

## FOCUS

## Towards a Brighter Millennium

by Major General (Retd) Z A Khan

**E**XASPERATED by the complexities of the fading away millennium, people regardless of their caste, creed and culture are preparing to extend their arms of ovation to the new millennium hoping that it holds promise for all. The past century has presided over a few meaningful endeavours to help people to close their ranks to bring about an ordered change from myriad forces of disorder. Many of those efforts were aborted by those that were designated to make it happen. The theme of all intellectual exercise of the past century was one world for all and unfortunately this core assignment did not receive adequate attention of its major proponent for expedient interest. To a general observer, the dream of a 'one world for all' suffered major setback due to unabated moral degradation, political divide, ethno-religious dispersion, acculturation and market disorientation.

Towards the end of the century one could notice craving of the people to find panacea to rid the tormented global society of distortion of moral fabric, political chauvinism, cultural aggression and economic disparity. What had held us away from our destination which is one world for all? Although it is not possible to identify all these causes within the brief expanse of this paper an earnest effort will be made to list those that merit a definite mention. While a broad majority of people show inclination to mention preservation of sovereignty and commitment to empowerment on top of the list, a recknable number would like to radiate their focus on religious and cultural perspective. Besides these, there are yet a few more causes that may impede our march to destination. These, among many others, are:

- Inequality among nations;
- Skewed pattern of development;
- Unskilled or poor governance;
- Social instability;
- Invasive frontier culture;
- Transient political imbroglio;
- Religious divide;
- Non-recognition of anti-armament constituency;
- Partisan role of world body;
- Alliances of expediency.

It should be clear to any unclouded mind that some of these causes would entail administrative authority for their redemption while rest others would require intellectual prowess to overcome the inadequacies. It is imperative now to analyse mankind's performance in the past millennium which is just about ready to bid farewell. It witnessed advent of industrial civilization forcing retreat of feudal aristocracy.

Monarchs fell like house of cards against popular revolution. Two all devouring world wars were fought to make mockeries of our claim of enlightenment of human being. Social movement for ensuring distribution of wealth took roots but ultimately witnessed a downhill slide because of lack of commitment.

Even aggressive dynastic euphoria did not yield much dividend and liberal humanism that prompted bridging of gap among human beings failed. Much desired democracy also failed to flourish everywhere because of assaults on it by money power and street plotters. Despite captivating scientific and technological advancement like microchip culture and discovery of galaxies, our march to create a global village which is substantive and attainable remains an utopia. The incumbents are suffering from the apprehension that we shall never find 'one world for all' because 'when the wheels meant for forward movement turn back, they are never the same wheels nor it is the same road, along which they roll.' This should not preclude us from investing further effort to discover a new road to development.

The first project to be undertaken to befittingly welcome the third millennium is to arrive at a concord to deline on the contentious issues that estranged peace and order in the past. Although prospects of peace is more clouded with uncertainty than tinged with optimism; efforts should be made to identify the sensitivities that may make our option for 'peace and harmony' fragile. One may ask which are these sensitivities? These could be: drug production, arms merchandising, apocalyptic debt, momentous population and ever pervading terrorism. Obviating these should get priority in our scheme of things and together we can make it happen provided that we address these situations with conviction, compassion and commitment. Although down to earth efforts were made to chastise the state policy formulation to invest human input in them, many countries did not feel obliged to do so because of diverse state policy. So an express need to find a concord to narrow down the diversity was acutely felt.

Mr Gorbachev came to centre stage to recommend unity in diversity. While recommending this as the recipe to create one world for all he remarked 'We are not abandoning our conviction, our philosophy or our tradition, nor do we recommend anyone to abandon theirs. But neither do we have any intention to be hemmed in by our values. That would result in intellectual impoverishment, for it would mean rejec-

tion of powerful source of development, the exchange of everything created.' Gorbachev's 'Glasnost' had opened the floodgate of interaction between the 'free world' and 'closed society' which was a quantum jump on the path of carving a global village.

Another area that merits immediate mention is the good governance free from pull and punches. Most of the countries would like to be proud partners of the global society but often many of them suffer from the indignity of rejection. This rejection comes from some of the more equal partners of the society because of the disagreement of the less equal partners'

planner should be flexible about the local diversities and other incoherencies. There should be no reflection of enforcing planner's wish list in a local environment. Refraining from such temptation would be an acid test for experts who are generally inclined to inject their brand of development which are likely to be non-starter in the areas of their current concern.

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*Let us put our heart and soul to evolve an impregnable code of life that is based on human dignity and welfare to make the world of third millennium a heaven on earth for our progeny who, I am sure, will acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of their forefathers to enable them all to walk shoulder to shoulder in the brighter, friendlier and poverty free world.*

to hitch their cart with the king's wagon. Political delinquency mars nation's hopes. Delinquency occurs for a variety of reasons. Enticements and cajoling by the benefiting sponsor, lack of commitment of the government and the resultant insularity in the society, poor understanding of local aspiration due to overriding desire to exercise control on the local situation from a stand off distance through local lackeys, denial of rights to unbiased information and distortion of values of political and administrative institutions are some of the classical syndromes of poor governance. These are the countries that deserve global attention to bind them with the global family. World at large should discourage outside interference of any form and should not impose economic sanctions to extract political mileage till such nations show symptoms of overcoming poor governance.

Existing institutions unfortunately do not focus adequate concern on bridging the gap rather their aim is only to find means to exist while the victim nations would not only like to exist but also to be perceived. So a missionary commitment would be necessary to plan the development atleast at regional level if global dimension seems hostage to unavailable means of development as, according to Colalie Bryant and Louise G White. Planning encompasses far more activities than designing these plans and it includes a greater variety of skills than deciding on long range goals. According to Kalman Silver, this task is actually the heart of development process. The essential measure of political development is the 'relation between range of choice open to a polity and the range it actually explores.' To be able to plan well, the planners should not only attain the ability to use local information well but also be able to operate in their political process. While planning regional level development, the

man activities of the nature mentioned above has caused, among others: deforestation, top soil erosion, acidification, depletion of ozone layer and loss of biodiversity. One may apprehend that the situation will become more pronounced with onset of global climatic change, and environmentally induced conflicts are likely to intensify.

We know that deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, over exploitation and pollution of water resources undermine a few essential factors of human sustainability like natural support system, reduce natural carrying capacity and increase the competition for nominally renewable yet scarce resources. 'Environmental degradation and resource depletion are triggering internal conflict and are likely to assume an ugly face as climate change is likely to exacerbate the situation. To guard against breakdown of stability and distortion of social fabric, a new policy, one focused on human security, must take into account a complex web of social, economic and environmental factors'. So a concerted effort of all the countries should be underway at the aegis of the worldbody to share common marine resources, water and minerals proportionate to the land mass and population. Extensive use of goods and articles based on nature should be discouraged through a consensus agreement. Population growth must be checked lest it casts its pernicious shadow on the near stagnant economies of the less fortunate countries. It is not unknown that concomitant effects of unchecked growth of population are men-

tal activities of the nature mentioned above has caused, among others: deforestation, top soil erosion, acidification, depletion of ozone layer and loss of biodiversity. One may apprehend that the situation will become more pronounced with onset of global climatic change, and environmentally induced conflicts are likely to intensify.

To create a global society, the role of the weapons should be microscopized in the third millennium so that no nation can brow beat the other. The capital thus saved should be diverted to the welfare of the disadvantaged. A world body should be formed to monitor manufacturing and marketing of weapons of destruction. Any nation alleged to be involved should be awarded economic sanctions. All the nations should be made to sign an un-

dertaking that will authorize the body to inspect the facilities available in a country that could produce weapons of destruction. A wing composed of military strategists should be formed as an adjunct of the world body to work out minimum security requirements of all the nations and then through a dialogue with the countries concerned the force configuration of that country should be worked out. The world body should have a rapid deployment force for conflict resolution initially by halting the use of arms and subsequently by diplomatic and political parleys. Manufacturing of offensive weapons must be ceased with iron will and fenders should be made to be obliged to tell the world the reasons for producing the weapons of aggression. If the arguments are not satisfactory, economic and political sanctions should be imposed.

In conclusion I would like to point out that *sine qua non* for a brighter third millennium is concord among nations. Toler-

ance, respect to democratic values, narrowing down economic inequality through trade liberalisation and conflict resolution through dialogue can be of enormous help to reach that concord. The privileged should accommodate the disadvantaged if we want an exploitation free one world for all. We must resolve to forsake the ills and the wrongs of the past so that human values dominate petty national interest and colour of skin is not allowed to shamefully preside over the destiny of human being. Let us put our heart and soul to evolve an impregnable code of life that is based on human dignity and welfare to make the world of third millennium a heaven on earth for our progeny who, I am sure, will acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of their forefathers to enable them all to walk shoulder to shoulder in the brighter, friendlier and poverty free world.

The author is a former Director General of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS)

## Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, (RHD)

Road Division, B. Baria

## Notice Inviting Quotation

It is circulated for general information of all concerned that sealed quotation are hereby invited from persons/firms for auction sale of MS rod, Hexagonal wire net and iron bridge parts lying at Kawtali Anderson (RHD) stackyard during the year 1999-2000.

1) Quotation Notice No	: 01/EE (RHD), B. Baria during 1999-2000.
2) Description of work	: Auction sale of MS rod, Hexagonal wire net and iron bridge parts lying at Kawtali Anderson stackyard during the year 1999-2000.
3) Earnest money	: 10% (Ten per cent) of quoted amount in favour of the Executive Engineer, RHD, B. Baria in BD/Pay Order.
4) Name of office in which the quotation documents will be available for purchases	: The Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/The Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Divn., Comilla/Chandpur/Planning & Design Divn, Comilla/Planning Div-I (P&D) Dhaka & all SDE's office under B. Baria Road Divn. & office of the undersigned.
5) Name of office in which in the quotation will be received	: The Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/The Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla/The Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Comilla/The Superintending Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka & office of the undersigned.
6) Time allowed	: 2 (Two) months from the issued of work order.
7) Last date of selling of tender	: 16-1-2000 during the office hours.
8) Last date & time of receipt of tender	: Up to 12:30 PM on 17-01-2000.
9) Last date & time of opening of tender	: At 11:00 AM on 20-1-2000.
10) Date of lottery	: At 4:00 PM on 20-01-2000.
11) Value of quotation paper	: 525/- (Five hundred twenty-five).
12) Others conditions	: As per schedule attached.

Md Abdus Salam  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, B. Baria

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## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Naogaon

## Notice Inviting RHD Tender

4 NRD/1999-2000.

Construction of earthwork in road embankment at different km of Boroudaupur-Mohadanga-Kusumkunda road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 1999-2000 in 3 (three) groups.

As per group list.

As per group