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



May 18, 2016

We must Welcome Social and Cultural Changes

Tt is the nature of culture which directs social change. There are cultures around the world which encourage social change in technol-Logy, others in biological factors of individual, and some in other cultural factors. The Western cultures direct social change towards industrialization. They emphasize on technological and industrial expansion. Our culture, to a certain extent, encourages our activities towards a new phase of life and that is developing state of agriculture, peace and tranquility and education.

Most of the cultures encourage technological development but there are a few cultures that undergo faster changes in the social implications of non-material culture. So the structure of a society on its patterns of normative behavior will determine social changes slowly or rapidly and in any field of life first. A culture, keeping its dogmatic values hardly changing, will show changes hardly in attitude and in the application of material objects. On the other hand, the other culture not holding its cultural values as stagnant is likely to accept social changes in technology and other environmental factors.

Some of the cultures provide a condition for resistance to change. The customary ways of life and cultural values have been laid so deeply in their nature that any external element does not find a room as to become a part of their culture. Such a way of life does not accept social change due to cultural inertia. Nomadic people wandering from one part of the region to another and contacting people of various regions stick to their own cultural ways of life. It is basically due to their cultural inertia.

It is important to understand that the aspects of human life do not accept changes altogether and at the same time. Human life is a component of various material and non-material aspects of environment. Material includes tools, implements and their complex systems of mechanical plants. It gets a change in its structure and function readily, but the methods and techniques in handling them and attitude about their use and the adoption of machine products in society are matter resting with non-material culture. It also happens that the material aspect of culture changes rapidly than the non-material one. Both the material and nonmaterial aspects are related and must go hand-in-hand. By this irregularity, the non-material aspect remains behind the material one. This creates disharmony and disorganization between the two aspects. This unequal rate of change creates social disorganization in people. They are unable to adjust themselves in such rapidly changing economic order. This leads to frustration, aggression and even neurosis, which then lead to serious social problems.

Our country Afghanistan is facing this issue to a large extent. The tribal values are not able to cope with the technological developments, therefore, the cultural as a whole faces a cultural lag and also giving birth to frustration, aggression and even contempt.

Moreover, economic factors can also play a role in hindering cultural change. For example, people may want to live in modern buildings equipped with most of the facilities of life but they cannot do so because of insufficient economic resources as their disposal.

On the other hand, geographical factors, and even certain religious beliefs isolate the people to a certain extent and then when they are brought into contact with the speedy technological changes, they may fail to absorb most of the things in their culture and bring required changes in their non-material culture and they may not be allowed to do so, as well.

Social and cultural changes are inevitable and the rich and successful cultures mostly have mechanism that help them in readily accepting those changes and making them a valuable part of their society. There are certain factors that are really necessary for a society, like that of Afghanistan, which can support it in making the changes acceptable.

There should be high prestige for the innovators and innovations. The higher the prestige of the innovator the more readily the innovation may be accepted. By finding the society giving honor and respect to those who are involved in paving the way for innovations, the people would definitely turn in the favor of the changes. For example, currently our society values money and give prestige to the people who are wealthy and can earn money; therefore, wealth and wealth earner are readily accepted by our society.

Therefore, our society requires changing its ethical values regarding the worth of the positive changes within the society. It is now an accepted fact that we cannot live with the advancements in science and technology and we need to make use of them in the most beneficial ways; therefore, they must become part of our everyday life and we must change our attitude and behavior towards them and also towards the modern developments and researches in the various fields of life. It is the only way we can move towards a better society.



Civilians Casualty!

By Dilawar Sherzai

ince last couple of months incidents in Afghanistan clearly showed that the lives of the civilians are in jeopardy and according to reports the Taliban are mainly responsible for it. The incidents showed that Taliban have started targeting the civilians directly. Moreover, the butchery shown in the incidents are really heinous and there have to be serious steps to counter them otherwise they would threaten the lives of the common people to a great extent.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in April called on all parties to the conflict to take precautions to protect civilians during operations. The release of the first quarter civilian casualty data for 2016 showed continued record numbers of civilian casualties.

"Even if a conflict intensifies, it does not have to be matched by corresponding civilian suffering provided parties take their international humanitarian law and human rights obligations seriously," said Nicholas Haysom, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA. "Failure to respect humanitarian obligations will result in more suffering in a nation that has suffered enough."

"Human rights workers have worried about the challenges of tallying the victims of the war since violence first started sweeping across Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban. Initially, neither the Afghan government nor the foreign forces were systematically tracking deaths, and so in 2007 the United Nations set up a rigorous monitoring system, requiring three independent sources to verify each civilian killed.

It has listed nearly 25,000 civilian victims of the war over nine years, and tens of thousands more injured. But the strict standards that make the database so respected have always created concerns that they could be missing casualties, according to The Guardian report published on May 07, 2016.

Taliban, on various occasions, have claimed that they would not target the civilians directly but the reality about attacks is totally against what is claimed by them. According to UNAMA 1,943 civilian casualties (600 deaths and 1,343 injured) in the period between January 01 and March 31, 2016. These figures mark an overall increase in civilian casualties of two per cent compared to the same period in 2015 with a 13 per cent decrease in deaths but an 11 per cent increase in injuries. Consistent with 2015 trends, ground engagements caused the highest number of total civilian casualties, followed by improvised explosive devices

(IEDs), complex and suicide attacks, as well as targeted killings. The concerns still remain very much disturbing as the number of civilians being killed as a result of insurgency still remains very high. Civilian killings, therefore, clearly depict that Taliban do not care much about the civilian casualties; what they mostly care about is their threat and dominancy over the security arrangements. Unfortunately, they pursue their objectives through the coward means of targeting the civilians.

The common masses in Afghanistan must bother about the deterioration in security as they are basically the ones who have been suffering and may suffer to a further extent if instability and terrorism prevail in the country. It is really pathetic to see the civilians losing their lives when they have nothing to do with the war. In the economically unstable and war-torn country like Afghanistan, people have not only suffered the hardships of the poor and miserable lives but also the horrors of war. They have been killed mercilessly as if their lives do not have any value or meaning and it is important to see that the Taliban are mostly behind the demise of the poor civilians. It is really unfortunate to note that they still remain powerful enough to conduct their merciless efforts to target the civilians in addition to the Afghan and international forces.

Different attacks, bombings, shootings and suicide bombings of the vicious guardians of the so-called holy war have only been able to target the children, women and non-military figures. With the presence of such facts, it is weird to find Taliban calling themselves friendly to Afghan people.

They have been trying to develop an image of caring and affectionate body that is trying to liberate the people of Afghanistan from the Western forces. But the fact is just on the contrary. They just want power and for that they will never hesitate to sacrifice the poor Afghan people. If they come to power, it is evident that Afghan people will never have peace, contentment and above all their due rights.

The innocent people of Afghanistan deserve that the Afghan government and the international community must ensure to them a better future. They need to make sure that the post transition period in Afghanistan will be a period that can give poverty stricken Afghan people security and basic requirements of living; provide them better representation and participation in political and social life and make them capable of governing themselves peacefully.

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The Return of Yellow Fever

By Melvin Sanicas

could even begin to fade from our minds, the Zika virus emerged as a major global health risk, and is now occupying researchers and doctors in South America, Central America, two manufacturers are based in Brazil and Russia.) and the Caribbean. Yet the death toll from another virus is rising fast: yellow fever.

epidemic - its first in 30 years. Since the virus emerged in Luhave taken cases to China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Kenya. Namibia and Zambia are on high alert.

Yellow fever virus is transmitted by Aedes aegypti - the same mosquito that spreads the Zika virus. Symptoms include fever, muscle pain, headache, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. At least within 10-14 days.

be controlled with an effective vaccine, which confers lifelong immunity within a month of administration. And, indeed, vaccination forms the core of Angola's National Response Plan, initiated early this year with the goal of administering the yellow fever vaccine to more than 6.4 million people in Luanda Province. So far, nearly 90% of that target population has been vaccinated, thanks largely to the World Health Organization, the International Coordinating Group for Vaccine Provision, and other countries, including South Sudan and Brazil, which together made some 7.35 million doses of the vaccine available.

The mass vaccination effort has stemmed the spread of yellow fever. But to end the outbreak, vaccination has to continue not have been reported by the National IHR Focal Point of China. only in Luanda, where an additional 1.5 million are at risk of Reports of yellow fever infection in non-immunized travelers reinfection, but also encompass other affected provinces. This will be a major challenge.

One key problem is cost. In 2013, the yellow fever vaccine cost \$0.82 per dose in Africa - a price that most developing countries cannot afford. A 2015 report by Médecins Sans Frontières showed that the vaccine is now almost 70 times more expensive than it was in 2001.

Making matters worse, even if countries have the money, there ordinate a broader international response, mobilize funds, and are serious supply constraints. Senegal's Pasteur Institute of Dakar, one of only four facilities in the world producing yellow fever vaccines, manufactures about ten million doses per year, and the manufacturing process is extremely difficult to scale up. Moreover, the Pasteur Institute is about to close down for a fivemonth renovation, during which it will be unable to produce more vaccine.

Fortunately, the situation is set to improve. The Pasteur Institute is constructing a new facility about 30 kilometers from Dakar, efore the horrors of the latest Ebola outbreak in West Africa in Diamniadio, that is expected to triple production by 2019. Another yellow fever vaccine manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur in France, is also expanding its manufacturing capacity. (The other

For now, however, supplies are tight. One way to stretch existing stores could be by administering a fractional dose (one-fifth In southwestern Africa, Angola is facing a serious yellow fever of the usual dose), which has also been shown to protect against yellow fever.

anda, Angola's capital and most populous city, last December, it—But even that may not be enough if the virus spreads further has killed 293 people and infected a suspected 2,267. The virus And, unfortunately, the high density of Aedes aegyptii mosquihas now spread to six of the country's 18 provinces. Travelers toes in the affected areas means that the risk of transmission remains high.

An outbreak in a region like Asia, which lacks experience with a yellow fever epidemic and has no capacity to manufacture the vaccine, would be particularly difficult to control. According to John P. Woodall, the founder of the disease-alert service half of untreated patients with severe cases of yellow fever die ProMED, if yellow fever spreads to parts of Asia with the right climate and mosquito species, hundreds of thousands could be The good news is that, unlike Zika or Ebola, yellow fever can infected (and possibly die) before vaccine stocks are delivered. The virus also has the potential to spread to the Americas, which are home to Aedes mosquito vectors that transmit not only yellow fever, but also dengue, Zika, and chikungunya. Already, the Pan American Health Organization has declared an epidemiological alert for yellow fever in Latin America.

> To help limit yellow fever's spread, international health regulations require that all travelers to the 34 countries where yellow fever is endemic present a vaccination certificate. But the implementation of those regulations depends on each country's capacity, and is thus far from perfect. Already, a total of nine laboratory-confirmed cases of yellow fever imported from Angola turning from a country where vaccination against the disease is mandatory highlights the need to reinforce the implementation of vaccination requirements.

> The WHO is working closely with several partners and the Angolan government to combat the current outbreak. But, as some health experts have pointed out, even more needs to be done. The WHO now must convene an emergency committee to cospearhead the rapid scale-up of vaccine production, as well as a "standing emergency committee" capable of addressing future public-health crises quickly and effectively. (Courtesy Project

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