After SAFS Loss

T here were high hopes that Afghanistan would win the South Asian Football Federation (SAFS) Championship final for the second time; but the Afghan team could not make it in an interesting final match against India. Afghanistan played as the defending champions as they had won the Cup in the 2013 editions in Kathmandu. The match was played in Thiruvananthapuram, India on Sunday Jan 5, and the Indian team had the advantage of home crowd as well. Afghan team played to its full strength and determination but lost the match 2-1 in the extra time.

Though Afghan team faced a defeat the lens were not really disappointed and they gathered in the post-match press conference to accept the defeat of the Afghan people. For them the real achievement was that their team had made history.

Their welcome, was, therefore, not different from the last one when their team had returned after winning the SAFS final.

For Afghanistan it is a really a great achievement that Afghan team could qualify for the final. Looking at the socio-political scenario, it is really difficult to expect that the country is in a position where it can concentrate properly on different games. However, different individuals and institutions have supported Afghan sport and they have demonstrated that although they face myriad of problems in their games. The development of a country is hindered, but solving a lot of their basic problems can concentrate more on sports and they can also allocate more budgets to the sports. But, for Afghanistan it is very difficult that the government should spend a large amount on sports as it has to deal with many other issues.

Nonetheless, it is important that different sports and games must be promoted within a country as it will definitely not only sportmanship but also support in solving certain social evils as well. Youngsters, who get engaged in different sports, are able to keep themselves away from different social evils and thus, can play a constructive and positive role within the society.

Sports can also be a way of earning fame and respect for the country. Different individuals and teams basically represent different nations in the regional and international sports events. Therefore, they bring good name to their countries if they are able to win the events.

Sports can be helpful in promoting peace relations among different nations as well. The countries that participate in the sports events basically involve in healthy and positive competition and can also be the examples of peaceful relations among different states and traditions.

Every Afghan team member has not been able to get enough attention by the concerned authorities in Afghanistan, different individuals and institutions have supported Afghan sport and they have demonstrated that although they face myriad of problems in their games. The development of a country is hindered, but solving a lot of their basic problems can concentrate more on sports and they can also allocate more budgets to the sports. But, for Afghanistan it is very difficult that the government should spend a large amount on sports as it has to deal with many other issues.

On the other hand, the sportsmen also require support from the people. They need support and encouragement so that they can bring golden titles on their chests.]

The current economic stagnation and unemployment have compounded poverty across the country. Scores of individuals immigrated to foreign lands to flee the relentless war and instability. They left their children alone at the mercy of war and suffering emaciation. Some of the children who lost their parents and their problems and the families who have lost their bread-earners in the war need our support to make them self-reliant and feed their children. Many have lost their freedom of movement due to charity from passersby, shopkeepers, etc. so as to resist starvation and travel to Afghanistan.

The destiny is truly cruel to the workers who labor from the dawn to the setting sun because their voices are not heard. The life and property are not ensured. Some hawkers, vendors, storekeepers and hawkers have their children in the employ of the city of Kabul within past years while struggling to earn bread for their families. Similarly, some businessmen were killed mercilessly, their children are now in the employ of the city and are not able to avert the terroristic attacks on bright days in the heart of big cities and there is no safe spot for them. It would be worthwhile to go round the agitations of the heads of the National Unity Government (NUG) during their presidential campaigns. Afghan CEO Dr. Abdullah's agenda for Afghanistan was an all-inclusive; abolishing administrative corruption; dealing with the challenges of the Afghan IDPs; defusing delaying, influencing power opportunities; struggling for the betterment of the economy and fighting poverty; commitment for providing human rights, especially women's rights; bringing reformative, affirmative action towards the country of the neighboring countries and establishing a family of the mountains.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani declared that if he won the election he would be as an effective government, combating administrative corruption, building a government, creating healthy national structures for better economy, giving participatory role to women and youngsters, combating violence, providing a better government, establishing national solidarity and building a strong nation. He brought the general election charter rights, Dr. Abdullah vowed in “provide job opportunities” and “fight poverty”.

Similarly, Ghani quoted a list of mouth-washing policies including the implementation of the 35% quota for women in all aspects of the economy.” However, a year has passed from the establishment of NUG, and we are witness to a lot of administrative corruption all over the country that come true. Indeed, achieving the above agenda in a war-torn country is very much predictable. The NUG’s agenda, administrative corruption, poverty, etc. from the previous governments, as the heads-stated months ago. Ill-fatedly, militancy, security, power and basic services are still a priority. There is no strategy from the government to curb the issues. The situation needs to take a turn for the better. The NUG is needed for the people and not against them. We have to come to a conclusion that the current situation cannot be judged as normal, but in the presence of the economy.

Economic Stagnation – A Relevant Issue

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