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**Uncharted Territory' and 'Hope and Despair' by VFJ Abdur Rahman Chowdhury (Washington, USA).**

Please see the attached.

## **1. Uncharted Territory:**

The period 2017 to 2019 was consequential in many respects. President Trump's policy of rolling back from the international stage by withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement, terminating the Iran Nuclear Deal, breaking away from the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement and disengagement with the Palestinians gave rise to a climate of instability. The Saudi led war in Yemen brought colossal damage to the impoverished country. Millions of people were displaced and over 85,000 children were starved to death. Yemen is fast sliding into a severe famine. Uncharted Territory is a compilation of articles written during the period from 2017 to 2019 into a book. The articles dealt with the issues unfolded during this period. During the same period the author had visited Canada, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Palestine and witnessed the situation from a close distance. The essays are dispassionate analysis of the situations.

## **2. Hope and Despair:**

Since the publication of Uncharted Territory in February 2019 a series of events took place that jolted the entire world. Covid-19, a pandemic with deadly virus, first struck Wuhan province in China and killed large number of people in weeks. The virus moved at an astonishing speed and within months 200 countries fell prey to the pandemic.

President Trump's endorsement of white nationalism promoted racial hatred in the United States. His disdain for the international organizations and love for anti-immigrant rightist's leaders in Europe exacerbated the destabilization process in the world. Though newly elected President Joe Biden rushed to restore American leadership abroad, the international community had its doubt about Washington's credibility. Biden's abrupt troops withdrawal from Afghanistan without prior consultation with European partners and neighboring countries in Asia could not win skeptics at

home and abroad. Russia's protracted war in Ukraine and annexation of four eastern regions following a farcical referendum on 30 September 2022 do not bode well. Moscow's threat of resorting to nuclear weapon to score victory over Kyiv endangered peace in Europe.

"Hope and despair" is a collection of essays written on the above issues in the past three years. These were duly published in the Financial Express, Dhaka; some with different headlines.

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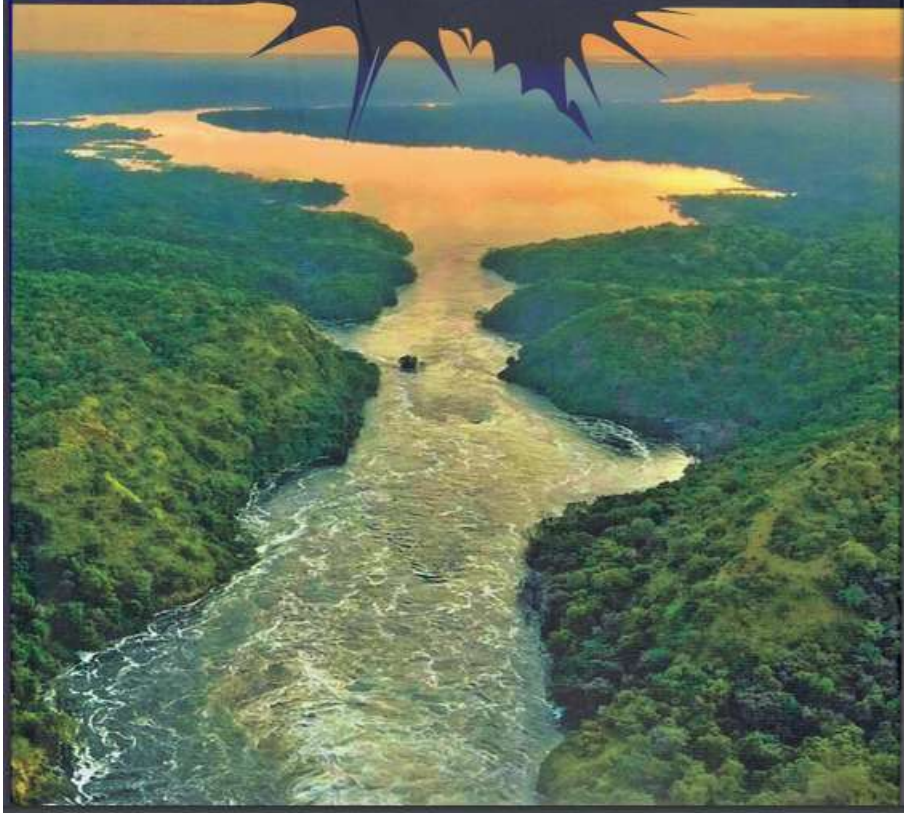
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# *Hope and Despair*

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# *Uncharted Territory*

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