Qureshi Had ‘Productive Meetings’ with Afghan Leaders

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Qureshi says the Afghan peace process is making positive headway.

Rabbani, Qureshi Discuss Renewed Peace Push

KABUL - Pakistan’s foreign minister on Monday said a stable Afghanistan was in the best interest of his country and reiterated, promising sustained efforts for stabilizing the underdeveloped neighbour.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi arrived in Kabul this morning to meet his Afghan counterpart and other senior officials. The Foreign Min-

ister in Kabul said Salamul Rehman Rabbani met Qureshi on the re-

turned peace process.

Qureshi insisted on Pakistan’s policy of non-intervention in Af-

ghanistan, promising sustained efforts for Afghan-led and Afghan-

owned peace process and next steps after intra-Afghan talks, the statement said. In this meeting, the importance of regional and world countries’ coop-

eration was highlighted in the peace process of Afghanistan, the statement said.

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Qureshi said he had productive meetings with Afghan leaders. (More on P4)

Justice, Counterterrorism Ministries Survive No Trust Vote

KABUL - Counterterrorism Min-

ister Salamat Azizi and Justice Min-

ister Abdul Basir Anwar on Monday survived no confidence motions after they satisfied law-

makers about their ministries’ budget spending. Both the minis-

tries, transport and telecommunications and IT over spending less than 70 percent of their develop-

ment budget from 132 billion afghanis in 1397 fiscal year to 124 billion afghanis for 1398 fiscal year.

The IWA said the government instead of im-

plementing its anti-corruption campaign, it was working on drafting anti-corruption laws against its members, shall make inquiries into the proposal of 20 percent of all its members, will make inquiries into the proposal of 20 percent of all its members, shall make inquiries against... (More on P4)

National Budget Plan Still Subject to Abuse, Finds IWA

On Monday, the Office of the President of the Islamic Republic announced the development of a national budget plan for the year 1397, which includes the creation of a special budget to be allocated for government projects.

The government has been criticized for its poor budget planning and misuse of public funds. The national budget plan is intended to address these issues by allocating specific funds for government projects and ensuring that these funds are used appropriately.

The Office of the President of the Islamic Republic has also called for increased transparency and accountability in the budget planning process. The government has been urged to ensure that the budget plan is based on sound economic principles and that it takes into account the needs of the country.

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Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Qureshi said he had productive meetings with Afghan leaders. (More on P4)

KABUL - Major political parties and movements on Monday said the Independent Election Commission (IEC) is not capable of holding credible presidential elections. They called on government to bring inclusive re-

forms within the election management body.

The parties said they have decided to support a candidate in the presidential elections who will promise to change the election system in the country.

“The issues which we saw around the parliamentary elections show the failure and inefficiency of the election commission; therefore, the political parties and civil society institutions and even gov-

ernment believe that the commission must im-

prove the elections in a successful manner with its present capacity,” said Humayun Jari, member of the political committee of the political parties and movements.

The parties called on judicial institutions to in-

vestigate “large-scale fraud” in the parliamentary elections. (More on P4)

Most Vulnerable Afghans Being Helped to Survive

KABUL - The UN refugee agency UNHCR is pro-

viding life-saving assistance to some 150,000 most vulnerable families across Afghanistan to help them survive the harsh winter.

As of December 24, over 50,000 of the most vulnerable families have been reached as part of the winterization program, a UNHCR statement said.

The families include returns, internally dis-

placed persons (IDPs), refugees and members of host communities across the country.

UNHCR, together with the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) and a num-

ber of partners are distributing cash assistance to these families in all 34 provinces.

As part of the program, UNHCR and MoRR are also distributing cash assistance to some 17,500 vulner-

able families across Afghanistan to help them survive the harsh winter.

“Provision of support in the form of uncondi-

tional cash assistance, approximately US$20, for identified beneficiaries will help keep them dry and warm while long-term sustainable solutions for protected... (More on P4)

Political Parties Doubt IEC’s Ability to Hold Presidential Election

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