

Peace; Need of Afghans and a Bolstering Hope



Peace is presently the top necessity and priority of Afghans and they have been waiting to cherish a lasting peace since decades. On 29th February, 2020, The Taliban and the US signed the peace deal which was a moment of immense pleasure for the Afghan nation. As the rumors of bringing peace to Afghanistan are on the verge, The Afghan nation, via conducting gatherings and assemblies, requests the involved sides to shorten their wait for peace and support them to bring peace in Afghanistan. The expectations of peace have tarnished the results of presidential elections enough that even the foreigners issue statements regarding peace, instead of articulating about the results of presidential elections. So how close we are to cherish peace in Afghanistan? Who creates obstacles for peace? And will the Afghans witness the dawn of a true and lasting peace? Answers to these and similar questions will be explored in this analysis.

Massive gatherings at the capital and provinces



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

People rallied at the capital and provinces before and after the peace deal between the Taliban and the US, aiming to pave road towards comprehensive peace and reduction in violence. On 25th February, 2020, a mass gathering was conducted in Kabul, where representatives of political parties and public figures were also among the participants. They made a strong appeal to the involved sides to maintain the truce and sustain reduction in violence. The agreement for bringing peace in Afghanistan was signed on 29th February, 2020 and both sides promised to show their commitment to the agreements of the deal. The massive gathering in Kabul has revealed that the Afghans not only welcomes the intra-Afghan talks after the US-Taliban peace deal, but they are completely prepared.

During the gathering, Mr. Said Eshaq Gailani, an Afghan politician called upon the Afghan leaders to maintain utter tolerance in order to be able to effectively lead the Afghan nation towards peace.

In addition, Mawlawi Enayatullah Baleegh, the chairman of Majlas-e-Tanseeq-e-Ulama not only expressed his complete support from the peace negotiations, but considered peace as a vital necessity for the nation.

Dr. Abdul Saboor Fakhri, Director of Jamiat-e-Eslah Afghanistan said that Afghans want an all-inclusive peace. He expressed that presence of foreign forces is the main cause of destruction in Afghanistan and bringing peace is a religious and humanistic obligation of all.

Likewise, Mr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, former ambassador and special representative of Afghanistan in Pakistan was hopeful for peace and expressed regarding appointment of a delegation and said “As there is consensus for bringing peace in our country, therefore a special delegation is important to be appointed in order to benefit from the available opportunity”. On behalf of Hezbe Islami, Mr. Hafiz Ur Rahman Naqi stated that nobody should have the right to shiver the peace talks and all parties are required to participate in the peace process.

The statements from political and public figures indicate that if the main sides of the war (the US and the Taliban) bind to their promises, the upcoming process of Intra-Afghan negotiations will not face any challenges since political parties and public figures have better consensus compared to the past. Besides Kabul’s Gathering,



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

rallies were out in Kunar, Nangarhar and Northern provinces to support the peace process.

Need of the Nation to the Peace

While the peace negotiations were at their last stages between the US and the Taliban and both sides even reached to an agreement on one weak partial truce for reduction in violence, hostility was increasing between the two leading candidates; Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. When the stability and convergence team started appointing governors and the state builders (Dawlat Saz) team was planning to conduct swearing-in ceremony on 8th Hoot, 1398, the public was facing an indefinite future.

Among the candidates of the last presidential elections, some rejected the results of the elections and requested backing the peace process. The leading candidates however, who were busy preparing for swearing-in ceremonies and appointing governors, did not contemplate the demands of political figures. Later, Hamid Karzai, former president of Afghanistan and Abdul Rab Rasool Sayaf, former Jihadi leader even conducted meetings with the leading candidates. And in order to avoid complications for the peace process, the former president presented the idea of Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, continuing his work as the president until the peace agreement is signed. Yet, they did not receive any positive response.

Conversely, when the US department of state requested President Ashraf Ghani to postpone the swearing-in ceremony, the response was affirmative. Although postponement of the oath ceremony can be considered a courageous act, but the courage of the postponement would have been strategic and beneficial if shown towards the same request presented by political figures. This is because his would have reinforced Ashraf Ghani's influence and position for Intra-Afghans talks, which are anticipated to commence on 10th March, 2020.

Dawn of a true peace

Considering the recent comprehensive changes, a consensus regarding the Afghan peace has occurred on regional and international level and the process is strongly backed by the Afghan nation and political figures. A peace gathering on 6th Hoot in Kabul, where the participants expressed their pleasure for the recent improvements



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

in peace process and hoped for conversion of reduction in violence into a comprehensive ceasefire, demonstrates a decent example of the consensus among Afghans regarding peace. In addition, participants of the gathering expressed that they will not allow the Afghan land to be used against others.

A lasting peace in Afghanistan mostly depends on proper implementation of the articles of the peace deal. Hopefully, both sides stay committed to the agreement and truly make efforts to implement its content.

Conclusion

Presently, harmony among Afghan politicians and support to the peace deal in Qatar is comparatively more significant for bringing peace in Afghanistan. Afghan Politicians need to spend their entire energy to bring an everlasting peace to Afghanistan and avoid any political conflicts. The successful accomplishment of reduction in violence process has strengthened the hopes for peace. Therefore, any declarations that may jeopardize the peace process should be strictly avoided, so that Afghans can cherish peace and live their lives in a peaceful environment. Peace in Afghanistan can quicken development of the countries in region, which is currently sacked due to insecurities and war.

Although president Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has given up his conditions for reduction in violence by the Taliban, but the government needs to appoint an all-inclusive delegation for the intra-Afghan talks and along with the representatives of political parties, needs to have representatives from the public.

Global Economic Losses of Corona Virus



Among the broiling political events in the world, the outbreak of the deadly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is one of the issues that has been on the news since the beginning of this year.

The virus was identified in late December in Wuhan City of China, where some 9 million people reside. However, the threat of the virus has not only persisted in China but also spread rapidly to other countries around the globe.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said in a report that so far 90933 people have been infected and 3119 have died.

With the outbreak of the disease, all airports and train stations have become closed to outbound passengers and subway networks, boats and other long-distance transport have been suspended.

WHO has declared a state of emergency according to which unprecedented quarantine regulations have been put in place in Wuhan to prevent the spread of the disease. All roads and streets towards outside of the city have been blocked and flights have been canceled.



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

Most Wuhan residents have been advised to avoid crowded areas and minimize public gatherings. And the same are advised to all cities and towns where the virus has been spread.

Based on data from Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (briefly as China CDC), 4.7 percent of cases were acute. In a study on 44,000 patients in China, 80% of them had mild symptoms.

The virus has spread to 44 countries around the world, the numbers are as follow¹:

Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
China	77,754	South Korea	1,146	Italy	322
Iran	91	Singapore	91	US	57
Thailand	37	Taiwan	31	Bahrain	23
Australia	22	Malaysia	22	Germany	18
Vietnam	16	France	14	UAE	13
London	13	Canada	11	Kuwait	11
Spain	6	India	3	Philippines	3
Oman	2	Russia	2	Algeria	1
Total:			90,933		

The figure is cumulative if the way to prevent the outbreak is not met, or vaccine or co-medication is not provided.²

Impact of the COVID-19 on the world economy:

¹ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

² 25-feb-2020



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

While Chinese officials have reported signs of slowing down the spread of the coronavirus, the negative effects of the disease have gradually become apparent in the global economy.

The outbreak of COVID-19 came with restrictions, a decline in the number of foreign trips and a halt to economic activity, especially in some parts of China, which had a negative impact on the economies of the Far East.

Apple, a mobile phone producer, said the disruption in China's economic activities would benefit its production and supply and lower its profits.

Singapore Airlines has also said that because of the pest, demand for air travel due to the spread of the disease, it has reduced its flight plans worldwide, especially in the Middle East.

President of South Korea, Moon Jae-in, said the outbreak was an economic crisis.

The Hong Kong local government has also said it plans to raise \$3.6 billion to help tackle the economic impact of the virus. Particularly when Liu Zhiming, director of a hospital in Wuhan, died of the disease, and shortly before him, the doctor who first had detected the virus, also lost his life.

The Chinese economy was more stable in the last three months of the year. The initial trade agreement between the United States and China was one of the factors contributing to the stabilization of the country's economic situation. After a record slowdown in China's economic growth rate in the last three months of last year, hopes for a recovery in China's economy have been raised.

Need to mention that China's economic growth rate in the last three quarters of last year had reached six percent, and this has been unprecedented in the past three decades.

The main center of the COVID-19 outbreak is Wuhan City. Wuhan is very important from the point of view of transportation of goods. Many of the world's largest corporations, including the German companies like Bosch, have branches in the city. Branches that play an important role in transporting goods to these companies.



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

Now these companies have had to change the route they transport their goods. China's economic growth rate fell by about one percent during the SARS outbreak.

According to economic analysts this time around, the Corona Virus could cut China's economic growth rate by one and a half percent.

Control of the SARS virus in China took seven months. Whenever it is time to control the coronavirus, it is conceivable that the economic consequences will be wider than the crisis in SARS.

The proliferation of the Corona Virus has taken the breath of the stock markets in Germany and other European countries. The price of the DEX Stock in Germany dropped to its lowest level in February this year.

The rapid spread of the virus in Italy and South Korea has cast a shadow of fears and anxieties once again over the weekend. The price of the stock market indexes, including DEX, declined harshly in Germany, and oil prices dropped sharply.

Alongside this trend is its own market in China, which is one of the largest markets for Japanese and German cars. There was a significant crisis, and China's sales in the first two weeks of February saw a decline of 6 percent.

The tourism industry is one of the areas where the spread of the Corona virus has had a direct impact. Recent developments suggest that the only tourism industry in Asia has lost close to \$115 billion in the Corona outbreak.

Experts from Dutch bank ING have released a report called "Vacation in Hell", stating that tourist trips to and from China have been suspended.

On the one hand, it takes time to take away travel restrictions and on the other hand, the tourists themselves are much more cautious and try not to lower the risk factor and to avoid traveling to or from China.

According to estimates from the Oxford Institute of New Economic Thinking, the virus has spoiled about \$1.1 trillion in global economic activity.

Reducing China's economic growth from 6 percent to about 5 percent in 2020 could lead to a 1 percent decline in world economic growth, as China accounts for 32



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

percent of global economy growth, about 20 percent of world GDP, 12 percent of total exports. And 9% of the world's total imports are involved. This impact could undermine the growth rate of the world economy and destabilize financial markets.

Decline in world oil prices (down from \$ 70 per barrel in December 2019 to \$ 56 per barrel in February 2020).

Demand for gold increased (the price of gold rose to \$1,680 an ounce while in December 2019 it was around \$1,520).

China is one of the largest manufacturers of flash memory and small components for electronics manufacturers such as Apple, Nissan and Honda in the world. The price of these small electronics has risen by 25 percent.

World Airlines will lose nearly \$30billion in revenue by 2020, according to estimates by the International Air Transport Association.

Decline in the tourism industry globally, in 2019 the world tourism industry was valued at about \$1 trillion, with the Chinese share of the industry alone at \$127 billion.

China's economic growth rate is likely to decline by 1% if the emergency continues due to the spread of the Corona virus. China's economic difficulties can have a devastating effect on the German economy and other countries in the world.

Countries whose economic structure is export-dependent are more affected by the spread of the Corona virus. It's not just about the Chinese economy. Countries like Germany will also face severe economic problems as a result of the slowdown in economic growth.

The economic consequences of continuing a state of emergency due to the outbreak can be estimated from the experience of past 17 years or it could be a huge loss if it takes a long time to cure the virus.³

³ <https://youtu.be/BrDc6KpW1uo>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.bbc.com/persian/amp/world-51542011>

<https://youtu.be/4afVJz2YJPO>



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies - Kabul

Contact Us: _____

Email: info@csrskabul.com - csrskabul@gmail.com

Website: www.csrskabul.com - www.csrskabul.af

Office: (+93) 202564049 - (+93) (0) 784089590

Note: Please let us know your feedback and suggestions for the improvement of Weekly analysis.



<https://youtu.be/4afVJz2YJPO>

<http://www.daneshnamah.com/>