OPINION

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Ireland lights the fire. Will it catch on?



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N 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. Ireland has become the first EU member state to pass such a motion.

The Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney during the debate said, "we need to be honest with what is happening on the ground and call it out." John Brady, foreign affairs spokesman of Sinn Féin-the party that tabled the motion-asserted, "we are boldly stating that Israel is acting illegally under international law". Sinn Fein's leader Mary Lou MacDonald tweeted, the motion "must mark new assertive, consistent confrontation of

Israeli crimes against Palestine". An EU member state officially recognising the "de facto annexation" of Palestinian lands by Israel is a significant development for Palestinians who have endured Israeli aggression and suppression for decades now. Especially since the 1967 annexation of the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights, along with Sinai (Sinai was later returned to Egypt and the US under the Trump administration has recognised Golan Heights as Israeli territory), the Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) are living under increasingly insecure conditions. Over the decades, Palestinian families

have been evicted by Israel in the occupied territories and replaced with

to stop it. Israeli settlers. In recent years, especially with the Trump administration in the US, the Israeli settlements have expanded exponentially. According to a CGTN report, "In the first two years of Trump's presidency, Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem grew 60 percent compared to the two years before Trump was elected, the watchdog group Peace Now has found after battling for the data from the city... At least 112 Palestinian housing units were demolished in the first seven months of 2019, the most in any since at least 2004, the Israeli rights group B'Tselem reported."

The recent escalation between Israel and Hamas was sparked after the eviction of Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of

East Jerusalem. Israeli courts earlier ordered the eviction of 13 Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood where they had been living for generations. This triggered protests from the families living in the neighbourhood, which the Israeli forces then tried to quell through violent means. Some media reports also suggest that radical Israeli groups joined the Israeli forces in suppressing Palestinian

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.

In a report titled "Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories 2020", Amnesty International wrote, "Israel continued to impose institutionalised discrimination against Palestinians living under its rule



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 rubbercoated steel rounds, stun grenades and tear gas among other mechanisms to attack protestors and worshippers alike. Hundreds were injured and many were arrested during multiple raids.

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

criticised Israel's continuing occupation

of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Syrian

Golan Heights", the report further

is in itself a crime. Evicting people

from their homes in those illegally

violations of human rights, crimes

Occupying another state's land

occupied territories, killing adults and

children alike, and refusing their right

to self-determination amount to gross

added.

While most world leaders

against humanity and apartheid.

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 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. Bangladesh-a staunch supporter of Palestinians' right to self-determination—deviating from its five decade-long Middle East policy would only endorse Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

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. And given the way the US is cajoling the Arab countries to "normalise" ties with Israel, it seems justice for the Palestinians is still a farfetched dream.

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 people 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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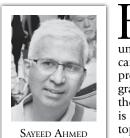
Can our engineering education prepare graduates for the industry?



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ জগাও, ঢাক



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



OW universities can better prepare graduates for the industry is a constant topic of debate. It will

perhaps never end because the industry needs are changing rapidly, and the universities are constantly trying to adapt to such changes.

Relevant to this debate is the recent introduction of Outcome Based Education (OBE) in Bangladeshi universities offering engineering education. OBE is a requirement for degree accreditation under the Washington Accord, an international agreement between bodies responsible for accrediting engineering degree programmes. Along with satisfying the accreditation requirements, it is expected that the OBE model of education would better equip the graduates to serve 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. The transformation from conventional to OBE model is a paradigm shift that is complex and time-consuming.

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

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. By the time the documentation, approval, and implementation processes are completed, it may become outdated, requiring another revision.

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 academics and the industry. Such advisory panels are recommending new courses or changes in the teaching system as they deem appropriate. But this is proving quite a challenge because everyone is proposing something, and coming to a consensus is not easy, and there are so many recommended new courses that the universities cannot accommodate them within the limited time and resources.

Then came the requirement for OBE, which is another challenge. However, the best part of OBE is that it is pretty flexible on how teaching is delivered and the students learn. Remember, only the outcome is fixed while the inputs are variable. This is where the OBE model gets interesting because it allows us to explore the students' learning options.

We all know what the famous Bengali writer Pramath Chaudhuri (1868-1946) said many years ago: "a well-educated person is always a selfeducated one" (excuse my inadequate translation from Bangla). Such wisdom is all the more applicable in today's world. It is so because, in a digitally connected world, the options for self-learning are practically unlimited. We can learn anything, anywhere, anytime, provided we have a connection to the Internet. What's more, some of these options are entirely free of costs, such as

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. It is here that internship and graduate training programmes become relevant.

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. Only recently, some companies are offering internships or graduate training opportunities.

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. The university must put its trust in the employer for the students' grooming and mentoring. The employer must also adhere to the standard adopted by the university for a students' assessment.

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.

•••••••••••••••••••••••• Dr Sayeed Ahmed is a consulting engineer and a freelance writer. He has long experience in infrastructure project implementation in Bangladesh and abroad

GD-1095

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শ্মারক নং- ৪০৩/ডিসি(ডব্লিউ এস এন্ড আই ডি)/২০২১

তারিখ-৩০/০৫/২০২১ খ্রিঃ।

"দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন" ২০০৬ এবং রেগুলেশনস ২০০৮ এবং তৃদীয় সংশোধনী আইন মোতাবেক ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বৎসরে ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের উইমেন সাপোর্ট এভ ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশনে ব্যবহারের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক আইটেমের জন্য ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকত খামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। এতদসংক্রান্তে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সমূহ নিম্লে প্রদন্ত হলোঃ

۶.	মন্ত্রণালয়	খরষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়	
ર.	সংহ্য	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ	
৩.	দরপত্র কর্তৃপক্ষ	উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা।	
8. ¢.	দরপত্র আইটেমের নামঃ দরপত্র আব্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	৫২,০০০/-(বায়ান্ন হাজার), গ্রুপ "গ" এর জন্য : "ঙ" এর জন্য ১৬,০০০(যোল হাজার), গ্রুপ "চ	ৰ ফ্লিপ "ক" এর জন্য ১,০০,০০০/-(এক লক্ষ), গ্রুপ-"খ"এর জন ১৭,০০০/-(সতের হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঘ" ১৬,০০০/-(যোল হাজার), গ্রু "এর জন্য ২৫,০০০/-(পঁচিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "ছ"এর জন্য ২৫,০০০/
৬.	টেডার সিকিউরিটি	(পঁচিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "জ"এর জন্য ২২,০০০/-(বাইশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঝ"এর জন্য ২২,০০০/-(বাইশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "গ্রু"এর জন্য ১৮,০০০/-(আঠারো হাজার), গ্রুপ "ট"এর জন্য ৪২,০০০/-(বিয়াল্লিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ ৩৫,০০০/-(পঁয়ত্রিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "ড"এর জন্য ১৫,০০০/-(পনের হাজার) গ্রুপ "ট"এর জন্য ৩২,০০০/-(বরিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "৭"এর জন্য ৬৫,০০০/-(পাঁয়য়টি হাজার), গ্রুপ "ত"এর জন্য ২২,০০০/-(বাইশ হাজার), এবং গ্রুপ "থ"এ জন্য ১৬,০০০/-(যোল হাজার)] (ফেরৎ যোগ্য) টাকা বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত যে কোন সিভিউল ব্যাংক এ পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার, উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনডেস্টিগেশন ভিভিশন, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ ঢাকা এর অনুকুলে দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে।	
۹.	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	প্রতি গ্রুপ আইটেম এর জন্য ৫০০/-(পাঁচ শত) টাকা (অফেরৎ যোগ্য)	
b.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উনুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)	
৯.	দরপত্রের অর্থের উৎস	পুলিশ হেডকোয়াটার্স কর্তৃক বরান্দকৃত অর্থ	
٥٥.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২১-০৬-২০২১ খ্রি: তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (১৭.০০ ঘটিকা) পর্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।	
<u>،</u>	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২২-০৬-২০২১ খ্রি: ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	
ડર.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২২-০৬-২০২১ খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা (দরপত্র দাতা অথবা তার প্রতিনিধির সম্মুথে যদি কেহ উপছিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।	
১৩.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার, উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, তেজাগাঁও থানা কমপ্লেক্স, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়।	
\$8.	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনডেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, তেজাগাঁও থানা কমপ্লেক্স, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাব্ধে।	
۵৫.	দরপত্র খোলার ছান	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনডেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন) এর কার্যালয়, তেজগাঁও থানা কমপ্লেক্স, ঢাকা।	
۵७.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা।	
ک ٩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার, উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা।	
ንኦ.	দরপত্র দাতার প্রাকযোগ্যতা	পিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং বর্তমান সংশোধনী মোতাবেক দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত দাশিলিক কাগজপত্রাদি প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবেঃ ক) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র খ) সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে সত্যায়িত ০৩টি নমুনা যাক্ষর গ) খলনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ঘ) টিআইএন নম্বর উল্লেখ সহ খলনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র ঙ) মৃসক (ভ্যাট) রেজিট্রেশন সনদপত্র চ) যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে খলসনের আর্থিক যচহলতার সনদপত্র (বিগত ০৩ মাসের লেনদেনের বিবরণী সহ) ছ) কোন সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষে ০২ বৎসরের মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র জ) নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে দরপত্র দাতা কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নহে, এই মর্মে ঘোষনাপত্র/অঙ্গীকারনামা দাখিল করতে হবে ঝ) দরপত্র দাতা কর্তৃক উন্থত একক মূল্যের হিসাব সংশ্রিষ্ট আইটেমের মোট সন্ধাব্য মূল্যের ৫% Liquid Asset (Working Capital) সংক্রান্ত ব্যাংকের আলাদা সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।	
১৯.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যমঃ	ফোন-৯১০৩০৫৭, ফ্যাক্স-৪৮১১৮৬৫৫, E-mail : vsc_dmp@yahoo.com উরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

স্বাক্ষরিত/ উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা