APSO Organises Upcoming Taliban-Civil Society Meeting in Gulf

KABUL - The Afghanistan Peace Studies Organization (APSO) has been organizing a meeting between the Taliban and influential members of the Afghan Society in the Gulf, the organization said in a statement on Wednesday.

APSO rejected the local media reports instructing that an international group, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, was organizing or behind the upcoming two-day meeting was inaccurate.

“APSO is organizing this event in its independent capacity and no other national or international organization has a role, either directly or indirectly, in this meeting,” the meeting plans to include a high profile delegation of the Afghan Taliban from their political office in Qatar as well as politicians, civil society members, parliamentarians, women’s rights activists, and people close to the Afghan government. This is not an official meeting and each person attending the event will do so in his or her personal capacity.

“APSO’s primary agenda in holding this meeting is to remove the obstacles to peace and find ways to improve the trust deficit between the two sides so that we can move forward with mutual consent.” In addition to this objective, other important issues like the protection of civilians during the armed conflict, the role of women and youth in the peace process, freedom of the press, and other important issues including health, education, and human rights will also be discussed. The conference about Pugwash involvement in the result of the recent interview in the media given by an Afghan analyst.

Noor and Mohaqqiq Hold Talks on New Political Consensus

WASHINGTON - Afghanistan would no longer depend on Pakistan for transit trade with the opening of the strategically crucial Chabahar Port, Afghan CEO Dr. Abdullah Abdullah said.

The port is likely to ramp up trade between India, Afghanistan and Iran in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to New Delhi for trade with the two countries. India has been closely working with Afghanistan to create alternate and reliable access routes, bypassing Pakistan.

“Afghanistan used to rely only on one transit road, which was through Karachi. That is not the case anymore,” (Name it) added Chabahar, chief executive Abdullah Abdullah said.

As per the agreement signed between India and Iran in March last year, India is to equip and operate two berths in Chabahar Port Phase-I with capital investment of $20.01 billion and annual revenue expenditure of $2.39 billion on a toll-year basis. Afghanistan in the near future would also enter into a similar agreement with the Central Asia with the government of India and Central Asia that would connect the country with Europe.

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The government has introduced eight ministers, including those in the energy and connectivity sectors, he added. Votel said energy projects such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan 500-kV Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline (TAPI), the Central Asia-Caucasus Gas Pipeline Project, and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan 800-kV line (TAP-800) will connect Afghanistan to the global energy network and create new employment opportunities for the Afghan people.

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