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AJK government 'puppet' just as Punjab, Centre

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Briefs

Fresh census approved

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar on Tuesday said that the federal cabinet had given approval for a fresh census that will be conducted through the use of "modern technology" in line with the global best practices. In a tweet, the minister said that after the approval of the cabinet, the government will now move the Council of Common Interests (CCI) so that a fresh census could be held before the next general elections. "This will be the first time in Pakistan's history that a census would be conducted within five years," he added.

Zuckerberg apologizes on shutdown

WEB DESK

CALIFORNIA: Facebook's founder Mark Zuckerberg has apologized for the "disruption" caused after its social media services went down for almost six hours - impacting more than 3.5bn users worldwide. The billionaire said sorry after an internal technical issue took Facebook, Messenger, Whatsapp and Instagram offline at about 16:00 GMT on Monday. The scramble to bring it back online eventually succeeded at around 22:00. But it is likely to increase scrutiny of the social media giant's reach.

Umer Sharif's funeral today

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Veteran comedian Umer Sharif's body will be flown to Karachi in the early hours of Wednesday from Germany. According to Express News, the late artist's remains will be brought to Pakistan via Istanbul and the funeral prayers will be held in Clifton at 3pm today (Wednesday). Previously, the funeral prayers of legendary comedian were offered in Germany on Monday. According to details, Sharif's funeral prayer was offered at the Turkish Mosque in Nuremberg.

Corps Commanders Meet

Army takes note of Indian propaganda

The forum expressed resolve to take all necessary measures to safeguard Pakistan's territorial integrity

Investiture ceremony held at GHQ

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Investiture Ceremony of Rawalpindi & Mangla Corps was held at Army Auditorium GHQ. Commander Rawalpindi Corps, Lieutenant General Sahir Shamsah Mirza was Chief Guest on the occasion. According to a statement from Inter Services Public Relation (ISPR), awards of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military), Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-i-Basalat were conferred on Army officers and soldiers. 25 Shaheed Soldiers were awarded Tamgha-i-Basalat. Next of kins of Shuhada received their awards posthumously. 67 officers were awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) and 122 officers were awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) for rendering meritorious services to the nation. A large number of senior Army officers and families of awardees attended the ceremony.

CENTRELINE REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The 244th Corps Commanders Conference was held at the General Headquarters on Tuesday in which the forum took note of malicious propaganda by the Indian military with the army chief, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The meeting was presided over by Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa. "The baseless propaganda only reflects their frustration and an attempt to divert attention from their internal contradictions especially gross human rights violations being committed in India-occupied Kashmir," the army chief observed. The forum expressed resolve to take all necessary measures to safeguard Pakistan's territorial integrity. A comprehensive review of the evolving security situation in the region was taken, with a particular focus on border management and internal security, the military's media wing said. According to ISPR, the forum was "apprised on measures being taken to thwart nefarious designs of inimical forces to destabilise Pakistan and spoil

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Saudi Naval Chief calls on COAS

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahad bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ on Tuesday. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and cooperation in military and maritime domains were discussed. The army chief reiterated that both countries share a great history of cordial relations and deep-rooted spirit of brotherhood, which has transformed into an enduring partnership. The current situation in Afghanistan and its bearing on regional peace and stability also came under discussion. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation, especially the assistance in successful evacuation operations and pledged to continue working with Pak for regional peace.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting of federal cabinet. - DNA

Pak, Iran agree to remain engaged

FM Qureshi received Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani, on Tuesday. Recalling fraternal relations between the two countries, the Foreign Minister remarked that the recent high-level exchanges have further reinforced existing ties. He emphasized early implementation of the steps, agreed during Prime Minister's meeting with President Raisi on the margins of SCO Summit in Dushanbe. Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined the need for regular convening of institutional frameworks to boost trade and economic relations. He said that the upcoming session of Joint Trade Committee would provide further impetus to

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Positivity rate below 3%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 54 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 1,252,656. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 27,947 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO) 1,308 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of deaths followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Till now 12,710 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab 7,442 in Sindh 5,593 in KP, 929 in Islamabad, 738 in Azad Kashmir, 349 in Balochistan, and 186 in GB. - DNA

No consultation with Opposition Ordinance for NAB chairman appointment

The information minister said it would have been better had the Opposition proposed a name, but unfortunately, they could not do so



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry said Tuesday the government has finalised the draft for the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman's appointment, which will remove the "legal laguna" of consulting with the Opposition on picking a new chief or extending the incumbent's tenure. The minister, addressing a post-cabinet press conference in Islamabad, said the new ordinance would empower the accountability courts, as the government wants to strengthen the systems, and not an individual. The information minister said it would have been better had the Opposition proposed a name, but unfortunately, they could not do so. He reiterated that the government would not hold talks with Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif, as he was a suspect in a NAB case.

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'Probe to ascertain legitimacy of offshore companies'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry has said that a high-level cell comprising federal investigation agencies will probe more than 700 Pakistanis named in the Pandora Papers scandal and ascertain which offshore companies were illegal or involved in money laundering. Fawad, while briefing the media, said the matter of Pandora Papers was discussed in the meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday. Pakistanis who own offshore companies have been

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AJK govt 'puppet' just as Punjab and Centre: Bilawal

"If free and fair elections are held, PPP will have govts both in Pakistan and the AJK," says Bilawal

BUREAU REPORT

KOTLI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that just like in the central government, there was a 'puppet' government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), media reported. Addressing a public gathering at Kotli in AJK, he claimed that Kashmir still belonged to PPP. "If free and fair elections are held, the party will have governments both in Pakistan and the AJK," he said, and added, "We are those who have faced dictators. When we could not be deterred by dictators,

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PPP to face worst ever defeat in AJK: Farrukh

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Tuesday reminded Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Zardari of the humiliation faced by his party after losing elections in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. PPP would face worst ever defeat in the upcoming by-polls in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), he said in news statement while reacting to Bilawal's claim of victory of the candidate fielded by his party in LA-12 Charhoi, AJK. The minister said it was part of the history that whenever Bilawal run election campaign for any candidate, he met with crushing defeat. He mocked Bilawal Zardari for day dreaming about formation of his party governments in all the federating units and centre in the general and by elections. Farrukh said the lies of PPP chairman could be gauged

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Pak cricket cannot rely on ICC funding alone: Ramiz Raja - Page 06

Pakistan keen to expand bilateral trade with Belarus - Page 07

PM for halting illegal money outflow from developing states - Page 08

Government of Japan supports KP govt for Locust Control

The items handed over during the ceremony included 20,000 liters of insecticide, 170 battery-operated sprays pumps, 170 generator-operated spray pumps and 77 units of motorcycles



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations handed over locust control items to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in a ceremony organized in Islamabad, under the Grant in Aid project titled "Project for the Restoration of Livelihoods in the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa".

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Global responsibility

THE long-standing animosity between China and Taiwan continues as Beijing sent 100 fighter jets and bombers into Taiwan's air defence zone—another incursion outside of the five reported since Friday. Reactionary statements have consequently been issued with the US expressing concerns about China's 'destabilising' actions. Effectively, it has set global expectations that the conflict will escalate further and has shied away from encouraging peace and resolution. Instead, it seems as though the personal rivalry has dictated the US condemnation of China. Taiwan and China have been at odds with one other due to opposing views on whether the former is a sovereign state. In the past few years, tensions have escalated as Beijing moves towards its announced objective of recovering the land of Taiwan. The global community must play its part in maintaining its neutrality and proposing avenues through which peace can be attained. The US should especially be advised to facilitate negotiations instead of mounting more pressure and apprehension. Accusatory statements that only state China's actions as being 'provocative', 'risking miscalculations' and 'undermining regional security' followed by complete silence on what solutions can be employed only furthers the anxiety of the region at large. A country like the US, which has often flexed its global credentials is supposed to honour its promise of promoting reconciliation, regardless of its relations with concerned parties. These statements are also nothing but an eyewash. Even if we were to entertain the worst possible scenario feared by the US—the complete takeover of Taiwan—the probability that the US would intervene is extremely low. Back when Russia invaded Ukraine, President Obama made the same statement of being 'deeply concerned by destabilising Russian actions in the region' but little was done to mitigate the damage done. If this is the future that awaits Taiwan even in the worst case scenario, then all the bravado with which the US is reacting is rather meaningless.

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Vaccination drive

SINCE the start of October, the federal government has initiated a drive to arrest and fine unvaccinated individuals. These measures are being put into place following the announcement by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) that unvaccinated individuals will not be allowed to travel domestically, enter wedding halls, shopping malls, hotels and guest houses. While some of these measures may appear to be little overboard, these are unfortunately necessary considering how the government has tried everything to facilitate voluntary vaccination, the progress for which has remained slow. Meanwhile, the Covid-19 positivity ratio, which was in double figures a couple of months ago, has now declined to 3.21 percent which illustrates that significant progress is being made when it comes to fighting the pandemic. Additionally, about 60 million individuals have received at least one dose, while the number of fully vaccinated individuals has reached the mark of 30 million. Both the NCOC and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) should be lauded for the handling of the situation and ensuring that vaccine shipments continue to arrive on a timely basis. In order to preserve these gains and to ensure that we can achieve our target of vaccinating 70 million citizens by the end of December, stricter measures that have been recommended by the NCOC are the need of the hour. While the government has done a commendable job at communicating the importance of vaccines through various awareness campaigns, a significant portion of the population continues to disregard the severity of the issue. While placing restrictions on individuals who don't comply should always be the last resort, it has clearly worked on more than one occasion. Not long ago in August, the government had given a deadline for workers in public-facing roles to obtain vaccination certificates which resulted in a significant uptick in vaccination numbers. Similarly, the decision by the Sindh government to block SIM cards of unvaccinated individuals also achieved positive results. While this change in strategy must be appreciated, perhaps the government must consider tracking unvaccinated individuals via the data obtained from ID cards instead of conducting raids or doing spot checks. Such a strategy would not only be more streamlined, but it would also be less taxing for the police, and easier to execute on a national scale.

New strides of Pakistan's foreign policy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Pakistani foreign policy is guided by the vision and principles of Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. According to him "Our foreign policy is one of the friendliness and good will towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive design against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and we are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world

IN the age of globalization, a country cannot live independently. Every country seeks development of its multi-dimensional relationships with other countries to assure its survival, security and strengthen its economy. For this, each country formulates its foreign policy according to its national interest. Nevertheless, Foreign policy directs how to deal with other nations to achieve political, economic and military goals, and somewhat less extent how to behave with non-state actors. We can say that foreign policy is a combination of strategies and actions to maintain strong relationship with other states and to deal with the non-states actors for the protection and promotion of state's national interests. Pakistani foreign policy is guided by the vision and principles of Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. According to him "Our foreign policy is one of the friendliness and good will towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive design against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and we are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. Pakistan will never be found lacking in extending its material and moral support to oppressed and suppressed people of the world, and in upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter". The foreign policy of Pakistan is framed to achieve main five goals such as; maintenance of territorial integrity, maintenance of its political independence, acceleration of social and economic development, strengthening its place on globe and keep cordial and friendly relations with all countries. To protect its freedom and sovereignty, Pakistan came into existence on account of great sacrifices of innocent Muslim. Like other nations, Pakistan also preserves its independence and does not allow any country to challenge its freedom

and sovereignty. Thus, this goal is a corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy. Not interference in other countries affairs, Pakistan always tries to establish cordial relationship with all the neighbors and other countries of the globe is another vital element of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan always expresses its concerns against India and Israel arrangements and about the critical situation of Kashmir, Palestine, Afghanistan and Middle East. Pakistan has always been offering its shoulders to safeguard and protect the rights of Muslim world and has been raising voice for their issues. Pakistan follows the principle of national sovereignty, non-use of force against any state and policy of not interference in other states affairs. Pakistan also acts upon United Nations charter and supports for all moves which are taken by UN for the implementation. Pakistan has been seeking the settlement of disputes through dialogue and negotiation with neighbors. In addition, Pakistan follows the policy of non-alignment and does not like to be the part of any super power bloc but unfortunately Pakistan is considered as a partner of the United States during the cold-war. Pakistan was front line ally of United States and played a vital role to disintegrate Soviet Union. Pakistan was an allied of Washington and NATO forces to seek out of its own security because Soviet Union was creating a security threat on Pak-Afghan border. Post-Cold war Pakistan again facilitated Washington to establish peace in Afghanistan and fight against terrorism. Today Pakistan is struggling to follow its primary principle of non-alignment policy and avoid being part of any military bloc and major conflict. That's why; Islamabad is making efforts to rescue the United States forces from Afghanistan.

Pakistan has always been remained on the front line to eliminate racism and colonialism. It has also been supporting Kashmiri people for their right of self-determination.

Although Pakistan is a nuclear power but its intention is to maintain minimum deterrence. It has always been following the international nuclear non-proliferation promise and it is supporting the collective attempts for peace and security without use of arms. Disarmament is considered an imperative condition for durable peace at global level. That why, this principle is included in the principles of Pakistani foreign policy to promote peace and stability in the world. Pakistan is also the member of United Nations, OIC, NAM, ECO, SCO, SAARC and ASEAN. Being the members of these international organizations Pakistan is struggling for the regional and global peace and unifying Muslim countries to promote mutual cooperation in political and economic activities. Satisfaction and dissatisfaction has always been existed in past but today Pakistan is moving on the better side in the world affairs.

At the end of cold war, the world has shifted from bipolarity to uni-polarity and now multilateral system. Since the breakdown of bipolarity, United States allies have been more inclined to act independently and multilateral system has emerged in the world. Now Pakistan is considered as a power in the regional and international system who worked with the West to transform the international system from bipolar to uni-polar world. Today, Pakistan has helped United States to come out from Afghanistan. Soon after, the uni-polarism started to decline due to overstretching and facing of economic crisis. And now the United States is going to withdraw from the international engagements and is opening new vacuum for the regional competitors that may be refilled by the regional powers like China, Russia and Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan is also struggling to extricate itself from the United States influence and form new alliances with China and Russia in order to pave way for the new regional blocs.

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Trouble for Biden as Iran deal fails

Maria Maalouf

Yet the Biden administration will not support an Israeli pre-emptive attack against Iran's nuclear reactors, since such an act could embolden Iran's regional allies to agitate more against American interests in the Middle East and around the world

WHAT will the Biden administration do if Iran refuses to return to the negotiating table over its nuclear ambitions? There are a few options available and the best may well be a return, even temporarily, to the 2015 deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Perhaps Iran can accept the formula known as "less for more." This phrase has been circulating in Washington for some time. It means that Iran will agree to enrich uranium at a lower rate. In return, the US will lift more sanctions on

Tehran. This would be an ad hoc accord without any formal authorization. Nevertheless, so many things are unclear about how President Joe Biden will deal with Iran if the negotiations in Vienna collapse. From the Iranian side, any analyst can predict several policies. First, Tehran will declare its stances a victory and a defeat for the US and the West. Second, it will blame the US and the West for the failure of the negotiations. Third, it will continue enriching uranium. Iran is determined to be a nuclear power regardless of its uranium enrichment rate, and will eagerly use any funds it can get as a result of even a minor lifting of sanctions to finance its regional ambitions. The crucial thing for Tehran is to isolate the US and make Washington the subject of criticism for its failure to reach an agreement. The regime will step up its cooperation with Hezbollah in Lebanon and also coordinate more closely with its affiliated militias in Iraq to make it harder for Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi to govern. There could also be growing economic cooperation between Turkey and Iran, especially if the former increases its role in Afghanistan. This

could be one way for Iran to ensure that the Taliban do not do anything to hurt Tehran's national interests. In addition, it is not clear how an angry France will handle its relations with the US in the context of negotiations with Iran. France is still tough on Iran becoming a nuclear power. But it could establish stronger economic ties with the country if a number of sanctions are lifted. Moreover, things are still vague on how a potential left-wing government in Germany under the Social Democrats might approach Iran. Most likely, it will emulate France in its dealings with Tehran. This could lead to greater German investment in Iran. For sure, Iran will enhance its military and economic cooperation with both China and Russia. The crucial thing for Iran is to isolate the US and make Washington the subject of criticism for its failure to reach an agreement with the regime over its nuclear activities. That would be a major setback for Biden personally. He made it a campaign issue to reverse Donald Trump's order to quit the deal with Iran. If Biden acknowledges any failure to sign a nuclear deal with Iran, the American people will say that Trump was right. It will

also complicate his relations with the Republicans, especially in Congress. They may force him to refuse any future negotiations with Iran. Congress may pass laws preventing the resumption of talks with Iran except under severe conditions, and could well reimpose sanctions. Ultimately, there will be extremely difficult choices if Iran refuses to return to the negotiations, signifying that it will go solo in its campaign to be a nuclear power. The US does not want a nuclear power/nuclear arms race in the Middle East. Ultimately, there could be disagreement between Washington and Israel, as the latter will see a genuine Iranian nuclear threat to its existence. Yet the Biden administration will not support an Israeli pre-emptive attack against Iran's nuclear reactors, since such an act could embolden Iran's regional allies to agitate more against American interests in the Middle East and around the world. Each of these scenarios is highly unpopular among many constituencies. As a result, it is more likely that the Biden administration will offer the Iranian regime even more generous concessions in order to quickly reach a nuclear deal.

Courtesy Arab News

Briefs

Tenure of NAB Chairman could not be extended

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that the tenure of the NAB chairman could not be extended. He was talking to the media outside the accountability court on Tuesday he said, "the prime minister has refused to consult with the opposition over the matter." "The ministers are hammering out an ordinance and the president is ready to sign over it," criticizing the government PML-N leader said. Commenting on recently surfaced names of 700 people from Pakistan in Pandora Papers, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said these people should also be subjected to same treatment as the one met by Nawaz Sharif. "A joint investigation team should be constituted and these people should be investigated while being kept in jail," he said. "There is no law of investigating these people by an inquiry committee," the opposition politician said. "PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif was convicted in Panama case despite the fact that his name was not there in Panama," Abbasi added.

Facebook whistleblower to push for regulation

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: A Facebook whistleblower goes before US lawmakers Tuesday to urge regulation of the social media giant, after an outage impacted potentially billions of users and highlighted global dependence on its services. Ex-employee Frances Haugen is set to testify on Capitol Hill after she leaked reams of internal research to authorities and the Wall Street Journal, which detailed how Facebook knew its sites were potentially harmful to young people's mental health. She will speak before senators less than a day after Facebook, its photo-sharing app Instagram and messaging service WhatsApp went offline for roughly seven hours, with "billions of users" impacted, according to tracker DOWNTIME. In excerpts of Haugen's testimony leaked to US media, she argues for regulation of the closely scrutinized company that is woven into the daily lives of so many people.

Romanian PM toppled in confidence vote

BUCHAREST: The centrist government of Prime Minister Florin Ciu, which only took power in Romania nine months ago, has been toppled by a vote of no-confidence. Some 281 lawmakers voted in favor, far above the 234 needed to carry the motion. There were no votes against, as the Ciu's National Liberal Party (PNL) and its allies boycotted the proceedings. The vote threatened more instability for Romania after months of political stalemate, a mounting death toll from the country's fourth wave of the coronavirus and spiking energy costs. Ciu, 49, had been in charge since elections in December, but his coalition had been fragile from the start. Then last month, the center-right Save Romania Union (USR) withdrew from government, citing Ciu's "dictatorial attitude." During debate on the no-confidence motion, Ciu asked his opponents: "What do you have to gain by plunging the country into chaos?" The left-wing opposition Social Democrats (PSD) have accused Ciu and his cabinet of "impoverishing Romanians and increasing the country's debts". - Agencies

PM for halting illegal money outflow from developing states

The premier said that the illicit outflows are "crushing" the people of the developing world

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday reiterated his concern regarding the illicit flow of \$1 trillion from developing countries to tax havens, stressing on the need to halt these outflows. The prime minister's remarks came during the World Leaders Summit Dialogue organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) during its on-going 15th Quadrennial Meeting, hosted by Barbados. "According to the FACTI panel (UN High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity) \$7 trillion are parked in these tax havens and haven destinations," he said. "This plunder is taking place because of the corrupt ruling elite of the developing world," the premier added. He termed the challenge a "huge crisis", which he predicted will "only get worse" in the coming years. PM Imran Khan said the only way this will stop is if the recommendations made by the FACTI panel are implemented, while also acknowledging that "unfortunately the richer countries which can do something about



it [have] no incentive to do anything". The premier said that the illicit outflows are "crushing" the people of the developing world, not just because the money is being siphoned off to the developed world - which could instead be spent on human development - but also because resultant, when the money leaves the country, it affects the local currency which devalues,

leading to inflation, and then more poverty. He said an unseen effect which even the developed world will see in the days to come is economic migrants, which are barely a "trickle" right now. "I urge you madam secretary general to do everything to raise awareness that this huge injustice which is being done to the people of the developing world, has to stop."

Earlier, PM Imran Khan also spoke of prioritising vaccine equity, debt relief, and climate finance, as part of global economic recovery from the devastating effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Expressing concerns over vaccine inequity, the prime minister called for a more equitable distribution. Also, recalling his campaign for debt relief, the prime minister advocated for debt relief until the end of the pandemic. Furthermore, he reaffirmed the urgent need for mobilisation of and contribution by richer countries to climate finance in view of the vulnerability and existential challenges faced by Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS) and other developing countries, including Pakistan. The Prime Minister was invited to the Leaders Dialogue along with Presidents of Kenya, and Guyana, Secretary General UNCTAD and heads of other UN agencies, under the theme of "Building a more prosperous development path: Matching the scale of the moment". The Quadrennial Conference, hosted virtually by Barbados from 4-7 October 2021, is taking place in the backdrop of unprecedented economic, public health and social effects, induced and exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic.

Maryam seeks acquittal from Avenfield reference

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz filed a separate petition in the Islamabad High Court, seeking the annulment of the verdict related to the Avenfield Apartments reference, media reported Tuesday. Maryam has maintained in her petition, filed through Advocate Irfan Qadir, that the verdict was a "classic example of outright violations of law and political engineering hitherto unheard of in the history of Pakistan." She added that the "Supreme Court supervised the entire process of the investigation of the case and monitored the prosecution." "Filing three separate references in the case of assets is also a violation of the law," she said, adding that the accountability court judge would know why he didn't notice these facts. Maryam contended that the apex court's "role in the Constitution is neither that of the investigator nor that of the prosecutor." "NAB is bound to conduct the investigations with transparency," maintained Maryam.



RAWALPINDI: Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily, Commander of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, here at Joint Staff Headquarters. - DNA

Saudi Naval Chief lauds Pakistan's peace efforts

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily, Commander of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, here at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi on Tuesday. Besides security, regional issues, particularly the latest development in Afghanistan, matters related to enhancing the level and scope of bilateral military engagements and cooperation in various fields between the two brotherly countries were discussed during the meeting. Chairman JCSC emphasized

the need to further enhance the existing defence and security cooperation between both brotherly countries and said that Pakistan-KSA cooperation will have positive impact on peace and security in the region. The visiting dignitary remained appreciative of the sincere efforts of the Pakistan Armed Forces in bringing peace to the region especially the Afghan Peace Process. They also acknowledged the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the war against terrorism. Chairman JCSC thanked the dignitary and said that Pakistan Defence Forces greatly values its close brotherly ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pak-China institute symbol of friendship

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute established at Gwadar Port is a symbol of 70 years of Pak-China friendship. The institute which is a part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, was completed at a cost of \$10 million in only 20 months. The institute had been equipped with the state-of-the-art machinery for imparting the best technical education and skills to the youths of Balochistan, especially Gwadar. According to an official source, the students would be provided free accom-

Macron wants 'calming down' in tense Algeria relations

AGENCIES

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday he hoped that tensions with Algeria could ease after a row over visas and critical comments by Paris towards Algiers. "My wish is for a calming down because I think it's better to talk and to make progress," Macron told the France Inter broadcaster, adding that his relations with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune were "truly cordial". Algeria over the weekend recalled its ambassador from Paris and banned French military planes from its airspace, which France regularly uses to reach its forces battling

militants in the Sahel region. That came after a bitter row over visas, followed by media reports that Macron had told descendants of Algeria's war of independence that the North African country was ruled by a "political-military system" that had "totally re-written" its history. Algeria said the reported remarks were an "interference" in its internal affairs. Algiers was also angered last week after France said it would sharply reduce the number of visas it grants to citizens of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Paris said the decision had been made necessary by the former colonies' failure to do enough to allow illegal migrants in France to be returned.



The latest row came two weeks after Macron apologised on behalf of his country for abandoning Algerians who fought alongside France in their country's war of independence, which was waged on both sides with extreme brutality, including widespread torture. During his presidency, Macron has taken steps to de-

fuse lingering tensions with Algeria linked to their colonial history, and face up to France's methods to retain control of its north African colony, which won independence in 1962. In 2018, he admitted that France had created a "system" that facilitated torture during the war and acknowledged that French mathematician Maurice Audin, a Communist pro-independence activist, was murdered in Algiers. In July last year, he tasked French historian Benjamin Stora with assessing how France has dealt with its colonial legacy in Algeria. "We've said things that are not easy to hear. I have not sugarcoated our own history," Macron told France Inter.

Czechs sign \$630m deal for air defence system

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic has signed a \$630m deal to buy a new air defence system from Israel, marking the central European nation's latest move to modernise its armed forces. Announced on Tuesday, the agreement will see Prague procure the Spyder system made by the Israeli state-run company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. Spyder is capable of providing protection against aircraft, helicopters, bombers, cruise missiles and other weapons. The Czech defence ministry said the deal, under which the NATO member will get four short-range air defence batteries, is worth 13.7 billion Czech korun (\$630m). Delivery of the components is set to be completed by 2026. The Spyder system will replace an obsolete anti-aircraft Soviet-era 2K12 Kub system to defend military and civilian centres such as industrial hubs, nuclear power plants, airports and other important facilities. Under a separate deal announced last week, the Czech military will acquire 52 Caesar self-propelled gun howitzers from France's Nexter Systems. - Web Desk

Moonis denies allegations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Moonis Elahi on Tuesday reacted to the news of his name being mentioned in the Pandora Papers and denied the allegations of owning an offshore company. Taking to Twitter, Elahi wrote: "I do not own any offshore company nor do I have any assets which have not been declared." The minister further said that he refutes "all assertions to the contrary." It should be noted that Elahi's name, along with 700 Pakistanis, was mentioned in the Pandora Papers, an investigation uncovering financial secrets held by high-profile individuals across the world. Aside from Elahi, Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin; Senator Faisal Vawda; PML-N leader Ishaq Dar's son, Ali Dar; PPP's Sharjeel Memon; the family of Minister for Industries and Production Khusró Bhattiar; and PTI leader Abdul Aleem Khan, among others were mentioned in the report with alleged links to offshore companies.



Pak keen to bolster ties with Central Asian states

Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani expressed this resolve while exchanging views with Kazakhstan envoy Yerzhan Kistafin

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani has underlined Pakistan desire to further augment cooperation with Kazakhstan in all fields. Better economic ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan will help further boost bilateral cooperation, said Sadiq Sanjrani while exchanging views with Kazakhstan envoy Yerzhan Kistafin, who paid a courtesy call on Sanjrani here at Parliament House on Tuesday. During the meeting, discussion took place on a range of courses including Pakistan-Kazakhstan bilateral cooperation, ways to precipitate the exchange of delegations at parliamentary and trade levels and the overall development of the region. "Enhanced economic linkages and parliamentary diplomacy would help further cement the bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries. Maintaining better ties with Kazakhstan remains



an important part of Pakistan's foreign policy", Sanjrani said. Kazakhstan-Pakistan Friendship Group in the Senate could also play a crucial role in expanding parliamentary relations between the two countries, adding that both sides have maintained excellent relations at international fora,

he noted. Both the countries had often taken similar positions on international and regional issues, Sanjrani further added. In his meeting with the visiting dignitary, Sanjrani called for tapping into the avenues that could help in strengthening economic ties and elevate the trade volume between the two countries. "Pakistan seeks to further heighten ties with Central Asian countries", Sanjrani underscored. In his meeting with the envoy, Sanjrani highlighted that Pakistan's unique geo-economic location offered tremendous opportunities for transport, trade, transit trade and ICT connectivity to the entire region. He observed that greater regional integration would help drive growth and socio-economic development in the entire region. "Kazakhstan cherishes its relation with Pakistan", Ambassador said. Both sides expressed hope that cooperation between the two states would boost in various fields. The Chairman Senate also extended best wishes to the Ambassador.