

If Israel can be trusted, why can't Iran?

DR. FAKHRUDDIN AHMED writes from Princeton

IN the world we live in, dubious assertions are repeated ad infinitum as though they are self-evident truths...

Post said almost exactly what I would say as to why Iran is entitled to the nuclear bomb, if it so desires.

Cohen begins: "If you ask an American why he keeps a gun, he'll say it's a dangerous world out there...

of the country. At the moment Russian designs on Iran seem both unlikely and preposterous, but what happened once could happen again...

the country, was restored to his throne. Mossadeq was put under house arrest, but some of his aides, including the foreign minister, were executed...

and smell the importance of international organisations and the rule of (international) law. If a country can't trust the law it will, like any American gun owner, hanker for a weapon of its own.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Morality has little or no connection with a deity. If it did, America would not have experienced the Salem witch trials; hundreds of years of involuntary servitude of a portion of its citizenry...

overreacting a bit, while the average Iranian is, as the Brits might say, spot on. If ever a country could use a nuclear arsenal, it is Iran.

"This is not an endorsement of Iran's reputed and deeply suspected effort to go nuclear. It is merely an attempt to show that the country carrying member of the 'axis of evil' is, while somewhat evil, actually being totally rational...

For a long time I agonised over the fact that even the Muslims, let alone Americans, were not aware that packaged as "self-evident truths," these were actually lies...

threat to Iran. But Iran is an Islamic (Shiite) theocracy, and it is engaged in a struggle with Israel that makes as much sense from Iran's point of view as did, say, the American effort to rid the world of the Nicaraguan Sandinistas...

promulgated a virtual divine right to wage preemptive war -- and made good on both statements by taking out Saddam Hussein. From the Iranian point of view, the world must also seem an illogical place...

"Then, to the west, Iraq. Under Saddam Hussein, it invaded Iran in 1980 and devastated its oil infrastructure. As we have now learned the hard way, Hussein did not have nuclear weapons, but he desperately wanted them -- as might some Iraq leader of the future...

"But if that's the way it's going to continue to be, then the United States had better change its approach. It ought, right off, to join with its European allies -- Britain, France and Germany -- in offering Iran a package of goodies to induce it to abandon its nuclear dreams...

"Take Russia. It is now on friendly terms with Iran and an important trading partner, but at the end of World War II, the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin had to be pressured into withdrawing from the northern part of the country...

"Maybe more important, the Bush administration had better wake up and realise that Iran is an Islamic (Shiite) theocracy, and it is engaged in a struggle with Israel that makes as much sense from Iran's point of view...

What next after Fallujah?

BRIG GEN GYASUDDIN A CHOWDHURY BB, PSC (RETD)

MANY military strategists and analysts predicted about the outcome of invasion of Iraq by Anglo-American forces. Now the Presidential election of USA is over and the commander-in-chief has succeeded in convincing majority voters that he is the only leader who can give security to them...

by US soldiers many days before the actual attack are the victims of indiscriminate air attacks and shelling.

The chairman of the joint chief of staff General Richard Myers has boasted that guerrilla bases have been destroyed and the troops are advancing successfully by clearing the pockets of resistance. Guerrilla forces do not have any headquarters and command structure and are not uniformed soldiers...

confidence of the local people. Installing civilian government in an election through manipulation cannot be treated as successful transition. The US military as well as the civil government will have to convince people of the invaded country that the military has been sent for the betterment of the people...

knowledge about the war in Iraq. Today two of Iraq's important neighbours have deep-rooted interest in running its affairs. Iran has a great interest -- it wants the Shias to get organised well and elect the Shia leaders of its choosing to run the country where 65 per cent of the population are Shia...

planning to tackle the situation politically. This mistake is likely to be repeated after capture of Fallujah. Whole population of Iraq looks apprehensive and hostile about the presence of US troops and US policy in Iraq.

Today what is happening in Iraq is more than what is seen. It is not the war against Iraq but an effort to create new generations through election under the umbrella of superpower United States. US is losing fast its time for diplomatic breakthrough as neither UN/European countries nor Arab world has been brought into confidence...

After the fall of Saddam the US failed to enforce law and order; there was lack of farsightedness and comprehensive planning to tackle the situation politically. This mistake is likely to be repeated after capture of Fallujah.

technique of the guerilla/insurgents adopt for urban warfare. They do not surrender or fight to the last but melt away at the end of every resistance. The aim and mission of a guerilla fighter is to play on the nerves of regular soldiers to make them frustrated and suddenly attacking them by small group or sniping them from unexpected positions...

US invasion of Iraq. If US military continue to kill innocent civilians, women and children in the process of eliminating the insurgents, the action will be termed as defeat of US army as well as of the government. Also, if the guerilla fighters could come back to their old bases like Fallujah or Mosul, which is declared as free of insurgents, it will also be treated as defeat of the military as well as US government. Number of casualties in Fallujah operation is very high from the military points of view -- in that more than 50 soldiers were killed and more than 500 injured...

fighters and the terrorists, US may not expect to get the cooperation from these two important countries. Without the active support of these two countries peace in Iraq can never be achieved. But the rhetoric by US government in the past made to believe that the US is going to attack Iran and Syria in the long run. As such these two countries may not give any support to USA in containing/destroying the Iraqi insurgents at this stage and installing a government of its choosing.

At this stage the most important mission of US military is to eliminate the insurgents and hold a 'successful' election in January 2005. The possibilities of showing peaceful environment for election looks bleak in Iraq. It is predicted that the situation may be worst after the election particularly after the withdrawal of some troops of US and its allies in the near future.

During US presidential election a diversionary tactic was used by saying that America's security is at jeopardy because of war in Iraq. Fear phobia was inculcated in the minds of American public. This motivation factor worked well amongst those who have very little

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ROKEYA DAY

Recalling the legend in women's education and empowerment

PARVEZ BABUL



BEGUM Rokeya, the legend in women's education and empowerment, was born on December 09, 1880 and died on December 09, 1932. We observe December 09 as 'Rokeya Day'. Begum Rokeya got a lifespan of about 52 years only. The generous contributions of Begum Rokeya in educating, empowering and enlightening women in our country can be regarded as milestones in our age.

and kept working for women's education and emancipation. The Muslim women of Bengal at that time were backward, neglected and oppressed. She realised that women could be freed from their shackles only if they were educated and became economically independent.

"History may well judge the war to topple Saddam Hussein 'The War of the Wrong Consonant' because it was waged against Iraq, not Iran. It's often said that that war produced no winners. Not so. It's Iran," Cohen concludes.

Begum Rokeya founded in 1916 Anjuman-e-Khawatin-e-Islam (AKI) or the Muslim Women's Society to make women aware of their rights. That organisation was in the forefront of fighting for women's education, employment, empowerment, legal, political rights etcetra. AKI defrayed the cost of education for a large number of women and arranged marriages for many poor women. It gave shelter to orphans, destitute women and extended financial help to widows.

At Calcutta she set up Sakhawat Memorial Girls' School on 16 March 1911 with only eight students. But through the untiring efforts of Begum Rokeya the school was gradually upgraded to Middle English Girls' School and High English Girls' School. The school was shifted to

different places because of the increase in the number of students and some other reasons. The school got its permanent address when it was finally shifted to its own house. By that time Begum Rokeya had been running the school for twenty-four years overcoming various obstacles. She made the school one of the best seats of learning for Muslim girls, a learning that was beyond the imagination of the girls of that time. In a word, Rokeya made the 'impossible' possible standing against the negative norms of a society.

With relentless hard labour she was able to bring her fellow women to face the realistic world to live in a positive way. She worked hard to convince Muslim families to send their daughters to school. She went from house to house, motivated the parents that education was good for girls and the precondition of their empowerment.

But it's a matter of great regret that in our country, the motherland of Begum Rokeya, still about half of the women population are illiterate! In 1901, literacy rate was 5.6 per cent but within 100 years we could not be able to increase the literacy rate up to 100 per cent! This is why we should recognise the problems and take necessary, time-appropriate initiatives to make all of our women literate. Government, NGOs, civil society and each one of us should start and take the responsibility to teach at least one illiterate person from today as a part of observing Rokeya Day.

Parvez Babul is an NGO activist.

BCIC INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sr. General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (12th Floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A., Dhaka invites sealed quotations against Tender Enquiry No. PUR-3.1737/2004-2005 dated 07-12-2004 for Import of 25,000 MT Prilled Urea in bag (± 5% at seller's option) in two lots on CFR (C), Chittagong Port on Liner term basis under Cash Foreign Exchange. Minimum offer quantity is 12,500 MT (± 5%) Prilled Urea in bag. Offer shall be received upto 11.00 A.M. on 17-01-2005 and be opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidder/bidder's representative (if any). Tender documents with detailed terms and conditions will be available on payment of Tk. 5,000.00 per set (non-refundable) from (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (2nd floor), Dhaka and (ii) General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A., Chittagong.

Earnest money is Tk. 15.00 lacs (Taka Fifteen lacs) or its equivalent U.S. Dollar only for each 12,500 MT (± 5%) or its part Prilled Urea in bag. No Tender Documents shall be sold on the date of opening and no late offer shall be accepted. The buyer reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

BCIC-411 - 07/12/2004 Md. Kamruzzaman Addl. Chief Manager (Purchase), For Sr. General Manager (Purchase).

MOHAMMED ELIAS BROTHERS (PVT) LTD. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are a group of companies having multifarious industries at Chittagong and Narayanganj and liaison office in Dhaka, looking for suitable candidates for immediate appointment in the following positions for our corporate head office at Chittagong town and factory office / industrial belt at North Patenga: Chief Accountant / Asst. General Manager (Accounts)-01 (one) no. (for head office at Chittagong town)

- Candidates should be M.Com. in Accounting with C.A. having minimum 05 (five) years experience in factory manufacturing accounts under computerised accounts system.
Age: not more than 40 (forty) years as on 01.12.2004. Relaxable upto 45 (forty five) years for the candidates with outstanding academic fit.
Sr. Security Officer - 01 (one) no. (for industrial belt at North Patenga)
The post is suitable for an ex-Army Officer (including Navy and Airforce, not below the rank of JCO/PO/WO) with strong personality and integrity;
He should be atleast Intermediate/HSC or equivalent;
Should have atleast 02 (two) years working experience in line in any reputed organisation.
Age: Must not be more than 45 (forty five) years as on 01.12.2004
Receptionist-cum-Telephone Operator (female only) - 01 (one) no. (for factory office at North Patenga)
Should be atleast H.S.C. or equivalent. Preference will be given to those who have PABX operating experience.
Should be well spoken and fair in speaking both English and Bengali.
Should be smart and presentable.
Age: Not above 30 (thirty) years as on 01.12.2004
Security Guard - 07 (seven) nos. (for industrial belt at North Patenga)
Should have S.S.C standard education. Preference will be given to S.S.C passed candidates;
Should possess sound health with at least 5 - 6 height;
Should have minimum two years experience in line;
Age: below 35 (thirty five) years as on 01.12.2004. Relaxable upto 40 years for ex Army personnel.

Salary: Negotiable on the basis of qualification and experience
Please apply in confidence with a complete C.V./Resume, one passport size photograph and copies of academic and experience certificates mentioning the name of the position on the top of the envelope to the Managing Director, Mohammed Elias Brothers (Pvt) Ltd. Corporate Head Office, 100, Khatusgonj, Chittagong within 10 (ten) days of the publication of the advertisement.

Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority

WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215. PABX: 8117829-31/8120223-27, Fax: 880-2-9146049, e-mail: ssadwasa@bangla.net

Invitation for Tender

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Description of goods, and other details. Includes tender name, source of fund, brief description of goods, and eligibility of tenderers.

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