

## 3,000 US troops deployed near Kabul, says Nato

AP, Kabul

Thousands of US troops originally destined for Iraq have been deployed south of Afghanistan's capital in the first illustration of a new military focus on the increasingly difficult fight in the South Asian nation, Nato said yesterday.

Nearly 3,000 American soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York, moved into the provinces of Logar and Wardak to the south of Kabul, the military alliance said. They will serve as part of the 55,000-strong Nato force in the country.

The latest deployment indicates the shifting focus in military operations from Iraq

to Afghanistan, where the US and its allies are trying to turn the tide of Taliban gains and prop up the government of embattled President Hamid Karzai.

President Barack Obama is expected to double the size of American troops in Afghanistan this year, as the country becomes one of his foreign policy priorities.

There are some 70,000 foreign soldiers, including 33,000 US troops, in Afghanistan, the highest number since the Taliban were ousted from power in the 2001 US invasion. The majority of the American troops, including the new brigade, fight under Nato command, which is headed by a US four star general. The rest are part of 13,000-strong US coalition.

## 178 civilians killed in Lanka fighting

AFP, Colombo

At least 178 civilians were killed in Sri Lanka's embattled north in January as government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels were locked in combat, according to figures compiled at one hospital alone.

Sri Lankan troops yesterday battled Tamil Tiger fighters for control of the last stretch of rebel-held coastline, as international fears mounted for civilians caught in the conflict.

Soldiers backed by tanks and air cover fought to capture 30 kilometres (18 miles) of seafloor, the only territory still controlled by the retreating

rebels, Brigadier Nandana Udawatte told reporters taken to the area.

As the government said its offensive to end the separatists' decades-long campaign was entering its final stages, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed deep concern over the fate of civilians trapped in the warzone.

The government has been insisting there has been "zero civilian casualties" in its operation to crush the rebels in their last remaining bastion of Mullaitivu district.

There were no civilians in the bombed-out town of Mullaitivu when journalists were given a tour on Tuesday, two days after troops captured

the Tigers' military headquarters and drove the rebels deeper into the jungle.

"We are moving along the coast as well as to the north-west towards another pocket of Tiger resistance," said Udawatte, the commander of the operation to retake the town, which was the last rebel urban stronghold.

Udawatte said his troops had killed more than 2,000 Tamil rebels and wounded nearly 3,000 in the year-long battle for Mullaitivu.

He said the rebels had established three defence lines to protect the town, but his men had surprised them on Sunday by crossing a lagoon by boat.



PHOTO: AFP  
Sri Lankan Defence Ministry photo shows a tank shooting during a military offensive against the LTTE rebels in the northern town of Mullaitivu.

## Obama chooses Arab TV for 1st interview

AP, Cairo

President Barack Obama on Tuesday chose an Arabic satellite TV network for his first formal television interview as president, delivering a message to the Muslim world that "Americans are not your enemy."

The interview underscored Obama's commitment to repair relations with the Muslim world that have suffered under the previous administration.

The president expressed an intention to engage the Middle East immediately and his new envoy to the region, former Sen. George J. Mitchell, was expected to arrive in Egypt on Tuesday for a visit that will also take him to Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

"My job to the Muslim world is to communicate that the Americans are not your enemy," Obama told the Saudi-owned, Dubai-based Al-Arabiya news channel.

Obama said the US had made mistakes in the past but "that the same respect and partnership that America had with the Muslim world as recently as 20 or 30 years ago, there's no reason why we can't restore that."

During his presidency, former President George W. Bush gave several interviews to Al-Arabiya but the wars he launched in Iraq

and Afghanistan prompted a massive backlash against the US in the Muslim world.

Al-Arabiya has scored interviews with top US officials in the past, including Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The Saudi-owned channel is seen by some in Washington as more balanced in its coverage than its Qatar-funded rival Al-Jazeera, which the previous White House administration complained had an anti-American bias.

Obama called for a new partnership with the Muslim world "based on mutual respect and mutual interest." He talked about

growing up in Indonesia, the Muslim world's most populous nation, and noted that he has Muslim relatives.

The new president said he felt it was important to "get engaged right away" in the Middle East and had directed Mitchell to talk to "all the major parties involved." His administration would craft an approach after that, he said in the interview.

"What I told him is start by listening, because all too often the United States starts by dictating," Obama told the interviewer.

The president reiterated the US commitment to

Israel as an ally and to its right to defend itself. But he suggested that both Israel and the Palestinians have hard choices to make.

"I do believe that the moment is ripe for both sides to realize that the path that they are on is one that is not going to result in prosperity and security for their people," he said, calling for a Palestinian state that is contiguous with internal freedom of movement and can trade with neighboring countries.

Obama also said that recent statements and messages issued by the al-Qaeda terror network suggest they do not know how to deal with his new approach.

"They seem nervous," he told the interviewer. "What that tells me is that their ideas are bankrupt."

In his latest message on Jan. 14, al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden said Obama had been left with a "heavy inheritance" of Bush's wars.

Shortly after the election, the network's number two, Ayman al-Zawahiri used a demeaning racial term for a black American who does the bidding of whites to describe Obama.

The message suggested the terror network was worried Obama could undermine its rallying cry that the US is an enemy oppressor.

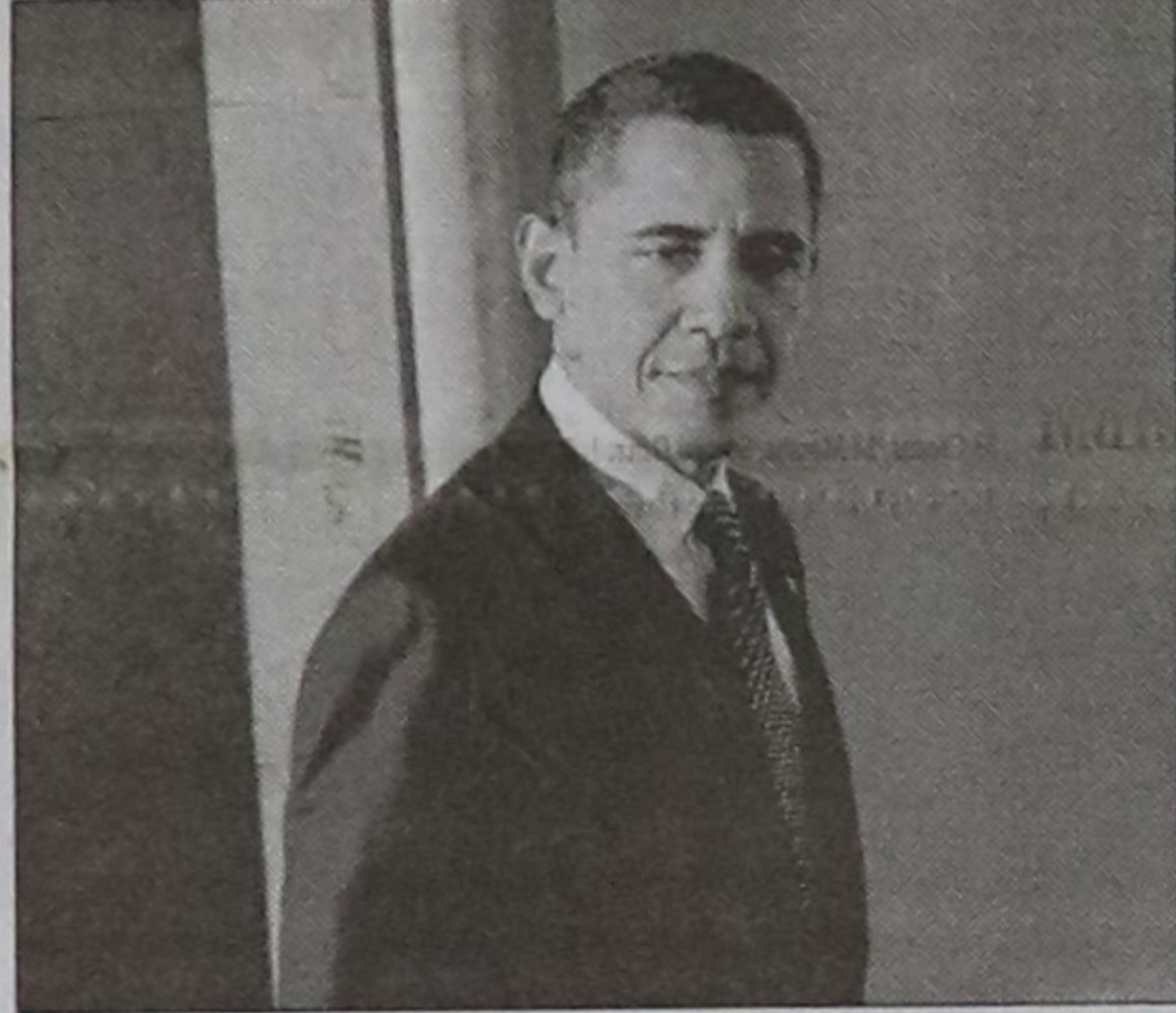


PHOTO: AFP  
US President Barack Obama leaves after attending the swearing-in ceremony of Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner at the Treasury Department in Washington, DC, on Monday.

## Woman gives birth to octuplets in California

AP, Bellflower

A woman gave birth Monday to eight babies, only the second time in history octuplets have survived more than a few hours, doctors said.

The mother gave birth to six boys and two girls weighing between 1 pound, 8 ounces, and 3 pounds, 4 ounces, doctors at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Centre in California said. The hospital had scheduled a Caesarean section for seven babies, but doctors were surprised when an eighth came out at 10:48 am.

"My eyes were wide," Dr. Karen Maples said, explaining her reaction to the last birth.

Doctors said the babies were born nine weeks premature but are in stable condition. Two newborns were placed on ventilators and a third needs oxygen.

Hospital officials would not release any information about the mother, including her name, condition or whether she used fertility drugs. They did, however, say she planned to breastfeed all of them.

## US cuts Pakistan's aid for fighting terrorism

DPA, AFP, Islamabad

The US has deducted \$55 million out of the \$156 million bill set by Pakistan for rendering its military services to fight against Taliban and al-Qaeda in volatile bordering tribal areas adjacent to war-torn Afghanistan.

Shaukat Tarin, a financial adviser in the prime minister's office, said the US had "changed the format" for money released under the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) for Islamabad, resulting in a "massive" deduction.

Pakistan, a key US ally in the fight against terrorism, has mobilised its more than 100,000 troops in tribal areas to contain Islamic militants launching cross-border attacks on international forces in Afghanistan, and bills US for the expenditure.

The cut in its reimbursements is a setback to the civilian government led by President Asif Ali Zardari, widower of assassinated former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto.

Tarin said Islamabad had taken the matter of the deducted money with Washington.

Pakistan joined the US-led international alliance against terrorism after the Sep 11, 2001 attacks on the US, with Islamabad getting some \$297 million every year since 2003, in the form of Foreign Military Grants to quell the Taliban militancy.

But the authorities in Washington have said repeatedly that Islamabad was not doing

enough to control Islamic insurgency in its ungoverned tribal region.

The new US government, led by President Barack Obama, has vowed to focus more on Pakistan in its policy to defeat Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. In its efforts, the new administration would link Pakistan's aid with the security in the border region in Afghanistan, the White House said in a policy statement last week.

Pakistan, which has recently avoided default by obtaining a \$7.6 billion loan package from the IMF, is relying heavily on US to revive its economy.

The US has so far provided between \$10 and \$11 billion of aid for social development as well as in form of military aid. But Pakistan says it has suffered financial losses many times more than it has collectively received aid from American and its western allies after becoming front line state in the ongoing war against terrorism.

Meanwhile, Pakistani tribal elders yesterday urged the government to stop military operations against Taliban militants in tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and to start peace talks.

More than 50 tribal elders and Islamist politicians delivered the demand at a day-long jirga, or tribal committee meeting, organised by Jamaat-i-Islami, Pakistan's main Islamist party, in the central city of Multan.

### Notice on rental charges of banglalink transmission bandwidth

banglalink has established nationwide fiber optic network and the rental charges are given below.

#### 1. Monthly Charge of E1 capacity

Slab	Slab in kilometers	Minimum Monthly Charge Tk./E1/Km	Maximum Monthly Charge Tk./E1/Km	Comment
(1)	0-50	200	250	Minimum charge of Tk.10,000
(2)	51-100	155	200	In addition to (1)
(3)	101-200	120	160	In addition to (2)
(4)	201-300	100	130	In addition to (3)
(5)	301 and above	75	95	In addition to (4)

#### 2. Discount Structure: 2.1 Based on Segment

Segment	Discount on Monthly Rental/E1
Cellular Operator	0%
PSTN	20%
Data/DDCSP/ISP/Corporate	24%
Rural Data/ILDT/SME	28%

#### 2.2 Based on Agreement Term

Agreement Term	Discount on Monthly Rental/E1
01 Year	0%
02-05 Years	15%
05 Years +	25%

#### 2.3 Based on Capacity

Capacity	Minimum Discount	Maximum Discount
Less than 10 E1	0%	0%
10 E1 and above	20%	70%

#### 3. VAT is applicable for all charges

- the information provided are only for reference and published for the concern of citizens
- only banglalink management has the right to take any decision regarding discount issues
- charge of bandwidth depends on place and availability of bandwidth
- the charges are effective from 1st January 2009
- conditions apply

### VACANCY

#### 1. REGISTRAR

**Function:** Providing leadership to plan, organize, and manage all of the activities related to the registration unit, including serving as the authorized keeper of the university's student & staff records. Serving as team leader to develop, test, and implement procedural and process changes to better facilitate the maintenance of academic records and service to the academic community. Maintaining all communication with external agencies.

#### Minimum Requirements:

- ▶ Masters degree in any discipline preferably MBA.
- ▶ Three (3) years of direct experience or 5 years in a related area. Preferred 5 years of direct experience in a large college or university environment.
- ▶ Must have strong interpersonal skills; exceptional writing and speaking skills.
- ▶ Experience with management of an office and evaluation of employees; knowledge of transfer credit requirements; accounting experience.
- ▶ Demonstrated understanding of the application of technology to deliver records and registration services.
- ▶ Age limit should be around 45.

#### 2. DEAN/ASSOCIATE DEAN (STUDENT AFFAIRS)

**Function:** Responsible for students academic and personal advising, assisting students extra curricular activities, planning orientation and organizing ceremonies, overseeing conduct, administering scholarship aid, acting as a liaison with evaluating and directing the academic support program, providing prudent leadership and implementing the university strategic action plan and similar activities.

#### Requirements:

- ▶ Masters degree is required, doctoral degree strongly preferred.
- ▶ Experience working in a multicultural environment a plus.
- ▶ Excellent oral & written communication skills.
- ▶ Familiarity with higher education accreditation & student services issues expected.
- ▶ Age limit should be around 45.

#### 3. MEDIA ADVISOR

**Function :** To monitor the public relation activities, Maintain cooperation with the media houses both TV and Newspapers. To earn organizational goal and to help in arranging media related programs independently etc.

#### Requirements:

- ▶ Masters degree in any discipline preferably Journalism.
- ▶ Minimum 8 years working experience in the media houses in Dhaka.
- ▶ Able to suggest and to advise the Public Relation Division properly.
- ▶ Age limit should be around 40.

#### 4. SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

**Function:** Performing planning, oversight, and design of financial processes and procedures as part of the management team. Ensuring the integration of financial disciplines into all aspects of the organization's operations.

#### Requirements:

- ▶ M.Com with C.A course completed.
- ▶ At least 8 years working experience where in minimum 5 years as senior accountant level.
- ▶ Age limit should be around 40.

Salary: Attractive Salary Package will be offered as per NUB rule.

**TO APPLY:** Submit cover letter, resume, salary history, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three (3) professional references within February 10, 2009 to:

Director,  
Human Resources Division,  
Northern University Bangladesh,  
93, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.



NORTHERN UNIVERSITY  
**NUB**  
BANGLADESH



banglalink  
AN UNISYS COMPANY