

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



December 02, 2017

AFF's Victory in Aspiring Member Award

Afghanistan has been suffering from instability and hardships and mostly there are pieces of news that point at them; however, every now and then there are pieces of news that highlight some sort of optimism and hope. In one of such pieces of news on Wednesday, it was announced that Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF) won the award for aspiring member association of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for 2017. The ceremony was held in Thailand where athletes from 47 countries had participated. The award is given to a Member Association in recognition of its professional administration and governance as well as its exceptional contribution to the development and promotion of the game at all levels within the country.

For Afghanistan, this achievement is very important as the country needs to play a determining role against instability, extremism and terrorism. It is imperative that Afghan authorities must comprehend that sport can be useful in development and peace because it strives for cooperation and unity. It brings nations together and urge them to come closer to one another. Different countries, in different international sports events have matches and compete one another and, in the process, push away the barriers that differentiate or divide them. Different international sports events are very much useful in bringing different countries culturally closer as well. In this way, it can provide opportunities to shun adversaries and open the prospects of peace and unity.

At the same time, different types of sports can divert the attention of the people of a nation away from many social evils, such as drugs and terrorism. Youngsters who opt for any sort of sport do not mostly get caught in the quagmire of the drug addiction and the terrorists. The developed countries of the world use sports as one of the major factors that can play a comprehensive role in fighting the social evils. They even consider that sports can be used to promote development with a country. However, the underdeveloped and the developing countries have not been able to achieve much in this regard.

In Afghanistan, there are different types of sports that are played by the people in different parts of the country. Instability and disorder, however, influenced the growth of the sports in the country. Nonetheless, since the downfall of Taliban, efforts regarding the promotion of sports have intensified. And, there are certain games, in which Afghans have shown great talent and they have achieved international recognition. Among them football, cricket and taekwondo are the noteworthy ones.

Afghan football team won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2013 for the first time by beating India. The cricket team on the other hand qualified for World Cup Cricket 2015 and it also qualified for T20 World Cup 2016 and even reached to the Super 10 round. Currently, Afghan cricket team returned home after winning different trophies at international level. Afghan taekwondo players have also achieved international distinctions. Keeping in mind the preparations and the facilities that the Afghan sportsmen get, it is really encouraging to see such great achievements by Afghan sportsmen. Afghan government requires doing more so as to facilitate different sportsmen in their respective fields. The sportsmen of the other countries enjoy all sorts of facilities that are required; therefore, they are able to show their distinction in different games.

On the other hand, our sportsmen also require support from the people. The love and support of the people fill the hearts of the players with motivation and determination and, therefore, they are able to perform at their best.

Our country is largely suffering from the influence of war, instability and disorder. The enemies of the nation have nothing else to offer except bloodshed and tyranny. The people are totally fed up of the situation and they want entertainment and amusement. And, they can achieve all these only through sports. Recently, it has been observed that what the politicians have not been able to achieve, what the sportsmen have been able to acquire. They have brought the down-trodden people of Afghanistan a ray of hope and a realization of the fact that the Afghans are capable of performing well in all fields of life. Politics has only brought rifts within the people and has divided them on ethnic lines, but the games have saved their unity and their honor.

It is really important for the authorities in Afghanistan to understand that the games and sportsmen have a higher role than just playing games; therefore, they should be given due attention and they should be provided with the facilities so that they are able to compete with other nations of the world. They have proved that having less facilities and opportunities they are able to perform very well, so if they are given facilities they will really polish their abilities and will be able to perform extraordinarily on international level. In short, if sports are promoted properly, they have the potential to divert the attentions of the people towards positive activities and will be able to keep them away from the social evils.



No End to Human Rights Violation

By Hujjatullah Zia

Human rights violation continues unabated in contemporary era. People's rights and dignity are humiliated. They are still judged on the grounds of their color. People of color still suffer from discrimination and bias. They are belittled, sold, and killed simply due to their color. Since discriminating one based on their race, color or creed is against international instruments, it will outrage the public conscience.

A recent CNN video clip showing people from African countries allegedly being sold as slaves for as little as \$100 went viral, drawing the outrage of many, including the United Nations.

To show a backlash against this issue, thousands of people gathered in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, on Saturday night to protest against the alleged sale of African migrants and refugees in Libya. Lovette Jallow, who organized the protest, said that it was a human rights issue, this was something that one could do and should do in their homes.

"Are you from Turkey, Kurdistan, Iran or Egypt? If in all these countries when you are home, and people are called 'Abed' 'Slave', speak up!"

It is an undeniable fact that when one is sold as slave, dishonored or killed due to their racial or religious backgrounds, it will be outrageous to the entire world. If individuals and nations do not exercise patience or tolerance toward one another, peace and prosperity will remain elusive.

Martin Luther King Jr. sought to put an end to discrimination on the basis of color in the United States. He dreamt about a civil society in which all people, including the Black and White, were treated equally.

In his historical speech titled "I Have a Dream" he said, "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), all people are born free and equal in rights and dignity. People's rights to life and freedom are inherent and

inviolable. Violating their rights and dignity will be not only against international instrument but also against religious tenets and moral values. If we view trading people as slaves from moral perspective, it will be highly shocking. It is not acceptable in religions, either.

It is lack of tolerance that allows one to underestimate the rights and blood of people. For example, religious fundamentalists exercise no sense of tolerance toward the public and shed their blood without an iota of mercy. They value neither one's life nor one's dignity. To view the rehearsals of the self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), it spilled streams of blood simply in light of one's race or color. Their dogmatic mindset left no room for tolerance. Therefore, Yazidi women bore the brunt of discrimination. Both their rights and honor were violated flagrantly.

Following the reports about Libya's slave trade, a group of UN human rights experts has strongly condemned the issue. In a joint statement issued on Thursday, the group urged the Libyan government to take "urgent action" to end the practice.

It is said that that many of the enslaved refugees are held for ransom or forced into prostitution and sexual exploitation to pay their captors and smugglers. Others are murdered by smugglers or die in the desert from thirst or car accidents.

Human trafficking is thought to be one of the fastest-growing activities of trans-national criminal organizations. Human trafficking is condemned as a violation of human rights by international conventions.

In December 2012, UNODC published the new edition of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012 has revealed that 27 per cent of all victims of human trafficking officially detected globally between 2007 and 2010 are children, up 7 per cent from the period 2003 to 2006. There are many different estimates of how large the human trafficking and sex trafficking industries are. Scholar Kevin Bales, author of Disposable People (2004), estimates as many as 27 million people are in "modern-day slavery" across the globe.

Hence, the world will have to put an end to human rights violation, be it in the form of trafficking, slavery, shedding one's blood, etc. If we do not respect the rights and dignity of one another, we will never have a prosperous life or form a civil society.

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Four Ways to Beat HIV/AIDS

By Heather Bresch

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, some stories illuminate the long road to global eradication more than others. In 2009, I heard one such story in Tanzania.

I was visiting a remote village when I spoke to a woman who knew that she was HIV-positive. She told me that the established health guidelines at the time indicated that she could not receive treatment until her count of CD4 T-helper cells, a type of white blood cell used by the immune system, had dropped below a certain threshold.

After walking several miles to get her count checked, she arrived at the clinic only to find its testing machine broken. The machine was still inoperative the second time she made the long journey. Only months later, after her third trip to the clinic on foot, did she receive her cell count: her levels were far below the necessary threshold. Her treatment should have begun months before.

Since HIV/AIDS was first identified in 1984, it has killed more than 35 million people. Although the number of AIDS-related deaths has fallen by almost half since peaking in 2005, there are still far too many people dying from this preventable condition. In 2016 alone, one million people around the world died from HIV-related causes, while 1.8 million more became infected. Contrary to popular myth, we have not turned the corner on AIDS - not by a long shot.

World AIDS Day, on December 1, is an occasion to honor the millions of victims, and to recommit to ending this devastating disease. According to UNAIDS, just 54% of HIV-positive adults, and only 43% of HIV-positive children, are currently receiving the antiretroviral therapies that save lives and prevent new infections. With so many untreated patients, the virus will continue to spread.

As CEO of a global pharmaceutical company, I'm proud of the work we have done to fight HIV/AIDS around the world. Today, more than eight million people - nearly half of all patients receiving treatment for HIV in developing countries - depend on the antiretroviral treatments that we produce.

But for those of us on the front lines of this struggle, our work is far from over. The pharmaceutical industry has a responsibility to expand access to testing and treatment, and to help stop the spread of HIV once and for all. Fulfilling four key commitments will make this goal achievable.

For starters, pharmaceutical companies should do more to increase the availability of low-cost, generic medicines. My company, Mylan, introduced the first generic once-daily pill for developing countries in 2009, and we have continually reduced its price to make it more accessible to more people. With this treatment alone, Mylan and other generic manufacturers save the US government, international donors, and national health programs more than \$4.5 billion a year.

Still, treatment options could be expanded further. In September, Mylan announced a collaboration with UNAIDS, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, and other partners to provide the next-generation single-pill HIV regimen to patients in more than 90 low- and

middle-income countries for less than \$75 per year. These drugs are widely used in high-income countries because they produce fewer side effects. Affordability initiatives like this one should be replicated.

Next, drug makers must continue investing in capacity and supply-chain reliability. Since 2005, the number of people on antiretroviral therapies worldwide has grown by a factor of ten, to 21 million. But roughly twice as many people are currently infected with HIV. Over the last decade, Mylan has invested more than \$250 million in expanding production capacity, and we now produce four billion tablets and capsules each year. But further investments are needed if we are to provide access to the other 21 million people still not on treatment.

A third urgently needed commitment is to increase support for research that accelerates the development of new innovations in effective and efficient treatment delivery. For example, Mylan provides study medications to research trials, like the MaxART trial in Swaziland, which demonstrated that providing treatment to all HIV-positive people is the best way to slow the disease's spread. We also supported the Kirby Institute's ENCORE1 trial, to develop a reduced-dose version of the most commonly used HIV treatment regimen. And we are currently working with the US Agency for International Development as part of a partnership called OPTIMIZE, which aims to accelerate access to new therapies.

We do not support trials like these because we hope to gain any marketable intellectual property - we won't. Rather, we support them because it is the right way to advance science and improve treatment.

Finally, real gains in the fight against HIV/AIDS will require drug makers to account for the limitations of health-care systems and distribution networks in the developing countries they serve.

Antiretroviral therapies for children are a good example of these challenges. Drugs for young people produced in the West are often liquids that require refrigeration. But developing countries often have limited cold-storage capacities or an inability to transport liquid in bulk. That's why Mylan has developed heat-stable, taste-masked, dispersible tablets that can easily be incorporated into food. Our scientists are now working on the next-generation formula, which comes in the equivalent of a sugar packet that even newborns can take. More innovations like these will be needed to solve the country-specific issues that patients face.

The global health community has made remarkable progress in turning the tide on HIV/AIDS, introducing new products and advocating for earlier treatment. But when I think back to the woman I met in Tanzania, I am reminded of how much work remains to be done. Makers of generic medicines have an important role to play in this fight, and we will not stop working until treatment is available to every patient in the world who needs it. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

Heather Bresch is CEO of Mylan, a global pharmaceutical company that specializes in prescription generic and brand-name medicines, and over-the-counter (OTC) offerings.

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