

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



September 15, 2015

Taliban Stormed a Jail, Freed Most Wanted Terrorists

Monday turned out to be an unfortunate for Afghans given Taliban insurgents stormed a prison in the capital of central Ghazni province releasing about 350 prisoners. According to officials, the prison housed 436 prisoners in total of which 355 escaped during the siege. According relevant sources seven security officials were killed and seven others were injured. In addition a total of five insurgents died in the incident. The attack in the eastern province of Ghazni likened the major Afghan jailbreak in 2011 when nearly 500 Taliban fighters' inmates escaped from a prison in southern Kandahar province. The security officials declared at least 148 to be a serious threat to national security. In a statement late Monday morning, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban set free will cause serious blow to the already volatile security situation of the country.

The incidence reflects gray areas of government unpreparedness to avert any such plot. Indisputably, it is the security forces to avert any such plot prior to its execution. It is disputed -militants easily cross tens if not hundreds of security checks attack a high valued jail, take away the most wanted terrorists unnoticed. If the said proposition is true then credibility of interior security diminishes otherwise the weakness should be transformed into strength. It's repeatedly heard the security personnel warring militants were not aptly supported with needed backup that resulted in their setback -consequently a base had to be fallen to militants. This certainly marks security loophole and lack of coordination between corresponding departments. If the government runs short of 24/7 a standby force stationed a little distance apart from such red zone, endangering the lives of others security officials seem too awful for words motive.

These are underlined security lapses that serve civilian and security casualities. It was earlier a private news outlet undertook a survey that showed inclining graph of casualities. A survey conducted on Afghanistan's security situation has found that security threats increased by 13 percent in August during which Afghan forces launched more than 600 operations across the country to curb the advance of the Taliban. 1089 terror and anti-terror events were recorded during August with 13 percent of the events similar to the events that were recorded during July. ANSF extended their military campaigns during August and launched 666 military operations which show a 26 percent increase compared to the previous month. Civilian casualties dropped in August compared to July, 196 civilians were killed during August and 653 others were wounded, this shows a 16 percent decrease compared to July. This drop in civilian casualities never means that civilians are spared despite being noncombatant they are targeted.

The rise in civilian casualties should be matter of great concern for humanitarian organizations and ordinary Afghans, alike. Conversely, it too underscores government's unpreparedness in curbing the militants and terrorists capacity unleashing great deal of attacks. Both a coordinated surveillance security system and apt counter terrorism measure may help war torn land get rid of growing attacks. Stretching fingers out at others might not help us get out of the ongoing dilemma of terrorism.

The growing attacks on foreign and civilians indicates the insurgents are highlighting their pretentious presence. The survey finds Faryab the most vulnerable province in August in terms of security. 101 terror events were recorded in the province during August while this figure was around 91 events in July. Besides Faryab, provinces of Helmand, Nangarhar, Uruzgan and Ghazni were also the most insecure.

Formerly, the Afghan Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) report raised concerns about the increased level of violence and the spike in civilian casualties recorded so far this year. On the basis of AIHRC findings, armed oppositions are responsible for more than 70 per cent of civilian casualties, which has increased dramatically, in the country. The afghan local police standing on the front curbing insurgent's attacks unwittingly retaliate leading to great civilian casualties. It is seen the well trained regiment of army personnel stationed on standby reach to the rescue of trapped police personnel when they have already sought refuge amongst civic population. The Independent Human Rights Commission meanwhile chronicled a 30 percent rise in civilian casualties that is sharp increase in comparison to data in the first six months last year.

It is not only the bloodshed that pursues the fate of innocent civilians but they are also chased by fear of abduction. A couple of months ago, around 31 afghan passengers were kidnapped after identity check by unknown masked men on Kabul-Kandahar highway. The incident took place in Shah Joy district of southern Zabul province where in the armed men drove away 31 passengers to Khak. Since then several passengers are intercepted by on different highways. Based on aforesaid survey statistics of abductions were also high in August, at least 75 people constituting civilians, military personnel and foreign nationals were abducted by the armed opponents and unknown gun men which show 32 percent increase compared to July.

With exception to fallacy of government displaying ineligibility reversing the attack, Taliban are equally responsible for civilian casualities. Taliban seeking refuge in nearest village endangers the lives of unarmed civilians didn't restrict them doing this, is unjustifiable disposition worthy of loud condemnation with inclusion to afghan forces led air raid. Significantly, the pursuit of tit-for-tat that made Taliban launch attacks on innocent local or foreign nationals is equally condemnable act. Despite governments largest spending on security and loophole as long as curtailed the human precious lives will go on wasting.

Educational Central to Nations' Prominence

By Asmatyari

The role of education for the joint uplift of a nation is irrefutably central. The collective socioeconomic and political advances of a nation are determined by the degree of concentration diverted to improve its literacy graph and the amount of resources allocated to this preliminary societal need. A nation reaches to prominence, turn unbeatable and matchless, only when greater intrepid steps are taken to eliminate illiteracy by declaring the state of educational emergency. The profound significance of education in societal ascend is established and undisputed, contrary of being failed to inspire our politicians.

Education is a versatile tool guaranteeing stability, social cohesion and societal uplift whilst ensuring respect for human rights. Many societal problems get regulated after education stand top most priority. The skinny budget allocated for education ridicules us as a nation and marks deep-rooted state of intellectual bankruptcy. Unless education renders preliminary requisite, success may remain a daydream.

Education is one of the necessities of the humans and, therefore, a prime responsibility and obligation of the states and governments to impose it without any regional or class discrimination. Many states like that of ours, myopically perceive the fate of nation guided by foreign investments or donations which is unarguable fallacy. It is the right time, to realize, education economy can duly carry us along the avenues of long-lasting success. Without giving education first priority we can not keep pace with technological, innovative and scientific advancement the world has attained. The education itself is a proof to the progressiveness and development of the nations. The most developed nations in the worlds have most developed and best education systems while, the underdeveloped, struggling ones and one with the bad economy and global ranks have the bad education systems when compared to the developed ones.

A glance at our deserted national priorities disheartens us of interminable irrational and abrupt priorities which happens to be mostly influential than inspirational. The undertakings executed under the influence of forged circumstances than national priorities yield not, the desired result based on national interest.

The misleading objective opinions owned, by incumbent rulers deluded them of genuine issues, instead, are stuck to unfounded motives in seeking the traces of others involved despite owing hundreds of operational departments under their service. Sticking to state of constant denial, owing the responsibility of mishaps undertaken in one's realm marks an in-depth degree of incompetence whilst negating any expectancy of betterment. Consequently the politician shun in delusion tries not to revisit the gray areas of governance, consequently improvement turned an intangible target given a rational dictum for intellectual and material achievements has never been a persuasible discourse for our politician. Regrettably the efforts are mostly exercised to earn the credit for else good deeds instead of owning and following a clear stance.

Sticking to state of constant denial, owing the responsibility of mishaps undertaken in one's realm marks an in-depth degree of incompetence whilst negating any expectancy of betterment.

Consequently the politician lost in delusion try not to revisit the grey areas of governance, consequently improvement turned an intangible target given a rational dictum for intellectual and material achievements has never been a persuasible discourse for our politician. Regrettably the efforts are mostly exercised to earn the credit for else good deeds instead of owing and following a clear stance.

Formerly a report surfaced by education ministry that unearthed three million children remain out of school across the country, despite partial improvement in the quality of education and staff capacity. This is a worrisome figure reflecting government's interest toward educational betterment.

Afghanistan making education sector's priority is reflected from its spending on education. At present the spending on education is not enough seeing the magnitude of illiteracy. The remedy is to increase the proportion of public resources going into education. If tax-to-GDP ratio cannot be increased, the state should be willing to divert resources from sectors with lower priority towards education. The donor community has been prepared to help with funds when it isn't feared that domestic resources were constrained to allow for an increase in public sector expenditure on education.

According to ministry of education's former report, more than nine million students, 40 percent of them girls, were enrolled in schools across the country. It further entails 24 percent of children were still deprived of education due to lack of professional staff, closure of schools in insecure areas and other challenges. The unending state negligence depicts, a magic might reverse the notorious state Afghanistan faces at present. On the contrary, the state of education is aggravated in this piece of land. By 2013 there were 10.5 million out of 27.5 million population attending schools in Afghanistan. About 35% of its population is unemployed and 36% live below the national poverty line, suffering from shortages of housing, clean drinking water, and electricity. On United Nations' Human Development Index Afghanistan ranks 175th with nation's GDP stands at about \$34 billion. This is far less than Japan's spending on education.

Formerly, in a ceremony marking teacher's day in Kabul, Ghani promised to increase the salaries of teachers and to allot each of them a piece of land within six months - a process which has not happened. Months after the unmet promise enraged the teachers and coerced them out in the street to get their demand met. There are dozens of teachers from different parts of Kabul went on strike since former Saturday at Habibia High School. Despite the teachers' strike entering in week, the government falling short coming up with an agreeable solution to protesting teachers, marks the underlying indifference and government's negligence.

It is right time the government gets this sector streamlined well nurtured capable to compete with developing counties of the world. A nation reaches to prominence, turn unbeatable and matchless, only when greater intrepid steps are taken to eliminate illiteracy by declaring the state of educational emergency. The profound significance of education in societal ascend is established and undisputed, contrary to being failed to inspire our politicians.

Asmatyari is a permanent writer of Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at asmatyar@gmail.com

Discriminating Against Women Keeps Countries Poorer

By Sri Mulyani Indrawati

Exclusive for the Daily Outlook

In 100 countries around the world, women are barred from doing certain work solely because they are women. Over 150 countries have at least one law that is discriminatory towards women. And only 18 countries are free of any law disadvantaging women.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of legal barriers for women to achieve their full economic potential. New World Bank Group research in the Women, Business and the Law 2016 report shows that in 32 countries women cannot apply for passports in the same way as men and in 18 countries they cannot get a job if their husbands feel it is not in the family's interest. Jordan and Iran are among them. In 59 countries, there are no laws against sexual harassment at work. Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Armenia are among 46 countries where there is no legal protection against domestic violence. In a nutshell, the research makes for depressing reading when you care about inclusion and ending poverty.

Countries whose laws discriminate against women and do not promote gender equality suffer economically. Previous research tells us that gender gaps in women's entrepreneurship and labor force participation account for estimated income losses of 27% in the Middle East and North Africa, 19% in South Asia, 14% in Latin America and the Caribbean and 10% in Europe. These are losses that many countries can't afford, particularly those facing high levels of poverty.

There is good news too: Countries like Bangladesh are encouraging female participation in the workforce. If they stay on track their female workforce will grow from 34 to 82 percent over the next decade, adding 1.8 percentage points to their GDP. In the 1990s very few countries had laws protecting women from violence, now 127 do partially because the world is more aware of the human and economic cost of mistreating women.

When women are allowed to work in a profession of their choice, when they have access to financial services and when they are protected, by law, from domestic violence, they are not only eco-

nomic empowered, they also live longer. The more say they have over the household income and the more they participate in the economy, the more girls are enrolled in secondary school, the larger the benefits for their children, their communities, and their countries. In fact, every additional year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10 to 20 percent, and an extra year of secondary school by 15 to 25 percent.

Critics will argue that in some countries where gender-specific laws exist, there is limited enforcement. While that is true, better rule of law is associated with having more gender equal laws on the books. Specialized courts that tackle cases of acts of violence against women can help provide effective legal action. In Brazil, the Maria da Penha Law allowed for the creation of domestic and family violence courts.

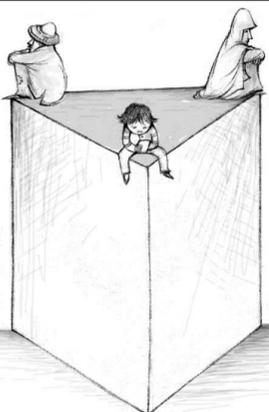
Several South Asian countries don't afford women the same rights as men. But some countries have made important strides in addressing these issues, leading to great results. In India, inheritance law reform has provided greater economic freedom to women. Women used their increased savings to spend twice as much money on their daughters' education.

The private sector benefits too. A survey of 6500 firms showed that where women had greater representation on boards, those organizations were less likely to be hit by scandals like bribery or fraud. Yet surprisingly, only nine countries have laws where at least one woman has to be a board member of a publicly listed company.

The link between the fight against poverty and gender equality is strong. Which is why we work with many countries to tackle gender-based barriers. We have worked with Cote d'Ivoire in removing legal provisions that discriminated against women. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we supported the government in drafting a new family code that would improve the business climate for women.

Policy makers have a choice. They can use the overwhelming evidence that shows the economic benefits of equality by ridding their system of discriminating laws that are holding women back. Or they can maintain the status quo and condemn whole societies to remain poorer then they need to be.

Sri Mulyani Indrawati is the Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of the World Bank.



Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa

Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net

The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.