Kazi Wadud Nawaz

O far as basic tenets of Faith of a Muslim are concerned recognition of Allah as the Lord of Universe -- Creator, Sustainer and Cherisher of everything in the Heaven and Earth comes first. A Muslim must also recognise a Divine Command that regulates all physical processes in the universe. Then comes other elements of faith: belief in the Books of Revelation and the Holy Quran as the supreme book of divine guidance, belief in the Finality of Prophet-hood of Muhammed (pbuh) as the messenger of Allah, belief in the Unseen -- Angels and Jinns, and finally belief in the Final Day of Judgement -- reward in the Heaven and punishment in the Hell.

Just a look into the above basic elements of faith, is enough to convince anybody that the life of a true Muslim cannot be unbalanced -- it has accountability and a Divine Purpose.

Emotional recognition of these elements on the part of a Muslim is just the starting point towards Faith. But it is the knowledge that strengthens the foundation of his faith. The very first Verse of the holy Quran(Sura Alaq: Ayat-1-6) revealed to our holy Prophet (pbuh) was a divine instruction for acquiring knowledge. The holy Quran from beginning to end has stressed on the importance of acquiring knowledge on the part of Muslims and so has our holy Prophet (pbuh).

Allama Iqbal in his book "Reconstruction of Religious Thoughts in Islam" said that, the search for rational foundation in Islam may be regarded to have begun with the Prophet himself. His constant prayer was: "God! Grant me knowledge of the ultimate nature of things!" All these clearly manifest the role of knowledge in the domain of faith.

God's infinite attributes are manifested in diversity of nature that includes our complex intertwined life. The sense of awe, and helplessness of human mind in the face of complexities of life and its interrelation with the nature and universe, inspires emotion and introspection -- essential components of Faith of a believer.

Duties assigned to mankind as Viceroy of Allah find expression in the spiritual practices [Salat, Siam, Hujj, Zakat] for self purification and strengthening bondage with the Supreme Being on one hand and supreme sacrifice for establishment of Universal Balance of justice in the world on the other.

Unquestionable recognition of the unseen reality is no doubt an essential criteria and starting point of faith, but understanding the spiritual unity of the 'seen' and 'unseen,' manifested in diversity of the objective world, needs a knowledge-base. Emotion and knowledge collectively constitute the foundation of faith of a believer. Since The Law of Universal Balance (Meezan) is applicable also in the ideological domain, any relative instability in components of faith where emotion overcomes knowledge, will surely lead to fanaticism ultimately damaging the very foundation of faith.

The Holy Quran without the slightest ambiguity inspires human endeavour for safeguarding rights to security of life, property and faith. Unflinching support for the good and uncompromising struggle against evils and evil forces at social national and International level as per instruction of the Holy Quran is Jihad. Allowing evil forces to continue with their misdeeds without protest and resistance in worldly life, is tantamount to fleeing back from the field of Zihad and is an

act of hypocrisy. Salivating for 'Hurs' and amenities of the Paradise leaving the world in the hands of evil forces and enemies of humanity is not at all rational in the eye of

The Quranic Concept of 'Zihad' in essence refers to human endeavors for self purification and transformation of the world to ensure divine justice, peace and security for the humanity. Concept of 'Jihad' is a powerful ideological tool in the hands of Muslims for changing the objective world to ensure Balance of Justice for all humanity. Zihad constitutes the Revolutionary Essence of the Holy Quran. It's a rational response on the part of Islam towards prevention of transgression of balance of justice.

The forces antagonistic to Islam and its values all over the world are now all-out to sow the seeds of disunity and infuse a sense of passive morality in Muslim minds with specific objective to blunt the revolutionary spirit of Islam to fulfill their evil design. But they should know that Islam is a religion of peace, not in the abstract but in the concrete sense of the term, it strives for a rational peace based on universal balance of justice and not on opportunism and hypocrisy that serves personal and group interests.

The prevailing socio-economic and political systems of the world based on materialistic values meet principally physical needs but gives little importance to moral and spiritual needs of mankind. Values based on material interest may create a temporary illusion of peace, unity and stability in the world, but are sure to devalue spiritual status of humanity and destined to end in rivalry and lust for worldly wealth, rift, disunity, violence and bloodshed amongst nations in the long run.

If we look at the present world situation we will see that all Western powers are all-out to vilify Islam and Muslims as fanatic and create disunity amongst the Muslim community just to fulfill their sinister design for plundering resources of Muslim countries in Middle East, Central and South-Asia, Africa, and Muslim World as a whole. They always try to set the emotional aspects of the faith of the Muslim Community off the balance and trigger the reactions not consistent with the logical aspect of Faith to obscure strategic objective of their offensive.

To safe-guard their sovereignty and resources, Muslim Ummah must be on guard. All Muslim countries need to be united against their common enemies. This is the specific form of Jihad on the part of Muslim community in the present world context. But they must be careful not to fall into their traps.

The holy Quran has clearly set the rules and essential code of conduct for all humanity so that they can organise their lives in accordance with universal law balance of justice. There is no scope of Fanaticism in Islam. Fanaticism stems from lack of knowledge and is the end product of conspiracy on the part of enemies of Islam to hurt the religious sentiment and out-weigh the balance of emotional aspects of faith.

However as a Muslim we should realise that, whatever is happening in this world is happening within the domain of sovereignty of Allah and is a part of His divine strategy to fulfill His Divine Purpose. But we must do our duty as His representative on earth, forge unity, consciously avoid emotion and fight to uphold divine justice with devotion and sincerity.

The writer is an NGO Development Consultant

BUDGET 2013-14

Increased duty on powder milk

Import, export and trade gaps trend of meat and dairy

commodities in terms of million USD

- Import payment for meat and other dairy commodities

- Export earnings from meat and other dairy commodities

- Trade gaps in meat and other dairy commodities

MD. MAZHARUL ISLAM

N the proposed budget 2013-2014, custom duty for powder milk import has increased from 5% to 10%. At the same time, concessionary benefit is given by Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) for insulated road milk tanker (decreased from 5% to 2%), for animal feed (decreased from 5% to 0%), for raw milk preservatives (decreased from 12% to 0%), and also for different spare parts required for artificial insemination.

The proposed budgetary provisions shows a light of hope in developing local dairy. This development may not happen overnight, but the proposed restrictions on importing powder milk and other concessionary benefits will hopefully encourage thousands of dairy entrepreneurs and local investors to come up with their capital and other resources.

In Bangladesh, the national rate of per capita protein consumption is only 66.3gm/day. This protein consumption rate is much lower than a developed country's average consumption rate. Apart from fish

200

-100

-200

animals in the form of meat, milk and eggs. However, this production of animal protein is not sufficient in meeting the country's demand. The average annual per capita availability of meat in Bangladesh is only 9.12kg against the

and different pulses,

major proteins come from

required amount of 43.25kg. Annual per capita milk consumption rate is less than 14 litres against recommended intake of at least 90 litres. In other word, on an aver-

age, each person is consuming less than 42ml milk per day, against minimum recommended intake of 250ml.

In contrast, global average of per capita daily milk consumption is 273ml, in India alone this is 263ml.

It is well evidenced that there is a huge deficit of animal originated proteins in Bangladesh. Furthermore, an increasing trend of per capita income accompanied by a shift of diets to higher value foods have been increasing demand for foods of animal origin. Prabhu Pingali, an eminent agricultural economist and also the deputy director, Agriculture Development at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has described this general pattern of change as a shift towards more "westernised" diets.

Currently, Bangladesh requires approximately 12.8 million metric tons of milk. About 1 million ton of this demand is being met by the domestic cattle and buffalo population (Fao), another 1 million ton is being imported, and the rest of the milk demand remains unfulfilled.

Of the total import payment for livestock commodities, the country currently spends 21% for importing dairy commodities, basically for importing powder milk. The Bangladesh Bank import data shows that from July 2006 to June 2011 the country has spent more than US\$700 million for this purpose. On the other hand, in the same period, very negligible amount of milk and other dairy commodities has been exported from the country.

Commercial dairying can bring numerous positive changes into the society -- creating new income generating

activities in this sector and facilitation of other related commercial agricultural activities like commercial vegetable farming and pond aquaculture by producing bio-fertilisers and amelioration of nutritional status of the population; thus providing new channels for economic and social develop-

In Bangladesh, due to pasture-land scarcity, a scope of setting large-scale commercial dairy farms is low. But developing small-scale commercial dairy farms having 8 to 10 cows is huge, as these sorts of farming can be managed at household level.

Despite these opportunities, private sector investment in dairy sector is very low as well. The dairy sector in Bangladesh has not received due attention from the public and private sectors, in comparison to crop or vegetable farming, commercial poultry and fish farming. Local entrepreneurs are not very involved with dairying, and foreign investment in dairy sector is very poor.

Since 1971, a total FDI registered with Board of Investment (BOI), in dairy sector has been only US\$26.1 million. In this FDI, 100% foreign investment is only US\$9.5 million and Joint Venture Investment is US\$16.6 million.

> Only two Multinational Corporations (MNCs) -- Nestle Bangladesh Ltd. and New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Ltd. -- have come with a 100% foreign investment in the dairy sector of Bangladesh. Year However, with this FDI, the respective MNCs have not set up any dairy farms in the country; rather, since the beginning, they have been importing powder milk from milk surplus European

countries to Bangladesh in bulks, repackaging it into small packets and selling at local markets. This strategy has often been considered as suppressive to growth of local dairy industry. One of the main constraints in commercial dairying is

increased price of concentrate feeds for cows, which often cuts off farmers' profit margin. Poor milk marketing and supply chain at potential milk producing areas is also deterring many entrepreneurs to be involved with commercial dairying. In addition, engorgement or flooding of local markets by imported powder milk leads to market volatility for locally produced liquid milk. In such a situation, for a long time now, dairy entrepre-

neurs, formal milk collectors and other stakeholders of dairy industry have been demanding government restrictions on powder milk import. In fact, it was required to adopt some protection measures for protecting local dairy and lift the pace on its sluggish growth.

In conclusion, budgetary restriction on importing powder milk and other supportive concessionary provisions have created ample opportunity of investing in dairy sector. Let us not leave these opportunities unexplored. Department of Livestock Services (DLS), NGOs, cooperatives and valued private investors must come forward with their capitals and other resources, and invest in the dairy sector to realise the full potential of this sector.

Programme (AFSP), Brac.

The writer is Senior Field Coordinator, Agriculture and Food Security

Who will be Iran's next president?

Mahmood Hasan

RAN will elect its 17th president on June 14 2013. The president is the highest directly elected official of Iran and the second most important person after the Supreme Leader. The Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is not elected but selected by the assembly of

If a candidate fails to poll 50% vote in the first round, then the runoff will be held on June 21. Citizens attaining 18 years are eligible to vote -- Iran has 44 million voters.

The 1979 Constitution allows only two consecutive four-year terms for a president. Incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is, therefore, not in the race and the west is heaving a sigh of relief that they will not have to deal with him, any more.

Interestingly, a whopping 686 candidates registered to run for the presidency this year. But the powerful 12-member "Guardian Council of the Constitution" (6 Islamic law experts, chosen by Khamenei and 6 jurists, selected by the Majlish) approved only eight candidates. All 30 female candidates were removed from the contest.

It's weird that unelected clerics have invested themselves with the mandate to scrutinise and select election candidates and place them before Iranian voters. The elected representatives have no authority over the string of

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unelected cleric bodies in Shia Iran.

age; former Foreign Minister Manoucher Mottaki and Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, Chief of Staff of outgoing President Ahmedinejad.

Rafsanjani's exclusion may unite the moderate and reformists against the clerics.

Out of the 8 nominees 6 have close links and family relations with Ali Khamenei. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf (52, Progression Alliance Party), Mayor of Tehran is a former Air Force Commander, former Chief of Iranian Police and served in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. He is conservative but not a

Ali-Akbar Velayati (68, Progression Alliance) medical doctor, former foreign minister and senior advisor to the supreme leader, is a conservative.

Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel (68, Progression Alliance) is a conservative and former speaker of the Parliament. His daughter is married to supreme leader's son.

Saeed Jalili (48, Front of Islamic Revolution Stability) is a conservative and head of Iran's National Security Council. He is also Iran's chief nuclear negotiator and enjoys support of the revolutionary guard.

Mohsen Rezaei (59, Moderation and Development Party) is also a conservative

Those rejected include former president mander. He currently holds the post of secredates were, however, solidly behind Syria --Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (79) because of old tary of the Expediency Council, which mediates between the Majlish (Parliament) and the non-elected Guardian Council.

> Mohammad-Gharazi (72, independent) is not a cleric but has strong conservative views. He served previously as minister in Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi's cabinet.

> The two moderates are -- Mohammad-Reza Aref (62, Islamic Iran Participation Front) a reformist, is former vice president, former minister and teacher of Tehran University. Hassan Rouhani (65, Association of Combatant Clerics) is a senior cleric, member of the Expediency Council and also of the Assembly of Experts, which is responsible for appointing the Supreme Leader. A moderate, he served as Secretary of the National Security Council and Chief Nuclear Negotiator during presidency of Khatami.

> As part of election campaign all the candidates went through three-stage-managed TV shows together. They answered questions regarding the nuclear policy, economy and domestic issues. The candidates could say very little on how to resolve the nuclear issue with P5+1. None, however, disavowed Iran's nuclear programme.

None of the nominees provided any clear idea about foreign policy issues as it is the pre-

nominee and former revolutionary guard com-Iran's most important ally in the region.

> Party affiliations of the candidates do not seem to be an important issue. Who will win the election is difficult to predict at this stage. Opinion polls do not give any conclusive results on who is actually leading. According to some reports Saeed Jalili may have some lead over the others. He has the support of the powerful Revolutionary Guards and if he gets the blessing of Ayatollah he may emerge winner.

> But this time around, Khamenei may not support any nominee. In 2009 his support for Ahmedinejad led to serious violence and gave birth to the 'Green Movement,' which was brutally snuffed out after many deaths and incarceration of former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi and former Speaker Mehdi Karroubi.

> Khamenei knows that people want drastic reforms. He has therefore ensured that voting would go through in an orderly manner without the simmering Green Movement coming back to the streets.

Strict restrictions have been imposed on the press and social media.

The turn out this time may not be high as in 2009 because of disenchantment and the general belief that the vote will be rigged by the Revolutionary Guards. Yet the process has to go

on to give legitimacy to the new president.

The political architecture of Iran is a complex system, which combines theocracy with democracy. The 1979 constitution provides for the Supreme Leader to control the Republican Guards, foreign policy, the nuclear issue, the media and the Baseej (pro-government militia). The president is democratically elected and is head of the executive branch of power but he is not a policy maker. In practice his powers are circumscribed by conservative clerics and the Supreme Leader.

This duality in the establishment makes the government unpredictable. Clashes have occurred between the Supreme Leader and the President. The first term of Ahmedinejad was to an extent quite, but the second term was marked by repeated wrangling with Khamenei. While the Majlish struggles continuously against the conservative clerics, the Ayatollah tries to undermine the Presidency. Ayatollah Khamenei is in fact the new "Shah" of Iran.

The world is watching with keen interest who will officially lead Iran for the next four years. Whoever wins will have an unenviable job. He will have to end Iran's international isolation; stimulate the economy, battered by crushing UN sanctions; deal with the West over the nuclear program and handle the Syrian war.

The writer is a former Ambassador and Secretary.

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ACROSS

CRYPTOQUIP

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44 Poison — UL'Y YUKBJA OUMZGI

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN EMPLOYEES AT A 46 Portion of CERTAIN HIGH-TECH WORKPLCE LAUGH, I THINK YOU CALL THEM GOOGLE'S GIGGLES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals I

QUOTABLE Quotes

Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul."

> Samuel Ullman

Twelve World-leading Anticancer Technologies of Modern Cancer Hospital Guangzhou



The main therapy of China Modern a breast cancer patient from minimally invasive surgery features admitted into the hospital little trauma, quick recovery, and Nusrat received a series of has became a much important examinations and her doctor approach for treating tumor. Mr. Zhang Weizhong discussed chemotherapy,

biotherapy, therapy, therapy, and TCM and western medicine combination have already brought new hope for patients. 32 years old called Nusrat was

Hospital Guangzhou- Dhaka, Bangladesh. After

interventional minimizing the side tumor minimally Nusrat's treatment plan was genetic interventional therapy+ Ar-He engineering, stem cell therapy cryosurgery. Though never heard of these technologies, Nusrat did not feel any nervousness that may rise before she underwent them. The doctors honesty, communication and modesty made her feel comfortable and at ease.

To consult about therapies please contact: 0177-5105555, 0177-5106666, Saturday 1 pm. to 5 pm. Sunday to Thursday 9 am. to 5 pm. or visit us Multiple disciplines researched with his chief Mr. Bai Haishan in 9/C, Navana Tower, Gulshan-1, cancer treatment technologies and other specialists to design Dhaka-1212, Also you can visit our combining tumor radiotherapy, a treatment plan aimed at website: http://www.asiancancer.com, Log in: thermotherapy, maximizing the efficacy and http://www.facebook.com/cancerhealthcare