

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



June 08, 2017

Our Social Obligations in Ramadan

The month of Ramadan is going on and the Muslims around the world are observing fast. Practice of fasting in month of Ramadan is basically abstaining from any sort of food or drinks from the 'Morning Azan' to the other one in the evening. Although most of the people consider fasting as a way of gaining virtue and guaranteeing better record to be able to secure a better place in the world hereafter, at the same time, it has certain social implications.

Fasting is not only abstaining food and water for the entire day; it enables its observers to bring about positive changes in their social life. The most important teachings of Ramadan is tolerance. Tolerance is not only positive in an individual's life but also for his social deeds. It supports in maintaining improved social contacts and, simultaneously, revitalizing social relations. Possessing tolerance is the most desirable attribute to have as it supports build the society, which largely depends on collaboration and trust. Ill-advisedly, today the followers of religion are seen as the most intolerant people around the world. However, Islam has always stressed on the quality of tolerance.

Tolerance towards others is vital as today's world is turning to be more multicultural. Muslims are in different parts of the world and there are many Muslim countries that have different religious groups residing in them; thus, Muslims need to show great tolerance and respect for them and fasting is one of the ways of practicing tolerance. Staying devoid of food and water throughout the day and keeping oneself normal and agreeable in unison requires a great deal of tolerance. Additionally, it is one of the necessities in fasting that a person must not get too much coarse in his social dealings and must never turn bad tempered. Turning angry and abusive easily are the reasons that spoils a person's fast and are not allowed at all.

In a similar fashion, the attribute of self-control can also be learned through fasting, and that can play a significant role in bringing positive changes within a society. The people who are able to control themselves are able to change the society, while fasting is one of the ways of experiencing self-control. As there are certain things that a person has to abstain from during the month of Ramadan, this teaches him to control himself. This self-control can afterwards be used in changing the society for better.

It can be observed easily within our society that mostly people go with the tide of the time and changes in the society. They go wherever the social changes take them and they do not have any control over themselves and the society. They seem like puppets that have their strings in the hand of time and the society. However, this is not the concept of the responsible being in Islam. Islam wants a Muslim to be responsible and socially active.

Realizing the vices and evils in the society and abstaining himself from them is the first step that a person can take in the way to virtue and betterment of society. Being in fast, people are not allowed to be part of the vices and crimes in the society and must play a positive and assertive role to shun those vices and crimes, otherwise he does not deserve to observe fast.

Another important social aspect of Ramadan is to feel the hunger and realize that there are many people who have to remain hungry in our society not just for one month but for the entire year or may be their entire lives. Therefore, fasting must not only make them realize this fact but also take steps to reduce their sufferings.

Unfortunately, the above said qualities are not seen frequently during the month of Ramadan. It can be observed in Muslim societies during the month of Ramadan that people are less tolerant in their social interactions. They get angry on pity matters and even become abusive on minor incidents. They seem to lack self-control and do not learn what fasting has to teach them. They are not able to abstain from the evil and vices and in fact become a part of them and strengthen them.

A simple example of trying to earn extra profit from the business dealings can be cited in this regard. The businessmen and shopkeeper, though observe fast, are not able to avoid the attempts of earning more and more money in every possible way. They increase the prices of the items they sell without taking into consideration the regulations of the state law or the negative impacts this increase may have on the lives of other people, especially those who suffer from destitution.

In addition, during the month of Ramadan, instead of feeling that the class disparity is negative and evil, it is further strengthened. The poor can hardly get food to break their eternal fast, while the rich have different types of dishes on their tables while breaking their fast. In short, fasting is not just to earn virtues; it has certain social aspects as well, which should be learned through the process of fasting. If it is not able to make its observer an active and responsible member of society, there is no need of keeping oneself hungry and thirsty the whole day.



The Objectives and Anticipation of Kabul Process

By Zia Danish

The Kabul Process Meeting for peace and security held in Kabul on June 6-7, 2017. The conference hosted by Afghanistan is attended by more than 25 countries and international organizations for peace and security cooperation. This process was aimed to strengthen and facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and attract regional and global support in this regard. It is believed that a stable and secure Afghanistan will lead to regional stability. The participants exchanged their thoughts about the challenges which may hamper regional peace and stability and declare their commitment in this respect.

The objectives of Kabul Process Meeting for Peace and Security

Afghan nation and state aim to seek following objectives

1. Attracting support for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process.
2. Creating an extensive the realm of supporting peace through involving neighboring and regional countries and international community.
3. Adopting a political strategy for gaining peace in the country and region.
4. Underlining a true state-state relations in foreign policy and urging the countries for the same policy via interacting with Afghanistan.
- 6- Creating a common ground for all activities about peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The Content of Kabul Process Conference

No wonder, Afghanistan's conflict has gone beyond a civil issue and gaining peace and stability becomes complicated with each passing day. The reinforcement of the protracted war and continued terrorist activities in Afghanistan are likely to root in conflicting interests among political players.

As long as the conflicting issues continue, instability will go on both in Afghanistan and the region. To mitigate instability in the region, creating a secure Afghanistan, rather than a war-torn country, will play a key role in this regard. The following issues are believed to be the main topics in the conference:

1. Appreciating regional countries and international community to cooperate and interact with Afghanistan, establish regional peace and widen the range of mutual cooperation so as to tackle the common challenges.
2. Afghan President presented a new strategy for at-

tracting regional cooperation about peace, which is believed to revive international spirit for stability.

3. Afghanistan hopes this conference will provide a good opportunity to outline practical objectives for peace and the participants are hoped to declare their strong commitment for cooperation.

4. On the other hand, Afghan government seeks to organize the individual and sporadic struggles for peace in a systematic way through Kabul Process Meeting. A systematic struggle will consolidate stability.

5. To gain long-term cooperation for peace and stability, confidence building and continued inspiration are needed to be discussed.

6. Terrorism and militancy have been changed into a global threat which creates great challenges around the globe. It is believed that more than 20 terrorist groups are operating outside the country's territory, which is used for orchestrating attacks against Afghanistan and the region.

It goes without saying that combating these groups is in need of cooperation at regional and international level. Otherwise, Afghanistan will bear the brunt of militancy and terrorist activities.

It is hoped that this conference will come with a common strategy to root out terrorism, narcotic drug and other common threats.

The protracted crisis imposed on Afghanistan has led to irreplaceable harm in the region. Currently, the regional and global countries are exposed to a strong threat, political violence, terrorism, separatism and fundamentalism. These threats seem highly serious.

To put an end to the threats, the regional and global countries need to build a peaceful Afghanistan and take high step in this respect. Analysts and observers are of the view that Afghanistan's instability will destabilize the region. On the contrary, peace and security in this country will result to regional stability. Security in the country, which is considered the heart of Asia, will cultivate regional confidence, extend business, reinforce bond and pave the ground for improvement in the Asia. Therefore, Afghanistan hosted this conference with objective of creating inspiration for regional and global cooperation regarding peace.

It is further hoped that the world will adopt a certain strategy to bring the terrorist networks into their knees so as to prevent from violence and bloodshed.

Zia Danish is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at the outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

National Security – Afghanistan's Top Priority

By Liaqat Ali Amini

The mounting insecurity around the globe has affected Afghanistan more than ever before. The "war on terror" which was the main objective of Afghanistan's international allies, did not bear the desired result within the past years. With the escalated insurgency, Afghanistan suffers severely and terrorist attacks happen in every nook and cranny.

Currently, it is likely that national security is a serious topic in the society's present discourse and needs to be prioritized by the government as a practical strategy. Today, poverty, unemployment, lack of economic infrastructures, narcotic, low-quality education, etc. are serious issues in Afghanistan and each one will be able to challenge the cycle of social life.

However, security seems to be the most fundamental issue. In brief, lack of security, with all the ins and outs of it, is a problem that has dismantled all aspects of life in the country.

The Kabul recent bloody incident is the worst example for such tragic issues which shook the entire world. The attack – as a bomb hidden in the sewage tanker went off in the crowded area of Kabul, Wazir Akbar Khan, leaving hundreds of Afghans dead and wounded and caused an outpouring of grief among the public. Strong national and international reaction were ensued by this barbaric act.

A large number of world's officials, including Vatican, condemned this act of terror and recommended a non-stop counterinsurgency. Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel stopped deporting refugees besides condemning this terrorist attack. Similarly, The Eiffel Tower in Paris had its lights turned off on last Wednesday evening, to pay tribute to the victims of a bomb attack in Kabul. The Taliban who have declared Mansouri Operation in the spring season seek to show themselves stronger and terrorize people through carrying out deadly and destructive attacks. In the current year, the Taliban, seem to earn greater confidence and try to keep the fireplace of war hot.

The militant fighters kill men, women and children indiscriminately and inflict heavy casualties upon the civilians. "The civilian deaths concerned us and the international community, we urge the parties to the conflict to not target civilian-populated rural areas," the spokesman of AIHRC, Bilal Sediqi is quoted as saying. It is believed that the former political competition between eastern and western powers has resurfaced

with the new crisis in the Middle East and East Europe and dragged the US in the Russia's realm of influence Ukraine. Russia will also break its silence and end its marginalization regarding the Middle East's issue namely the conflict in Syria and will be a close partner to Damascus.

Gaining tangible outcome in the Syria's conflict, Moscow extended its realm of activities and attracted the countries, which were dissatisfied with the US's policy, so as to constitute a coalition against the western policy.

Several meetings held in Moscow regarding the Afghanistan's issues, bespeak of the Moscow's presence and its regional allies in the country's evolution – especially when the Taliban, as a political trend, has been paid heed and said to deserve a comprehensive political support. Pakistan is considered among the first countries that welcomed this issue. It further declared its active part in this trend in favor of regional politics, mainly regarding Afghanistan.

Islamabad has constantly come under the criticism of the international community and the US. The US also put political and economic pressure on Pakistan. However, it did not work out.

The Wednesday's terrorist attack in Kabul, which was named "the Black Wednesday", along with the series of past attacks, was said to be orchestrated from Pakistan's soil. Perhaps, it seeks to put the strongest pressure on Afghanistan and challenge the country's international allies. So, it is Afghanistan to prioritize the security issue and review its policy regarding terrorism.

Suggesting security solution, attracting international cooperation, appointing committed and expert figures in security apparatus, and prosecuting the criminals, who have hands in gloves with the Taliban, will be prioritized by the National Unity Government (NUG). The required measures have been taken in this regard and also regarding security to foil the sinister plots of the Taliban and like minded groups.

I would like to emphasize that the recent spate of terrorist attacks not only in Afghanistan, but around the globe, including Iran, show that militants are getting stronger and posing more serious threat to the world. Hence, the issue of terrorism needs to be paid serious attention by the world.

Liaqat Ali Amini is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at the outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.