locally conducted R&D, could help to improve food production and in the establishment of eco-friendly industries (SME) in rural areas that can contribute to providing food, energy and environmental security and at the same time create badly needed employment opportunities in rural areas. These technologies are already in sporadic use and their applications could be readily expanded to cover the entire nation.

The adoption of green technologies in Bangladesh will help to reduce emission of green house gases and, therefore, create a positive impression on international donors. This should make it more likely for a larger proportion of the climate change funds to be allocated to Bangladesh.

However, the allocated funds must be condition free and the development agenda must be strictly need-driven and not donor-driven. On no account should the funds be squandered on highly paid consultants nominated by donor agencies if the required expertise can be accessed from within the Bangladeshi resident and expatriate scientific community.

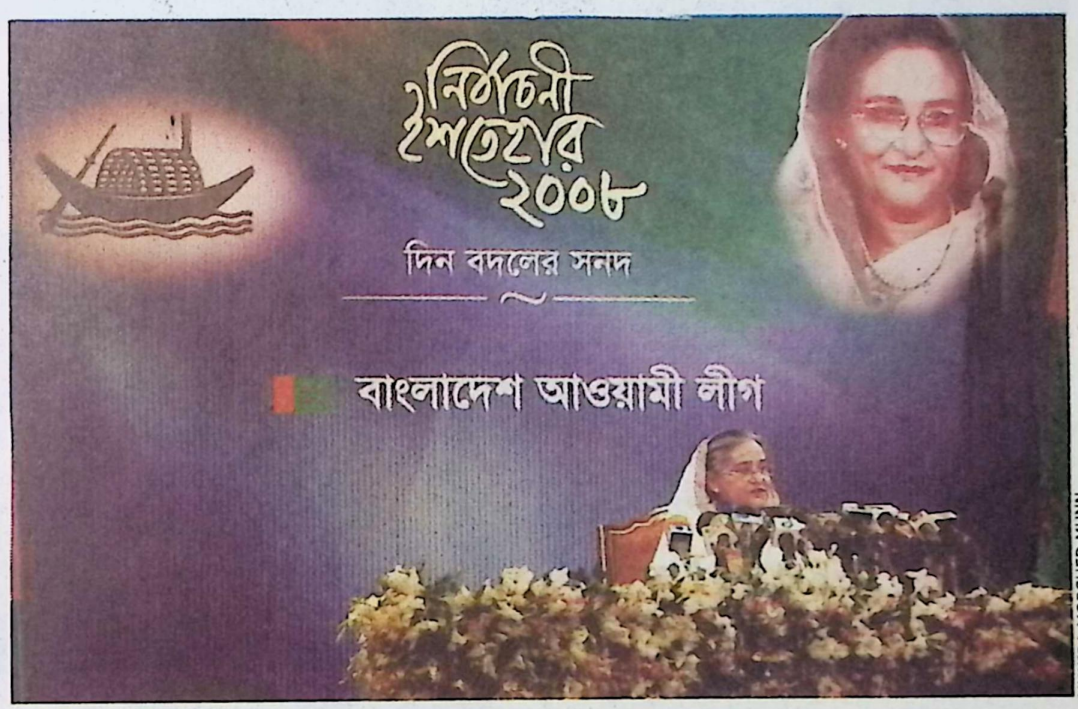
The government would be well advised not to use all of the funding received for fighting climate change on mitigation measures alone but use a substantial portion for supporting research for production of food and cash crops resistant to the adverse effects of global warming, and for the establishment of green technology-dependent industries that help to reduce the carbon footprint.

The establishment of these SME in rural areas should be a priority target for the public private partnerships proposed by the government. Expatriate workers would also be likely to invest in industries set up in and around their home villages. The banks could also make available some of their reportedly huge unutilised reserves.

The establishment of the above eco-friendly production units in rural areas would greatly benefit from a strong and functional local government system that could work without political interference with the local officials of relevant government departments.

The R&D required for the production of salt, flood and drought-tolerant and infection- resistant agricultural crops, and for the industrial production of bio-fertilisers, bio-gas, bio-fuels, solar energy and other green energies requires partnerships between research institutions and relevant industries, and coordination of complementary efforts between different ministries.

Money is definitely not a stumbling block to success if there is political will and coordination and cooperation at different levels. Is it too much to ask for such coordination of efforts and pooling of resources in the national interest?



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