Those who are familiar with my writing know

that I am not a big fan of bureaucracy, either

civil or military. Although I recognise the

advantages of comprehensive systemic checks

and balances for prudent decision-making,

I believe the system primarily depends on

institutional memory. Any incoming officer

with idealist vision and indomitable passion

to change the system soon learns that

conformity and compliance are the rules of

the game. They become a cog in the wheel,

depiction of a young Roman officer who

gets surprised that his colleagues are better

off documenting everything in triplicate on

stone tablets rather than going to fight. As a

young soldier, he is dying to meet and kill his

enemies. However, once battered, he simply

picks up his chisel and begins writing reports

in stone. The Roman centurion in Asterix

in Spain experiences a harsh reality. The

Romans taught the British. The British taught

the use of carbon papers in typewriters to do

the triplicates. Today, a digital CC is enough.

Interestingly, I am writing this piece while

sitting in what was once considered to be the

Western tip of the world: A Coruna in Spain.

The Galician flag represents the westernmost

trading port with a setting sun. The Romans

And bureaucracy has not changed much.

In one series of *Asterix*, there is a satirical

repeating what they are supposed to do.

Spare us the hypocrisy

Dr Shamsad Mortuza is professor of English at Dhaka

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

Spain; Christopher Columbus dared to cross the Atlantic Ocean to open new frontiers for

So here I am sitting in Spain, at the juncture of the end of the old world and the beginning of the new world. Here, I am surfing the internet to get news from home. This investigative report by DW on our

BLOWIN IN THE WIND later, in the ninth century, they built a for them to conduct a background check cathedral in his honour. But it is also from on every member of their troops involved. The DW report was fuming at the idea that Bangladesh earned \$4.5 billion from its military personnel who might have been guilty of human rights violations.

At the height of political arson and anarchy that engulfed the country, Rab came into existence. Crossfire became a buzzword, and every day our national news parroted the

such as the contract killings by individual officers in Narayanganj. There are reports of the forced disappearance of political activists. Another DW report stemmed from the flow of such missing individuals.

However, DW's attempt to act as the moral police from a Western perspective leaves me wondering: are you overlooking the broader picture? I understand the burden of guilt with which Germany treads the Holocaust memory carefully. But how can you discuss human rights violations when you have nothing to say about 40,000 dead in Gaza? How do you respond to soldiers killing 45 refugees in a refugee shelter in Rafah, a father clutching his daughter's decapitated body against an inferno, or when 600 inmates perish by 2,000-pound bombs? At a time when the world is witnessing genocide, which will eventually need a UN intervention, you criticise a country that supplies soldiers for the most difficult areas where your own soldiers do not want to go? You criticise a government that earns its salaries through hard work in hazardous conditions. They are not your e-genies, trading in cryptocurrencies to make billions. Haven't you heard about what the British soldiers or the Americans have done in Kenya or Iraq? You must pick Bangladesh to prove your moral superiority. Seriously?

Human rights violations are a universal phenomenon. I find it problematic when individuals selectively promote certain ideas with the intention of harming a country's reputation and economy. A single accident at a garment factory can trigger-and rightly—a flurry of compliance issues. But as our entrepreneurs will tell you, our Western buyers will not give them any extra cent for the investments the factories are making in improving their working conditions. They will shove tons and tons of bureaucratic certificates at you to force you to comply. In the end, they will see their own benefits.

I am not a big fan of bureaucracy. I chose academia because I could distance myself from it. At a time when the International Court of Justice faces daily defamation and neglect by the West-the same West which has reached its nadir, revealing its hypocrisies daily—we require visionary global leaders who can defy the established hierarchy and devise a solution to protect human rights across the board. Change must come from the centre. If you fail to do so, there will be new centres to

form new circles. As I sit here at the intersection of the West, I begin to envision a future free from



Palestinians search for food among burnt debris in the aftermath of an Israeli strike on an area designated for displaced people, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on May 27, 2024.

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called the tip of the Iberian peninsula Cape military personnel who serve in the UN Peace same old narrative of killing in self-defence. Finisterre, to denote "finis terrae" (End of the Earth). Hence, Julius Caesar thought it important to build a lighthouse, named after Hercules, on the shore of the North Atlantic, thinking this was the place where the world ends. The belief was so strong that one of Jesus Christ's apostles, St James, wanted to be buried here, which led to the construction of Santiago de Compostela. His disciples brought his remains from Jerusalem, and

Corps is available. The gist of the report is pretty straightforward: some of the military soldiers participating in these missions in various conflict-ridden territories around the world were allegedly involved in extrajudicial killings while they were serving in the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). DW sought a comment from the UN to verify the allegations, but the international bureaucratic organisation responded by stating that it was not feasible

I asked one of my army friends why they used the same narrative every time there is a crossfire. He replied candidly that their legal team had suggested it. Their plights bear a striking resemblance to those of the Roman soldier in Asterix: documentation precedes action. But facts remain: Rab's intervention helped us get out of a dark phase of a national crisis. Indeed, there are allegations of institutional and individual abuses of power,

SBTi debate has major implications for RMG suppliers

RMG NOTES

Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

Science Based Targets initiative emissions while also hitting business (SBTi), a corporate climate action organisation, which could have significant implications garment manufacturers around the world, depending on how it plays out. The SBTi is the world's best-known initiative that supports global enterprises in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions in line with sciences aligned with global agreements such as the Paris Agreement. Many of the world's largest fashion brands have set science-based targets for 2030 and beyond.

The biggest challenge in meeting these targets has been in reducing Scope 3 emissions—in supply chains, essentially. For fashion brands, reducing the amount of CO2 emissions related to garment production and textile processing is a huge task, especially given that so much of this manufacturing takes place in countries that use "dirty" energy such as fuel and gas.

Up until now, the SBTi has indicated that in order to meet their science-based targets, signatories must make absolute reductions in their carbon emissions. In order to do this, they would need to support their supply chains in the transition to renewable energy sources.

This is no easy task. It also explains why fashion brands have been in prolonged conversations with their suppliers in recent years to look at how they can measure and reduce carbon emissions.

Recently, however, the SBTi issued a statement suggesting they would, moving forward, allow voluntary carbon offsetting schemes to contribute to CO2 emissions reduction targets in supply chains. This news was significant for the fashion industry as many brands are carbon offset schemes to be used

A row has broken out about the indeed struggling to reduce Scope 3 growth targets.

> The SBTi said that, when properly supported by policies, standards and procedures based on scientific evidence, the use of environmental attribute certificates for abatement purposes on Scope 3 emissions could function as an additional tool to tackle climate change. Consequently, SBTi decided to extend their use for the purpose of abatement of Scope 3 emissions.

After the SBTi issued this statement, there was a huge uproar among environmental activists. They claimed that by allowing carbon offsetting to contribute towards emission abatement, the SBTi was taking a huge risk. Why? Because it has long been argued that carbon offsetting schemes are not trustworthy and poorly regulated.

Indeed, in recent years, we have seen a number of scandals whereby such schemes were shown to be bogus and/or contributing very little to environmental causes. Environmentalists are also concerned that many such schemes take place in remote parts of the

world, so are difficult to monitor. After the backlash, the SBTi responded quickly and issued another statement. This time, it said it was reviewing the situation and would update its guidance later this year. For now, it seems that we are back to a situation where carbon offsets are not allowed to be used in lieu of absolute reductions in carbon emissions.

Why is all this important? It's actually a huge debate for fashion supply chains—and suppliers in Bangladesh.

If the SBTi were to choose to allow

to help brands meet their climate goals, the pressure to directly cut supply chain emissions would be greatly reduced. I am not suggesting that fashion brands would take the easy road and rely solely on offsets in order to meet their climate targets. What I do think, however, is that brands would suddenly feel they had breathing space after several years during which they have struggled to balance business priorities with the need to reduce their carbon

So what now? From what I have learnt so far, even many Western nations are finding it challenging to meet the ambitious climate goals they have signed up for. Shifting to renewable energy is a slow and cumbersome process. We are talking about a completely new way of doing things as we dismantle the energy infrastructure which fuelled the industrial revolution.

I am all for progress and as many of my colleagues and friends will know, I have spent more than a decade championing environmental causes. I am also, however, a pragmatist. The way I see it, the only way some industries are going to reduce their emissions in the short term is to stop growing, period. This would mean recession and major societal upheaval. Do we want that?

Perhaps there is a middle way. Maybe the climate offsetting schemes that have been discredited in the past could be improved. What if countries collectively pump billions into tree-planting and reforestation? What if huge amounts of money is invested in new carbon capture technologies so we can find out whether they work or not, and the level of impact they can have? I see no reason why such schemes could not at least provide a partial solution. There is always a way, but I agree fully that poorly regulated offset schemes cannot be allowed to derail environmental goals.

My advice to the SBTi would be to open up a debate on this issue. Invite the experts on board and ensure that all discussions take place in an open and transparent manner. These issues affect us all, and discussions around them should not take place behind closed doors.

GD- 914

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division Rangamati

E-mail: dfochts@gmail.com

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

Invitation for Tender

						ted: 02/6/2024
	Ministry/Division			Ministry of Environment, F	Forest and Climate Char	nge.
2	Agency			Bangladesh Forest Department.		
3	Procuring entity name		Divisional Forest Officer, Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division Rangamati.			
4	Invitation for			Supply of service workers through outsourcing		
5	Invitation Ref No.			12/Revenue (Outsourcing) of 2023-2024 Date: 02/6/2024.		
KEY	INFORMATION					
6	Procurement meth	od		Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
FUN	DING INFORMATION	N				
7	Budget and source	of funds		GOB		
PAR	TICULAR INFORMA	TION				
8	Tender Package No.			South/2023-24/S1		
9	Tender package name			Supply of service workers through outsourcing		
10	Tender publication date			03/6/2024		
11	Tender last selling date			23/6/2024 up to 4.00pm		
12	Tender dropping & closing date and time			24/6/2024, 09.00am to 1.00pm		
13	Tender opening date and time 24/6/2024, 2.00pm					
14	Name & address o					
	- Selling tender document			Rangamati Sadar Range, CHT South Forest Division, Rangamati.		
	- Receiving tender document			(1) Office of the Conservator of Forest, Rangamati Circle. Rangamati(2) Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, CHT South Forest Division Rangamati.		
	- Opening tender document			Office or the Divisional Forest Officer, Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division, Rangamati.		
INFC	RMATION FOR TEN	IDERER				
15	Eligibility of tenderer			 Tenderers will be the firms having minimum 3 (three) yea experience of manpower supply through outsourcing. Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contra under the Applicable Law. Tenderers will be the firm having licence from Department Inspection for factories and establishments. Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes & VA under the Provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. Others eligibility are mentioned in Tender Document. 		
16	Brief description of services			Supply of service workers through outsourcing (Despatch Rider-01 N & Mali - 08 Nos.)		
17	Price of tender document			Tk. 1000.00 (one thousand) Taka only (non-refundable)		
	Package No.	Identification of Package		Location	Tender security amount	Completion time weeks/months
	South/202324/S1	Outsourcing service workers		ng Hill Tracts South ivision, Rangamati	56000.00 (fifty-six thousand) Taka only.	12 months
	CURING ENTITY DE	TAILS				
PRO				Dr. Md. Zahidur Rahman Miah		
PRO 18	Name of official inv	iting tender		Dr. Md. Zahidur Rahman	IVIIari	
	1			Dr. Md. Zahldur Rahman Divisional Forest Officer	IVIIdTI	
18	Name of official inv	cial inviting tender				gamati.

The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings

Dr. Md. Zahidur Rahman Miah Divisional Forest Officer Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division Rangamat Phone: 0233-3371125