

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



October 28, 2015

## The Earthquake Victims Require Speedy Help

The number of death toll from Monday's deadly earthquake of 7.5 magnitude (which is believed to be the most powerful in Afghanistan's recent past) has reached to 115 in Afghanistan. The mighty earthquake hit different parts of the country and many parts of the neighboring countries as well, particularly Pakistan. The worst affected areas in Afghanistan include Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Parwan, Nangarhar and Kunduz provinces. There are fears that death toll may rise as many people have been injured severely and assistance and support for affected people have not reached yet as there are serious issues of communication and transportation. There are many people whose houses have collapsed and they are compelled to live under the open sky. Many people in the capital Kabul said that their houses were damaged completely by the earthquake and they did not have enough resources to build them anew. They, therefore, requested the government to support them in this regard.

There are many issues that may rise if support does not reach to them quickly. It may take a long time before these people are able to live their lives the way they used to live, and by that time they may face problems like rise in diseases, malnutrition, lack of proper medication, hygiene issues and unavailability of shelters. Now that winter is approaching, the problems may multiply; therefore, it is really essential that speedy measures are taken. The concerned officials require to act prudently and make sure they reach to all those who have been affected.

The people, at the same time, can make efforts to support their countrymen. Particularly, those who have not been influenced by the quake and have the capability to support others must come to the front. They should feel the problems of others as their own and must show true patriotism at this time of trouble.

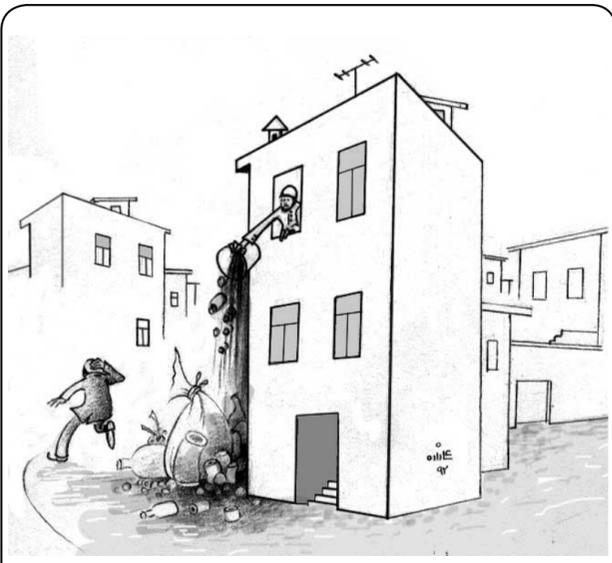
It is really tragic in Afghanistan that common Afghan people have not only been victimized by wars and conflicts but natural disasters have also made their lives fragile. Whether it is flood, avalanches, famine or even earthquake, the severest of the shocks shake the existence of the poor and destitute. They are the most effected, in two different ways. First, they do not possess a strong and reliable shelter and other facilities that can safeguard them against the natural disasters, which make them easy victims. Second, the facilities that should be there after the disaster to minimize the level of destruction, never reach them, as they are at the remotest of the areas.

Leave the disaster aside, even when there are severe weather conditions, which cannot be even termed as disasters; the loss of life and property incurred by the poor Afghans is really immense. Last year as well the severe cold weather victimized many poor people as they did not have enough capacity to secure themselves. As the people in the affected areas, because of their wretched and torn shelters and no fuel or wood to burn, were being victimized, there was no support from the relevant officials to provide them the facilities to fight against the death. The result was misery. And when the severe cold weather turned into disasters in the form of avalanches in some parts of country, the incapacity of the government to help its people out of the disaster was exposed to a large extent.

There are many lives that can be saved through proper and timely efforts. Moreover, there are many other areas as well that are necessary to be given proper attention by the government so that such disasters and incidents should be properly handled. Among them making a very well-equipped and properly trained disaster management unit is the most important one. At the same time making the different parts of country accessible through proper roads is also an important one. Many places happen to be in the remotest of the areas, where the rescue teams and equipment take a very lengthy time to reach as there are no proper roads.

Though security has been the most dominant issue in Afghanistan, there are many other issues as well that kill more people than the lack of security. The proper attention of the government in that regard and its services can save many lives. It requires to institutionalize its efforts and put to practice National Disaster Management Plan. Department for Disaster Preparedness must be made fully functional and must be equipped and capacitated enough to carry out its responsibilities during and even before disasters.

The developed countries of the world, through institutionalized efforts, have minimized the risks of disasters and have the capacity to react rapidly when such disasters take place and thus save the valuable lives of its people as much as possible. Therefore, the government of Afghanistan must also pay consideration and concentration in such areas and must make sure that poor people do not lose their lives worthlessly.



## Following the Middle Path!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

Be it Afghanistan or any other country of the world, some people are so much disappointed of the condition of people that they have a trademark sentence, 'This nation will never develop and prosper because there are so many problems on all the different levels that we will never be able to finish them and in this struggle, we will finish but our problems will never finish.'

This is true in a sense that different problems on different levels are so rampant, deep-rooted and dangerous that one doesn't see any beam of hope for future. Let's take the example of corruption. Starting from the guard of a small office till the top ministers, corruption, bribery and different illegal and illegitimate practices are present on different levels that cannot be cured very easily. There were many optimistic and energetic politicians and reformers who tried their best to curb the corruption in different countries but they failed in their endeavor because the problem was prevalent on such a large scale and was such deeply immersed into the culture of ministries and organizations that the problem remained the same although there were some initial but temporary successes.

The great development of Europe is due to the functioning of some of its universities and political institutes. These institutes are functioning from a number of centuries and they have withstood different kind of turbulent circumstances. Their culture of service is very old and their systematic organization are so effective that many people came and went by but there was no difference to these institutes and they kept functioning to carry the West to the peak of progress and prosperity. On the other hand, in Afghanistan and some of its neighboring countries, a number of such institutes were established but they were never established so permanently that they should serve their aims with full maturity and functionality. These institutes were pioneered by a number of genius and dedicated minds of the country but when this personality passed away, the whole system crashed and after a couple of decades, the institute was eliminated. If we assess our institutes, we hardly find any institute that should have attained maturity with time and thus emerged as a very useful institute serving the country.

Except these, let's beam our attention towards the business organizations of the world. They have not only made good fortune for their owners and stockholders in all those years but also added an important contribution in boosting up the economy of their countries and providing jobs to thousands of their employees and also meeting the needs of their countrymen by providing quality goods and services. Once again, the secret behind this success story is also the sincerity and dedication of all the people who were attached with their organizations in different times of history. No doubt, there has always been success in different periods in our country and other less developed countries as well but it was just due to the effort or talent of a limited number of individuals who worked hard in their time but as they left the scene, everything was destroyed.

The reason behind this problem is the lack of personal characters in the individuals. There is a famous English quote that, 'You can awaken a person who is asleep but you cannot help with a situation when a person is awake but he is pretending to be asleep.' Individuals have been gifted

with a number of personal qualities but if these qualities are not polished by the help of education, they slowly start diminishing and their owners start losing these finest qualities and in the end, they turn into kind of creatures that cannot be easily helped with. When a person is bearing these finest personal qualities, he or she comes into a position when he or she can show an amusing output, whatever the field he or she enters. And when every member of the society rises to this position, the society is turned into a heaven where the aggregate sense of responsibility and skills of all its members combine together to turn the society into a heaven where different forms of progress and development make available the best life for all its members. Unfortunately, due to political instability, failure to change with the changing world of science and technology, almost all the Muslim countries and numerous other countries of the region failed to preserve the natural abilities of their members and thus faced a decline that was evident from personal, economic and behavioral viewpoints. The only solution to this problem lies in providing its members with an education that should not only make them more skilled so that they should run their economy and country according to the changing and modern trends of the world but also develop a kind of personality that should be in the best benefit of their country and countrymen and in general, of every member of the world. But in this regard, we should avoid one serious and grave mistake. The aim of education should not be to bring economic prosperity in the world because it has been noticed that only economic prosperity is not going to solve all the problems. In some of the strong and developed countries of the world, governments are facing with the situation when members of society are acting unethically, thinking only of their benefits and ignoring the loss of the society in general. Using the power on weak, ignoring the rules and behavioral codes and ethical standards and many more are the conditions that depict a problem when there is need of moral education as well so that we should not only produce efficient skilled labor but also produce humans that can feel the sufferings of others and avoid to harm others for their benefits. In today's world, when we can observe the nations that have prospered and developed economically but are facing numerous problems regarding the ethics and morality and also those nations that are emphasizing on morality or religious education, ignoring the importance of worldly education, the best strategy to be adopted is to educate the members of society with moral and worldly education so that they should not only be economically successful and prosperous but also work for the betterment of their fellow beings and the society. In this regard, being Muslims, we have been provided with a perfect system that not only grants us to work for the gain of success in the worldly affairs but asserts more emphasis on the correction of behaviors and attitudes. A person who understands and follows this education will be a person who will have a perfect character, acting to be the most responsible and useful member of the society. On the other hand, he can also acquire worldly education so to take the society to the economic progress and prosperity. This is a dream that will have to be achieved by all the nations of the world in order to experience the true taste of development and permanent success.

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## Way Out to Multiples Problems!

By Asmatyari

The great saying, "united we stand divided we fall" is the leading principle. Afghan should subscribe to ensure our life long triumph. Afghanistan is a war torn land that should exercise the bond of intimacy to magnetize all fragments of Afghan society into single whole. In order to reinforce this vision earlier, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on making a speech on Ashura with religious leaders reiterated greater national unity. The president said the future could be protected only if the nation demonstrated unity. The religious leader should focus to forge unity of the nation during their sermons. We should not unlearn any activity undermining national unity by strengthening the bond of disparity and differences are our birth born unforgivable rivals.

Following successful formation of unity government the political deadlock was thought to be done away with, the masses eyed resolution of multifaceted problems, waiting their fates for years. The deteriorating state of security remains to be another obstacle on the way to unbeaten Afghanistan. Violence has been a dominant phenomenon browbeating every fabric of Afghan society. Harmony promoting education and equitable distribution of resources and services narrows down the differences whilst paving the way for peaceful coexistence. There is a documented existence of law and with negligible application or prejudicial application, serve none's interest. Insecurity has turned out to be one of the burning issues requiring immediate attention. The insurgents have run wild attacking innocent civilians and cities. It was rumored post seizure of Kunduz Taliban had executed tales of atrocities that included killings, lootings and rapes. According to the credible findings, the Taliban had violated human's rights by attacking the civilians and sheltering in their homes. It is witnessed with the turn of every seasonal offensive the intensity of violence inclined rendering the foreign diplomats, public officials and civilians' prime target of attacks -but every now and then the insurgents cling to overrunning the developed cities exercising far and wide bloodshed. The growing attacks on foreign and civilians indicates the insurgents are underlining their pretentious presence. The individuals driven by evil motives, put them in the black race of domination, leading to formation of a human society we witness at the moment, characterized by rule of mob, violence, aggression, innumerable bloodshed and ruthless killings of fellowmen. Unluckily our society at present is governed by some of identical dilemmas.

Another problem daunting challenges faces is poverty, one of the challenges pressing it hard. 36% of population lives below poverty line including endemic poverty and lack of human capacity; insecurity; weak governance and institutionalized corruption; opium exports equal to 22% of gross domestic product; rampant gender inequality; and policy, regulatory, and institutional constraints that have limited effective growth in public and private sectors. The government that assumed the office must work out tangible plans - downsizing the problems. Despite countless challenges left to the new government to face, financial management will be the biggest problem pleading immediate attention. To provide a sustainable backup to its financial needs, the govern-

ment relies on loans accompanied with handsome amount of interest. High ranked public officials senior politicians involved in bank scandals and corruption seemed not the government's concern or priority. Consequently, multiple unresolved problems were left to the new government. According to finance commission head, the total loans amounted 2 billion Afghanis which were received from World Bank (WB) nine times, Asian Development Bank (ADB) 14 times, once from IMF, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) four times and Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency two times. A handsome amount our revenue is earmarked for interest of these loans. It should be learned that Afghanistan cannot develop without a sustainable economical road map drawn and implemented that grants them financial independence. The state of self-reliance can only be achieved when heavy investments are made in the field of human resource developmental programs.

In addition to financial independence, Afghanistan is in dire need of socio-political assistance and trained official in all fields of human endeavors. Any country extending selfless services must be warmly received. In that pursuit a cordial relationship must be developed and tried to preserve the previous ones. Afghanistan was pushed to directionless avenues of battered relation with international community; certainly not serve Afghanistan's interest.

Another issue earning bad fame for Afghans is the illicit growth and trade of life snatching drug. Many countries and humanitarian organization showed grave concerns over mass production of the drug. Moreover, the illegal drug trade has always served a part in deterioration of law and order and a prior asset of insurgents and militant. Reportedly, the illegal drug has been greater source, serving financial affairs of militancy and insurgency. The government of Afghanistan instead of relying on international community must work out genuine means tackling maintenance of law and devise legitimate and standard procedure of prosecution. The US official stressed the strategy must address alternative development, eradication, investigation, interdiction, prosecution, incarceration and then the so-called soft-side programs of awareness, treatment and rehabilitation.

Afghanistan is the land of treasure that is buried deep down in its heart. The unexplored rich earthy resources capable of earning socio-economic possessions for the state, aren't taken the advantage of, underlines the negligence if not the incompetence of ruling elites. Afghanistan's youth and resources are potential valuable assets that can earn financial support to its declining but dependent economy. Putting cognitive abilities into practice the public officials can reduce the size of problems if can't eradicate them. The politicians representing their electoral constitution not necessarily should come up to the expectation of their Electoral College but to the voice of faithfulness and sanity. The government and public officials must realize, the dream of a vibrant, progressive, developed Afghanistan can only materialize, provided a handsome amount of budget is allocated for education, health, infrastructure and governance. The world must learn it that a healthy, literate and well governed Afghanistan is a secure and developed Afghanistan.

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