

Declaration of the State of Palestine may end violence



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the EU who met Arafat recently, Ariel Sharon ordered such attacks against Arafat and the Palestinian people and left for the White House. This happens to be Sharon's sixth meeting with President Bush in some 15 months time.

Some details of the meeting were published in NY Times. One gets baffled while attempting to make any remark on the outcome of such a meeting. Unfortunately, the President has been having the story of only one side and that also from a

not elaborate. The rest of the world apparently does not feel the same way. After all, Arafat is the elected leader of the Palestinian people. Until another election takes place he continues to be the leader. It's good that the US Administration so far avoided supporting Sharon on his demand to ignore or even exile Arafat. Any way, as the leader of the Palestinian people Arafat has the democratic right to reshuffle his cabinet. This may not suit Sharon because he wants someone who would go by whatever he says. In

as it appears, will continue till the occupation ends, no matter what others say or do. Israel's atrocities will only make the Palestinians more desperate. This is what President Mubarak also indicated as he knows the situation and the sentiments of the Arabs on the issue.

Unfortunately, this war has spread now to other areas and the US being the "committed friend" of Israel has become the worst target. It's time for the US to take into consideration the history of the

else is terrorism? Only suicide bombing? Such an one-sided view cannot be accepted by all. If the entire West Bank and Gaza are still parts of Israel, then let all Palestinians join Israeli general election. Then one would see the election result - neither Sharon nor anyone of his party men including Netanyahu will ever be the Prime Minister of Israel; it would be an Israeli peace activist or a moderate Labour party man. It could even be Arafat. Moreover, the Jewish character of Israel would disappear.

Palestinians. This will also ensure East Jerusalem to Palestinian State as the entire East Jerusalem is an occupied territory. However, the Western Wall has to be with Israel to ensure the right of the Jewish people to come freely and pray there. There should be no problem as the area is separate with a separate entrance through Dung Gate.

In the meeting with President Mubarak, President Bush, however, was not ready to commit a time table which is understandable, but he did say that the work 'should start immediately and now'. This gives the beginning of the time table, but Secretary Powell has virtually elaborated on this and said this week that 'the Bush administration was considering backing the formation of a Palestinian state even before its borders and other details are agreed on.' [NYTimes 06/09/2002]. He also added that "... it may be necessary to have a provisional state, an interim step; it may take several steps to get there." Though there does not appear to be any instance of such a provisional state in the world (there were, however, states awaiting recognition of other countries), here one can take it to mean that it will be a Palestinian state for all purposes, but the borders and other details will have to be worked out. But there must be an agreement that Israeli army will withdraw and go beyond 1967 borders and that there should be international force including those of the US to guard the provisional borders till the final border lines are accepted and drawn. An early declaration of the Palestinian State, hopefully early next year, and withdrawal of the Israeli Defence Forces beyond 1967 borders with the peace process moving forward simultaneously with other issues would stop violence and ensure security to Israeli people. This will also make America safer. Any body can guarantee that.

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From the ruins of Jenin rises further resolve for fight.

Will Palestine state remain a dream?

MOHAMMAD AMJAD HOSSAIN

In retaliation of the incursion of Israeli troops in the West Bank yet another suicide bombing killed 17 Israelis 6 June. This time the message was loud and clear as they reportedly said that such suicide bomb would be hurled at Israelis as long as Palestine territory would remain under the occupation of Israeli troops. For the last six months Israeli troops massacred innocent people, destroyed educational institutions, mosques and infrastructure of the administration and banks in the Palestinian controlled areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The continued incursion by Israeli troops into the Palestinian territories has caused widespread condemnation, but

regrettably the world body remains silent spectator to the ruthless and inhuman massacres, particularly in Jenin Palestinian refugee camps, which reminds of pogrom conducted by Adolf Hitler in Germany against Jews during Second World War. According to historian William Carr, the pogrom, which aroused widespread horror abroad, was followed by a spate of laws which at last drove the Jews out of commercial life, confiscated their industrial assets and turned them into a race of untouchables in their own country.

The envoy of the United Nations Secretary General, who had been to Palestinian refugee camps in Jenin, described the devastation left behind by the Israeli troops as "horrible beyond belief". Larsen was reportedly said the Jewish State had been "morally repugnant". Against this backdrop, the UN Security Council had decided to send a fact-finding mission to Jenin to verify the fact. The Secretary General Kofi Annan backed out of the decision because the government of Israel under hawkish Premier Ariel Sharon did not give green signal. This was for the first time the United States did not exercise veto power to stop sending fact-finding mission. It may be noted that UN Security Council did not succeed earlier, too, in sending UN observers group as time and again resolutions in this connection were torpedoed by US veto.

From the past developments it is crystal clear that Israeli Premier is bent upon to destroy peace process as he did in 1982. Ariel Sharon as a Minister for Defence of Israel sabotaged Reagan peace plan by invasion of Lebanon and massacres of innocent unarmed Palestinian women and children at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps near Beirut. Similarly, Bush's so-called peace plan for the existence of Israel and Palestine states side by side in peace and secured borders had been shattered this time by the invasion of West Bank and Gaza

It is high time for Americans that they should cut off all military aid to Israel to bring Israelis to senses. In fact, America is using taxpayers' money to help Israeli forces for the violation of human rights in Palestinian territories.

The consequences of further Israeli atrocities could be that it would remain an insecure island in a sea of hostility. It may be recalled that there were talks of establishing commercial, political and cultural contacts in tune with Benelux model in mid nineties when peace talks were underway. One can possibly say goodbye to such possibility as the bitterness caused by Israeli excesses will always get in the way of such contacts in the foreseeable future. An independent Palestine state will remain a dream so long Ariel Sharon presides over the destiny of Israelis.

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SPOTLIGHT ON MIDDLE EAST

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person who is the avowed enemy of Arafat. Indeed, Sharon himself said openly that he regrets not having killed Arafat in early eighties. Only a terrorist can make such an open statement against the leader of another people. The US President can never have the correct picture unless he hears both sides and makes up his mind keeping in view the interest of the people of both sides. Along with it the President would obviously like to keep US's overall political and strategic interest above those of the selfish interests of Israel.

President Mubarak, who has full knowledge of the situation on the ground in the area gave his views and ideas about the present position and the way to deal with it. Sharon has apparently given the opposite view. This is, however, normal and expected from the PM of Israel, but the President being the peace broker has to make his own decision. President Bush said after the meeting with Sharon that "no one has confidence in the emerging Palestinian government". He did

any case neither Sharon nor any body else has any right to decide who should be the Palestinian leader. It's the Palestinian people who will elect their leaders.

Israel was planted in Palestine by the UN in May 1948. Obviously, Israel's area was determined by the UN while the decision was taken to establish Israel in the Palestinian land. Israel should be happy with whatever it got and subsequent occupations and annexations after '67 war were declared by the UN as the occupied territories. There is a precise resolution of the UN asking Israel to vacate the occupied territories. It has not even bothered to comply and hence the whole fight of the Palestinians to free their land from occupation. It's no use saying whether the Palestinians are using suicide method to fight occupation, which is considered terrorism against Israeli undeclared war by using F16/17, Apache helicopter gunship, deadliest tanks and bulldozers which is considered civilized method to kill Palestinian people men, women and children! This war,

Jewish people; how they suffered and became reasons for others to suffer. Starting from 9/11, the US has started bearing the brunt and this may increase as various reports show, though the US Administration has already taken strong anti-terrorist measures. A time may come when even these strong measures would not be enough. Injustices that breed and multiply terrorism must end, otherwise these determined people who are not afraid of death, will continue to terrorize the world.

Israel rolls its tanks and armored carriers into the Palestinian territories any time it desires on the pretext of arresting terrorists. The question arises: Is the Palestinian controlled territory (s) a part of Israel? If not, how does Israel, being a foreign power makes incursions into the Palestinian territories any time it desires, kills people, destroys homes and other properties? It also arrests people but often frees most of them as they are not considered terrorists, imposes curfews and so on. If this is not terrorism, then what

Therefore, it is in the interest of Israel to support the declaration of the Palestinian State as early as possible. Such a formal state will make Palestinian people even more responsible and certainly make them aware of their obligations towards their neighbour thus two states 'living side by side in peace and security' as often stated by President Bush. And here comes the proposal of President Mubarak. Though President Mubarak's proposal has not been released in detail to the press, the basic ideas have been given. There could be an agreement to declare the Palestinian State on the area of original Palestine minus the area of Israel as determined by the UN when Israel was created. The rest of the matters may be negotiated. In any case according to UN resolution the occupied territories are to be vacated by Israel. However, there could be some adjustment in the sensitive areas bordering the Green Line because of security reasons provided Palestinians are compensated elsewhere through release of some Israeli land in favour of the

The cement yardstick for development

ENGR MAHBUB-UZ-ZAMAN

PER capita consumption of cement is considered, among many other things, a yardstick to see how far a country is developed or developing. Bangladesh ranks among these at the bottom of the stick. But we should not be disappointed as we see that during the last few years there is an encouraging growth in per capita and if favourable circumstances could be created we can expect more development in this area. Cement plays a vital role in the improvement of living standard of people and in development of infrastructures of a country. But it depends on the availability of right kind of cement for the right purpose and above all within the buying capacity of the users. In our country we are accustomed with mainly one kind of cement, namely Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), the other one is white cement which is used for some special purposes.

Very recently it has been seen in the national dailies that some people expressed their views in favour and some others against the use of fly ash mixed Portland cement, and there have been some advertisements, which has created confusions in the mind of users who due to their ignorance, that is very much natural in an underdeveloped country like ours, failed to understand who is telling the right thing. The undermentioned information may

help us to some extent in gathering knowledge in this area.

The total energy requirement during cement manufacturing starting from raw material processing, kiln operation amounts to almost half of the production cost. So continuous efforts were always there on how to reduce this cost. But it became the inevitable motive for the cement industry when in 1973 the fuel price went high. Many manufacturing techniques were

The aim of any product manufacturer is to bring out better quality product and to try to keep the price within the buying capacity of the consumers. In the context of the economic and environmental conditions of Bangladesh the experts in construction field ought to come forward to suggest the suitability of this particular type or of any other kind of cement that may help people to pick up the right product for the right purpose

studied, experimented and introduced to reduce the cost as well as to maintain or improve the quality of cement. One of the best solutions came as the replacement of portion of the clinker, whose production requires a high amount of energy, by other products of similar properties, which may be used without additional heat treatment or in any case with a heat treatment of lower energy content. Generally these products are industrial by-products such as blast furnace slag, fly ash or naturally available volcanic pozzolanas.

There exists more than 15 types of cement in many developed coun-

tries and every type has a specific purpose of use. In the United States there are 38 various types of standardized cement including eight types of Portland cement. Not all standardized cements are continuously produced; some are only made to order. If the right kind of cement is used for the right purpose then it gives the best result and of course becomes cost effective. The most widely used one is Portland cement which is also classified in

Cement is a mineral compound the main components of which are lime, silica, alumina and iron oxide. The OPC is a combination of about 95 per cent clinker and 5 per cent gypsum. The clinker is produced in kiln by mixing and burning, at some

regulated temperatures, measured proportion of limestone and clay. As is discussed above many an industry started to think to replace some portion of the clinker by some other mineral components which have the same or better quality. Materials used for partial replacement of clinker in blended cement generally add hydraulic characteristics to the cement and contribute to its mechanical strength. The hydraulic effect of the materials can be due to

latent hydraulic properties as in granulated blast furnace slag (by-product produced in the manufacture of pig iron), to pozzolanic properties as in natural or artificial pozzolanas (volcanic rocks, fly ash, condensed silica fumes, rice husk ash) and to physical action as in limestone fillers.

Fly ash (pulverized-fuel ash) is a material generated by combustion of pulverized coal in thermal power stations, and precipitated in fabric bag filters or in electrostatic precipitators. The particle size of fly ash are in the range of 0.05 to 0.2mm. Fly ash is a vitrified product in which the oxides Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃ and SiO₂ are the active hydraulic components. Here the latent hydraulic properties of the finely ground materials are stimulated by calcium hydroxide in the presence of water, whereby compounds with cementitious qualities are generated. So, we see that the

fly ash is having the same components with the same characteristics those are found in clinker.

One of the advantages of fly ash mixing is the gain in mechanical strength, which is contributed by the high fineness and the high percentage of SiO₂ in it. The reaction of Portland cement with water is exothermic: it is a disadvantage in the mass concrete constructions such as bridges-piers, abutments, dams, high rise building foundations etc.

On the other hand the pozzolanic cement (i.e. cement blended with fly ash) concretes develop heat of hydration slower and to a smaller extent than Portland cement concretes. It may be mentioned that due to rapid development of heat of hydration internal cracks in mass construction are likely to occur.

The pozzolanic cement has another advantage over Portland cement in its higher resistance to sulfate solutions attacks. The sulfate attack causes cracking and disruption in hardened concrete. Due to the reduced permeability of fly ash mixed cement it develops resistance to both sulfate attacks and leaching. The fly ash mixed Portland cement has a better ability in limiting chloride ion penetration into concrete. It is well known that the ingress of salt causes corrosion of steel in reinforced concrete structures. The rate of chloride ion diffusion is lower in

the concrete manufactured with Portland fly ash cement than in the Portland cement concrete due to the pore filling effect of the pozzolanic reaction and to pore size distribution in the cement paste.

The quality of Portland fly ash cement depends on the quality of fly ash that is mixed. The quality of the coal and the burning conditions in the boiler influence the quality of the fly ash. The quality of fly ash, mixing procedure, percentage of fly ash to be added to Portland clinker or to Portland cement are the major deciding factors in producing a good quality Portland fly ash cement.

So it can be concluded that the Portland fly ash cement is not something very new in the construction industry in the world. The first production of fly ash mixed cement appeared in France around the end of fifties and there came a momentum in its production while energy crisis got acute in 1973 and in later part. The Petronus Tower of Malaysia, Great Belt Bridge of Denmark, Chicago Hyatt Hotel are some examples where Portland fly ash cement was used. The aim of any product manufacturer is to bring out better quality product and to try to keep the price within the buying capacity of the consumers. In the context mentioned above and considering the economic and environmental conditions of Bangladesh the experts in construction field ought to come forward to suggest the suitability of this particular type or of any other kind of cement that may help people to pick up the right product for the right purpose.