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

civilians, via nuclear weapons, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

DR. FAKHRUDDIN AHMED writes

N the world we live in, dubious assertions are repeated ad nfinitum as though they are selfevident truths by those who stand to benefit from those dubious assertions. The rationale behind the repetitions of lies as self-evident truths is that the perpetrators know that like lies, parroted often enough, false assertions begin to ring true. Some of those "self-evident truths" that are currently in vogue but are actually lies, follow. Lie #1: the United Nations Security Council does a great job (fact: in reality through it the permanent members (powers) protect and promote their and their friends' vital interests and criminally punish the world's Muslims); Lie #2 Israel is legal and has a right to exist (fact: when the permanent members of UN Security Council, who else, sanctioned the creation of Israel in 1948, they did not bother to consult the wishes of the people already living on that piece of land, the Palestinians!); Lie #3: Israel can be trusted with the nuclear bomb, but Iran cannot be (fact: nuclear-emboldened Israel bombed and destroyed Iraq's nuclear facilities in 1981 without declaring war, has threatened Egypt with the destruction of the Aswan Dam if it remotely hurts Israel's interests, and with the US's blessings continues to threaten Iran with the bombing and destruction of Iran's own nuclear

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, literally killing thousands of Muslims worldwide. Imagine my surprise, therefore, when in his November 23 column entitled, "How to Defuse Iran," my favourite columnist Richard Cohen of The Washington 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. If you ask the average Iranian why his country should have a nuclear weapon, he'll tell you the same thing. The difference between your average American and your average Iranian is that the former, while hardly crazy, is

overreacting a bit, while the average

Iranian is, as the Brits might say, spot

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

President Bush once cited as a card-

carrying member of the "axis of evil"

is, while somewhat evil, actually being totally rational. For starters, it

is surrounded by nations that have at

some of which have nuclear

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

"Take Russia. It is now on friendly

one time or another been enemies --

on. If ever a country could use a

nuclear arsenal, it is Iran.

of the country. At the moment Russian designs on Iran seem both unlikely and preposterous, but what happened once could happen again or so an Iranian might argue.

"To the east is Pakistan, a certified member of the nuclear club, Iranians may wonder why the Pakistanis can have a bomb and they cannot. It is a question without an answer. Farther afield is Israel, which no one in his right mind would consider a mortal

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; the perversion of voting requirements that disenfranchised

women until the 1920s; the internment of thousands of our citizens of Japanese American

descent during World War II and it would not have murdered several hundred thousand

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. In its own way, every

"Then, to the west, is Iraq. Under Saddam Hussein, it invaded Iran in

1980 and devastated its oil infrastruc-

ture. As we have now learned the hard

way, Hussein did not have nuclear

weapons, but he desperately wanted them -- as might some Iraqi leader of

the future. The country is now in the hands of the United States, which has

hardly been a mere observer in the

region. In 1953 the CIA mounted a

coup in which the Prime Minister,

Mohammad Mossadeq, was ousted

and the Shah, who had prudently fled

country is a bit nuts.

throne. Mossadeq was put under house arrest, but some of his aides, including the foreign minister, were executed. Years later, when the Shah was toppled and hostages were taken at the U.S. Embassy, it was not entirely an episode without context.

"From an Iranian point of view, then, the world is indeed a dangerous place. It must seem all the more dangerous since Bush made Iran one-third of his axis of evil, LETTER FROM AMERICA

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. Why is it

okay for Israel to have the bomb or,

for that matter. France? The answer

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. Instead, Washington has declared itself "agnostic" about

these talks, which is hardly a rousing

"Maybe more important, the Bush administration had better wake up

"But if that's the way it's going to

is, that's the way it is, booby.

international organisations and the rule of (international) law. If a country can't trust the law it will, like

A letter in The Times of New Jersey on November 18 summed it up best: The morality of the majority precipitated America's invasion of North Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and yet to be determined additional recipient of our bullying tactics. I think 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; the perversion of voting requirements that disenfranchised women until the 1920s; the internment of thousands of our citizens of Japanese American descent during World War II and it would not have murdered several hundred thousand civilians, via nuclear weapons, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is ironic that the only nation ever to unleash the horror of nuclear weapons against other human beings was the United States, whose leaders are now conducting a war on terror.'

and smell the importance o any American gun owner, hanker for weapon of its own.

"Repeatedly, Iran vows it has no nuclear intentions. "Trust, but verify," I say, echoing Ronald Reagan's echo of Mikhail Gorbachev. But if it turns out that Iran is lying (imagine!), unilateralism will not work. The United States is not about to go into another war, this time with a much larger country where anti-Western sentiment has been a factor since the 19th century -- and the

Iranians have to know it. "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

ROKEYA DAY

Recalling the legend in women's education and empowerment

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 'Rokaya 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 a milestones in any age. Begum Rokeya was born in an aristocratic family of Pairaband, Rangpur. Her family name is Roquiah Khatun but she is well known as Begum Rokeya. Begum Rokeya's elder brothers studied in Saint Xavier's College, Calcutta: but Rokeya and her elder sister Karimunnessa were not sent to school! Yet, Rokeya learnt Bangla and English with the help of her brothers at home. Her brothers and sister also

inspired her in writing. 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. It also established some businesses for women to earn and be self-reliant. AKI contributed greatly towards the development of Muslim women in Calcutta, bracing negative comments and allegations from conservative people.

Begum Rokeya is remembered for her liberal thoughts, secular outlook and powerful writings. In some of her writings she advocated for a concerted effort by women and men for social development. She also wrote on contemporary politics encouraging women's participation.

Begum Rokeya's writings called upon women to protest against injustices and break the social barriers, which are discriminations against them. Her Abarodhbasini (The Secluded Women) is a spirited attack on the extreme forms of purdah (veil) keeping women away from others that deterred their lives.

Her other noted works include Matichur, Padmarag, 'Sultana's Dream', which she later translated into Bangla as Sultanar Swapna, etc. Begum Rokeya wrote poetry too. Many of her poems and essays were published in different renowned magazines, Begum Rokeya wrote on a wide range of subjects: social prejudice, adverse effects of purdah system, women's education, repression on women, women's rights and on women's awakening. She also wrote against the tradition of childhood

marriage, polygamy etc.
In 1898, Rokeya got married with deputy magistrate Syed Sakhawat Hossain. Sakhawat Hossain was liberal, progressive and encouraged his wife Rokeya to study both Bangla and English. He also inspired her to read literary works from home and abroad. Begum Rokeya started writing with the inspiration of her husband. Unfortunately her husband died on May 03,1909. Begum Rokeya had two

daughters, but they died in infancy. Begum Rokeya could never sitidle

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. On October 01, 1909 she started a school for Muslim girls at Bhagalpur, India with only five students! She named the school after her husband, Sakhawat Memorial Girls' School, but later she had to move to Calcutta.

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 chool 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 npowerment

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 of Rokeya Day.

Parvez Babul is an NGO activist.

What next after Fallujah?

ANY 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. However, security is a relative term needed to be looked at from a much wider angle.

American media never exposes the events and happenings of the world to the general public with a view to making them aware of the events outside America. Today, USA is the only superpower on earth having the biggest economy. Can it play the role of the greatest nation in a true manner in this unipolar world?

These days what American public is eeingin Fallujah cannot be treated as a victory. It's a fight against the insurgents who do not have proper command structure but have the highest motivation factor. One can hardly see the insurgents but could see the actions of US soldiers who are moving in battle ready position on the road and carrying out indiscriminate firing at the houses in the built up areas under heavy air support, artillery and tank fire. None could confirm how many of the Iraqis killed are really insurgents, in the city of Fallujah. All those killed in the massive indiscriminate bombing are accounted as insurgents. US forces have officially declared that the total number of insurgents killed is over 1200. But no mention was made about the injured insurgents or civilians killed. Red Cross/Red Crescent and UN/aid organisations termed the killing of thousands of innocent civilians an event of human catastrophe. A large number of civilians, who could not leave the city while it was surrounded

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 guerilla bases have been destroyed and the troops are advancing successfully by clearing the pockets of resistances. Guerilla forces do not have any headquarters and command structure and are not uniformed soldiers. Success could be mentioned driving insurgents out of some temporary bases, which is the

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. Also, at the end of the day the elected government must have the acceptability to the people. It seems that not only the insurgents, most of the Iraqis also are not convinced about reasons of Angloknowledge 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. The Saudis would like to have Sunni leaders in the country, as they are apprehensive of Iraq's Shia leadership. By propagating that Iran and Syria are in the hit list of the US for financing the Palestinian

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 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. Surrender of guerillas and capture of their headquarters has not been reported by US army, instead escape of those insurgents are

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

Victory is not only to capture a city or town but to have total command of the region, gain acceptability and the 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. Although the Iraqi guerillas have claimed to have killed 400 and injured more than 2000 and shot down few fighter aircraft and helicopters besides a number of

During US presidential election a diversionary tactics 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

Md. Jafrin Hossain

Senior System Analyst Dhaka WASA

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. In the word of General Wesley K.

Clerk, Commander in Chief of US Southern Command: "a great amount of doubts prevailing amongst the Muslim countries about the sincerity of the present US government to solve Israel-Palestinian problems. Because of this, day by day the number of martyrs is becoming bigger". It is believed that Israel dictates and controls the US Middle East policy, particularly the Palestinian issues.

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. Whole population of Iraq looks apprehensive and hostile about the presence of US

troops and USpolicy 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 loosing fast its time for diplomatic breakthrough as neither UN/European countries nor Arab world has been brought into confidence. At this stage it seems that the present US government feels that the problems in Iraq could be solved through military might single

There is no sign of prevailing peace in Iraq. Today or tomorrow US troops will have to leave Iraq but it will leave behind the legacy of chaos among Shia, Sunni and Kurdish communities. Leadership to run the Iraqi government cannot easily be established because of heterogeneous groups,

Instead of bringing peace in the egion what America has sown in the Middle East is yet to be seen. One may predict that the anti American sentiments may be exploited by many extremist groups and elements to sabotage the American interest all over theworld. Poor countries will suffer

economically, as of today the price of oil is much higher than its variable index. US economy will not be out of that effect, sliding of US dollar is giving indication. Will the present US government assure the world community that it can really handle the crisis in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries politically, economically and militarily?

The writer served as Director, Military Operations in AHQs and also as Ambassador of Bangladesh.

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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/ hidder'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.

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Addl. Chief Manager (Purchase), For Sr. General Manager(Purchase).

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Candidates should be M.Com. in Accounting with C.A. having minimum 05 (five) years experience in factory manufacturing accounts under computarised 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

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Should have S.S.C standard education. Peference 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

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, Khatungonj, Chittagong within 10 (ten) days of the publication of the advertisement.



WASA-349/2004

GD-771

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

1	Tender name	Supply of Computer Hardware and Software.
2	Source of fund	Dhaka WASA Revenue Fund.
3	Invitation for tender's ref. & date	4/2004-2005 dated 01-12-2004.
4	Brief description of goods	Supply of 23 PC, 17 Laser Printer, 2 Dot Matrix Printer, 1 Line Printer, 2 Scanner, 24 UPS, 1 Plotter & other Accessories & Bangla Software.
5	Time for supply of goods	45 (Forty-five) days from the date of signing of contract.
6	Eligibility of tenderers	Genuine Computer Firm having minimum two (2) years of experience in computer hardware/software supply worth of min. Tk 5 lakh in a single work order in any public sector organization.
7	Price of tender document	Tk 750.00 (Taka seven hundred & fifty) only.
8	Amount of tender security	Tk 85.000.00 (Taka eighty-five thousand) only.
9	Name and address of the office (s) selling tender document	Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch, Fakirapool Branch, Posta Branch, Mohammadpur Branch, Mirpur Section No 1 Branch, Mohakhali Corporate Branch. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch.
		Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp, Gülshan-1 Branch, Motijheel Branch, Dhanmondi Branch. One Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch.
10	Name and address of the office (s) receiving tenders	Computer Centre, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (7th Floor) 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
11	Last date of selling tender document	Date: 09/01/2005.
12	Last date and time for submission of the tenders	Date: 10/01/2005. Time: 02:00 PM.
13	Date and time for opening of tenders	Date: 10/01/2005. Time: 02:15 PM.
14	Venue of opening tenders	Conference Room, WASA Bhaban (3rd Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
15	Special instruction	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Procurement will be conducted under Public Procurement Regulation, 2003.



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Md. Kamruzzaman Addl. Chief Manager (Purchase), For Sr. General Manager(Purchase).