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DAILY STAR

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UNESCO Role

Perhaps the visiting UNESCO DG could not have been more phrasally appropriate in articulating his world view when he called for global intellectual solidarity yesterday in his address on the occasion of DU's conferment of a honorary degree on him. This strife-torn old planet has seen how intellectual solidarity time and again came to humanity's aid. In the most critical juncture of world history when one man's maniacal pursuits were threatening the future of the world, physicists around the globe confederated to keep Hitler in the dark about the destructive potential of A-bomb. We may have moved away in time from those trying circumstances for civilisation but the spectral legacy remains. The ideas and incidences like ethnic cleansing, rise of neo-Nazism in the West, increasing global propensity to militarism, America's ironical alien allergy and the suicidal internecine bickering among the poor nations show that the impetus which was at work then is very much there today.

The chief reason behind the present global crisis is the relentless exploitation and lack of intellectual leadership to expose and redeem this trend. Some sort of global intellectual solidarity has to commence as Mr. Mayor so aptly said to make people see that the 80 per cent of world's resources are in the hands of 18 per cent of the total population. Also to do away with the campaign of conceptual distortion that is going on with a view to perpetuating exploitation of man by man.

Will UNESCO play an effective role in promoting global intellectual solidarity to fight all forms of degradation of human rights and values? Over the years it has played its role in that direction but a lot is left to be desired still.