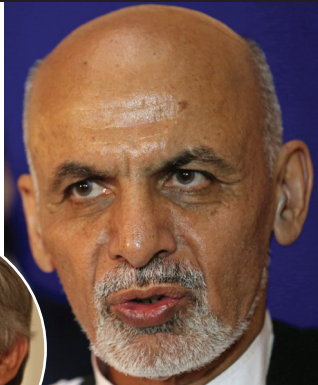


# Challenges facing Afghan president Ashraf Ghani

Finally in place after months of political turmoil, Afghan president Ashraf Ghani faces challenges across his war-torn nation, including corruption, economic stagnation, and a continuing Taliban insurgency



## POWER SHARING

Ghani has pledged to work with poll rival **Abdullah Abdullah** (inset) in unity government, despite both men accusing each other of vote rigging and fraud in **June 14** runoff. Abdullah given role of chief executive in **September 21** deal brokered by U.S. to end bitter dispute



**Ashraf Ghani** (above)  
Inaugurated on Sep 29  
in country's first democratic  
transfer of power since 2001  
U.S.-led invasion that toppled Taliban

## ECONOMY

As former **World Bank** official and Afghan finance minister, Ghani is well qualified to revive his country's weak economy but needs to tackle widespread government corruption to implement reforms. Afghanistan urgently needs **\$537 million** bailout from U.S. and other international donors to keep paying its bills

## SECURITY

Afghan security forces, numbering around **350,000 personnel**, will take on task of battling Taliban and other insurgent groups when international combat troops withdraw at end of 2014. U.S. officials expect Ghani to sign agreement allowing about **10,000 American troops** to stay in Afghanistan after **December 31**



## TALKING TO THE TALIBAN

Ghani committed to working for long-term peace, calling on Taliban and other militants to lay down their weapons and join political process. Previous attempts at dialogue have stalled despite Taliban prisoner releases. Insurgents have denounced **April 5** presidential vote as fake and reportedly branded both Ghani and Abdullah as "American puppets"