

## FOCUS

## Why did Milosevic Accept the Demands of NATO

by Harun ur Rashid

prosecution of war crimes from NATO countries.

The NATO countries are expected to prepare a resolution at the Security Council to enable to proceed with the international presence in Kosovo as soon as the Serbian forces are withdrawn. The NATO peace-keeping forces were ready in Macedonia to go into Kosovo within 24 hours.

President Milosevic could have agreed the peace plan prior to NATO's bombing on March 24 as the core demands of NATO remained the same and accepted by the President.

The sticky point to President Milosevic was the proposal of the presence of international forces in Kosovo, replacing the Serb's armed forces. After 72 days of bombing he had to swallow the bitter pill and the acceptance was seen as capitulation by the President to NATO's demands.

The leader of the right wing party and Deputy Premier of Serbia Vojislav Seselj said: "We shall not sit in the government and await the arrival of NATO troops into Kosovo." On the other hand, Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic, the dismissed deputy Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, welcomed the peace plan and considered the acceptance of the demands would usher in a new beginning for politics in his country.

The reaction of the Kosovar refugees to the peace plan appears to be indifferent. They do not trust President Milosevic and to them only action will

prove the success of the plan. Most of them want to return to Kosovo if there is a strong NATO presence in Kosovo capable of providing security guarantees for them. The Kosovo Liberation Army hold the same view.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was under severe criticism in Moscow as he was seen surrendering the interests of Serbs to the demands of NATO. However he continues to defend the criticism by stating that the presence of Russian troops will look after the interests of Serbs.

The question in every one's mind is: why did President Milosevic accept the plan now? There are several possible reasons.

President Milosevic thought that the unity of NATO would crack within a few weeks of bombing. Yugoslavia's ally Greece was a member of NATO and he had the impression that it would not support prolonged NATO bombing.

The President was surprised that after 72 days of bombing the unity and solidarity with 19 countries including Greece in NATO remained strong.

Even Yugoslavia's neighbours and non-NATO countries, such as

Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria supported NATO's bombing and offered their territories for the use of NATO.

President Milosevic appears to have miscalculated the reaction of Russia to NATO's bombing. The initial sharp reaction of Russia dwindled gradually as the bombing progressed. Russia could not go against the tide of world opinion towards the Yugoslav's policy of "ethnic cleansing".

President Milosevic was increasingly seen as inhuman and cruel when the TV footage displayed the horrible plight of the Kosovar women and children beamed in every corner of the globe.

On the public relations front, Yugoslavia lagged behind NATO. Furthermore the head of the UN Humanitarian Mission to Yugoslavia Mr. Viera de Mello who had spent 10 days in Kosovo and other parts in Yugoslavia gave a damaging report about the policies pursued by Yugoslavia against the Kosovars.

The heavy bombing for the last 20 days inflicted heavy damage on the military machine and infrastructures within Yugoslavia. Belgrade was without water and electric-

ity for long hours. The inhabitants of Belgrade had to queue for basic necessities of life, such as bread. About 650 or 700 sorties were carried out by NATO in 24 hours when weather was clear. Out of 72 days NATO lost about 16 or 17 days of its air operations because of bad weather.

President Milosevic realised that if such heavy bombing continued, the country would be in tatters and he would be out of political power.

NATO commenced multi-prolonged attacks on President Milosevic. It was reported that the West was trying to locate President Milosevic's commercial interests overseas. His assets are reported to be gradually quarantined by the West. It was reported that President's agent who used to look after his interests overseas disappeared from Cyprus in recent days. It was reported that President was visibly worried that his economic base was vulnerable to the schemes of the West.

The entry of NATO grounds troops in Kosovo before winter was seen as a distinct possibility. Turkey, a member of NATO, declared that it would offer its troops for ground invasion in Kosovo, if needed. Already

NATO was able to destroy almost the entire air-defence system in Yugoslavia and as a result the sky was almost free for NATO planes. With the days go by, the defence of Yugoslavia will be weak. It is reported that about 5000 Serbian soldiers were killed by NATO's bombing.

President Milosevic thought that the time had come to accept the demands while he could remain in power in the country. Out of power, he could be transported as a war criminal to the Hague UN International Tribunal of War Crimes for Yugoslavia. The warrant of arrest was recently issued.

troops in Kosovo will monitor the activities of NATO troops so that Serbian interests are protected. He could defend that the peace plan was approved by the Serbian Parliament and he only agreed to it. How could he go against the will of the people? He may argue that he did not capitulate to NATO's demands.

He may argue that NATO could not destroy his military machine. He stood firm against the world's most efficient and massive air attacks for more than two months. He will present himself as a hero to his people.

The people in Yugoslavia was desperate for peace and this was demonstrated by the mothers of the young soldiers who protested against their son's conscription for the war. The bombing made their lives hell. It may be pointed out that media was severely controlled and the people in Yugoslavia was fed with one-sided picture.

They hardly knew exactly what was going on in Kosovo. The people within the country were told that Kosovars left their homeland because of NATO's bombing.

President Milosevic will attempt to present his acceptance as a victory for the people of Serbia. He will argue that the international presence in Kosovo would be under the auspices of the UN and not under NATO. Furthermore he may claim that NATO has accepted Kosovars within Serbia and accordingly a few hundred Serbian soldiers will return to the borders of Kosovo. The Russian

was strengthened. He was able to suppress the opposition forces and media within the country on the pretext of national security. Furthermore the people who at one time supported the West became anti-West because of the NATO's unintentional bombing on the hospitals, bridges and homes which resulted in the loss of innocent civilians. For a long time it appears that it will be difficult for them to forget NATO's bombing and their support for the West may decline.

Conclusion

It appears that the peace plan is only the beginning of a gigantic task for the West to deal with. First Kosovo is almost in ruins. Before the refugees return, infrastructures and homes need to be built very rapidly. NATO countries have a huge task before them. It could be months before the refugees could return to their homeland. Second, NATO is no more a defensive security organization. It is seen to play increasingly a crucial role in restoring stability in the entire Balkan region through democracy and massive aid. The Balkan region was considered backwater of Europe and the region was long neglected by the West. Time has now come to integrate the Balkan countries with other rich and democratic European countries for the sake of peace and stability in Europe.

The author, a barrister, is former Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UN in Europe.

## Developing Growth Centre Markets in the Countryside

by M Delwar Hossain

GROWTH Centre markets are focal points for the sale and processing of rural produce, distribution of agricultural inputs and consumer goods imported into rural areas, for other economic, social, cultural, recreational, political activities. Market trade in meat, fish and other agricultural perishable commodities, but without adequate facilities for hygienic and proper functional operations.

There is a growing trend towards diversification of agriculture, which requires more timely transportation and marketing — a more competitive internal marketing system with a greater role for the private sector and improved access for rural people to sustainable employment opportunities. Studies in Bangladesh and elsewhere have shown a strong linkage between improved rural access and market facilities, on the one hand, and increased agriculture production, employment, farm and non-farm incomes, social development and poverty alleviation on the other.

The traditional rural market network or "hats" effectively constituting the nerve centre of rural economy and facilitating trading of rural produce as well as farm inputs and consumer goods, mostly lack basic facilities (paved areas, sheds, clean water, drainage, garbage disposal etc. etc.) and good transport access, resulting in unhygienic and inefficient conditions.

The more important markets are characterized by the presence of permanent and semi-permanent structures including shops, storage facilities, crop processing enterprises, bank, post office, tahsil office (land registration) etc. Many of the more important markets are centres for trading

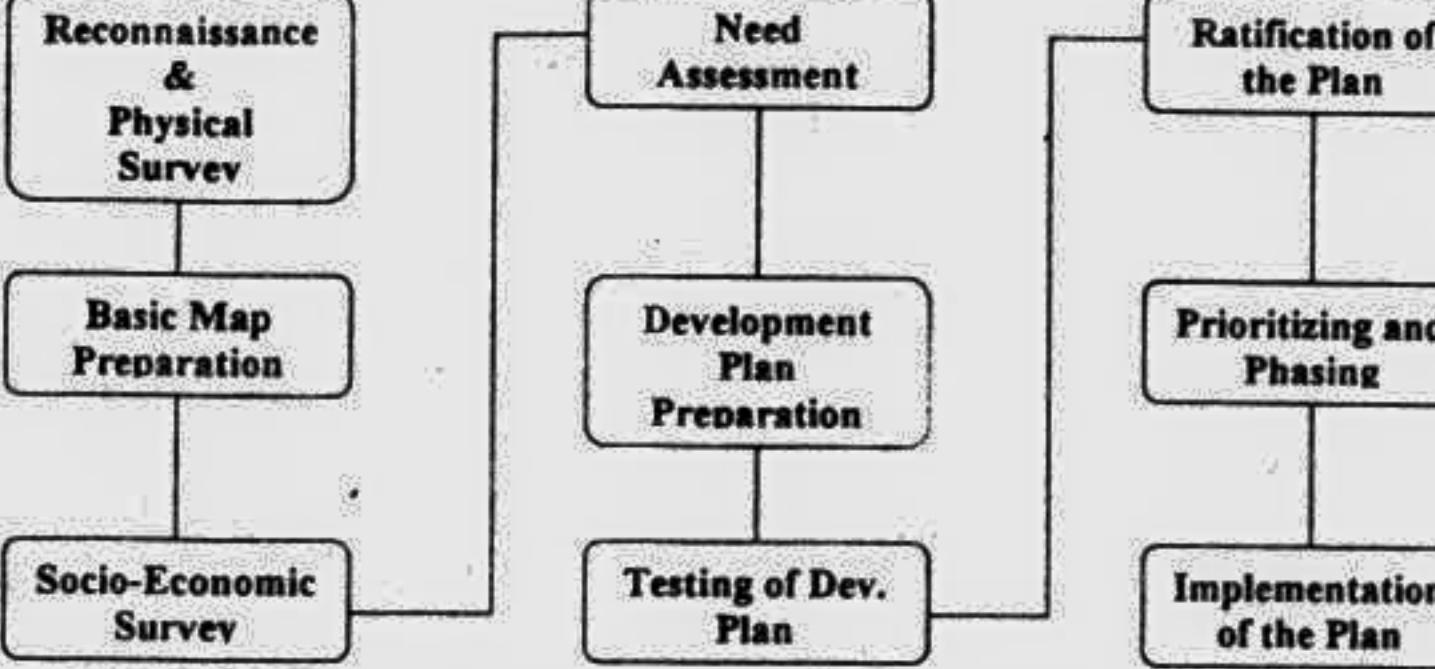
of a wide variety of agricultural produce and other goods, while some focus on the exchange of large quantities of particular commodities such as rice, peanut, pan (beet leaf), cattle, fish or locally produced cloth.

## Planning Process

The planning process basically consist assessment of the particular market, recording of the existing situation in and around the growth centre markets, analysis and assessment of the infrastructure need from users point of view, preparation of development plan, testing of the development plans through "User Input" participatory approach, ratification of the plan, prioritizing and phasing, keeping in line with the budgetary provisions and implementation of the plan.

Before undertaking any development activity in a selected growth centre, it is to be ensured that the Market Management Committee is functional and its members are trained on their duties and responsibilities.

The activities of the planning process may be as the following:



(khas land) availability for intervention, desired inventories from respective people for development, response for dev-

opment and contributions for undertaking such development.

The market development, which provides basic facilities for hygiene and cleanliness (for drainage, garbage disposal, clean water, sale of food and perishable items under sheds than on muddy ground, provision for slaughter of animals for meat) is a valuable social investment in public health considerably benefitting the mostly poor traders and vendors who use the markets. Common demand for such developments is found in our investigations.

Broader issues on market development may be addressed in the following manner:

## Land/Site Development:

Market areas should be free from flooding and as such ground areas within the market must be raised above the recorded highest flood level.

Care should be taken so that any part of the market areas should not be affected by storm water. Ditch in the vicinity of the market may be filled by de-

mg/. To address this potable water supply issue is to seek for alternative cheaper source.

Rain water harvesting, perhaps provides great opportunity in the solution of water supply issue. The average rainfall in Noakhali region is much higher than the national average. The system needs a CATCHMENT AREA, a means of COLLECTOR and good STORAGE facilities.

Deep tubewell may be constructed to support the water supply system during the dry season.

**Public Latrines:** Design construction of public latrine is straight and simple but operation and maintenance is usually difficult. Therefore before starting to build a public communal latrine there must be clear plans for — cleaning and operation, wages of an paid staff/sweeper, paying any water charges, maintenance and repair, proper management and control, provision of overhead tank and making water available at the user end readily.

**Bio-gas Plant:** Bio-gas plant may be constructed using human excreta. The gas thus produced may serve tea-stalls or any other purpose such as lighting. The bio-gas plant may be incorporated in the management and cleaning of public latrines.

introduced in the design of sheds. Instead of constructing 10'X10' concrete columns to support light weight roof, it is desirable to use galvanized iron pipes of required section to act as columns. The columns will be bolted with embedded plates at base support. This will reduce construction time by cutting lengthy procedure of cast-in-situ concrete and cost.

**Open Yard:** Open paved yard in the crowded markets. Provision for so many opportunities of use such as — selling yard during hat days; meeting place for different functions, political and religious gatherings, information dissemination centre etc.; breathing space, a ventilation duct and light-well.

## Development of Women's Corner:

Poor women in Bangladesh, and particularly in Noakhali region, are considered to be disadvantaged and should be encouraged in the markets with the produce or to take up trading as a profession so that they become self-reliant and the lead earner in their families. They deserve special provision at the growth centre.

**Slaughter Shed/House:** The slaughter house in the growth centre market should be designed keeping in mind the functional components which are:

a) Provision for tying the cattle before slaughtering and arrangement for feed for long time awaiting animals; b) Provision for gentle ramp at the entrance of slaughter house; c) Provision of enough space for slaughtering and skin removing process; d) Space for stacking the skin; e) Provision for hanging the prepared sections before delivery; f) Specified space/devices for cleaning stomachs of slaughtered animals; g) Provision of ample water supply for flushing out blood; h) Internal drain within the slaughter house should lead to twin abattoit pits for blood and water; i) Use of glazed tiles for easy cleaning and maintenance.

**Meat Selling Shed:** Proximity from the slaughter house is introduced in the design of sheds. Instead of constructing 10'X10' concrete columns to support light weight roof, it is desirable to use galvanized iron pipes of required section to act as columns. The columns will be bolted with embedded plates at base support. This will reduce construction time by cutting lengthy procedure of cast-in-situ concrete and cost.

**Office for Market Management Committee:** Provision of an office for the Market Management Committee is considered in the development programme for each market as desired by them. Considering the paucity of land within the market areas, it is proposed to con-

struct a two story structure having mezzanine floor and internal stair. This may also house other offices/banks.

## Workshop Areas/Facilities:

Creation of workshop corner within the market areas will facilitate the development of agro-based small scale industries, service industries and ensure supply of locally produced spares for rural transport, agricultural equipment and implements of household necessities. While surveying the NRIDMP growth centres the presence of blacksmiths are seen in some markets.

**Development of Service Facilities:** Some of the markets have facilities like Post office, Bank, Tahsil (land Registration) office, Union Parishad office, Agricultural Extension office, Telephone and Fax services, courier service, training centre for different trades. These may be incorporated in the development programme. Some social clubs are found active in remote market. Development of public library is also desired by some market people.

**Toll Collecting Office and Provision of Shade in Cattle-hat:** Small, temporary toll collecting office is found operating at the entry of the cattle markets. There is a desire to construct semi-permanent structure with relevant facilities. Within the cattle hat, shade trees may be planted. Also temporary devices for trying the cattle may be arranged for.

**Fire Fighting Arrangement and Other Safety Provisions:** Incidents of fire in growth centre markets are not uncommon in the country's context. Provision of fire fighting stand with tubs filled with sand etc should be there. Other safety provision like place for security guards night guards may be essential.

**Community Services Like EPI Programme, Family Planning Counselling, Youth Development Programme and Training:** Considering geographical locations and interaction between people in the locality, the growth centre markets can work as nerve centre for all kinds of development activities and as such these provisions may be.

## Planning Goal

Growth Centre markets were developed over a considerable period of time as some are already old. All markets have their peculiarities, problems, limitations and opportunities. To work with the existing markets, to arrange them functionally as far as possible, to set clear zoning in the development process, to set trend in the traffic inflow and outflow, delimiting environmental effects due to human activities within the markets, and, finally, creation of functionally-acceptable user-friendly environment, attributing a sense of responsible belonging, proper landscaping, planning of management and maintenance issues are the objectives of the market planner in association with other contractors, specialists, stakeholders etc.

Market planning and development is a continuous process. Players are to be brought in. Private initiatives are as important as anything else. Clear zoning, inclusion of private initiators with provision of incentives are to be considered in long term perspective.

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## EMDR: The Eyes Heal It

by Dr Zahir U Ahmad

on to the next portion of the journey, yet the journey remains one's own.

The goal of treatment is to transform the abnormally stored trauma memory into a normally stored memory. Memory fragments related to the original trauma are re-engaged and information processing is resumed under conditions which do not impede the process. There is no hyperstimulation involved.

The desired outcome is the creation of normal memory of traumatic events that is less upsetting in proportion to the degree of upset experienced at the time of trauma.

As we are progressing to the next century, new traumatic events and stressful situations are arising every day e.g. biochemical warfare, automobile accidents, political and natural disaster, health hazards due to pollution and new diseases. The tense situation at present has reached such epidemic proportions that no single person could escape from its inherent stress and anxiety.

Parents worry when children are at school or out of the house playing. Fear of terrorists, rapists and acid throwers paralyse the parent's mind.

EMDR is one's own private journey into the past but with an escort. The escort opens and closes the gates and points out the reminiscences to be carried

patient to relax in stressful conditions. The reaction of this therapy is very easy for both the client and the therapist.

The whole programme takes about one and a half hour. After expressing the primary stress condition, the client follows the hand movement of the therapist and feels relaxed after few sets of eye movements.

There are also taps and tones for those who are blind or unable to track the eye movement, or lightbars and music to follow the alternate beats. This simple method of therapy helps victims of rape, burn or terrorism victims to restore their normal behaviour.

EMDR therapy has been proved to cure phantom limb syndrome which means that the patient feels pain where the limb once was though the wound had long healed, and can feel the pain which has no physical findings.

This therapy is useful for the drug abused people who have disturbed thought and behaviour and feeling of funny sensations throughout the body. As days go by we confront new problems of stress and anxiety. EMDR therapy can help to address this problem.

In Bangladesh EMDR is introduced by the UNICEF. Several countries trained our participants who were mostly psychologists and psychologists; a total of 150 people were trained as EMDR therapists.

The EMDR is a simple process of therapy that allows people to remain calm and

By Hanna-Barbera



TOM & JERRY