Obama to Slow US Drawdown in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - President Obama plans to keep most of the 10,000 US troops in Afghanistan in the country through 2015 — and keep open two key airfields — as part of an effort to slow the US withdrawal and help prop up Afghan forces, officials said.

Eager to avoid a repeat of Iraq, where US forces' rapid withdrawal has filled a void left by US forces, the Obama administration plans to announce changes... (More on Pa.19)

President All Praise for Sacrifices of American Troops

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama said on Monday US military sacrifices in Iraq and Afghanistan were beyond compare and said the US had been "exceptional" when fighting in both wars.

"The American people have given their all," Obama said in a statement after a service at the Pentagon. "I want to pay tribute to more than 2,000 Americans who paid the ultimate sacrifice. To more than 20,000 American soldiers who have been wounded in action. I want to thank the families, the loved ones of our fallen and injured comrades for their sacrifices.

"There were times when our military advised us to go further, and we took that advice. But we also kept to the plan and valuable lessons were learned.

Islamabad Plans to Build Peshawar-Kabul Motorway

ISLAMABAD: Plans were announced Monday to build a motorway between Peshawar in Pakistan and Kabul in Afghanistan.

"The idea was to ensure the economic growth of Central Asia and the region," Pakistan's economic minister, who led the delegation, told the press.

"The project will be funded by the World Bank," the minister said.

Kabul will be Graveyard of Daesh: Ghani Aide

WASHINGTON - With the increasing capabilities and strength of the security forces, Afghanistan will prove a "graveyard" of Daesh, a senior Afghan official said ahead of Afghan-US talks at Camp David.

"Afghan officials have been discussing how to ensure the success of the talks with the US. Afghanistan will be a graveyard of Daesh," Ahmad Jan, the deputy minister of defence, said.

New Afghan Leader More Cooperative than Karzai

WASHINGTON - The new Afghan Government led by the President, Ashraf Ghani, and his deputy, Abdullah Abdullah, is more cooperative and better than the previous one headed by Hamid Karzai, top US administration officials have said.

"This is a different relationship than we had under President Karzai. It's a good move," US officials said... (More on Pa.19)

Kidnappers Give Condition for Releasing 31 Abducted Civilians

KARJALI - The group of unidentified gunmen who have kidnapped 31 civilians in Jowzjan province has given a condition for the release of the abducted civilians.

The inquest group has reportedly asked for the release of their people from jails in exchange for the civilians.

Hamidullah Torki, a member of Parliament in Radio Free Europe (Azadi Radio) that (More on Pa.19)

keep talking...

25 minutes
15 afs/day

65 minutes
25 afs/day

150 + 50 minutes
free sms

except from 5 pm to 9 pm

except from 5 pm to 9 pm

to activate sms 801 to 3378

to activate sms 900 to 3378

to activate sms 700 to 3378

Only from Etisalat to Etisalat numbers.
MAMNOON HUSSAIN, PRESIDENT ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

The 23rd of March marks the momentous occasion when Muslims of India resolved to struggle for an independent state based on principles of equality and justice. It was on this day, 75 years ago, that great thinkers and political leaders came together to embark upon the journey for independence. Quaid-e-Azam realized that it was the right of every Muslim of South Asia to enjoy freedom equal to and social justice. Millions of people sacrificed their lives to realize the dream of Pakistan.

To mark this historic occasion, I would like to urge all citizens of Pakistan to renew their resolve to bring their country to the forefront of the comity of nations. We are committed to remove all threats and challenges. Women and children, civilians and soldiers alike, have been targeted by terrorists and extremists. Our schools and our place of worship have been attacked. This brings us to gather to remind us of the great struggle and commitment that accomplished the state of Pakistan. Today Pakistan needs the same fortitude and commitment from its citizens to unite against evil forces. We must forget our differences and reclaim our country.

Pakistan Zindabad

MUHAMMAD NAZAW SHARIF, PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN ON PAKISTAN

Three quarters of a century have elapsed since the Muslims of subcontinent irreversibly resolved to seek their own independent Muslim state. Their resolve Quaid declared that Muslims of South Asia were an independent nation by any definition. He led them to wage a struggle for a state based on principles of social justice, self-determination and equality. The independence struggle witnessed countless victories but the Quaid never flinched from his avowed objective. The firm commitment of the Quaid wholeheartedly backed by the Muslim nation ultimately succeeded in carving out an independent homeland. The Quaid bequeathed to his people the Promised Land with the exhortation to preserve and protect it for future generations. The sons of a century later Quaid’s Pakistan is grappling to overcome unprecedented threats and challenges.

Pakistan Painbad

SYED ABRAR HUSSAIN, AMBASSADOR OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Today, we are celebrating the 23rd anniversary of the adoption of Pakistan Resolution. On this auspicious day, the Muslims of the Sub-Continent expressed their resolve to achieve an independent country of their own. The Resolution instilled the spirit of unity and extra-ordinary courage among the Muslims of India to have a separate homeland. With the blessings of Almighty Allah, Muslims of the Sub-Continent, under the sagacious leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, succeeded in their mission, in a short span of seven years, and Pakistan came into being on 14th August, 1947.

Pakistan Day, each year, is an occasion to reiterate our commitment to the ideals for which Pakistan was created and to pay tribute to our founding fathers. It is a day of struggle, hardship, suffered and sacrifice.

Today, we also renew our pledge to pursue and promote constructive engagement with our brotherly country, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in all areas. A stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan is not only in the vital interest of Pakistan but of the entire region. Pakistan, therefore, supports all efforts being made by the Afghan government to achieve this goal. Pakistan has also been actively contributing to the war-effort of the Afghan government.

Pakistan Zindabad

CONGRATULATIONS ON PAKISTAN’S NATIONAL DAY

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Kabul Afghanistan

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Pakistan – Afghanistan Relations

By M. Ansari

Pakistan attaches high priority to close friendly and cooperative relations with Afghanistan and works hard to maintain a broad-based, mutually beneficial relationship. A peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan remains in Pakistan's best interests.

The Government in Pakistan has invigorated a new era of cooperation and understanding between the two countries. The Prime Minister, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, paid an official visit to Afghanistan on November 20, 2009. The Prime Minister also held separate bilateral meeting with President Karzai. During the visit, the Prime Minister and President Karzai reaffirmed the commitment to improving trade and economic ties between the two countries and also discussed Pakistan's interest in the development of Afghanistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have been working closely to improve bilateral relations and economic cooperation. A high-level delegation from Afghanistan visited Pakistan in February 2012 to discuss ways to further enhance bilateral relations.

Economic Headway

By A. Mirza

Pakistan is facing enormous security, economic and energy challenges. The current government is struggling hard to overcome these challenges and put the country on the fast track economic and social development. Pakistan's economy suffered US$10 billion losses due to the war on terror during the last 13 years. Despite all these challenges, the government initiated structural reform programmes for improving the economy which ultimately started paying dividends. It is due to the prudent policies of the government that the economy of the country started growing and would expand 5 percent this year.

The inflation has been damped into single digits of 6 percent and extreme poverty reduced by 13 percent. The government has also taken coordinated measures to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country and it is hoped that the investors from all over the world will take full advantage of the investment opportunities in Pakistan. The economic indicators of the country are improving and the leading international institutions have also recognized this fact. It is very significant that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan's economy's key partner, has approved 4.3 percent for Pakistan, compared with five years average of 3.6 percent. Similarly, Bloomberg, an international reliable economic monitoring organization, in its recent report has also lauded the Nawaz Sharif Government for successfully turning the economy of Pakistan around.

The report says that the civilian government faced challenges on the political and security fronts but was able to improve income and overcome the budget deficit. Owing to the prudent policies of the government, Pakistan's exports to European countries increased by more than one billion after a landmark deal last year with the European Union (EU) which made Pakistan its most competitive country. European Union signed the law in late 2013, opening Pakistan CSS status which allows tax exemption to Pakistan on certain categories of goods exported to European countries. The foreign remittances of the country also witnessed a surge around 15 percent this year as 11.79 billion dollars were sent by overseas Pakistanis during July to November 2013, a growth of 17.5 percent over the same period of the previous year, was 13 percent.

The Government has taken certain steps for stabilizing the economy, including raising of USD 0.2 billion through Eurobond after 7 years, USD 1.6 billion through International Sukuk after 9 years and successful auction of 3G-4G licences. The successful policies of the government resulted in organizing the confidence of the international financial institutions making Pakistan eligible to borrow from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) $250 million for the development of small oxygen plants. The IMF also optimistically maintained that it would take the conditions of the $6.4 billion loan it received last year.

Pakistan has initiated a number of projects in the energy and infrastructure sector which would be unprecedentedly boost its economy. For example, the Pak-China Economic Corridor, which would be built in the Chinese assistance, will change the destiny of the region in terms of social and economic development. Pakistan has also endeavored to enhance the trade and investment ties with the countries of the region. The corridor is not going to benefit Pakistan and China alone but it would also benefit Central Asian States, Afghanistan and other countries of the region.

In order to bring economic stability in the country, the government has embarked upon an ambitious programme for energy generation through various sources including hydro, thermal, wind, solar, and alternative resources. There are plans to generate 12,000 megawatts of power in the next three years which will help eliminate power load shedding and give a boost to economic growth.

NBP Vision:

To be recognized as a leader and a brand synonymous with trust, highest standards of service quality, socially responsible and respected.
A Glance at the Backgrounds of the 16 Cabinet Nominees

KABUL - The list of cabinet nominees, submitted by President Ashraf Ghani just before the end of the six-month deadline, still contains an element of intrigue and fear for the future of the Afghan state. The nomination of the new ministers is expected to be announced soon.

The government in Kabul has seen more than half of its cabinet resign in power without appointing their own leaders to key ministerial positions, which has caused an increase in the number of ministerial appointments and service provision around the country.

Efforts Ongoing to Reopen Closed Schools

QAMAT - Education officials say efforts would be made throughout the new academic year to reopen schools which had been closed due to security or administrative reasons in southern Zabul province. They have stressed that schools will be reopened if the security situation permits.

Three new schools were reopened at a gathering marking the start of the new academic year at Zhabba, Zabul province. Zabul provincial Education official presided over the ceremony.

Education Director, Mullah Mohibullah, said the

Pakola Schools, Seminaries to Get New Buildings

SHARISHA - The Education department of Sharisha district announced on Monday that 11 schools and 12 girls' schools would get new buildings, while 45 other schools would get new classrooms in upcoming years.

Local Director Shaheen Jafari said he planned to reopen 20 closed schools of the district within the first week of the new academic year. Local education rights activist said the

Taliban, Illegal Gunmen Terrorizing Residents

KINDIN - The residents of northern Kunduz province on Monday complained of a heavy presence of illegal and armed men, saying that local officials had failed to disarm them.

A local council said the sighting of a group of illegal armed men who failed to be disarmed was bringing the security situation to a very serious point. The council added that the local community was in perilous situation. The council also called on the provincial authorities and local security forces to take necessary measures to end the illegal activities.

Haqqani Network Weapon Depots Seized

KABUL - The Afghan security forces on Tuesday seized 24 weapon depots in southern Baghlan province. The depots, which were located in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, were used by the Haqqani network to stage attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The statement further added that the find will be useful to the Afghan Security forces, which have captured a number of Haqqani terrorists.

2 Civilians Killed in Explosion

HERAT CITY - Two civilians were killed in an explosion in eastern Herat province.

The explosion took place in the vicinity of a hospital in Herat city. The statement further added that the find will be useful to the Afghan Security forces, which have captured a number of Haqqani terrorists.

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You need to be more careful whenever you make any decision today because you believe that logic isn't always the most important factor in your life. Your friends will try to remind you to be more logical but it would be better if you could just go with your gut feelings.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You might have a plan but it is not going to work out as planned because you need to be more flexible in your thinking. Your dreams are not as important as the present moment and you should follow your instincts.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 20)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 22)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You need to be more careful today because your dreams may not turn out as you expected. It's a good idea to be more flexible and change your plans accordingly.

There seems to be a lot at stake today and you are tempted to take extreme action. However, this is not the best time to act on your emotions. It would be better if you waited to see what happens before you take any action.

There seems to be a lot at stake today and you are tempted to take extreme action. However, this is not the best time to act on your emotions. It would be better if you waited to see what happens before you take any action.

You have an eye on the distant horizon now as you consider the vast array of choices that are available to you. Your current need to redefine your personal identity and the possibilities you see will be brought into focus by current events in your life. However, you may be driven to redefine your personal identity and the possibilities you see will be brought into focus by current events in your life.
The First and Final Drop!

By Muhammad Razaullah Shafi

The story is very amusing from the beginning to its end. A man named Muhammad Razaullah Shafi was on a road trip with his wife. He thought he had bought the latest model of a car, but it turned out to be a lemon. The car was constantly breaking down and they were forced to spend countless hours fixing it. Eventually, they decided to sell it and buy a new one.

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1 Obama to banana: In the morning days of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the US, the US has dealt with the Afghan government. The Afghan government has been accused of threatening the security environment because of the 40,000 NY US soldiers in the region. Obama has said that there are no plans to withdraw thousands of troops from Afghanistan for the year 2013, and US forces would remain in the Karzai’s government. Obama has announced that the Afghan government has lost the support of the US government.

2 Kidnap victims: The siege of the hospital in Kabul resulted in the death of 15 people and the kidnapping of 20 people. The siege began on May 25, 2013 and lasted for two days. The siege was carried out by a group of Taliban fighters who had taken control of the hospital.

3 Afghanistan: The government of Afghanistan has announced that it will release 3,000 prisoners in order to facilitate the process of official reconciliation and the reduction of the security situation in the country. The government has been accused of using the prisoners as a bargaining chip in negotiations with the Taliban.

4 Mek: The burning of a copy of the Quran, an Islamic holy book, in Afghanistan, has been condemned by various governments and religious leaders.

5 Afghan government: The Afghan government has announced that it will begin a new round of negotiations with the Taliban to find a political solution to the conflict in the country.

6 New Afghan government: The new Afghan government has been announced, with Abdullah Abdullah as the new president and Ashraf Ghani as the new vice president. The government has been described as a broad-based government, with representatives from all major political groups in Afghanistan.

7 Taliban: The Taliban have announced a new leadership and have called for a new round of negotiations with the Afghan government. The Taliban have been accused of using the negotiations as a means to gain political leverage.

8 Chinese government: The Chinese government has announced that it will increase its military presence in Afghanistan, in order to support the Afghan government in its efforts to stabilize the country.

9 Pakistan: The Pakistani government has announced that it will begin a new round of negotiations with the Taliban to find a political solution to the conflict in the country.

10 Taliban: The Taliban have announced a new leadership and have called for a new round of negotiations with the Afghan government. The Taliban have been accused of using the negotiations as a means to gain political leverage.

11 Backroom promises: The US government has announced that it will provide $3 billion in economic and military aid to Afghanistan, in order to support the Afghan government in its efforts to stabilize the country.

12 In preparing the context: The US government has announced that it will provide $3 billion in economic and military aid to Afghanistan, in order to support the Afghan government in its efforts to stabilize the country.
No U.S. Intelligence in Yemen or Syria, McCaul warns

President Vladimir Putin’s promise to pull back his forces in Syria this week triggered a round of recriminations, with Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Iraq all issuing warnings that the pullback would benefit their enemies. The move also raised concerns about the future of the peace process in Syria, where the United States and its allies have been pushing for a political solution.

Putin backs Two Senior Kremlin Officials

Amid Speculation of Turf Wars

A report in the Russian media that Putin has named two senior officials to replace top posts in the Kremlin has sparked speculation about a possible power shift. Putin is said to have appointed the head of the Federal Security Service (FSB) and the head of the Federal Service for the Protection of Economic Activities to key posts in the government. The moves are seen as a signal of Putin’s efforts to consolidate his power and neutralize potential threats.

U.S. Military in Afghanistan

The United States has increased its military presence in Afghanistan, with reports indicating that the country is now hosting more than 20,000 troops. The move is part of a broader strategy to stabilize the country and combat terrorism. The U.S. military has been in Afghanistan since 2001, following the 9/11 attacks.

Israel Ehud Barak

On a visit to the United States, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak met with U.S. officials to discuss the situation in Syria and the Middle East. Barak, known for his tough stance on Iran, is expected to discuss measures to prevent a military confrontation in the region.

No Military Solution to Ukraine Conflict: Germany’s Steinmeier

The German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, has warned against a military solution to the conflict in Ukraine, saying that the situation is too complex for military action. Steinmeier called for diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis, which has been ongoing since 2014.

No U.S. Intelligence in Yemen or Syria, McCaul warns

In a report released by the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator Richard Burr, the committee’s Republican chairman, said there is no evidence of U.S. intelligence in Yemen or Syria. Burr said the report highlights the need for better intelligence sharing and coordination among U.S. agencies.

India to Indicate to the United States on FTA: Nirmita Rishivan

India’s commerce minister, Nirmita Rishivan, said the country is ready to sign a free trade agreement with the United States, provided that the agreement is fair and balanced. Rishivan said India is ready to negotiate on a wide range of issues, including agriculture, services, and intellectual property rights.

China and Europe

The concept of a “One Belt, One Road” initiative has sparked a debate in China and Europe, with some countries expressing concern about its potential impact on their economies. The initiative, which involves the construction of infrastructure projects across Asia, Africa, and Europe, has been criticized for its potential to undermine free trade and create a new economic bloc.

No Military Solution to Ukraine Conflict: Germany’s Steinmeier

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has reiterated Germany’s position that a military solution to the conflict in Ukraine is not viable. Steinmeier said Germany has been working with other countries to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative

The Chinese government has announced plans to invest $1 trillion in the Belt and Road Initiative over the next decade. The initiative, which aims to connect China with Europe, Africa, and Asia, has been controversial, with concerns raised about its environmental and economic impact.

No Military Solution to Ukraine Conflict: Germany’s Steinmeier

The German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, has emphasized the need for a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Ukraine, saying that military action is not an option.

No Military Solution to Ukraine Conflict: Germany’s Steinmeier

Germany’s foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, has repeatedly called for a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Ukraine, saying that military action would only inflame the situation.

No Military Solution to Ukraine Conflict: Germany’s Steinmeier

Steinmeier’s comments come as the situation in Ukraine remains tense, with tensions between Russia and Ukraine continuing. Steinmeier said Germany remains committed to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

No Military Solution to Ukraine Conflict: Germany’s Steinmeier

Steinmeier’s comments come as the situation in Ukraine remains tense, with tensions between Russia and Ukraine continuing. Steinmeier said Germany remains committed to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.
Ghani, Carter Remark on Future of Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - President Ashraf Ghani and his gen-
ing partner, Dr. Abdul-
lah Abdullah, have made a
clear to the Afghan people that for all the assistance
that the U.S. military and
international community
provides, the future of Af-
ghanistan is ultimately for
the Afghans to "grab hold of
for Afghans to de-

cide." U.S. Defense Secre-
tary Ash Carter said on
Monday in a joint Fontaine
appearance with Ghani.

MPS Seek Deterrent Punishment for Farmkhanda's Killers

KARUL - Some Wadij MPA members on Monday demanded the govern-
ment award harsh punishment to the individuals involved in the broad-
daylight lynching of a 27-year-old woman in Kabul.

The woman, Farmkhanda, was subjected to mob violence on Thursday after
she was accused of. (More on Pgle. 09)

Police are Responsible for Farmkhanda's Killings: Protesters

KARUL - Dozens of citizens with a
large number of women from (civil
society) groups rallied to Kabul on
Monday to protest the brutal killing of Farmkhanda, who was set on fire by
angry civilians over alleged burning of Holy Quraan.

The members of National Solidarity
Party also attended the protest held
near Shah-e-Doh Shahrmosh Mosque of Kabul where the. (More on Pgle. 09)

In A Major Boost, AAF Gets 6 Armored Commanders

KARUL - In a significant boost, the first six of 17 armored helicopters have been
delivered to the recent Afghan Air Force (AAF).<br>
NATO said on Sunday, <br>
The MPA-300 Guppy WP-
ner helicopters are sched-
uled for delivery over the
next several months. The
delivery marks a milestone in
efforts to supply military
aircraft to the AAF.<br>
In a statement, NATO hailed the
delivery as a success for the Combined Security Transi-

tion Command – Afghanistan
(CSTC-A) and the ad-
sorers training and assisting
Afghan pilots.<br>
Discussions for the MD-530 begin
In June 2014, when<br>
NATO Air Command-Af-
ghanistan (NCMA) was asked by the RAAF com-
mander to look at ways to deliver the AAF organic

Barakzai Promises Reform, Decision on Removal of Current EC Members

KARUL - MP Shaher Barakzai, the
Chairman of the new Electoral Reform
Commission, has vowed to bring re-
forms to the structure and authorities
of the national Electoral Commission (EC), indicating that some committed
members could be removed from their
positions. The statement was made
\nd just before President Ashraf
Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah
Abdullah departed for their trip to the
United States. Under mounting pres-
sure to put an electoral reform, Presi-
dent Ghani. (More on Pgle. 03)

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