

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



October 27, 2015

## Problem of Smuggled Medicine in Afghanistan!

In his recent press statement, Health Minister told the reporters that about 40% of the medicine is smuggled into the country. He also informed that about 40% of the medicine used in the country is of low-quality. According to him, there is a network of medicine manufacturers in Pakistan that are exclusively manufacturing medicine for Afghanistan and this low-quality medicine is then smuggled to Afghanistan through a number of provinces of the country. After the medicine enters the country, it is later transferred to Kabul and other major cities of the country and it is all done in the darkness of night, hidden from security personnel. He also acknowledged that there are a number of medicine manufacturers in the country who are producing low quality medicine.

There is no doubt that regarding the medical facilities, we are living in the poorest circumstances. There are some private hospitals that are having good buildings and external appearance, but their performance has so much disappointed the public that in case of any serious ailment, people soon decide to go to Pakistan or India and those who can afford, to other developed countries of the world. It is a sad reality that our local doctors are not well-qualified and thus they are not much able to diagnose the disease and then prescribe the relevant medicine but most serious concern in health sector is the non-availability of quality medicines.

Both doctors and patients are found to be complaining that the medicine generally available in Afghanistan are very low-standard and it is the reason why, they never give the desired results. First, there is no standard pharmaceutical manufacturer in the country and very recently, a couple of them have started functioning but it would take years until they bring the quality of their products to the international standards. Secondly, medicine distributors try hard to import medicine which should be cheap and they should be able to earn handsome and lofty profit out of it. With this thinking in mind, medicines from very low-standard factories of Pakistan and India are imported and the evident result is the unsatisfactory performance in the cure and recovery of patients. There are some factories and medicines which are not banned and not openly allowed to be sold in market in India and Pakistan are usually found in the medical stores of Afghanistan. On the other hand, majority of illiterate people don't know about the expiry date and other issues of medicine and thus Afghanistan is the most active market for these expired medicine. Similarly, there is no control and check on the importers and distributors of medicine in the country and they do whatever suits their objective of making more and more profit.

This is also a fact that there is no regulatory body in the country to check the quality and rates of medicines being sold in the country. It is the reason that doctors always prefer the quality medicine being imported from Pakistan, India or Iran. There are number of pharmaceutical companies manufacturing medicines in the country but there is not present any authority to check the quality of their products. At the same time, these companies are given absolute frehand to decide upon the prices of their medicine. They have this authority either by pleasing the authorities of the concerned ministry or it is a fact that they are not checked by anyone. Although the said minister has claimed that there are 200 registered medicine companies whose activities are tightly controlled by the ministry but it is a fact that the ground realities seem to be absolutely different than this. Although the ministry claims they have cancelled the registration of 800 companies who were involved in the import of low-quality medicine but how it is made sure that these companies are not functioning even without the registration of the health ministry.

Another problem in this regard is the medical practice of large number of unskilled and uncertified doctors who claim to be doctors but they don't have any degree to support their claim. Majority of them have worked in pharmacies or have experience of working as a nurse in a hospital where they have learned some basic skills and got acquaintance with some medicine. But these so-called doctors are never able to diagnose and handle the sensitive case of patients. It is the reason that, in case of complicated diseases, our patients prefer to go abroad. These doctors are also responsible for using low-quality medicine as they can earn much better income by giving low-quality medicine to the patients.

In short, the public has been left on the ill plans and objectives of a group of medicine importers and distributors and those who are responsible for controlling them are ignoring all these under the dose of the bribe, which they receive on regular basis. The condition may not be much disturbing to the rich who can easily go abroad for medical purposes but the poor public is suffering a lot and it is hoped that top government officials should check the situation immediately and take necessary corrective measures.

## Environmental Pollution Causing Irretrievable Harms!

By Asmatyari

With the onset of industrialization era the issue of the environment since then has evolved into a concerning issue which forced the world to be a considered a prior issue. No longer are humans living in a world where the environment is serene or stable but much rather becoming unrecognizable and diminishing before our eyes. In early 2007, a report was compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), comprising the work of 2,500 scientists, economists, and policymakers from more than 120 countries, hinted humans the primary cause of global warming since 1950. Humans have ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions and avoid the consequences of global warming, a major climate report concluded. But to change the climate, the transition from fossil fuels like coal and oil needs to occur within decades, according to the final report this year from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Globally human-made pollutants from combustion, construction, mining, agriculture and warfare are increasingly significant in the air pollution equation. China, United States, Russia, India, Mexico, and Japan are the world leaders in air pollution emissions. Principal stationary pollution sources include chemical plants, coal-fired power plants, oil refineries, petrochemical plants, nuclear waste disposal activity, incinerators, large livestock farms (dairy cows, pigs, poultry, etc.), PVC factories, metals production factories, plastics factories, and other heavy industry. About 400 million metric tons of hazardous wastes are generated each year. The United States alone produces about 250 million metric tons. Americans constitute less than 5% of the world's population, but produce roughly 25% of the world's CO2 and generate approximately 30% of world's waste. Since 2007, China has overtaken the United States as the world's biggest producer of CO2, while still far behind based on per capita pollution - ranked 78th among the world's nations.

On the other hand the EU is outpacing in the pursuit of cutting down on the pollutants is indeed an appreciable stance. The European Union (EU) is taking a lead on track towards meeting and over achieving its 2020 target for reducing greenhouse emissions by 20 percent, according to a report published recently by the European Environment Agency (EEA) ahead of Paris climate talks. The EU is already working towards its 2030 goal of an emissions reduction target of at least 40 percent - the EU's contribution towards the new global climate change agreement in Paris in December, said the press release. Moreover, latest projections by member states show that the EU is heading for a 24 percent reduction by 2020 with current measures in place, and a 25 percent reduction with additional measures already being planned in member states.

One of the critical ecological problems is the global warming that caused by large emissions of carbon dioxide in atmosphere by cars, airplanes, fabrics all over the world. The considerable number of cars is used by

people in all, even in undeveloped countries, industrialized ones characterized by that of fabrics which produce largest amount of exhaust gases and cheap air traffic is available almost everywhere. All those promote global temperature to rise, that eventually leads to catastrophes and disasters over the world. Therefore it is clearly that, every country including its residents is responsible. Trees are considered the lungs of the Earth. They recycle all the polluting carbon in the air and return oxygen back into our atmosphere, creating a stable cycle of carbon in our atmosphere. However, the impeccable rates which trees are being cut down in our forests have grown to ever increasing and alarming rates. Trees that are made way for farming are burnt up releasing deadly amounts of carbon and thus leading to the problem of global warming. The daily lives which humans carry on about every day are also a factor influencing on our environment and global warming. By driving cars that have a thirst for petrol we are releasing carbon dioxide and furthermore impacting on the world's climate. It would be unconceivable to force all societies and people on the earth, at the same time, start solving such vital problem. In this case, we have to start from ourselves, for instance, take a public transport instead of drive a car, then if any of us would try to do that, this would reduce greenhouse effect to some extent. Similarly, even a few nations which would be able to decrease carbon dioxide emissions by replacing natural energy sources especially oil by renewable ones such as solar, wind and water power, would be beneficial. Consequently, their attempts could spread these ideas and methods of improving situation with global warming and lead to larger number of people and countries to be involved in this. It is very difficult for the humans to accept any change from the environment they are born and live in. The man-made creation of Environment has been given a lot of prominence these days. The primary reasons for issues like Global warming Land degradation pollution etc are due to the great dangers faced by everyone as a result of the negligence. Everyone must understand that the ecological balance has to be maintained so that one can stop the destruction being caused to every living and non living thing in the environment. Everyone must make their own efforts to bring down the consumption of petroleum. All the products that have been made with the use of petroleum should be eliminated by identification. The environmental filth has to be brought down significantly by taking appropriate measures. It is important that public awareness must be escalated concerning environmental issues and its proper remedies. It is better that we look for natural solutions like shift to a more fuel efficient vehicle make use of paper bags try to economize by using the car pool or public transport go by walk or use a bicycle recycle things etc. If we are to preserve our world we must take a stance on this issue and take action for what is right, not carrying on the actions that will lead to a desolate, destroyed Earth.

Asmatyari is the permanent writer of Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at [asmatyari@gmail.com](mailto:asmatyari@gmail.com)

## Factors that Gave way to Re-appearance of Taliban!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

Rise of Taliban in the country's north is not surprising. Many areas had gone into their control more than two years before, there were reports of heavy deployment, and increasing influence of Taliban in the region but the government and our security forces never took this threat seriously. Now, the situation seems to be turning like that of Iraq. We are not sure how much international community is concerned about the grave fact that country is once again going to fall into the hands of militants and non-democratic powers but it is a matter of grave concern for every Afghan. They just had a sigh of relief from decades of war, refuge and poverty and were hopeful of the future of country but once again, the country seems to be falling apart and slipping into the hands of militants.

For a common person or as shown on the media, it is a simple scenario. Taliban are getting help from local people, local people are joining them on the name of Jihad and day by day, more and more areas are falling under the control of Taliban but internally, there are so many dubious factors. In this situation, the role of government, international powers present in Afghanistan, top brass of military and intelligence, some parliamentarians or tribal chiefs and all other stakeholders is questionable.

In the same way, things are not as simple as they appear. History shows that people of this area never supported Taliban or any other group and they were always the supporters of government and democracy. On the other hand, due to the negative exploitation of Jihad, majority of people in the area are allergic to this term and they would not only avoid joining any such movement on the name of Jihad but they would try to stop others. Therefore, it is a wrong concept that people are joining Taliban on the name of Jihad or supporting them physically or morally. Taliban could have done this many years before but in 2014 and furthermore in 2015, the conditions became favorable for them. According to local people, large numbers of people are joining Taliban due to unemployment. Until 2014, when international powers and thousands of NGOs and aid agencies were functional in the country, there were plenty for everyone. People got jobs, businesses prospered and economy grew but starting from the beginning of 2014, international NGOs, and businesses slowly started wrapping up their operations in the country and by the end of 2014, less than 5% of them were left behind. Due to this, large number of people became jobless, international donations stopped flowing into the country and there was a general panic. This badly affected the rural areas where people did not have much to do and families were run by those who were working in big cities. Hopes were pinned with the new government but until now, it has not come up according to the expectations and the situation is getting worse with every passing day. The rate of unemployment is so high that highly qualified professionals are also looking for small jobs. Thousands of poor Afghans are leaving the country to Pakistan, Iran and Turkey in hope of earning some money. In such situations, they are left with no option except to accept the job of Tali-

ban who are reported to be paying 300 to 400 dollars for those who join them. The salary increases with the rank and position.

Therefore, it comes out that, it is the failure of government to provide people with jobs that is providing the workforce or soldiers to Taliban. Another surprising factor is the overwhelming and vast supply of weapons, money and other support to Taliban. Taliban are reported to have latest and heavy weaponry, they are well supplied with Afghan and American currency and they have such minds among them who make plans and strategies for their attacks and control. One wonders as where was our government or our intelligence agencies when they were piling up the weapons and Afghanis or dollars and why were they not stopped in the beginning.

It is also a general habit that when we find no other excuse for our negligence or failure, others but according to political and military analysts, it is very difficult to blame Pakistani government or its agencies in this case as our northern areas are absolutely distant and cut off from any Pakistani border. In the same way, there is not present any excuse on the presence of large number of Jihadi militants who have crossed border from a number of Central Asian countries to come and fight their holy war in Afghanistan.

The silence of International forces and their government is also strange in this case. No doubt, they have ceased military operations in the country by handing over the responsibility and authority to Afghan forces but how can they sit on a side and watch Taliban, controlling the areas one after the other. Unfortunately, these events are inflicting irreversible and incurable harms on our forces. At many occasions, the local police was left on the mercy of militants and after many hours as well, they were not given back up support. Now, they believe that they are being terminated with a proper planning and strategy and in this game. Similarly, Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and especially National Army have been made a scapegoat. At a number of occasions, the army was let down not by militants but by the suspicious orders of their commanders. Such widespread perception can be harmful for the overall loyalty of ANSF in the long run. In the same way, these dubious events have brought sharp decline in the morale of ANSF who are not afraid of militants but of the government and their commanders who are playing their strange roles. First Vice-President, General Dostum also raised similar doubts about the role of government and top military brass and thus declaring not to be a part of this secret game, he decided to stay there and make sure that the region is cleaned of Taliban. Being part of the government, the role and conduct of first Vice-president is strange but at the same time, it shows his sincerity with the country and the forces. Military operations are underway and today or tomorrow, Taliban may be removed and the areas brought under the control of government but this secret game is going to leave its permanent traces that will keep tormenting the local people. People lost their loved ones, and all the civic facilities are being targeted and destroyed by Taliban, which will make their lives difficult in future.

Muhammad Rasool Shah is a freelance writer. He can be reached at [muhammadrasoolshah@gmail.com](mailto:muhammadrasoolshah@gmail.com)



**Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa**  
**Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari**  
**Email: [outlookafghanistan@gmail.com](mailto:outlookafghanistan@gmail.com)**  
**Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019**  
**[www.outlookafghanistan.net](http://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.

