Obama Proposes $1b Additional Support for Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama on Monday proposed $1 billion in economic support fund for a reform- driven government in Kabul. This is in addition to more than $50 million for the Afghan national security forces.

"With a new reform-minded government in Kabul and Afghan security forces leading operations across the country, this will be perhaps the most critical phase of solidifying the program made over the last decade," the State Department said.

FY 2016 resources remain essential to maintaining Afghan stability following the 2014 security transition and forming economic development that would gradually lessen the country’s reliance on international assistance.

The 2016... (More on P.10)

US Defence Nominee to Rethink Afghan Pullout Plan

KABUL - The US defence secretary designate on Tuesday took his first step towards stopping American forces leaving Afghanistan by the end of 2016 in case the security environment deteriorated.

In a written response to a question from the Senate Armed Services Committee, Ashton Carter said, he might suggest changes to the timelines for the US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani welcomed the European Union Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the European Union Delegation, Ambassador Wolfgang Horst, to stress the European Union’s future engagement in Afghanistan.

President Ghani, in a long meeting with the Afghan people and our support to Afghanistan will continue to be at an exceptional level, he said. (More on P.10)

EU Invites President Ghani to New Partnership

Under the motto “a new government – a new kind of Partnership”, EU Ambassador met with President Ghani to kick off the future cooperation.

Private Sector’s Support Sought for Curbing Corruption

KABUL - Reumaan and Custom Affairs Director, Gul Meenaz Amir, on Tuesday urged private sector businesses to help the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in eradicating corruption.

Speaking at a one-day seminar on the tax calculation system, he claimed the government had fought against corruption in the past 13 years and achieved many targets, but he acknowledged customs departments were yet to be plagued of corruption – a big challenge. He told businessmen to contact MoF officials in case they were asked for illegal gratification. (More on P.10)

Stalemate over Provincial Councils’ Role Resolved

KABUL - The provincial councils reached an agreement with the government regarding their role in supervision and evaluation of local public services. However, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) said on Tuesday.

Tavabi Ghanbari told Jibhu- wak Afghan Times the provincial councils’... (More on P.10)

Afghanistan Needs to Root out ISIS and Taliban: Iran

KABUL - Mohammad Al-Aly-Jarah, councillor of Iran in Afghanistan’s lower house of parliament, on Monday warned that Afghanistan needs to root out Islamic States of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) which also goes by ISIS and its Arab name Daesh.

He has told Voice of America (VOA) that “Iran is optimistic by the formation of new National Unity Government in Afghanistan, administration and manage- ment of new officials, the government will eliminate ISIL and Taliban who... (More on P.10)