



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies

Weekly analysis:

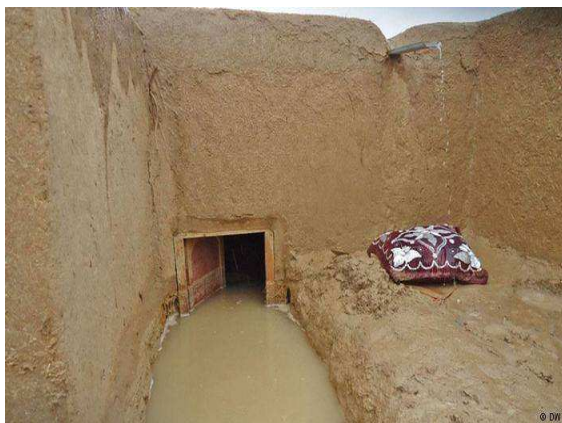
Issue Number: 68 (from April 26th, up to May 3th, 2014)

This Publication consists of significant incidents as per week, which is provided and published by Center for strategic and regional studies, to analyze the political and economic status of Afghanistan, for the use of different organizations and institutions.

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Ruinous floods and landslides and lack of effective measures



Summarized background

Last week floods in Jawzjan, Faryab and Sar-e-Pul provinces of northern Afghanistan caused heavy casualties. According to officials, death toll of the floods stands at almost 200 including women and children and dozens more missing.

In another incident on 2nd May, at least 3000 people have been killed and many more are missing, the UN says, after a landslide hit the north-east province of Badakhshan.

Hundreds of houses were buried under mud and rocks when a section of a mountain collapsed following torrential rain.

The floods were described “unprecedented” in last 30 years in the country, during which besides the human casualties, more than 5000 houses have been destroyed, thousands of square hectares fields swept away and left thousands domestic animals dead.

Mohammad Karim Khalili the vice president of Afghanistan and chairman of the response committee to natural disasters along with members of cabinet ministers who traveled to Jawzjan, Faryab and Sar-e-Pul provinces says that the government is ready for assistance during this natural disaster. He promised one residential land for the victims of the floods besides the emergency assistance.

But the question is why the risks of disasters comparing to other countries are so high in Afghanistan and are increasing year by year? Why the government doesn't implement preventive and effective measures? The analysis board of CSRS's weekly analysis has analyzed this issue:

Government's inadvertence for Disasters Risk Reduction (DRR):

However, different regions in Afghanistan are vulnerable to floods and each year floods and other natural disasters cause vast destructions, but fundamental and effective strategies and measures are not conducted by the government. although, some steps are taken to help the victims of these disasters, but the question is why the government doesn't make fundamental and effective steps towards disasters risk reduction nationwide?

Floods are one of the natural disasters causing vast destruction around the world, however its prevention is not possible but its risk reduction and management of its risks can reduce its destruction level.

According to the researches, DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) has four periods; first: pre disaster period, second; before disasters take place, third: during disasters and fourth: post disaster period.

One of the important period is the pre disaster period, the government and the responsible organizations can reduce the risks and destruction of the disasters through capacity building, conducting preventive measures and public awareness.

Before the disasters take place, some important measures are required, for example before the winter enters, some measures which are mostly technical must be conducted in order to reduce the risks of the disasters, which is less seen in the activities of the governmental organizations working in this field.

Ineffectiveness of organizations for natural disasters management:

The officials of the Afghanistan's national Committee for Natural Disasters management are summoned each year to the parliament and are criticized for lack of the sense of responsibility and efficient policies for DRR and emergency response.

It is questionable that the mentioned committee attracts the attention only when a disaster causes casualties and destructions, while this institution owns a big budget and besides that the emergency response committee which is consisted of 21 governmental and nongovernmental organizations and its head is the vice president of the country, is also inefficient.

Floods, earthquakes, avalanches, landslides, contagious diseases, droughts and such others are the disasters which our people usually face with causing vast destructions. It is only after these kinds of disasters take place, the government reacts just with a rudimentary emergency response; but unlike other countries, no pre disaster measures are conducted.

There are fundamental problems in the structure of organizations in the field of natural disasters, and keeping this in mind, renewed structures of these organizations must be introduced.

The vast destruction of these disasters in the current situation of Afghanistan can cause unwanted outcomes, while the country is in its political and economic transition and the second phase of the presidential election, the vast destructions caused by the disasters can be a heavy loss for the country.

The second round of the presidential election; problems and concerns



Summarized background

The Independent Election Commission IEC has announced the primary results of the April 5th presidential election, in which no one of the candidates gained the 50+1 votes to win the election. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah's 44.9 % of the votes and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai's 32.5% have attracted amongst the 8 presidential candidates.

However the final results might change after consideration of the complaints and it will be announced by 28th May, but it seems that the complaints commission might not make a decision which can prevent the election from going to the second round.

But if the election goes to the second round, which challenges and problems will raise in the second round? The board of weekly analysis in CSRS has analyzed this issue:

Run-off and speculation of a Coalition government:

First of all the concerns which existed before the elections regarding the frauds and interventions became true, and it cleared once again that until the ongoing war does not end, possibility of free and fair elections seems far.

Since the election despite of the frauds and interventions did not gave a result in the first round, before the second round some speculations has spread regarding a coalition government; but maybe one of the candidates does not accept the coalition government and call for the second round election; and if against the laws in Afghanistan, an coalition government is made, it might be wrong measure and the upcoming government will act as commercial company as it was in the past several years and the candidate who withdraws from the election might have a particular share in the government.

The challenges and concerns against the second round:

The second round of election might widely face different security and economic problems and since the provincial council's election was also held along with presidential election and there were different candidates, people's participation was wide but while the second round is being held without such incentive factors, the level of participation in the second round of the election might be lower.

But the big concern in the second round is the fear of ethnic division of the people as a result of the policies of some candidates. Because there are just two candidates in the second round, they might take some measures for attracting more votes, so it might cause some prejudice within the Afghan society.

In most countries this fear is eliminated by political parties which consist of citizens from all around the country; but Afghan society has faced such problems in its past history and there is a kind of anxiety regarding this matter.

If the two candidates with more votes consider this issue serious, they would not let the society to get divided on the basis of ethnic values which indeed might have serious outcomes for the country.

If either of the candidates succeeds with disputed ethnic based votes, he will face various challenges in the future, and the part of the society who has not voted to that specific candidate will not consider him as their leader and the government will be considered as the government of a particular party, While the election

does not mean that the elected president only belongs to those who cast their votes for him, and those who did not vote for him should be neglected in the governmental policies.

Besides that, security concerns also challenge the second round and a large number of Afghans will give sacrifice again, while the elections have become a game in the hands of the ruling government and the votes of those who vote in price of their lives, get worthless.

After experiencing the first round election, vast frauds and interventions from foreigners are expected in the second round; because, in the first round it was much predictable that the election will go to the second round, therefore foreigners did not intervene much and did not take it serious, but in the second round, the rivals are clear so supporting parties will try their best by any possible way to make their candidate succeed.

As a conclusion, the first round of the election faced variety of problems, and there are concerns of more serious problems in the second round. The candidates must respect the law for achieving the power, and do not gain the power through betraying the nation.