

Christchurch: Why this is not an isolated terrorist attack

IN OTHER WORDS



AMITAVA KAR

IN the aftermath of the deadly attacks in New Zealand that caused global shock, it is important to explore the broader questions about the ideology behind these acts of terrorism. People in Australia are reportedly horrified that someone from their country is responsible for this. If we are a product of politics, what is the political climate in Australia right now?

Unfortunately, the terror act in New Zealand reflects some of what has been happening in Australian politics in recent years. There has been a rise in anti-Muslim rhetoric. One of the parties that have held the balance of power in the Australian parliament since the last election in 2016 is called One Nation. The leader of this party, a woman named Pauline Hanson, described Muslims as a disease that Australians need to be vaccinated against.

Hanson's party came to prominence in the 90s, mostly opposing Asian immigration and benefits for indigenous people. The party was eventually stamped out of existence by the mainstream parties, who said that

its ideas were not acceptable. But it has come to the fore in recent years running on a xenophobic platform, which has proven more acceptable to the Australian public. After it won four seats in the Senate, the government and the opposition both needed the votes of this party to get anything done. Thus it has been somewhat normalised in Australian politics.

Humera Khan, president of the Washington-based think tank Muflehun, which fights hate and extremism, calls the Christchurch attack ideological extremism. How malignant is this ideology? Khan says that it is more powerful than we tend to think. We have seen similar attacks in Norway in 2011 and on the Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018. In 2017, in Quebec, we saw an attack on a mosque where six people were killed. So these kinds of attacks in houses of worship are not new. In 2015, we saw a 21-year-old white supremacist attack a church in Charleston, South Carolina and murder nine black Americans.

Dr Kathleen Belew, an assistant professor of history at the University of Chicago, who has written extensively about white supremacy movements and authored a book on this subject, calls this a social movement. She says that this is an action carried out by the white power movement which has decades of history in the US and beyond. Its members are well-

connected with one another. And they are ideologically driven. Professor Belew has studied the period from the Vietnam War to the Oklahoma City Bombing, which she identifies as the moment of formation of this movement. These actions are not

and ethnocentric nature of this movement. When we say "white nationalism", we may think that the "nation" implied is going to be the nation of the United States of America or the nation of Australia, when, in fact, these extremists envisage a white

for everyone in the US, Europe and Australia. Politicians and the media in these countries should recognise that rhetoric and discourse matters, because it shapes public opinion. This must prompt a lot of soul-searching about what has become normalised political discourse there. A lot of people think that President Trump's initial response to the terror attacks in Christchurch was inadequate. He said that he did not think white nationalism is a problem in the US. He thinks it's a small group of people.

The problem is that this small number of people have enormous capacity for violence. The white power movement has done a lot of work to cloak itself as isolated, lone acts of violence. This movement has adopted a strategy called "leaderless resistance" to stymie prosecution in court.

These are acts of terrorism and must be dealt with from this perspective. Some important questions to ask would be: Where are the prevention programmes? Where is the strategic plan, the leadership and funding which is going to be needed to counter and—not just counter—prevent this issue? It is a movement. A movement cannot be quashed only by force. Everyone has a responsibility, which means every sector of society including the clergy and the education system.

Amitava Kar is a mechanical engineer.



An armed policeman stands guard in front of the Masjid Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch.

PHOTO: AFP

meant to be an end point of this ideology. These are planned political actions meant to stir the sentiments of a broader white public.

That's why it is a mistake to call it white nationalism, because doing so serves to sort of soften the very radical

nation that transcends national borders. And they are doing this viciously, with the end goal of ethnic cleansing and race war. They want total elimination of people who are not white.

This should come as a wakeup call

How children are educating adults on climate change

POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

OVER the last two decades or more, the global scientific community has been raising the alarm about climate change, through the reports of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which were then considered by the governments of the world at the annual Conference of Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A landmark agreement, the Paris Agreement, was reached at COP21 in Paris in 2015.

However, even though the agreement was a major achievement, it does not go far enough and the actions being taken by the governments are far from adequate to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius, let alone 1.5 degrees, which is what is needed.

One of the reasons for this lack of ambition is that some countries tied to interests of fossil fuels companies, such as the US and Saudi Arabia, insist on blocking ambitious targets and actions. As decisions have to be arrived by consensus, this effectively prevents any significant progress.

In the last year or so, a new actor has emerged that may topple this built-in bias in favour of minimal action. It began when a 16-year-old Swedish teenager, Greta Thunberg, decided to go

on a strike outside the Swedish parliament every Friday to protest the lack of action in the face of climate change. While she was initially ridiculed, she stuck to her guns and soon started attracting support both within and outside Sweden—inspiring teenagers in other countries.

She became a celebrity and was invited to address COP24 in Katowice, Poland last December where she gave a

hundred countries. These children demonstrate every Friday, and last Friday (March 15), several million children and teenagers went on demonstrations in over 2,000 cities around the world, including in Bangladesh.

The main argument of these youngsters is that the science of the problem as well as the solutions are already very clear but the adults of the

An interesting development has been the strong support the kids are getting from the global scientific community and also from many of their parents as well as their teachers.

Even the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called for a climate summit in New York in September where he will only invite those leaders from governments, provinces, cities, companies and NGOs who are already taking action to discuss how to accelerate those actions. The climate change deniers will definitely not be invited!

This new framing of the climate change issue as a global emergency has several new elements to it.

The first is that it has presented the problem as one of adults (who failed to take action) versus their children (who will inherit the problem). This is a very powerful means of galvanising support from the parents of those children. While there are still many sceptics and critics, the children are beginning to win the argument.

Another aspect of this new reframing is the shift in focus to the many solutions that are available and indeed being applied by different actors all around the world. Many of these solutions have additional benefits that can help address other global problems related to air and water, poverty, inequality, injustice, nutrition and human health so that a new pathway to improved livelihoods—which are not dependent on burning fossil fuels—has begun to emerge.

This is not to say that there are no hurdles anymore, but the tide has

Even though the agreement was a major achievement, it does not go far enough and the actions being taken by the governments are far from adequate to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius.

certainly turned against the climate change deniers all over the world.

A good example of this is the growing popularity of the Green New Deal in the United States which is being driven by young people, including new young Congress members and, for the first time, tackling climate change seems to be becoming a major political issue in domestic US politics.

It will of course take sustained efforts for the children's movement to actually achieve results. And Greta has already been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and her following around the world is now in the many millions. We should all listen to her and our own children and treat climate change as the global emergency that it truly is.

Dr Saleemul Huq is Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Independent University, Bangladesh. Email: saleemul.icccd@iub.edu.bd



SOURCE: PHYS.ORG

"If you don't act like adults, we will"—banners, slogans and a global cry by young people for politicians to take urgent action on climate change.

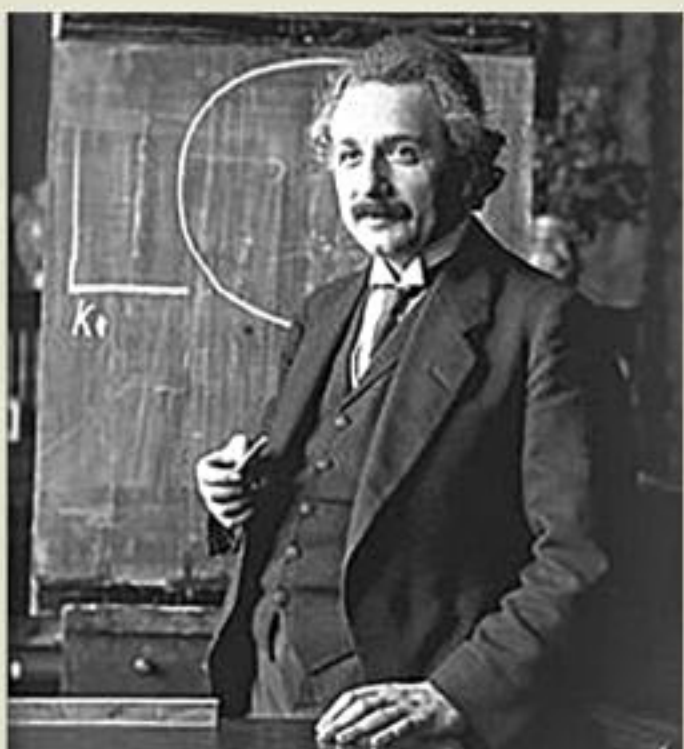
very powerful speech blaming the adults for failing to take action to tackle climate change, risking leaving behind an uninhabitable planet for our children.

Since then the movement of schoolchildren has spread over a

world, in all countries, are failing to act with sufficient urgency.

The kids have declared climate change to be a global emergency requiring extraordinary efforts, which are completely lacking so far.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



March 20, 1916

ALBERT EINSTEIN PRESENTS HIS GENERAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY

The revolutionary theory describes the interdependency of matter on the one hand and space and time on the other. It is one of the most influential theories in physics.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

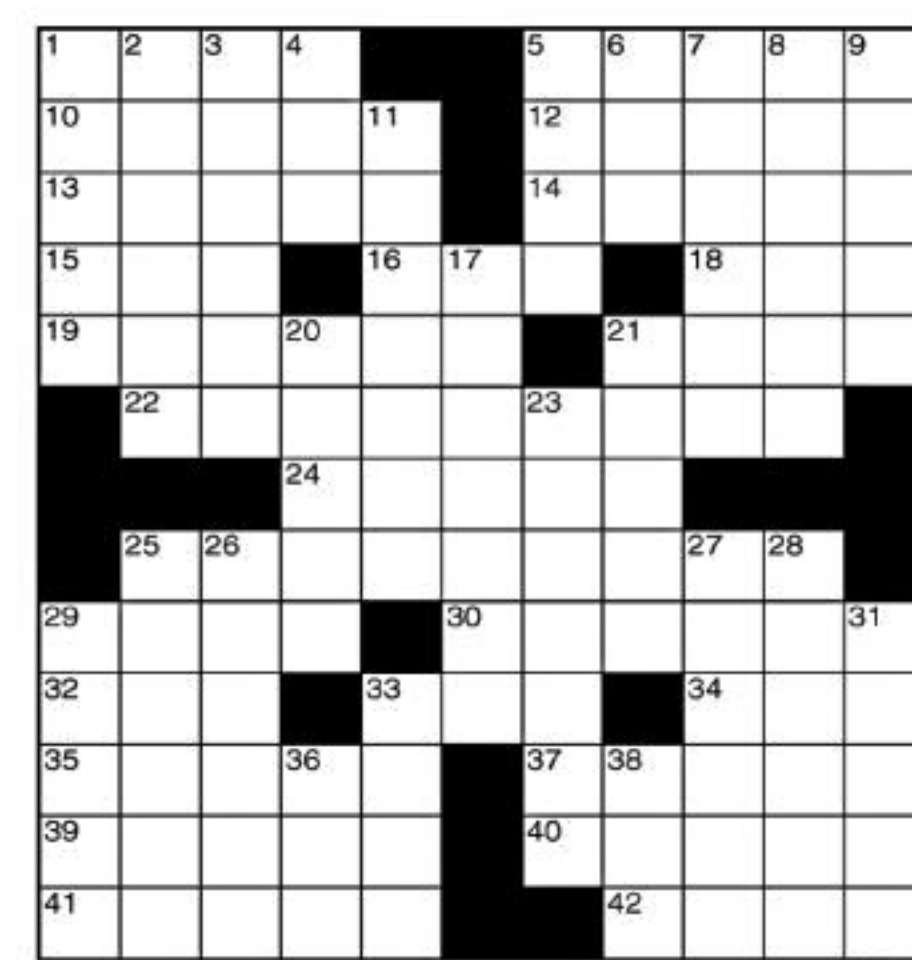
- 1 Small bottle
- 5 "Witness" group
- 10 Cast member
- 12 Shop turner
- 13 Barista's creation
- 14 Tony, for one
- 15 Before, in odes
- 16 106, to Caesar
- 18 Galoot
- 19 Clash
- 21 Cellar supply
- 22 March honoree
- 24 Use as a bed
- 25 March symbols
- 29 Decisive defeat
- 30 Goddess of wisdom
- 32 Radius setting

DOWN

- 1 Parking pro
- 2 Doomed flier
- 3 Certify
- 4 Auction buy
- 5 Jai --
- 6 Gullet
- 7 Inclined type

DOWN

- 8 Drawn back
- 9 Yard border
- 11 Take back
- 17 November honoree
- 20 Dropped tomato sound
- 21 Hoisting device
- 23 Fans
- 25 Raid
- 26 Compassionate
- 27 Stovetop item
- 28 Catches
- 29 Some files
- 31 Physics bits
- 33 Casino figure
- 36 Homer's neighbor
- 38 Put away



YESTERDAY'S ANSWER



ZUELLIG PHARMA
Bangladesh Ltd
Pharma Solutions Bangladesh



বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিগত ২৬ জুলাই ২০১৮ তারিখে জিএসকে বাংলাদেশ লিঃ-এর ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস ব্যবসা বন্ধের ঘোষণা দেয়। এ বিষয়ে পরিচালনা পর্ষদ ও শেয়ারহোল্ডারদের চূড়ান্ত অনুমোদনের পরও বিকল্প ব্র্যান্ডে রোগীদের ব্যবস্থাপত্র পরিবর্তনের সুযোগ দিতে বিগত ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৮ পর্যন্ত সীমিত আকারে ঔষধ ও ভ্যাক্সিন সরবরাহ অব্যাহত রাখা হয়। এ সময় নতুন রোগী অথবা ভ্যাক্সিন-গ্রহীতাকে জিএসকে'র কোনো ঔষধ বা ভ্যাক্সিন গ্রহণের পরামর্শ না দেয়ার অনুরোধ পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞাপন এবং চিঠির মাধ্যমে চিকিৎসক, হাসপাতাল বা ফার্মেসি-সমূহকে অবহিত করা হয়।

উল্লেখিত বিজ্ঞাপন ও চিঠি মারফত-এও জানানো হয় যে, এই নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর জিএসকে সরাসরি বা এর একমাত্র পরিবেশক জুলিগ ফার্মা বাংলাদেশ লিঃ-এর মাধ্যমে ঔষধ বা ভ্যাক্সিন-সংক্রান্ত কোনো ধরনের বাণিজ্যিক কার্যক্রম বা লেনদেন পরিচালনা করবে না।

এমতাবস্থায় জুলিগ ফার্মা বাংলাদেশ লিঃ বর্তমানে আর জিএসকে'র ঔষধ বা ভ্যাক্সিন ক্রয়/বিক্রয়/পরিবর্তন/সমন্বয় ইত্যাদির জন্য দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত বা দায়বদ্ধ নয়।

কর্তৃপক্ষ

জুলিগ ফার্মা বাংলাদেশ লিঃ

কর্তৃপক্ষ

জিএসকে বাংলাদেশ লিঃ

Write for us. Send us your opinion pieces to dsopinion@gmail.com.