Climate change is all about 'power'



Dr Quamrul Haider is a professor of physics at Fordham University in New

QUAMRUL HAIDER

subsequent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions worldwide are growing at an alarming pace, even though the use of renewables like solar energy and wind power has expanded exponentially. Unfortunately, it has not been enough to offset the increased use of fossil fuels. Adding to our discomfort, the carbon dioxide that causes most global warming remains in the atmosphere for more than a century.

Instead of effectively tackling the issues related to climate change, world leaders have politicised it over the last 30 years. Some mocked climate change as a "Chinese hoax," some believe it is not anthropogenic, while others talk and act as if climate change will follow whatever is agreed upon by them at various conferences. Many also suggest that climate change is just part of the natural cycle, or climate models are unreliable, or climate scientists are manipulating the data. And members of the former US President Donald Trump's environmental team shamelessly described climate change as a "niche" issue in the press.

We don't have to be climate scientists to know that the Earth is inexorably warming, and humans are causing it. We also know that Earth's climate system is highly complex, and complex systems do not respond

THE use of fossil fuels and us worried about climate change, the evidence is right in front of us from record-breaking heat waves to increasingly extreme weather events.

Why do world leaders deny the evidence, even though climate scientists have made it clear that we are running out of time to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change? There are many complex reasons why they are not swayed by anything so prosaic as scientific facts. More importantly, they deny climate change because of their unholy alliance with the fossil fuel industry.

Documents prepared by the American Petroleum Institute (API), a trade organisation for the oil and gas industry, which were leaked in 1998, described the institute's plan to boost uncertainty about climate change. The documents describe strategy and plan of action so that "victory will be achieved when recognition of uncertainties [about climate science] becomes part of the conventional wisdom." The climate change deniers quickly adopted the strategy of sowing uncertainty and doubt as its preferred game plan for promoting distrust among people.

In 2003, a study published by Willie Soon, an astrophysicist affiliated with the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, suggested that climate change is driven by the Sun, a theory that most climate scientists to the whims of deniers. For those of immediately dismissed as hogwash.



More extreme weather events, such as the floods in Sylhet earlier this year, are evidence of the impacts of climate change. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Disagreements on climate science often are not really about climate. They are about how politicians interpret scientific results. The interpretation depends on whether the results support policies that bolster or undermine their political philosophies, religious beliefs and ties to the industries that are the biggest sources of planet-warming emissions. Additionally, the deniers are reluctant to accept the scientific consensus because of the "echo chamber" effect a situation where people surround themselves with information they want to hear and block out the rest. Their preferred source of information is conservative media outlets that

promote pseudoscience through sound bites, editorials, social media, and other forums.

That being said, fissures span across every dimension of the climate change debate, especially the deniers questioning the motivations that drive climate scientists to conduct their research. In other words, polarised views about climate issues stretch from the causes and cures for climate change to mistrust in climate scientists and their findings.

There are also major divides in the way partisans interpret the current scientific discussions over climate change, with the political left and political right having vastly divergent perceptions of scientific consensus,

Unsurprisingly, the study was funded debunk science, spread lies and differing levels of trust in the information they get from researchers, and different views as to whether it is the quest for knowledge or the quest for professional advancement that drives climate scientists in their work. This conflict gave rise to two groups: reactionaries led by the deniers, and progressives comprising the believers.

To the reactionaries, "climate change" is a highly charged term. Preferring to call it "extreme weather," they tend to push any action on climate change under the rug by putting up "strong national defence" arguments or "bad for business" alibis, or claim that "freedom and free markets are under attack." Besides, research on climate change is one of their favoured targets for defunding.

Their policies, shaped by money from the fossil fuel industries, will arguably bring rational thinking, liberalism and globalism to a screeching halt.

The progressives, such as the Greens, on the other hand, believe that finding ways around the obstacles created by the reactionaries is key to working towards any climate solution. To that end, they tried to convince the deniers that climate change is not a "right-wing issue or a left-wing issue; it is an everyone issue." Since they could not get the deniers onboard with this argument, they are now advocating bypassing failed political discourse and addressing the issue at the grassroots level – communities and neighbourhoods, in particular. Moreover, they want to be aggressive enough to bring about a rapid phase of global decarbonisation combined with generously funded technological and ecological innovations, be it nuclear fusion, nanotubes, geoengineering or

Who wins the fight against climate change will in large part depend on whoever has the greater political will as well as the power to transform that will into effective actions. However, it will be extremely difficult for the progressives to win as long as so many world leaders put their political ambitions ahead of human-induced climate change. Sadly, their dereliction will be the legacy they will leave behind for the future generations.

Finally, climate change has clearly become a game of political power. To save our crippled planet from the clutches of these politicians, we should use our power to shut down their power by voting them out of office. They are more of a threat to the planet than climate change is. Now is the time for action to make the colour of our planet green.

Recognise the diversity of the urban poor



Dr Shoshannah Kate Williams Programs at SAJIDA Foundation.

SHOSHANNAH KATE WILLIAMS

Let they were 10 years ago and all the urban poor live in slums. by 2030, more than half of the poor in Bangladesh will be urban where do they live? dwellers. Why is this important, and what can development programmes their families in slums, or a recently do to address this shift in poverty evicted family living in squatter dynamics?

Bangladesh has made some village sleeping on their rickshaw or considerable developments, with in a bachelor mess, guards sleeping the overall poverty rate falling by in the ATM booth or at the corner 1.2 percent annually since 2000. However, urban poverty has risen village living in a dormitory, an older from 36.1 to 41.4 percent between 2010 and 2016.

The country's rapid urbanisation, growing by 3.9 percent annually, is one key contributor. Additionally, the government and the development sector historically leaned towards addressing rural poverty, leading to a "neglect" of the urban poor, seen as a problem to be sent back to rural areas. This culminated in a lack of systemic thinking and integration of how government and NGOs can collaborate to ensure that adequate housing, health, education and social services are accessible to the urban poor.

The increase in urban poverty indicates exclusion of the segment by the nation's economic and social advances. As such, a comprehensive approach to alleviating urban poverty is a key frontier for development programmes, especially if Bangladesh is to meet its national target to reduce poverty to 15.6 percent by 2025. A recent report by the World Bank calls for new and innovative methods, including improving programme targeting, to address urban poverty.

Understanding the urban poor and how we define this incredibly complex, wide and varied group is an important first step to developing effective development programmes and policies. If programme designers, implementers or policymakers truly want to work with the urban poor, then understanding the challenges they face is critical.

In Bangladesh, when we think of urban poor, we typically think of people living in slums. However, it's not quite as simple. Someone's living location is only one way of poverty and if we use a spatial cost-effective interventions. Whilst impact. There are different types of

ORE people are living in definition, it's important to note extreme poverty now than that not all slums are similar and not

So, who are the urban poor and

settlements while figuring out where Firstly, it must be noted that to go next. Rickshaw-pullers from the of a building, RMG workers from the woman abandoned by family and living in one room at the edge of a slum, or a group of youth who formed their own family after escaping their families' violence, and are now living

> The government and the development sector historically leaned towards addressing rural poverty, leading to a "neglect" of the urban poor, seen as a problem to be sent back to rural areas. This culminated in a lack of systemic thinking and integration of how government and NGOs can collaborate to ensure that adequate housing, health, education and social services are accessible to the urban poor.

in a small shack. They're the women who escaped the workplace or faced partner violence and are now living in a railway station.

Despite this incredible diversity amongst the urban poor, the challenges they face and where they live, large scale urban poverty alleviation projects in Bangladesh tend to provide targeted interventions to large sized slums on government land. Why?

The obvious answer is that designing for one "type" of community or household means more straightforward operations, understanding and defining urban resulting in wider outreach and more

these measures inevitably result in failing to account for those who don't fall within the "norm".

One study found that one of Bangladesh's most famous urban poverty alleviation programmes failed to reach smaller, harder to access urban poor communities. Despite these communities being highly vulnerable – they were either too socially marginalised or lived on very precarious land to be included it was not efficient for the programme to go to these communities, due to high risks of eviction and mass migration, and thus it ended up "losing" participants.

Large scale urban poverty projects have focused on "communitylevel" interventions, specifically mobilising communities regarding infrastructural slum-upgrading projects, livelihood activities and building capacity of women to engage in advocacy at the local level. Whilst incredibly important and transformative interventions, these are not initially viable for communities at risk of eviction or have high levels of social fragmentation and low trust within the community. As a result, these highly vulnerable communities and families continued to be excluded by

programmes and its benefits. The urban poor have varied priorities. For example, SAJIDA Foundation's Urban Design team conducted a needs analysis with different urban poor communities, including pavement dwellers, squatter settlements, and smaller slums on private and public land, and captured what communities voiced as their priorities. The survey found that communities' priorities included infrastructural improvements (50 percent), access to affordable health care (100 percent), access to education (75 percent), addressing workplace exploitation and conditions (63 percent), and ensuring their communities were strong and supportive (38 percent).

Additionally, different families within a community had different priorities due to different situations, households and needs. Some would benefit most from sizeable economic investment into their microbusiness, others investing in their children's education and health. Some needed greater support for women to engage in livelihoods, or older members to be linked with social safety nets.

We need to stop viewing poverty alleviation as a formulaic process that can be emulated across all communities or households, and expected to have a similar

health, social, gendered and living work in collaboration with this by the urban poor.

this is an important consideration communities, households and needs condition dimensions. There is population to define priorities, goals enabling a large number of urban within this group of people grappling instead a need to firstly understand and how services can be tailored to poor households to receive benefits, with issues that have economic, who you are designing for, and then meet the many complex needs faced



The Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (the "Purchaser") now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of SPC Poles (the "Goods"). The Goods are grouped into different Lots. Bidders have the option of submitting the Bids for one, any combination, or all of the lots. Lots shall not be further sub divided for bidding purposes. Goods to be delivered in designated project sites within Bangladesh as follows:

| Package No | Lot No. | of Goods | Delivery Location | Quantity | contract signing |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|---|------------|---|
| MCEP/BREB/KD- G-22 | MCEP/BREB/KD-G-22-01 | SPC Poles | As per Delivery location included in Section 6 of the Bidding Document | 24300 Nos. | 50% of Unit of each Lot within 16 weeks and remaining 50% of each unit within 20 weeks. |
| | MCEP/BREB/KD-G-22-02 | SPC Poles | | 24300 Nos. | |
| | MCEP/BREB/KD-G-22-03 | SPC Poles | | 24297 Nos. | |

3 Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's <u>Single-Stage</u>: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from The Project Director (e-mail: pdmoep.kd.reb@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours (Except Friday & Saturday) at the address given below. Bidding Document is also available at BREB's website i.e. http://www.reb.gov.bd However the web version of the bidding document is for information purpose only.

5 The Pre-Bid meeting shall be held at Brig Gen. Sabihuddin Ahmed Hall (Auditorium, 1st floor), Head Office Building, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka on 11 October 2022 at 11:00 hours local time (Local Time: Bangladesh). 6 Only eligible Bidders (either manufacturer or supplier) having the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

(i) The Bidder (in case of JV, each partner) shall demonstrate that the goods offered have been in production for at least three (ii) The Bidder shall at least have experience in supplying similar goods having value as described below in maximum three contract, within the last three (3) years and at least the amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility or their combination mentioned against Package/Lot:

| Package No | Lot No | Maximum 03 Contract Value at least (US\$ Million) | Liquid Asset (US\$ Million) |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| DANGE DAME BULL FROM THE | MCEP/BREB/KD-G-22-01 | 3,10 | 1:90 |
| MCEP/BREB/KD-G-22 | MCEP/BREB/KD-G-22-02 | 3.10 | 1.90 |
| | MCEP/BREB/KD-G-22-03 | 3.10 | 1.90 |

Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

- To purchase a complete set of the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders should:
- submit a written application to the address below pay a nonrefundable fee of equivalent US\$ 50.00 for each package. The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Pay Order in
- favor of Project Director, MCEP (Khulna Division) Project, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Dhaka. For overseas delivery, the bidder may obtain the bidding document by instructing any international courier service to collect the same from Office of the Project Director, MCEP (Khulna Division) Project, 5th Floor, Executive Building, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

 Bidding Document last selling Date on 30 October 2022 at 15:00 Hours local time (Local Time: Bangladesh). Bids must be submitted to the Brig Gen. Sabihuddin Ahmed Hall (Auditorium), 1st floor, Head Office Building, BREB, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh on or before 31 October 2022 at 11:00 Hours (local Time: Bangladesh). Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the same address on 31 October 2022 at 11:30 Hours (Local Time:

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount as described in the Bidding Document. Bidders participating in multiple lots shall submit the bid security of each lot separately. In case, amount is in any currency other than USD, a selling exchange rate issued by Bangladesh Bank, 28 days prior to bid submission shall be used.

When comparing Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the

The Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board Will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred in connection with the



বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD वामविदवा/कम (-२२०२) = २००-) २०२२-२०२७

Project Director, MCEP (Khulna Division) Project, 5th Floor, Executive Building, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, City: Dhaka-1229, Country: Bangladesh. Telephone: +88-02-8900336 E-mail: pdmcep.kd.reb@gmail.com

GD- 175