

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



June 03, 2018

Xi's 'shared future': The Light of Hope in the Darkest Moment

There is no doubt the world is facing different challenges in our date. Some of these challenges are such critical and threatening that put at risk all the world. Thus, we are facing some big problems including climate change, large scale conflict, terrorism, inequality, poverty, religious conflicts, and etc. In such a context, the idea of "a shared future" put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping,

The idea of "community with a shared future for mankind" encompasses diversity, mutual respect of cultural and social differences, and multilateralism. Ensuring such an idea would lead to eliminating poverty, food and water security, and reducing conflict and violence through economic empowerment and respect for the cultural differences of others. Therefore, on building a community with a shared future for mankind provides our world with a unique opportunity to develop a new vision and mobilize different countries to solve various conflicts with an emphasis on an integrated fate for the mankind in the future. Based on this idea China is determined to establish a new and different mechanism of cooperation with the rest of the world. Based on this mechanism no one would be loser but everyone would benefit of it.

China is a great neighbor of Afghanistan, and it can play an outstanding and positive role in different areas in our country including peace building, economic development, promoting good governance and cultural development.

The initiative of the Belt and Road proposed by Xi aiming to realize common development along and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes provides a unique opportunity for Afghanistan to become once more a transit hub between the east and west. Of course, there are many countries in the world that are skeptical of Xi's idea, but China has successfully demonstrated that it is determined to establish a different mechanism of cooperation with the rest of the world in order to create a common future with all countries and in such a context all countries either would be the winner or loser of the interactions they have with each other.

It is a sad fact that the root cause of current conflict, war and terror in the world is that people are disempowered economically and their identity is marginalized. And pursuing narrow self-interest by some powerful countries is the reason for global political volatility. According to the Xi's idea, investment in infrastructure and connectivity that can empower people locally, coupled with respect for their cultural integrity, will reduce a vast amount of conflict and terror across the world and especially in the region.

For Afghanistan the idea of a "community with a shared future for mankind" that has been taken from China's own experience in rising from poverty to economic strength is of a strategic importance; it is a breakthrough idea that as China's experience show without infrastructure, transport, communications, electricity, water and healthcare, people's lives will not improve. At the same time, if a country have a burning passion to overcome such barriers and can form a shared vision among its citizens it can overcome the mentioned challenges.

The idea of "a Shared future" provides Chinese wisdom for major challenges of the world concerning the future and destiny of humanity. This concept has been provided in a time that the world is facing devastating challenges that threaten mankind in different parts of the world. And the root cause of all of these challenges is lack of a shared vision among the countries of the world and especially among the big powers. As a result, in many cases, each country and power seeks its own narrow self interest in the expense of the other countries. Such approach has driven many countries including the powerful ones to continuous conflicts. Now, in such a dark moment of conflicts across the world, the idea of "a shared future" looks like a miracle, a new hope for the mankind to find genuine approaches to ensure its interests in a way that has no harm to the interest of others.



Attack on Ministry of Interior - A Lesson for Afghan Police

By Mohammed Gul Sahibzada

Ministry of Interior was attacked on 30 May 2018 around noon time at 1200 hrs. Just two days before, 27 and 28 May, a high level security delegation of Afghanistan led by National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar, was in Pakistan and held discussions with Pakistani establishments. Coincidentally, at the same time on 30 May, a high level security delegation from India was holding a series of meetings of Joint Security Commission with the Afghanistan security establishments led by National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar. Minister and Deputy Minister in charge for Security were out of Kabul. Also, exactly one year before on 31 May 2017, there was a heavily loaded tanker explosion near Green Zone and after that incident one finds many security measures including restrictions on heavy vehicles, erection of height barriers, checkpoints with sniffer dogs and other enumerable security measures are in place in Kabul. In the last one year, no explosion took place using heavy vehicle but attacks continued unabated with changing methodologies and tactics. Security establishments had been major target and also other places including polling stations and government buildings have come under target during this time.

Too many coincidences during this Wednesday attack, if not any specific intelligence input. Ministry of Interior is the apex institution of the police security system and if the insurgents have started targeting it now, then it should be an issue of serious concern that they have become bold enough to target and attack the higher echelons of the government. Inherently, it has been the aim of insurgents and terrorist groups to gain fame by showing their prowess and ability to target and attack the most important and sensitive offices of the government.

Police and the ministry security gave attackers on Wednesday a befitting response. Attackers could not force their entry into the buildings area. It shows, the ministry security is well prepared in responding and neutralizing them. All seven attackers were killed and three detonated themselves. All this in less than two hours operation and it is praised even by security experts. The ministry accommodates many offices interspaced in many three and two storied buildings, including offices for internationals. The security system and all personnel deployed acted efficiently with courage and in coordination with other units including Special Forces, they demonstrated their professionalism. Our police force is capable to countering severe threats. In the process, one of the policemen sacrificed his life and five others wounded. We must be proud of the bravery, valor and courage of these police officers who put their lives on line for their country.

But policing system in Kabul city is still fragile. It is hard to comprehend how can a team of ten persons move around in the city and can reach at the inner

boundary and then attack a very sensitive target – the highest police office in the country, Ministry of Interior – and after a saga of one and half hour, all of them get killed our brave police officers. But terrorist achieved their purpose by showing to the world that they can strike at any time. They can find different ways to maneuver themselves. We need to develop soft police skills in our police system. Kabul police admits that they don't check armored vehicles and then purposely loopholes are left in the security system. Earlier, there was an attack using ambulance. There have been attacks using security vehicles. No police system in the world can check all the vehicles thoroughly but even if vehicles are not checked, a system could be developed to regulate them. It seems, our police is more oriented to armed response to attacks and threats but these have to be supported with government and law enforcement regulations establishing accountability. All of these areas are state functions and all collectively lead to orderliness in the society.

Human intelligence has to be revamped so that Police gets more information through behavioral analysis and socio economic analysis. Sensitize people to look for indicators but before that let police be sensitized to identify and look for them. Police needs to work for the safety of people and also to take care of their other day to day needs and then it can be trusted by people. Multiple information gathering and intelligence organizations should have better coordination to assess and evaluate information.

Humvee vehicles have been used in many attacks. In this attack also, all the vehicles used by terrorists were snatched from policemen at the Ministry earlier. In many situations, vehicles are snatched and these could be avoided if policemen are alert and ready. Complacency is the biggest enemy for security and it is to be tackled through trainings, deployment, and supervision. Police has to improve its tactics, management and accountability so that their assets, vehicles, arms and ammunition do not reach in the hands of the insurgents.

Every incident leaves many investigation clues and those may be analyzed to investigate to find support network and attacks modalities. Classical investigative methodologies and need based advance technology are to be adopted. In these types of incidents, investigations clues gathered from the crime scene and other locations may lead to identify the attackers and their support details. Every incident should be a lesson so that police personnel get more professional and preventive measures could be refined. This incident should be the lesson for the Ministry, to make the ecosystem around the Ministry safe.

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The Easy Solution to Help Keep Girls in School

By Catherine Dolan

Education is essential for all children, whether boys or girls. Yet nothing has proven more important to global development than educating girls. Educated women tend to earn more, be healthier, marry at a later age, and have fewer children. They also raise healthier and better-educated children.

This is why educating girls is also crucial in the fight to eradicate global poverty. Countries that invest in girls' education typically enjoy faster economic growth and lower rates of poverty, and benefit from positive public health outcomes such as lower rates of HIV transmission and of infant and maternal mortality.

Yet, despite considerable progress over the past two decades, there are still over 130 million girls out of school worldwide. The main reason is poverty. For example, in Nigeria, only 4% of girls in the poor North West can read, compared with 99% of girls in the wealthier South East. But poverty also compounds other obstacles to education such as child marriage, early pregnancy, a girl's household responsibilities and social restrictions, as well as the cultural preference for sons.

In recent years, another barrier to girls' education that has gained increased attention is infrastructural constraints such as a lack of latrines, water, and sanitary supplies. Menstruation, in particular, has been found to influence the rates of school participation among adolescent girls. Data show that less than half of girls in lower- and middle-income countries have access to basics such as sanitary towels or tampons, soap and water, or facilities to change, clean, or dispose of hygiene

products.

In parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, girls often manage their periods in unsafe, uncomfortable, and unhygienic ways, using mud, leaves, or old cloth for sanitary protection, because sanitary products are unaffordable, unavailable, or too shameful for girls to purchase. And schools often lack adequate latrines or separate latrines for boys and girls.

Unable to manage their menses privately and hygienically at school, many girls choose not to go at all. A UNESCO report estimates that 10% of girls in Sub-Saharan Africa miss school during their menstrual cycle, with many dropping out altogether once they begin menstruating.

So what can we do? The solution lies in Menstrual Hygiene Management – ensuring that girls have access to adequate information, sanitary care, and soap and water with which to manage menstruation in a healthy, safe, and dignified manner. A joint SOAS-Oxford study in eight schools in Uganda found that when girls were given reusable sanitary pads and education about menstruation, their attendance rose by an average of 17%.

In other words, educational outcomes can be improved through a simple solution like a sanitary pad. But this is just a start. Addressing the problem of girls' education requires a multi-pronged approach that tackles the financial, logistical, and cultural barriers to schooling. It's the right thing to do for girls and women – and for the health and wellbeing of society as a whole.

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