

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

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The Poors' Sufferings Increase in Cold Winter

The poor suffer the bitter cold without a beam of hope from the government. The homeless beggars search every nook and cranny for a safe haven to survive the excruciatingly cold season of winter. Perhaps, the sporadic alms of the passersby will be their only bread and butter to bear and grin it. Their voice will fall on deaf ears and their complaints and diatribes about the officials will be construed no more than an incoherent muttering.

The nominal remuneration of the workmen can hardly make the ends meet. They sweat on their drudgeries from dawn to dusk to feed their own flesh and blood, yet sleep with empty stomachs but swollen hands. The heads of the families are inundated with many problems which have been multiplied by the winter's frigid weather. However, the phlegmatic officials are not yet moved with the tearful eyes of the hungry children, painful groaning of the widows on Kabul streets, the teenage vendors, who are trembling with cold in the early morning, the children who abandon the idea of going to school and polish the people's shoes with their small hands and childish innocence, the beggars who beseech the passersby for a single afghani and the opium addicts who wander the streets hopelessly to solicit a morsel of bread from a merciful individual.

Foreign troops are leaving Afghanistan, marking an official end to 13 years of conflict, in which more than 13,000 Afghan soldiers have lost their lives and the war widows of the Afghanistan are fighting tooth and nail against poverty to survive the hunger - especially in the cold season of winter.

Based on a BBC report, Tajbebi lives in Kabul. Her husband was a translator for the American army and was shot on his way to work in Logar province seven years ago. She only found out what had happened when his mutilated body was brought to her front door.

"It had started to snow, and I heard a car arriving," she says. "My children called out, 'It's our daddy.' I went outside and saw his body surrounded by soldiers. He had been shot in the heart, and his uniform was full of holes, like a sieve."

She says she doesn't know how to access what government support is available to military widows.

"When he died I lost his ID and all his papers," she says, "I don't know how to claim a pension for widows and orphans. If someone has a man they could make a claim, but without a man, how could I do it? I used to be the wife of a big man, but now I suffer - I look like a beggar."

The high inflation during winter, which seems that the cartels and officials have turned a blind eye to it, is unfair. The sporadic or fortuitous attention from the government will not mitigate the backbreaking burden of the poor citizens. Hence, the government is supposed to stop paying lip service to the challenge and take a serious step to end the problems.

The environmental pollution in Kabul is multiplied in winter. The citizens use coals without any inhibitions by law. Since the citizens cannot afford to use gas due to high inflation, they are justified to make use of somewhat cheap sources. But the government will have to prevent from the high inflation so as to curb the environmental pollution.

The lax security plays a negative role in economic issues. As a result, the Taliban insurgents have narrowed the freedom and opportunities for the national and international investors through heavy attacks. To the citizens' unmitigated chagrin, Afghan police and civilians, including foreign troops and noncombatants, came under severe attacks by the insurgents after the last year's presidential election. In other words, the terrorist attacks victimized a large number of the citizens from the start of the Unity Government up to now. However seemingly, the government has not adopted a definite policy to deal with the militants. Hence, insecurity is a great cause behind financial problems and unemployment.

The rich are too busy to think about their poor neighbors and humanitarianism is hardly felt in the people's social life. In other words, the schism between the rich and the poor has widened and those who have buried themselves in the flamboyant world of wealth will not be touched with the excruciating pain of their underprivileged fellows. Those who eat sumptuous meal and live in expensive apartments and skyscrapers, have never, actually, imagined about the empty stomachs of their neighbors and their numbness caused by cold weather. Most probably, same is the case with high-ranking officials. The officials who ride on the most updated and costly vehicles guarded by armed bodyguards, their families lack nothing and their children study in foreign countries, never bothered themselves to help or visit the poor. So, one will conclude that injustice is rampant across the country.

The Afghan President, who assured the citizens during his electoral campaigns that his economic agenda would alleviate the financial constraints, is supposed to obviate the problem via putting his plan into practice. The lurid reports of the country's economic challenges and mass unemployment, which were affected negatively by the withdrawal of foreign forces, investors and some of the NGOs, should make the officials seek for a proper solution and effective mechanism.



Security Challenges Ahead of National Unity Government

By Asmatyari

Everyday our beloved country bleeds with blood of innocents either civilians or security officials while serving their motherland. The insurgents are exerting their might to let unity government hear their say. The former blast rocked the capital Kabul city that reportedly injured many people including a policeman. The perpetrator carried in, the explosive truck in the Qasaba area of the 15th police district. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the responsibility.

This desperate state of affairs isn't confined to just civilians; the law and enforcement agencies and foreigners alike render prime target. Earlier, unidentified gunmen shot a police officer dead in Lashkar Gah, provincial capital of southern Helmand province. In eastern Nangarhar province the magnetic bomb attached to a border police vehicle went off and claimed lives of two border policemen and injured two others. Earlier, a passenger van was bombed in Kabul on domestic journey leaving scores dead. The countless efforts made by security official at the scene are laudable who strived hard to contain the militants at minimum harms and succeeded to some extent.

However, serious questions related to plagued performance of security forces at entrances and deficient intelligence reports are raised at poor performance that seemed short of timely co-ordination. How an explosive, automatic guns and suicide jackets laden car could easily pass the security check points? Why there was no intelligence report prior to the incidence? The heavy paid security institutions are liable for their negligence and security lapses. If the aforementioned drifts are not bridged then the future prospects of a perpetual deteriorated state of affairs can't be ruled out. The worsened condition of law and order and frequent activities of ISIS and Taliban reflect as if insurgents are running a parallel government. On the other hand the former arbitrary release of large number of Taliban inmates seems to be strengthening their might and they are signaling their presence by carrying out attacks. What is clear is that the insurgents are expanding their range of operations. The insurgents are operating at will and quite rapidly expanding operations to parts of the country where it previously appeared to have little ability to act. It also seems that the militants are familiar with important installations, and their attacks are meticulously staged. If a wise and coordinated strategy is not pursued then control over eastern and southern Afghanistan might slip into the hands of the Taliban with no apparent ability to foil this, post US pull out. The escalating violence across the country also sparks the concern over how the 350,000-strong Afghan security forces will be able to manage once foreign troops withdraw by 2014. It depicts Taliban are definitely keeping their proclamation and pursuing their target. Nevertheless, the government necessary preparation and a coordinated joint effort to be

taken seem non-existent. Despite state's security apparatus tried its best foiling the attack to a greater extent on many occasions - the non-providence of necessary information about the Taliban's advances is a clear reflection of loopholes in security institutions. Following regular critics, the intelligence institution, in a bid to excel its performance has doubled its surveillance system, to keep a close watch over important movements of insurgents. Formerly, a tale of Afghan intelligence operatives infiltrating among the networks of the enemies of Afghanistan in a bid to put further pressure on the groups which are involved in insurgency activities in the country.

The nominee keeping the position of National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief, Nabil while presenting his work plan said the Afghan intelligence has successfully maintained pressure on terrorist networks including Taliban, al-Qaeda and Haqqani network by executing sophisticated and major operations. According to the official the law enforcer has aggressively sought to keep the resurgent Taliban at bay, stop the remnants of Al Qaeda from growing fresh roots in Afghanistan, and keep the Islamic State from winning adherents in the Afghan insurgency.

This is an appreciable move, but will not lead to fruition unless a coordinated political decision is made tackling insurgency. It is always expected with rise in capacity of militants the law enforcement agencies ought to equally equip itself with all required necessities. The rumors of emergence of ISIS multiply the headache of security apparatus. The government must devise strategies to cope with double challenges. It was previously cautioned by commander of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan Gen. John Campbell earlier also said that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is recruiting militants in Afghanistan.

Taliban portray dominant might by launching consecutive strikes at will on important foreigners' installations and governmental institutions and have succeeded deploying number of insurgents in ANA and ANP that execute insider attacks. In spite of arbitrary release of large number of Taliban members' negligible shift in their violent attitude is observed. Taliban show-off their military might by launching such attacks and pushing the government to the table of negotiation. Government must use its maximum discourse curtailing such attacks by improving the system of information sharing network. Its, therefore, every government, subsequent to assuming of its office, issues appealing sentiments to this disgruntled groups. President Karzai used to call Taliban, his 'disavowed brothers'; the incumbent government called them its 'political opposition'. Moreover, the door of negotiation is never shut; the Taliban are always welcomed provided they exhibit willingness to peace talks.

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The Kite Runner: The Narrator to History and the Memory of War

Book (The Kite Runner) Review by Asad Kosha

Having won critique acclaim, best seller and to Isabel Allende "unforgettable" Khalid Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, a tragic novel of man's lived life, who for the very first minute born experiences nothing but hatred in the world, with nostalgic longing to recuperate lost life and homeland is indeed a reminiscent to historical events of a country, where being Hassan is the unforgivable most social crime and metaphysical sin. This novel confesses the history of harsh oppression and brutalities imposed for centuries on large number of people. The writer makes Amir, the protagonist, acknowledge errors constantly committed by totalitarian authorities.

Hassan, who symbolizes the Hazara community as an isolated and deprived society ever since Afghanistan was founded to present day Afghanistan, is an innocent boy with extremely high sense of friendship, love and sacrifice, alert to safeguard and serve Amir to drop last blood drop he contains.

In *The Kite Runner* Hosseini indicates a dreadful event Amir witnesses done to his only sibling Hassan, which for Amir brings regret of his silence and failure and the defense he could make but did not on Hassan's behalf. Hosseini vividly describes Afghanistan, both the privileged Afghanistan of Amir's and the horrible Afghanistan of Hassan's, which of Hassan inherits pain, cry, massacre and segregation but Amir school, wealth, university and subsequently flee to America.

Both motherless Amir and Hassan spend almost their childhood together, playing games, reading stories in their favorite place, albeit a son to affluent and well-off Pashtoon merchant, Amir wins this friendship when "in 1933, the year Baba was born and the year Zahir Shah began his forty-year reign of Afghanistan, two brothers, young men from a wealthy and reputable family in Kabul, got behind the wheel of their father's Ford roadster, high on hashish and mast on French wine, they struck and killed a Hazara husband and wife on the road to Paghman. The police brought the somewhat contrite young men and the dead couple's five-year old orphan boy before my grandfather, who was a high regarded judge and a man of impeccable reputation. After hearing the brother's account and their father plea for mercy, my grandfather ordered the two young men to go to Kadanhar at once and enlist in the army for one year despite the fact that their family had somehow managed to obtain them exceptions from the draft. Their father argued, but not too vehemently, and in the end, everyone agreed that punishment had been perhaps harsh but fair. As for the orphan, my grandfather adopted him into his own household, and told the other servants to tutor him, but to be kind to him. That boy was Ali", (P 21) Father to Hassan.

Ali turns orphan, this tragic event is the traumatic destiny of the whole group-the Hazaras- after losing self-right, in point of fact

was convinced to slavery obligatory on them by chronic oppressive government, which brought Hassan's ancestors bond to turbulent life with no option but to endure hardship and adversity abiding age group after generation.

The *Kite Runner* to full extent can be a historic novel. It begins by the time Dawood Khan ousted Zahir Shah managing a coup d'état. How significantly history derives measures and attitudes and conversely how momentous stance shaping history is vividly described as history is not easy to overcome, eventually identifying them as Pashtoon, Hazara, Sunni and Shia', thus Hosseini, as observes, writes: "in the end I was a Pashtoon and he was Hazara, I was Sunni and he was Shi'a, and nothing was ever going to change that. Nothing," (P, 22) is never forgotten point separated Hassan of Amir. Hassan whom for school, read-write and freedom is as not-known as for Amir his mother is, hence grows up illiterate "like Ali and most Hazaras had been that minute he had been born." (P, 24) This novel, a "soul reaching" narrative with "unforgettable taste of trauma" is story of how human is affronted, snubbed and sodomized by human fellow- a horrific experience which a child touches through his broken soul when hearing acrimony- the soldier's vexation, a painfully avocation reminding the reader of those daily bases mock made unreservedly to each Hazara walking on Kabul streets.

Although the *Kite Runner* is not a Shakespearean type of epic, describing Roman Kacewian class of tragedy, a novel of traumatic events when Hassan is sodomized during his childhood period by Assef, and when a woman is fired to dead in Ghazi Stadium under Taliban reign by mullah Omer dates back to those of Roman' novel picturesquely photographing the Jews, whose life is shattering, devastating and haunting in man history.

The plots combine both memory and nostalgia, memory of painfully Amir-made cowardice, betray and silence, nostalgia of innocence, friendship, love and homeland make shattering and inspiring story that stays with one for ever when they begin to read taking them to deep sorrow of life, inspiring redemption and Hasanesque sacrifices, with a message left to the reader, in particular the Afghan readers, "there is a way to be good again" (P,2) is a commitment that resonates throughout the novel, consequently after Amir acknowledges his "unatoned sins" tries to compensate it finding Hassan's only lost son of an orphanage and takes him to United States of America.

The *Kite Runner*, ultimately is to be viewed the "pain, passion" and cruel reality of daily life in Afghanistan, best penned by Hosseini's well-boned prose, which many critics call "enough contribution" to English literature albeit, it would be easy to comprehend Hosseini's almost no touch to whom really were behind the rapid Taliban spring up and other felonies that took place during 1990s, yet the KITE RUNNER is a vivid narrative to history.

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