

Rebuilding Umm Qasr

The first sign of rift between US and UK

A further question mark has been put on the trustworthiness of the coalition rhetoric...

While the Americans want a firm from their own country to handle the matter, the British insist on the port being placed under Iraqi control once normality is restored.

The American plan will make the millions of bitter critics of the war, already disgusted with the deaths and destruction in Iraq, even more suspicious.

That is a future possibility, but there is no doubt that the war has already been a disaster for Iraqis facing the firepower of the mightiest nation on earth.

And there are signs that the US administration is showing unusual sensitivity to the happenings in and around Iraq.

Trouble at universities

Administration should play a more effective role

We are deeply concerned about the situations in two leading universities of the country for the last few days.

When we know that Rajshahi University campus was a stronghold of Chatra Shibir for many years.

On the other hand, at Jahangir Nagar University near Dhaka, the teachers have been on strike with demands of resignation of the Vice Chancellors and other administrators.

Casualties of Iraq war

KAZI ANWARUL MASUD

THAT the forces of the "coalition of the willing" would only stop after the fall of Baghdad and demolition of Saddam's regime is crystal clear to all.

One of the casualties of the Iraq war has been the growing Russian distrust of American hegemonic attempts to impose its will over the rest of the world.

Putin's reference to ends and means has been supported, albeit in a different context by John Steinberger of the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (Confusing Ends and Means: The Doctrine of Coercive Pre-emption Jan/ Feb 2003 - Arms Control Today).

Putin's opinion was further

elaborated by a Russian political commentator (Dovr Flagenhauer - Bush's Brezhnev Doctrine March 20, 2003).

and the 1991 Gulf War could, perhaps, have been prevented if timely pre-emptive actions had been taken.

It is ironic that the dawn of the new century should witness the gravest crisis of confidence in the UN system.

other UNSC members and the world at large. The assumption by the US of its role as "undisputed world hegemon" has displaced the international order so far based on East-West balance of terror and the recognition of absolute state sovereignty.

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Department, because in an era of WMD, definitions within the traditional framework of the use of force in self-defence and the concept of pre-emption must adapt to the nature and capabilities of present day threats.

Basic argument remains that terrorism cannot be fought by actions of terroristic nature as it would serve the interest of the terrorists who want to exploit the target's natural impulse to retaliate.

Curiously Anne-Marie Slaugher, President of the American Society of International Law has described Bush administration's Iraq venture "as illegal but legitimate".

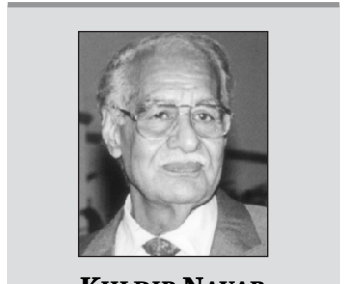
rejected by the conscience of a large part of humanity long before the UN Charter was framed, and when weapons go into action the need for rules which can make the conduct of warfare less inhuman becomes imperative.

EU Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten told the European Parliament (on 20th March) of EU's agreement that the UN must remain at the centre of international order.

the European Parliament of Tony Blair's remarks in the British House of Commons that there should be new UN resolutions following any conflict providing not just for humanitarian help but also for the administration and governance in Iraq, which must be done under proper UN authorisation.

All said and done if the US led "coalition of the willing" want to concretise the Azores Summit vision for Iraq and the Iraqi people to build a new Iraq lifted from insecurity and tyranny; an Iraq with its rich mix of different people enjoying freedom, prosperity and equality; an Iraq where all would share the national wealth; then close cooperation of international institutions, United Nations, NATO allies and donors would be necessary.

US damaged more than UN



KULDIP NAYYAR writes from New Delhi

HOW to pick up pieces of the debris that the war in Iraq has strewn is the problem facing the humanity.

Yet America has lost much more. Strong international denunciation of hostilities has been a stunning blow to its prestige.

confined to disarming the country. There was no authorisation of the attack. But Washington acted otherwise.

France, Germany and Russia the three permanent members of the Security Council -- more or less said that they were hoodwinked.

General had the same impression when he recalled from Iraq the UN personnel and weapon inspectors.

sheer propaganda. No such weapon has been found. In fact, the American troops had started action without waiting for the final report of weapon inspectors.

days of war, Washington does not feel any need for introspection. It was confident of riding the storm of protests.

To cover up aggression, the US still calls the war against Iraq a pre-emptive strike. Nobody buys this argument.

less a challenge. So Washington is a bit defensive. The debate is getting switched to legitimacy, not legality.

including women and children. Pragmatism, the word used by the Indian Prime Minister, is a good policy to adopt when the issues do not suppress principles.

The first thing that Washington has to do is to legitimise what it has done. The question of authorisation of war does not arise.

when Washington does not want to do anything to make up for the war. This is a situation where a Jawaharlal Nehru is needed, not an Atal Behari Vajpayee who is willing to strike but afraid to wound.

Britain and France tried to appropriate the Suez Canal through their joint military action in 1956.

the question is that of naming the aggressor.

sition of rule on any country or people will fail. In the present circumstances this will lead to a trend which no country, no people can escape.

In this context, I was shocked to hear the views of former Pakistan Foreign Minister Gauhara Ayub during a TV programme from Islamabad.

Gauhara, a political leader in Pakistan, could have suggested that the countries in the region should join hands to develop a viable defence against such powers which might be on the prowl after the war in Iraq.

Kuldip Nayyar is an eminent Indian columnist.

TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Transparency International, think again

The front-page picture of a baby with a burned face speaks volumes of the USA's human rights conformity. This so-called World leader is nothing but a hypocrite.

He is a decent businessman who has so far made some really bad buys. First of all, the media he has purchased is now confused as to what stance they must take.

Mohammad Isam Dhanmondi, Dhaka War of "liberation"

or reconstruction?

As the war of "liberation" continues, the war of reconstruction seems to have emerged between the "coalition" and the EU.

Iraq will certainly need to be reconstructed, and costs will be paid by its oil. In the process Iraq will lose its natural resources at a price determined by the new US

friendly "administrators" of Iraq, and in return it will be "forced" to receive the services from the US based Multinational companies.

The silent sponsors of this "liberation" war. Ultimately the cost of the war will be recovered, perhaps with a little profit at the end, like the previous Gulfwar in 1991.

The war of hypocrisy

The United States, possessing the world's largest armoury of inter-continental ballistic missiles and undeclared nuclear and biochemical weapons, has no right to push the disarmament of any nation.

This is sheer hypocrisy. Despite global dissent, the unilateral attack on Iraq's sovereignty by the United States must be regarded as "international terrorism" and condemned accordingly.

If this arm-twisting goes on, then the sovereignty of any nation weaker than the USA would be at peril.

England tour in Bangladesh

The tourists are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on 8 October.

The first Test will be played there starting 21 October, followed by the second match in the southern city of Chittagong beginning on 29 October.

The two sides will also meet for three limited-overs games on 7, 10 and 12 November.

It will be the first time the two teams have met in Tests since the Tigers were given full International Cricket Council member status in 2000.

Their only previous meeting, a one-day fixture in the 2000 ICC Knockout Trophy in Nairobi, resulted in an eight-wicket win for England.

Bangladesh have not won a Test or one-day match since gaining Test status in 2000.

affected draw the other result.

Skipper Khaled Mashud tendered his resignation following Bangladesh's abysmal World Cup campaign.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board will have to find a replacement in time for a triangular one-day tournament, taking place in Dhaka from 11-20 April, involving South Africa and India.

The Tigers will then face South Africa for two Tests on 24-28 April in Chittagong and 1-5 May in the capital.

About the war

Despite worldwide opposition, the war found its place on the cycle of history as a geo-political reality of our time whether we like it or not.

However, I dare to make some honest comments to all Bangladeshi readers as a resident of USA, and who happened to be able to talk with several US military personnel--both officers and enlisted ranks.

My summary is: a good soldier and any good general always try to avoid war.

In a sense America seems to be the ultimately responsible and a lot of discussion will continue in the generations to come about the whole mess. But I advise my fellow Bangladeshis to research and analyse before making any assumption about America just based on this war.

As the media of our third world countries depict, American soldiers are NOT heartless brutes. Yes, they kill as their profession dictates; at the same time, they have strict orders to avoid civilian casualties. Yes, they were not successful always, but I strongly believe they tried to save civilians whenever they could and they did whenever they can.

Although America's war is unjustified, yet it should not prompt us to consider Saddam and his regime as something better. It's very odd that we find great joy in criticising America's astray missile hits in civilian area (which is a terrible thing to happen, no

doubt), but we never spoke about Saddam's torture, and terror on his own people.

Many readers will use post Sept 11 prisoners from Afghanistan as examples of American brutality (and it was brutal in strict humanitarian contexts). But also understand that they were treated much better at the Guantanamo Bay prison cells that they would have been by any war lord in their home country.

So the summary is: war is bad, but that does not mean Saddam is good. And the American soldiers are fighting a bad war does not mean they are animals, irrespective of what the media says. As for Mr. Bush, I hope he will try to use wisdom of the world, rather than that of the White House. Again, that's not the point of my letter anyway.

Tirtho Mahmood Berkeley, USA

"How I will fight Bush" I will do the following and encourage others who are filling The Daily Star Letter Page with their strong

Anti-American rhetoric to do the same.

1. Boycott all American/British food products including American beverages.

2. Refuse to accept any remittance coming from USA and UK.

3. Ask our family members who had migrated legally/Illegally to US/UK to return home.

4. Stop interfering and nagging about US registration policy aimed at catching illegal immigrants.

5. Boycott all American/UK aid in the forms of charity for the poor.

6. Stop applying in millions for DV Lottery.

7. Stop watching English movies and start watching Arabic ones.

Noori Mostofa Louisville, Edison, NJ