what will the other lakhs and lakhs of families do? So, let's get on with the bangers and the crackers. Let us set alight the night.

WE humans have not been able to manage in the least our resources and that is why our wealth distribution is so lopsided locally, but universally so. The effect is more terrifying in poorer countries because there is so little to go around.

WE have to be charitable in the midst of our festivals and merrymaking. WE have to set aside a bit for the majority, each time. WE have to assess what forms the essential elements of our merriment, and would our joy be multiplied if we shared our savings with the other half.

WE will have our *Baisakhijatra*, and the Japanese their *Oshogatsu* on the first three days of January, but gifts of lasting value could very well be sent to those from whom we expect no more than a smile of serenity. We will teach them to fish, not give them the fish.

WE could use the Chinese years of symbolic animals to work wonders for a child who has never even heard of China. Imagine his joy as he gets a toyrat and his family a new hut to keep away the rain. WE could sponsor an ox for a family, or a few roosters for another. I have not quite figured out how we will handle the year of the tiger or for that matter serpent. But it will always be about giving.

WE could in the thirteen days of *NauRuz*, the Iranian New Year, in late March take up as many projects for as many needy families. We could arrange for them to cultivate seven kinds of foods, even if we did not take their names beginning with the letter S too seriously, as is the Iranian custom. The Afghans celebrate *NauRuz* only on the first day of spring in March, but I hope they will understand.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

WE could follow the Ethiopian traditions as they do at the end of the rainy season, and make real flowers bloom in our slums and Aila-Sidr hit remote villages. In Ethiopia children sing songs of happiness on New Year, as they present one house after another with flowers that they gathered, hoping in turn to be gifted with roasted grain. It is always about giving.

WE couldbe selfish, and work for a better future; each of us could teach at least one family to fish.

WE may have missed out this *Pahela Boisakh*, but let us better our record starting the next festival...and why not from today?