

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



September 12, 2015

## Regional Friendly Ties Earn Economic Riches

The geopolitical location of Afghanistan is quite a lot promising, given it can bridge the world over with Central Asian; earthen resource rich countries and China; one of potentially growing economy of the world. Many countries therefore, exercise great deal of diplomacy to straighten their affairs or find out a better alternative to reap these resources and goods. India; another giant economy of Asia foresees way to reach out to energy reserves of Central Asia, meeting its energy requirements and keeping pace with industrial developments.

Earlier, officials from more than 30 nations and 40 international organizations participated in a two-day regional conference in Kabul to discuss ways of rebuilding war-ravaged Afghanistan's finances. Range of issues, including inter-regional trade, synchronized customs and border routines, and market expansion by emphasizing the need for enhanced regional economic, transportation cooperation and connecting Afghanistan with regional countries and ways to find alternate transit routes was talked on. The summit certainly is deemed critical in bolstering regional cooperation and will help attract investment for Afghanistan's economic infrastructural development such as that of energy production, rail networks and transportation sectors. At contemporary era no country can live in isolation –economic relation developed between two countries is the most unswerving relationship. Undoubtedly the future of Afghanistan and regional countries in terms of economic prosperity are closely linked to transit, trade and extended economic cooperation. In order to ensure economic growth peace and stability in the region must be ensured –to turn it a reality the regional relationship must be turned trustworthy. To get it done, Afghanistan must tie friendly ties with regional countries including India, Pakistan and Iran other extra-regional countries of immense significance.

Land-locked Afghanistan uses Pakistani land routes and seaports for trade under a bilateral transit deal, while Islamabad trades goods with central Asian nations through Afghanistan. With exception to goods' trade Afghanistan can reap the fruit of service in different areas of human endeavors. Undoubtedly, Pakistan has earned a good reputation in the area of trade in services, in banking and insurance, telecommunications; IT enabled services, engineering consultancy, architecture and accountancy. Afghanistan would need expertise in these areas both for current operations and 'on the job' training of their own young professionals.

Owing to shaky ties both Pakistan and India accuses each other of insecurity in the either of state. This allegation and counter allegation inflicts worst impact on Afghanistan trade relation with two states. It is therefore to exercise balanced diplomacy with two disgruntled, one friend and other ally. In order to placate Pakistan growing concern about Afghanistan greater inclination towards India, earlier President Ghani suspended a request by the Afghan government to purchase heavy arms from India, Pakistan has long been wary of. Moreover, he has also offered Pakistani investors generous access to Afghanistan, including free industrial zones. In November, the Afghan and Pakistani governments agreed to a detailed list of proposals to promote trade, including the opening of 15 new crossing points along their shared border, even though Afghanistan has long disputed its legitimacy. Kabul is anxious to use Pakistani land routes for bilateral trade with India. Islamabad, however, has linked that privilege to normalization of relations with New Delhi. Afghan leaders have in the past warned of reversing the transit agreement if its requests are not entertained. The discussions come amid tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan over allegations that Islamabad failed to act against Taliban insurgents operating from Pakistan.

Undoubtedly, the irresolute relationship between Pakistan and India battered the transition of goods from Afghanistan to India and from India back to Afghanistan. At present, Pakistan allows Afghan trucks carrying goods meant for India only up to its last checkpoint at Wagah and not to the Indian checkpoint at Attari which is just less than a kilometer away. Kabul insists that Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) should allow Afghan trucks to carry Afghan products to the huge markets of India and China as well as the rest of the world through the seaports and land routes of Pakistan. Afghanistan asserts the Transit Trade Agreement should be extended and it should display resilience letting India join the APTTA to promote trade in the region. This assertion was witnessed, during president's former visit to India where he underlined Afghan-India trade ties, immensely important. Given the relation between Afghanistan, Pakistan and India Pakistan could not be restored to normalization Afghanistan will be left to use Chabahar port could play a key role to connect the region with low cost.

The resumption of the ancient Silk Road, the finalization of TAPI project, the establishment of five rail corridors between five regional countries, the implementation of several gas pipeline projects between central Asian and south Asian countries, the establishment of Lahjaward Road and the further expansion of investment by the private sector among regional countries are potential enough to turn the fate of regional countries and Afghanistan around, provided they are selflessly implemented.

In the accounts of all developments, Afghanistan still secure central role, given the road to giant central Asian countries go through the land of opportunity, the Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan have to normalize its entire affairs and seek for economic superiority via free market and free and duty free trade policies turning Asia economic giant. In this pursuit they have to ensure security and better ties by doing away with terrorism, extremism and militancy.

## International Literacy Day

By Dilawar Sherzai

8th September is celebrated as International Literacy Day around the world so as to highlight the importance of literacy and emphasize the efforts that are directed at putting an end to the menace of illiteracy and ignorance.

The day was basically proclaimed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on November 17, 1965 and was first celebrated in 1966. The main objective of the day is to underline the worth of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. On this day, UNESCO reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally.

Every year the day has a theme and this year's theme is Literacy and Sustainable Societies. UNESCO believes that literacy is a key driver for sustainable development. Literacy skills are the prerequisite for the learning of a broader set of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, required for creating sustainable societies. At the same time, progress in areas of sustainable development, such as health and agriculture, serves as an enabling factor in the promotion of literacy and literate environments.

There is no doubt in the fact that literacy has a pivotal role in development of different sectors in a country. Afghanistan is one of the countries where illiteracy has remained a dominant problem for many decades. And this problem is generating and invigorating many other problems as well. There are many problems that can be solved with little effort and consideration; however, because of ignorance they have become unsolvable. When the people of a country are not able to understand what they want and what they don't, it is really difficult to solve their problems. In most of the remote areas of our country there are still many people who consider getting education as a crime. On the other hand, there are the residents of the cities who are convinced that education is inferior to wealth as they witness the failures of the educated men and the success of the ignorant rich people. In this way the value of education is getting lower and the higher values of life are facing great loss.

The main reason of this scenario is our social setup, wherein, education is considered useless and the ways to success and prosperity are on the opposite direction to that of education. In fact, our people have not yet learnt how to live like the developed and free countries of the world. Therefore, they as a nation are not able to choose a better life style and social practices for themselves. As a matter of fact, such a quality can only be attained when they know the true meaning of free thinking and true knowledge. They, without a tinge of doubt, do not know what their real requirements or demands are and what factors can lead them to success. There have been many occasions when they have neglected the welcomes of moder-

nity and development. Whenever, there have been efforts even from the government to pursue modern education and better social and political decisions, they have tried to oppose them and push the country towards conservatism.

Because of the prevailing ignorance most of the people in the country cannot even think about a prosperous society, wherein all the citizens have their due rights. They even do not know that there are certain countries in the world that have most of the facilities of life and they have developed so much that now they have reached to skies to discover them. However, the situation in our country is so that if a clergy announces that man is mortal and he can never reach to the skies and the claims of the developed countries of the world are nothing than white lies, they will definitely believe him with respect and complete obedience.

Our people are alien to the industrial and scientific developments and on most of the cases they treat them with hypocrisy. There are many among us who basically take advantage of the scientific inventions and discoveries almost on daily basis but never hesitate to declare them incorrect and false. If they had the potential they would definitely take our society back to the Dark Ages.

Unfortunately, there are many so-called intellectuals in our society as well who spend their time and energy in favoring the conservative and fundamentalist ideas and strive to prove them right.

Because of the issues and people mentioned above our society has become confused. One of the most dominating characters of our society is that it has made the people conservative and they have started praising their past more than their present. They have started hating each other instead of disseminating the golden feelings of love and brotherhood. As noted by Maya Angelou, "We allow our ignorance to prevail upon us and make us think we can survive alone, alone in patches, alone in groups, alone in races, even alone in genders". However, they need to understand that they have to be vigilant and understand that they are being fooled. Their thoughts are being confined and their emotions are being betrayed. They are being utilized in the name of religion and history. Now, they have to realize that their responsibilities are to declare clearly that they are no more ready to be fooled and to be utilized by others. Their rights are to announce their hatred for ignorance, poverty, conservative ideas, slavish thinking and growing hypocrisy. They need to fight against the prevailing injustice and all the efforts that try to keep them away from education and knowledge. They should say no to the darkness and try to follow the light as it is the only way that they can live their life with prosperity and dignity; and World Literacy Day is the day when they can further strengthen their commitments.

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## Entangled Amidst Recklessness

By Asmatyari

Most of the problems, we encounter on daily accounts are associated with a flawed understanding of the root causes of the quandary and flawed strategies leading to its proper solution. Consequently, efforts exercised in the pursuit of extraneous vague goals, fall short to devise an appropriate way out. Thus, we keep on oscillating between the issue and the disingenuous course leading to suitable solution.

There has ever been a wide chasm between thoughtful comprehension of obligation and veneration; in contemporary Afghan society one finds verbal utility the other overshadowed by heedless inculcation. Virtues, earnest faith, superior deeds and heavenly rewards, only come via repeated veneration, is widely propagated, negating the underlying worth of dutifulness. The binding principles of duties of immense significance are deemed inferior whilst religious dogma and set ritual superior. This is the state of superiority complex and the society suffering superiority complex, never rise to prominence, unless turn realistic.

Inhabiting in constant state of denial is yet another problem overshadowing our collective wisdom. We advertently commit to disown the responsibilities for our committed and deliberate ill-deeds and mishaps instead bother not in shifting the responsibilities to another institution or official. Thus the guilt is neither fixed nor is guilty brought to book.

One of the degenerative understandings, commonly witnessed is an objective view of the issues. It has always been effortless, holding someone else responsible for our erroneous deeds. We have all turned professionals in disowning the ill-consequences, some of our ill-strategized feat brings. We spare not, any opportunity to earn credits for other selfless undertakings. Conversely, we are reluctant to own the responsibilities for a self accomplished, fallacious accomplishment.

Indiscriminate and faceless owing of the worldly discoveries is one of the persona Muslims bears. The mismatched references are superfluously used in order to justify their intellectually bankrupt state. The claimant for every invention left them in superiority complex and hollowness, turning their innate aptitudes plagued and dysfunctional. On the other extreme, years long propaganda against modern scientific education is also propagated that sought a credible support and appreciation from many so called well learned individuals.

We could not draw a clear, distinctive line between licit and illicit deeds. The plague of narrow-mindedness has worst affected us to the level that our ill deeds are fortified to the height of truth and other good deeds appear forged for us. The poison of biased understanding injected into the bloodstream of society has maligned their moderate disposition to extreme one. Freedom of thought, providing a sound basis of intellectual progress is not only given the status of ill recognition but also un-Islamic.

The aristocratic, despotic regimes and absolute rule instilled in most of Muslim countries –the ruling class steers the fate of the nation, consequently the pages of history are filled with blunders individuals committed and the nation is left to reap for generations, no one realizes. The ongoing war in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan that has coerced countless people flee the said countries is none's concern.

Another pivotal problem –the fallacious and social structure en-

rooted on an erroneous classification system supporting proprietors, feudal lords and ruling elites. A superior ethno-political elite ruling for generations draws economic and political privileges. The lower class or ethnic groups are denied access to fundamental rights and necessities of life.

Corruption is another dilemma our society is intervening at the moment. There are multiple incidences of frauds and irregularities and embezzlements occurred in this piece of land till date no culprit is punished and no impartial accountability is exercised. In all such cases the accused public official and institutions begin shifting responsibilities. Nominal commissions and committees are constituted to fix the responsibilities; at the end of day, nothing, with exception to wastage of public revenue crystallizes. It's high time we demonstrate commitment to rise to eminence by setting examples of admitting and fulfilling our collective responsibilities.

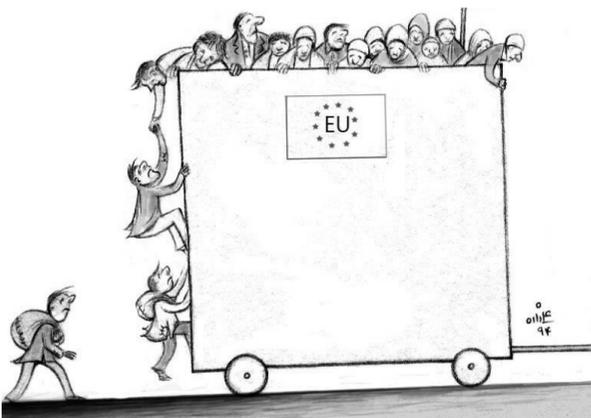
The system directly supporting, promoting and protecting injustices seem unlikely to extend space to talent, competence, capabilities, as an alternative recommendation, inducement and influential financial status help earning preferential societal position. Nonetheless, the whole functionaries of the flawed system escape apprehension –they are subjugated to practiced system not the constitutional provision because of despotic brought up. The culprits of Kabul bank swindle to date, escape detention and prosecution because of having influential ties. It is imperative that constitutional safeguard is provided to hapless citizens seeking justices over authority and power abusers.

The injustices cracking the socio-political fabric of society and widen the societal divide across ethnic lines, must be curtailed. The politically under-privileged ethnic group rendered vulnerable with increasing the sense of insecurity and should be given in confidence. May the custodians of illusive slogans come forth to fight against all these social evils, injustices, biases and human rights violation? It should be underlined that a sustainable triumph with continuous and unending effort, encompassing a dynamic mechanism, pursuing a workable strategy seems plausible and workable. Problems and crisis are the integral part of every society, as long as a pragmatic solution is not working out. Man owes the potentials of averting their disgruntled fate by exercising rational deeds following due course of actions.

The man is entitled to be the supreme creature given his superior mental capability owes a peculiar attribute in his inferior body. Deeds are executed in the light of perception thought-out in one's mind based on sensational judgments. The mental supplement involving rational discourse is never brought into practice that enables man learn beyond the limits of superficial sensory perceptiveness. The sensory conception of man lies within a restricted limit; nevertheless his mental perceptiveness is boundless and is at par with excellence.

It is a renowned truism 'God help those who help themselves'. The dictum reminds us of the deep lying worth of selfless accomplishment of duties. Nevertheless, we have thought out to get others execute our undertakings. Seeing the degree of reliance on others, rendered our innate capabilities dysfunctional, the aforesaid saying never justifies our standing. Consequently we are likely not to execute our socio-political undertakings; resultantly every aspect of societal proceedings pleads grave attention and right direction.

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