

**(1) Dostum Home...**

Dostum has been prepared in the airport and after arriving he would start his job as first vice president of Afghanistan," he had said.

A week back, President Ashraf Ghani told a press conference that the return of Dostum was a legal issue and the Attorney General Office (AGO) was following it.

Junbish supporters have been protesting over the past 20 days, demanding the return of Dostum and release of Nizamuddin Qaisari, a Dostum's commander in Faryab province accused of multiple crimes.

The Presidential Palace said Nizamuddin Qaisari was in detention and only judiciary organs could decide his fate. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Mohib Wants...**

three-day trip, he met several Colombian officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the High Peace Commission, the Agency for Incorporation and Normalisation, the Organisation for the Victims of Armed Conflict, the Ministry of National Education, the High Councilor for Women's Affairs and the National Museum of Colombia.

The main purpose of the visit was to start a dialogue about Colombia's successful peace process and to understand what lessons and models may be replicated with success in Afghanistan, Mohib explained.

The officials and representatives shared the experiences of the country's half-century of conflict and subsequent peace-building with Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The meetings covered multiple facts of peace building, from creating a climate of trust leading to negotiations, transitional justice, women's roles in the peace process and expanding service-delivery to citizens post conflict. In order to strengthen bilateral political relations and cooperation, Mohib met Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Patti Londoño Jaramillo. They conferred on the upcoming credentialing ceremony for Colombia's non-resident ambassador to Afghanistan, who is based in India.

In addition, they spoke about the possibility of a Colombian delegation visiting Afghanistan to build economic and trade ties. Ministry of Defence officials told him about the possibility of working with Afghanistan to increase the capability of the Afghan forces, particularly the air force.

They discussed cooperation in the field of pilot training and technical assistance, as well as training in the field of de-mining operations.

He spoke to Colombian officials regarding opportunities for Afghans to participate in capacity building programmes and scholarships for higher education. Mohib toured Colombia's National Museum and discussed with the curator exhibiting there ancient Afghan artifacts. For example, the mobile Bakhtrian gold exhibit.

To conclude his trip, Mohib met US Ambassador to Colombia Kevin Whitaker. He also participated in Eid prayers at a local mosque alongside fellow Afghans and Muslims living in Bogotá. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Senators Cautiously...**

Deputy Chairman Mohammad Alam Eyediyar also welcomed

the possible truce during coming Eid and said: "All dimensions should be carefully considered before declaring the ceasefire because after the previous ceasefire, casualties among security forces have surged."

Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said ceasefire was a positive move and should be welcomed.

Muslimyar announced a 45-day summer recess for the upper house beginning from July 23. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Martyrdom...**

giving of "knowledge, freedom and justice" to our souls, Danish said. (Outlook Afghanistan)

**(5) Pakistan's Foreign...**

and Afghanistan entered into a constructive dialogue to develop," she was quoted as saying in local media reports.

This comes as the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General QamarJavedBajwa had earlier said that the APAPPS would bring increased cooperation and coordination between the two countries. (KP)

**(6) Rates of...**

claimed Afghan businessmen suffered millions of afghanis in losses daily. He asked protesters to resolve their issues through political means and let ports reopen.

Salesmen based in Mazar-i-Sharif also complained of rising petroleum products, warning that oil and gas reserves in the province were fast vanishing.

Protesters from the Junbish-i-Millie party staged a massive protest after the detention of Nizamuddin Qaisari and his followers by the security personnel.

A close aide to Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, Qaisari was arrested recently. Protesters have been demanding his release and the return of Gen. Dostum. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Appeal Court Finds...**

Andarabi maintained he had not taken the money and had used it to fund a new police unit in Maidan Wardak.

Andarabi was also on Sunday found not guilty of misuse of authority.

After being found guilty by the lower court, Andarabi was freed on bail pending the outcome of his appeal. (Tolo news)

**(8) Need to Review...**

trade relations with India and Iran.

The transit trade pact, he said, had been signed under pressure. The agreement had already been sabotaged in the prevailing uncertain regional environment, he noted.

Several meetings between officials of Pakistan and Afghanistan had been held in recent past but they failed to yield any positive results, Sarhadi concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(9) 14pc of Bamyan...**

said Bamyan lacked enough treatment facilities for addicts particularly for women and children.

Counternarcotics officials accuse police of having failed to curb drugs smuggling into Bamyan.

However, deputy police chief Hamidullah Liaqat said the counternarcotics department was created last year and has only four or five workers who could not control drug trafficking.

"I admit that the number of addicts in Bamyan is increasing day by day, but we need a regular drug control organization that the Interior Ministry will decide on."

He said despite personnel shortage the Bamiyan command had been able to control several of its routes and prevent drug trafficking. (Pajhwok)

**(10) UK Envoy...**

the museum has suffered a lot and I praise really the efforts of the museum staff over the years to save what you have here," Mr. Kay said.

"I hope in the future, you will have even more objects return to the museum and have a new museum as well which will be modern and large and something which Afghans can be even more proud of," he added.

The envoy further said that the British Council is engaged in managing the cultural relationship with Afghanistan and covers work to education especially girls' education and English language teaching.

"Even some of the museum staff, 15 of the museum staff have had English language training from the British Council," he said.

The UK ambassador, also noted that the British Council is involved in preserving and conserving the historic heritage of Afghanistan and that they are discussing different ways to support conservation of Afghanistan's history. (ATN)

**(11) Helmand...**

handed over to local authorities like the local police force.

He said trained and professional military officers would be appointed as commanders of the force which would be properly trained in order not to create problems in future.

The corps commander said all members of the 700-member force would be residents of Helmand province and the recruitment would be started from Greskh district

He said the problem of military personnel shortage had been resolved in Helmand and 80 percent of damaged vehicles and equipment had been repaired besides positive changes in the security forces leadership.

Ahmadzai also revealed that large scale operations would be launched in areas currently being controlled by Taliban militants.

"In Helmand, 15 armed groups operate, with some directly receiving logistic support from other countries. These include night vision binoculars, arms and others," Ahmadzai claimed. Meanwhile, member of the Helmand provincial council, Abdul Majeed Akhonzada, told Pajhwok that the proposed local force should be well equipped and trained.

He said the plan might succeed because those being recruited in the force were local residents who were familiar with their environment.

Akhonzada said security forces should target arms and resources of the Taliban in order to stabilize Helmand. (Pajhwok)

**Maltese PM's Wife Cleared in Inquiry over Offshore Shell Company**

VALLETTA - An inquiry has found no evidence that the wife of Malta's prime minister benefited from a secret offshore company, contrary to allegations by murdered reporter Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Malta's attorney general said on Sunday that the 15-month investigation had failed to establish any links between the family of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Panama-based Egrant.

"A hundred suspicions do not

make one certain fact," it said in a statement.

The inquiry was launched after allegations by Caruana Galizia, an investigative journalist who died last October in a car bomb attack, that Muscat's wife Michelle owned a shell company established by Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca.

Muscat had denied the claims that his wife received money from the daughter of energy-rich Azerbaijan's president through that company.

To counter a mounting backlash triggered by the accusations and the investigation, Muscat last year called an election in which he gained a larger parliamentary majority.

"Michelle and I are both relieved this nightmare is over," he said on Sunday. (Reuters)

**Comoros Vice-President Survives Assassination Attempt**

MORONI (Comoros) - Comoros vice-president Moustoidrane Abdou escaped an assassination attempt early Sunday when his vehicle was fired on days before a controversial referendum on constitutional reform, a security source said.

"His car was seriously damaged but the vice-president is unhurt, there are no victims," the source, who requested anonymity, told AFP.

Abdou was travelling to his home village of Sima in the west of Anjouan island when assailants on a motorcycle raked his car with automatic gunfire near the island's biggest town of Mutsumudu, said the source.

The attackers escaped, the source added.

Authorities dispatched investigators from the capital Moroni on Grande Comore, the largest of the country's three main islands, following the incident.

Abdou, one of the country's three vice-presidents, holds the portfolios of production and energy in the government of President Azali Assoumani.

Assoumani, elected in 2016, has called a referendum for July 30 on a constitutional reform that could allow him to seek re-election and retain power beyond 2021, when his currently non-renewable term would otherwise end.

Under the current constitution, power rotates every five years between the archipelago's three main islands.

The nation was plunged into crisis in April when Assoumani suspended the Constitutional Court, the highest court in the country, sparking opposition protests.

One of his leading critics, ex-president Ahmed Abdallah Sambi, was placed under house arrest, while another prominent opposition leader was jailed following violent clashes between security forces and anti-government demonstrators. (AFP)

**Russian-Backed Air Strikes Hit Islamic State in Southern Syria**

AMMAN - Russian and Syrian jets stepped up their bombing of an Islamic State bastion along the Jordan-Israel border in southwestern Syria, as the militants pushed into areas abandoned by other rebel groups, diplomatic and opposition sources said.

Islamic State-affiliated forces entrenched in the Yarmouk Basin, which borders the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Jordan, also repelled a ground attack by the Syrian army and its allies,

the sources added.

The rural area has become the main battleground in the sensitive border region after a major Syrian army offensive backed by its Russian allies routed other rebel groups who were once supported by Washington, Jordan and Gulf states.

The Syrian army said its aerial strikes and shelling of militants in the Yarmouk Basin had killed "tens of terrorists" in a campaign whose goal it said was to crush militants.

An intelligence source told Reuters 1,000-1,500 Islamic State fighters had been holding their ground despite the 10-day-old bombing campaign that he said had hit villages and caused an "untold number" of civilian casualties.

A former resident in touch with relatives said thousands of civilians had fled bombed villages to areas held by the army or the rebels.

Another source familiar with the situation said Islamic State had actually been able to expand its territory over the last 20 hours by seizing at least 18 villages abandoned by other rebels under the banner of the Free Syrian Army (FSA).

Syria's army and its allies have been pushing to expand their foothold near the Golan frontier by negotiating surrender deals with rebel groups and allowing them to move to opposition-held areas in northern Syria.

On Sunday, the evacuation of hundreds of rebels and their families resumed for the third day from villages along the Golan frontier as part of a Russian-brokered surrender deal, sources said. (Reuters)

**Ethiopia Has 'No Option' but Multiparty****Democracy, PM Says**

JOHANNESBURG - Ethiopia has "no option" but to pursue multiparty democracy, the reformist new prime minister said Sunday, again shaking up Africa's second most populous nation that for decades has been ruled by a single coalition.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's chief of staff announced the remarks on Twitter, saying they were made during a meeting with leaders of more than 50 national and regional parties, including ones from overseas, who demanded reforms in election law.

A multiparty democracy would need strong institutions that respect human rights and rule of law, Abiy said, according to chief of staff Fitsum Arega.

The 42-year-old prime minister has announced sweeping reforms since taking office in April, including the release of opposition figures from prison and the embrace of a peace deal that led to the surprising restoration of diplomatic ties this month with longtime rival Eritrea.

Just months ago Ethiopia, a nation of more than 100 million people, faced widespread anti-government protests demanding wider freedoms, with the U.N. human rights chief and others expressing concern over hundreds of reported deaths and tens of thousands of people detained. The economy, one of Africa's fastest-growing, suffered.

Ethiopia's ruling coalition, which has been in power since 1991 and along with affiliated parties holds every seat in parliament, came up with Abiy after former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn stepped aside early this year. Notably, Abiy doesn't come from the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, a party in the ruling coalition that has been the dominant force in government for most of the past 27 years. (AP)