

KABUL (Reuters) – China has pledged to deliver 400,000 doses of Sinopharm's COVID-19 vaccine to Afghanistan, Afghan officials said on Monday, in a boost for an immunization campaign begun last week. "China's ambassador to Kabul said in a meeting with health officials that his country would provide Afghanistan with 400,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine," Ghulam Dastagir Nazari, the health ministry's head of the immunization program, told Reuters. The Sinopharm vaccine produced in China has been approved by the World Health Organization, but it is unclear when it will be delivered, Nazari said.

Unfortunate is he who cannot gain a few sincere friends during his life and more unfortunate is the one who has gained them and then lost them (through his deeds).

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

U.S. Mysteriously Removes 3 Names From Khashoggi Report

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The U.S. intelligence community has replaced its long-awaited report on the murder of Jamal Khashoggi with another version that saw the names of three men it had initially identified as complicit removed.

CNN reported on Monday that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) switched the report several hours after it was published on Friday afternoon.

The first link to the report that was sent out by ODNI stopped working and was replaced with a second version, whose file name on the ODNI website includes "v2", that removed three of the men it had just announced had "participated in, ordered, or were otherwise complicit in or responsible for the death of Jamal Khashoggi".

CNN said the change went largely unnoticed amid outrage over the failure of Joe Biden's administration to impose sanctions on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) after the report confirmed that he had directly approved the assassination.

The fiancée of Khashoggi called on Monday for MbS to be pun-



A man lights a candle by posters of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi during a gathering outside the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul on 2 October 2018.

ished after a U.S. intelligence report found he had approved the killing.

Khashoggi, a U.S. resident who wrote opinion columns for the Washington Post criticizing Saudi policies, was killed and dismembered by a team linked to the crown prince in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

The Saudi government, which has denied any involvement by the

crown prince, rejected the report's findings.

"It is essential that the crown prince... should be punished without delay," Hatice Cengiz said on Twitter. "If the crown prince is not punished, it will forever signal that the main culprit can get away with murder which will endanger us all and be a stain on our humanity."

Asked about criticism of Washington for not sanctioning Prince

Mohammed directly, Biden said an announcement would be made on Monday, but did not provide details, while a White House official suggested no new steps were expected.

"Starting with the Biden administration, it is vital for all world leaders to ask themselves if they are prepared to shake hands with a person whose culpability as a murderer has been proven," Cengiz said.

The White House has cited national interests to justify why Biden has let bin Salman off the hook.

"We believe there is more effective ways to make sure this doesn't happen again and to also be able to leave room to work with the Saudis on areas where there is mutual agreement – where there is national interests for the United States," White House press secretary Jen Psaki told CNN's Dana Bash on "State of the Union" on Sunday morning.

"That is what diplomacy looks like," added Psaki, who called Khashoggi's murder a "horrific crime" earlier this month.

Iraq's PMU Says U.S. Raid Hit Iraqi-Syrian Border, Warns of 'Dangerous Incident'



Members of the Iraqi Hezbollah Brigades, part of the PMU, carry flags during a ceremony commemorating fellow members killed in air raids, Baghdad, June 21, 2018.

BAGHDAD (Press TV) – Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) says the recent U.S. raid against its forces was conducted on the Iraqi-Syrian border, and not on the Syrian soil as claimed.

In a statement released on Sunday, the PMU warned that the U.S. aggression is a harbinger of "dangerous incidents" in the future.

"Given the seriousness of this issue and its implications for the sovereignty, security and stability of our beloved country of Iraq, Hashd al-Sha'abi waited for a while for the full narrative of this attack to be completed, and to be confirmed that our fighters were not deep in Syria, in contrast to the narrative provided by U.S. aggressive forces," said the PMU, which is known in Iraq as Hashd al-Sha'abi.

It added that the PMU forces had been present at the Iraqi-Syrian border in order to protect the Iraqi soil from acts of terrorism.

The statement came days after the U.S. administration of Joe Biden conducted its first illegal military action on the Iraqi-Syrian border to target the facilities of PMU fighters.

Observers compared Biden's militaristic approach to that of his hawkish predecessor, Donald Trump. The

attack killed one and wounded four others.

"Glory and honor belong to that great martyr of ours and all the martyrs of Iraq who bravely stood against terrorism," said the PMU, which has been fighting the remnants of Daesh terrorist group.

A spokesman of al-Nujaba movement, which is part of the PMU, said the Iraqi resistance forces from now will have justified reasons to attack U.S. targets in the country, as a result of the U.S. military's Thursday attack.

"All previous agreements [with the Iraqi government] have been annulled and the resistance now has the right to set its own goals," Nasr al-Shammari told Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television news network on Sunday.

Al-Shammari explained that while the resistance considered the U.S. embassy in Iraq as the "den of spies", it had agreed not to target the embassy.

He criticized the Iraqi government for not providing any explanation about the attack, warning that if the government refuses to introduce the mercenary elements who passed on intelligence about the PMU's position to the U.S., the resistance will reserve the right to directly take action.

Yemen Donor Conference Seeks Billions to Prevent Famine

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The United Nations says it hopes to raise \$3.85bn to prevent large-scale famine in Yemen, warning that life in the war-ravaged nation was unbearable, with children enduring a "special kind of hell".

More than 100 governments and donors took part in a virtual donor conference on Monday – co-hosted by Sweden and Switzerland – as Yemen's Houthis Ansarullah fighters push to liberate former Saudi-backed president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's last northern stronghold of Marib.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions pushed to the brink of famine since a Saudi-led coalition launched a devastating war in March 2015 in support of Hadi's regime.

But with aid funding dropping in 2020 amid the coronavirus downturn, resulting in the closure of many humanitarian programs, the situation in the country has become even worse.

The UN, which has described the situation in Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, and its partners received \$1.9bn last year – about half of what was required.

It called on Monday for "immediate funding" to support 16 million people in Yemen, where some two-thirds of the population is in need of some form of aid to survive.

"For most people, life in Yemen is now unbearable. Childhood in Yemen is a special kind of hell. This war is swallowing up a whole generation of Yemenis," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"We must end it now and start dealing with its enormous consequences immediately. This is not the moment to step back from Yemen," he said in a statement.

Four United Nations agencies earlier this month warned that nearly 2.3 million children under the age of five were pro-



Tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions pushed to the brink of famine in the six-year Saudi-led war.

jected to suffer from acute malnutrition this year in war-torn Yemen.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the

World Health Organization (WHO) in a joint statement on February 12 said that of the overall figure, about 400,000 children were expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition and could die if they did not receive urgent treatment.

Over 400 EU Lawmakers Urge Action Against Zionist Regime's Annexation

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – More than 400 European parliamentarians have urged leaders to stop the Zionist regime's annexation of the occupied West Bank.

A letter seen by AFP was signed by 400 European politicians from across a range of backgrounds who serve in national legislatures and senates or in the European parliament.

Addressed to European foreign ministers and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the letter argues that "the (U.S. President Joe) Biden administration presents a chance to correct course" in Middle East diplomacy.

"The previous U.S. administration left the conflict farther away from peace than ever," it added.

Former president Donald Trump broke with much of the international consensus concerning the Zionist-Palestinian conflict.

Trump recognized al-Quds as the Zionist regime's "undivided capital" and moved Washing-

ton's embassy there, infuriating the Palestinians who claim the city as the capital of their future state. The international community views the city's eastern sector as occupied territory.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 478, adopted on August 20, 1980, prohibits countries from establishing diplomatic missions in al-Quds.

Emboldened by the anti-Palestine policies of Trump, the Zionist regime stepped up its settlement expansion in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which pronounces settlements in the West Bank and East al-Quds "a flagrant violation under international law."

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu last year allegedly agreed to pause West Bank annexation plans in exchange for normalization with the United Arab Emirates.

"However, developments on the ground clearly point to a reality of rapidly progressing de facto

annexation, especially through accelerated settlement expansion and demolitions of Palestinian structures," the letter said.

"Europe must work with the Biden administration, countries in the region and the parties on the ground to prevent unilateral action undermining the possibility of peace, advance the rights and security of all people under Israel's effective control," it added.

More than 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 occupation of Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds.

All settlements are illegal under international law. The UN Security Council has condemned the regime's settlement activities in the occupied territories in several resolutions.

The former leader of Britain's Labor party, Jeremy Corbyn, and France's Jean-Luc Melenchon were among the signatories of the letter.

Syrian Air Defenses Respond to Zionist Aggression

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian air defense systems responded to a new aggression by the Zionist regime on Sunday, intercepting a number of "enemy missiles", the Syrian state-run news agency SANA reported, citing a military source.

According to SANA, the "air aggression" occurred on Sunday at 10:16 p.m., local time (20:53 GMT), with the airstrike launched from the Golan Heights "aimed at targets in the vicinity of Damascus".

SANA tweeted footage of the attack.

The Zionist regime frequently targets military positions inside Syria, especially those affiliated with the resistance movement, which has played a key role in helping the Syrian army in its fight against foreign-backed terrorists since 2011.

The occupying regime's media claim the airstrike was a response to a recent attack on an Israeli-owned vessel in the Gulf of Oman, which Tel Aviv blames

on Iran.

Early last month, Israeli air-to-surface and surface-to-surface missiles were intercepted by the Syrian air defense systems over the country's southwestern province of Quneitra.

In early January, a similar attack was carried out by the regime on the southwestern town of al-Zabadani in the Rif Dimashq governorate, which claimed the life of a Syrian soldier and injured three others.

In mid-January, the city of Dayr al-Zawr and the town of al-Bukamal were targeted by the regime's airstrikes, which were carried out with intelligence provided by the U.S., according to a U.S. official.

The Syrian government wrote to the UN in January to protest another attack that killed four members of a family near the western city of Hama.

The letter by the Syrian Foreign Ministry said Damascus reserves the right to defend the country's sovereignty and civilians against such acts of aggression.