

Of sheep and men

KoIchiRo MATSUURA

DOLLY is dead. The most famous sheep in the world, also the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell, was put down in February of this year. This happened shortly after the birth of a cloned baby was announced to the public, though never verified.

and around this question hopes and reservations cluster and clash. Are we running the risk of turning human embryos into the supermarket stalls of future organ sales?

scientific progress is a preliminary condition for any joint research in the area of bioethics. This is the spirit in which we are currently working on a declaration on genetic data, since the use of such data -- if not properly managed -- could give rise to new forms of discrimination.

Humans cannot be made to order...Man is not just any mammal. Animals can be reproduced through cloning. But humans are shaped by education, science and culture. Not by cloning.

Conned by the neocons!

DR. FAKHRUDDIN AHMED writes from Princeton

LENITENCE is good for the soul, so says all the religious scriptures. President George W. Bush, self-described "man of God" is having a tough time expressing contrition, admitting mistakes or coming down from the pedestal.

tant concession Bush should make isn't about money or control -- it's about truth-telling. He squandered American credibility by selling a war of choice as a war of necessity.

Iraqis resisting American occupation as "terrorists" adds to the confusion. The writer has repeatedly stated that suicide bombing is morally repugnant and religiously forbidden.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

President Bush and his subordinates still believe that they can tap dance their way out of the Iraqi disaster. While appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations committee on September 9, all Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz would talk about was how great things are in Iraq for the Iraqis.

May be it is time for him to do a couple of things he's never done before, like admitting mistakes and standing up to the hard right (neocons)."

Impacts of erosion are eventually translated into enormous vulnerabilities raising challenges the nation has to face in realising benefits from its development programmes.

TLM burial well-deserved ... But have lessons been learned?

MANZOOR AHMED

IN a press briefing on 7 September, Prof. Jahanara Begum, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Primary and Mass Education announced the decision to discontinue the Total Literacy Movement (TLM).

TLM has been axed, but the inconsistency and irony of continuing to defend the proclaimed achievements of TLM in rapid increases in the literacy rate in the course of five years have escaped the officials of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

TLM did not fulfil its promise because of the way it was designed -- a government administration-run campaign to offer courses of six months to teach rudiments of literacy and ordering every one to attend.

education and many of them also participated in TLM or other adult literacy activities. In cases where a learner depended exclusively on TLM, there was negligible gain in literacy, according to the EW study.

By resisting the urge to gloat and utter, "We told you so," the world has demonstrated far more class and maturity than the Bush administration.

ingly concerned about the hidden agenda of the Israeli-oriented, mostly Jewish, neocons, who masquerade as Republican hardliners. Says Dowd: "Some of the father's old circle are thinking about forming a Republican group that would speak out against the neocons."

Dr. Rubaiul Murshed. All health information to keep you up to date. Around the world Kidney patients According to a recent American study, acute kidney failure patients treated with diuretics are about three times more likely to die or suffer irreversible organ failure than patients who are not put on the drugs.

Dr. Rubaiul Murshed. All health information to keep you up to date. Around the world Kidney patients According to a recent American study, acute kidney failure patients treated with diuretics are about three times more likely to die or suffer irreversible organ failure than patients who are not put on the drugs.

Containing coastal and estuarine erosion Need for a strategy

MD. SAEEDUR RAHMAN

EROSION is caused by the hydro-morphological inputs such as river discharges, astronomical tides, storm waves and infrequent extreme events. The Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna (GBM) rivers system discharge varies from 10,000 m3/s during dry-season to more than 100,000 m3/s during the wet.

the asset provide. The vulnerabilities stemming from the coastal and estuarine erosion makes the public and private development efforts continuously repetitive, distract community interests and cause readily unsustainable, mounting pressures on national initiatives.

control measures rose as high as almost 40 per cent of the total allocation in 1998 - 99. The political ecology seems to have a role in such sporadic erosion control measures taken up by political gimmicks.

Impacts of erosion are eventually translated into enormous vulnerabilities raising challenges the nation has to face in realising benefits from its development programmes.

Unfortunately there is neither a policy nor even a strategy for coastal and estuarine erosion control. Erosion control attempts are made in isolation only while it is at the break-even point or becomes inevitable.

on. Weak design and unrealistic premises appear to plague these projects also. One of the design problems, of course, is the presumption regarding literacy skills of the participants.

The public and media discussion following the Education Watch literacy report has been largely in favour of the government bringing together researchers and specialists to take an honest look at and come to a consensus on the literacy situation.

The writer is the Convener of Education Watch.

The New York Times' Maureen Dowd poses some serious questions for President Bush: "Does Mr. Bush ever wonder if the neocons duped him and hijacked his foreign

Adds Krugman: "The most impor-

Next: Migraine



All health information to keep you up to date

Around the world

Kidney patients

According to a recent American study, acute kidney failure patients treated with diuretics are about three times more likely to die or suffer irreversible organ failure than patients who are not put on the drugs.

The therapy is standard practice in up to three-quarters of US hospitals, but there is little strong evidence to encourage its use, and the drugs may even be toxic to the patients, according to the study.

According to researchers, even if they are not, they may mask the true extent of the problem in some patients by taking over the function of the kidneys, increasing the amount of urine produced, leading doctors in intensive care units to "underestimate" the severity of renal injury when urine output is sustained.

The study also questioned whether patients on diuretics -- which help the body get rid of excess liquid -- are losing time that would be better spent on dialysis.

In their review, the Californian researchers found that the ones given diuretics typically wasted a day or two before being put on dialysis -- a process by which the blood is mechanically filtered to remove waste -- as physicians waited for the patients to the diuretic therapy.

Did you know?

If you wear contact lenses, be sure to clean them faithfully each night and according to your physician's directions.

Next: Migraine

natural protection to erosion of the beach as well as break waves that cause propagation of erosion to coastal infrastructure at the backshore. Mangrove and non-mangrove forestry also provides protection to shore.

the coast of Bangladesh is not compatible to a simple solution to such erosion ubiquitously. Location specific solutions to erosion with improved designs anchored by non-engineering components such as afforestation, community participation and awareness growing are indicative to be effective and sustainable.

There are two general types of coastal and estuarine erosion protection: hard and soft. A "hard" protection device utilises concrete and rock in a variety of configurations to absorb or dissipate erosive forces, generally in the form of seawalls or revetments.

Additionally, protective devices are often constructed on an emergency basis during intense flood, wave or current generated erosive activities without proper engineering or appropriate materials. This

in some instances, development is sited in unstable, erosion-prone areas that eventually may be damaged or destroyed by hydrodynamic processes acting on the estuary and the coast.

hazard avoidance planning and response strategies addresses the effects of erosion, but they do not address beach erosion. In those situations where hazard avoidance and relocation are not viable options, protection strategies are the only option to reduce the loss due to erosion.

hazard avoidance planning and response strategies addresses the effects of erosion, but they do not address beach erosion. In those situations where hazard avoidance and relocation are not viable options, protection strategies are the only option to reduce the loss due to erosion.

Md Saeedur Rahman is Project Director, Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project, BWDB