

The world needs to support the victims of climate change



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SALEEMUL HUQ

Dr Saleemul Huq is the director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

In the last few weeks, three separate cyclones hit the island of Madagascar and then Mozambique, causing loss of life and damage to infrastructure. Even in the UK, Storm Eunice caused much damage. These are just a few examples of the loss and damage attributable to human-induced climate change, and in every such incident, it is the victims who are paying the price.

Consider this: for every USD 100 of damage caused by an extreme climate event in an area, the full cost is immediately paid by the victims themselves. Then, if they are covered by insurance (which most people are not) they might get a partial amount of that cost as compensation—that, too, after waiting for a long time. If they are uninsured, then they may get support from their neighbours, their own government, and then the international community (who are usually the last to arrive to help).

In situations like this, neighbours' support is by far the most effective, as they can mobilise their support immediately. It is an interesting fact that poor people living in poor countries tend to have more solidarity among themselves than rich people in rich

countries. The second most effective support comes from the local and national government authorities soon after the disaster, as well as NGOs and humanitarian actors. The level of this support varies according to the capability of each country, and generally might cover no more than 20 percent of the losses suffered by the victims.

Support from the international community comes much later, and they often have to raise funds after the event to get any finance. The amount of funding they are able to raise depends on how much the global media covers an event. In terms of the proportion, it might be between five and eight percent of the losses that the victims suffer.

We are already in the era of loss and damage from human-induced climate change, as reported in August 2021. We need to be better prepared to avert, minimise and address such loss and damage going forward.

But unfortunately, the US and other developed countries refused to agree to set up the Glasgow Facility for financing such loss and damage, proposed by the vast majority of developing countries at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in Glasgow, Scotland in November last year. Instead, they only agreed to hold two years of more "blah, blah, blah"—as Swedish activist Greta Thunberg put it—through the Glasgow Dialogue.

However, there was a glimmer of hope provided by the Scottish government, with a contribution of two million



Local residents in the southwest parts of Bangladesh and the eastern parts of India suffered large-scale loss and damage when Cyclone Amphan hit the areas in 2020.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

pounds towards a new Loss and Damage Finance mechanism, which was augmented by contributions from a few international foundations and the province of Wallonia in Belgium.

This has enabled the start of a movement to address questions such as who needs to pay, who should manage the fund, who should receive the funds, and many others.

As for who should pay, I feel it's the moral responsibility of every conscious citizen in every country who can afford to do so, in whatever capacity possible. I would like to propose that we set up a crowdfunding scheme, whereby such individuals from every country can

contribute. There are quite a number of existing funds that could be good candidates for managing such loss and damage funds, including the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). My own preference would be a fund under the control of the vulnerable developing countries themselves, such as the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

The question of who should receive the funds is perhaps the easiest to answer, as the victims of climate-related disasters are quite self-evident, and the humanitarian sector is well able to deploy such funds effectively to the most deserving. It is important to note that as long as the funds are being donated in the spirit of solidarity (rather than compensation based on liability), there is no need to judge if a given disaster was due to human-induced climate change or just a natural event. Any victim should be eligible.

What is absolutely clear and unambiguous is that climate victims continue to pay the price for human-induced climate change, and it is incumbent on every conscious citizen of Earth to do something about it. This would be through a campaign for global citizen-to-citizen solidarity from a moral sense of duty to help the victims, rather than invoking compensation based on liability.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

'If I'm to choose between my freedom of speech and my job, I'd choose the first.'

Today, February 23, is the first death anniversary of noted journalist, columnist and author Syed Abul Maksud (1946-2021). To mark the occasion, we hereby publish a document that illustrates his courage and commitment to freedom of expression—his letter of resignation from Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), dated March 3, 2004. Syed Maksud quit the state news agency following government pressure for writing an article ("Attack on Humayun Azad—the Naked Face of Fascism") in Prothom Alo.

Sir, With due respect, I'd like to state that incidentally, within two hours of joining the BSS, the first meeting you attended was with me in relation to an article that I wrote, published on March 1 in Prothom Alo, titled "Attack on Humayun Azad—the Naked Face of Fascism". You even read out parts of the article that were "offensive". Personally, I have no complaints against you for this meeting that was held in the presence of the Chief Reporter and the General Manager. You said yourself that you were only carrying out the responsibility of the chair and that you were doing so based on directives from "upstairs".

I have, to my knowledge, never done anything that goes against the interest of our organisation or state. In my 32 years of employment, I have carried out the responsibilities given to me like a faithful servant. But outside the office, as a free citizen, I express my opinions in meetings and assemblies and through my writing. My criticisms may sometimes be against a person, a group or a collective, even though I don't entertain hatred for any person or leader despite differences of opinion. I also desire prosperity for the government. But I do not view the country, the nation, and the government as a single entity. It is my democratic and constitutional right to criticise actions by the government that go against the interest of the country and its people.

Following my discussion with you, I am having to decide if I want to express my free opinion or if I should put an end to my writing as ordered, and silently do my job in order to make a living. I have given it a lot of thought and decided to take the first path. If I chose not to protest against injustice in exchange for

a job, in exchange for the happiness and comfort of my family and loved ones, it would be a betrayal to the nation, to the many crores of oppressed, exploited, and sorry individuals of our country. In my 42 years as a writer, I have never knowingly betrayed my own conscience.

During the Pakistani regime, my insignificant role as a minor activist in the democratic movement of East Bengal's exploited people was known to student leaders and politicians of the time. Post-independence, during the two Awami League regimes, two BNP regimes and even under the regime of General Ershad, I have expressed my opinion as I am now. For this, the government or the BSS authorities have never created obstacles or put pressure on me. Now that the bright possibility of multi-party democracy is visible in Bangladesh, it is saddening to see such restrictions on freedom of expression. For this reason, I have decided to resign from my post before more problems arise in the workplace.

Today, now that I'm leaving the organisation, I'm reminded of my co-workers who are like siblings to me. Some of them have passed on to the afterlife. Some have willingly left the organisation. Many of them have been ruthlessly dismissed from their posts due to factionalism. I want to pay my respect to those who have passed away and express deep sympathy for those who have been dismissed. Through you, I want to pay my respect and gratitude to journalist and non-journalist co-workers, and to the district correspondents of the BSS.

Even though I did not get the opportunity to work with you, I hope your career at the BSS is successful and gracious. I bid farewell hoping for continued improvement and prosperity of the BSS."

Yours faithfully
[Signature]

(Syed Abul Maksud)
Deputy Chief News Editor
(Translated by Azmin Azran of The Daily Star.)



Syed Abul Maksud (1946-2021)

FILE PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Cumilla
Website: eed.moe.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

Date: 20/02/2022

Tender Notice No. 10/e-GP/EEED/CUM/ICT COLLEGE/2021-2022

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to the following date & time.

Tender ID	Lot/Package location (Name of institution)	Procurement method	Publication date & time	Tender document last selling/date & time	Tender closing date & time
657035	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Cumilla Mohila College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.00)
657036	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Cumilla Aijitguha College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.00)
657037	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Bamoil School & College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.00)
657038	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Dhanuakhola Adarsha Public College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.00)
657039	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Cumilla Housing Estate High School & College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.00)
657040	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Dollai Nowabpur College, Chandina, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.00)
657041	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Chandina Mohila Degree College, Chandina, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.00)
657042	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Jaforgonj Mir Abdul Gafur College, Debidwar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.30)
657043	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Mohammadpur Serajul Haque College, Debidwar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.30)
657044	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Boro Shaighor Adarsha College, Debidwar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.30)
657045	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Duania AG Model Academy, Debidwar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.30)
657046	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Alahabad College, Debidwar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.30)
657047	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Juranpur Adarsha Degree College, Daudkandi, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.30)
657048	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Borokota High School & College, Daudkandi, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (11.30)
657049	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Manikarchar College, Meghna, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.00)
657050	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Mozaffor Ali High School & College, Meghna, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.00)
657051	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Rehana Mozid Mohila College, Homna, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.00)
657052	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Gazipur Khan High School & College, Titas, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.00)
657053	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Chad Miah Molla Degree College, Muradnagar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.00)
657054	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Bodiol Alam Degree College, Muradnagar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.00)
657055	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Farid Uddin Sarker Degree College, Muradnagar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.00)
657056	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Kororpar Adarsha College, Muradnagar, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.30)
657057	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Gunoboti Degree College, Choudhagram, Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	24/02/2022 (22.00)	13/03/2022 (16.00)	14/03/2022 (12.30)

The provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPR-2008 including latest all amendment" and STD will be followed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Ali Imam
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Cumilla
E-mail: ee_com@eedmoe.gov.bd

GD-350