Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

# Dhaka, Friday, September 18, 1998 Righting the **Education Mess**

Yesterday was Education Day. Perhaps only one newspaper remembered it. It has receded into such insignificance that nobody cares even to pay lipservice to it. Whose day was it? Who observed it? Nobody perhaps stands to lose anything if it ceased to exist.

The Education Day on September 17 was observed religiously by the students for over two decades. And it stood for a stupendous cause and three young lives were sacrificed to champion it. The first remarkable thing is that the students, and not the politicians, took it upon themselves to protest a conspiracy against secular and peopleoriented education. The next remarkable thing is nobody seemed to accord due importance to the day: such a milestone to our national indepen-

dence. Of course, the oblivion started with the students themselves. The movement commemorated by the Education Day started as a part of a package that in 1962 shook the first military dictatorship of Pakistan, that of Ayub. Ayub, like so many would-be miracle-working dictators, wanted to brainwash specially the Bengalees by recasting education from the basics. After Noor Commission came the Sharif Commission and its report, postulating education more as an investment than as a right and proposing a big shift from secular non-communal values, was rejected by the students of what is now Bangladesh. For two months, September and October, specially exploding on the Sept. 17 firing on student demonstrations killing three, the country knew little but denunciation of not only the education report but of the Ayub regime as a whole. Ayub relented, the Sharif Report was sent to cold storage and Ayub set a date for election in 1964.

And the students forgot in a year or two that they were the first party to policy decisions on education. If only students continued to be interested in education and its philosophy and content and structure, its organisation and financing - the complete mess that is education now in an independent country, wouldn't have been here.

Education is the most important aspect of our rational, cultural and individual life. We are doing very badly in this. Let Education Day be an occasion to evaluate the situation, set it right and launch a big march forward.

# Price Stability

The prices of daily essentials should now deflate back to pre-flood levels. Because the factors that put them in a spate are on their way out now. Flood waters are receding, communication links and supply arteries are coming back to life, government's assurances of stock-replenishment have been plentiful and panic-buying has had a marked downswing. Cynics might point out, 'well, there is no way one can take a simplistic view of the century's worst floods having severely rocked the mar-ket forces'. They could also ask the conventional question: who has seen in our peculiar context that prices once going up have ever come down? What is a high price for today becomes tomorrow the much-coveted rock-bottom price — a sordid reality that we have come to live with anyway, one might add on a resigned note.

Much as the productive sectors of the economy, agricultural and industrial, have taken the brunt of the floods and our conventional shopping list awaits a trimming, we have definite counter-veiling reasons to expect that market prices should actually stabilise at affordable notches. Let's highlight the fact here that we are soon going to have two major sources of supply of essential commodities: the relief consignments and the open market supplies. The supply in the first category should, of course, be entirely devoid of commercial considerations while the second though operating on profit-motive is nonetheless expected to keep that within healthy limits in view of the miseries inflicted by the floods on the people.

The steady flow of supplies and the stability and affordability of commodity prices will critically hinge on efficient and corruption-free operation of the relief distribution network and the normal marketing mechanism. If the distribution rules and norms of both humanitarian aid and open market system are scrupulously adhered to, it wouldn't be long before we will have overcome the crisis with considerable self-satisfaction and reputation in the outside world. Beware of self-seekers

in both the areas.

Birds Reign at ZIA When some days back birds entered the engine of a Qatar bound aircraft forcing the pilot to bring the plane to a screeching halt leaving its tyres flat and more than 250 passengers in a state of utter panic, many thought this was a one-off incident that had neither any past nor any future. But quite the opposite. To our horror an indepth report published in a leading Bangla daily yesterday informed that it was not the first time a plane was put in a quandary by birds. There have been seven such incidents in last one year with the latest taking place Tuesday last. An Abu Dhabi-based Gulf Air 767 aircraft was detained at ZIA by more than 24 hours after birds on flight got trapped inside its engines.

Fortunately none of these accidents led to major casualties. But what confounds one is airport authorities' attitude. The recurrence of the mishaps clearly underlines their reluctance to learn from mistakes. Runways all over the world are no-fly zones for birds. There are bird-shooters to keep any flying nuisances off. Bird shooters are there at ZIA, too. But apparently they are not discharging their duties properly; as the report reveals they are perhaps more interested in playing cards.

Is it not delinquency at its height? The irresponsibility shown by the bird shooters is enough to put one in the picture about the civil aviation laxity at ZIA. Accountability or professional honesty is a top-down thing. We demand of the authorities to bring a semblance of order, system and efficiency at the ZIA. It is not a mere matter of risk minimisation, it has got a lot to do with the image of the country.

"The Quality of Mercy"

HERE is a Chinese saying Sentiments are good enough to write a poem perhaps but not for rebuilding a devastated economy. Yes, that is that we learn from each other. The other day, 15 true. Also true is the fear that the avarice of some, may make food availability out of reach for the little September to be exact, I learnt purchasing power, the majority people might have in lieu of whatever work is made available to them. from some young persons whose hopes in the deepest and But the poet again comes to the rescue. most powerful sense lies in

what is happening below. . As I listened to them, I re-There was no lack of social cocalled what play-wright Presihesion there, no motive for any dent Vaclav Havel wrote once, recognition. Why worry about what happens with your mesuch hope is not the same "as generation? Follow the people joy that things are going well,

but rather an ability to work for and we are confident we shall something because it is good. It overcome. is also this hope, above all, I recalled what a sagewhich gives us the strength and statesman said once. Mahatma courage to continually try new das Karmchand Gandhi. He things even in conditions that said, "There goes my people. I seems as hopeless as ours do follow them because I am their here and now. Yes, the situation that we

leader." face today as a nation, is indeed Am I being pastoral or romantic? My answer is 'no'. The perilous and our groping is toessence of what my esteemed wards an uncertain future. The economist friend, Atiar, said in most striking signs of our times that rather unstructured diatoday are the listless ill-fed logue about social capital is exwomen, children and men driftactly what the younger people ing in swollen streams. No they in the audience saw themselves are not as yet the 'ecological in people's own solidarity. boat people', since they would But is not that wonderful like to hold on to the land, the hearth and home they had once

social capital enshrined in the ancient wisdom of the Holy Texts? The Quaran proclaims, So give what is due to the kindred, the needy and the wayfarer. That is best for those who seek the countenance of God" (Rum: 38). His Holiness the Pope reminds the faithful. "Let us not forget that, at the close of the day, we shall be called before the Lord to account for our action on behalf of our brothers. (cf. Mathew 25, 31-46). Lord Buddha says, " He who eats alone cannot find happiness." And Prophet Muhammad pronounces, "He who goes to the bed with a full stomach knowing his neighbour is hungry, cannot be a real believer in me." (Reported in Al-Kabeer by Al -Tabrani). Jesus Christ says, "So the last shall be the first and the first last." And in the medieval Judaic tradition, Maimonides or Brother Moses presents the "ladder of Tzedakah, a ranking of how to support the last and the least, by providing them the basic minimum for survival without any mindfulness of virtue or seeking the comfort of conscience as a reward. The highest level is to

provide them access to capital and know-how for feeding

themselves.

The first task is yet to be

completed, and the second task, God-willing, must be done together by the scientists, the professionals in the field, the financial institutions, both in the public and the private sector, and the younger generation, not as bestowers of superior wisdom but as humble partners in creating common wisdom. All that nature's providence bestows upon mankind, the sun and the moon, wind and rain, aquifers, plants and animals, are not to be exploited indiscriminately nor decimated for

in the horizon?

Because, without a spiritual or, if agnostics would prefer, moral solidarity no endeavour for physical rehabilitation and rebuilding will work. I recall the words of Kahlil Gibran: "There are those who give

with joy and that joy is their reward. And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their

baptism. And there are those who give and know not pain in giving.

nor do they Seek Joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue;

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fra-



# AZM Obaidullah Khan

sheer avarice but gratefully celebrated and prudently conserved. Advancements in frontier knowledge and science must build upon local wisdom that has to be shared not as possession to be dispensed with at a proprietary cost to the ancestral inheritance of social practice by the farmers but as an entrustment; not as a prerogative for the holders of knowledge power, but as a gift to those who created the base for the currently bandied about innovations. What is natural is never merely so. It is a tryst with divine mercy for ensuring the right of each individual human being to food. Let us not forget that "from food springs all life" and to food we return.

(Geeta) Why am I repeating myself over and over again, about the moral imperatives when almost total disaster of a dimension never seen before or dreamt about is looming large

grance into space. Through the hands of these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the

(The Prophet)

I saw that divine smile in the face of young people whom I met on 15 September at the auditorium of the Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University. I saw that smile on an old mother's face in Keranigan who shared her own meal with the even more unfortunate. I saw that smile in young scientists, doctors, teachers and students who are reaching out to people in inaccessible areas with whatever they have. I have seen it in housewives, hungry themselves, who would still not stretch their palms for charity but would like to feed the family with a day's honest work, may be by working as volunteers or by pumping the newly emerged hand-tubewell for an hour or more to make clean drinking

water available for the neigh-

But again, sentiments are good enough to write a poem perhaps but not for rebuilding a devastated economy. Yes, that is true. Also true is the fear that the avarice of some, may make food availability out of reach for the little purchasing power. the majority people might have in lieu of whatever work is made available to them. But the poet again comes to the rescue. A merchant asks the poet of buying and selling and the poet

It is in exchanging the gifts of the earth that you shall find abundance and

be satisfied. Yet unless the exchange be in love and kindly justice it will

but lead some to greed and others to hunger..... And if there come the singers, the dancers and the flute players buy of

their gifts also. For they too are gatherers of fruits and frankincense and that which they

bring, though fashioned of dreams, is raiment and food for your soul.

And before you leave the market place, see that no one has gone away

with empty hands. For the master spirit of the earth shall not sleep peacefully

upon the winds

till the needs of the least of you are satisfied" (Kahlil Gibran). Or again, Amos bitterly con-

demns those who "sell the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes." Al-Quran enjoins, "weigh with scale and ustice. And with hold not things justly due to men. Muammar reports that Prophet Muhammad has said, "A monopoliser is a sinner." I shall reiterate once again

what I wrote in this column

long ago. There can be no more

and him that takes. It is an attribute to God Him-

from heaven

twice blessed:

And earthly power then show likest God's When mercy seasons jus-

sacred duty for a woman or a

man than to feed the family and

the kindreds. These can be no

more sacred duty for communi-

ties or nation states than that

of ensuring for every neighbour

or citizen an adequate and

whole some diet. There can be

no more sacred duty for the in-

ternational community than

that of solidarity with justice so

that the obscene scourge of

hunger and poverty, when dis-

aster strikes or otherwise, be-

comes a nightmare of the past.

to its Greek origin means mak-

ing and the maker is a poet. But

"the materials of the poet are

not so much facts as symbols

and narratives or rather facts

that are themselves symbols

and narratives." Only the gen-

erosity of a poet, perhaps, can

help us build resolve to make

human deprivation and degra-

"The quality of mercy is not

It droppeth as the gentle rain

Upon the place beneath: it is

It blesseth him that gives

dation a matter of the past.

The world 'poesis' according

(William Shakespeare).

Only thus we can instill new breath into our shattered lives and chant together "Life again has reached us Darkness has gone away, light is coming."

(Rig Veda).

So let us pray.

"Bless that Mother nature be kind to us The Heavens give us peace The Earth be gentle Gentle be the water that flow,

Gentle be the plants and herbs

that grow. May the past be kind The future benign."

#### Turning crisis into opportunity

and they still hope to rebuild

and go back to. Yet their shat-

tered lives continue to form the

hard questions that confront

the fumbling, and quite often in

adequate pro-people rhetoric

that we the elders in the capital

who reprimanded us said in no

uncertain terms. "Why worry

about who gets together with

whom at the mountain-top?

Will they ever travel to the ar-

eas where not even the shrubs

are left for our mothers and

sisters to hide behind for sheer

physical necessities and wait

for the nightfall to cover their

shame? Do you know that when

we went to a marooned neigh-

bourhood in a village, they said,

'we can still survive. Please go a

little further to the next neigh-

bourhood and embrace them.

because they have nothing. Here

is the very little that we can

spare and our younger people

will go with you as volunteers.

But, please, give them some re-

spect and clean drinking water.

Can you help in recharging the

hand tubewells that have just

emerged from the dirty waters?"

The young persons/persons

city glibly spout forth.

Sir, I am really impressed by the commentary by Mahfuz Anam titled "Turn this crisis unto an opportunity" published on 14.09.98. Everyone cannot but be stirred by the tremendous emphasis he laid for our cherished national headway. It has dragged me from pessimism to optimism, to be a bold citizen of Bangladesh.

The author has underscored the need for a change of political attitude, a change of vituperative trend, and creating a national consensus

But a report published in the same page recede my optimism: BNP observing hartal at Cox's Bazar alleging the governmentbacked student wing of assaulting and torturing a BNP leader. So, how any citizen can hope for greater national consensus from the parties on grounds of national uplift after such an event. How can we expect that both the treasury and the opposition can work shoulder to shoulder during the post-flood scenario? Why is BNP calling hartal at this time?

On the other, I was surprise to watch the government's attitude towards its counterpart.

Md Kamran Reza Chowdhury 254/Shahid Habibur Rahman Rajshahi University

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Sir, Forgive me, please, if sound impolite, but your commentary on September 14, 1998 struck me, I am afraid, as being a flight of fancy. You seem to have completely overlooked the political and intellectual makeup of the person you are imploring to "turn crisis into an opportunity".

You have quoted Albert Einstein. But the selfsame scientist, if you recall, also said: "Don't pursue chemistry from a wrong end, because there are chances that the test tube will

Asking Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to virtually offer an olive branch and to rise above her own family and then party, interest is, I believe, like pursuing her chemistry from a wrong end. Put it simply, she can never be what you perceive her to be in your mind's eye. Her political waits and partisan tenets will never ever allow her to break the barrier.

She has in fact already responded to your call for the socalled road to new politics by embarking on a united campaign to combat the effects of the current floods. At a meeting with the newspaper editors. where you were also presents she said, "My door is open. want cooperation from all. Then in the next breath, she obliquely blamed the BNP for mixing poison in the food that had caused the death of 15 people in Ukhia in Cox's Bazar.

"The way they issued threat to dismantle the government, I don't dare to sit with them," the Prime Minister said. This clearly illustrates her psyche.

This, however, does not mean that the other leader that we have is an angel. Begum Khaleda Zia would probably have done the same as Sheikh Hasina is doing today were she in power. Both our leaders have a good deal of things in common. They are in politics not in their own steam but by the accident of birth. One was a daughter and the other a wife.

Both suffer from girlish obstinacy. Both have almost the same level of knowledge of the statecraft, of the economy and of the international complexities around the country.

The only difference between the two is that while Sheikh Hasina is bought and sharptongued in her public dealings. Khaleda Zia in most cases is as cold as cucumber. This is the reason why the two worlds will never meet, no matter what the mangers, labour leaders, scholars, teachers, students and shop owners yearn for. We are all suffering from an attitude prob-

This is the fundamental reason why your entreaty for a modus vivendi among our two major political parties, even when the country faces the worst catastrophe in its 28 vears of existence will inexorably fall on deaf cars. Economy will never take the centre stage of our politics until there is a sea change in the quality of our political leaders. As to when such change is likely to come, well your guess should be as good as mine. Perhaps in the next millennium, but not in our lifetime!

Aminur Rashid Chowdhury 104. Lake Circus Kalabagan, Dhaka

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Sir, I have 'Turn this disaster into opportunities" and became emotional, feeling helpless and hopeless.

Do you think the politicians really care a straw for all positive suggestions like this, do they ever pay heed to this kind of appealing article, but to the corrupted dealers and party allies who are eager to get a tender to suck the blood of the poor out

of this disastrous situations? I did not know that our socalled democratic and 'benevolent' AL government refused the opposition's offer for helping the relief activities untidily. How unfortunate! May be BNP showed similar attitude in the past but it is their own inferiority and no way it justifies AL's similar refusal when the nation

is facing a calamity like this. Has any of our city-oriented leaders fell a victim to flood? Did any of them ever stand in the crowd for a morsell of rice? Did any of their children stop going to school due to flood? Obviously the answer is No. and may be that's why they are the leaders and the chief policy makers of the nation.

Dept. of Economics, UCLA

For love only!

Sir, Thanks to Mr Anisur Rahman, the Star photographer for his picture titled 'A Lighter Moment' framed on the front page published on 16 September 1998.

The picture alone can explain the story, but that is not the point I am going to say on. In the picture, no doubt we have seen a long line of women and children waiting for some food and the caption tells that, they were the victims of the ongoing devastating flood. But what the powerful expression was in my point of view is the smiling faces, especially the father and his baby. All the people including the mother of the baby (but not pictured) in the line had been waiting for two hours

I don't know whether each of them got some or not, but it

shows that their moral was strong enough to smile, even in this hard time. Flood could not wipe out their smiles from their faces. Love for the baby was still playing in their eyes. There are thousands of children, like this baby in the picture, are fighting against starvation and various diseases in the flood. Can't we move our hands forward to save them? For those children, to keep their smiles alive?

Md Amdad Hossain Babu 76/B, Middle Paikpara, Post Code No 1216, Mirpur, Dhaka

#### Younus vs. **Economics**

Sir, The contribution Dr. Younus has made in promoting microcredit and in developing the poor as bankable, is, indeed immense. So much so, that to some this even justified the time and money (opportunity cost in economic terms) spent celibrating his birthday at the recent microcredit summit in New York. This success and fame, however, should not lend Dr. Younus to be carried away and admonish the very tools on which the microcredit model is

built upon. For example, according to neo classical economics, the drive for profit is good. It is good in terms of microcredit as well. Grameen Bank makes profit. It also pushes all its borrowers to make profit. So the question is not about whether we need to build new economic paradigms, but on how we

should apply the existing ones. With Grameen Bank, Dr. Younus has deviced an effective way to reach the poor; and one can only hope that he would concentrate all his efforts to further this initiative, leaving neo classical textbooks alone. This country cannot afford to have him distracted.

Mohammad Rumi Mirpur, Dhaka

# Asma

Sir, There should be an email address to "Letter to Editor, so that who live abroad can write to the DS.

But now I would like to draw your attention to Asma whose kidney has been removed mistakenly by the physicians. Since her condition is deteriorating it will be wise to send her to the United States immediately for treatment. We -all Bangladeshi should contribute for her expenses. I believe it is our duty to do so.

Syed Towheed

# Hassles of bills

Sir. For city dwellers paying their bills is indeed a big hassle. through which they have to go every month. The problems are manyfold. Firstly four different bills of

electricity, gas, water and telephone have to be paid in four different banks. How can a working person go to four different banks, on four different days, every month? It sure will cause a lot of loss of working hours.

Then if an office-goer decides to pay his bill on the way to his office or at noon, to save his working hour, he can't. For nobody in the bank will accept his bill before 9.30 am. and at noon every-body is out for

lunch for longer hours than they should.

Again, at the bank much time is wasted in going from counter to counter. At one counter they give a number, at the next they take the money and then at the third counter they give the final signature. This is a useless hassle and with long queues at each counter it is a double-hassle.

Why does one have to pay the bills every month? Can't it be done every three or four months? That will save a lot of time, money and energy both of the bank employees and the public. Also all bills should be accepted by all banks, so that a person doesn't have to run to four different places for paying his four different bills. Then there should be arrangement for bill payments on Saturdays too, so that working hours are not wasted on paying it. Bank employees will be too happy to work if given overtime payments. Also more than one counter should take the bills, and complete the procedure there and then. There should also be a separate counter for ladies, so that housewives can do this job easily and help out their husbands.

Dr Sabrina Q Rashid Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka.

### I don't agree, Ms Priyanka

Sir. I read with interest a letter No. Mr Shabbir (DS 11.9.98) in which the writer expressed her very liberal views about ladies attire etc. I don't agree with all her views and would

like to point out certain facts. Men are by nature physically stronger than women. Nature has provided men with a hormone called Testosterone which makes them more aggressive, stronger, powerful and less intriguing than the females.

Clothes are basically worn for protection against wind. heat, moisture, rain, cold, sun and also prying eyes.

There are certain other mental disorders called exhibitionism and rape syndrome which are prevalent among some women and men.

So attire of ladies and girls are ought to be such so as not to reveal too much, not to provoke, not to tempt, but to protect and cover them decently.

Dr S Nasrullah Dhaka.

#### **US President's future** Sir, US President Bill Clin-

ton now appears to be in the soup, following the disclosure in the Kenneth Star's report about the president's escapades with the White House intern to the younger sections of the American people, the disclosures didn't seem to have caused much of a ripple as the approval rating for the president's policies continued to remain high. perhaps because the young generation there may have undergone changes in their outlook on social mores. In their eyes, the achievements of the man, hauled up for the reported moral lapses, counted for more.

But inspite of this, it seems that there is a hard core of public opinion, as reflected through the more mature people of that country which may not take easily the reported moral lapses of the president, so whatever the final outcome of the tussle between the Congress and the Presidency which is bound to be a long-drawn-out affair, it seems very likely that the political future of President Clinton may be quite bleak.

A S M Nurunnabi 29, Dhanmondi R/A, Rd-1,

#### **Political** accountability in the USA

Sir, An American analyst speaking to the BBC felt that President Clinton was under pressure of impeachment or resignation due to the fact that the Americans nowadays give more importance to political accountability, in spite of the general impression that Mr Clinton was doing quite well as a leader of the world's richest

and most powerful nation. What are we waiting for - at least on this issue of political transparency and accountability? Who will set the ball rolling, and who ill bell the cat?

A Zabar Dhaka.

#### Eastern treasure Sir, Bill's naughty acts have

been laid bare before the world, and he is now in deep trouble. It will really be a Herculean task for the President to avert impeachment proceedings against him for misdemeanor. Even if he is spared of this humiliation in the end, he cannot possibly avoid being reprimanded by the Congress. It is also quite possible that he may have to bow down before completing the rest of his term in office due mainly

to party pressure. One thing though is quite clear — the man appears to be genuinely sorry 'for doing the acts, and is deeply repentant. If that be so, and if he has a flair for social services. Bangladeshis would not be too mean, I am sure, to accept him amongst us as an honoured guest. Who knows he may even learn something a new from the Eastern philosophy which is perhaps our greatest treasure.

Dr A Z Mia

# Women's worries

Sir. Abuse of women and children are increasing at an afarming rate. The newspaper pages revel gruesome tales of such abuses. The other day IGP has expressed his worries and has directed the law enforcing agencies to find the reasons of

such abuses. In this context, I draw the attention of relevant authorities towards the liquor tragedy of Gaibanda where over hundred people died and over 400 were intoxicated by drinking adulterated liquor. From this figure one can guess the total number of drinkers throughout the country. Apart from liquor there are hundreds of thousands of drug addicted people who use different drugs - particularly phensidyl - which are being smuggled into the coun-

Those who use these are the ones mostly involved in various types of crimes and anti-social activities including abuses of women and children.

\*So, in order to save the nation from the grip of these antisocial elements and miscreants an act must be amended to cope with the present situation. At

the same time the existing Narcotics Act should be thoroughly amended with provisions for heavy punishment like death

penalty, life imprisonment etc.

M A Jalil 372/B, Khilgaon, Dhaka

# Shamshad Begum

Sir, With the passing away of Shamshad Begum, the subcontinent has lost one of its highlyrated and formidable singer of yesteryears.

Shamshad Begum made waves in the forties when she entered the film world and as a playback singer for Pancholi Art Productions of Lahore and

later came to Bombay. She created a niche for herself during the period which was known as the golden era of Indian film music. That was the time when Kanan Devi Khurshid Banu, Ram Dulari, Zahrabhai Ambala, Shanta Apte, Amirbhai Karnataki, Rajkumari, Noorjehan, and later, Suraiya, Lata and Geeta Roy rendered song's which left an indelible mark in the minds

of cinema and music buffs.

Robert Kader

#### Bat cuts star with scissors

Sir, Some rooms of the great White House are no longer white, judging by the Starr excerpts on the Internet. Some of the force on US global strategic initiative has been dissipated; allowing opponents to prick Clinton to open more fronts, for example, near the Afghan border where 200,000 Iranian troops are reported to have massed, equipped with tools other than Monica missiles. The offending Serbs might step up the nefarious genocidal activities in Kosovo. What if India and Pakistan squeeze some of the CTBT tentative clauses?

Wall Street is already jerky with the state of the state rooms; the Yen is creating itself, and the Rouble is recoiling in horror. The confidence in the US dollar as a safe haven is dangling. Nothing moral about the monetary markets - it is stark reality: put on more pressure on the Presidency of the world's most powerful UN member

The Clinton country is flooded with speculation, while Bangladesh is flooded in reality. The naked sight might be watery, but 20,000,000 mute victims are speculating on the SOFA and HANA games. The Afghans are still as rocky as their country's hills and vales; and the Kashmir issue is sitting as pretty as ever, much to the discomfort of Uncle Sam. The activities in the world's oldest city (Hebron) is no consolation to Clinton, while the two Koreans might need a Clinton shake.

The HK dollar is still flying. although the new dazzling airport grounded for a while. The Tiger menace is not yet over, there is one more still hiding at the bottom of South Asia. Our Prime Minister has

called for a pipeline of friendship from Singapore to Bokhara. All dreams are floating till the waters recede.

A Husnain Dhaka