

Bangladesh faces an uncertain future, as it has to fight the dual battle of development.

vention and what was asked from the Kyoto Protocol was really a drop in ocean for the countries that signed it." By the mid nineties Huq was a household name in the field of Climate Change and being one of the first people to even mention adaptation he was asked to be the lead author on the IPCC Third Assesment Report for the Adaptation and Sustainable Development chapter. It was a huge task putting together the work and research of hundreds of other scientists but there was only ever one man for the job, and he executed his task flawlessly. His interest also included looking into the link between development and climate change, a topic of utmost importance here in Bangladesh.

In a nutshell adaptation is being better prepared or adapting to climate change, not fighting it, but learning to live with it. This was a topic close to his heart and his motherland as he saw first hand the devastating floods of '88 and the increased cyclones of the early nineties. He saw adaptation as a measure that Bangladesh could and should take to combat climate change. There was a very clear link for him as he realised that the poorest of the world live in environmentally vulnerable areas and aside from Bangladesh there were millions who suffer from climate change induced by the richest nations of the world. His work on vulnerability and adaptation did not go unnoticed and he was soon invited by the International Institute for Environment and Development to head up their Climate Change Group. It was an offer he took up and well becoming the Coordinating Lead Author of the chapter on Adaptation and Mitigation in the IPCC's fourth assessment report. This was to be the report published in February last year, the report which directly led to the IPCC being given the Nobel Peace Prize. When the announcement was given last year that the IPCC had won the award, television stations around the world called him in for a comment as he beamed from ear to ear, everyone including himself had something to celebrate. Huq says, "The role of people like myself is to be a bridge builder between scientists and development people. I enjoy nothing more than battling for the voices of the poor and translating science into the political domain." One would be hard pressed to say he has not done so.

Saleemul Huq and Atiq Rahman are two scientists which have elevated Bangladesh, its environment and the effects of climate change on to the global radar. A few awards cannot do justice to their work, but at least it's a start for two people who have anything and everything for their nation and the marginalised millions around the world. ■