

### (1) Trump Unveils ...

definition. — attacking our enemies, obliterating ISIS, crushing al Qaeda, preventing the Taliban from taking over Afghanistan, and stopping mass terror attacks against America before they emerge. We will ask our NATO allies and global partners to support our new strategy, with additional troop and funding increases in line with our own. We are confident they will," Trump stated.

He said the new strategy of the US for Afghanistan will be conditions-based. "As a result of our comprehensive review, American strategy in Afghanistan and South Asia will change dramatically in the following ways: A core pillar of our new strategy is a shift from a time-based approach to one based on conditions."

"Another fundamental pillar of our new strategy is the integration of all instruments of American power, diplomatic, economic, and military, toward a successful outcome," he added.

He also talked about giving more authority to the troops on the ground. "We will also expand authority for American armed forces to target the terrorists and criminal networks that sow violence and chaos throughout Afghanistan," the US president said.

He added that their mission in Afghanistan will be to eliminate terrorists.

"Ultimately, it is up to the people of Afghanistan to take ownership of their future, to govern their society, and to achieve an everlasting peace. We are a partner and a friend, but we will not dictate to the Afghan people how to live or how to govern their own complex society. We are not nation building again. We are killing terrorists," he added.

He also talked about the expansion of US forces authorities in the country.

"We will also expand authority for American armed forces to target the terrorists and criminal networks that sow violence and chaos throughout Afghanistan," he said.

On Pakistan issue, Trump vowed to change the US's approach to dealing with the Afghan neighbor, promising to crack down on Pakistan's harboring of terrorist and militant groups.

"They are housing the very terrorists we are fighting," Trump said, noting that the US gives Pakistan billions of dollars. "That will have to change and that will change immediately. No partnership can survive a country's harboring of terrorists."

Meanwhile, Trump asked India to do more in Afghanistan.

"We appreciate India's important contributions to stability in Afghanistan, but India makes billions of dollars in trade with the United States, and we want them to help us more with Afghanistan, especially in the area of economic assistance and development," Trump said. Currently, the US has about 8,400 forces in Afghanistan now.

Trump said the American people are "weary of war without victory."

"I share the America people's frustration," Trump said at the Army's Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, in Arlington, Virginia, across the Potomac River from the White House. Still, he insisted that "in the end, we will win."

After almost 16 years of US presence in Afghanistan, the Taliban now controls more territory than it did when the US first entered the country. (Tolonews)

### (2) Ghani Welcomes ...

Afghanistan on Tuesday morning. He said the United States must continue fighting in Afghanistan and that they can no longer be silent about Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organizations.

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He added that their mission in Afghanistan will be to eliminate terrorists.

Hours after the announcement, Taliban reacted to the new US strategy, claiming that they will continue fighting as long as American troops remain in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (3) World Reacts to ...

forward in Afghanistan and South Asia."

He was expected to talk about number of US troops which will be deployed to Afghanistan based on the new strategy. However, he did not mention this matter in his speech.

India  
India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement that it welcomed Trump's "determination to enhance efforts to overcome the challenges faced by Afghanistan and in confronting issues of safe havens and other forms of cross-border support enjoyed by terrorists."

"We are committed to supporting the Government and the people of Afghanistan in their efforts to bring peace, se-

curity, stability and prosperity in their country," the statement added.

Pakistani politicians

China

China defended its ally Pakistan after Trump said the United States could no longer be silent about Pakistan's "safe havens" for militants and warned it had much to lose by continuing to "harbour terrorists".

Trump committed the United States to an open-ended conflict in Afghanistan, signalling he would dispatch more troops to America's longest war and vowing "a fight to win".

He insisted that others - the Afghan government, Pakistan, India and NATO allies - step up their own commitment to resolving the 16-year conflict, but he saved his sharpest words for Pakistan.

US Democrats

Democrats argued Trump that was proposing an open-ended commitment with no exit strategy or ceiling on US troops there.

"Tonight, the President said he knew what he was getting into and had a plan to go forward. Clearly, he did not," House minority leader Nancy Pelosi said in a statement.

"The President's announcement is low on details but raises serious questions," the statement added.

NATO

NATO Secretary General also welcomed the new strategy.

"I welcome President Trump's new, conditions-based approach to Afghanistan and the region. NATO remains fully committed to Afghanistan and I am looking forward to discussing the way ahead with Secretary Mattis and our Allies and international partners," NATO said in a statement on Tuesday.

NATO Allies and partners have already committed to increasing our presence in Afghanistan.

NATO currently has over 12,000 troops in the country, the statement said. "In recent weeks, more than fifteen nations have pledged additional contributions to our Resolute Support Mission. We place special emphasis on continuing the development of Afghan Special Forces, Air Forces and improving command and control."

Pakistan

The US Ambassador David Hale paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister this afternoon. Ambassador Hale briefed the Foreign Minister about President Trump's latest statement on the US policy review on South Asia and Afghanistan. Ambassador Hale conveyed that the Secretary of State Rex Tillerson looked forward to meeting the Foreign Minister in the next few days to have an in-depth discussion on the state of play in the bilateral relationship as well as the new US policy on South Asia.

The Foreign Minister stated that he had accepted the invitation when the Secretary of State called him on 14th August and looked forward to his early interactions in Washington. The Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's perspective and desire for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Highlighting Pakistan's immense sacrifices in the enduring fight against terrorism, the Foreign Minister underlined Pakistan's continued desire to work with the International Community to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

Pakistani Politicians

In response to US president's address a number of Pakistani politicians expressed their views on Trump's comments against Pakistan.

"So the US again blames Pak for its deeply flawed & failed Afghan policy stretching over a decade," Chairman Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaaf [PTI], Imran Khan said in a series of tweets.

"A ban should be imposed on Afghanistan as we have longest the border area with Afghanistan and terrorists enter from there, do terrorist activities and go back. Trump's statement regarding Pakistan has no value and we are not listening seriously, because he is only responsible for his own country," said Haji Manor Akber, retired civil servant from Pakistan. (Tolonews)

### (4) 20 Fish Farms ...

in the first place and for thousands others later on.

He said MAIL would first construct 20 water pools worth six million afghanis for farmers to raise fishes. Mangal said the Nangarhar agriculture department would technically support the farms owners for the next 18 months.

The governor said many fishes imported from abroad had various kinds of diseases, but these farms would produce fresh fish meat.

The Nangarhar agriculture department head, Rafiullah Rahimzai, said it was for the first time that warm-water aquaculture pilot project was launched in Nangarhar and it would be extended to other provinces later. (Pajhwok)

### (5) MRRD Signs ...

of 371.5 million afghanis.

"Farmers will irrigate their farms and collect an increased amount of harvest

after implementation of these projects, they will transport their products to market through roads which will be constructed on time," he said.

The projects would also help generate work opportunities for more than 207,000 people that would help reduce unemployment in rural areas besides benefiting more than 736,000 people, Durani said.

He added that 90 percent of the projects cost would be paid by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the remaining 10 percent by local development councils.

The MRRD would oversee the implementation process of the projects for ensuring quality, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Services Being ...

that there are no special conditions for the Iranian pilgrims, but there are general conditions for organizing the Hajj. We receive pilgrims and provide them with services without discrimination. (Pajhwok)

### (7) New Strategy...

be an important partner in our shared goals of peace and stability in the region. We look to Pakistan to take decisive action against militant groups on its soil.

He believed vital to US interests that Afghanistan and Pakistan prevented terrorist sanctuaries, Tillerson said.

"India will be an important partner in the effort to ensure peace and stability in the region, and we welcome its role in supporting Afghanistan's political and economic modernisation," Tillerson said.

Defense Secretary James Mattis said the president had provided his strategic guidance for the South Asia strategy following a rigorous interagency review.

"I have directed the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to make preparations to carry out the president's strategy. I will be in consultation with the secretary-general of NATO and our allies, several of which have also committed to increasing the troop numbers.

"Together, we will assist the Afghan security forces to destroy the terrorist hub," Mattis added. (Pajhwok)

### (8) NATO Chief Welcomes ...

Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for terrorists who would attack our own countries," Stoltenberg said.

He said NATO allies and partners had already committed to increasing military presence in Afghanistan and in recent weeks, more than 15 nations had pledged additional contributions to the Resolute Support Mission.

"We place special emphasis on continuing the development of Afghan Special Forces, Air Forces and improving command and control."

The NATO chief said they encouraged all Afghans to work towards a negotiated political settlement and a sustainable peace.

In his prime-time address to the nation on America's new policy toward South Asia, President Trump reached out to India for economic development of Afghanistan.

"A hasty withdrawal would create a vacuum for terrorists, including ISIS and Al Qaeda, would instantly fill just as happened before September 11," said the president.

Meanwhile, US Special Chargé d'Affaires in Kabul Ambassador Hugo Llorens said President Trump in his new strategy renewed commitment to success in Afghanistan and in the broader South Asia region.

He said the President was 'very clear' about the United States' continuing support for the national unity government and the Afghan people for their quest to achieve security, stability, prosperity, and peace.

"At the core of this commitment, we will continue to support Afghan forces in defending their country while we also maintain pressure on the Taliban to join a peace process with the Afghan government to end the war in Afghanistan."

The ambassador said they would emphasize with all regional countries the importance of cooperation to reduce the threat of terrorism and nuclearized conflict. "Our strategy is based on conditions on the ground, and we will stand by Afghanistan's side as long as it takes to get the job done. So just understand, the United States is not going anywhere." "We will continue to partner with the Government of National Unity and the Afghan people in our common fight against terrorists and those forces unwilling to reconcile."

The US envoy asked the Afghan government to redouble its reform efforts and deliver on vital promises such as holding parliamentary elections next year and presidential elections in 2019, rooting out corruption, and enacting the tough reforms necessary for meaningful private sector-led economic growth.

To maintain stability in the face of insurgent threats, he said, Afghanistan's leaders must also increase outreach to all ethnic groups and seek greater diversity and inclusivity in the government.

"Real challenges lay ahead, but I am confident Afghanistan can surmount them. As I have said previously on many occasions, we and our allies are firmly with you, and we are not going anywhere." (Pajhwok)

### (9) Good Af-Pak Ties to ...

She added her country, having rendered a lot of sacrifices in the fighting against terrorism, had boosted security at the Durand Line to prevent the militant infiltration.

However, it was impossible for one side to control such a long frontier, she argued, urging Afghanistan to beef up security on its side of the Durand Line, Pakistan is often blamed for supporting the Afghan Taliban and providing them travel facilities, a charge vehemently denied by Islamabad, which says it conducted several military operations to thwart such movements.

Asked why Pakistan did not pressure the Afghan Taliban into peace talks, she replied Islamabad had a vested interest in peace in the war-torn country. The official denied the ISI was supportive of the Afghan insurgents.

She believed the Afghans should try even more for stability, given the successful peace deal with Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar -- a perfect example of sincere reconciliation negotiations.

Aslam said they had never told the Taliban to avoid making peace with the Afghan government. Pakistan had always supported the peace process and major projects for Afghanistan's peace and prosperity.

After the President Ashraf Ghani expressed disappointment with Pakistan's role in the Afghan-led peace process, talks with Taliban had been on the ice.

The deputy foreign minister said Pakistan would play an important role in implementing US President Donald Trump's new strategy for the war in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (10) US Republicans...

us well beyond the prior administration's failed strategy of merely postponing defeat," McCain said in a statement, noting that Trump now faces the task of keeping "the right level of effort, in the right places, with the right authorities and resources to see this conflict through to success."

"To do this, the President must conduct himself as a wartime commander-in-chief. He must speak regularly to the American people, and to those waging this war on their behalf, about why we are fighting, why the additional sacrifices are worth it, and how we will succeed," said McCain.

This comes hours after, the US president announced his administration's new strategy on Afghanistan and South Asia. After paying tribute to the US forces in Afghanistan, Trump said "I am here tonight to lay out our path forward in Afghanistan and South Asia."

He was expected to talk about number of US troops which will be deployed to Afghanistan based on the new strategy. However, he did not mention this matter in his speech.

"We will not talk about numbers of troops or our plans for further military activities," he said. "America's enemies must never know our plans or believe they can wait us out. I will not say when we are going to attack, but attack we will."

Trump admitted Monday that his position on Afghanistan changed as he began to grasp his duties as president.

A Republican Senator Paul Ryan quoted by CNN said he was actually pleased with the way Trump went about making this decision. (Tolonews)

### (11) Ghani in...

president's trip comes after a series of insurgent attacks on military bases in Kandahar last month which left dozens of soldiers killed and wounded.

The latest attack was late in July where 26 soldiers were killed when a group of militants attacked a military base in Khakriz district. Ghani's trip to Kandahar has happened few hours after US President Donald Trump announced his new strategy for Afghanistan. His strategy was a revised version of previous strategies on Afghanistan but it contained some specific points about Pakistan and the way the US will treat insurgents in Afghanistan as well as in Pakistan.

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Few hours after Trump's speech, Taliban reacted to the announcement and claimed to continue fighting "as long as US troops remain in Afghanistan". (Tolonews)

### (12) Trump Strategy ...

I think we heard a lot about ends but rather little about means," James Der Derian, from the Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney, told AFP.

Trump backtracked from previous promises to end America's longest-ever war during a primetime speech late Monday, paving the way for thousands more US soldiers to be sent to Afghanistan.

While he refused to offer detailed troop numbers, senior White House officials said he had already authorised Defense Secretary James Mattis to deploy up to 3,900 more troops to Afghanistan.

There are currently 8,500 US personnel in-country who are largely restricted to NATO's mission of training the 190,000-strong Afghan army and offering strategic support on certain missions.

Trump said withdrawing them would leave a "vacuum" that terrorists "would instantly fill", but analysts said sending a few thousand extra soldiers would only serve to deepen the American quagmire in the country.

"I'm sorry, but unless you are willing to commit 300,000 troops there's no filling the vacuum. That's the harsh reality of Afghanistan... of counter-insurgencies in general," said Der Derian.

"The Taliban can wait out another 4,000 troops. They have survived much worse," the security expert added, describing areas falling to insurgents and then being recaptured again as "a whack-a-mole phenomenon".

Trump's remark that "conditions on the ground, not arbitrary timetables" would guide strategy also met with scepticism from analysts, who questioned his long-term plan for the war and what a victory would actually look like.

"The United States has not actually defined those conditions," Javid Ahmad, a fellow at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center, told AFP.

The Taliban, whose pockets have been lined with the profits from a bountiful opium poppy trade, and other insurgent groups have seen their areas of control or influence increase recently.

As of February only about 60 percent of Afghanistan's 407 districts were reported to be under government control, with the authorities in Kabul struggling to counter the militants' resurgence, according to the US watchdog agency SIGAR.

- Increased violence -

Analysts predict Trump's strategy will only intensify the war, leading to more casualties in a conflict that began in October 2001 after the then-Taliban government refused to hand over Al-Qaeda chiefs following the 9/11 attacks.

Afghan civilian deaths are at their worst since records began in 2009. In the first half of the year, 1,662 civilians were killed and more than 3,500 injured, according to the United Nations.

More than 2,500 Afghan police and troops have been killed already this year.

"The Taliban and other belligerents are likely to respond with a new wave of violence across the country. There may be some spectacular attacks in urban areas to send their own message," said Ahmad of the Atlantic Council.

There are hopes that increased military pressure can over time force Taliban leaders to the negotiating table -- a prospect that Trump sounded sceptical about, although Rahimullah Yousufzai, a Pakistan-based expert on Afghan affairs, said some of the militants "may be willing".

But many Afghans want to see America follow a multi-pronged approach that involves helping Kabul tackle rampant corruption, strengthen its institutions and boost its demoralised national army.

They also want Trump to put pressure on their nemesis Pakistan which they blame for fuelling the deadly insurgency -- something which he said he would do.

Analysts warned that the pressure may not do much good: Pakistan wants to keep Afghanistan in its sphere of influence as a bulwark against India, which it sees as an existential threat, and is unlikely to be deterred.

At any rate, some analysts say Washington's role on the world stage has shrunk, meaning Trump's more forceful rhetoric may not have the impact it once did.

"Trump should have a smart policy and be ready to play with many stakeholders," said Mohammad Alam Surosh, professor of political sciences at Ghazni University.

"He has to be very serious about putting pressure on Pakistan and Iran and find ways to convince Russia that terrorism is an international threat." (AFP)

### (13) 1 Killed, 3 ...

the victims were residents of Ibrahimkhal area and they came under attack from unknown gunmen on their way to the provincial capital, Charikar.

The injured police officer at the 101 Kabul Asmaee zone police wanted to come home from duty.

The injured were evacuated to the Emergency Hospital in Panjshir province and their condition was said to be stable.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack so far. (Pajhwok)