

# THE FIGHT for mutual annihilation

ZIAUDDIN CHOUDHURY

TWO most absorbing features of the current political wrangle between the government party and opposition are its stubborn continuity and apparent public apathy to the causes. The stubborn continuity of the political fight has brought the economy to a near standstill, but minimal public support to the causes of the parties in the contest has given different impetus to the contestants. They interpret this indifference or open support to or one or the other as endorsement. The two parties continue to stick to their campaigns with relentless violence because each one believes theirs is the right cause and the public is with them. And while the public is the main victim of this two-party fight and the country is going to the dogs day by day, ironically there is no big outcry or effort to stem this mindless bloodletting from the public's side. This leads us to the question, will this war of attrition continue till one of the contestants throws in the towel, or will it lead to a more uncertain development?

There has been no dearth of gratuitous political advice from home and abroad on how to end this battle, mostly from people who have no stake in the contest but concern for the country. As in the past, the unsolicited counsel has fallen through a sink hole as the two major contestants are not willing to yield. It seems any concession will mean defeat to one and victory to the other. The masses do not bring out processions to stop the mayhem because individually they do not identify themselves with the causes for which the parties are at war. But should the impassivity of the masses be interpreted by the warring parties a tacit approval of one or the other? Is it not a sign of total rejection of both and a harbinger of a dire political future for the country? A striking event during the month-long political battle in the country was the death of the opposition leader's son abroad, and his burial in Dhaka that was reportedly attended by hundreds of thousands. The attention grabbing gathering to pay homage to the dead son, who himself was not a political figure (at least officially), was interpreted by some quarters as a public show of support for the causes of the political party and its leader. These quarters perhaps forgot the huge gathering for the funeral prayer of the leader of a party who openly stood against the War of Liberation. The funeral gatherings are no more indicators of public support for a political party than the gatherings in meetings that each party holds for its workers time to time. Expression of sorrow is not equal to expression of support to the political battle a party wages. Each has a context, and each event has to be judged in that context. If the opposition party is emboldened by this non-event in sticking to its strident political acts to oust the government assuming public support for its cause, it has to think again. Similarly, if the ruling party is emboldened in its stubborn determination to wipe out the opposition because there are no visible mass rallies they have to read the public apathy differently.

The country's economy has survived so far due to the adroit nature of Bangladeshis who are trained in coping with natural calamities. They are conducting their daily lives just as they did during floods, cyclones, or other natural disasters, but only for the time being. The natural calamities do not last forever, nature relents after occasional strikes and life comes back to normal. But unfortunately, man made calamities, particularly this one, do not come with an expiry date.

The current political battle is testing people to their limit. In its early days there was an expectation that the battle will cease when saner elements in both parties realise the futility of such battles and their national cost. It was either that or simply exhaustion of fire power that would lead to an end. But as days go by people are getting more and more exasperated as neither side shows any sign of compromise. What is worse is that with violence getting ahead of politics, anti-state elements have entered the fray, taking the lead in the carnage and bloodshed that have become hallmark of the current political crisis. Violence has become the norm in current politics of force. This is no longer politics for democratic rights and people power. It is politics of who can destroy whom to remain alive.

Tony Blair, former British prime minister once remarked that the purpose of terrorism lies not just in the violent act itself. It is in producing terror. It sets out to inflame, to divide, and to produce consequences which they then use to justify further terror. In our current politics of violence we can echo this sentiment and only reiterate that the purpose of the mindless acts in the name of "establishing people's rights" will generate further violence and drag down the country to a bottomless pit. As Gandhi said: "An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind." Will our political contestants stop this bloodletting to take revenge upon revenge, and spare the country?

The writer is a political analyst and commentator.

## ACCESSING GREEN CLIMATE FUND

# Challenges and opportunities



MOHAMMAD MEJBAHUDDIN

BANGLADESH is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. The poor and the marginal groups stand to suffer the most from adverse climate effects. Change in the climate is also having a disproportionately large impact on the life, property and livelihoods of poor groups in Bangladesh. The concerns and vulnerability of poor and vulnerable people should be the warp and woof of our strategy for implementing a climate resilient development pathway.

The investment required for undertaking adaptation and mitigation efforts is huge. As public sources for meeting this investment demand are inadequate, it is necessary that external funding and private flows, both domestic and international, bring complementary financial resources to bridge the gap. Yearly public sector funding in Bangladesh for climate change related programmes and projects reached approximately \$800 million in FY14.

One of the remarkable successes at COP-15 (Copenhagen Climate Summit) in 2009 was securing firm funding commitments for climate change adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. Developed countries in that meeting agreed to provide 'new and additional' resources to the tune of \$100 billion per annum by 2020 with balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation. Consequently, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established in COP-16 in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The fund will be available for member

countries in coping with and adapting to the effects of climate change. The governing board of the GCF has decided to use its funds equally for adaptation and mitigation purposes on 50/50 basis. The GCF aims to mobilise \$200 billion by 2020.

The recent UNFCCC process has reinforced the importance of strong national climate strategies as well as in-country institutional structures, and there were strong urgings within these discussions on "direct access." These discourses have made me share my personal thoughts in the context of GCF, while my organisation has been nominated as National Designated Authority (NDA) of Bangladesh to the fund. Direct access to climate fund is a long-standing expectation of Bangladeshi institutions, as this also demonstrates recognition of the strength of our national institutions in global standard. As NDA of Bangladesh for GCF, I had been looking at the matters very carefully, and found that the process of direct access is difficult and challenging, but also brings opportunities for institutional capacity development.

GCF is expected to play a key role in channeling new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to developing countries. The GCF is different from many other global funds as it will be scalable and flexible in nature and necessarily meant to maximise the impact of adaptation and mitigation actions in a way that it transforms the business-as-usual development, while bringing environmental, social, economic and development benefits in a more inclusive and gender-sensitive way. GCF will start to receive pro-

ject/programme for funding from least developed countries, small island countries and African states from June 2015. The government is keen on accreditation of its potential National Implementing Entities (NIE) with GCF so that accredited NIEs can start implementing climate change projects immediately. NDA is trying hard to support the national entities so that a few of the national institutions are accredited to GCF and direct access is significantly enhanced.

Last week, NDA organised a two-day workshop, where 14 national entities reviewed their capacity self-assessment with the direct guidance of GCF representative and an international expert. We are very encouraged by the interest of the national institutions, and the way they are stepping up to get ready for accreditation is highly appreciable. However, the process is challenging and there are opportunities to gain direct access to GCF. We need to take a pragmatic path in accreditation process. I will highlight a few steps here.

The first and most important step should be improving institutional capacity in the area of environmental and social safeguard policy and practices. We have Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline, which is widely practiced both in public and private sector projects, and this EIA includes social safeguard issues as well. However, we need to improve our EIA practices at both project and programme level.

The second step will be to enhance the fiduciary standards and project management capacities. This might demand strong effort as the fiduciary

standards needed might not be seen within one entity, as we follow a wider institutional architecture in fiduciary risk management of our public funds, where auditor general's office, accounts department, finance cell of different ministries, internal audit and monitoring process of different institutions, implementation, monitoring and evaluation by IMED and accountability through public accounts committee play critical roles, and all these needs to be factored. Therefore, the task is not easy and the capacities need to be properly articulated, maintained, recorded and presented in favour of the fiduciary standards in the accreditation application process. We also need to be frank and self-stimulating in meeting the gaps, if any, in the self-assessment process.

The third, and in my view most critical, thing is to have well designed and credible bankable projects or programmes to be forwarded to GCF for funding. We have a significant number of project ideas developed by different ministries. These ideas will be translated into bankable projects for submission to GCF. This requires further effort and will probably be the most important task before us in the near future to get access to GCF.

I am hopeful that Bangladesh will be able to directly access funding from GCF in the near future. I am optimistic about the potential of GCF in transforming the development landscape in addition to the development aid that we get under ODA.

The writer is the Senior Secretary of Economic Relations Division and National Designated Authority of Bangladesh to Green Climate Fund, Bangladesh.

**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



### CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

**ACROSS**

1 Minor blunders  
6 "The Wizard of Oz" author  
10 Writer Cather  
11 African tongue  
12 Cove  
13 "The King"  
14 Flow into  
15 Rehab target  
16 Gentle pull  
17 Pole worker  
18 Place down  
19 Junk mailers  
22 Fresh reaction  
23 Reunion attendee  
26 Lockups  
29 Chemist's place  
32 Shelley work  
33 Actor Morrow  
34 Bowling sites  
36 Green stone  
37 Play place  
38 Burdened down  
39 Private's boss  
40 Plain silly  
41 Mineral sources

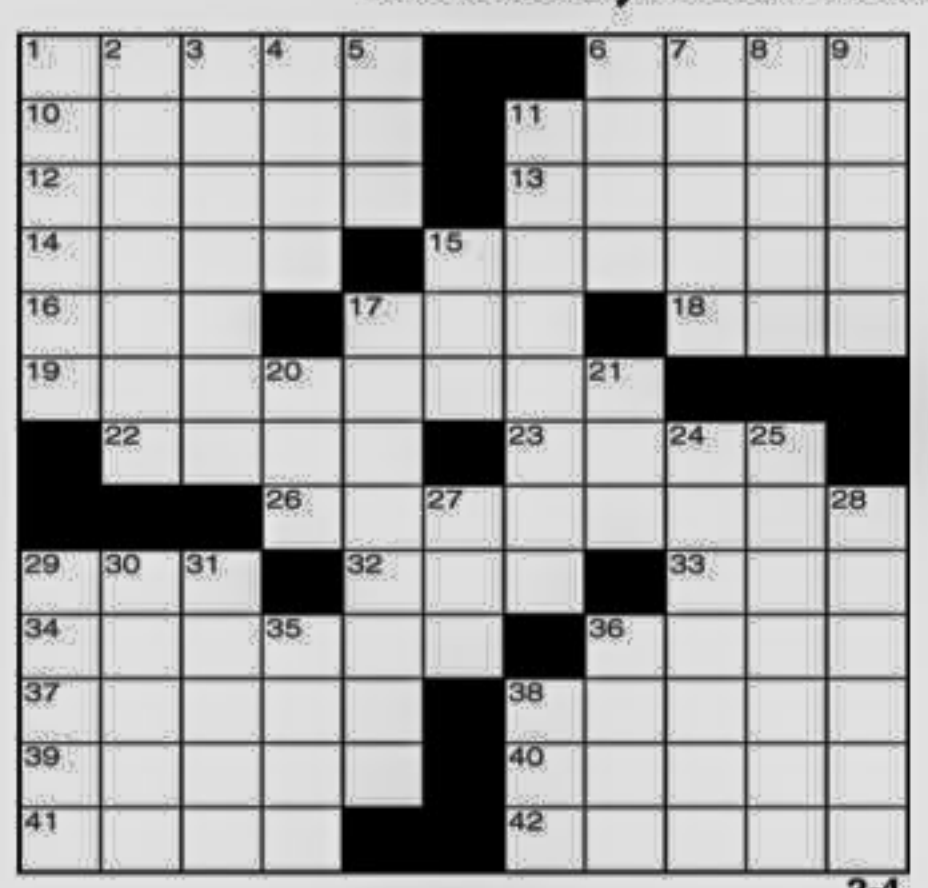
**DOWN**

42 Scout shelters  
1 Swallows' cousins  
2 Rosters  
3 Criminal  
4 Beseeched  
5 Was inactive  
6 Lacking locks  
7 Ear bone  
8 City on the Mohawk River  
9 In need of airing out  
11 A headboard is part of it  
15 Bar choice  
17 Staffer  
20 Rural mothers  
21 Add up  
24 Reno resident  
25 Poseidon prop  
27 TV spots  
28 Play parts  
29 Ranch rope  
30 Church feature  
31 Trumpet sound  
35 Quiche base  
36 Miss Marple  
38 Ignited

**CRYPTOQUOTE**  
12-24  
QGOP G QGIIB SQVZDERGD GFL  
PFNUB EQZD QUTZLGB DPGDUE  
-- BUHV IHKKTU IPUITP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD SO IRRESISTIBLY CONTAGIOUS AS LAUGHTER AND GOOD HUMOR.  
-- CHARLES DICKENS

### Yesterday's answer



APPLE RATIO  
BRAIN AGONY  
HIT THE BOOKS  
OCT ALI LET  
REIGNED ADE  
ACE STIR  
GOAPE MIENS  
ANNE LAG  
LEI AUTHORS  
AMS SKI VIA  
HIT THE SKIDS  
ALONE SINES  
DENTS EMERY

## Career Opportunity

One of the largest multinational companies in the country is seeking to recruit a **Strategic Social Investment Manager**.

**Contractual job, initially for two years, based in Dhaka**

### Duties & Responsibilities

- Overall responsibility for planning and management of a multi-year social investment initiative with an annual budget of up to \$2 million to be implemented over three districts in Bangladesh.
- Work with development organizations to identify and develop a suitable portfolio of project and program investments, and monitor the performance, adjusting project plans as necessary.
- Ensure proper governance and financial management of the new initiative's funding commitments to comply with all company policies and compliance requirements. Develop reporting templates and ensure regular reports of initiative activities are prepared and presented to senior executive.
- Build strong advocacy support from government and other key stakeholders at both the national and local levels to effectively leverage programs with Government of Bangladesh initiatives.
- Develop and manage an effective communications strategy that creatively shares results for optimal stakeholder alignment throughout the lifespan of the new initiative.

### Qualification, Experience and Skills:

- MBA or Master's Degree (Preferably Economics, Social Science or Environmental Studies).
- At least 10-12 years of experience in social investment, including a minimum of six years of management experience in a bilateral, multi-lateral or international non-government organization.
- Extensive experience in project management and strong communication skills in English.

Last date of application: **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Please apply at [jobmncdhaka@gmail.com](mailto:jobmncdhaka@gmail.com) if only you meet the above criteria. Known attempts of persuasion for employment opportunity will be considered a disqualification.

You are encouraged to provide in the application information regarding your academic, work experiences, professional certification, training & development and extra-curricular credentials.

Please DO NOT include in your application additional documents, including but not limited to academic transcripts, experience certificates and photographs. Personal information including but not limited to date of birth, religion, marital status, race, sex, parents' names and professions, references will be considered irrelevant in the application screening process.

Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

George Santayana