

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



November 03, 2015

## Practical Measures Required to Defeat Unemployment

Among the hopes that Afghanistan would be able to stand on its own after the withdrawal of international forces, the economic challenges still loom large. Economic infrastructure has not been developed and the country would require considerable time and support to reach a point that may be considered satisfactory.

One of the most important economic challenges being faced is, undoubtedly, the rising unemployment, which is not only introducing frustration among the youngsters but also depriving the country from using its young population and potential for the good of the country.

Recently, there have been some demonstrations staged by Afghan youth against the growing unemployment as they are getting frustrated. Having required education and degrees, many youngsters should have jobs in their relevant profession, but they are compelled to saunter here and there aimlessly. Therefore, there are many who have opted for demonstrations against the government.

On Sunday, Nov 01, many protestors blocked entrance gate to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) against what they said growing unemployment and poor performance of the ministry to generate jobs for youth.

The protestors called themselves as members of a 'Youth Movement Against Joblessness' and they assembled in front of the ministry's entrance gate at around 7am and blocked the ministry officials from entering their offices.

The protestors chanted slogans, "We are jobless," "We are disappointed by the incompetent government", "We want jobs" and "We show red cards to the ineffective government."

The protestors said that they would continue blocking the ministry's gate until their demands were addressed. They also mentioned that they had been protesting for two months in front of the parliament by erecting tents, but the government officials and parliament members did not pay attention to them.

Their main demands from the government were to stop giving a large amount of US dollars to useless officials, advisors and MPs in monthly salaries and instead generate jobs for the youths.

It is really important to understand the frustration and the demands of the unemployed youth. Unemployment, if left unattended, would ultimately give rise to many other problems in the country. Currently one of the basic reasons for the growing insecurity and rising rate of drug addiction is unemployment.

The capable youth who find no job opportunities join the ranks of the terrorists readily. The terrorists are ready to pay them and their families handsome amount for different evil tasks. Since, there are many parts of the country that have turned into markets for terrorists and terrorism, unemployed youth could be the most suitable commodity for them.

Moreover, frustration that may result from the lack of employment is another issue that the youngsters have to deal with. Because of family pressure and the psychological problems that arise from idleness, youngsters fail to keep integrity in their personalities and become the victims of social isolation and drug abuse. The rising rate of drug addiction throughout the country is a clear example. Many youngsters, having lost every hope and optimism in their lives, can be found lost in the filth of addicting drugs along the drains and on the garbage at different places. Can such youngster play a positive role for the future of the country?

Moreover, there are many youngsters who have lost all the hopes from the country and have fled to other countries for better future. Though some of them have reached to their intended destination, there are many who have not been successful in doing so. Some of them even lost their lives on the way; while there are many who are still on the way with their fates undecided. President Ashraf Ghani, on the other hand, once again promised to create jobs for the citizens. He announced at the 5th National Community Development Councils Consultative Conference in Kabul that a number of programs will be launched in weeks to create employment for the citizens. He said that implementation of all government programs is linked to the economic growth of country. Stressing the need for implementation of National Solidarity Program (NSP) across the country, he said the programs of all the ministries would be run through NSP in order to develop the Afghan communities in all corners of the country.

Afghanistan's economic system can only be strengthened when the capable and skilled individuals participate in strengthening the economic system. Especially the youngsters who get qualified from universities must be given opportunities to present and use their education and skills in the profession of their choice and interest. Young blood equipped with determination and patriotism can definitely play a significant role; all they need is equitable treatment from the prevailing system. The government must start taking practical measures before it is too late. Unless the promises are converted into practical steps it is very difficult to expect any change in the ongoing situation. Moreover, equal job opportunities must be created for girls and women as well as they form an integral part of Afghan populace and can play a tremendous role in improving Afghan economic system.

## Tough Choices—and Data—Needed to End Extreme Poverty

By Jim Yong Kim

Exclusive for the Daily Outlook

The dramatic fall in global poverty over the past two decades is the best news in the world today. For the first time ever, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty – now defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day – is projected to fall below 10 percent this year, to 9.6 percent of the world's population. Unprecedented economic growth, especially in China, has allowed hundreds of millions of people to escape poverty.

But to effectively end extreme poverty by 2030—which is the goal of the World Bank Group and our 188 member countries – our aspirations must be higher still. Many tough decisions will have to be made before we can become the generation that ends extreme poverty.

The question we ask today is how can developing countries progress in the face of slow global growth, the end of the commodities super-cycle, pending interest rate hikes, and capital flight from emerging markets?

In South Asia, the particular challenge will be to boost economic growth, ensure this growth reaches the most marginalized and vulnerable people, and to address the growing threat of climate change.

For example, Bangladesh will not reach its economic growth potential unless it makes reforms to its banking and energy sectors, as well as improve fiscal and administrative management. In India, the longer term outlook is dependent on the implementation of the government's reform program.

Our overarching strategy, based on more than 50 years of experience, is that three things must happen:

- Economic growth must lift all people. It must be inclusive.
- Investment in human beings is crucial—especially investing in their health and education. Malnourished and poorly educated children will never reach their full potential and countries, in turn, will fall short of their economic and social aspirations.
- We must ensure that we can provide safety nets that prevent people from falling back into poverty because of poor health, economic shocks, or natural disasters.

To spur growth, every dollar of public spending should be scru-

tinized for impact. Every effort must be made to improve productivity. And in a period when banks are de-risking, we have to ensure that capital is accessible – especially for small business owners and entrepreneurs who will create jobs.

In striving to end poverty, we have found that data is sparse and inconsistent globally. Some 29 countries around the world had no poverty data from 2002 to 2011, so they could not track their progress. Another 28 had just one survey that collected poverty data during that time.

This is a situation that must change to improve the world's ability to tackle poverty. In fact, we can't accomplish our goal if we do not have enough information to know whether people are actually lifting themselves out of poverty. For that we need to address huge data gaps. We need robust data.

To fix this problem, we've launched a new initiative to step up data collection in 78 of the world's poorest countries. We've pledged to work with our partners in countries and international organizations, to do something that makes common sense and is long overdue -- conduct surveys in all countries that will assess whether people's lives are improving. With the World Bank's technical assistance, many countries in South Asia region are planning to have more frequent and consistent poverty monitoring. Pakistan and Sri Lanka are already good examples on the frequency of data collection.

Pakistan collects data every two years and Sri Lanka typically every three years. Bangladesh is moving to three-year intervals from five years for poverty data collection. As the world works to end extreme poverty in the next 15 years, it will be ever more important to have a solid foundation of data and evidence so that policies and programs reach people who have not benefited from strong growth since 2000.

In a slowing global economy, governments must invest in quality education, health, sanitation and electricity for all, alongside effective social insurance policies that protect the vulnerable—not as an afterthought, but as a core part of their growth strategies.

In tough times, countries that do well have already made the difficult choices. But countries that haven't yet, still can. It's not too late. Tough policy choices will send signals to the world that governments are serious about laying the groundwork for future growth.

*Jim Yong Kim is President of World Bank Group*

## Ending Impunity for Crimes against Journalists Urged

By Asmatyari

All the way through human history, man preferred silence even if the dictatorial government exercised entirely unjust deeds. There were no way out with conceding to an entirely ill-conduct of ruling class, licit. The disclosure of any truth that could harm the so-called self-defined reputation of ruling elites, led to scandalous consequences. The mightiest groups would avow their influence; strive earning the favor by physical might. This stance leads to closure of unspoken truth than disclosure – is indeed a progress retarding phenomenon.

A publication harmonizing with the state described policies could get published unrestrained and others contradicting the policies are liable of omission or prosecution is press suppression. The great degree of restraint and severe and callous treatment from both state and non-state actors isn't a life worth undertaking compared with the meager remuneration. Hence journalists must act with promptness and caution, balancing their professional duties with awareness about when to pull back when things spiral out of control. The functioning of media bodies, foreign or local, becoming targets for reprisal for their work as journalists might get worsened if the global community recedes to control.

On November 02, 2013 two French journalists Claude Verlon and Ghislaine Dupont were to cover first round presidential election in Mali were shot dead following abduction with no apparent reason. The pain of loss of two journalist undoubtedly doubles given the culprits evade apprehension and trial in the court of justice. It is said that over the past decade, more than 700 journalists have been killed for bringing news and information to the public and one in ten cases has led to a conviction. This impunity emboldens the perpetrators of the crimes inflicting retarding impact on news disclosures. To commemorate the valued loss of lives of those two journalists and remind governments of their responsibilities every year November 2 is proclaimed as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists'. The Resolution urges all States including those who didn't sign, to implement and take measures undoing the culture of impunity.

Conditioned to media pluralism, independence, respect for the safety and freedom of journalists, and the legislative, institutional and infrastructural environment in which the media operate at large Reporters Without Borders earlier this year published World Press Freedom Index that ranked the performance of 180 countries. The Scandinavian countries secured top of the list: Finland, which has been in first place for five years in succession, followed by Norway and Denmark. At the other end of the scale, Turkmenistan, North Korea and Eritrea, in last place, were the worst performers. France is ranked 38th, the United States 49th, Japan 61st, Russia 152, Iran 173rd, China 176th, Afghanistan on 122 and Pakistan on 159.

The countries on the top of index exercises fairer treatment to media bodies who enjoy a great deal of independence and congenial working environment. Many countries left to tyrant rulers who narrowly defines and confines press freedom while other like Afghanistan both state and non state actors are unlikely pleased

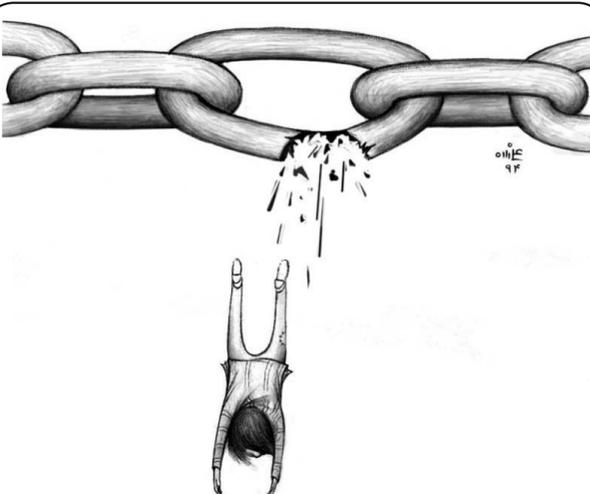
with expanding role of media. Customarily, the extremist groups such as ISIS, Al-Qaida, Taliban, Boko Haram be in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Nigeria or other countries the journalists are left to pay the price of their duties. The ISIS in particular has surpassed the other terrorists groups butchering large number of journalists. The social media site is loaded with dozens of video showing the ruthless beheading of journalists by ISIS militants. The query who would put such tyrannous militants into accountability is indistinct and undetermined?

Reportedly, most cases of violence against journalists involved the militants, government employees and officials of private organizations. The public official, militants, demanding censored news, favoring their deep rooted interests irrespective of their legitimacy regarded, serve a primary reason making journalists vulnerable to violence and endless threats. With exception to risk of life the daily wages are infinitesimally small. Journalists still struggle for fair wages and decent working conditions. It's worth, underlying the media persons suffer lack of laws, protecting wages and secure working conditions. Responding to threat call to media bodies government at the end of the day could hardly dare to condemn the call.

Previously, Taliban issued a strong threat against private TV channels, accused of having reported contrary to their interests. In addition to the death threats, the Taliban threatened to destroy all facilities belonging to the two TV channels. Following the reception of threat call Afghan media collectively staged a press conference and resolved not to bow to their threat call whilst warning any attack would be deemed as war crime. Such bright day light issuance of death threat demonstrate the major challenges facing journalists and freedom of speech in Afghanistan and the urgency to find ways to provide journalists protection. The killings and death threats demonstrate the major challenges facing journalists and freedom of speech in Afghanistan and the urgency to find ways to provide journalists protection. With exception to risk of life the daily wages are infinitesimally small. Journalists still struggle for fair wages and decent working conditions. It's worth, underlying the media persons suffer lack of laws, protecting wages and secure working conditions. This landmark resolution UN condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers. It also urges Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability, bring to justice perpetrators of crimes against journalists and media workers, and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies. It further calls upon States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference.

The governments across the world must come forth sincerely, addressing the boundless challenges media faces and must not let this very vital organ and fourth pillar of democracy, beleaguer. The dream can come true provided the impunity for crime against media persons are put an end to. This is the most ideal and practical way of celebrating day November 2.

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