

# ISRAEL'S CREDO Might makes right!

FAKHRUDDIN AHMED

THERE is a reason why Turkey is slowly assuming the leadership of the Muslim world. While Arab leaders' criticism of Israel's murderous Gaza rampage was muted, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan did not mince his words. Volunteering to return the 2004 American Jewish Congress's award, Erdogan said: "If you support this cruelty, this genocide, this Hitler-like fascism and child murderer regime, take your award back."

Erdogan added: "What is the difference between Israeli actions and those of the Nazis and Hitler? How can you explain what the Israeli state has been doing in Gaza, Palestine, if not as genocide? This is racism. This is fascism. This is keeping Hitler's spirit alive. Those who condemn Hitler day and night have surpassed Hitler in barbarism... Terrorist state Israel has attacked Gaza once again, hitting innocent children who were playing on a beach... Just like Hitler, who sought to establish a race free of all faults, Israel is chasing after the same target. They kill women so that they will not give birth to Palestinians; they kill babies so that they won't grow up; they kill men so they can't defend their country... They will drown in the blood they shed."

When Netanyahu criticised Erdogan's "anti-Semitic" comments, Erdogan exploded! Referring to the sanctuary the 15th century Ottoman Empire offered the Jews when Spain expelled them, Erdogan reminded Israel: "Who stood up for Jews at a time when they were expelled from their home countries? It was our ancestors, it was the Ottomans. Aren't you embarrassed? How immoral you are.... It is us who protects the Jews on our soil and lets them live safely." Israel is afraid of Turkey; the only Muslim nation that can fight Israel.

In contrast, according to *The New York Times*, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates encouraged Israel to destroy Hamas. The paper cited those countries' fear of Hamas's "political Islam," adding that those leaders dislike Hamas more than Netanyahu or Israel. On August 20, 2013, Erdogan accused Israel of fomenting the July 3, 2013 military coup that ousted popularly elected Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi.

Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas are ideological soul mates. Formed in the 1980s, Hamas is a popular resistance movement against Israeli colonisation of Palestine. Unelected Arab heads are afraid of mass movements. Ever since the coup, through the election of new Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in June, 2014, Egyptian government has been hostile to Hamas. They destroyed the tunnels from Gaza to Egypt -- Gaza's lifeline to the world -- through which food, medicine and goods were smuggled into Gaza, eluding Israeli blockade. The failed first Egypt-sponsored ceasefire proposal satis-

fied all of Israel's demands, including cessation of Hamas's rocket firing, but none of Hamas's demands, such as lifting of the Israeli siege of Gaza.

Egypt has mutated from a credible intermediary to a protagonist with interests inimical to Hamas's. That is why Hamas has turned to friendly Turkey and Qatar. Since the US labels Hamas "a terrorist organisation" and refuses to engage with it, and Egypt is hostile to Hamas, the US Secretary of State John Kerry met with representatives of Turkey and Qatar last week in Paris. Israelis went ballistic! Kerry was blasted by the Israeli media and ministers as a traitor consorting with Israel's enemies!

The irony is, Israel exists only because of 100% American support. Apparently, that is not enough. Israel gets upset when America deviates even a little from Israeli talking points; as though America cannot have an opinion that has not been approved by Israel. A rightwing Israeli Rabbi recently proclaimed: "The gentiles exist to serve the Jews!"

Israel uses US Congress to keep the president in line. After funding Israel's \$775 million "Iron Dome," the Congress recently appropriated additional \$225 million to bolster it.

When Israel complained on July 20 that

exist. But, the Palestinian Authority and President Mahmoud Abbas did recognise, and have been cooperating with, Israel for twenty years. In exchange, they got more Jewish settlements, draconian anti-Palestinian laws, and partition of Al Aqsa mosque compound into Jewish and Muslim sections! The illegal Jewish settlers live under civilian rule, while native Palestinians live under military rule in the West Bank.

Israel detests resistance to its occupation and creeping annexation; Hamas refuses to comply. Israel acts unilaterally, withdrawing from Gaza in 2005 unilaterally, and declaring unilateral ceasefires, as though negotiating with the Palestinians is beneath their dignity. Demonstrating that the weak, too, has power, now that ragtag Hamas militia has given mighty Israel a bloody nose, Palestinian Authority should be emboldened. If Israel refuses to negotiate for a two-state solution, then the Palestinians should demand a one-state solution.

Although there have been protests in Western Europe against Israeli genocide, most governments, notably the UK, the founder of Israel, remain staunchly pro-Israeli. On the contrary, all South American nations have condemned Israel's atrocities in Gaza, and many have recalled their ambassadors from Tel Aviv. Fifty thousand mostly young Americans dem-

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it had nearly exhausted its ammunitions, just as it had done during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the US replenished Israel's weapon stockpile worth another billion dollars. To the rest of the world, America's sending Israel arms that Israel uses to murder Palestinian civilians in Gaza, makes America complicit in Israeli genocide of the Palestinians. By blindly following Israel, America risks losing its own soul.

The conflict has racial overtones, as Erdogan suggested. To garner support and sympathy from the Americans, Israelis, dominated by fair-skinned European (Ashkenazi) Jews, send the subliminal message that they are a white race fighting the olive-skinned Arabs. The truth is, both Arabs and Israelis are Semites.

Israel accuses Hamas of using Palestinian civilians as human shields. This is an all-encompassing excuse for the IDF's role in civilian deaths. It's a self-absolving ruse. It preemptively removes all blame from the trigger-puller, the Israeli government. Gaza is tiny; there is no place to escape. Israel knows that artillery shelling and naval bombardments are inaccurate, guaranteed to cause mass civilian deaths in densely populated Gaza.

Hamas does not recognise Israel's right to

onstrated against Israeli genocide in Gaza in front of the White House on August 2. American media ignored it!

The West was quick to fall for yet another Netanyahu lie. He claimed that Hamas had abducted an Israeli soldier; the US immediately accused Hamas of "barbaric" breach of ceasefire, and President Obama demanded the soldier's immediate release (why Hamas would listen to Israel's chief patron is another question). The word "barbaric" is used liberally to denounce Hamas, but never used for Israeli atrocities. Hamas denied capturing the soldier, saying he probably died in combat. Later, Israel told the world that the soldier indeed died in combat!

Thus far, Israel has killed 1,900 Gazans; over 80% are civilians. Israel has lost three civilians. So the current ratio is, 1 Israeli civilian dead for 500 Gaza civilian dead. Israel ignores world opinion because it knows that world opinion does not have weapons. Israel and America are unchallenged super powers. Who gives two hoots about what people in Dhaka or Dakar think! They lack military power. Morality can take a hike, for Israel, might makes right.

The writer is a Rhodes Scholar.

# Asia-Pacific region must unlock fiscal space to drive inclusive growth

SHAMSHAD AKHTAR

ASIA-Pacific countries continue to drive the global economy. The region demonstrated great resilience during the economic and financial crisis, contributing about 70 per cent of world growth from 2008-2011.

Yet, regional growth is now in a challenging phase. The 2014 *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, the flagship publication of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), forecasts a third successive year of growth below 6% in Asia-Pacific developing economies. However, this conceals a wide variation in performance among some major developing economies, ranging from a 7.5% 2014 growth forecast for China, to just 0.3% for the Russian Federation.

Regional growth dynamics are being influenced by the anaemic recovery in the developed world, given weak implementation of policy responses. Yet, overcoming domestic structural impediments is also vital. Widespread poverty, rising inequality, social inequity and environmental degradation are hurdles to be cleared before the region can set itself on the fast track to high growth which is stable and inclusive.

ESCAP's research highlights new evidence on the nature of these challenges:

- On the external front, the ongoing normalisation of monetary policy by the US Federal Reserve poses continuing challenges for developing Asia-Pacific, but these can be mitigated by stronger macro-prudential policies and flexible exchange rate management. Financial volatility is of concern to India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Turkey, where annual growth could decline by between 0.7% and 0.9%.
- If the G20 continue to delay implementation of their standstill commitments on trade protectionism, Asia-Pacific export growth will be impacted. Trade restrictions have already deprived the region of an estimated \$255 billion in goods export opportunities between 2009 and 2013, representing more than 1.6% of regional GDP.
- On the domestic side, growth will remain jobless if countries do not implement labour market programmes that effectively align and strengthen education, training and skills with the requirements of employers. During 2009-2013, employment grew by only 1.3%, compared to average GDP growth of 6.4% in developing Asia-Pacific economies.
- Without adequate social protection systems, quality education, better access to credit and land, as well as stronger labour market institutions, developing countries will be unable to tackle high and rising inequality. Since the 1990s, regional inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient has risen from 29.9 to 36.8. The wealth of 0.001% of the Asia-Pacific population is 17 times greater than the combined GDP of 12 least developed countries in the region.

Fast-tracking the closure of physical infrastruc-

ture gaps and social development deficits will augment the region's growth potential. About \$800-900 billion of annual investments are needed for national and cross-border infrastructure in transport, telecommunications, energy, water and sanitation.

Demands for social protection remain unmet. Almost half the countries in the region spend less than 2% of GDP on social protection, covering only about 40% of the population. Environmental degradation is already taking a toll on growth, as evidenced by the estimated environmental cost to India of almost 6% of annual GDP. Another priority for ensuring the sustainability of growth is to better address climate change through more progressive implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

Enhancing productive and countercyclical spending is critical to offer short-term stimulus and to remove domestic structural constraints. It is also vital to make growth more inclusive and environmental-friendly.

Unlocking fiscal space calls for strengthening of tax revenues. In several countries in the region, tax-to-GDP ratios are near single digits. By way of comparison, this ratio ranges from 25% to 35% or more in developed countries.

The good news is that tax-to-GDP ratios can be raised. In many Asia-Pacific countries, the gap between potential and actual tax collection is more than 5% of GDP. Closing existing tax gaps in 16 developing Asia-Pacific economies could increase revenues by more than \$300 billion, boosting tax revenues by more than 70% in some countries. Key among measures to strengthen tax revenues are broadening the tax base, rationalising tax rates and careful sequencing of tax reforms.

As domestic tax revenues are also affected by policies in other countries, greater regional cooperation and strengthening of national tax administration can help boost revenues by curbing tax avoidance and evasion, among others. Asia-Pacific developing countries accounted for more than 60% of the \$5.9 trillion of global illicit capital outflows between 2001 and 2010.

An Asia-Pacific tax forum to coordinate regional action on these concerns is, therefore, an idea whose time has come. As the largest and most inclusive intergovernmental forum for Asia-Pacific countries, ESCAP is well-positioned to host to such a body.

Creating the fiscal space for productive and countercyclical spending can help developing countries in the region move towards implementing the G20 global growth compact adopted last year. This is needed to accelerate progress towards the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and set developing countries on course to implementing the post-2015 development agenda whose depth and breadth moves beyond that of the MDGs.

The writer is an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). She is also the UN's Sherpa for the G20.

## CROSSWORD

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Plumbing problem
  - 5 Suppress
  - 10 Singer McEntire
  - 11 Joins forces
  - 13 Gets older
  - 14 Look up to
  - 15 Blunder
  - 17 Actor Ayres
  - 18 Soft-shell clam
  - 19 Tell whoppers
  - 20 Silent assent
  - 21 Tolerate
  - 22 Report card listing
  - 25 Tax paperwork
  - 26 Brewpub choices
  - 27 "Holy smokes!"
  - 28 Sick
  - 29 Sports vehicle feature
  - 33 Me, to Michel
  - 34 Spain neighbor
  - 35 Blinker
  - 37 Conceited
  - 38 Dream up
  - 39 -- out (got by)
  - 40 Hinder
- DOWN**
- 1 Studies all night
  - 2 Authentic
  - 3 More than pudgy
  - 4 Siphoning targets
  - 5 Trembled
  - 6 Beneath
  - 7 Objective
  - 8 Ben of "Tower Heist"
  - 9 Cry on arriving
  - 12 Underground passages
  - 16 Singer Tori
  - 21 Astonish
  - 22 Mutilated
  - 23 Combined, as metals
  - 24 Fill in for
  - 25 Do origami
  - 27 Awe
  - 29 Worker's reward
  - 30 Car pedal
  - 31 Disney mermaid
  - 32 Singer Travis
  - 36 Illuminated



## Yesterday's answer

ADAGES SHED  
METERS TALE  
ALLEGES ABES  
SLAWS DRIVE  
SASH SITTER  
IDEA ANT  
HAZELNUTS  
TAN CLAN  
ASTROS FARE  
CHOIR GAMER  
OTIS GAZEBO  
MANE EVENED  
AGES MEDDLE

## CRYPTOQUOTE

CZT VGC YAMNL VL KZYU MU SMDNZAC  
YMNS CZTA QMNNLA, NYMDNLK  
XMLD, CZT VGC NAZK VL MU NSL FLAC  
KMAN QTN DNMX, XMWL KTDN, M'XX  
AMDL.

-- VGCG GUILXZT

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HAVE ENJOYED GREATLY THE SECOND BLOOMING ... SUDDENLY YOU FIND -- AT THE AGE OF FIFTY, SAY -- THAT A WHOLE NEW LIFE HAS OPENED BEFORE YOU.

-- AGATHA CHRISTIE

A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One 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.

## BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



## HENRY

by Don Trachte



## QUOTABLE Quote

"All are lunatics, but he who can analyze his delusion is called a philosopher."

Ambrose Bierce

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

The first private university in Bangladesh

North South University (NSU) follows North American standards, seeks applications for the following positions:

#### IT Officer: 02 positions

**Qualifications and Experiences:** B.Sc. in CS/CSE/EECS/IT from any reputed university. **Applicants with a 4-year Bachelor degree from NSU will be preferred.** Minimum 3 to 4 years practical IT experience in any large organization. Assist to ensure the efficient and welcoming delivery of a campus-wide, seamless student care IT related service to all student, faculty and staff for smooth operation of the university's computer and many other technical systems. Good communication skills in English and Bengali. Must be able to work in shifts and on holidays, if required.

**Age limit:** Not exceeding 35 years.

#### Assistant IT Officer: 01 position

**Qualifications and Experiences:** B.Sc. in CS/CSE/EECS/IT from any reputed university. **Applicants with a 4-year Bachelor degree from NSU will be preferred.** Assist to ensure the efficient and welcoming delivery of a campus-wide, seamless IT related services to all student, faculty and staff for smooth operation of the university's computer and many other technical systems. Good communication skills in English and Bengali. Must be able to work in shifts and on holidays, if required.

**Age limit:** Not exceeding 30 years.

#### Assistant IT Officer (PABX): 01 position

**Qualifications and Experiences:** Graduate or Masters Degree from any reputed university. **Applicants with a 4-year Bachelor degree from NSU will be preferred.** Responsible to operate telephone switchboard to route, receive and place calls to all campus locations. Disseminate information to callers as necessary. Good communication skills in English and Bengali. Must be able to work in shifts and on holidays, if required.

#### Land Supervisor (Contractual Basis): 01 position

**Qualifications and Experiences:** Bachelor degree from any reputable university. Minimum 8 (eight) years experience in land and land development related field. Proficiency in English language and all types of computer literacy is essential.

#### Responsibilities:

- To maintain the liaison with the Legal Advisor.
- To update the mutation of NSU land under present City Survey.
- To update the yearly land tax of University assets and charges of Bashundhara Society.
- To update registration and mutation of newly hired apartments, buildings and lands for NSU.
- To verify land ownership documents and records for new land purchase by NSU.
- To update the fixed assets inventory.

**Age limit:** Not exceeding 40 years.

#### Monthly Salary (for all positions):

Attractive salary package & benefits will be offered to the deserving candidates.

#### Other Benefits:

Provident Fund, Gratuity, Festival Bonuses, Group Insurance, in-house free Medical Consultation etc.

**Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview**

Candidates may apply with complete CV, two photographs, copies of transcripts by **27 August, 2014** by email or in hardcopy:

**The Director (Administration)**  
**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Bashundhara, Dhaka – 1229  
E-mail to: [nsuhr@northsouth.edu](mailto:nsuhr@northsouth.edu)  
[www.northsouth.edu](http://www.northsouth.edu)