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Introduction

On June 14th the second round presidential election conducted with participation of the two candidates, and the estimated partial results show that Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai leads the voting.

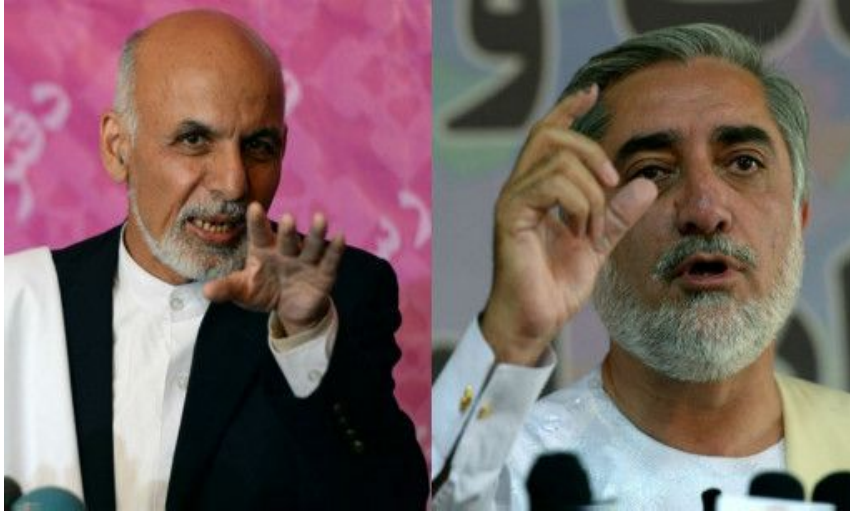
But by the estimations of partial results, Abdullah Abdullah one of the candidates started criticizing the process, which caused concerns with the people. But the question is to where this political crisis will be led?

On the other hand, Pakistani Army launched military operations against Taliban in Waziristan. The operation began while the recent rocket attacks still hits the eastern provinces of Afghanistan.

The operation began following the Taliban attack on Karachi airport; Pakistan has summoned the Afghan Ambassador in Islamabad following militants attack on Karachi airport and claimed that Taliban organizing such attacks from Afghanistan's land. On the other hand, with launching military operation against Taliban, thousands of refugees came to eastern provinces of Afghanistan. Looking at the TTP's background what are the reasons behind these operations?

These two issues analyzed by CSRS weekly analysis board:

Election; the success of peaceful transition of power and possible crisis



For the first time in Afghanistan, the power is being transferred from one elected president to another, after twelve years of falling the Taliban regime and intervention of foreign troops. The first round election on April 5th was conducted along with insecurity, frauds and other problems; but after the second round held on June 14, seems that the success of this process is not without problems.

According to the past experience of conducting election and background of IEC and IECC, how was the transparency of the last round of election? What were the reasons behind the problems emerged in election process? And finally where the result of this election might lead?

Election commissions and the experience of the previous rounds of election:

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) was founded in 2006 for management and observation of elections. This commission has managed the presidential election in 2009 which led to electing Hamid Karzai as the president of Afghanistan, and then conducted parliamentary election in 2010 and finally conducted the last (2014) election.

Before establishment of the IEC the presidential election of 2004, and parliamentary election of 2005 conducted by UNAMA with coordination of the Joint Electoral Management Body. In that time as well, some accusations of fraud has been registered; but the irregularities increased in the last three rounds of election, and the serious ones were insecurity, frauds and interventions.

The trust over accepting the election's result became weak in 2009 after one of the candidates of that round of election Mr. Abdullah Abdullah rejected to accept the results of the election

citing widespread fraud. Later in 2010 during the parliamentary election a special court has been founded for investigating the fraud accusations.

In the latest round of election (2014) the same problems repeated, but in the second round of election the IEC, IECC and national and international observers said the frauds in comparison with the first round were in low level, but in spite of all these, one of the candidates Mr. Abdullah Abdullah rejected to accept the result because of what he considered as widespread frauds for the benefit of his rival Mr. M. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

Independent Electoral Complaints Commission was also founded in 2009, in which two foreign nationals were also members with three other Afghan members of the commission. In 2010 parliamentary election the government tried to reduce the influence of the foreigners and therefore after that election no foreign national is member of the commission.

2014 Election:

Because of plurality of candidates the election went to run-off and the two vote leading candidates went for rivalry in the second round election, and by trying to bring more parties to their tickets the fear of ethnicity divination also became high.

Obviously, they both were rivaling with the sense success; but it was also eminent that both of them by jealously allying with other parities thinking that they are the winners and the culture of accepting the winner was not seen and the sense of accepting the result of a process which conducted at cost of lives of some Afghans.

Now, when one of the candidates rejected to accept the result of the election, the fear of possible political crisis also got higher, however the government and the president rejected possibilities of such crisis.

On the other hand, some parties within the government or outside the government see their benefits in presidency of one of the candidates; so they working in the favor of the candidates, which paves the way to challenges against peacefully transferring the power from one elected president to another elected president.

The results

By ending the polling process, both of the candidates showed their satisfaction from the process and committed that they will wait until the counting of ballots and consideration of the

complaints and finally to the results. Both of them were satisfied by the widespread participation of the people. The national and international observers also called this round of election more transparent than the previous one.

But one of the candidates with clearing of the initial results accused one of the high ranking officials of the IEC and with this pretext abounded process. But according to the reactions to the demands of Abdullah Abdullah, it seems that his accusation will not challenge the continuation of the process.

Need of peaceful transferring the power

However it seems that one of the candidates who gained less ballots will not accept the result, but since the second round has been considered more successful by national and international parities the transferring process of power will not be faced serious challenges, however in the context of Afghanistan such disagreements will be existed.

On the other hand, the frauds are possible and therefore the IECC is formed for consideration of the electoral complaints, and since a candidate joined the rivalry under the regulations of these two commissions than rejects to accept its results would be affectless. The frauds in election which exist in the elections of all over the world and losing the power by one candidate must not be cause the ignore all the process which conducted with cost of lives of some Afghans. Each electoral complaint must be considered transparently so that both of the candidates accept the results, because other ways for gaining the power in the current situation of Afghanistan is not in the benefit of Afghanistan.

Credibility of the future government and the possible crisis

One of the candidates Mr. Abdullah Abdullah accused the president and the two electoral commissions with not being neutral which raised the concerns that the role of the government will be weak in the mediate role for solving the problems.

The spokesperson of UNAMA also called the position of Abdullah Abdullah as regrettable and demanded the continuation of counting the ballots. Also the government of Afghanistan and international community showed their will for helping the success of the process and saving the credibility of the future government; but with all that the credibility and the possible political crisis are from the concerns that Afghans and political parties have.

Pakistan military operations in Waziristan



Background of TTP

Taliban, who first upraised with the aim to bring peace and security to Afghanistan, now challenges Pakistan as well. Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was subordinate of Afghanistan Islamic Emirate, until 2001. Following the falls Taliban regime in Afghanistan the TTP has been founded. This Tahrik is unlike of the Afghanistan Taliban Tahirk subordinates various militant groups; but all of them are affiliated with Afghanistan Islamic Emirate led by Mullah Omar.

In 2006, TTP officially founded their movement, and announced that they will fight until the establishment of Islamic government in Pakistan. Abdullah Mehsud was the first leader of this movement, who joined the Islamic Emirate in early times of its foundation and lost a leg to a landmine in 1996.

In December 2001, he surrendered to the Northern Alliance militants in the Battle of Kunduz, and was handed over to the U.S. and spent 25 months in Guantanamo Bay detention camp, and finally released in 2004. The Afghan Taliban who were not interested in the fight of TTP against Pakistani government, elected Abdullah Mehsud as the leader of TTP.

Abdullah Mehsud killed himself with a hand grenade after security forces raided his dwelling in Zhob, Balochistan, Pakistan. And Baitullah Mehsud became the leader of TTP.

Baitullah Mehsud led numerous attacks in Pakistan, like the 2007 Rawalpindi and the assassination of Benazir Bhutto which he and others have denied. Baitullah Mehsud had died on 23 August 2009 due to injuries sustained during the 5 August American drone attack in southern Waziristan.

After him Hakimullah Mehsud became as leader of TTP. He was the organizer of the suicide bombing over CIA camp in Khost, and while he wanted to start peace negotiation between Taliban and Pakistani government, killed by drone attack on first November in Waziristan.

Failing peace negotiation between TTP and Pakistani government

Nawaz Sharif the prime minister of Pakistan says that the peace is the first need of his country and without peace; each economic concept will be failing. When for the first time the news of willingness for peace has been published, caused more hopes of various political and religious parties.

The peace negotiation start was dependent of the new leader's will, and therefore new debates about the leader has been resulted that Maulana Fazlullah who was commander of Taliban in Swat valley, elected as leader of TTP. Khan Sayed Sajna famous as Khalid Mehsud was the other candidate to this post; but since he had a will for peace negotiation with Pakistani government the members of central council voted to Maulana Fazlullah.

This was the first time in last six years of TTP that someone elected as the leader who was not from Mehsud clan. From the first times there were speculations that he would face serious problems.

After some time, conflicts between Sajna and Shahriyar Mehsud who was supporting Mullah Fazlullah became to media in which Pakistani authorities were also involved. The ISI want the rule of Khan Sayed Sajna in northern Waziristan and has concerns that being outside of Pakistan for Taliban will be caused influence of India in Taliban, especially that previously Mullah Fazlullah was in Swat and had relations with foreigners and even received a radio station from them.

Foreign fighters in Waziristan

There are more fighters from central Asia, Caucasus and China based in Waziristan along with the militants from that region. These fighters came to this region after falling of Taliban regime in 2001.

The main reason behind coming of these fighters to this region is existence of the strict governments in their countries. In different attacks including the attack on Mehran air base and the latest attacks in Karachi these militants were involved directly or indirectly. These fighters know that if the peace negotiation between TTP and the Pakistani government come to a result they will lose their influence and therefore, whenever the peace negotiation being started they targeting the important Civil and Military targets in Pakistan to roadblock the negotiation.

Disputes among TTP

After the failing of peace between TTP and Pakistan government, Pakistan military forces began military operations in northern Waziristan. These operations were aimed however peace and stability but in fact ISI wanted to negotiate with Sajna but when they failed the inevitably began the military operations.

ISI doesn't want the TTP to be base outside the country, but it seems that Pakistan has no control so far; because Mullah Fazlullah is based in Afghanistan and commanding his fellows from Afghanistan.

Mullah Fazlullah in a letter dismissed Sajna, but he rejected to accept and therefore started to challenge Mullah Fazlullah's rule. Pakistan ISI was trying to bring the Taliban leadership into Pakistan and therefore supported Sajna in hidden, but other Taliban leader Hafez Gul Bahader in northern Waziristan announced fight against the government. He wanted the people if they want to leave the area instead moving to other Pakistani areas go to Afghanistan.

The result of military operation against TTP

Pakistan launched powerful operation in 2009 against Taliban in Waziristan; but in spite of mass losses did not gain a wanted result. The current operation is also like the previous one.

But as Pakistani forces faced mass losses in 2009 operations and failed in defeating Taliban, it seems this time will also be not succeeded. However the Pakistani authorities during 2009 operations accused the American troops that they opened the border while the operation were going on in Waziristan, in order to Retreat to Afghanistan; but the fact is that before launching their operation TTP had their own measures.

The military operation began with air strikes and then launched military attacks. Taliban retreat to safe areas and waited until the soldiers attacks. When the soldiers attack begins the mass wilds of the region is a safe Ambush for Taliban.

With consideration of the natural and geo-strategic location of the region, it is not expected to gain a good result from Taliban defeating. But America gave some weapons from its forces in Afghanistan to the Pakistani army so the Army might show that the Pakistani military is serious about war on terror.

But Taliban militants have measures for how to protect themselves from airstrikes of Pakistani military and look an appropriate opportunity to hurt the Army.

The past experiments show that neither the Taliban defeats in such operation nor the Pakistani Army destroying. The main losers of this war are the civilians who live in this region and face the mass losses and problems of the war.