

How much gas does Bangladesh have? Unanimously agreed reliable estimate is essential for calculation

DR. BADRUL IMAM

THE national Gas Reserve Committee formed by the government has finally, after eight months of brainstorming, come up with the gas reserve statistics of the country. According to the report, submitted to the government in September, Bangladesh has a prove gas reserve of little less than 7 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) at present. The committee has also come up with gas reserve figures in the 'prove plus probable' category which is estimated between 12 Tcf and 15 Tcf. The committee referred to the internationally accepted definitions of 'prove' and 'probable' reserves set jointly by the World Petroleum Congress of Society of Petroleum Engineers as follows.

'Proved reserves' refers to the quantity of gas which can be estimated with reasonable certainty to be commercially recoverable from known gas field under the present operating conditions. In a probabilistic method of reserve calculation the term 'reasonable certainty' refers to at least 90 per cent certainty of the reserve estimate. 'Probable reserves' are those unproved reserves which, the geological and engineering data suggest, are more likely than not to be commercially recoverable. The term 'more likely than not' has been coined to refer to at least 50 per cent certainty of reserve estimate.

It is interesting to note that there is a certain degree of elusiveness, perhaps a subtle way of not saying something which ought to be said in the gas reserve report. The reason such remark is being made is that nowhere in the text of the report did the committee mentioned the quantity of 'proved reserve' of gas in the country, although data showing proved reserve has been tabulated in the report (Table 3.2, chapter 3, page 62, 'Report of the Committee for Gas Demand Projections and Determination of Recoverable Reserve and Gas Resource Potential in Bangladesh', June 2002', hereafter referred to as 'Reserve Committee report'). One has to use a simple calculator to do little gymnastic and add up the proved reserves of the individual gas fields from the table and find out the total proved reserve of the country. But the question is why did the committee leave the exercise unfinished and apparently seemed reluctant to show up the proved reserve figure in the executive summary or anywhere in the text? This is in spite of the fact that the terms of reference set out for the committee clearly directed to assess the proved reserve, probable reserve and possible reserve. Was it too embar-

rassing to publicly announce such a small proved reserve figure for the country, considering the fact that over the last few years members of the bureaucratic hierarchy, veteran politicians and foreign diplomats and dignitaries suggested that Bangladesh has 50 Tcf or 60 Tcf or even 80 Tcf of gas reserve?

It is perhaps not surprising that a row broke out among some of the committee members on the above issue and the report was finalised and submitted without the dispute being resolved. As a consequence two members of the committee, both university professors, refused to sign in the report expressing their disapproval of the report in its present form. Some members from inside the committee had expressed dismay at the stand of the above two members. According to them, the two non signing members should have signed the docu-

ment with a note of dissent, if they desired so, explaining their points of disagreement. However these all happened without the public knowing much about it except that the report was not unanimously prepared and two of the members did not sign. Interestingly, the issue was brought up in one of the public forum recently held at Dhaka where members of the gas committee including the non signing ones, were present and made their points heard in public. The forum was arranged by Centre for Policy Dialogue as 'National Committee Reports on Gas Sector: Where do we go from here' on 17 October at CIRDP auditorium in Dhaka. The meeting had a gathering of present and previous ministers, experts, businessmen, politicians, oil company executives, journalists and academicians, covering cross section of the society. In the course of discussions on the gas reserve, Professor Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury one of the non signing members, spoke for the first time, as to why he did not sign the report. It was his understanding, Professor Chowdhury explained, that the proved reserve was to be assessed and quantified to be included in the report and there was

hence the 'proved plus probable' reserve was taken as more practical approach of assessing the quantum of gas in the country. With the above dispute remaining unresolved, the national committee on gas reserve considered the case closed. Interestingly the gas 'utilization committee', a second committee formed at the same time as the 'gas reserve committee' with a purpose to identify the best way of utilization of gas in the country, has shown a gas reserve of 16.1 Tcf in their report (page 2, Chapter 1, Part 1, Committee Report on Utilization of Natural Gas in Bangladesh, August 2002) which is different from that of gas reserve committee. Although three members worked in both the committees, this did not make the second committee take the reserve figure determined by the first committee. However this is probably not an issue considering the small difference in the reserve figures used by the two committees. However, some observers questioned the justification of 'Reserve committee' working out the gas reserve of the country if the 'Utilization committee' does not use the same figure!

Making sense of proved reserve from tables: The two tables is simple multiplication of above nature to determine the proved reserve of individual gas fields. Instead of doing this, the report presents a separate column under the heading 'Recoverable Gas' without mentioning if it refers to proved or probable reserve. A back calculation can easily be made to find out that this column of 'recoverable gas' actually tabulated the 'proved plus probable reserve' for the individual gas fields. This elusive nature of the table triggered the row some of the committee members were engaged in. Petroleum observers note that the subtle way the committee report avoided showing out the 'proved reserve' was unnecessary because even if the committee thought that it is the 'proved plus probable reserve' that should be considered for policy making, why could it not simply spell out the 'proved reserve' for the sake of terms of reference at the least?

Major disagreements with large gas field reserves: About 50 per cent of the total gas reserve in the country lies within 4 major gas fields namely Titas, Habiganj, Kailashitla and Rashidpur. Reserve committee report suggests serious disagreement among the committee members with respect to reserves of these four gas fields. The Reserve Committee report presents two estimates for each of the gas fields apparently to incorporate the views of the two opposing groups within the committee. 'Estimate 1' shown in table 3.1 (page 61, Reserve Committee report) shows significantly different reserves of the same fields from the one given in 'estimate 2' shown in table 3.2 (page 62, Reserve Committee report). Thus, estimated gas reserve (proved plus probable) of Habiganj gas field is shown as 3.59 Tcf in 'estimate 1' but 1.82 Tcf in 'estimate 2', that of Kailashitla gas field is 1.93 Tcf in 'estimate 1', but 1.18 Tcf in 'estimate 2', that of Rashidpur gas field is 1.46 Tcf in 'estimate 1', but 1.16 Tcf in 'estimate 2' and that of Titas gas field is 5.40 Tcf in 'estimate 1' and 4.74 Tcf in 'estimate 2'. Same is true with the tabulated proved gas reserve of individual gas fields. One of the major point of difference among the gas committee members is the value of 'recovery efficiency' (RE) of the gas in place. For example, for the Habiganj gas field, 'estimate 1' uses a recovery efficiency of 70% per cent whereas 'estimate 2' uses recovery efficiency of 52 per cent. Similarly for Rashidpur gas field, 'estimate 1' uses 74 per cent RE, while 'estimate 2' uses 58 per cent, for Titas gas field 'estimate 1' uses 74 per cent RE while 'estimate 2' uses 65 per cent.

Needless to say that a unanimously agreed reliable estimate of the gas reserves of the above four gas fields is essential for any gas reserve calculation for the country. With overwhelming difference of opinion among themselves, the reserve committee has failed to do so. This has surprised many petroleum observers who opine that the whole exercise of eight months of brainstorming does not justify its outcome. Many observers believe that in the above circumstances there should be a third party given the task of looking into the matter with more seriousness and mutual trust. It has been rightly pointed out in the Reserve Committee report that reserve estimate is a dynamic process and therefore the estimated reserves need to be updated with additional data from time to time. Petroleum observers point out that such dynamism must be accompanied with the reliability of the reserve estimates whereby experts could melt down their differences with pure science rather than holding any ulterior motive.

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Importance of Ramadan Learning lessons of self-purification

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MUSLIMS all over the world cordially welcome this most important lunar month of Ramadan, the month of self-purification. And it may be mentioned here that Muslims not only welcome this month, they also at the same time prepare themselves how best they would be able to follow the Quranic injunctions vis-a-vis correct observance of 'Siam' (Fasting) everyday from dawn to dusk for full 30 days during this holy month. But there are people (not few in number) in the community who may hold a different view about the importance of Ramadan altogether. They are not as serious as the devout ones are. When winter is knocking at the door a citizen of England obviously thinks of the early arrival of the month of spring, so there is a nice pithy saying in English: "If the winter is nearby the spring is not far off". In the same way when the holy month of Ramadan happens to be nearby a section of the society (who are oblivious of the real significance and teaching of the month of Ramadan) may think of the joyous atmosphere connected with the ensuing Eid ul Fitr immediately after the end of Ramadan. They think of festivity, merry-making and delicious dishes; they think of purchase of new costly dresses and exchange of gifts among close relatives and friends on the occasion of Eid.

Now we may divert our attention to Ayats (Verses) 183 and 185 of Sura Baqara (the Cow) of the Holy Qur-an in which Allah Gafur-ar-Rahim declares in clear and unambiguous terms:

(Ayat 183) "O ye who believe

fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you that you may learn self-restraint"

(Ayat 185) "Ramadan is (the month) in which was sent down the Qur-an as a guide to mankind also clear (signs) for guidance and judgement between right and wrong"

Mentionably, Almighty Allah has not only commended the Muslims to observe fasting, He has also asked them to fast everyday during certain fixed hours (dawn to dusk) during this month as indicated in Ayat 187 of the same Sura.

So, it is evident from the aforesaid Ayats of the Holy Qur-an that 'Siam' or fasting is not optional, it is obligatory on the part of all able-bodied adult Muslims to fast every day from dawn to dusk during the holy month of Ramadan.

Al-Qur-an is not only the last and the most important Revealed Book, it is also the most authentic Revealed Book the whole of mankind has ever received from Merciful Allah for its guidance. Let's see what a translator and commentator of international repute, Allama Abdullah Yusuf Ali, has said about the place and position of the Holy Qur-an among all other Books including all Revealed Books. He says: "There is no Book in the world in whose service so much talent, so much labour, so much money and time have been expended as has been the case with the Quran. A mere glance at Imam Suyuti's (d.911-H) 'Itqan' and Haji Khalifa's (d.1059-H) 'Kashf-uz-zunun' will show the encyclopedic volume of the Quranic sciences in their days."

Such a glorious and wonderful Holy Book, as declared by Merciful Allah in an aforesaid Ayat of the Holy

Qur-an, was also revealed in the same holy month of Ramadan.

Since Ramadan teaches us to practise self-restraint we all must refrain ourselves from doing all kinds of evil deeds. Perfection in true sense of the term has perhaps not yet been achieved, still man tries his best to be as perfect as possible. Ramadan helps to mould the mind of a Muslim. Siam certainly helps a fasting Muslim to be a morally excellent person. Again, when due to Siam a fasting Muslim becomes an ideal person in the society it is likely that other people around him will emulate his example so that society would be a better place to live in. A fasting Muslim is required to refrain himself from doing all kinds of evil deeds as enjoined by Almighty Allah in Ayat 183 of Sura Baqara of the Holy Quran while he abstains himself from food, drink, sex etc everyday for certain fixed hours during the holy month of Ramadan. But such abstinence must be coupled with glorification of Allah Gafur-ar-Rahim and supplication to Him for forgiveness of sins, and guidance in order to walk the right way and also for moral and spiritual uplift.

As we are now passing through the holy month of Ramadan all Muslims in Bangladesh including the traders, and business magnates, it is earnestly hoped, will practise self-restraint in accordance with the Quranic dictates referred to above while fasting during this month in consideration of its great importance. This most important lunar month of Ramadan also helps the Muslims all over the world to learn the lesson of self-purification.

In memoriam

Shah Syed Nazar Imam Mohammed, the Peersahib of Narinda

MOHAMMAD AMJAD HOSSAIN

BORN in respectable Imam family Kuduk village in Bombay (now Mumbai) in India in the month of Muharram, Hijri 1349 (1929AD). Shah Syed Nazar Imam Mohammed did not have the opportunity to complete his schooling because of poverty, but he had the privilege to study Arabic and Persian under the guidance of Syed Abdus Salam Ahmed, his uncle and father-in-law and Mohammad Hossain Makki. Both of them were highly enlightened in religious terms and spiritually as well. His grandfather was also regarded as a great religious leader in Bombay.

Shah Syed Nazar Imam left his hometown and came to Calcutta in 1948 to stay with his uncle, who by now established himself as a renowned religious leader. In Calcutta, he had undertaken rigorous training in Islamic tenets. He further took Islamic lessons from Mufti Aminul Ahsan, Moulana Mohammad Shafi of Lucknow, Moulana Abdul Huffaz of Dhaka Alia Madrasa and enriched his knowledge about Quran and Hadith. He was given the responsibility at the young age to look after the Khanqah at Kulutola (Dhaka) when Hazrat Syed Abdus Salam moved to East Bengal from Calcutta in 1950.

Since the financial condition was not good Shah Syed Nazar Imam began a business. He used to buy leftover cement bags from Adamjee Tere Mills in Narayanganj and have these sold at Chakbaraj in Dhaka. From his earnings the expenditures of Khanqah were met.

During his long struggle in life Shah Syed Nazar Imam always maintained patience, perseverance and courage. In 1952, he became disciple of uncle Hazrat Syed Abdus Salam Ahmed. By dint of his hard and dedicated work Shah Syed Nazar Imam received affectionate blessings from uncle Hazrat Syed Abdus Salam Ahmed and was given in marriage to his second daughter in 1956. Thus he began a new life.

I have had the privilege to meet and seek blessings from Hazrat Syed Abdus Salam Ahmed in 1962, who knew my younger uncle, Wahid Hossain from Calcutta days. Hazrat Syed Abdus Salam Ahmed occasionally used to pay visit to my uncle's house at Teigaon, who retired as Assistant Controller, Central Stationery and Printing Press of Pakistan.



Miah, nephew of Wahid Hossain or Amjad Miah of Foreign Office. At times I was surprised to see he attended so many people writing religious prescription (doa) for illness, examination, promotion in service, transfer, marriage etc.

Many a time Shah Syed Nazar Imam Mohammed spoke on the situation in pre-partition days in India and on the situation in Bangladesh, which gave me an insight of his depth of knowledge about politics in the sub-continent. Visitors to his Khanqah Sharif also included political leaders of different shades of opinion.

Possibly I was one of the few privileged ones, so entertained by him on many occasions. I was also honoured to receive congratulatory message through his son Syed Murad Ullah Ahmed, who assumed the responsibility of the Darbar Sharif after the death of his illustrious father, for a piece of my writing. I recall with gratitude the way Hazrat Shah Syed Nazar Imam Mohammed offered doa and held Mahfil at Khanqah Sharif for my son Asif Hossain, who died in Virginia near Washington, DC on 29 September last year.

As a man he was gentle, pious and straightforward in his dealing with the people, men and women alike, whoever went to seek his blessings. After his heart operation in Bangkok recently he was advised by doctors to take rest, but he appeared to be restless as he could not meet and talk to people. He was complaining like a child about the restrictions imposed. Shah Syed Nazar Imam Mohammed distinguished himself as a great religious leader of exceptional nature. He was a respectable personality as distinct from a traditional peer in Bangladesh. He was held in high esteem by young and old alike because of his progressive thinking which reflected in the presence of huge number of people at his Namaz-e-Zanaza at both Baitul Mukarram mosque and Narinda Khanqah Sharif mosque.

Shah Syed Nazar Imam Mohammed passed away on 2 September and left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters, relatives and innumerable disciples and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was laid to rest near the mosque.

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Withstanding earthquake

Strength of a building in terms of Richter Scale does not make any sense

DR. MD ALI AKBAR MOLLICK

THE number of minor and moderate tremors, occurred in the country in recent years is quite alarming. Three moderate earthquakes occurred within recent years in Sylhet (M5.6), Chittagong (M6.0) and Moheshkhali (M5.1), which claimed 28 lives and damaged some buildings and mud-houses. The Gujarat Earthquake (M7.7) of 26 January 2001, gave a momentum to the Bangladesh government officials, non-government organisations (NGOs), engineers, developers and even to the general people of Bangladesh. The feelings of the people who are Dhaka dwellers received an additional warning by a minor shaking on 19 December 2001 (magnitude believed to be 4.8 on the Richter Scale). Recently more than two dozens of tremors have been recorded the sole observatory station of the country at Ambagan of Chittagong. So from the recent occurrences, Bangladesh people have learned at least a bit of lesson about and awakened themselves to perceive the seismic risk.

Due to the lack of sufficient knowledge in seismic science, the people of our country like to know/express the strength of a building in terms of the magnitude on Richter Scale, which does not make any sense. What is Richter Scale and what is its function? Richter Scale is an acceptable means of expressing the magnitude of an earthquake. It is a common means by which the size of an

earthquake can be reported. If an earthquake occurs in any corner of the world, people around the world like to know three things at first hand such as (a) name of the city area hit, (b) the magnitude of the earthquake on Richter Scale and (c) the number of persons feared to have lost their lives. Therefore if an earthquake occurs in any country of the world, the people of that country and rest of the world can know the size of the event by a common language and that is Richter Scale. In fact the function of the Richter Scale is limited to this end. But earthquake specialists can calculate the amount of released energy or may use the magnitude of a particular earthquake for their research works. But by no means Richter Scale is any measure for expressing the strength of a building or any other structure.

What is important is the intensities of shaking (or measured local Peak Ground Accelerations) induced by an earthquake at different places surrounding the earthquake epicentre. The intensities of shaking induced by an earthquake may not be uniform over a vast area. The intensities induced by an earthquake, extent of shaking (area), damage and overall casualties due to an earthquake of a particular magnitude depend primarily on (a) focal depth of hypocentre (which may be up to 700 km from the earth surface), (b) distance of affected area from the earthquake epicentre and (c) soil characteristics of the surrounding area where the earthquake occurred. Therefore, it is not necessary that an earthquake of

higher magnitude would produce higher intensity of shaking. A shallow seated magnitude M5+ earthquake may induce local peak ground accelerations almost as high as those occurring during a magnitude M8+ earthquake, despite the thousand-fold difference in energy release.

Therefore, although the magnitude of an earthquake is a single one but the intensities of shaking induced by it may vary from place to place surrounding the earthquake epicentre. The intensity of shaking in different places may be determined by physical examinations of casualties in those places after earthquake by a group of earthquake specialists. The physical examinations of casualties are tallied with most widely used Modified Mercalli (MM) Intensity Scale which has twelve divisions denoted by Roman numerals. The intensities of shaking may also be obtained from the measured local readings of Peak Ground Accelerations (PGA) of accelerometer if pre-installed in the tremor area. There is an approximate relation between MM Intensity Scale and PGA. The twelve divisions of MM Intensity Scale are mainly characterised as follows: (I) not felt, (II) felt by persons at rest, (III) felt indoors, hanging objects swing, (IV) felt like heavy ball striking the walls, glasses clink, crockery clashes, (V) felt outdoors, sleepers awakened, unstable objects displaced or upset, pendulum clocks stop, (VI) felt by all, furniture moved or overturned, weak plaster and masonry with weak workmanship cracked, (VII) difficult to stand, damage to masonry with weak workman-

ship, (VIII) partial collapse and damage to masonry of good workmanship, (IX) general panic, masonry of weak workmanship destroyed, masonry of ordinary workmanship heavily damaged, sometimes with complete collapse, masonry of good workmanship seriously damaged, general damage to foundation, frames cracked, (X) most masonry and frame structures destroyed with their foundations, serious damage to dams, dikes, embankments, (XI) rails bent greatly, underground pipelines completely out of service, and (XII) damage nearly total, objects thrown into the air.

The intensities or the measured PGA induced by an earthquake at different places surrounding hundreds of kilometers from the earthquake epicentre are reported in the media, survey reports of the countries where earthquake occurred. The media of other countries of the world usually do not serve all these things in detail. But if a group of experts from other countries or international team survey the affected area, they of course mention all about the intensities and/or PGA in their survey report.

The strength of a particular building can be expressed in terms of the intensity scale described above or in terms of PGA. The survival of a building due to an earthquake depends on how far it can withstand the shaking of ground on which it is constructed. So the Peak Ground Accelerations, not the magnitudes on Richter Scale, become an important factor for a particular building.

The magnitude on Richter Scale has nothing to do with the design of a structure.

In this connection, I like to recall the experience of minor shaking experienced by the Dhaka dwellers at 1:54:40 pm of 19 December 2001. The people around felt the shaking indoors, hanging objects swinging. We can remember the shaking created panic among the prisoners inside Dhaka Central Jail, and more than one hundred persons injured themselves while they wanted to evacuate floor area en-mass by using a single stair case. Some masonry buildings in old part and other areas of the city suffered cracks. I myself discovered such cracks in a single-story masonry building at Maidhya Paikpara. If we consider the cracks of the masonry building for directly tallying with the MM Intensity Scale described above, we would find the shaking falls in (VI). But since the cracks did not appear on considerable number of masonry buildings in these areas of the city, so the intensity of shaking could be placed in (V) or (IV), considering that a very few number of buildings cracked due to their exceptionally poor workmanship. Or in other words the buildings which suffered cracks could not withstand shaking of intensities (V) or (IV) of MM Intensity Scale without any serious damage.

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Of unattended duties

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THE world has its heart in its mouth. The U.S. Congress has authorised the President "to use all means, including force, to enforce the UNSC resolution, defend the National Security interest of the U.S. against the threat posed by Iraq and restore international peace and security in the region". Once again, a superpower is making all possible attempts to handle an international issue. Yes, perhaps Saddam Hussein needs to learn a lesson but a million dollar question arises: Does the U.S. deserve to lead such a mission? History has witnessed numerous issues which have ended up in a mess after superpowers have intervened in them. Their actions erupt like cheap firecrackers and as soon as their desires are met, they wave an easy bye-bye to the matter.

Afghanistan is a paragon of this! Yesterday that used to be a land of rich resources and culture, today is no better than debris. Who is responsible for this but the superpowers? It started with the Soviet invasion. They came and tried to impose their ideologies upon the people. Then came the Americans to "rescue" the

Afghans. They promoted militancy dragging thousands of young men out into the war. The Taliban and Osama Bin Laden were all products of the U.S. mission. The Soviet military fought the U.S. backed militants and both indiscriminately devastated the country. Whatever the U.S. did in Afghanistan was merely to humiliate their cold-war rivals. But, in 1989 out of the blue they signed an agreement to check any foreign intervention in Afghanistan. The Soviet military withdrew and U.S. locked the matter in some remote corner of its mind. No "superpower" attended the duty of putting Afghanistan back on to the path of development. Later the Taliban took over the charge of the country and the Afghan society was shattered.

Never did the U.S. think about the regime change in Afghanistan until the devastation extended to the WTC and the Pentagon. If the U.S. had attended its duty after Soviet withdrawal, September 11, 2001 would perhaps have passed like just another ordinary day in history.

Who can forget the other Big B - Britain? It bullied upon the world for hundreds of years and is now striving to be the deputy to U.S. in leading the world. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also

an artifact of Britain's selfish imperialism. Britain and other "powerful nations" could not cease the discrimination against the Jews in their own territories. So, when Britain invaded Palestine during the First World War, the Balfour Declaration flared up asking for the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. Was not Mr. Balfour aware that Palestine was someone else's home and not a desert or a forest where they could dump all Jews? Anyway the Jews, at that time, were suffering a great deal and everyone should have sympathy with them. They needed a homeland and so the Balfour Declaration can be accepted. But what happened after that was only Britain's fault. It failed miserably to maintain peace between the Arabs and the Jews or rather could not attend another duty! Two sets of victimised people kept fighting tragically. Later, Britain referred the matter to the United Nations. On November 29, 1947, the UN adopted a partition plan. Both the U.S. and the USSR voted in favour, while Britain abstained. Perhaps, Britain sniffed that its imperialism was nearing an end and so did not want the land to go independent. When the British mandate on Palestine expired in 1948, Israel (the Jewish part) declared itself

independent. The partition never materialised as the Arab world never looked at it positively and continued to war against the newly formed state. On the other hand Britain turned a blind eye to what was happening. In the wars Israel even occupied what according to the partition plan would belong to the Palestinians.

Was not it Britain's duty to see that the U.N. plan was fulfilled? The entire matter was solely a blunder of Britain and thus it was its duty to fix up the puzzle. Today, Palestinians carry out suicide bombings every other day as they struggle for freedom. Israelis live without a single second of guaranteed security. People on both sides are suffering -- just because Britain did not attend its duties!

Nearly Kashmir is burning! It is another sad story of unattended duties. It is crystal clear that Britain is responsible for this as it left the valley swinging between India and Pakistan in 1947. But all was fine till the late 80s. The violence in Kashmir started in and around 1989. Close observation will give light to the fact that the reason behind this was the rise in Islamic militancy. Because of the U.S. support for militancy in Afghanistan, Islamic radicalism stood on a high in

Pakistan encouraging extremist organisations to hike and aid militancy allegedly in Kashmir. Incursions in Kashmir started, violence broke out, Indian military swooped in and since then the land is being stained with blood.

U.S. never rectified the negative impacts of its Afghan mission which is today somewhere responsible for the so-called cross-border terrorism in Kashmir which has led to further Indo-Pak hostility. If firstly Britain and then U.S. had attended their duties, this region would have seen greener grasses!

One may wonder why they leave things in such messy conditions. And if they are to conclude like that why do they intervene in the first place? Are some selfish motives at the back of their minds? Surely so; the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan was just an extension of the Cold War and the British meddling in Palestine was intended to sweep out the problems that existed in Britain because of the Jews and the Kashmir episode, analysts say, was left unattended so that this region never settles and never leaves Britain behind as far as economic development was concerned. What shocking stories of selfish strategies! The victims of these strategies are the

common people and so today the word 'terrorism' is heard everyday. When someone is oppressed, exploited and abused, he ends up becoming a terrorist in frustration. (This does not mean that every terrorist is a victim of such atrocities; fanatics are also equally responsible for turning many youths into terrorists.)

Any day the news may flash on our T.V. sets that Iraq has been attacked. If Mr. Bush acts sensibly with the Iraq issue, attends all his duties properly and thinks about the welfare of the people, he will find everyone standing square of him. But if he, being as "strategic" as his predecessors, violently attacks Iraq, just captures the oil reserves, dismantles the defence build-up, cripples the economy, makes the people suffer and runs away, then I am afraid, there surely will be a backlash out of utter frustration

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