



Innovating for girls' education

KHADIA KHONDKER

THIS year, United Nations in Bangladesh has decided to focus on the theme of 'Youth for Development' for UN Day 2013. On the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, echoed the importance of focusing on youth, particularly on universal quality engendered public education, as key to providing a strong foundation for democracy, women's empowerment and the realisation of equality.

This year, during International Girl Child Day, UN Women emphasised that "innovating for girls' education" is important as we strive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In Bangladesh, girls have achieved school enrollment parity at the primary level, but dropout rates at the secondary and tertiary levels remain higher for girls. The barriers standing in their way include poverty, gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence. In addition, the poor quality of education reduces the possible benefits of education for both girls and boys.

To break through these barriers, we must fully harness innovation and technology to reach poor and marginalised girls and improve the quality of education for all. UN Women Bangladesh strongly supports the UN secretary-general's Global Education First initiative and its three priorities -- to put every child in school, to improve the quality of learning, and to foster global citizenship. Although UN Women is a new entity in UN Bangladesh, we have formed strong ties with our partners within Bangladesh civil society and government, and together we will work to improve the quality of learning so that every girl and boy can grow up with mutual



respect, dignity and equality.

Education can play a role in preventing violence against women and girls. Today, one in three women is subjected to violence, and more than half of all victims of sexual assault are girls under the age of 16. In Bangladesh, 66% of girls marry by the time they are 18. Early marriage often prevents continued education for girls. While there are many contributing factors to gender-based violence, one of the most mitigating factors is women's education.

UN Women is proud to announce the roll-out of a new initiative to prevent violence against girls. The unique curriculum, "Voices against Violence," will be delivered by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts among its 10 million members in 145 countries. The curriculum was developed within a broader education and advocacy framework under WAGGGS' global campaign "Stop the Violence. Speak Out for Girls Rights," and has been tested among 1,500 members of the girl guiding movement in 25 countries. Already, those who participated in the pilot programme have measured and reported changes in the level of knowledge and understanding of gender issues, and engaged parents and community members in dialogues and actions.

On UN Day and every day, UN Bangladesh and UN Women will stand up for the rights of women and girls. UN Women Bangladesh country office will promote youth activism to end violence against women, and encourage youth's political participation.

The writer is the Coordinator - Resource, Mobilization, Communication and Governance of UN Women. This op-ed has been written to mark UN Day on 24 October 2013, which this year is focusing on Youth for Development.

POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

all the other countries.

This relatively high awareness now needs to be translated into knowledge of the solutions to the problem. It requires further research, capacity building, planning and piloting activities initially for a few years, and then scaling up of those practices which show success over the next time period.

I will identify three aspects of the problem and discuss possible solutions to them. These are the issues of migration, urbanisation and education.

Migration:

This issue is a highly emotive subject with more sound than light at the moment. Migration of people around the world has been going on for centuries (if not millennia), hence it is nothing new. In Bangladesh also it is nothing new as people have been moving from rural to urban areas (for example Dhaka city is the fastest growing mega-city in the world) as well as abroad to both neighbouring as well more distant countries.

In recent times, the spectre of millions of additional "climate change migrants" is being increasingly raised (not least by the military establishment in many countries). This framing looks at migration due to climate change as a "threat."

There is, however, another framing that is being put forward by some, namely looking at

Climate change, migration, urbanisation and education

A recent survey on people's perception of climate change carried out by the BBC of over thirty thousand respondents from six countries in Asia, including Bangladesh, India and China, found that the people of Bangladesh had the highest level of awareness of climate change compared to

"planned" or "assisted" migration as a "solution" and not a "problem."

Since, as we now know, there will be some places on the planet (and in Bangladesh) that will no longer be inhabitable over the next few decades (such as low lying coastal areas in Bangladesh), we need to think and plan the re-location of the people living there (more precisely the children of the people living there now) over the next ten to twenty years.

Urbanisation:

The world as a whole has already crossed the threshold into a predominantly urban, rather than rural, world, and this is also happening in Bangladesh at a very fast pace.

Bangladesh's urbanisation so far has been highly Dhaka-centric with most rural-to-urban migrants choosing to come to Dhaka.

In many ways, over the next ten, twenty and thirty years (which is the time scale in which human induced climate change impacts will manifest themselves) in a sense, one could boil down the essence of Bangladesh's climate change strategy as one of combining planned migration from rural areas to urban areas other than Dhaka city.

This means diverting investments from Dhaka to other urban centres to create jobs and arrange education and other infrastructure to attract rural people to go there instead of coming to Dhaka.

Education:

Thus, the third element of a possible strategy over such a decadal time scale is that the



strategy will be implemented by the next generation of our citizens rather than the current generation of adults. Hence, the role of the current generation of adults is to educate and empower the next generation (starting with the youth and children of today) to be able to find jobs in towns and cities rather than becoming farmers like their parents.

In other words, over the next couple of decades we need to transform our citizens from liabilities (mouths to feed) to productive labour force (hands to work) as is happening already now, and then to problem solvers (educated minds) in the future. In the context of tackling climate change our future educated citizens will not only help solve Bangladesh's problems but also the rest of the world's.

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38th Anniversary of Sino-Bangla relations

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN

CHINA is an amazing country. It has emerged as the most vibrant and strong nation. It has already occupied the centre stage of world economy, world politics and power. China's phenomenal rise in the shortest possible time, only about three decades or so, is a miracle story. Miracle is a myth, but it did happen in China, thanks to China's wise and able leadership, its pragmatic policies and national unity, solidarity and harmony.

China's economy is growing unabatedly. It is going to be world's largest economy very soon as predicted by the world economic prophets. China has the world's largest workforce with a population of 1.3 billion. It has abundance of natural resources. The World Bank's chief economist, Justin Lin, said in 2011 that China, which became the world's second largest economy in 2010, may become the world's largest economy in 2030, overtaking the United States, if current trends continue. Standard Chartered Bank in a 2011 report suggested that China may become the world's largest economy in 2020. A 2007 OECD report by Angus Madison estimated that if using purchasing power parity conversions, then China will overtake the United States in 2015.

James Wolfensohn, former World Bank president, estimated in 2010 that by 2030 two-thirds of the world's middle class will live in China. The Director of the China Center for Economic Reform at Peking University, Yao Yang, said in 2011: "Assuming that the Chinese and US economies grow, respectively, by 8% and 3% in real terms, that China's inflation rate is 3.6% and America's is 2% (the averages of the last decade), and that the renminbi appreciates against the dollar by 3% per year (the average of the last six years), China would become the world's largest economy by 2021. By that time, both countries' GDP will be about \$24 trillion."

October is a great month for China, a month of national celebration. China celebrated the 64th anniversary of the founding of PRC. It is again a great month for both of Bangladesh and China. It is in this month of October (October 4) that we established our diplomatic relationship. This year we celebrated the 38th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic relationship.

China and Bangladesh are bound by ancient ties. Our very distant forefathers contacted each other more than 2,500 years ago. Relationship flourished. The two great neighbouring civilisations mixed and mingled, enriching their histories and cultures. And in that whole process the

present land of Bangladesh was all through the focal point and the pivot of the relationship in the entire region of South Asia and beyond.

Ever since the establishment of formal relationship between Bangladesh and China in 1975, it has been growing smoothly and steadily, standing the test of time. The history of nearly forty years has proved that China and Bangladesh have set a unique example of friendship and cooperation, partnership and brotherhood, uninterrupted, unhindered, and growing unabatedly. It is cited as a model of bilateral relationship of two countries with different political ideologies and social and cultural systems.

China showed utmost respect for our independence and sovereignty and walked extra miles to assist and support Bangladesh in every sector of its national life, economy, trade, commerce, industry, infrastructure building and strengthening of its national defence. They share identical views in international affairs. Bangladesh has always extended its unequivocal support on the issues of Taiwan and Tibet and is totally committed to its long standing One China Policy. Bangladesh firmly believes that Taiwan is a province of China and Tibet an integral and inseparable part. Bangladesh and China both have serious geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economic interest in each other and both share common grounds.

Bangladesh seeks connectivity with China. We seek to develop direct connectivity through rail and road from Chittagong to Kunming via Myanmar. I may mention that Chittagong and Kunming have been given the status of sister cities by the respective governments. This landmark land connectivity will mark the revival and reincarnation of



as China did in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

We seek China's help in our efforts to mitigate the severe effects of climate change in the shape of floods and natural calamities. We seek its support in river training and dredging. China has an enormous reservoir of knowhow and expertise which we want to share. We seek Chinese assistance in water resource management. The river Brahmaputra, Yarlong Zangpo Jiang as China calls it, is the common river that flows from Tibet to Bangladesh. We seek China's cooperation to develop use of renewable energy -- solar, wind power and bio gas.

We welcome China's direct investment (FDI) and establishment of an EPZ exclusively for China and relocation of her low end industries such as garment and leather. We seek assistance in exploration of our valuable natural resources -- oil and gas -- under the Bay of Bengal.

We seek China's support and assistance to strengthen and modernise our armed forces, especially our navy. We want a three-dimensional blue water navy to secure the marine resources and consolidate the sovereignty of our maritime boundary, including exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and extended continental shelf.

I was invited to China by PLA in 1996 when I was the Chief of Army Staff. During that visit I had the privilege to

the ancient Southern Silk Road in this part of the region of South and Southeast Asia. It will open the flood-gate of development of the two countries and facilitate cooperation in trade, commerce, industry, economy and culture. We seek to develop our sea connectivity and economy by developing and modernising our seaports and establishing a deep-sea port near Chittagong with Chinese assistance,

meet with His Excellency Jiang Zemin, the President of China. I remember, President Jiang told me: "China has changed a lot. It is not the same China which you saw when you lived here in the '80s". He said: "It is a modern China, developed China and it is a new generation, a new leadership." He also said: "The world is changing. I heard Dhaka skyline has also changed. But in all these changes one thing has not changed and it will never change, and that is our relationship with Bangladesh, our policy for Bangladesh." He said: "I assure you, General, China will ever remain a friend. In time of need she will be always beside you." He also said: "The relationship between China and Bangladesh is of friendship, friendship and friendship and nothing but friendship." His words still ring in my ears. I treasure them. I believe this epitomises our common national ethos and our two countries' true relationship in the 21st century and beyond.

With China's new leadership and President Xi Jinping at the helm of affairs, China is looking forward to a very bright future ahead. President Xi has expressed his resolution to the realisation of the China Dream, Zhongguo Meng. China dream is a lofty aspiration of the whole people of China, who want to turn it to reality in the coming decades. It is the revival of China's glories, revival of the renaissance, revival of its golden era of peace, progress, prosperity and bounty, revival of China's true charm and beauty. President Xi is an old friend of Bangladesh. He has very high regards for Bangladesh, which he repeatedly expressed. He speaks of best relationship with close neighbours of South and Southeast Asia. He assured his utmost cooperation and friendship in all areas of our bilateral relationship. He visited Bangladesh in 2010 when he was vice president. The prime minister and the leader of the opposition of Bangladesh visited China and were assured by him of China's all-out support for Bangladesh in all sectors.

I firmly believe that China, in the quest for revival of her golden era of peace, progress, prosperity, values and ideals, wants to take along its neighbours. China looks South and Southeast. South Asia and Southeast Asia also look East. And all the visions of the region do converge at a point, and that is Bangladesh. We have enormous opportunities to explore China's unlimited resources and expertise and her goodwill. We can both rise together hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, supporting each other, and can build Bangladesh as truly Golden Bengal, most peaceful and most prosperous.

The writer is a former Chief of Staff, Bangladesh Army.

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Office note

5 Steer clear of

10 Put on a pedestal

12 Cat's nine

13 Plane passengers' choices

15 Yale student

16 Maiden label

17 Brewed beverage

18 Give a hand to

20 Like some negligees

21 "Ivanhoe" author

22 Museum topic

23 Costume

25 Long story

28 Beginning

31 Persia, today

32 Radio button

34 Neither follower

35 Foot part

36 Casserole bit

37 Sports car features

40 Korean, for example

41 Principle

DOWN

1 Made kitchen cries

2 Banishes extremes

4 Antique fan

5 Different

6 Compete

7 James Cameron movie

8 Sense

9 School papers

11 This evening, in ads of The Grateful Dead

19 Boston nation

20 Small error

24 Turmoil

25 Fabled sailor

26 Kindle

27 Jerry

39 Brain scan: Abbr.

30 Wobble

33 Delicious

35 Wallet bills

38 Mo. neighbour

39 Brain scan: Abbr.

LEAF MARES
ELSA AMUSED
GAIL RATTLE
ATALOSES ELM
LENGTHS FOD
UTTA FAUN
PROVOICANTS
RUISS POT
AMA PULLITAB
COD ALABAMA
ARAMIS ALPS
SERENE COLT
DENTS KINEE

Yesterday's answer

19 Boston nation

20 Small error

24 Turmoil

25 Fabled sailor

26 Kindle

27 Jerry

39 Brain scan: Abbr.

30 Wobble

33 Delicious

35 Wallet bills

38 Mo. neighbour

39 Brain scan: Abbr.

A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

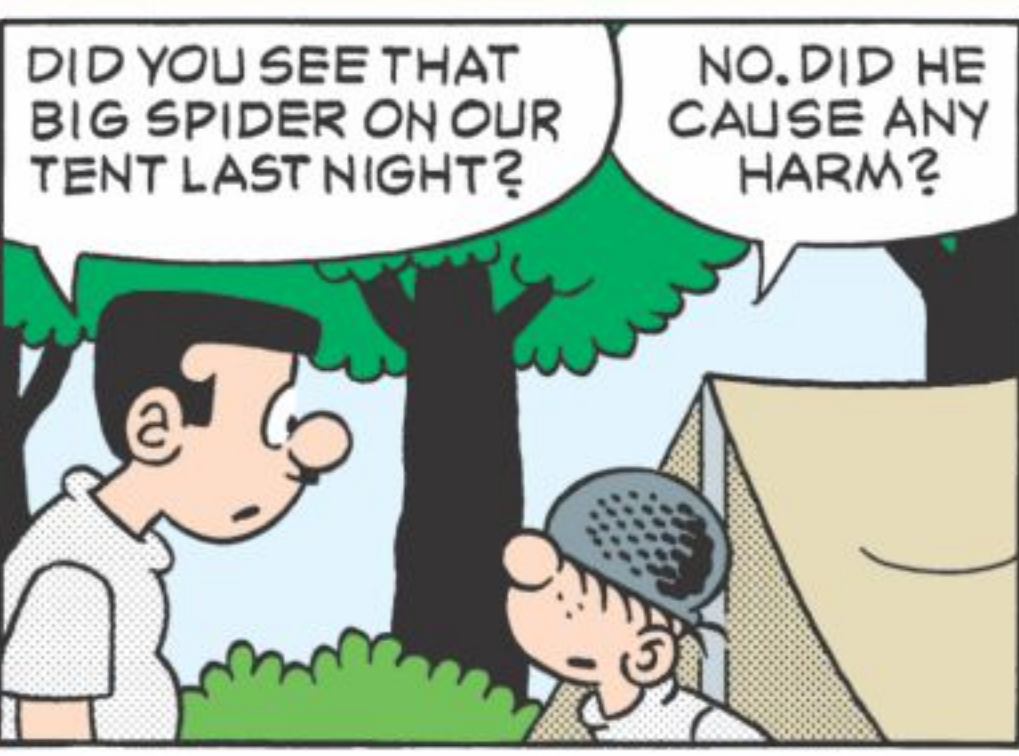
On letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-23 CRYPTOQUOTE

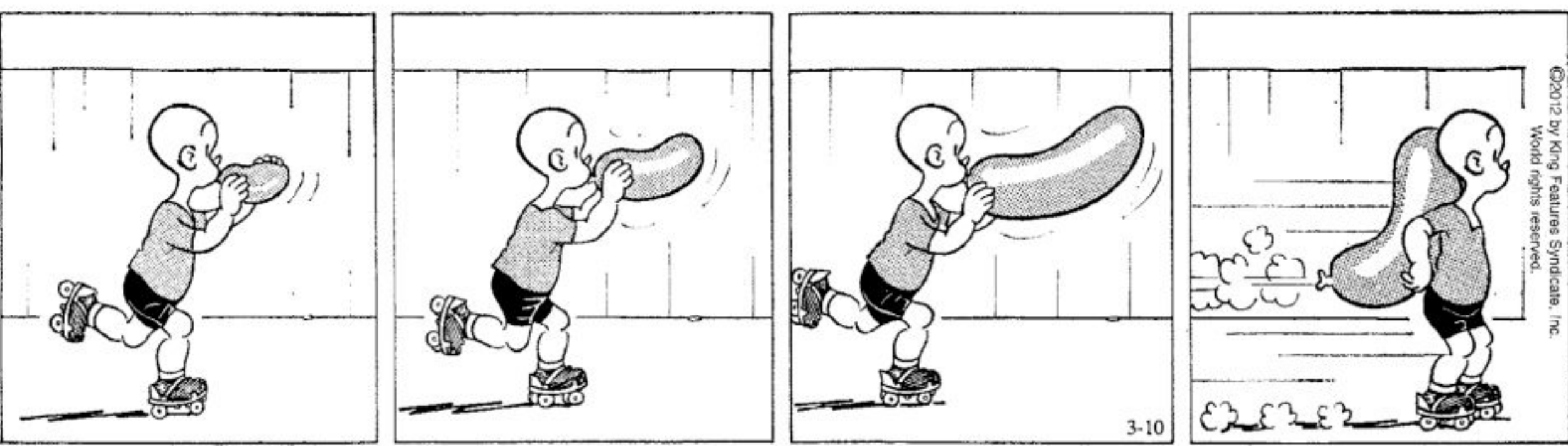
QNGDMJMVQM, OEIM JBJWT, AMLWJC L VY QNVJLQJ OMVRMR, ER EV JTM MCM NP JTM AMTNOYMB, — OLWBMVQM H. DMJMB

Yesterday's Cryptoquip:
A KIND HEART IS A FOUNTAIN OF GLADNESS, MAKING EVERYTHING IN ITS VICINITY FRESHEN INTO SMILES.
-- WASHINGTON IRVING

BEETLE BAILY



HENRY



by Mort Walker

by Don Tranchte

QUOTABLE Quotes

"But the person who scored well on an SAT will not necessarily be the best doctor or the best lawyer or the best businessman. These tests do not measure character, leadership, creativity, perseverance."

William Julius Wilson