

Rural road networks turn elusive

Political considerations outweighed economic good

WHAT has been happening in the name of rural infrastructure development is an eye-wash, by and large, if not a complete act of perfidy.

The case in point is a status analysis on 800 smaller road network envisaged under a US\$ 1.7 billion umbrella Roads and Highways Department (RHD) project which have made very little headway to generate any confidence in their final outcome.

The three-some umbrella project was designed to improve the feeder roads and, to some extent, rural roads proper by way of enhancing marketing access for a very large number of rural folks.

The low-priority treatment received by this otherwise intrinsically important composite project is basically the upshot of a reality check it has been put through.

It is amusing in a queer way, but hardly any laughing matter that loose ends were deliberately kept for the MPs to have control over delivery of public services by means of fostering patron-client relationship and nurturing vote-banks.

No one can fail to endorse Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud's views on the overall systemic flaws: "the basic reasons for the weaknesses in the budget formulation and implementation are political rather than technocratic."

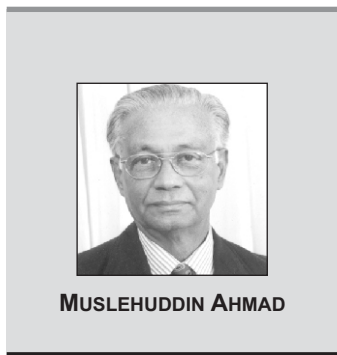
Child patients at DMCH

When will the govt wake up to their woes?

YEARS of mismanagement and negligence on part of the government have left the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a miserable condition.

What has heightened the predicament is the ever-increasing number of child patients in queue for emergency, and at times, lifesaving surgical procedures.

Unilateralism smacks of imperialism



GERMAN Justice Minister Deaubler-Gmelin decided to resign over her alleged remark that Mr. Bush's tactics likened those used by Hitler.

several of the contentions of Blair's dossier as speculative and said several of the specific dangerous sites mentioned in dossier were already destroyed by the weapons inspectors.

expressed around the world through various columns also very strongly argue against any war. War kills only human beings whether in uniform or not.

ism would have gone down automatically. Any way, the world does not want any more Hitler. But unfortunately it has man like Sharon there in the M-E.

doing! The table will turn upside down if Bush 'goes alone'. Washington's Archbishop has also expressed reservation over the rush to attack Iraq as he said no convincing proof was yet placed before the public.

certainly not by countries around the world. When the truth is not known, the murderous war machine must not be launched.

SPOTLIGHT ON MIDDLE EAST

The war is never a good option. The war is nothing but terrorism unless it is forced on any one. Iraq's case is certainly not that; Iraq has not forced war on the US.

MPs remained totally unconvinced of the need for any attack on Iraq except Israel has any support for the Bush Administration's position on Iraq.

to the war zone and face death in Iraqi desert, they would have immediately said NO to war; they would have proposed other means to tackle the Iraqi leader.

way, it is still Bush Administration's position not yet a US position. So far there appears to be some serious reservations and indeed concerns of some of the senior Congressional leaders over the draft.

to assess the situation carefully and most importantly to be sure about Iraq's actual possession of weapons of mass destruction.

Bush Administration has reportedly sent a 36-page document to the Congress outlining its policy decision to continue to remain the only superpower in the world and will stop, if necessary, by force if any one tries to surpass or even equal the military power of America.

'Regime-change' for whom?

A M M SHAHABUDDIN

THE United Nations (UN) was established some five decades back to ensure international peace and security and, perhaps most importantly, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

had left Iraq in 1998? Moreover, Bush's war-cry becomes all the more irrelevant when the UN had announced that they would reach Baghdad by mid-October next.

Meanwhile, President Bush had prepared a list of some sixteen UN resolutions that had been defied by Iraq to show to the world what punishable 'crimes' Iraq had committed by showing disrespect to the august world body.

ambitions \$ 60-billion worth of National Missile Development (NMD) programme to fight 'nuclear minnows', like three 'evil regimes' or 'axis of evil' -- as Bush calls them -- Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

there is no end to such listing of wrong doings whether by a superpower, or any other member. But when one 'wrong-doer' tries to find faults with another it becomes an act of foolery.

Had there been no American support, covertly or overtly, Israel would never have dared to go so berserk with its naked aggression.

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

"Muslims and America"

This is in regards A Thinker' letter (September 27). Even the most anti-American among us cannot claim that all US policy is Zionist controlled.

us "Arabs and Muslims". Of course the Israelis should make peace with the Palestinians. Just as important, the Palestinians should stop the suicide bombings.

I was shocked to read the letter of Mr. Mahmood Elahi (September 9) where he has urged America to attack Iraq for the sake of liberating the Iraqis now under persecution at the hands of Saddam Hussein.

A note of warning that came from Dr. M. R. Shelly in his article "The Great Divide" (September 11 supplement) merits serious consideration.

on Iraq. Without caring the world opinion, America and United Kingdom is violating human rights in Iraq. If we observe closely, we will see that America in the name of fighting terrorism is actually invading Muslim countries one after another.

then start another debate on "Great Navy"? And Mr FM, I don't know which commanders you talked to but your comment is baseless.

I actually know the road FM mentions quite well. I used to go there often. Ten years ago, the bootleggers were so scared that when driving down that road you'd see suddenly people running across the road into the paddy fields beyond carrying crates of drinks.

definition is applied elsewhere many 'important communities' will be wiped out from our land including a large section of our affluent community.

Personally, I dislike the current Israeli policies as well. But not the entire people. This may sound a bit racist but I've never in my life met an Arab who treated me as an equal.

War of hypocrisy! If our Liberation War taught us anything, it's that we are Bengali first, Muslim second.

Mr. Elahi's advocacy is shocking especially when we see that no government other than Mr. Blair's has come forward to approve the military adventure that the controversial President in the person of Mr. Bush wants to launch in near future.

Stop American aggression We do not support the US air strike

"Not so great Navy" Mr. FM, it is not the navy's duty to evict those so-called bars. It is the CCC's duty.

Notice The readers are requested to send their comments on 'Bangladesh cricket' (the cricket team, their performance in the ICC tournament and other international tournaments--how to improve their performance, what future they have, the government's role in improving the cricket standard etc).

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Editor