US-Iran Tensions May Affect Afghanistan: Qureshi

BRUSSELS - Pakistan has called for negotiations between Iran and the United States on defusing bilateral tensions, which could jeopardise the situation in Afghanistan. Qureshi added: “We want to see a negotiated way out of these tensions. I don’t think heightened tensions in the region will help the US or Iran”, the Pakistani foreign minister said in an interview.

Speaking exclusively to Eironews On Wednesday, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said: “I would err on the side of caution and would suggest restraint.”

On Monday, the Trump administration slapped sanctions on Iran’s supreme leader and other top officials after Tehran doused an unmanned American drone. “President Trump had made a commitment to the people of the US that he would pull out American troops from Afghanistan, the foreign minister said.

With the presidential vote drawing closer in the US, Qureshi believed, Trump had held out the promise to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. “He also has to see the gains Afghanistan.

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“We are close to peace deal now than ever before,” Qureshi said. “All NATO allies strongly support the peace efforts and the best way to do that is to continue staying committed to Afghanistan to continue to provide political support but continue to support the Afghan army and security forces with train and funding.”

NATO defense ministers will hold a two-day meeting on the alliance’s defense-spending as well as Afghanistan among other issues. “First I think we should all welcome the fact that there are talks. Because after years without a real peace process we have seen over the last months that there is a real process taking place. And there are talks between the Taliban and the United States,” he said.

“These talks are the only way to peace and ambassador [Zalmay] Khalilzad, the US peace negotiator as consulting closely with all NATO allies, has been here in NATO Headquarters many times and they will continue to consult.”

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BIDDING

The NATO Secretary Jens Stoltenberg at a press briefing in Brussels on Wednesday said that “a real peace process” is taking place in Afghanistan and that the international community is closer to a peace deal in Afghanistan.

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The NATO chief says the international community is closer to a peace deal more than ever.

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Procurement Entities

NPA on behalf of Ministry of Finance, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Tended By

World Bank

Item Description / Ref No.

Procuring Internet services for 28 ASCODA Sites of Customs Department

NPA/Mul/98/NCs-2524/1CB

Deadline for submission of Bids

August 07, 2019 at 10:00 Hours (Local Time).

The public opening of Bids received will be held immediately after the deadline.

Address for Bid submission

National Procurement Authority (NPA)

Administrative Office of the President (AOP) | Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Ms. Safiullah Akhozai, Mob: (+93) 207-144788

Web: www.npa.gov.af

safiullah.akhozai@npa.gov.af,

Copied to: mirwais.rahimi@npa.gov.af,

www.npa.gov.af

Interested bidders may download the complete Bidding Documents from NPA website www.ageops.net

Websites

In case of any problem in downloading, may obtain the same by download the complete Bidding Documents from NPA website www.ageops.net

Bid Security

USD 20,000 (US Dollar Twenty Thousand).

KARLIE - National Security Advisor (NSA) on Wednesday met with China’s Special Envoy for Afghanistan Deng Xuian in Kabul and discussed matters related to peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Xuian briefed NSA Mohib on China’s recent efforts for peace talks. He reaffirmed China’s support for Afghan-led and owned process, & offered China’s proposal as guarantor to any agreement. (More on Pk-2)

KARLIE - The Afghan government leaders on Wednesday welcomed U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton’s visit on Tuesday. He visited India after his trip to Kabul.

“It was a pleasure to host Secretary Pompeo to-day & we discussed a wide range of issues, including,...”

Mumbai Trade Mission Nets $123 Million in Contracts for Afghan Agriculture Exporters

Mumbai - Exports of Afghanistan’s finest fruits, nuts, spices and juices left a Mumbai trade event this week with contracts worth more than $25 million from buyers in India, one of the most lucrative trade events for Afghan agriculture exporters in recent years.

More than 35 exporters showcased their products at the two-day “Made in Afghanistan” event, which was organized by USAID in partnership with the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, and the New York Chamber of Commerce & Industries. Fruit led the way with $56 million in deals, followed by Asafoetida, or ‘hing,’ a spice used in food and cosmetics, with $43 million in deals. Contracts worth $33 million were signed for nuts, primarily for pistachios and almonds. Saf-