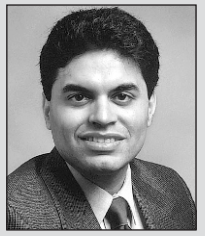


No policy is not good policy



FAREED ZAKARIA writes from Washington

DOES the United States government really care if North Korea becomes a nuclear power? Oh, it tells us all the terrible consequences that could flow from such a development: a nuclear Japan and South Korea; an arms race in East Asia; loose nukes easily available to al Qaeda or any other high bidder.

The problem is not that the United States has a flawed policy on this issue, but that it has no policy on it at all. It has, instead, two impulses: one to get North Korea to renounce its nuclear weapons, the second to help undermine and topple Kim Jong Il's regime.

praying and working for Kim Jong Il's overthrow, that will tend to make Kim want to keep his nuclear insurance policy. As a result, US policy has muddled along incoherently for four and a half years now, achieving no progress.

Washington's current position is that it's all China's fault that North Korea is being stubborn -- that China is wrong to support a truly ugly dictatorship, and President Bush is absolutely correct when he speaks of the immorality of the Pyongyang regime.

Beijing could pressure the Pyongyang regime easily if it wanted to. Beijing has countered that the problem is all in Washington: if the US were willing to talk to North Korea, things would look better.

That's why it generally refuses to use its greatest source of leverage: shutting off the vast quantities of food and fuel it sends to Pyongyang. (It may have done so once or twice very briefly.)

Washington. Bush administration hard-liners want to push for regime change, while the pragmatists want to end the North's nuclear program. Neither side has won the unending policy struggle within the administration, and as a result neither side's policy is really being implemented.

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common Sino-US position. The Chinese are currently well disposed to help the US on North Korea because Bush helped them on their great, overriding foreign-policy obsession -- Taiwan. (They will never admit to linkage, but the two are obviously linked in Beijing's mind.)

China is wrong to support a truly ugly dictatorship, and President Bush is absolutely correct when he speaks of the immorality of the Pyongyang regime. But he should have faith in that judgment. North Korea's regime is destined to fail.

Fareed Zakaria is Editor of Newsweek International. (c) 2005, Newsweek Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.

LEST WE FORGET

Indomitable Dr Maliha Khatun

MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

VERY few Bengali Muslim women were active on the social scene of erstwhile East Pakistan. One amongst these few was late Dr Maliha Khatun, a distinguished educationist, writer and social worker who breathed her last on 24th May 2002 at Dhaka.

College and a Professor of Arabic and Persian at Presidency College, Calcutta. The responsibility of public office, tireless social work and even the untimely death of her daughter could not put a brake on her quest for knowledge.



Dr Maliha is also panned seven books for children. In addition she was regular contributor to several Bengali dailies. Her known publications run beyond thirty. She was awarded the 'Dewan Abdul Hamid Literary Award', the 'Nazrul National Award' and the 'Shere-Bangla National Award' in recognition of her literary accomplishments.

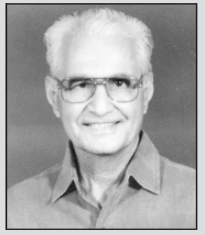
in bodies like Pabna Samity, Rajshahi-Khulna Divisional Development Society and Dhaka Divisional women's sports body. She was an active participant and speaker in seminars and symposiums organised by these bodies.

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Dr Maliha has left two sons and a daughter. The elder son, Humayun Kamal, a member of erstwhile Pakistan foreign service has since retired after serving as Ambassador in China, Korea and Poland. Her younger son, Khurshid Anwar, an engineer by profession lives in USA. Her daughter, Nishat, a post-graduate from Dhaka University, has served for several years in an international NGO and was very innovative as a social entrepreneur in her responsibilities as President of PUNAK -- police women welfare body for two years.

Muhammad Nurul Huda is a former Inspector General of Police and Secretary to the government.

India and nukes: Seventh anniversary



M B NAQVI writes from Karachi

WHATEVER India intended, it flagged off a nuclear arms race with Pakistan by exploding five nuclear devices in May 1998. For, Pakistan soon followed suit, exploding six.

World knew Indian nuclear capability since its test explosion in 1974, though Mrs. Indira Gandhi assured that India would not fabricate nuclear weapons. Missile tests were attributed to its space programme. It was known between 1974 and 1998 that India was developing missiles unrelated to satellites or space programme.

Question of India's motivation crops up insistently. India was one of the leaders of Non-aligned Movement. Its moral stock was high because of its earlier decision to abjure nuclear weapons.

old. All people of goodwill condemn nuclear weapons whether held by Big Five or Israel or India or Pakistan. No one respects India and Pakistan because of their nuclear weapons.

India's political establishment has set its heart on being recognised as a great and region's pre-eminent power while America wants to be world's major power. India wants to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, with the veto. The question is: would

means to security and peace. All too, expenditures on these weapon systems should include the cost of a subsequent accelerated arms race between India and Pakistan that each has to incur. India, richer than Pakistan, is scarcely rich enough country that can waste a lot of money on nuclear weapons and on the secondary arms race too.

Nuclear weapons require command and control systems, costs \$ 3 billion and God knows how much more for keeping it updated and in maintaining it operational. Anyway, an arms race is built into nukes because all weapons have to be kept updated all the time. Each side has to keep ahead of the adversary, who is doing the same. An unstoppable vertical proliferation results when two adversaries are at it.

It could be that the PNE in 1974 or the five explosions by Vajpayee government later, may have been political ploys. They did give a political resonance, favourable to the government. But factually they helped chauvinism and jingoism grow. This is an easy road to popularity. In both countries the tests were claimed to be a great achievement. Whatever the intent, the two sets of nukes have enhanced chauvinism and jingoism -- the true legacy of these weapons.

India, said and done, is still a developing country with the largest pool of poverty. It has miles to go before it can ensure a decent living for all its people. These weapons are horribly costly. One is aware that their promoters (local industrial-military complexes) sold it as the cheapest way to greatness and absolute security. They are nothing of the kind. In the regional context, it was a dishonest sales pitch by hardliners of both India and Pakistan, who had been in frequent contact and had jointly popularised nuclear weapons as the cheapest

PLAIN WORDS

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The Hezbollah factor

RON CHEPESIUQ

IN 1992, in a quiet neighborhood of Charlotte, Mohammed Yousef Hammoud began operating a cell for the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, a group the US government has designated a terrorist organisation. Between 1995 and 1999, the cell smuggled cigarettes from North Carolina to Michigan where the tax on a pack of cigarettes was \$1.20 higher.

In 'Lightning out of Lebanon', Barbara Newman and Tom Diaz use this local story as a backdrop to investigate Hezbollah and the nature of the threat it poses to our national security. Diaz is a journalist and a consultant to the US government on counter-terrorism. Newman, a former host of NPR's 'All Things Considered,' is currently a senior fellow at the Washington, DC-based Defense of Democracies Foundation, a credit that doesn't appear in her bio for the book.

But these events that transpired ten to twenty years ago and happened in the pre 9-11 world won't necessarily help us understand the realities of the Middle East today. As many Middle Experts are pointing out, Hezbollah appears to be positioning itself to become a major player in Lebanese politics, and it -- as well as its chief sponsor, Iran -- don't look eager for direct confrontation with the Bush administration or provoke the world's sole superpower with reckless action.

It's true that Hezbollah, the so-called Party of God, which the Iranian Revolutionary Guards founded in 1982, has done harm to our national interests abroad, and the authors spend considerable space recapitulating the legacy of blood and terror. As they point out, Hezbollah killed more Americans than any other terrorist group before the 9-11 trauma.

Some of the most high profile examples include the 1983 truck-bomb attack on the US marine barracks in Beirut that killed 241 US soldiers, the brutal torture murders of the CIA station chief William

BOOK REVIEW

Lightning out of Lebanon

by Tom Diaz and Barbara Newman

Ballantine Books, New York, 2005,



carefully avoided any accusation of direct involvement in the massacre.

The mysterious Imad Fayeze Mugniyah, the coordinator of Hezbollah's cell network in the Western Hemisphere who has a \$5 million US bounty on his head, sent Hammoud to Charlotte to establish the fund raising network. If bin Laden ever is taken down, look for Mugnyyah to be the next poster terrorist for the War on Terrorism.

One might also ask: why Charlotte? According to the authors, "it fit the bill perfectly" because "Hezbollah was looking for American cities where the focused of law enforcement was far removed from terrorism, new operatives could infiltrate a legitimate expatriate Lebanese community and opportunities existed to engage in middling but profitable criminal schemes."

Buckley and Marine Corp Lt. Colonel William Higgins in the mid-1980s, the 1985 hijacking of the TWA Flight 847 from Athens to Beirut, and the 1996 attack on the Khobar Towers US military housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

But these events that transpired ten to twenty years ago and happened in the pre 9-11 world won't necessarily help us understand the realities of the Middle East today. As many Middle Experts are pointing out, Hezbollah appears to be positioning itself to become a major player in Lebanese politics, and it -- as well as its chief sponsor, Iran -- don't look eager for direct confrontation with the Bush administration or provoke the world's sole superpower with reckless action.

Still, the book is well written, and the information about the Hezbollah connection, interesting. The authors profile Hammoud's early life in Beirut's slums and his involvement with Hezbollah and how like many other local Shiite youth he grew up to possess a deep hatred of Israel. They chronicle the major events of Lebanese-Israeli relations but omit some relevant details important for an understanding of Lebanon's recent history.

For instance, no mention is made of Ariel Sharon's role in the 1982 Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres in which rampaging Christian militia murdered hundreds of unarmed Palestinian refugees. An official Israeli commission of inquiry found that Ariel Sharon, among other Israelis, had responsibility for the massacre, although it

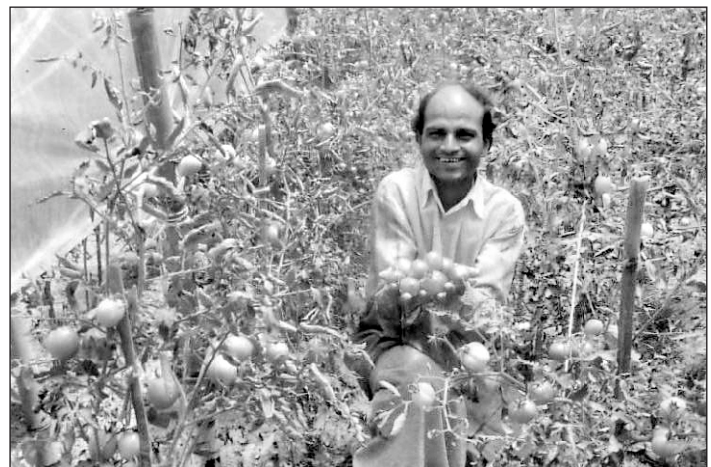
Anwar's self-confidence worth emulation

AG M ALAMGIR

ANWAR Hossain of Badaigaon is a glaring example that relentless hardwork and perseverance can take a man to the pinnacle of success. Now he does not think of himself only, his fellow villagers are also in his vision. He is now working hard to make the people of Badaigaon, Kabirpur and Shimulia self-reliant and self-dependant.

Anwar is a son of the village Badaigaon under Shimulia Union Parishad, Savar Upazila. He is the third among four brothers and one sister. After obtaining graduation degree he started teaching in the local Goalbari High School in 1992. But teaching could give him neither satisfaction nor financial solvency; the money he used to get as salary from the school was not enough to meet the need of his family.

Anwar gave up teaching in 1995. He was provoked by some manpower traders to go abroad and earn bags of money. He, being thus allured, gave Tk 2 lac to a manpower trader to get a job in South Korea. But the irony of fate was that in long three years he could not get the necessary visa or work permit to go to S Korea and all his money was lost. Anwar



become totally disappointed and about to lose heart. At that time some Swannivar Bangladesh programme (rural self-reliance) was going on in Shimulia Union Parishad. Anwar involved himself in that and took up a small summer vegetables cultivation project with assistance from the programme. With polythene roofing he made a green house and started there cultivation of tomato and other vegetables. This time fortune smiled on him. He was awarded the best vegetables farmer of the Union Parishad. In 2003 Anwar participated in the 300th batch of the animators training programme organised by the Hunger Project. The training brought about a change in him. He thought to mobilise the people for a permanent organisation for rural development.

dent or secretary of the Samity time to time to discuss problems of the area and draw up plan of action. Members of these Samities are now working for their own development and also helping others to develop themselves.

Inspired by the training, Anwar took initiative to construct one km rural road from Badaigaon Pagla Bazar to Badaigaon Primary School, by the local people on voluntary basis. Anwar, with the help of the members of the Samity and elected members of the Union Parishad, brought 197 families under the Small Family Programmes. He also inspired the members of the Samities to plant 3000 saplings. He distributed hygienic latrines to 20 families and made more than 200 people aware of nutrition and sanitation.

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end he has started work and his aim is now to create people's awareness in all the union parishads of the sadar upazila.

Anwar has created a unique example by cultivating vegetables in Shimulia Union Parishad. He earns more than Tk.30,000 a year by this. He can now make a good savings from his vegetables farming after meeting his family expenses. He wants to make the entire Shimulia Union Parishad a model of vegetable farming. By now, he has motivated about 100 persons for cultivating vegetables on commercial basis.

Anwar Hossain believes that behind his success, the assistance from Swannivar Bangladesh and inspiration from Hunger Project had worked tremendously. The Animators Training Programme has made him a catalyst. Now he feels himself more responsible for development of his area. He could now have united his thought with work and is more conscious about the society.

Anwar Hossain, who has struggled hard and at last won can now be an example for others. If men like Anwar in the society come up to inspire others to develop themselves to get self-employed, Bangladesh will soon be known as a hunger and poverty free country.

AG M Alamgir is Asstt. Programme officer of The Hunger Project

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Ron Chesepius is a visiting professor at Chittagong University and a Research Associate with the National Defense College in Dhaka.