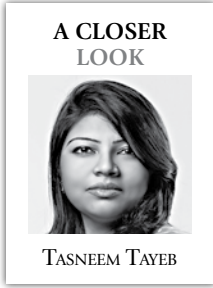


ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Ireland lights the fire. Will it catch on?



TASNEEM TAYEB

IN a historic move, the Irish parliament has passed a motion that condemns Israel's "de facto annexation" of Palestinian territories, after the recent bombardment of Gaza by Israel.

East Jerusalem. Israeli courts earlier ordered the eviction of 13 Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood where they had been living for generations.

bombarded by Israel, communal tensions increased in many parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and more than 25 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank alone by Israeli forces.

criticised Israel's continuing occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Syrian Golan Heights", the report further added.

should set an example for the rest. Bangladesh recently dropped the phrase "all countries except Israel" from its passports, saying this has been done to "maintain global standards", adding this "does not mean that there has been a change in Bangladesh's position" with regard to Israel.

Unfortunately, this has sent a very wrong signal to Israel, whose Deputy Director General at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gilad Cohen, tweeted, "Great news! #Bangladesh has removed the travel ban to Israel. This is a welcome step & I call on the Bangladeshi government to move forward and establish diplomatic ties with #Israel so both our peoples could benefit & prosper," in reaction to Bangladesh's decision.

Bangladesh—a nation that has had to snatch its own freedom from occupying forces with the blood of millions of its citizens—should have given more thought to the consequences of its actions. The Father of the Nation himself had advocated a pro-Palestine foreign policy, and this was adhered to for just reasons by all the successive regimes in the country.

Israel's belligerent abuses of the human rights of the people of Palestine, its war crimes against them, and its actions that reek of apartheid and ethnic cleansing, are not hidden from the world. Israel does this in broad daylight. Even the UN, from time to time, condemns the actions of Israel, but thanks to the support of its allies, it has never been held accountable for its actions.

But even amidst the gloom, the stance of Ireland gives hope to humanity, hope that someday the Palestinians will have enough moral support to drive home their right to self-determination. No person or nation should have to endure being dispossessed, displaced from their own lands, and forced to live a life robbed of basic dignity and security.

Let Ireland's actions—despite its limitations—be a signal fire for other nations.

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A Palestinian woman weeps while Israeli settlers move her family's belongings from a house in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. This took place in December 1, 2009.

PHOTO: DAN BALILTY/AP

protestors. At one point, these protests spiralled out of control and spread to the compound of the al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan. Later, the mosque was raided by Israeli forces who used rubber-coated steel rounds, stun grenades and tear gas among other mechanisms to attack protesters and worshippers alike.

When Hamas fired rockets in retaliation, Israel got the chance to attack Gaza in the guise of self-defence. Thus began Israel's Operation Guardian of the Walls that claimed the lives of 248 Palestinians, including 66 children. On the Israeli side 12 were killed, including two children.

Even when Gaza was being

in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). It displaced hundreds of Palestinians in Israel and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as a result of home demolitions and imposition of other coercive measures... Israeli forces killed 31 Palestinians, including nine children, in the OPT; many were unlawfully killed while posing no imminent threat to life.

The Israeli authorities arbitrarily detained in Israel thousands of Palestinians from the OPT, holding hundreds in administrative detention without charge or trial. Torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, including children, were committed with impunity. The authorities used a range of measures to target human rights defenders, journalists and others who

against humanity and apartheid.

While most world leaders conveniently turn a blind eye to the atrocities being committed by Israel against the Palestinians, Ireland has chosen to rise above the mundane protocol of "expressing concern" and has decided to take a formal stance against what is wrong.

Ireland's motion acknowledging and condemning the illegal actions of Israel might not alleviate the sufferings of the ill-fated Palestinians but it has sent a clear message across the world: what Israel is doing is illegal, and world powers must act to stop it. At a time when many Arab nations, including the Emiratis and the Bahrainis, have normalised ties with Israel, Ireland's recognition of Israel's illegal annexation

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Can our engineering education prepare graduates for the industry?

We must find out if we want to move to a higher economy



SAYEED AHMED

HOW long enough time to make some skillsets obsolete and create demand for new ones. Not only that, the university will take some time to prepare a new curriculum or adopt a new pedagogical model.

Secondly, the industry will need so many different skillsets (some of which could be outside today's knowledge domain) that no one can learn them all. That means both the teachers and the students will have to be in a never-ending learning process.

Given the existing gap between what students learn and what the industry needs, some universities are already considering new courses. These universities have formed Industrial Advisory Panels (IAP), comprising representatives from academia and the industry.

OBE is a pedagogical model that emphasises the outcome of the educational process. While the traditional education system focuses on what is taught, OBE places emphasis on what is learned.

In other words, traditional education is time-based. The university allocates a certain amount of time for the students to study a topic of their interest and then moves on. The students' exam grades reflect their level of knowledge and the outcome of the course.

The OBE model is outcome-based, under which the universities must first fix what the students will learn at the end of their course. The whole learning process is then tailored to achieve that agreed learning outcome.

Will OBE alone be adequate to ensure that the graduates offer the skillsets the industry needs, now and in the future? It's hard to say. Industry needs are changing at an ever-accelerating pace. On the other hand, a university needs at least four years to produce a graduate. It is a

Wikipedia or Khan Academy. But learning only from classrooms, books or Internet-based resources is not adequate for engineering education. The students also need practical experience for a fuller understanding of their subject matter.

In Bangladesh, until recently, only the medicine programmes had internship requirements. Of late, business schools have also started such schemes in collaboration with the corporate houses. Graduate training programmes—where a fresh graduate works under an experienced professional to earn experience—are also not very common in Bangladesh, although widely practiced in the developed countries.

We have another issue to address: how to meaningfully implement any internship or graduate training programme. We must create a collaborative environment between academia and the industry based on a symbiotic relationship. For effective implementation of such programmes, both the university and the employer must fulfil their respective responsibilities.

Summarising the points discussed above, we have three broad areas of action. First, we have to promote the culture of self-learning among the students (should it not start right from the primary level?). Second, we should implement internships and graduate training programmes systematically and adequately. Third, the universities and the industry must work closely to create an environment of mutual trust. We cannot implement all these processes overnight but let's at least start them. All we have to do is produce confident self-learner graduates. They can meet all industry requirements, present, and future.

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উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন
ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ
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উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
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