Kabul Ready for Signing PTA

Afghanistan is enthusiastic about signing a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Pakistan, says a prime ministerial aide.

ISLAMABAD - Afghanistan is enthusiastic about signing a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Pakistan, says a prime ministerial aide.

President Ashraf Ghani, during his recent visit to Pakistan, had signaled his government’s readiness to ink the proposed accord, the advisor said.

In an interview published on Wednesday, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Rashid Dawson said he would visit Kabul on September 4. During the two-day trip, he will have detailed discussions with the Afghan authorities on removing hurdles to bilateral trade between the neighbours.

Dawson will meet Ghani, whose administration recently urged Pakistan to open the Wagah border for trade between Afghanistan and India.

“We told them the meeting is bilateral, not trilateral, and it should be confined to (discussions) on bilateral, not trilateral trade issues,” the advisor told The News.

Some circles inside the country’s aid NGOs and certain neighbours did not want Afghanistan to have good relations with India, he alleged.

Indian police carefully check our goods, tear apart our cartons and leave our goods including fresh fruits damaged. We have to re-arrange the cartons. Most of the time, we cannot find new packages there,” he explained.

Drug Smuggling Hits Afghan Exports to India

KABUL - The seizure of drugs consigned in commercial consignments from Afghanistan to India has created problems for Afghan traders.

Indian police captured several drug smugglers, including two Afghans - this last July, for trafficking heroin worth billions of rupees to that country. Afghan traders say their goods were thoroughly searched before their entry into India and the time-consuming process damages their commerce.

A trader, Mirwais Ashraf, told Pajhwok Afghan News that exports to India – both through land routes and by air – were minutely checked.

Afghanistan and India should jointly solve the problem to avoid damage to commercial links between the two countries, he suggested.

Another Afghan entrepreneur, who wished to go unnamed, said a man from Afghanistan was detained in connection with drug smuggling to India. The detainee was not a businessman but smuggled narcotics in the garb of exporters to India.

Some circles inside the country’s aid NGOs and certain neighbours did not want Afghanistan to have good relations with India, he alleged.

Indian police carefully check our goods, tear apart our cartons and leave our goods including fresh fruits damaged. We have to re-arrange the cartons. Most of the time, we cannot find new packages there,” he explained.

Drug smugglers, including two Afghans - this last July, for trafficking heroin worth billions of rupees to that country. Afghan traders say their goods were thoroughly searched before their entry into India and the time-consuming process damages their commerce.

A trader, Mirwais Ashraf, told Pajhwok Afghan News that exports to India – both through land routes and by air – were minutely checked.

Afghanistan and India should jointly solve the problem to avoid damage to commercial links between the two countries, he suggested.

Another Afghan entrepreneur, who wished to go unnamed, said a man from Afghanistan was detained in connection with drug smuggling to India. The detainee was not a businessman but smuggled narcotics in the garb of exporters to India.

Some circles inside the country’s aid NGOs and certain neighbours did not want Afghanistan to have good relations with India, he alleged.

Indian police carefully check our goods, tear apart our cartons and leave our goods including fresh fruits damaged. We have to re-arrange the cartons. Most of the time, we cannot find new packages there,” he explained.