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Preface

Harrowing criminal offenses occur in all over the country particularly in major cities and safe areas. Recently a crime of this type occurred in Kabul where the kidnappers brutally killed 14 years-old Abasin. The incident was vastly reflected in the media. Overall, the level of crimes is very high in Afghanistan. Although criminal offenses occur in all over the world but why is incidents of this type are on the rise in Afghanistan? And what has been done to prevent or at least reduce these crimes?

In the second part of the analysis, you would read about the situation of Energy Sector in Afghanistan and about the conflict that has been recently started over energy project in the country. Last week some civil society activists and politicians protested about the route of the electricity transmission line from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan (TUTAP) and it seems that this project would be sacrificed in the political field. The condition of energy in Afghanistan, the background and future of it, the impacts of CASA-1000 and TUTAP on Afghanistan's economy and energy, and the outcomes of rerouting TUTAP are the issues we will analyze here.

In this issue of the weekly analysis, you would read analysis of the Center for Strategic and Regional Studies about the above two subjects.

The rise of crimes: causes and remedies



Crime is a social problem in all human societies, but in Afghanistan the most heinous and harrowing types of it occurs. Lately criminal offenses are increasingly on the rise causing serious concerns among the population.

Five months ago, 14 years-old Abasin was kidnapped from Karta-e-Naw area of Kabul, after having him tortured the kidnappers cut his finger and then they brutally killed him. His corpse was found in an area around Kabul¹. This incident sparked harsh reactions in all over the country. The Afghan National Assembly², the public and the civil society activists called for justice for Abasin and his family. Afghan Presidential Office issued a statement saying that the Afghan President is deeply affected by this incident and has ordered the local organs to ensure justice about the perpetrators of this incident.

Kidnapping and murdering Abasin was not the first incident of this type but in the past we had also repeatedly witnessed such tragic events in different parts of the country. The question is what causes the increase in heinous crimes in the country? And what measure must the government take to reduce these crimes to its lowest levels?

¹ <http://www.ufugnews.com/archives/32576>

² <http://da.azadiradio.com/a/27708677.html>

Crime rate in Afghanistan (1387-1394)

Crime is a phenomenon that cannot be eradicated from a society but we can take measures to minimize its occurrence.

Since 1387, the number of recorded crimes is increasing in Afghanistan. In 1387 the total number of crimes was 6786, but in the first three quarters of 1394 this number was 14619. However, in some years the crime rate had slightly been reduced compared to previous years, (for instance, crimes decreased from 7010 incidents in 1389 to 6929 incidents in 1390) but in some other years this number increased unprecedentedly for example in 1392 the total number of crimes in the country was 27122. (See Char-1 for more details)

Chart-1: statistics of crimes in Afghanistan (1387-1394)

Crimes	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	the three first quarters of 1393	the three first quarters of 1394
Murder	1075	1175	983	1231	1948	2941	1628	1673
Kidnapping	279	275	130	113	195	253	149	157
Robbery	119	213	126	120	177	231	185	153
Rape	225	281	247	281	407	996	317	318
Theft	1496	1365	1341	1290	2504	4191	2610	2244
Injuries	1499	1090	1052	1002	2987	5980	2311	2868
Other	2052	2789	3098	2872	7351	12239	7641	6647
Total	6786	7164	7010	6929	15593	27122	15050	14619

Source: Central Statistic Organization (1387-1394)

Statistics of undocumented crimes

All the above mentioned statistics were of crimes that were recorded by respective entities, while the real statistics of crimes in the country is far more than that. According to a survey by The Asia Foundation 49% of crimes are not being reported in the country.

Corruption, not detaining offenders or releasing them after arresting, weak government rule in remote areas, long administrative procedure while reporting crimes, lack of confidence in the government and involvement of powerful people in these incidents are the reasons why a big part of the crimes are not recorded in the country.

Increase in heinous crimes

Despite reduction of total number of crimes, some harrowing types of crimes such as murder and robbery have increased in the country. For instance in 1390, although the total number of crimes had decreased but the murder incidents were more than every other crime.

If we compare the statistics of the first three quarters of 1393 and 1394 of crime incidents, one will conclude that in 1394 the total number of crimes has decreased; but the numbers of murders, kidnapping and injuries shows a sharp increase.

Except for 1389, murders incidents have increased in the past several years. For instance in 1387 there were 1075 murders cases registered in the country where only in the first three quarters of 1394 more than 1600 murders were recorded in the country. (Chart-1)

On the other hand, the unofficial surveys also show a sharp increase in crimes. Only in Kabul there have been 318 incidents of crime in three weeks in *Dalwa* 1394³. And dozens of criminal offenses occur only in some major cities of the country.

³ <http://markazipress.com/318>

Besides the adverse effects on minds and lives of the people, the augmentation of crimes such as abduction, negatively influences the economy. Kidnapping businessmen or their family members from safe places of major cities has discouraged traders from investing in Afghanistan.

After 2014, due to concerns about the security and stability of the country, a great number of investors moved their wealth out of Afghanistan. Businessmen and investors are often the main victims of crimes such as Abduction and robbery, which discourage them from investing in Afghanistan and cause the remaining capitals to flee the country.

Factors behind the escalating incidents of crimes

According to a survey, from 2009 to 2014, an average of 20.17% of people mentioned unemployment, 13.17% Corruption, 7.67% illiteracy, and 7.7% mentioned poverty as the main factor behind crimes. Here we have listed the main factors of increased crimes in the country:

1. Corruption and the lack of law enforcement: According to the annual report of the Transparency International Afghanistan was the second most corrupt country in the world⁴ and based on a survey conducted by Integrity Watch Afghanistan, the respondents viewed Judiciary organs (34%) and police (23%) as the most corrupt public institutions⁵. Since police detain criminals and the judiciary system prosecutes them, corruption in these two institutions has an important role in augmentation of crimes. On the other hand, weakness and lack of professionalism in security sectors has resulted not only to the failure of these sectors from preventing such events, but also participation of them to these crimes.

2. Unemployment: In the past few years, unemployment has reached its high levels and the legal way of increasing incomes are limited; therefore, young generation of the country is seeking illegal ways to increase their incomes, therefore such horrific crimes occur.

⁴ <http://csrskabul.com/pa/?p=1967>

⁵ http://www.baag.org.uk/sites/www.baag.org.uk/files/resources/attachments/IWA%20national_corruption_survey_2014_english.pdf

3. Powerful entities and Politicians: due to their own self interest some powerful entities and politicians defend criminals against the law; that is why using cars with black glasses criminals commit crimes like murder and kidnappings in the daylight and even in safe areas of major cities.

4. Cultural invasion: if we look at the statistics of crimes like murder, rape, and similar crimes we will notice that these crimes are increasing every year. Broadcasting vulgar and immoral serials and serials that are not in accordance with our culture and religion is the main factor behind the increase in crimes. Thus stopping the broadcasting these serials and broadcasting beneficial and informative programs instead will be a big step to reduce crimes in the society.

5. Illegal weapons and irresponsible armed individuals: during the war in the past several decades weapons were distributed all over the country. Although since 2005, efforts were made to collect these weapons, but unlicensed weapons still exist all over the country. For instance 22 individuals died during an armed conflict in a wedding party in Baghlan.

Recommendations to reduce crimes

- In order to prevent corruption, effective policies should be made and applied in security and judicial sectors; because corruption in both sectors is the main factor in the rise of crimes in the country.
- Anti-criminal organs should be empowered and in order to decrease the level of their engagement in corruption, besides the training, the salaries of their employees should be increased.
- Efforts for providing work opportunities should be made; so that unemployment and poverty do not led the youth to involve in unpleasant criminal cases.
- In order to discourage others from committing crimes, the government must hold a tougher stance against criminals and must hold open trial.
- The vulgar and contrary to culture and religions broadcasts must be prevented.

Energy situation in Afghanistan; TUTAP and CASA-1000



Last week, some civil activists and some politicians protested against rerouting of TUTAP power project. Besides that, practical work over another project (CASA-1000) is also expected to begin on May 12, 2016.

Here you would read about the background of energy sector in Afghanistan, the current and future situation of it, the effects of TUTAP and CASA-1000 on economic and energy situation in Afghanistan and recent disputes over TUTAP power project.

Historical background

Although Afghans used oil and coal as an energy source in the past, but at the end of the 19 century, Amir Abdul Rahman Khan took few steps for utilization of electricity and planted a dynamo that could generate enough electricity for 40 lamps. Later during the reign of Amir Habibhullah Khan Batteries were used to generate electricity to light the presidential palace. In the same period work on

building a hydro power factory in Jabul Saraj was initiated which became ready to operate during Amanullah Khan's rule. Later "Da Tanwirato Sherkat" was founded which distributed 18 thousand lamp electricity for families in Kabul until 1307⁶.

After the Second World War till Soviet Union's attack on Afghanistan, the Kajaki, Maheepar, Naghlo, Daronta, Grishk, Dehla, Chak-Wardag, Salma and some other dams were built with the cooperation of various countries. But after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Civil War in the country vastly damaged these dams. After 2001, efforts were made to rebuild these dams; but they are not fully activated and thus do not generate electricity that they have the capacity.

The source and production of energy in Afghanistan

Afghanistan has vast sources of energy including water, oil, gas, coal and air. The country has the capacity to generate 223 thousand megawatts of solar energy, 23 thousand megawatts of hydropower, 0.6 thousand megawatts of gas energy and 68 thousand megawatts of wind energy.

Despite its vast capacity to produce energy, Afghanistan cannot produce even two thousand megawatts of electricity inside the country and heavily relies on imported electricity. For instance in 1385, 916.89 million kilowatts/hour of electricity was being produced in the country, (645.97 million kilowatts/hour) of which was hydro energy, (267.37 million kilowatts/hour) thermal energy and (3.56 million kilowatts/hour) was diesel energy. After 1385 these numbers were changing. In 1391 the total energy production of the country was 882.9, in 1392 it reached 1022.3 and in 1393 it was 1049 million kilowatts/hour. (See chart-1)

Besides that, the customers of "Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS)" "the Afghan Electricity Company" was increasing annually. In 1382 the company had 227854 customers but in 1393 it increased to more than a million (1.154798 million)

⁶ Habibullah Rafi, de Tamadun Sawghat (the gift of civilization), Peshawar: ARIC electronic Administration, 1378, page 10-12.

Chart-1: the sources of electricity in Afghanistan (Million Kilowatt/hour)

Energy Resources	1391	1392	1393
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
total	882.9	1022.3	1049.0
Hydro power	708.6	803.9	895.0
Thermo power	107.1	108.5	81.1
Diesel power	67.2	109.9	72.9

Source: Central Statistic Organization (CSO)

Imported electricity

Since 1381, reconstruction began in the country, and work on electricity dams also began (although turbines of some of the dams are not yet fully activated but it still produces a part of the country's needed electricity.)

Besides that we could import electricity from Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The statistics of DABS shows that from 2007 to 2015, the company has spent \$973 million to import electricity in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, according to Central Statistics Organization, from 1385 to 1393, Afghanistan has spent 41907.4 million Afghanis to supply its needed electricity. According to these statistics, the expenditure of imported electricity has increased on annual basis. For example, in 1385, Afghanistan spent 99.79 million Afghanis to import electricity but in 1393 this number was 10630.4 million Afghanis. (See the chart-2)

Chart-2: the expenditures of imported electricity to Afghanistan (million Afghanis)

Total expenditures	year								
	1385	1386	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	1393
	790.99	1035.7	1064.9	1873.1	3875.2	5948.1	7045.7	9643.4	10630.4

Source: annual reports of the Central Statistic Organization

Given the energy capacity of the country, one can say that if this sector was invested and the country's energy capacity was used properly, then it would have been an alternative for imported electricity and it would have not been necessary to import electricity spending millions of dollars.

TUTAP and CASA-1000

The TUTAP and CASA-1000 move electricity from Central Asia to South Asia. These projects would not only supply Afghanistan's need for electricity but Afghanistan would also receive transit fee from Pakistan.

CASA-1000 would transfer 1300 megawatts of electricity from Kirghizstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan and TUTAP would export electricity from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan. CASA-1000 project is expected to be inaugurated this week. But the TUTAP project has raised disputes on its route in the country.

Some circles inside and outside the government has threatened to conduct vast demonstration if the lines of TUTAP did not pass through Bamiyan, but this is a technical problem, which should not be politically dealt with, and in this regard politicians must stop pressurizing the Nation Unity Government regarding.

Although according to the surveys of German Engineering Company-Fichtner this power project had to pass through Bamiyan and the company had said that it will be advantageous from this way, because if Chinese activated electricity in "Miss-e-Aynak" copper mine, then it would move electricity through this path to Kabul. The decision to shift the route to Salang was made during the second term of Hamid Karzai when Karim Khalili was the Vice President of Afghanistan, at that time nobody protested; but now that practical work on this project is expected to begin and international donors are ready for financial support, these disputes are raised and some politicians also joined these disputes; it should be noted that these disputes come at a time while the NUG is facing with many challenges.

If TUTAP route is changed now; it will have the following negative outcomes:

- Its implementation would be delayed for at least two years.

- The expenditures of the surveys and researches conducted on Salang route will be wasted.
- Shifting the route from Salang to Bamiyan will extend the length of the project from 80-120 km further.
- Due to extension of the route, the expenditures will raise (such as line and building substations and etc)
- Current political tensions caused by the project may discourage international investor from investing in long term projects in the future.
- The current situation will attract the government's attention and will expand the conflict in the country.

On the other hand, the Afghan government must pay attention to fundamental demands of Bamiyan people and must supply the needed electricity of Bamiyan through Charikar or some other ways.

The end

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