

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



October 31, 2015

True Spirit of Democratic Protests

It is really imperative for all the active and vigilant citizens of the society to have a positive role in the society. However, in order to guarantee such a role it is important that they should be educated and aware. Awareness regarding the social and political developments in society would definitely assist them to a great extent and they would be a catalyst in bringing about vital changes.

Within a political system, the citizens can bring about changes both by political awareness and political agitation. Political awareness supports them in understanding the nature, functions and influences of the political system and the political agitation assist them in practically pressuring the government or other political institutions and groups to change their policies or their actions.

Political agitation is right of all the citizens of a state in a democratic system. If certain political groups or even the ordinary people start feeling that their rights are being violated or certain policies of the government are influencing them in a negative manner they have the right to come out on the streets and let their voices be heard. However, there is no consensus on how these agitations must be carried out and what sorts of actions should be performed in them. Mostly in political agitations the involved groups chant slogans, display placards and banners and even deliver speech. There are some other sorts of agitations as well but in short they can be divided into two main categories; peaceful and non-peaceful.

Peaceful agitations mostly do not involve any action of violence and do not harm anyone. They remain related to slogans, banners, placards, sit-ins or even hunger strikes. On the other hand, a non-peaceful agitation turns into violent acts. The stones are thrown, the public and private properties are damaged, the policemen are beaten and in some cases, there are gunshots. Such agitations mostly result in the injury to many of the participants and even their death.

Though all the protests have their impacts, the peaceful protests are considered to have positive impacts the most. In fact, the true spirit of agitation lies in such types of protests. The democratic system, at least in theory, supports such protests and considers them the outcome of the maturity and awareness of the public. Therefore, it is necessary that the agitators who by organizing the agitations show their love for democracy must also make sure that their agitations do not turn violent as they may harm many others or their properties. In that manner their rights would be violated and the agitators themselves become the violator of justice.

In some of the cases the agitations are willfully turned violent. Some of the political groups or even the criminal and the terrorist groups in order to avail their own interests try to make the protests violent. In the countries where people do not have a long history of democratic agitations and there are not many educated people, there are great chances that the agitations become violent. As people are not democratically mature, therefore, they do not have any idea when they go out of control. And when they come to their senses they have already done great damage to themselves and to the society.

The example of Afghan society can be considered in this regard. There have been many occasions when Afghan people have started with peaceful protests but have ultimately turned them into very violent ones. They turn so much violent that they start harming their own policemen. In so many other cases they have attacked the bases and offices of the foreign countries and have tried to bring loss to them. Yes, there are possibilities that they may be protesting for something very serious; however, it is not wise to take the revenge of that act from someone who is not responsible in any way.

Moreover, it is also important to take into consideration that the agitations that are carried out against other countries, they should be arranged very much carefully. It is demand of prudent diplomacy to keep our relations strong with other countries, especially the neighboring countries. Definitely it is our right to protest against the policies of the other countries that may bring harm to us or against such policies that are not carried out formally and influence us in some way or the other; nonetheless, it is also important that in what manner we carry out our protest.

Policies designed by a government in a country are not permanent. They keep on changing and with the changing nature of the political circumstances the governments keep on changing their considerations and their concerns. Therefore, the relevant policies of the relevant countries should be protested against, and that should not disrespect the state as whole. It may be quite possible that the people of that country may be very close to us regarding their culture, tradition and ideology. Moreover, it is also possible that the policies of the country may change for better and then we would not have the courage to face them as we had used abusive language against them during our protest. It is really important that Afghans must learn the true spirit of democratic and peaceful protests. Such agitations will not only bring the desired result but would also set a valuable example for the coming generations to follow.



The Hide and Seek Game

By Ali Zada

On Tuesday, October 20, the First Vice President head to North to help the Afghan National Army retake Ghormach district from the Taliban. Upon his arrival, at a gathering with security forces in Sheberghan on late Tuesday, he advised the security forces to keep a high morale arguing that the enemy has recently suffered heavy casualty toll and, therefore, can't stand firm to their attacks. In the gathering, Dostum threatened the Taliban saying that "We are aware of what cowards acts they [the Taliban] did in Kunduz and we will take revenge." With recent security developments—especially in North—taken into cautious consideration, one should be too naïve to hope for a peaceful Faryab after General's comeback from his second clear-up operation. In early August, General Dostum led a month-long clearing military operation in Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces. After a month of apparently successful military campaign, he returned with high hopes to Kabul on August 31 declaring the two provinces clean of anti-government elements. The hope did not stay long, though.

After the first Vice-President returned Kabul, the Taliban attacked and captured Kunduz and the war to recapture the capital city took 13 days for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). After the recapture of Kunduz, the Taliban have fought sporadic wars in Ghazni city, Ghorurian and Shindand of Herat, some districts of Helmand and Ghormach of Faryab. Ghormach fell to Taliban on Sunday, October 18 and the Taliban killed 22 of the security forces there and captured the district's security chief with several of his men.

There, unfortunately, is a high possibility for the scenario to take place time and again in any part of the country. ANSF has retake Ghormach district but that in no sense will be a victory against the Taliban. The Taliban fended off from Ghormach, but will be settled in villages where they now have considerable foothold, will reorganize and will prepare for another attack. The vicious circle will continue and the hide-and-peek game will be played for one more round.

This hide-and-peek game has no winner but it definitely has many losers. Security forces and the civilians will again go through immense suffering, the central government's image will become murkier, its

efficiency and even legitimacy will be seriously questioned, and the Taliban will simply rejoice and will become emboldened.

The Taliban's new leadership has effectively used its military apparatus to assert its power, to expand the territory it controls and to tighten its grip on those areas. In response to it, regrettably, the National Unity Government (NUG) has feebly taken a defensive position. This defensive position, however, has been greatly advantageous to the Taliban in that they have used it to its possible extent to carry out attacks and to prove that their leadership is still powerful enough to challenge the government. The relatively peaceful north has become enormously insecure in recent months yet no workable and meaningful measures have been taken to tackle the challenge. The fight backs by the government only are indicative of lack of political will in fighting and defeating the Taliban.

The loose measures taken by the government are all defensive representing its weak stand. In fact, it doesn't look like a government fighting terrorist groups but a small group defending itself against its fairly stronger enemy, faring nothing sizeable in the war. Given the above, it can be logically concluded that the National Unity Government's lack of political will and absence of clear military strategy in fighting terrorist groups work in a self-defensive way and only results in destabilization of the country thus, compromising its raison d'être. To be a little more far-sighted, such an approach toward the Taliban can also help them become even more powerful. Hopeful of future victory, the Taliban will simply use the opportunity to remobilize their troops, and will likewise exploit the public discontent to conscript more fighters. In such a scenario, to simply compute, the Taliban will win the game whilst the National Unity Government (NUG) will mourn its military and civilian casualties.

This hide-and-peek game and the ridiculous game of playing the Taliban's card for balance of ethnic power costs far more than the so-called NUG can afford. Therefore, deliberating on how dangerous it would otherwise be, the NUG should reconsider its policy of fighting the Taliban and should act more assertively in this regard.

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Reviving Economy after Quake

By Dwaipayan Regmi

The massive earthquake that hit Nepal on April 25 took lives of tens of thousands of people leaving another similar number injured. It affected almost one-fifth area of Nepal. Since, majorly affected district also captures most dense region of country, buildings has been damaged in large proportion. Around half a million houses have been completely destroyed while similar number has been partially destroyed.

Tourism sector was almost at halt. From brick houses to big malls, they were severally affected. Despite different sectors were badly affected, major industries, which were located in southern region was not much affected and that probably is the reason why country did not face any economic trouble after the quake. Basic facilities like water supply, electricity supply, and telephone networks were all brought back into existence in smooth operative manner as quick as possible.

Troubles and threats kept on troubling Nepal. First fear was of employment. Although industries were not much affected, being in southern region; lot of other businesses were affected. There already was huge trouble of unemployment in context of Nepal, and this quake was likely to displace those who were employed as well. Sectors like banking and insurance could go for new building, however for those grocery stores, small shops, they certainly had two option: either to reconstruct, or shut down the business. On primary report it had been noted that 36 thousand cows died because of this quake signifying troublesome life for those who sustained through animal farming. At time, when houses were destroyed, family members were dead, people took time to settle in peace and begin up the farming. Delay in farming lead to decrease in supply. And, the blockade that Nepal is facing through its major importing country, India has made the life difficult in Nepal at present. There are no gases to cook food, no petroleum to travel, there is scarcity of other daily edibles and basic necessity stuffs.

Demand was kind of constant, and supplies could cope up to meet the demand back then. Price was almost constant, however there was threat of price hike from tomato to local garments product. Shortage of rental space, because of damaged building again contributed in rise of rents, and hike in prices. Despite Government's effort, this could not be

controlled. There was threat for education sectors as well. Numbers of students decreased from affected areas, for Plus Two, Bachelors and even Master degrees. Ultimately, there is main fear of Brain Drain. There already was opportunities knocking for youths from Canada. For those who got unemployed too can plan for working abroad. EDV lottery was filled up with craze this year as well.

Everything happens for some cause. This proverb could be generalized from different perspectives after all. However, after the earthquake, the parties quickly assembled and united, and started constitution drafting process. One good aspect that earthquake brought was unity among the diverse parties, that gifted the country with constitution.

The quake has brought damages to mosques this time; temples in Nepal were also heavily damaged. The death toll however is around eighty times than that of Afghanistan. Similar stories are with injured and damages to buildings. However, the effort made by Afghan must be admired. Immediate concern of Narendra Modi must have shown the diplomacy level of Afghanistan as well. Afghanistan is developing country, and has been moving ahead in a rapid speed. The speed of Afghanistan's development and progress should have been lesson for Nepal. Afghanistan certainly can cope up with the situation, and regard this as a lesson for better precaution in days to come. Economy of Afghanistan will be fine in the coming days.

Unlike Haiti, those earthquake victims in Afghanistan certainly must not struggle for longer period of time. Earthquake also taught us to stay united during the time of need, and to show humanity. Government's monitoring team must have also counted for controlling the price hike. Huge amounts of funding were received from different countries of the world. However, the immense desire to earn and store more, needy victims was not granted enough. Leaders turned out to be greedy when they saw green dollars flowing within the country. Since, the number is less, the Afghan government with the help of International community should be operated in fair and wise manner. Government must seriously look after to control the economy at this time. Central bank should also play significant role. We want to assure that Nepal is praying for quick recovery of earthquake victims.

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