

# What I expect from the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris



BAN KI-MOON

FOR the nearly nine years that I have been Secretary-General, I have travelled the world to the front-lines of climate change, and I have spoken repeatedly with world leaders, business people and citizens about the

need for an urgent global response. Why do I care so much about this issue? First, like any grandfather, I want my grandchildren to enjoy the beauty and bounty of a healthy planet. And like any human being, it grieves me to see that floods, droughts and fires are getting worse, that island nations will disappear and uncounted species will become extinct. As His Holiness Pope Francis and other faith leaders have reminded us, we have a moral responsibility to act in solidarity with the poor and most vulnerable who have done least to cause climate change and will suffer first and worst from its effects.

Second, as the head of the United Nations, I have prioritized climate change because no country can meet this challenge alone. Climate change carries no passport; emissions released anywhere contribute to the problem everywhere. It is a threat to lives and livelihoods everywhere. Economic stability and the security of nations are under threat. Only through the United Nations can we respond collectively to this quintessentially global issue.

The negotiation process has been slow and cumbersome. But we are seeing results. In response to the UN's call, more than 166 countries, which collectively account for more than 90 per cent of emissions, have now submitted national climate plans with targets. If successfully implemented, these national plans bend the emissions curve down to a projected global temperature rise of approximately 3 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

This is significant progress. But it is still not enough. The challenge now is to move much further and faster to reduce global emissions so we can keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius. At the same time, we must support countries to adapt to the inevitable consequences that

are already upon us. The sooner we act, the greater the benefits for all: increased stability and security; stronger, more sustainable economic growth; enhanced resilience to shocks; cleaner air and water; improved health.

We will not get there overnight. The climate change conference in Paris is not the end point. It must mark the floor, not the ceiling of our ambition. It must be the turning point towards a low-emission, climate-resilient future.

Around the world, momentum is building. Cities, businesses and investors, faith

heightened security concerns in the wake of the terrorist attacks. I see four essential elements for Paris to be a success: durability, flexibility, solidarity and credibility.

First, durability. Paris must provide a long-term vision consistent with a below 2 degrees trajectory, and send a clear signal to markets that the low-carbon transformation of the global economy is inevitable, beneficial and already under way.

Second, the agreement must provide flexibility so it does not need to be continually renegotiated. It must be able to accommodate changes in the global economy and strike a balance between the leadership role of developed countries and the increasing responsibilities of developing countries.

Third, the agreement must demonstrate solidarity, including through financing and technology transfer for developing countries. Developed countries must keep their pledge to provide \$100 billion a year by 2020 for adaptation and mitigation alike.

Fourth, an agreement must demonstrate credibility in responding to rapidly escalating climate impacts. It must include regular five year cycles for governments to assess and strengthen their national climate plans in line with what science demands. Paris must also include transparent and robust mechanisms for measuring, monitoring and reporting progress.

The UN stands fully ready to support countries in implementing such an agreement.

A meaningful climate agreement in Paris will build a better today – and tomorrow. It will help us end poverty. Clean our air and protect our oceans. Improve public health. Create new jobs and catalyze green innovations. It will accelerate progress towards all of the Sustainable Development Goals. That is why I care so deeply about climate change.

My message to world leaders is clear: success in Paris depends on you. Now is the time for common sense, compromise and consensus. It is time to look beyond national horizons and to put the common interest first. The people of the world – and generations to come – count on you to have the vision and courage to seize this historic moment.

The writer is Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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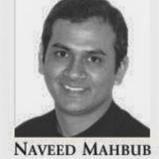
leaders and citizens are acting to reduce emissions and build resilience. The responsibility now rests with

Governments to conclude a meaningful, binding agreement in Paris that provides clear rules of the road for strengthening global ambition. For this, negotiators need clear guidance from the top.

I believe this is forthcoming. The leaders of the G20, who met earlier this month in Antalya, Turkey, showed strong commitment to climate action. And more than 120 Heads of State and Government have confirmed their participation in Paris, despite

# Error 404

## HUMOROUSLY YOURS



NAVEED MAHBUB

1990: "Hello, Hello! Microphone testing, 1, 2, 3."  
2015: "Hello, Hello! Facebook testing 1, 2, 3."  
Just like the ill-fated *Blackhawk*, it's *Facebook Down*. With seventeen million hyper-

busy users offline, Mark Zuckerberg gets a breather and takes two months off as paternity leave, risking a cut on his already whopping \$1 per year salary. A nation is thrown into digital rehab, jittery from withdrawal. Boring lectures are back to being boring with nothing to WhatsApp or Facebook or Viber about. Nice verbs by the way.

With WhatsApp now WhatsAppDown and Viber now a barren Khyber Pass, Telegram rises from the ashes like the Phoenix. I'm talking about Telegram the messenger. Then again, perhaps the good old analog one is also making a comeback. It is all a marketing ploy of Telegram (both versions) to capture new clients.

Oh by the way, Twitter never went down. This shows how 'popular' it is in Bangladesh. Being a non-believer in elevator pitches, is it a surprise that we have voluntarily shunned it with its stingy 140 character limit?

But the information highway is just like the post-Tavella Kemal Ataturk Avenue. No matter how and where you block it, there is always a way around for the determined. How else do you explain an expensive part of my expensive *Specialized Rockhopper* mountain bike getting stolen from the expensive area called Gulshan?

Welcome to Digital Bangladesh. The foxy move to shut off social media ends up in proxy servers bringing back the crowd through VPNs – Virtual Private Networks. I am sure those who are innocently trading social media are being watched by Big Brother. Not THAT Big Bro who has his eyes only on Italians. Eye in the sky or not, the fearless Facebookies are on VPN – Voy Pai Naa.

By the way, this is an exception where I diss *Bhoy* for *Voy*, otherwise I still stick to *Bhai* and not *Vai*.

As for the high profile person with a Facebook profile, he must maintain a low profile, else he will be profiled as conforming to the profile of a non-conformist. But VPN is not merely an app, it is an apple tempting us from the Garden of Eden. With us mere sinful mortals, we succumb to the click. Of course, I am the last to jump on the VPN bandwagon and find myself to be a total stranger to my own Facebook profile.

Thus the fire for Facebook is re-kindled. Just sneaking in there with two clicks (VPN + Facebook) is enough of a kick. No need to check or update the Facebook status, because simply being on Facebook is a matter of utmost status. Even some of the powers-that-be are unable to resist the temptation of hanging out on the dark side via their own VPN (Very Privileged Network).

It is all with the good intention of reining in the notorious. However, the cure we prescribe for a headache is "Off with the head." We forget that just like the bad and the ugly, the good remains a step ahead. Therefore, it is not just the country, but the whole world that needs to re-think how to address the cancer that has overwhelmed every continent, except perhaps Antarctica (well, it's dealing with melting ice caps). Planes fly into the World Trade Center Towers and Iraq is invaded, Paris is attacked and there are hate crimes against Muslims, the Russians bomb Damascus and Turkey shoots down a Russian fighter jet, Hamas fires rockets and Israel bombs the West Bank, the Talibans blow up a Kabul market and US jets bomb a hospital... these are all parts of a massive and deadly game of ping pong bringing us back to square one.

Error 404: Peace cannot be found. As for us in this country, enjoy the ride between Digital and Analog Bangladesh.

The writer is an engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA and CEO of IBM & Nokia Siemens Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of ABC Radio's *Good Morning Bangladesh* and the founder of *Naveed's Comedy Club*. E-mail: naveed@naveedmahbub.com

# MINI NATIONAL POLLS, MIGHTY EXCITEMENT IN STORE

## PLEASURE IS ALL MINE



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

THE schedules for polls to the 234 municipalities are upon us, as if tip-toeing on a slippery wicket to a sudden grand curtain raiser about to happen. The notion of 'grandstanding' is attributable to the fact that the elections so far

billied to be party-less are going to be held on political party tickets for the first time.

The elections to 234 mayoral positions and 3,690 councilors' posts are slated for December 30 but the last date for filing nominations is as proximate as December 3. With the scrutiny of nominations on December 5-6 and last date of withdrawal of names on December 13, the election is excitingly closing in on us.

That the elections are being held is creditable for the government and the EC where local polls have had a history of delays. Belated elections meant placing selected administrators in municipalities with ill-effects that the people had known only too much of to want to see the back of it. There, the Awami League responded positively to a longstanding public demand for elected mayors. In part the step may have been prompted to give an aperture to the BNP for reentry into electoral politics.

The mayoral posts will be contested by political parties fielding their nominees directly but the councilors will be elected on party-less basis.

Why the councilors are excluded from being elected on party ticket is a question that may be open to four-fold interpretation. First, a gradualist approach is perhaps being taken to limit the change to the mayors first and then extend it over to the councilors in future



elections. After all, the number of councilors' posts presents an unwieldy proposition at this stage to hold elections on party tickets. Second, a balance is aimed to be struck amid a plurality of views.

Third, the consideration could also have been strategic or tactical in that loss of mayoral seats may be balanced out by a possible good showing in the councilors' polls. Fourth, and collaterally it may lead to obstruction in the working of the municipalities.

The rules of business will have to be care-

fully crafted to optimise the performance of the municipalities.

The question is: What qualitative difference would the municipalities make in delivering services after the induction of mayors on party basis vis-à-vis party-backed candidates winning the mayoral office as in the past?

The chief dividend to come from the municipality election relates to making the dull and monotonous politics exciting, engaging and participative. Whether this is

flagging a 'new normal' in the political equations, only time will tell, but sooner rather than later.

BNP has nothing to lose but something to gain from the upcoming polls. If the elections are held smoothly and the party wins places it would be a value addition to the party's strength. If it loses, the party can say that no free and fair elections are possible under the government.

On the other hand, the government would get a mileage after the tainted January 5, 2014

general elections should the municipal polls pass off peacefully, fairly and productively. In the event, the EC would score some brownie points against the backdrop of its rather sagging image.

It is indeed an opportunity for the BNP in a special way indicative of a certain government gesture to draw BNP into the polls. The signal should not be lost on the BNP. The party is likely to have an important advantage over the AL because of the new electoral code of conduct. This debars individuals enjoying government benefits from electioneering for party candidates. The list of exclusion is long whilst the BNP chairperson and her party colleagues will be free to campaign for their party candidates.

The BNP's track record in the upper strata of local government polls shows that between 2010 and 2011, candidates backed by it performed better in the municipal polls. BNP-supported candidates bagged 92 mayoral posts as against AL-backed candidates' 88 amongst 236 municipalities. In 2013, BNP-blessed candidates made a clean sweep of Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Gazipur City Corporation polls.

Awami League supported candidates, however, defeated their BNP counterparts in Dhaka and Chittagong City Corporation polls earlier this year.

The elections will be a test of AL's popularity on the basis of its achievements. At the other pole, it will be a measure of whether BNP's vote bank remains intact or not.

This series of party-basis elections to the mayoral posts is a precursor of all local government elections to be held on a uniform principle with the parliamentary polls as is the worldwide practice. That is where the current venture holds a far-reaching implication.

The writer is Associate Editor of *The Daily Star*.

## QUOTABLE Quote



GLENN GREENWALD

No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Surveillance State

Democracy requires accountability and consent of the governed, which is only possible if citizens know what is being done in their name.

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | <b>41</b> Prone to prying          |
| <b>1</b> Stalactite setting          | <b>DOWN</b>                        |
| <b>5</b> Put in the oven             | <b>1</b> Discreet attention-getter |
| <b>9</b> Sung story                  | <b>2</b> Attraction                |
| <b>11</b> Engine booster             | <b>3</b> Priest's changing room    |
| <b>12</b> Sports surprise            | <b>4</b> Before, in poetry         |
| <b>13</b> Jordan's capital           | <b>5</b> Camel feature             |
| <b>14</b> Acquire                    | <b>6</b> Royal fur                 |
| <b>15</b> Concert soloist            | <b>7</b> Humbled                   |
| <b>17</b> Sets                       | <b>8</b> Scout's rider             |
| <b>19</b> "The Matrix" hero          | <b>10</b> Acropolis setting        |
| <b>20</b> Telling whoppers           | <b>11</b> Old salts                |
| <b>21</b> Wine choice                | <b>16</b> Some cats and rabbits    |
| <b>22</b> In harmony                 | <b>18</b> Watch part               |
| <b>24</b> Piercing tool              | <b>21</b> Peruse                   |
| <b>26</b> Wanders                    | <b>23</b> Kramden's chum           |
| <b>29</b> April 15 adviser           | <b>24</b> Cochise's people         |
| <b>30</b> Wilson's successor         | <b>25</b> Pop's Andy               |
| <b>32</b> Field yield                | <b>27</b> La Scala setting         |
| <b>34</b> Baseball's Gehrig          | <b>28</b> Night sounds             |
| <b>35</b> Orange shade               | <b>29</b> On this spot             |
| <b>36</b> Dizzying posters           | <b>31</b> Daring                   |
| <b>38</b> River of Provence          | <b>33</b> Let off steam            |
| <b>39</b> Inverted sixes             | <b>37</b> Wrestling win            |
| <b>40</b> Shoulder muscle, for short |                                    |

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**

B	E	G	O	N	E	G	R	I	P
A	R	A	B	I	C	Y	A	L	E
T	A	B	L	E	H	O	P	P	E
I	C	O	N	S					
C	A	G	E	S	U	R	F		
N	O	T	E	M	E	M	O	I	R
A	D	O	P	A	T	T	E	A	
P	E	N	T	U	P	C	O	R	N
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L	E	A	R	N					
T	A	B	L	E	T	E	N	O	I
A	C	R	E	O	T	O	N	I	S
P	E	A	R	M	A	N	T	L	E

## BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

NEW GLASSES, ZERO?  
YEAH, I THOUGHT THEY'D MAKE ME LOOK SMARTER  
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY CONTACTS

## BABY BLUES by Kirkman & Scott

WHOEVER SAID "THERE'S NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK"  
...NEVER FOUND IT IN THEIR VAN IN LATE JULY.  
GAAAK!  
WOOF! IT SMELLS WORSE THAN HAMMIE'S FEET!