Obama Can do Iran Nuclear Deal Even if Congress Disapproves

WASHINGTON — The September vote on the Iran bill that is billed as a titanic standoff between President Barack Obama and Congress. Yet even if U.S. lawmakers reject the agreement, it’s not game over for the White House.

A congressional vote of disapproval would not prevent Obama from acting on his own to start the record-clock. While he probably would take some heavy criticism, this course would let him add the foreign policy breakthrough to his second-term list of accomplishments. Obama doesn’t need a congressional OK to give Iran most of the billions of dollars in relief from economic sanctions that it would get under the agreement, at least as Tehran sees its commitments to curb its nuclear program. “A resolution to disapprove the Iran agreement may have substantial political reverberations, but limited practical impact,” says Robert Storck of the Washington Institute for Near

Text Policy: “would not override Presi- dent Obama’s authority to enter into the agreement.”[AF]

KABUL — A three days polio vaccination campaign covering more than 16 million children under five years of age got underway across Afghanistan on Saturday. Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz got personally inaugurates the first round of polio vaccination campaign, said teams would be visiting every house to administer polio drops to chil- dren. Besides the polio vaccination, as many as two mil- lion children would be provided with Vitamin A drops, he remarked. He urged parents to make sure their children receive the vaccines. “Poliomyelitis is under control. The incidence has decreased,” he said. [More on Pn 16-20]

KABUL — First Lady Rula Ghani on Sunday underscored the need that the government and people should join hands “to create awareness against drug addiction.”

Rula Ghani mentioned that muscles should be informed about adverse effect of drug use through media. “Media play important role in all aspects of life. Media should introduce television plays, discussions and several other options to join hands against drug addiction” she added.

Counterterrorism Minister Bismillah Khan (Khan) and Saniat Azimi said: “Media is one of the basic and effective tools to create awareness and changing behavior.” [More on Pn 15-16]

KABUL — The Medicine Importing Companies Union – a private sector union – on Sunday announced that its affiliated companies will no longer import pharmaceuti- cal products from Pakistan in protest over the cuts in excise duties on the coun- try, for which Pakistan has been blamed. The decision was reportedly immediately backed by the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACC). Members of the Medicine Importing Compa- nies (MIMC) said that the practice of excise duties on medical products had been reduced from 10% to 5%.

KABUL — The Refugees and Repatriation Minister on Sunday said the number of Afghan families returning from Iran and Pakistan witnessed a three-fold increase during the first six months of the year. Syed Hussain Alavi Baloch told reporters in Kabul about 17,000 refugees had returned from Iran and Pakistan during the same period in 2014.

Most of the families returned from Iran. They includ- ed around 30,000 refugees who had been lacking legal stay documents. [More on Pn 9]