The Daily Star serialises, beginning from today, articles on special discussion programme from the BBC titled Bangladesh Sanglap. The Daily Star is the print media partner of BBC for this programme.

# Invitation to a dialogue

### Why the BBC wants to engage its audiences to discuss issues of governance in Bangladesh

HE BBC Bengali Service has launched a season of programming which is unprecedented in its scope and ambition. The season comprises eight live public discussions titled Bangladesh Sanglap, each preceded by radio features and followed by phone-in programmes. The issues to be addressed are of critical importance to Bangladesh: justice, corruption, local government, education, health, trade,

The Sanglap or dialogues feature invited audiences asking questions to panels consisting of ministers, experts from various fields, opinion formers etc. The result is expected to be a "national conversation", looking at where Bangladesh stands today, and where it has the potential and ambition to go tomorrow.

Debate, dialogue, discussion whatever one calls it, the BBC now sees "conversation" as a key element in its broadcasting strategy. The World Service has recently launched its Global Conversation programme called World Have Your Say, and this series of Bangladesh Sanglap by the Bengali service fits in well with this strategy. The idea is to interact with the audiences, and engage them in a discussion about things that are

This does not allow the BBC to take a position on any issue. Whether its corruption or human rights, trade or local government, it is the interaction between the audience and the panelcan contribute their opinions in the phone-in programmes. Hopefully, this will build awareness about these critical issues, and enable ordinary people to ask questions and share ideas about the way forward. Here, the BBC will act as a facilitator, to bring people together, provide the platform to enable a structured discussion to take place.

But why governance? Because, it can be justifiably argued, that everything that is important to Bangladesh's future, everything that is right or wrong with its past and present -- all flow from issues of governance. As a media organisation, the BBC tackles governance-related issues on a daily deep into the issues, to explore both their academic aspects and how they affect the everyday lives of ordinary

What's more, the debate over governance is no longer a domestic. issue. It is a global phenomenon, with potential to impact on external relations, including trade and aid.

Ever since the fall of Soviet communism in Europe and the end of the Cold War, "governance" has become the hottest topic in political discourse around the world. More precisely, 'good'' governance has become the yardstick by which the success of

Why governance? Because, it can be justifiably argued, that everything that is important to Bangladesh's future, everything that is right or wrong with its past and present -- all flow from issues of governance. As a media organisation, the BBC tackles governance-related issues on a daily basis. But this project is designed to go deep into the issues, to explore both their academic aspects

and how they affect the everyday lives of ordinary folks.

nation-states is being measured.

Increasingly, it is argued that the best foundation for a "well-governed" society is democracy, where popular will -- expressed through the ballot box -- determines who runs the country. Proponents of such a view would suggest that, social and political institutions built through the consent of the people are likely to be far more durable, than those built through mere acceptance by the people.

Without democracy, even a state apparently enjoying "good governance" may not be able to sustain  $either its institutions \, or \, social \, stability.$ 

Bangladesh has been no exception

to this global trend of events. In fact, Bangladesh has been a step ahead of the rest, as the country has always seen democracy as the bottom-line, the minimum requirement for an acceptable design of social organisation. The untry has struggled throughout its post-colonial history to establish democracy and ensure freedom. It has been successful to the extent that. Bangladesh today has one of the most

population not afraid to speak its mind, or vote out a government given There are, however, question

the more robust media scenes and a

marks over issues related to governance: While the people enjoy the society, are they being well-served by the people they chose to govern them? Are the tools of the state -- police, administration, schools, hospitals etc - working for their welfare? Are the workings of the government honest, transparent, fair? Are people treated equally under the law? Parliament is

elected by the people, but how effec-

tive is the Jatiya Sangsad in law-

making and in holding the govern-

ment to account? How effective are

Members of Parliament in represent-

ing the views and interests of their

constituents in the Sangsad? The list of

questions Bangladeshis may have

It is argued that effective gover-

nance is essential for a state to perform

its primary function -- which is to

deliver basic socio-economic goods to

the population. By socio-economic

goods, one would mean such things as

primary health care and education,

economic stability, food security,

social harmony, justice under the law

Local as well overseas experts

believe that Bangladesh has made

progress in many areas, such as pri-

mary education particularly for girls,

child survival, empowerment of

recognise that the country faces many

challenges: basic services such as

 $protection\,of\,life\,and\,liberty\,etc.$ 

seems almost endless.

Not surprisingly, issues related to governance have become key areas of government, in the media, among non-governmental organisations, among aid-donor organisations etc. It is clearly one area on which political parties lay great emphasis at election times: promises to provide services and improve the quality of life in general dominate election manifesoes of all parties.

Reduce corruption? Nobody says let's have more graft. Improve law and order? No one says let's have some more chaos. Justice for all? Nobody disagrees with that. Ensure universal access to primary health and education? Improve maternal health and child nutrition? All in agreement, no doubt. Strengthen local government to have better services and accountability at local level? Most would want that. Everybody knows where Bangladesh needs to go. Its just a matter of getting there -- or, agreeing on how to

The Sanglap season is designed to make a humble contribution towards building a national understanding and consensus about governance issues, as part of the national debate that is well in progress. The discussion format will enable ordinary folks to ask questions to people who should have the answers; or raise issues and make suggestions so that decision-makers debate can generate ideas and inspire positive thinking. Having it broadcast on radio and television means millions others can connect to the debates and contribute through other channels -- such as the letters column

The writer is Acing Executive Editor, Asia and the Pacific Region, BBC World Service.

#### health and education still not reaching vibrant political landscapes in the all, justice under law remains a mirage developing world (along with one of basis. But this project is designed to go

Are people receiving justice?

Though economically backward, Bangladesh can be proud of that piece of land. From then on, for the lodging a case against me with fake its institutionalised judicial structure. The system, rooted in the colonial era, has come a long way. New laws are being formulated. Old laws are being reformed. But despite this, are the people receiving justice? The BBC's Shakeel Anwar

### Child, yet not a child

Surrounded by raised walls like a jail, Poolerhat juvenile correction centre stands at one end of the Jessore district town. Simply put, it is a jail for juvenile

On the other side of the huge iron gate, 20 to 25 youths are enthusiastically playing cricket in a rain-drenched field. Some of them are here for murder cases, some for arms, and some merely for stealing or running away from

Mojibur Rahman, the Centre Supervisor, gave permission for a few of them to talk, though for legal reasons their real names and identities are not mentioned here.

'Shafiq' was fielding in the slip with his trousers rolled up. He had been sentenced to eight years for an arms case in the Khulna Court. At the time of the crime he was only fifteen-years-old, though he was not judged according to the Children's Act.

"Before coming here I was in Khulna Jail with adults for two and a half years. Very painful. The adults used to beat me up. I always had to run errands for them. They wouldn't let me sleep," Shafiq said with his head bent down-

'Kader' is almost eighteen. "Mine is a murder case. Thirty years in jail." When the judgement was delivered, at  $the \, beginning \, of \, 2003, Kader \, was \, fifteen \,$ years old. The judgement at his trial says that it was made according to the Children's Act, yet he was sentenced to

"We often see these kinds of strange, self-contradictory judgements. According to the Children's Act, there is no provision for punishment for more than ten years. It seems to me that a lot of learned judges do not have a clear idea about the Children's Law,' Mojibur Rahman told the BBC.

"There's a lack of clarity in the explanation of the law regarding some important issues" he added. "For example, we can't keep anyone in the centre who has reached 18 years of age. What will we do with those who cross that age? Will we send them to the jail? If here and correcting them for all these

Pointing towards a boy of 12 years old, Mojibur Rahman said that the police caught him and sent him here from Barisal nine months ago on a simple stealing charge. He's written three times to the court over the past nine months to try to get his trial started. But he hasn't had any reply. Mr. Rahman informed us that there is one boy whose case has been under trial for

According to the law of Bangladesh all these adolescents were supposed to be judged by the Children's Act 1974.

shuttling from court door to court door.

While showing us the court papers. Swarupjan Bibi said that "the verdict of the Shatkhira Zilla Judge Court in 1992 was in my favour. I thought Allah had saved me. But then they took the case to the Dhaka High Court."

When the hearing day is fixed this illiterate widow collects from here and there and travels 200 miles to the court in

"I think I have been to Dhaka 50 times. Even after all these days, I can't repay the 20,000 Taka I borrowed on interest and paid to the advocate. I collect money through begging, and give it to the court", Swarupjan bibi said in her local accent of Shatkhira.

She is now receiving legal assistance from a local non-governmental organi-

However, visit any court in Bangladesh and one will find frustrated

There are approximately 10 lakh cases pending in Bangladesh, of which 80 per cent are civil cases, especially land-related disputes. In Dhaka alone, there are approximately 100 cases which have been going on for the past 35 years or more. One case in Khulna was adjourned for 1,266 times.

Under no circumstances were they supposed to be with adults in a normal iail. But very few of the juveniles of Poolerhat have been fortunate enough

### At the doors of the law

Sharsha is a village of Tala thana in Shatkhira, situated on the banks of the river Kopotaksha. It is like any other Bangladesh village. After a long search we found Shorupjan Bibi's house: a straw-covered thatched-roof earthen hut, a tiny courtyard.

Coming out of her kitchen made of bamboo laths and seeing people she didn't know, the elderly lady, was reticent at first. After learning our identities she spread out a mat, woven of date-palm leaves, on the veranda. Then she started to share her story

Widowed with a son at a young age, Swarupjan Bibi, received approximately acre of land in writing from her mother. But to protect this, Swarupjan has been fighting for over a decade. In 1989, by producing fake documents, an influential person of the village grabbed

and be wildered people with minor cases shuttling backward and forward for vears on end. The cases have left many of them utterly ruined.

But there are problems inside the

### On the veranda of the court

Chuadanga district court. Even before the clock has struck ten, the veranda of the court, the courtyard and the long hall of the advocates are spilling over with

Two clients were on the heels of Mahtab Hossain, a renowned lawyer in this district. Both have hearing dates today. But they do not know whether their hearings will take place.

After filing a case to evict a tenant [CHECK], Mahfuzul Islam has been coming here for ten years. There is no special bench in Chuadanga to try such minor cases. It is difficult for his case even to be listed in other benches.

Osman Gani's case is also of eviction He said, "The SA record is in my name, Dalil [land registry documents] is mine, and I've been using the land for last 33 years. Yet, they are harassing me by

cess of -- or public confidence in democracy itself. The importance of governance issues thus go deeper in Bangladesh than being just a matter of

clean and efficient government.

worry, corruption is endemic, busi-

nesses and workers both worry about

impact of a globalised world under

WTO rules and the administration

It is clear that democracy, by itself

is no guarantor of good governance;

but by the same logic, lack of good

governance could threaten the suc-

remains highly centralised.

The case has been running for seven years. "It doesn't end. The dates of the case are shifting each month. They say that the judge is absent. [It's all about] coming to Chuadanga each month, leaving my job and counting the fees of

However Advocate Mahtab Hossain said that the main reason for the cases' lingering is the shortage of judges. There are two assistant judge posts in Chuadanga. The assistant judge post for two thanas of Alamdanga and Damurhuda have been vacant for the last ten years.

"Moreover, it has become a routine matter that, when government witnesses come to attend the criminal cases the civil cases get adjourned", Mahtab Hossain added.

In an interview, Law minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed told the BBC that the lengthy process of litigation is a matter of great anxiety for him.

He spoke about quite a few initiatives taken to solve this problem. For example, the courts are given targets of time to dispose of the cases. Severe prohibition orders were made to stop the wilful adjournments.

"We are mostly trying to reduce new court cases". Mr. Ahmed said that, "30 per cent of cases in the country are of small issues. We are trying so that these cases can be disposed of by mediation outside the

For this, alternative dispute resolution, i.e. mediation, has been given a legal footing. In four months 4,000 cases have been disposed of through mediation, the Law Minister added.

There are approximately 10 lakh cases pending in Bangladesh, of which 80 per cent are civil cases, especially land-related disputes. In Dhaka alone there are approximately 100 cases which have been going on for the past 35 years or more. One case in Khulna was adjourned for 1,266 times.

How long the initiatives articulated by the Law Minister will take to achieve esults is uncertain. However, victims claim that so many unresolved cases have created a public loss of confidence in the whole judicial system.

Bengali Radio after 'Probaho' from 8pm on special frequencies SW 31 & 41 metre band (9395 & 7520 kHz) and FM 100 MHz in Dhaka. It will be shown on Channel i on Sunday from 8 pm

Bangladesh Sanglap 1: "Are People Receiving

Justice" is broadcast this evening [Thursday] on BBC

# Enayetullah Khan: In fond remembrance

ENAM A. CHAUDHURY

NE of the brightest stars has disappeared from the nation's firmament. Far away from the place and people for whom he always yearned to work for, Enavetullah Khan breathed his last in Toronto on November 10, fighting valiantly against the dreaded cancer of the pancreas. Fighter as he was against all odds all his life, his last battle could not perhaps have been against a lesser Enayet never compromised in what

he thought to be unjust, wrong or improper. At the same time he was understanding, compassionate and benevolent. We become the best of friends right from the very first day we met, fifty five years ago. We were class mates at the same Mymensingh Zilla School, lived in neighbouring rooms at the Baptist Mission Hostel in Dhaka College, went to at the same Dhaka University and mostly held similar views on almost all matters ranging from political ones to very personal. I had the opportunity of seeing him from very close quarters. Occasionally we competed against one another and at all times he exuded such sense of warmth, cordiality and consideration that we continued to remain the best of friends through vicissitudes of fortune and in the course of life.

His greatest quality, I thought, was his ready undaunted courage to speak up for truth and justice. This was the driving force of his life and this is why, inspite of so many other financially lucrative and risk-free comfortable careers which he could have chosen for himself, he decided to be a journalist and totally dedicated his life to the profession. Journalism offered him the avenue to express, and he bestowed dignity to the profession.

The traits of his character were evident even in the early years of his life. In 1953 when I was General Secretary of Dhaka College Students' Union, I was expelled from the college (along with a few others) in connection with erection of a Shahid Minnar at the College premises and organising a cultural function where, inter-alia, Gaffar Chowdhury's immortal verse Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano..... was publicly sung by late Abdul Latif for the first time. Enayetullah, who was the Cultural Secretary, organised a big protest meeting where I was given an address of appreciation written by him, the inspiring words of which I still remember and cherish. He also took a leading role in organising a students movement which led to the subsequent withdrawal of our expulsion order. An active member of EPSU (East Pakistan Students' Union), he participated fully in students' movements in the fifties and passionately continued his cultural

I recall that when I was the President of Samskriti Samsad (and late Zahir Raihan was the General Secretary) Enayet always cooperated with us and once, presented, overnight composed on an emergent basis, a beautiful Geeti Bichitra voicing strong sentiments against global imperialism. Subsequently, he also became President of this progressive vanguard cultural organisation. Many do not perhaps know, but Enayet, or Mintu, the nick name by which he was popularly known, was a very good vocalist, played guitar and harmonica well, and wrote excellent Bengali. In debates and recitation competitions, he used to earn laurels without much of an effort. I

who taught us Urdu Literature at Dhaka and similes by saying, "I wonder if this boy turns out to be a Mir Taqui Meer one day." Well he did not turn out to be a great poet, but he certainly emerged as one of the best journalists of the subcontinent in the contemporary period. Editor Mahfuz Anam of The Daily Star styled him as the 'icon' of the profession and commented, 'he was by far the best among us'.

When he was in his late twenties, Enayetullah became the owner-editor of the Holiday, which was not just a bold voice of political dissent, but also a fore runner of a style which embraced all aspects of a conscious liberal, forward looking middle-class existence, laced with articulate sophistication. His journal had a 'certain audacious urbanity', and his 'fuming radicalism

right from the day his mind opened up to the wide strange world Yes, he was courageous. Even in this personal life, he never hesitated to

break norms, throw away practices and overcome all prejudices when reasons demanded. One could disagree with him, but Enayet saw to it that difference of views did not meet with intolerance. I thought that he wanted to prove the point in all his ventures, both in public life and in private, that the mind should not be shackled to a pre-determind pattern, and a practice followed just because it was there. He might have been right, or wrong, but that didn't matter. What mattered most was the recognition of the spirit of man arising out of an enlightened un-emasculated mind. Indeed to me his life itself is a historical milestone and his writings a testament of time bringing us all to an understanding of how evil can be masked by a surface of apparent ratio-

Enayet, you have left us at a time when we needed you the most. We are now really at crossroads in our history and we do want to move towards the right direction. Let the message that you left for us act as a beacon to inspire us, to guide us, and to make us abide by the voice of our conscience.

spiced with cynicism' vigorously championed the cause of whatever could be visioned as goals of civilized -- egalitarian democracy, rule of law, freedom of thought and expression and global peace based on anti-hagemonstic world-order. The trend continued under all regimes and governments both in Pakistan and in Bangladesh. The weekly was banned, Enayetullah was imprisoned under authoritarian regimes, but he could not care less and the Holiday never changed. The quotations I give are from the eminent Indian economist, politician and columnist Ashok Mitra, who continued to describe Enavetullah as 'extrovert, loquacious, steeped in bourgeois sophistication, generous to a fault, liking the good things in life". And yet the 'left' in Enayet never died. His concern for the welfare of people, for fairness and justice and his unflinching sense of patriotism continued to make

their pronounced presence felt and As Ashok Mitra aptly commented, 'Enayetullah could not quite spell out what alternatives were available to the people of Bangladesh. That precisely defined his charm, just on this side of being irresponsible he still took his role seriously. For a fledgling people, open to many temptations, a journal of dissent ought to be worth its weight in gold'. Enayet thought that the victory of truth, reason and justice over shortsighted opportunism, ill motivated deception and narrow self-interest hung on a slender thread, and involved contingent circumstances not always under control. For a relentless struggle to win, not just unswerving conviction, but also extra-ordinary zeal and unflagging political courage of dedicated persons were required. And Enayet chose and decided to be one of them

nality, declared faith and even veiled benignity. And he wanted to show as to how to take arms against a sea of evils and by opposing end them or at least try to. When Enayetullah refused to join the BAKSAL bandwagon, Bombay's 'The Economic and Political Weekly' of June 4, 1975 published this comment, "The non-joiners have a choice, they can go to prison and languish there. Fortunately, few of them will be as foolish as Enayetullah Khan". And the future course of events proved how Enayetullah made his point. But with all his propensity of being a

maverick, Enayet, when in power, stuck to rules and regulations which he thought were product of some principles embodied in law. I recall that once, when all our brothers and sisters were abroad, my widowed valiant mother brought up a land case in the High  $Court\,against\,what\,she\,thought\,to\,be\,an$ unjust act of the government. She managed to get around her a few legal luminaries like Late Asrarul Husain, Sabita Ranjan Paul, and Nurul Hug. Enayetullah was the Minister for Land and explained to Enayet the weakness of the government position. Enayet agreed but said 'won't it be better if I fight against Chachi and lose' ? Amma also said 'I would not like to embarrass Mintu. Let me fight out in the open. I shall win'. So we mutually decided that the case should continue in the court so that the 'truth' is established beyond any pales of doubt. Ultimately, it was the wise and experienced Late Kazi Anwarul Huq, who succeeded Enayet as Minister in charge of land revenue, got the case settled in an out-of-court compromise and my mother got back her land. But if this would have happened when Enayet was the Minister the common inference in the outcome

of this case which generated a great deal of public interest would have been an instance of 'a friend helping a friend'. An act of justice is not just done, but should also be seen to have been

Enayetullah took his assignments very seriously. As an Ambassador he used to send very incisive and analytical reports from the posts and came up with bright constructive suggestions Once I visited him in Beijing and thought that I would spend one or two days a bit leisurely. But Enayet drew up such a heavy and full programme that I complained. He told me 'I would like to take the maximum mileage out of your risit'. He organised a number of meet ings and even a visit to a university. I was pleasantly surprised to see so many dignitaries at the dinner that he hosted for me. He knew the Chinese leaders very well and it seemed to me that they also held him in high esteem. There was always added a touch of class to what-

Mintu really had a zest for life joie de'vivre, and wanted to experience the varieties and challenges that life offers. He was immensely well- liked in the social circles and was a popular President of the Dhaka Club. Even in the uncertain days of the early seventies, parties in Mintu's house in Lalmatia continued till the end. Last September I visited Toronto to see him. I met him twice in two days, and the last meeting was at a nice dinner so kindly hosted by Doctors Nahid and Khaled, a couple close to both Mintu and me. All through the dinner we talked, and though he could not eat or drink, and continued to take just some health liquid, never for a moment did he regret this, so as to ensure that no wet blanket is thrown to sap the spirit of that vibrant and happy gathering. It was to be our last meeting and I would like to retain this image of him as long as I live -- a cheerful Mintu vigorously participating in discussions with his forceful views and opinions.

Enayetullah was a visionary. He kept on dreaming of a brave new world not fragmented by narrow self-interest. He kept on thinking about a country where we would live in peace, and in harmony, and where rule of law, and egalitarian secular democracy will prevail. He rose above all prejudices and hated divisiveness and communalism in all its forms of religious, linguistic, racial or regional He might not have been precise but he had his ideas which lifted people's spirit and made them hopeful, forwardsustaining. Even when faced with imminent death, he did not cease from writing editorials and sending dispatches for the Holiday and the New Age and extending caring thoughts for the State. We know how the current spate of violence and bomb blasts, an outcome of religious extremism, pained him, and

Enavet, you have left us at a time when we needed you the most. We are now really at crossroads in our history and we do want to move towards the right direction. Let the message that you left for us act as a beacon to inspire us, to guide us, and to make us abide by

from his sick-hed how audibly he roared

Enam A. Chaudhury is Chairman, Privatisation Commission and an Advisor to Chairperson, BNP.

# Reducing vulnerability to water-related disasters

are highly correlated to the rainfall in

the upper catchments in India with

for the Ganges and Brahmaputra

Rivers -- by employing simple correla-

tion, if rainfall data from further upper

catchments in India are available on a

real time and continuous basis.

Therefore, hydro-meteorological

information exchange between the

courtiers along the Indo-Gangetic

basins is essential for developing a

knowledge base for evaluating the

potential implications of water

resources management in the greater

Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM)

reference to the sharing of information

At present, unfortunately, with

## SAARC can play an important role

DR. MD. RASHED CHOWDHURY

R. Abtab's article on November 12/2005, issue of the Daily Star, entitled 'SAARC can play an important role in combating natural disasters', attracted my attention. I also firmly believe that among the natural disasters, the South Asian Association for Regional Coopera-tion (SAARC) can undoubt edly help reduce vulnerability to waterrelated disasters -- particularly those arising from basin-wide heavy rainfall excessive run-off, and flooding. We know that the basin wide monsoon rainfall patterns control flood peaks of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna Rivers in Bangladesh. From a pre-monsoon minimum, the discharges in the Ganges River increases sharply with the increase of up-stream monsoon rainfall, a peak is usually attained in late August or early September with some influences of mountain snow pack in the Himalayan tributaries. With the increasing of upstream rainfall, the rivers Brahmaputra and Meghna start rising as early as April. The high stages last from June to August and in some cases even until September. Several peaks occur during the monsoon with the first flooding event occurring in July and August and a second one of lesser volume occur-

ring in September.

among the riparian countries, the water experts in one country had surprisingly little access to information from the other co-basin countries. Thus, some operational mechanism is needed for wider sharing of meteorological and hydrological information Several scientific findings between the countries concerned. The SAARC can play a proactive role to have quantified that the stream flows of the three mighty rivers in Bangladesh

basins in South Asia.

typically a lag of about one to three reduce the sufferings of humanity in months. These findings are not elaborately described here; these are Next, some of the recent findings have clearly demonstrated about the reported elsewhere [Chowdhury and Ward (2004): Hydro-Meteorological greater potential for developing sea-Variability in the Greater Ganges Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Basins, International Journal of Clima-tology]. Therefore, stream-flows in Bangladesh could be fairly estimated for one to three months in advance -- especially

sonal climate forecasting scheme in the Indo-Gangetic basin areas (for details, see the above reference paper, and also other references listed therein). Despite some problems of regular exchange of data among the neighbouring countries, the process of seasonal climate forecasts (rainfall, stream-flow, and flooding) can still be enhanced from the unusually warm or cold sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropics. For example, unusually warm or cold sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific or Indian Ocean can cause major shifts in seasonal climate in nearby continents like India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Therefore, the advance knowledge on El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) condition (SST and atmospheric circulation pattern) ahead of time would provide substantial opportunities to provide useful climate forecast (rainfall, stream-flow, flooding) in the greater GBM basin areas in South Asia. This is a very complicated and challenging task, which is extremely difficult without a full scale regional co-

enhancing the capability of exchang-

ing water-related information to

Although in India considerable work has been done on variability of climate and particularly rainfall by

analysis of the extensive data sets of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the nature of climate variability over other parts of the Indian monsoon regime, such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan, is not as well documented. Therefore, considerable work on the nature of climate variability and predictability of these countries are required to be done before developing any full scale regional forecasting schemes. This detailed investigation on the relationship between the of the countries in South Asia, in particular India, will also enhance our understanding of the large-scale features of the monsoon in the greater Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin

Like many other SAARC countries, Bangladesh at present is not in a position to identify the uncertain impacts of an ENSO and other climate factors The country, therefore, has to rely on the latest ideas and technology from developed countries for this purpose Other SAARC countries, like India, can also make a significant contribution here with their knowledge and expertise. The SAARC can also take a proactive role to foster a closer regional cooperation and reduce the sufferings of humanity in three river basin areas.

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