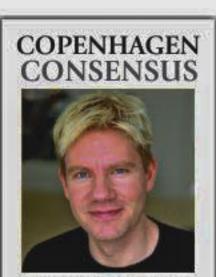
Best strategies to empower girls



BETWEEN 2011 and 2020, more than 140 million girls worldwide will become child brides - defined by the United Nations as BJORN LOMBORG marriage before

age 18. The effects from such early marriage can be devastating and longlasting for women: lower education levels and lower lifetime earnings, higher rates of domestic violence, greater risk of dying from pregnancy complications, and increased mortality rates for the children of these young brides.

Even though Bangladesh's legal age of marriage is 18, the country has the second-highest rate of child marriage globally: the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey shows that nearly three quarters of women aged 20-49 married before turning 18. Many of these girls' families offer them for early marriage to avoid paying higher dowries.

What are the best strategies to empower young women and avoid the harms of early marriage?

A new analysis by economists from Duke University, and MIT's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab examines various strategies to prevent child marriages. It finds that providing financial incentives to delay marriage is most effective.

Child marriage disproportionately affects poor households: girls in the poorest 20 percent worldwide are more than twice as likely to marry early than those in the wealthiest 20 percent. Bangladesh has one of the largest populations vulnerable to early marriage, with more than 15 million girls aged 10-19.

Families often see early marriage as a financial necessity, which may



help explain why numerous laws that prohibit early marriage and dowrieshave had virtually no effect in Bangladesh. Similarly, programmes run by community groups that give adolescent girls lifeskills and vocational training have had no impact in Bangladesh (nor in Tanzania, but some impact in Uganda). So focusing on laws or empowerment will likely do less than 1 taka of good for each taka spent.

The analysis examines other proposals from Bangladesh, across

South Asia, and in sub-Saharan Africa. The most promising is a programme from southern Bangladesh run by Save the Children that uses a conditional stipend to encourage parents to delay marriage for adolescent daughters.

From 2008-2010, the programme gave cooking oil to parents of unmarried girls aged 15-17. Every four months, participants received four liters of oil - conditional upon a monitor confirming that they were still unmarried. A year's supply of cooking oil costs Tk. 1,250 per girl

and aims to offset the economic burden of delaying marriage.

The modest financial incentive had significant effects. Recipient girls were up to 30 percent less likely to marry before age 16, and they were up to 22 percent more likely to remain in school. Each taka of spending on such conditional transfer programmes does about 4 takas of social good.

Raising the age of marriage would do a lot of good, but early marriage is far from the only challenge Bangladeshi girls and women face. New research by

Ahsan Zaman, an assistant economics professor at North South University, examines two other pressing gender issues: access to education and family planning.

Educational access for girls is important, because more education means higher productivity and earnings over their own working lives. But it also turns out to be crucial for the eventual health of their children. A higher level of education improves a mother's health awareness. Research shows that this leads to better nutrition status for her children - and malnutrition is one of the factors that influences child disease and mortality the most. Each taka spent to get girls more education does 3 takas of social good, thanks to improved child health and increased income from higher earnings.

A second issue is family planning, which can save lives of mothers and children by widening the time gap between births, improve health for both, and empower women by allowing them to stay in school longer. A year of family planning services that delays pregnancy costs just 655 takas and can add nearly half a year of extra schooling for one girl. And in Bangladesh, an additional year of school boosts girls' lifetime earnings by an estimated 13.2 percent. When combining the health and education benefits, the small investment in family planning gives 3 takas of benefits for each taka spent.

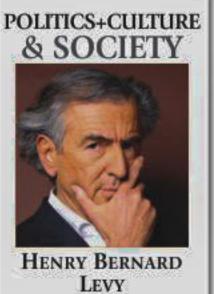
Smart policies can help delay female marriage and promote gender equality. Where would you want to spend resources to do the most good for Bangladesh? Let us hear from you at https://copenhagen.fbapp.io/genderequ alitypriorities. We want to continue the conversation about how to do the most good for every taka spent.

The writer is president of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, ranking the smartest solutions to the world's biggest problems by cost-benefit. He was named one of the world's 100 most influential people by Time magazine.

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PROJECT SYNDICATE

Sadiq Khan's Democratic Islam



HE man of the hour in the United Kingdom, if not in Europe, is obviously Sadiq Khan -Pakistani by origin, Muslim by faith, and newly elected Mayor of London.

There are several ways to look at Khan's victory. One can repeat the

litany of complaints that his Conservative opponent leveled against him, legitimately, throughout the campaign. There was Khan's September 2004 meeting with Islamic radicals under the auspices of the pro-Palestinian organization Friends of Al-Aqsa. There was his 2009 interview on Iranian television, in which he compared Britain's moderate Muslims to "Uncle Toms."

There were also his reported contacts with unsavoury characters. One, Yasser al-Sirri, is the Egyptian author of a statement on Osama bin Laden's "honourable death," among other pearls. Another, Sajeel Abu Ibrahim, is a jihadist militant who likely trained others at a camp in Pakistan. And Yusuf al-Qaradawi is a Qatar-based theologian and Al Jazeera preacher, who is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood's

Another way to view Khan's election is to listen to what he has consistently said in response to accusations of closet extremism. He has explained that one does not always know in advance with whom one will share a stage. The interview on Iranian television was a mistake. Muslims wounded by his invocation in that interview of the subservient black slave in Harriet Beecher Stowe's US Civil

War-era novel should accept his deepest

most radical wing.

apologies. As for al-Qaradawi, everyone, however bad, has the right to a legal defense, and their relationship was always that of a lawyer and his client.

True? False? Is election as the first Muslim mayor of a European capital worth, if not a mass (as Henry IV said of Paris and his conversion to Roman Catholicism), then at least accommodation with the facts of life? It's hard to know, but Khan certainly persists in saying so. The fact that he distances himself so emphatically from the same Islamist movement with which he has on occasion rubbed elbows, is, at worst, vice's tribute to virtue. At best, it is a disavowal by the man he has become of the man he once was, a man who no longer exhibits any sign of complacency about his ambiguous past.

What is certain - and this is the third way of viewing the issue - is that Khan, while maintaining possibly dangerous contacts, simultaneously held a firm line on the principle that Islam is compatible with secular government. For Europe, that is a necessary principle. Moreover, he has never wavered on the critical questions of legal and practical equality for women.

Likewise, Khan's position in favour of gay marriage has earned him a fatwa for apostasy from the fearsome head imam of a Bradford mosque. One might say that no less could be expected from a Labour leader with a bright future in the country of Churchill. But one must still follow through, and it must be admitted that Khan has not yielded in these matters to the facile communitarianism common on the other side of the Channel.

Khan also is among those Labourites who have taken the loftiest position in the face of the wave of anti-Semitism sweeping through their party. A former Labour MP stigmatised the

"nose" of British Jews over social networks. A current MP proposed to relocate Israel to the United States. The charismatic Ken Livingstone, London's first elected mayor and one of Khan's predecessors, compared Zionism to Nazism. And Jeremy Corbyn, the party's leader, refused in a debate with Prime Minister David Cameron to disavow his "friends" in Hezbollah and Hamas.

The past few weeks have seemed like a contest to see who in Labour would go the farthest down the path of Islamo-leftism, which is, alas, a strong tendency within the European left and among Britain's Labourites in particular.

In the face of this British socialism of fools, which some portray as inoffensive support for the wretched of the earth in Palestine, Khan has had no trouble voicing strong condemnation. His stance was apparent in his insistence that his first act as mayor, on Sunday, May 8, would be to honour, alongside the chief rabbi of London and Israel's ambassador to the UK, the memory of six million Jews murdered by the Nazis.

All of this is to say that, while we must of course remain watchful, Khan's election can and should be seen as a clear victory of enlightened Islam against benighted, reactionary, and intolerant Islam. Michel Houellebecq's prediction in his last novel, Submission, that France would elect a president from an Islamic party in 2022 has been inverted. That democracy - British democracy - should be proud not only to have welcomed Islam but also to have helped it reform.

The writer is one of the founders of the "Nouveaux Philosophes" (New Philosophers) movement. His books include Left in Dark Times: A Stand Against the New © Project Syndicate.

(Exclusive to The Daily Star)





Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food Directorate General of Food Inspection, Development & Technical Services 16, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000 www.dgfood.gov.bd

Invitation for Re-Tender (Works)

No: 10/2015-2016

1.	Ministry/division	Ministry of Food.
2.	Agency	Directorate General of Food.
3.	Procuring entity name	Director General of Food.
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5.	Invitation for	Repair and Maintenance of Electronic Platform Scales.
6.	Invitation Ref No. & date	13.01.0000.111.38.044.13.720; Dated: 15.05.2016
7.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
8.	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh.
9.	Tender package No.	Re-Tender No: 10/2015-2016
10.	Tender package name	Repair and Maintenance of 450 Nos. Electronic Platform Scales (384 new and 66 old) located at different Silo, CSD, LSD, Port & Ghat of Directorate of Food.
11.	Tender publication last date	18.05.2016
12.	Tender last selling date & time	30.05.2016 Time: 5:00pm.
13.	Tender closing date & time	31.05.2016 Time: 1.00pm
14.	Tender opening date & time	31.05.2016 Time: 2.30pm
15.	Name & address of the office a) Selling tender document	 Cashier, Accounts & Finance Division of Directorate General of Food (Room No. 419, 4th Floor), 16, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000. Cashier, Regional Controller of Food, 299, West Jurain, Gandaria, Dhaka-1204.
	b) Receiving tender document	The tender will be received from the date of tender publishing to closing date and time being mentioned in serial No. 13 Tender will be received in the Tender Box to be kept a) In front of the office of the Director IDTS, Room No. 531, IDTS Division, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000. b) Office Room of the Deputy Secretary (Supply-2), Room No-112, 1st Floor, Building # 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
	c) Opening tender document	The tenders will be opened at Room No. 531, 5th Floor, Khaddya Bhaban, 16, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000.
16.	Eligibility of tenderer	 a. The tenderer shall have up-dated trade license, latest income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate. b. All other conditions laid down in the tender document will be binding upon the contractors.
17.	Brief description of works	Repair and Maintenance of 450 Nos. Electronic Platform Scales (384 new and 66 old) located at different Silo, CSD, LSD, Port & Ghat of Directorate of Food.
18.	Brief description of related services	As per tender schedule.
19.	Price of tender document	Tk. 1000.00 (Taka one thousand) each only.
20.	Tender security amount	Tk. 50.00 (fifty) thousand only.
21.	Location	All Silo, CSD, LSD, Port and Ghat of Food Department throughout the

country.

Shaikh Zakir Hossain.

Additional Director (IDTS).

Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000.

Room No. 531, 5th Floor, IDTS Department, Khaddya Bhaban, 16, Abdul

Shaikh Zakir Hossain

Additional Director (IDTS)

Phone: 9556323

Name of official inviting tender

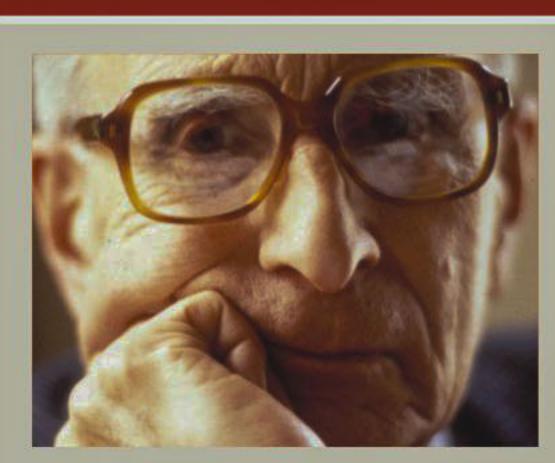
tender

GD-1094

Designation of official inviting tender

Contact details of official inviting

The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders.



CLAUDE LEVI-STRAUSS

The world began without man, and it will complete itself without him.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Addis --6 Picnic places

11 Man's man-servant

12 French farewell 13 Book of maps

14 Swiss Trill

15 Require

17 Antlered animal

18 Word-for-word

22 Opera piece

23 Wave peaks 27 Book cover feature

30 Burns with water 32 Promote

29 Western resort lake

33 Deck moppers 35 Uncooked

38 Taj Mahal city

39 Despise 41 Choir singers

45 Beg 46 Kevin of "In & Out"

47 Circus structures 48 English county

1 Gardner of movies

DOWN

2 Flying mammal 3 Completely 4 Dangerous pitches 5 Bewildered

6 Profitable discovery 7 Fuss 8 Take the bus 9 Boat bottom

10 Mope 16 List-shortening abbr. 18 Dyeing tubs

19 Rocker Clapton 20 Singer Coolidge 21 Spaghetti extras

24 Loafer, for one 25 Sightseeing trip

26 Hardens 28 Kerry's 2004 running mate 31 Droop

34 Carpedal 35 Enthralled 36 Skilled 37 Question of time

44 Gender

40 Granola bit 42 "My country -- of thee" 43 Low digit

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER GENOA OCEANS ASA BYTES DEVOURS CARGO ADLER

CRAMP HOWIE TESTERS NOROOMJEW MARGE