

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



November 05, 2015

China Continues Support to Afghanistan

In post withdrawal Afghanistan, one of the countries that can play the most important and supportive role is People's Republic of China. China, being the strongest of the countries in Asia, can lead Afghanistan to reconstruction, development and peace. And, China at the moment seems ready to take up this role.

It has been more than 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and China. China formally established diplomatic relations with Afghanistan on January 20, 1955, which was then followed by Premier Zhou Enlai and Vice Premier He Long's visit to Afghanistan, wherein they met King Zahir Shah and the foundations for mutual understanding between the two countries were laid.

The year 2015 is being celebrated as the year of Friendship and Cooperation between China and Afghanistan and both the countries have reached to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Both the countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations on Tuesday November 03. The event was celebrated at the Afghan Presidential Palace attended by President Ashraf Ghani, Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao, Afghanistan's CEO Abdullah Abdullah, former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, the cabinet members, parliamentarians and other high-ranking officials from both the countries.

Both the countries also signed three cooperation agreements after Chinese vice-president Li Yuanchao arrived in Kabul. Under the accords, China would install security scanners at entry gates to Kabul, build 10,000 residential apartments and issue 50 scholarships to Afghan students.

The contracts were signed between Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi and the Chinese deputy commerce minister as President Ashraf Ghani and the Chinese vice-president Li Yuanchao looked on at the Presidential Palace. There are hopes that both the countries would keep their cordial relations continue and the China would not forget Afghanistan through tough times.

There is no doubt in the fact that Sino-Afghan relations are at a historical point as China could be in the leading role in the post withdrawal Afghanistan. It can definitely play a constructive role in the peace process in Afghanistan and China has already given the indication that it is ready to support Afghanistan in this regard. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani also believes that China could be really supportive for Afghanistan in the upcoming challenges. He, on many occasions, has expressed hope that Beijing could play proactive role in Afghan peace process, and also emphasized that lasting peace in Afghanistan would benefit Afghanistan, China and the whole region.

On the other hand, China can also have an immense role to play in the economic stability of Afghanistan and promoting the business and financial self-sufficiency of the country. China is not the largest donor country to Afghanistan, but China's aid is sincere and without any political conditions. In the 1950s and 1960s, although China was not better off at that time, it still built some aid projects such as Parwan Irrigation System and Kandahar Hospital for Afghanistan, which still function well in promoting the livelihood and welfare of local people. In recent years, China has been actively supporting the Afghan peaceful reconstruction. By the end of October 2014, China had provided 1.52 billion yuan of grants, trained nearly one thousand professionals in all fields through bilateral and multilateral channels, provided over 10 batches of goods and materials, built important projects such as Jumbhoriate Hospital, Teaching Building of Chinese Language Department and Guest House of Kabul University, National Center of Science and Technology Education, and Multi-functional Center in the Presidential Palace for Afghanistan. All of these have played effective role in promoting the development and people's livelihood of Afghanistan, and gained praises from all walks of life in Afghanistan. During President Ashraf Ghani's state visit to China last October, China committed to provide 2 billion yuan of grants to Afghanistan from 2014 to 2017, and train 3000 professionals in various fields in the next five years.

At the same time it is important to note that the announcement of around USD 3.5 billion by Metallurgical Corporation of China for the development of Aynak Copper mines is another important contribution that can have a lasting impact on the overall economy of Afghanistan.

Another important factor that can uplift the economic position of Afghanistan is the initiation of the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road commonly known as 'One Road - One Belt'. As Afghanistan is a conduit connecting Central Asia and South Asia, it has a vital role in the project and at the same time can benefit to a great extent from it.

Apart from economic and political support, China has always continued support for Afghanistan in different other sectors as well. Education and capacity building have been among the most important ones. China, during President Ghani's visit, also promised to provide 500 scholarships to students in the next five years.

In addition, the peace process with Taliban is being supported by China and China has given clear indication that its role would be assistive regarding the process. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson talking about the reconciliation process in Afghanistan had earlier said, "The Chinese side is ready to cooperate with all parties and play a constructive role in the extensive and inclusive peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan as always." And, China seems determined to put it to practice, as well.

Security Crisis – An Interminable Challenge

By Hujjatullah Zia

The invasion of Afghanistan was intended to topple the Taliban regime that had ruled most of the country since 1996 and supported al-Qaeda and to counter terrorism. The Taliban, which had imposed its stereotypical ideology on the entire country, perpetrated countless human rights abuses against its people, especially women, girls and ethnic minorities. During their rule, large numbers of Afghans lived in utter poverty, and as many as four million Afghans are thought to have suffered from starvation.

The US military forces overthrew the Taliban government and disrupted bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. On May 2, 2011, bin Laden was killed by United States Armed Forces in Pakistan. The Taliban leadership survives in hiding throughout Afghanistan and Pakistan and continues to launch guerrilla attacks against the foreign forces and the current government.

Even as Afghanistan began to take the first steps toward democracy, the Taliban insurgents began to regroup in the mountainous border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. They continue to engage US and Afghan troops in guerilla-style warfare and have also been responsible for the deaths of elected government officials and aid workers and the kidnapping of foreigners. Hundreds of American and coalition soldiers and thousands of Afghans have been killed and wounded in the fighting.

Afghans continue to make up the second largest refugee population in the world, though around 3 million have returned to Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban, further straining the country's war-ravaged economy. With the establishment of National Unity Government (NUG), Afghans face further economic stagnation, unemployment and political crisis and therefore, a larger number of Afghan families, especially the youth, emigrate from the country.

A journalist writes, "The Kabul regime is in a state of panic over the Taliban's current offensive which led to the first major city to fall into their hands since 2002, the capture of a dozen district headquarters and the group's extensive territorial gains across the country. The situation has further increased the outflow of young Afghans joining the migrant rush to reach Germany."

Since the security was handed from NATO to Afghan forces and the strategy of "war on terror" was proved abortive, Afghan soldiers encountered great challenges in countering terrorism on their own. Afghan combatants and non-combatants suffered heavy casualties and security still remains elusive. As a result, between 1 January and 31 March, UNAMA documented 1,810 civilian casualties, a two per cent decrease from the same period in 2014.

Currently, the emergence of the self-styled Islamic State (IS) group is a new challenge ahead of NUG and Afghan soldiers. There are reports that the IS militant group is recruiting children in Afghanistan and brainwash them to use as a vehicle for their political inter-

ests. So far, however, IS has been led by minor disgruntled Taliban figures who first made their disaffection known in January 2015. In a propaganda video released soon after they pledged allegiance to IS, a little-known former Taliban, Hafiz Saeed Khan, was appointed by IS as the governor of the newly named Khorasan Province that includes Pakistan, Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia.

His deputy, Mullah Abdul Rauf Khadim from Helmand province in the south, was soon killed by a US drone strike while IS recruiting cells were also set up in Farah province in the west and in northern Afghanistan.

Moreover, significant Central Asian groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which had been devotedly fighting for the Taliban for two decades, decided to pledge loyalty to IS, although that did not stop them from joining the Taliban in their assault on Kunduz.

Afghan and foreign media reports claim that IS is making steady military gains capturing territory, recruiting Taliban fighters to their cause, spending large amounts of cash while carrying out horrendous punishments for those opposing them.

IS now has competition from both the rejuvenated Taliban and al-Qaeda. Mullah Mansoor wrote a blistering letter to IS leaders in Baghdad in June telling them to stop interfering in Afghanistan and that "jihad against American invaders and their slaves in Afghanistan must be under one flag, one leadership and one command".

"With its forces straining to combat a spreading insurgency, the Afghan government is partly outsourcing the war to irregular militias, many of them US-funded, even as President Ashraf Ghani has pledged to disarm them. As a result, new strongmen have emerged while established ones have grown more powerful."

Rather than having protection from the militias, the people encounter problems with their presence. Human rights activists have accused the pro-government militias of extrajudicial killings, rapes, torture, kidnappings and drug trafficking. Although the militias are nowhere near as deadly as the Taliban, last year the United Nations recorded that they killed 53 civilians, nearly triple the number in 2013.

The political and economic challenges have badly plagued Afghan nation. The Taliban's spring offensive and their leader's death, Mullah Omar, spoiled the peace talk and the IS's language is the barrel of gun. Although, the government officials still seem to be willing to tackle the security crisis through negotiation, but this way has been tried repeatedly and failed to give the desired result. Additionally, the IS group is more fundamental and inflexible and therefore, military deal is the only effective strategy to counter it. To overcome the challenges, the government has to reinforce the Afghan soldiers.

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Treasure of Opportunities!

By Asmatyari

One of great thinker articulates the worth of time saying, "Don't live in past or present. The former brings tears and the later fears. Just live in present, which bring cheers." Living in present accompanied with proper time organization earns riches. Time is fleeting. 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.

Have you ever seen your 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 the third world countries. It is the act or process of planning and exercising conscious control over the amount of time spent on specific activities, especially to increase effectiveness, efficiency or productivity. Time management may be aided by a range of skills, tools, and techniques used to manage time when accomplishing specific tasks, projects and goals complying with a due date. 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 time management is a necessity in any project development as it determines the project completion time and scope.

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 seem 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. 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 ex-

PLICIT symptoms. Procrastination is putting off the things that you should be doing now. This happens to all of us time after time. Yet, what makes a big difference for success is ability to recognize procrastination reasons and expressions in their different forms, and to promptly take them under control, before this bad habit steals opportunities, damages career and pride, or destroy relationships. So why not to do it now?

All time management 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, it can be seen better which time management techniques are most relevant for situation. Just get started with them. Many of the problems gradually disappear.

If someone already know how to manage time, but u still don't do it, don't give up. What you may be overlooking is the psychological side of time management skills, psychological obstacles hidden behind personality. Depending on personal situation, such obstacles may be the primary reason why you procrastinate, have difficulties saying no, delegating, or making time management decisions. Time management 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 is 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. Hence, it may be 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 time management is a necessity in any project development as it determines the project completion time and scope. Planning in organizations 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 a given span of time. Most probably, time turns a priceless treasure of success, goes together with cheers provided one prepares to get the maximum out of bunch of opportunities contemporary time brings.

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