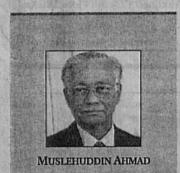
POINT COUNTERPOINT

Ah, Bush again!



H, Bush again' -appeared to be the sudden reaction of a Gaulist MP of France when he told a Television (BBC) interviewer that he thought 'Bush was a temporary disease... The bad guy would go,' but it did not happen. Another lady said, 'it's a sad day for all'. It's not only he and the lady, about 80 percent of the French people were against Bush's invasion of Iraq. Same story goes for the German people. Interestingly, both the governments went by the peoples' reaction in opposing Iraq invasion. But the story was different with Great Britain. Though there was tremendous opposition from the people of England and also from his own Labour Party, Blair became the most ardent supporter of Bush and went ahead with men and materials to support Iraq invasion. Here lies the difference in

country's foreign policy. Even overwhelming views of the people are often ignored by the elected governments. One may even term it as one of the defects of the parliamentary democracy. The government of Spain also went ahead and supported Bush but later the government collapsed and the power went to the opposition that opposed Iraq invasion.

Anyway, nearly half of American people and majority (nearly 75%)

much impact on the new voters.

of the people of the world outside

America were against Bush's

reelection, but American people

decided to reelect George W Bush

and impose him on the rest of the

world.. Any country has the right

to elect its leader and it matters

very little to any other country, but

unfortunately, America being the

only superpower, the implication

is different for the rest of the world.

It is more so as America's leader

can order an attack on any country

in the name of combating

terrorism or 'liberating people' as

if entire responsibility has been

America. Even the UN is helpless in such a situation. Iraq is the burning example. Iraq was attacked on the plea that it had WMD and had been violating the UN resolutions, but wasn't the Iraqi invasion the total violation of the UN resolution and indeed the UN Charter? UNSG Kofi Annan himself declared, though at a very late stage, that Iraq invasion was illegal and against the UN resolution. But who cares? The UN

is the most undemocratic world

institution established by the most

democratic countries of the world,

and unfortunately some members

of the same institution wage war to

establish "democracy" of their

choice in many parts of the world,

of course on selective basis, even if

it involved mass killing of innocent

As mentioned before, the

American people have the right to

elect their own President and they

have done so. It was the most

tightly fought election. As it seems

the American election result was

based on two main issues -- war on

terrorism (meaning Homeland

security) and moral issues namely gay marriage, abortion stem cell research etc. The war on terrorism remained practically a blind issue for most of the Americans, 9/11 changed America totally. As it is generally known, the Americans appear to be less concerned or less bothered about the rest of the world. They take themselves to be self-sufficient in their own land. This is why the ordinary Americans

except those who care about the

human rights do not worry much

about Iraqi people. Some probably

even do not know where Iraq is

situated let alone what the Iraqi

They trusted Bush more as he is

the war President. They thought it

to be risky to have new President

while a war has been going on. They

also apparently believed President

Bush when he said -- we must

destroy "terrorists" outside

America before they come and

attack us as done on 9/11. He used

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raised by John Kerry that President Bush has alienated America's traditional allies, created enmity with the Muslims

and Arabs, unnecessarily risked American lives and wasted American tax payers' money on war etc. did not make

traditional allies, created enmity with the Muslims and Arabs, unnecessarily risked American lives and wasted American tax payers' money on war etc. did not make much impact on the new

On moral issues, President Bush got the support of the traditional conservatives and particularly the church going people. He remained firm and very rightly so against gay marriage and abortion (abortion

can be allowed only on medical

grounds). John Kerry did not come

out clearly on these issues. Gay

marriage, undoubtedly a great sin,

was something that Kerry wanted

to leave to the States for decision.

On these issues Kerry apparently

deeply divided though President

Bush has said he would try to heal

the differences and work in a

bipartisan way. This is indeed the

right way to go about it. But he has

some associates who he should get

rid of. The departure of Rumsfeld is

something the world would

undoubtedly appreciate. His stay

Anyway, today America stands

appears to be under discussion now may bring more uncertainties in the world stage. Any hurried decision on Iran or N Korea may bring disaster to America as well as to the rest of the world. Colin Powell who is a good man but remained practically ineffective because of Dick Cheney and Rumsfeld is likely to leave early. His possible replacement reportedly is Ambassador John Danforth who is presently the US Ambassador to the UN. He appears to be a good choice. Some weeks ago he talked about a possible platform for the leaders of the people of Faith, which we ourselves have been promoting for sometime. This idea, if crystallised, may usher in the possibility of some form of cooperation among the people of Faith to talk about the conflict in the present day world of terror. We would certainly welcome his inclusion in President Bush's cabinet

Muslehuddin Ahmad, a former Secretary and Ambassador, is presently the Vice Chancellor of Presidency University.

even for another year or so which

The fear Ah, Bush again -- with the majority of people around the world and also with many Americans should be taken up as a challenge by President Bush himself and efforts should be made to remove it as quickly as possible. Being the superpower President he should go for an effective dialogue with the people of Faith as suggested by Ambassador Danforth and particularly with the leaders of Muslim world (including Arabs) with a view to finding a solution to the present day conflict that may ultimately turn into a clash of religions and indeed clash of civilisations.



All health information to keep you up to date

Heart disease linked to traffic jam

CIENTISTS in Germany have found another risk factor for heart attack. Heart disease is now a deadly problem the whole world is facing today. Heart disease is also one of the leading health concerns in Bangladesh. According to the German study sitting in traffic jams nearly triples the risk of suffering a heart attack. This is specially relevant for drivers, bicyclists and people using public transportation. Researchers think it may be a result of exposure to airborne pollutants that inflame the lungs and damage arteries, but the emotional stress of passing through traffic could

The above German study was based on interviews with more than 900 heart attack survivors from 1999 to 2001. The patients described their activities thoroughly on the days they suffered these attacks and during the previous four days. On the day they experienced their heart attacks, they spent more time on the road than the days before. The researchers established that the likelihood of a heart attack was almost three times as high if the subjects had been in cars in the previous hour, four times as high if they had been on bikes and three times as high if they had used public transportation.

One expert believes that the emotional stress of driving or traveling is the most important factor. The close association between anger and heart attack had been understood and accepted for years.

There are also several other studies that indicate a link between exposure to traffic and heart disease. These studies have found an increased risk of heart problems among traffic police, taxi drivers and others whose jobs require them to be on the road. One of the studies found that people living near major roads had double the risk of dying of a cardiopulmonary disease. It is very difficult for us (general public) to improve our 'spectacular' traffic system at this moment but what we can do is to find out ways to relieve the stress it causes. Don't always expect everything to go right in the streets. If you do, you will be greatly frustrated with perhaps high blood pressure. Accept it is very usual that things can and will go wrong may be that is the calmest way you can escape from this problem.

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RETIRED ARMED FORCES OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION NOTICE

22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM-2004)

It is hereby notified for information of all members that the 22nd Annual General Meeting of RAOWA will be held at 1100 hrs on 25 Dec 2004 at the RAOWA Complex.

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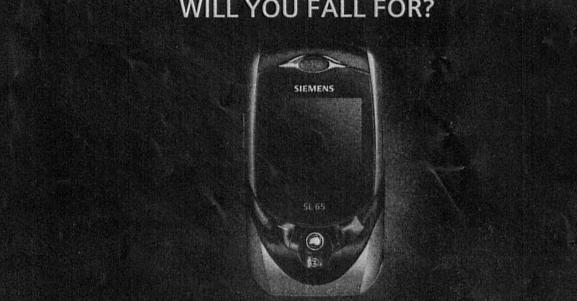
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