feels that the Bill can be used for discrimination against them in any manner, whether they be minorities or women.

HE government of Mian Nawaz Sharif recently moved a Bill in the National Assembly (NA) for the 15th Amendment to the Constitution (popularly known as CA15). Certainly the government could not have chosen a worse time to launch another initiative. On a number of major fronts, the Mian Nawaz Sharif regime has been facing disaster, starting with one certainly not of it's making. It is incumbent on any government to maintain control over the tension level, each major initiative has raised apprehensions as well as stakes, polarising society along the way at a particularly critical time in our history. Has anyone in the regime's camp heard of such a thing as a "trial balloon?"

A number of major contributing factors encompassing decades of bad governance and malpractice went into the economic crisis that we were immersed in at the beginning of May 1998, culminating in the hands-on looting of the public exchequer during the Asif Zardari-Ms Benazir regime. circa 1993-1996. Despite widespread institutionalised reforms and the putting in place of supervisory controls by Mian Nawaz Sharif's economic team, the economy continued to deteriorate but displayed some early indicators of possible recovery. Then came May 8th and

overnight, our world changed Suddenly we were under immeasurable domestic pressure to counter the Indian blasts and under severe external pressure not to go ahead with a response. As we stood between the devil and the deep sea, the Indians launched a most vicious propaganda campaign, designed to rub our noses in the dirt, to wreck the nation's morale, "to win a war without bloodying swords," to quote Sun Tzu. The proliferation of vitriol decided our May 28 nuclear response at Chagai. we were left with no options but to either "eat humble pie" or to

It seemed we had no contingency plans in place despite the wealth of advice available on courses to follow and consequences thereof. The freezing of Foreign Currency Accounts (FCAs) was necessary in the circumstances but the methodol-

ogy/terminology used was a major mistake. This instituted a panic, exposing our foreign exchange cupboard as being bare and without recourse to regular inward remittances that were the backbone of our economy. An erratic course thereafter has sent us into a flat spin, only our much-berated parallel économy keeping us

As was to be expected, as a part of the US-led sanctions. the IMF held back promised tranches, deepening our economic miseries. Most of the blame was left at the doorstep of the prime scapegoat, the Federal Finance Minister Senator Sartaj Aziz, a loyal soldier of PML(N) who chose to give his views (and objections) in private rather than public grandstanding, also choosing from time to time not to implement the more radical of instructions given in the heat of the

In contrast Mr. Hafiz Pasha hasten to do his master's bidding. One doubts also that the Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Dr. Muhammad Yaqub will last much longer, as a self-respecting human being of some consequence he has done a remarkable job of keeping us afloat. In the absence of focused direction and/or a commitment to certain basic reforms one can only hope and pray for a miracle. As yet the economy has not hit the streets, when it does anarchy may well result. Despite the many mistakes and the adverse foreign economy environment, the regime still comes out narrowly

The Kalabagh Dam announcement without arranging a broad consensus was mindboggling. Mind you, the Dam has to be built but the political fallout should have been calculated and avoided. The net result has been that inspite of the necessity for building the Dam. elements opposed to the unity of the country have joined together with saner factions in a joint opposition to the Dam. The task has now become much harder with separatists in the

Provinces of NWFP, Balochistan and Sindh having a field day sowing enmity against the larger Province, Punjab. On the plus side, the PML(N) is far better off without ANP because that alliance was muddying

their ideological content. PML(N) never really had a government in Sindh. What they have is a puppet on a string in the form of Liaquat Jatoi who dances to the dictations of the PML(N) coalition partner, MQM. For it's part MQM was content to let the CM have the pomp and glory (and his two close aides "Brothers Nazirov" their cut in everything under the sun) while in fact the MQM

rot because if Karachi goes up in flames, can Pakistan be far behind?

The Talibaan now effectively control 95 per cent of Afghanistan, with both emerging opportunities and deep rooted problems. The biggest problem is with Iran, a tradigone sour over the Talibaan. coalition arrangement com-

tional Pakistani ally with whom our relationship has The best solution would have been a negotiated peace and a prising all the factions in Afghanistan, that route has become infractious. We should reinforce the efforts for mutual accommodation, urging the

was created on the basis of Islam, However recent political;

economic and religious happenings both within and out side the country have made the issue far more complicated and potentially explosive. There is a broad mass of the people who do support the government's initiative in principle, what they are not comfortable with is the timing and the motivation. There are misgivings also due to patent misinterpretation but the colour being given to oppose the Bill is wrong. How can we as Muslims militate against anything derived from

may be parts of the Amendment that can be debated (and even amended) so that no part of the community feels that the Bill can be used for discrimination against them in any manner, whether they be minorities or women. Again this fault is not so much in the content, which may need some adjustment, but in the timing and the method.

As for the detractors, they believe that the government is filibustering to get out of a tight political and economic situation, that the government's risking of a social explosion does not justify putting the whole concept of Pakistan in danger and that by doing so Mian Nawaz Sharif is displaying dangerous irresponsibility. The PM cannot be accused of straying from his vision, what he can be faulted is for the force-feeding of his vision onto the nation without giving the intelligentsia and the masses time to absorb the full ramifications. Some leaders are very impatient, Mian Nawaz Sharif more so than others. As the elected leader, he has a right to try and change the status quo in Pakistan. Let us debate CA15 with logic and maturity, honing the clauses to our satisfaction. Let us not be blinded by opposition for opposition's

ASISEEIT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

is a rubber-stamp who will ran the government to the ex- Talibaan, as the victors to be clusion of all the other ethnic communities.

Karachi is Pakistan's eco-

nomic and industrial capital as well as it's only really functioning port city. After Gen Babar cleaned out terrorists in late 1995, the city enjoyed a modicum of relative peace in 1996-97. However in 1998 we are back to square one, with dacoities, car snatchings, kidnappings and assassinations going hand in hand with an unofficial urban civil war raging between the two factions of MQM, everyone and his uncle in the crossfire, literally and figuratively. Karachi needs firm handling as well as democratic rule, particularly for Local Bodies where at the grassroots level there is a leadership vacuum. Unless there is meaningful people's participation in city governance, Karachi's problems will continue to escalate, the permutations and combinations of Sindh Assembly notwithstanding. Why are we persisting with the Quota System? PML(N) has generally been handling the situation in

magnanimous in dealings with their opponents. We cannot afford to lose Iran, we cannot afford to alienate the Talibaan One believes that Senator Sartaj Aziz as Pakistan's Foreign Minister understands this enigma and is looking to solve the issues within very restricted parameters.

Where Mian Sahib's aides seem to have badly erred is taking on press freedom needlessly. Mr. Irshad Ahmad Haggani and Dr. Maleeha Lodhi have their own views, I may not agree with all of them but I will always defend their right to express them as they think fit. If newspapers are cowed down by the government whatever little of accountability is left will go out of the win-One does not know Haggani too well, but as for Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, other than being one of the leading lights in journalism in the country, she has been the most outstanding Ambassador that Pakistan has sent to the US for some time. She welded a disparate Pakistani community together on a bi-partisan basis and brought intellectual depth to all our dis-

OPINION

the Quran and Sunnah? There

The Beginning of the End?

Let us face the issue openly. The western affluent and industrialised world had reached the peak quite some time ago, and is now planning strategies for survival during the 21st century by consolidating the potential markets, starting with Asia including the rich and untapped CIS (Muslim-majority), in the Second and Third Worlds.

gions are under the control of Muslim nations (ME, Iran, CIS, Africa, Indonesia, Bangladesh, etc.). The Muslims are not yet united and strong. This is the time to strike before they band together and can put up a stronger united front. President Clinton is in a hurry. He has to tighten his belt, as the slip is showing (poor English beg pardon).

Many of the energy-rich re-

Terrorism, as unilaterally defined by the US, must have a theory or hypothesis, whether condoled or condemned. The world's only super power cannot be confronted openly with arms and military might - the mismatch would be contemptuous. Therefore guerrilla movement or hit-and run 'terrorism' would be the easiest and cheapest tactic employed by the poor and disorganised opponents.

The vigorous US immoral action of pumping 'Monica' missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan is a diplomatic perversion as power becomes a licence for misuse and abuse. But its far-reaching repercussion, short-term and long-term, cannot be ignored, and needs to be analysed now, and constantly thereafter. It is alleged that the terrorist acts against the US are being carried out primarily by Muslim groups, some famous, and some obscure. The open US stand in the Palestine conflict (for decades) is anti-Muslim and pro-Jew. Iran, Iraq and Arab countries would not have drawn US interest without oil,

gas, and energy reserves. Why the US is so much infatuated with Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, now over-flooded with misery (the weather and the rain-bearing clouds were not bribed with dollars and hi-tech, it is fervently hoped!), and moth-eaten with political intrigues and internal and bipolar quarrels? She is a big recurtides.

ring burden on any donor agency or country, as we have seen through the elusive disappearance of billions of dollars in half a century of drainage through the bottomless basket (again poor Ingrazi!). For two reasons: a place for a base in Asia/S Asia (Perhaps to bring back God into the hearts of some godless people around the region!), and for the promising energy reserves (Cairn might fail, but others can?).

Now the stray and sporadic terrorist attacks will be intensified all over the world; and the US is evidently prepared for such a long drawn-out battle of wits, according to press reports. A time may come when such attacks might become a regular feature every week of each year, once the logistics have been organised for long-term operation (as the drug barons operate). It cannot be avoided. We have to live with it. But the bet is on the ultimate winner.

(Bangladesh won its freedom through the background assistance provided by the freedom fighters. It does not mean that Bangladesh will indulge in terrorist attacks, but the potentiality of the weapon of guerrilla warfare is emphasised here, as also confirmed in other theatres of war in East Asia, where the US military might came to naught, after a decade

or two of TNT wars). The greatest potential group to challenge western capitalism is Islam. Capitalism, as seen in its present form (so well articulated by our Dr Yunus of GB) is on the decline, and the next shake-up on the Wall Street may be its last. Economic events in Japan and Russia are going to spiral outwards, beyond the control of single nations or groups of nations, however mighty economically and militarily. Change is coming, and it has to be accepted. The old institutions are going to

crumble; and the outcome is anybody's guess. This appears to be the beginning of the end of modern civilisation's greatest shake-up of beliefs and business. Bangladesh will continue to play the role of water hyacinth, flowing with the ebb and flow

Lothe Editor ...

Pakistan's stance

Sir, Your daily's op-ed page articles on August 29 have made some inaccurate assertions regarding Pakistan's stance viz-aviz Alghanistan.

Pakistan has consistently advocated strict non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Pakistan maintained credibility with all factions of Afghanistan and has endeavoured to promote reconciliation between them with a view to forming a broad based government representing all impor-

tant groups. Pakistan had also been extending its full cooperation to the UN and OIC efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Conversely, it is common knowledge that the Northern Alliance has survived with massive supplies of arms from abroad. It may be recalled that it was Islamabad which had proposed imposition of complete embargo on arms supplies to the fighting factions in Afghanistan.

Past lessons of how the Afghans humiliated those who interfered in their country's affairs must neither be forgotten nor repeated.

Abdul Hayee Qureshi Minister (Press) High Commission for Pakistan

Good work, T&T

Sir. Lalmatia area of the city is not affected by flood but due to cable fault at a single point in the area about 100 digital telephones are dead for last 10

Several complaints were lodged, by the affected subscribers, with the Divisional Engineer concerned of the Shere-Bangla Nagar Telephone Exchange in last 10 days but the lines were not restored till today (Saturday 29 Aug '98).

Towfique Haider 8/12 Block-C Lalmatia, Dhaka.

Demons in the society

Sir, What is sickening news that not one, but three university students got raped, that too on the campus of the highest seat of learning. What a shame, what a shame for the whole nation! One would think that educated women are safer as they are mostly surrounded by enlightened, educated men. Men, who have control over their base, animalish desires. But not so, what has happened shows us that no woman or girl is safe educated or uneducated, in whatever place she may be, as sacred as an institute of learning or in the streets or even in the safety of her home.

The whole fault therefore lies in our present system. Not on men — for some men have always been like that — educated or uneducated. The only way to control these base desires in such men is the fear of punishment.

a mature manner but bolder

steps are necessary to curb the

When nails grow, they have to be cut. There is no other way. So when crime infests society to this degree, it is obvious that it is not being dealt with properly. Otherwise it wouldn't have proliferated so.

So it all boils down to our faulty system of controlling and punishing the criminals. Unless this is corrected by the people in charge and the government, nobody or rather no woman is safe anywhere from the claws of such demons in

human form! Dr Sarah Dhaka

Extend your hands

Sir. The whole country is now under flood-water for more than a month. Not only the people of rural areas but also the cities are flooded and people are suffering miserably. I can't exactly express how terribly they are suffering. People are not getting food even twice a day. Even though we are watching on TV the prime minister and her cabinet members are engaged in distributing re-

lief among the flood effected people everyday but are the affected people gonna get relief everyday? Moreover, are we sure that relief is reached everywhere? We also think relief is not enough. According to latest news of flood, the situation is becoming more dangerous and we are very anxious about the situation.

Since it's a time of acute danger, we should extend our hand for the flood effected people. Please, according to your capacity, extend your helping hands to your countrymen.

Kalyankar Member The Ideal Association Jagannath Hall, DU

My hopes in 1998

in Bangladesh a non-political government can govern the state and can run the country smoothly. The people of the world had

Sir, It has been proved that

appreciated it. So, not going in detail of the past and present, I hope Bangladesh would be governed by the non-political purely people-oriented welfare government in future.

Dr M A Khalegue Senior Medical Officer Atomic Energy Research Establishment Savar, Dhaka