

The devastating cyclone SIDR is just another example of the changing face of the environment.

involved in all sorts of projects and both Huq and Rahman are proud to say they never chased after grants and money, the quality of their (both themselves and the centre) work was what gave them a reputation to rely on and then they were chased up to do work, rather than the other way round.

Throughout all of this Saleemul Huq was not a silent partner and neither was his work any less thought provoking and cutting edge. Huq started out as a student of biology and went on to complete both his undergraduate and PhD in Biology from Imperial College in London. It was during this work that he became interested in the environment and wished to branch out. But as it so happened he could not find a way to venture into the environmental side of science. Having spent almost a decade abroad he came back. Huq says, "after spending so many years abroad I came back to teach at Dhaka University. But to be honest my time back was not the most fruitful, I soon got disenchanted for a number of reasons and did not like the experience of teaching here." After coming back in 1980 he taught till 1984 and then decided to shake things up.

Within a few years along with Atiq Rahman and others he set up the BCAS and like many involved with the project went through his own tough times as the institute spluttered along for the first few years. Huq says, "at the beginning like the other it was tough but then I think our sheer passion for our work was what got us through."

The floods in 1988 were what really shook him up as he says, "They (the floods) were abnormal for a number of reasons the main one being that there was no rain, yet we were still experiencing floods. The connection between man's interference in nature and the environment was becoming clearer to see and I found myself drawn to that subject." At that time along with the BCAS, Huq and Rahman had a lot to do with the creation of the Environment ministry no small achievement in itself.

Huq was one of the first people to talk of adaptation as the issue of climate change was being discussed and while at first his ideas did not draw much attention, within a few years as people started to understand that the process of climate change was already in motion his words gained even more importance. Around this time he was producing paper after paper internationally and had become something of a leader in the field of climate change. He attended summit after summit abroad constantly trying to get the developing countries' priorities out in the open. He says, "After the treaty convention there was a need of a binding agreement. What the Kyoto Protocol did was to add flesh to the UN framework con-