

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



March 03, 2015

Unknown Fate of Hazara Passengers

It is the responsibility of a government within a state to ensure peace and security of its citizens. However, the governments that suffer from administrative incapacities fail to guarantee security. And in such states the weaker strata of the society tend to suffer the most. Women, ethnic and religious minorities and the common people as a whole undergo anguish as a result. Afghanistan is also one of the countries where the government has not been able to provide enough security to its people and the common people face different sorts of problems every day.

Last week, around 31 Hazara passengers were abducted by unknown masked men on Kabul-Kandahar highway. The incident took place in Shah Joy district of southern Zabul province wherein the armed men drove away 31 passengers to Khak Afghan district after identifying them to be Hazara men. Since then there has not been any report about the fate and whereabouts of the poor abducted passengers.

This clearly shows the level of insecurity in the country. Some armed men stop passenger vehicles, identify certain people and take them to some unknown place without any difficulty. And the most unfortunate fact is that there are no confirmed reports about who abducted them and where they are at the moment. There have been different claims by different authorities since the incident took place. In the beginning there were claims that members of Daish have abducted them as they have started getting stronger in certain parts of the country. However, afterwards there have been claims that Taliban and Al-Qaeda are responsible for the incident. The acting governor of Zabul - Mohammad Ashraf Nasiri had blamed the local Taliban, along with the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militant outfit and the Chechens. On the other hands Zabul negotiators claim that the passengers have been abducted by armed robbers. Though none of the groups has claimed responsibility, none of them can escape blame as they are opposed to ethnic Hazaras who mostly belong to Shia sect of Islam.

Taliban during their reign had the worst sort of behavior with Hazaras. During the wars, thousands of Hazaras were killed in Bamyan, Mazar Sharif and Kabul by Taliban. Moreover, they were discriminated badly due to their ethnicity.

Same is the case with Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. The militant outfit in Pakistan has in the past few years targeted Hazaras in Quetta Pakistan because of their sect. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi considers Hazaras as infidels and has committed to oust them from Pakistan. In similar fashion, Daish also considers Shias as infidels and the cruelties and killings they have carried out against Shias and certain other sects in Iraq and Syria are not hidden from anyone.

Who is responsible for the incident must be sought out quickly and efforts should be hastened to secure the poor victims. The government officials and authorities claim that efforts are underway and certain teams of tribal elders have been assigned as negotiators who are in dialogue with the culprits and there are hopes that the victims will be released. Zabul Police Chief, Ghulam Jailani Farahi has mentioned that efforts are underway for peaceful and unconditional release of the abducted and if negotiations fail, they can use any other options to free them. Seeking the support of the tribal elders is not a bad idea in this sort of incidents and if pursued with dedicated and sincere efforts there can be certain results. However, it is difficult to expect that the culprits would be ready to free the abducted passengers without any condition. Therefore, government needs to follow carefully whether negotiations are carried out with sincere efforts and that the process does not lead to some sort of tragedy for the poor victims.

Following negotiations alone is not sufficient for this serious incident. The organs responsible for security must also make efforts and must continue their work in accordance to a particular plan. Failing of negotiations must not mean the loss of valuable lives. At the same time the authorities in Kabul must also ensure that they are fully in picture about every measure that is taken. The National Unity Government must itself pursue the developments in this regard as it is a matter of life and death of more than 30 people. Any negligence in this regard would mean a great and unbearable loss.



Metamorphosing from Innocuous Mankind to a Fierce Animal

By Hujjatullah Zia

Reports say that Raees Khudaidad, the most notorious mafia boss in Afghanistan's history, was hung to death at Pul-e-Charkhi prison of Kabul. Following the verdict of Kabul Appellate Court, he was executed for being charged with hundreds of heinous crimes including murders, kidnappings and armed robberies.

Khudaidad was arrested last year in September during a special operation conducted by NDS forces. Hearing the news of his arrest, the Kabul residents had asked the government to sentence him to death.

Afghan citizens exulted over the exaction of dangerous Mafia leader and urged the government to put an end to culture of impunity.

In Afghanistan, a country of 30 million people where war has dominated the past four decades, death is a common feature of life. Lurid, tabloid-worthy serial homicide, however, is a relative rarity. It should be noted that women are not impeccable creature and they are also involved in murderous acts. How human beings turn to fierce animal?

It is believed that man shows a natural tendency towards good deeds. He feels a fervid desire and a strong sense of spiritual thirst for moral values. Man hears the call of his conscience in his early period of life. His inner goodness whets his interest to nurture ethical mores and religious decorum. He feels a bona fide peace after doing a favor to his next-door neighbor or forcing a smile on his parents' lips. In short, his pure soul is filled with devotion and altruism towards mankind.

Moreover, he feels a profound sense of aversion to unsavory acts. For instance, the cruel will be hated for his/her malicious practices, megalomania and egotism. Although, a despotic regime will be able to rule on individuals' body with the point of a spur but will never occupy the hearts and minds of a nation. Even the cruel hates to suffer from injustice and the thieves are honest among themselves. Hence, these characters originate in one's nature.

Man also feels a puissant desire for beauty. He succumbs to the charm and attraction of an image, to the splendor of a mien, to the charisma of a great personality, to the allure of nature, etc. The delicacy of rose petals, the sweet perfume of a flower, the purity of dew, the morning breeze and the green nature of spring will fill one with ineffable bliss. Hence, man will yield to the beauty and magnetism of his surroundings. Thus, man is born innocent and innocuous.

However, the same man, who shows natural tendency to religious values, moral norms, beauty - be it inner or outer - and humanity, gradually succumbs to worldly temptations, materialism and carnal desires. His lust for property puts his soul in chains and he will be subjugated to his physical wants. His

humanity and dignity will be on the verge of erosion. He would change to a fierce animal who sacrifices his fellows to gain his self-interests. He will seek to satisfy his physical desires at the cost of raping an innocent girl or murdering numerous people. The more he sheds blood and tarnishes one's reputation the thirstier he gets. In other words, his voracious appetite and strong thirst for harming people will never be quenched.

As a result, a report says that Shirin Gul, one of Afghanistan's most notorious serial killers, lives in a dank prison cell in Jalalabad - where most of her fellow inmates were convicted of adultery or theft. She is in the 12th year of a 20-year prison sentence for a killing spree that claimed the lives of 27 men.

Shirin Gul is said to have confessed that the murders were her lover's idea, though she admits that she had consented to his killing her husband. She knew that her lover, Rahmatullah, poisoned his victims by slipping toxins into the tea and kebabs that she served them. And it is true that she frequently heard the sound of shovels in her courtyard, when graves were being dug.

The report adds, "In an interview at her prison quarters in Jalalabad, Shirin Gul, who is in her 40s but does not know her exact age, came across as erratic. She openly admitted to having mental health problems, making it difficult to separate truth from fiction in her narratives. She laughed uncontrollably one moment and appeared on the verge of tears the next. She cursed Rahmatullah, with whom she was convicted of the murders, calling him "a womanizer, a pedophile and a gambler," and almost in the same breath said that he was the "most beautiful man she had ever known."

It is said that when Shirin Gul confessed to murder in 2004, she told investigators that she had lured her victims to her home with the promise of sex. There, she said, Rahmatullah, her son and several other men helped her poison and strangle the victims. Their bodies were buried in the courtyards of two homes the family kept, one in Kabul and the other in Jalalabad. The dead men's cars were stripped of license plates and sold along the border with Pakistan and in a Taliban-controlled area of Khost Province.

The report further says that At the Kabul home, nine bodies were unearthed from the dirt courtyard; the home in Jalalabad yielded 18 more victims. Six people, including Shirin Gul, her son, Samiullah, and Rahmatullah, were charged with 27 counts of murder in the case, convicted and sentenced to death. Investigators told reporters at the time that Shirin Gul and most of her accomplices had confessed to the crimes. The five others were executed. But Shirin Gul's life was spared by a decree from Hamid Karzai, then the president of Afghanistan. Her crimes were reduced to 27 counts of kidnapping and one count of adultery. Her death sentence was changed to a 20-year term - considered life imprisonment in the Afghan system.

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Jewels of Success!!

By Asmatyari

In all our deeds, the proper value and respect for time determines success or failure. It is commonly witnessed people who value, get much out of the jewel of time. Have you ever seen you're most important tasks being put off until later and then later and later, while you are getting busy with many not so important activities? Did you hope that you may have more time and better mood in the future to start the task and do it properly? Does an approaching deadline mean a crisis for you? Do you keep hesitating every time you make a decision? Usually yes responded such questions are clear intimation to prevalent mismanaged time, dominant in countries like Afghanistan. I, consequently, intended to lay down the underlying facts concerning importance and management of time. We have to learn it time is transitory. If there are only twenty-four hours in a day, how can one find time to do more? One could hope for more time or accept the fact that everyone needs some type of time management tool, especially those in positions with numerous tasks that demand their time. Whether using a simple process of writing down a list of necessary tasks to complete each day, a calendar or some form of elaborate time management software, time management is an essential part of everyday living.

With good time management skills you are in control of your time and your life, of your stress and energy levels. You make progress at work. You are able to maintain balance between your work, personal, and family lives. You have enough flexibility to respond to surprises or new opportunities.

All skills are learnable. More than likely you will see much improvement from simply becoming aware of the essence and causes of common personal time management problems. With these time management lessons, you can see better which time management techniques are most relevant for your situation. Just get started with them. Many of your problems gradually disappear. If you already know how you should be managing your time, but you still don't do it, don't give up. What you may be overlooking is the psychological side of your time management skills, psychological obstacles hidden behind your personality. Depending on your personal situation, such obstacles may be the primary reason why you procrastinate, have difficulties saying no, delegating, or making time management decisions. If you often see yourself in such low productivity situations, then there is a big chance that your life got under control of the procrastination habit. And those situations are only the most explicit symptoms. Procrastination is putting off the things that you should be doing now. This happens with all of us time after time. Yet, what makes a big difference for your success is your ability to recognize procrastination reasons and expressions in

their different forms, and to promptly take them under control, before this bad habit steals your opportunities, damages your career and pride, or destroys your relationships. So why do you not do it now? From variant perspective, your life is a sequence of big and small choices and decisions. It is those choices that you really manage, not the flow of time. Personal goal setting is the wisdom that comes out of a lot of practical experience and psychology research to help you direct your conscious and subconscious decisions towards success, building up your motivation to achieve your personal or business goals. Decision making can be hard. Almost any decision involves some conflicts or dissatisfaction. The difficult part is to pick one solution where the positive outcome can outweigh possible losses. Avoiding decisions often seems easier. Yet, making your own decisions and accepting the consequences are the only way to stay in control of your time, your success, and your life.

Astutely distributing time is about taking control of one of the most valuable resources we have, our time. It is an essential tool for stress reduction, success, and perhaps even survival, especially in today's society of increasing demands on a much leaner workforce. This increasing workload is not hypothetical, but, in fact, a reality. Time management also proves to be beneficial to individuals outside of the workplace, given the fact that most employees have just as many or more demands on their time away from work. Time management is the key to this personal management skill. All of the awesome and productive workers successfully manage their time. You could probably work less and be much more at peace with yourself with some quality time-management training.

"We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right" avowed Nelson Mandela. Time can be secured and are aided by a range of skills, tools, and techniques used to manage time when accomplishing specific tasks, projects and goals. This set encompasses a wide scope of activities, and these include planning, allocating, setting goals, delegation, analysis of time spent, monitoring, organizing, scheduling, and prioritizing. Initially, time management referred to just business or work activities, but eventually the term broadened to include personal activities as well. A time management system is a designed combination of processes, tools, techniques, and methods. Usually properly organization of time is a necessity in any project development as it determines the project completion time and scope. Planning in organization and public policy is both the organizational process of creating and maintaining a plan; and the psychological process of thinking about the activities required to create a desired goal on some scale within given span of time. Thus time is priceless treasure of success if subjected to proper management and made use of.

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