

Afghan groups meet exiled king in Rome

AFP, Rome

Afghanistan's former king met members of the Afghan opposition Saturday to discuss the formation of a post-Taliban government in the country should proposed United States military strikes go ahead.

Those meeting in Rome included members of the Northern Alliance, fighting a civil war against the ruling Taliban militia, and other exiled Afghan commanders from areas under Taliban control.

Meetings have been taking place in a Rome hotel since early Saturday between various opposition factions under the auspices of a special adviser to the king, Mostapha Zaher.

A delegation of the Northern Alliance led by Yunis Qanuni, advisor to the assassinated commander Ahmed Shah Massoud, ousted president Burhanuddin

Rabbani's representative to Rome, ambassador Hamidullah Nasser Zia; and other groups have been holding discussions at the hotel before a meeting with the king, scheduled for later Saturday.

Rabbani was ousted when the Taliban overran Kabul in 1996.

Qanuni told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting with other opposition leaders that the biggest problem facing them was the government of Pakistan, a key ally of the United States, in their campaign to bring to justice Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the September 11 terror attacks in the United States.

"They (Pakistan) have brought the terrorists, and now they just want to change their image so that they can continue to wield influence in Afghanistan," said Qanuni.

"We think the Taliban's ideology cannot change. There are some good people within the Taliban but the Taliban as a whole cannot change."

"They are tools for the long term strategy of Pakistan."

Another group of Afghan commanders met the king early Saturday.

"We are all commanders from different parts of Afghanistan. We support the holding of a Loya Jirga (a meeting of traditional chiefs) and we all support the king," one commander, Abdul Khaliq, told AFP.

"We have just started to talk to different groups. All the groups want to talk to each other and to bring peace to Afghanistan, and kick out the Taliban," Khaliq added, indicating he saw no role for a reconstituted Taliban in a new administration.

Khaliq is exiled in the United States and said he longs to go back to a free Afghanistan.

Terrorists to be hunted down: Bush

AFP, Washington

President George W. Bush vowed Saturday that terrorists would be hunted down wherever they "hide, or run, or plan" and assured Americans that the battle will be won so that the "cause of freedom will prevail."

"Our war on terror will be much broader than the battlefields and beachheads of the past," the president said in his weekly radio address. "This war will be fought wherever terrorists hide, or run, or plan."

He stressed that some victories "will be won outside of public view, in tragedies avoided and threats eliminated," including covert military operations.

"Our weapons are military and diplomatic, financial and legal," he added. "We did not seek this conflict, but we will win it. America will act deliberately and decisively, and the cause of freedom will prevail."

Bush also outlined the steps he had taken during the week in the fight against terrorism, including freezing assets of 27 organizations, individuals, foreign businesses and charities that allegedly support terrorism and increased security at airports.

The United States has said Saudi-born millionaire Osama bin Laden is the "prime suspect" as the mastermind behind the September 11 attacks that left more than 6,000 dead or missing. He is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan, as a "guest" of the ruling Taliban militia.



Egyptian fishermen watch British submarine Triumph cruises through the Suez Canal on Saturday at Ismailia northeast of Cairo. British warships cruised in the canal heading for military maneuvers in the Gulf region as the US prepares to retaliate for the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

'Israel profiting from US terror attacks'

AFP, Beirut

"Arabs and Muslims in the world must not help the United States in its aggression against the Afghan people or against Muslims," he added.

The United States has threatened to launch military strikes against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban regime for harbouring the main suspect in the attacks, Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden.

Earlier in the day, some 3,000 women affiliated with Hezbollah threw stones Friday on northern Israel to mark the anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

The women, wearing the Iranian-style black chador robe, gathered stones for half an hour before hurling them at an Israeli army post on the Fatima Gate border point between Lebanon and Israel, an AFP correspondent said.

Hezbollah, which is on the US blacklist of terrorist organizations, opposes the peace process with Israel and continues to encourage the Palestinians to pursue their intifada which started on September 28, 2000.

"Israel is profiting from these attacks to repress the intifada," Nasrallah told thousands of supporters in a ceremony at a Beirut suburb late Friday to mark the first anniversary of the fighting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This commemoration is taking place in a context which has shaken the world and unfortunately eclipsed the importance of the intifada," he said, according to witnesses who spoke with AFP.

However, he called on Arab and Muslim countries to not support the anti-terrorism coalition that the United States is building to retaliate for the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

"America, which wants to fight terrorism, supports Israel, the biggest terrorist country in the world," he said.

UK warships sail thru' Suez canal to join war games

AFP, Ismailia

According to the MoD Website, 24 British navy ships and two submarines were listed among the flotilla taking part, but according to Suez canal officials, a total of 28 British navy vessels including three submarines have crossed from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea in the past 10 days.

The ships were heading for exercises off Oman that were announced in July, but British newspapers have reported they are on standby for possible US-led action in response to the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

HMS Triumph and other ships which have crossed the canal were not previously scheduled to take part in the exercises, according to a list of vessels published by the British Ministry of Defence (MoD) Internet site.

Oman is close to where US aircraft carrier battle groups are already gathering for anticipated attacks on Afghanistan.

The United States suspects Saudi-born extremist Osama bin Laden, believed to be hiding out somewhere in Afghanistan, of being behind the attacks.

The war games with Oman involve the largest mobilisation of ships in foreign seas since the 1982 Falklands War.

Celine Dion in centre of spotlight

AFP, Montreal

Canadian pop diva Celine Dion appeared on stage for the first time in nearly two years Friday at a benefit concert for families of the victims of the US terror attacks.

French-Canadian Dion led other Quebec-born singing stars in the tribute in Montreal, the first time she has appeared before an audience since she temporarily gave up show business in December 1999.

Dion, who gave birth to her first child eight months ago, was applauded by the 12,000-strong audience at the Forum de Montreal ice hockey stadium as she belted out her single song, "L'Amour existe encore," or "Love still exists."

The enthralled audience waved small white flags and the US stars and stripes flag.

A week earlier Dion had sung "God Bless America" during the television organized by the major US television networks, but there was no live audience and even the venue of the broadcast was kept secret.



Sacks of US wheat from the UN World Food Program are being loaded into trucks at the WFP warehouses in Peshawar on Saturday that will be sent to Afghanistan. Some 200 tonnes of wheat and 22 trucks of food and medicines will be delivered to Badakhshan and Kabul as Afghan face severe food shortages due to conflict between the Taliban and the US.

Lopez keeps her lip tight

AFP, Los Angeles

Superstar actress and singer Jennifer Lopez's spokesman declined Friday to comment on news reports that she was getting ready to wed dancer Chris Judd.

"I do not comment on Jennifer's personal life," spokesman Alan Nierob said.

KTLA-TV reported that the couple is hosting a joint "Jack and Jill" bachelor party before the wedding, featuring both male and female entertainment.

Lopez, a Billboard chart-topping New York-born singer and actress of Puerto Rican heritage, earlier this year denied published rumours she was pregnant.

Lopez, who goes by the moniker "J. Lo" split up with the artist formerly known as Puff Daddy on Valentine's Day, just before his trial last March on firearm and bribery charges following a shootout at a trendy New York club. Combs was acquitted in that case.

Lopez was married in 1997 to Ljane Noa, a Cuban waiter, a union that lasted only a year.

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES SEPTEMBER 29, 2001									
DSE					CSE				
Company	Price	Change	Turnover	Share	Company	Price	Change	Turnover	Share
DSE					CSE				
Company	Price	Change	Turnover	Share	Company	Price	Change	Turnover	Share
AB Bank Ltd.	100.5	216.75	0.81	215.00	214.05	218.00	2.83	212.00	20
AFIC Bank Ltd.	100.5	376.00	0.74	373.25	2155	390.00	6.85	368.00	10
Islamic Bank BD Ltd.	100.5	269.25	1.54	264.25	2155	307.00	4.30	268.00	31
National Bank Ltd.	100.5	267.25	3.29	258.75	4061.0	263.00	2.63	256.25	1332.0
Pahali Bank Ltd.	100.5	247.25	2.17	242.00	1355	380.00	Not Traded	300.00	124
Rupali Bank Ltd.	100.5	89.75	1.41	88.50	1470	92.00	Not Traded	150.00	9
UBCL	100.5	153.00	0.43	153.50	2785	153.00	1.29	155.00	150
United Bank Ltd.	100.5	347.75	2.28	340.00	1250	Not Listed	Not Traded	191.200	190
UDCL Ltd.	100.5	482.00	2.25	470.00	181	492.00	Not Traded	22.65.00	46.7
Eastern Bank Ltd.	100.5	280.00	1.75	285.00	100	Not Listed	Not Traded	05.08.00	26.6
United Leasing Co. Ltd.	100.5	300.00	1.61	620.00	100	Not Listed	Not Traded	10.05.00	1.36
United Finance and Inv.	100.5	250.00	0.40	251.75	4200	242.75	Not Traded	29.05.00	28.3
Al Arifa Islamic Bank Ltd.	100.5	353.00	0.89	341.00	270	330.00	4.55	1230.00	5
Prime Bank Ltd.	100.5	381.00	0.73	378.25	10300	369.00	Not Traded	07.04.00	72.0
Southeast Bank Ltd.	100.5	267.00	0.44	269.25	11950	267.00	0.19	267.50	7150
Dhaka Bank Ltd.	100.5	347.00	0.58	345.00	2850	325.00	Not Traded	26.05.00	57.0
NCC Bank Ltd.	100.5	211.00	0.48	210.25	24160	210.75	0.96	208.75	23350
Islamic Investment Bank	100.5	200.00	0.61	202.25	85	Not Listed	Not Traded	14.2	Not
Islamic Bank Ltd.	100.5	446.00	0.11	445.50	6550	510.00	Not Traded	14.8	Not
INVESTMENT									
3rd ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	418.75	2.13	410.00	75	400.00	Not Traded	02.11.00	144
4th ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	357.00	0.85	360.00	30	320.00	Not Traded	02.11.00	80.3
5th ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	225.00	0.17	220.00	20	196.50	Not Traded	02.11.00	26.6
6th ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	166.25	2.88	165.00	50	160.00	Not Traded	02.11.00	12.4
7th ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	131.25	0.47	132.00	10	135.00	Not Traded	02.11.00	15.9
8th ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	92.75	0.27	92.50	7450	91.00	Not Traded	02.11.00	15.9
9th ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	107.00	0.00	107.42500	1.07	0.94	1.06	53000.00	Not
ENGINEERING									
Aztec Automobiles Ltd.	100.5	230.00	1.88	225.75	875	220.00	Not Traded	14.12.00	18.9
Aztec Pipes Ltd.	100.5	144.50	0.17	144.75	6595	140.00	Not Traded	31.05.01	7.35
Orion Industries Ltd.	100.5	126.50	0.40	125.50	6970	125.00	1.01	123.75	20
Bangladesh Lamps Ltd.	100.5	41.00	1.20	398.25	145	40.00	Not Traded	12.09.00	1.56
Eastern Cables Ltd.	100.5	190.25	0.52	192.25	670	185.00	Not Traded	23.06.00	10.7
Mosono Jute Ltd.	100.5	62.00	0.24	60.50	30	Not Listed	Not Traded	22.11.00	52.0
Mosono Station Ltd.	100.5	34.00	0.34	32.00	15	Not Listed	Not Traded	14.08.00	37.4
Singer Bangladesh Ltd.	100.5	280.00	2.40	125.00	210	118.00	Not Traded	28.05.00	72.2
BD. Thai Aluminium Ltd.	100.5	143.00	1.38	145.00	250	Not Listed	Not Traded	14.12.00	8.76
BD. Antares Ltd.	100.5	23.00	0.75	21.75	50	21.75	Not Traded	31.12.00	3.2
Quamem Drycells Ltd.	100.5	19.60	0.13	19.40	3190.00	19.65	1.55	19.30	25350.00
Renwick Jewellers Ltd.	100.5	19.25	0.12	19.00	350	Not Listed	Not Traded	26.11.00	24
National Textiles Ltd.	100.5	33.00	0.59	31.00	440	Not Listed	Not Traded	31.05.01	85.2
BD. Thai Aluminium Ltd.	100.5	190.25	0.52	192.25	670	185.00	Not Traded	23.06.00	10.7
Amnir Galvanizing Ltd.	100.5	151.25	0.17	151.00	2950	175.00	Not Traded	08.03.00	14.4
Kay & Co (BD) Ltd.	100.5	157.75	1.61	155.25	13650	107.00	Not Traded	28.09.00	1.67
Wooden Lays Toys Ltd.	100.5	26.25	0.87	26.75	750	24.50	Not Traded	02.02.00	1.87
Quamem Drycells Ltd.	100.5	21.60	0.92	21.80	17400.00	21.70	1.36	22.00	11000
FOOD & ALLIED									
Alpha Tobacco Ltd.	100.5	50.00	6.38	47.00	2200	46.50	Not Traded	20.03.01	2.82
Alpha Foods Ltd.	100.5	341.25	0.59	339.25	1750	307.00	Not Traded	09.12.00	16.0
Tripti Industries Ltd.	100.5	15.00	0.45	14.75	630	Not Traded	Not Traded	09.10.00	5.8
Garage Ltd.	100.5	260.00	0.97	257.50	820	260.00	Not Traded	19.10.00	12.4
BD. BATCL	100.5	124.00	19.81	103.00	4250	123.50	19.90	103.00	600
National Tea Co. Ltd.	100.5	64.00	8.17	60.00	15	61.00	Not Traded	19.05.01	43
Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills	100.5	5.00	5.77	5.20	1700	Not Listed	Not Traded	24.10.00	75
Tejpur Dairy & Food Ltd.	100.5	76.00	1.37	75.00	670	Not Listed	Not Traded	05.03.00	8.8
Chittagong Vegetable	100.5	52.00	0.00	52.00	20	52.00	Not Traded	30.12.00	10
Bangladesh Fisheries Ltd.	100.5	58.00	1.74	57.50	340	53.75	Not Traded	20.06.00	3.69
Bengal Biscuits Ltd.	100.5	46.50	0.58	46.25	3820	46.75	8.09	43.25	580
Quamem Shrimp	100.5	125.50	0.99	126.75	2460	125.50	1.18	127.00	1040
Quamem Ltd. (BD) Ltd.	100.5	9.00	2.06	9.70	3995.00	9.80	1.03	9.70	98550.00
AMCL (Pvt) Ltd.	100.5	390.50	0.19	389.75	1625	390.00	2.63	380.00	90
Dhaka Fisheries Ltd.	100.5	60.00	2.36	63.50	50	60.00	Not Traded	14.12.00	4.28
Shampur Sugar Mills	100.5	3.00	6.68	3.10	6500	Not Listed	Not Traded	26.09.00	1.6
Megha Vegetable	100.5	36.75	0.00	36.75	1300	35.25	Not Traded	18.12.00	1.4
Rahima Food Corp.	100.5	35.75	2.05	36.50	1200	35.00	Not Traded	18.12.00	1.4
Gul Foods Ltd.	100.5	65.00	0.76	65.50	1000	69.00	Not Traded	10.10.00	3.1
Mosono Food Ind. Ltd.	100.5	41.25	2.48	40.25	1450	40.75	5.84	38.50	50
Cochichia Aqua	100.5	33.25	1.48	33.75	7200	33.75	0.00	33.75	2850
Bionic Seafood	100.5	8.70	2.35	9.00	41650.00	Not Listed	Not Traded	17.08.00	1.73
Fi-Wang Food Ltd.	100.5	9.00	0.30	9.30	72000	9.30	1.09	9.20	7000
Megha PET Industries	100.5	11.10	1.83	10.80	1000	Not Listed	Not Traded	10.12.00	0.39
Quamem Baking Food	100.5	9.00	4.26	9.40	13050.00	9.70	3.19	9.40	19400.00
FUEL & POWER									
BOC (BD) Ltd.	100.5	97.50	3.28	94.40	3200	98.50	3.68	95.00	800
Padma Oil Co. Ltd.	100.5	170.00	0.90	170.00	200	166.00	Not Traded	01.03.01	15.3
Bangladesh Welding	100.5	6.20	0.00	6.20	7000	6.30	6.78	5.90	1000
JUTE									
Siten Carpet Ltd.	100.5	2.10	0.00	2.10	4800	Not Listed	Not Traded	30.09.98	1.3
Admiral Textile Ltd.	100.5	9.00	0.00	9.00	25000	9.00	5.88	8.50	2700
Stylerail Ltd.	100.5	65.00	0.31	63.00	30	Not Listed	Not Traded	09.11.00	230
Quamem Silk Mills Ltd.	100.5	5.00	1.79	5.60	3200	Not Listed	Not Traded	21.06.01	0.5
Silham Textile Ltd.	100.5	85.50	1.18	84.50	2360	85.00	1.80	83.50	800
Modern Dyeing	100.5	56.00	9.80	51.00	65	Not Listed	Not Traded	18.12.00	2.52
Eagle Star Textile Ltd.	100.5	4.80	4.35	4.60	1000	4.40	2.22	4.50	1000
Desh Garments Ltd.	100.5	65.00	1.52	66.00	20	Not Listed	Not Traded	02.03.01	4.8
Tamijuddin Textile Ltd.	100.5	36.00	2.86	35.00	870	38.25	Not Traded	25.03.01	15
Padma Textile Mills Ltd. (BD)	100.5	21.80	1.87	21.80	5500	21.60	Not Traded	14.06.01	6.19
Apex Spinning Mills Ltd. (BD)	100.5	18.00	4.55	17.60	40	Not Traded	Not Traded	09.12.00	28.8
Beximco Knitting Ltd.	100.5	135.75	1.38	133.25	1460	130.00	Not Traded	17.06.01	31.8

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