

A Shame on Humanity

by Janet Jagan

The headline in the London Guardian of June 26, 2008 flashes "Millionaires Club gets bigger – Members Richer." It seems almost unbelievable, but it is a reality. All of us in the non-millionaire bracket have seen the balance of the world's wealth constantly tilting in favour of those who have and the facts of life plus the statistics tell us that the poor are increasing and increasingly poor.

It's a sad, sad world that the majority who are needy become needier and the minority who are wealthy, with few exceptions, grow wealthier each year. Philosophers might rightly ask, why should that be happening? It's against all the laws of nature that those who work the hardest to live, feed their children, keep a roof over their heads and clothing on their bodies should be starving or just at the edge of starvation and those who are so loaded with money, rarely work as hard



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as the starving who try so hard to survive.

The Guardian newspaper tells us that the wealth of the world's richest is projected to reach \$US59.1 trillion by 2012 advancing at a rate of 7.7%. The number of people around the world with at least \$US1 million in assets swelled by 6% last year to 10.1 million, according to the 12th annual World Wealth Report, produced by Merrill Lynch & Company. According to the newspaper that meant an additional 600,000 persons became millionaires or richer even as problems tied to the US credit crisis spread in the

second half of the year. The combined wealth of the millionaires club meanwhile grew 9.4% to \$US40.7 trillion their average wealth which didn't include primary homes, surpassed \$US 4 million for the

13% of the world population don't have enough food each day to sustain a healthy life, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

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This century hasn't been so bright for America's poor. Reports since 2003 indicated that the ranks of the poor rose 4% to 35.9 million, with children and the Black population worse off than most. With the present ongo-

One report by the US Department of Agriculture said that 38.2% of all Americans live in households that suffer directly from hunger and insecurity, including 14 million children.

The world is not getting to be a better place. The worldwide results of poverty lead to numerous social problems, not the least the weakening of the family structure, the hopelessness of the unemployed, the impoverishment, due to growing numbers in poverty, to provide the necessary social services needed, the spread of HIV/AIDS, more crimes, more wars, more displacement of persons and the inability of the poor to deal with natural disasters and war.

Dr Cheddi Jagan's proposals for a New Global Human Order has merits aimed at solving this worldwide chaos and more studies and more attention need to be paid to his proposals of one way to deal with these fundamental problems facing, the world's nations today.

Says Jean Ziegler, the UN special rapporteur on the right to food: "It is a shame on humanity that in a world that is richer than ever before, six million children die of malnutrition and related illnesses before they reach the age of five."

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first time.

India, China and Brazil saw the biggest growth rates in the number of wealthy individuals (22.7%, 20.3% and 19.1% respectively. The US has about a third of those around the world owning at least US\$ 1 million.

The other side of the coin shows that more than 852 million people, about

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ing economic problems in the USA, which President Bush refuses to call a depression, more and more poor have been added to the poverty list. It has been said that Bush's economic stewardship including three rounds of tax cuts has helped wealthy Americans, not the poor or middleclass, which confirms his failure to all Americans.