



TRADITION OVERLOOKS 'MISCONDUCT'

LONDON Soldiers in ceremonial red tunics and bearskin hats march in formation during the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, London, on Friday. The traditional display of British pageantry unfolded against a backdrop of heightened public attention following reports that Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor had been arrested and questioned by British police on suspicion of misconduct in public office related to his past associations with Jeffrey Epstein. PTI



UK police continue search of Andrew's former Royal Lodge

LONDON The UK police investigating allegations of misconduct in public office against Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, King Charles III's younger brother, continue to carry out searches at his former home of Royal Lodge on the Windsor Castle estate on Friday. Andrew, who was arrested in a dramatic swoop on his 66th birthday on Thursday morning, was released "under investigation" after 11 hours of questioning by Thames Valley Police and returned to his Wood Farm home on Sandringham Estate in Norfolk. The police confirmed that their search of the particular property, where he had recently moved, is now complete, but the search at the Royal Lodge in Berkshire remains ongoing.

Following the unprecedented development of the eighth in line to the British throne being arrested, King Charles issued a statement to stress that the "law must take its course" and proceeded with his pre-scheduled royal engagements. "What now follows is the full, fair and proper process by which this issue is investigated in the appropriate manner and by the appropriate authorities," the 77-year-old monarch said in a statement released by Buckingham Palace. His brother's arrest came in the wake of shocking allegations over the past few weeks as files related to the late American sex offender, Jeffrey Epstein, were released by the US Department of Justice. The police are believed to be investigating breaches re-

The Indian-origin legal expert stressed that an arrest is only part of the investigative process and if confidential reports were shared, investigators would need to examine their classification, whether there was authorisation, and the intent behind any disclosure. "Misconduct in public office is a serious common law offence which requires prosecutors to show that a public officer deliberately breached their duty in a way that represents a serious abuse of public trust," said Simarjot Singh Judge, founder and managing partner of Judge Law. PTI

Israel 'tightening alliances' with allies; calls India 'gigantic power'

PM Modi expected to arrive in Israel on February 25 on a two-day visit

JERUSALEM

Describing India as a "gigantic power", Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel is "tightening alliances" with its allies, as mentioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jerusalem next week. Prime Minister Modi is expected to arrive in Israel on February 25 on a two-day visit during which he is likely to address the Knesset (parliament) and meet Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog. Netanyahu made the comments while addressing the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Cadets' Graduation Ceremony in Bahad 1 (IDF Officers



School), about 190 kms south of Jerusalem, on Thursday. After describing valiant efforts by the Israeli army over the years, Netanyahu said how the country goes out and takes "pre-emptive measures" against the evil, and, therefore, will act time and again "to neutralise the risks in the area, as necessary." "We will also act to tighten alliances with our allies. Next week, the Prime Minister of India will

- On Sunday, Netanyahu broke the news of Modi's visit while addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations.
"Parliament address on the anvil. Who's coming here next week? Narendra Modi," Netanyahu told the gathering.
"Tremendous alliance between Israel and India, and we are going to discuss all sorts of cooperation. Now, you know, India is not a small country. It has 1.4 billion people. India is enormously powerful, enormously popular," he said.
This would be Modi's second visit to Israel, the first being in July 2017, which was also the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to the Jewish state.

visit the country "a gigantic power," Netanyahu said. "And of course, you know that a few days ago I returned from another diplomatic visit, the seventh in number since the election of President (Donald) Trump to a second term, where I met with the

greatest friend of the State of Israel a "US President Trump," he added. "In the American security doctrine published recently, Israel is the only country in the world that the US defines as 'the model ally,'" he asserted. PTI

Four charged over Sydney attacks linked to organised crime conflict. Four teenagers have been arrested over a spate of shootings across Sydney linked to an organised crime conflict. The police force said that the four males, aged 16, 18 and two 19-year-olds, were arrested by officers executing search warrants at six western Sydney properties on Thursday, a news agency reported.



NORTH KOREA

Kim lauds North Korea's economy, regional standing

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un lauded his nation's improving economy and regional standing as he opened the country's most important political event, where he is expected to set his domestic and foreign policy agenda for the next five years and further entrench his family's authoritarian rule. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Friday that the ruling Workers' Party Congress began the previous day with Kim delivering a speech emphasising the economy. State media did not immediately report any comments by Kim directly addressing his standoffs with the United States and South Korea or his nuclear weapons program, the main focus of international concern. PTI



Yoon remains defiant following life sentence

SEOUL

Ousted South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Friday remained defiant in his first reaction to a life sentence for rebellion handed down by a Seoul court the previous day. In a statement released by his lawyers, Yoon maintained that his abrupt and short-lived declaration of martial law in December 2024 was done "solely for the sake of the nation and our people," and dismissed the Seoul Central District Court as biased against him. Yoon, who was removed from office amid a political crisis set off by his unsuccessful power grab, has long rejected the eight criminal cases brought against him for what prosecutors described as a coup attempt and other allegations. He barricaded himself in the presidential residence for weeks, stonewalled investigators following his arrest,

and skipped court dates, while clashing with witnesses when he did appear. In handing down his verdict on rebellion charges on Thursday, Judge Jee Kui-youn of the Seoul court said that Yoon has shown "no sign of apology for the staggering social costs incurred by the emergency martial law" and that he "refused to appear in court without any justifiable reason" several times. Conservative supporters of the former president, who rallied near the court for hours ahead of the verdict, expressed disappointment and anger after it was announced, while his opponents cheered in nearby streets, the two groups separated by hundreds of police officers. PTI



New order could lead to arrest of thousands of legal refugees

Trump admin issued a sweeping new order

MINNEAPOLIS

The Trump administration has issued a sweeping new order that could lead to the arrest of tens of thousands of refugees who are lawfully in the United States but do not yet have permanent residency, overturning years of legal and immigration safeguards. A memo filed by the Department of Homeland Security ahead of a Thursday federal court hearing in Minnesota says refugees applying for green cards must return to federal custody one year after they were admitted to the US for review of their applications. DHS "may maintain custody for the duration of the



inspection and examination process," said the memo, which was filed Wednesday. Advocacy and resettlement groups slammed the order, which will likely face legal challenges and could sow confusion and fear among the nearly 200,000 refugees who came to the United States during the Biden administration. The order is the latest in a series of immigration restric-

tions by the Trump administration, which has upended longstanding policies toward refugees, including dramatically reducing the number admitted into the country. A memo obtained by The Associated Press late last year said the administration was planning a review of all refugees admitted to the US during the Biden administration, and immediately suspended green card approvals for refugees who arrived during those years. PTI

US reciprocates with Indonesia over tariffs

Washington: The White House announced a reciprocal trade agreement with Indonesia on Thursday while President Prabowo Subianto was in Washington to attend the first meeting of President Donald Trump's Board of Peace. Under the agreement, Southeast Asia's largest economy will eliminate tariffs for 99 per cent of American goods while the US will maintain tariffs on most Indonesian goods at 19 per cent, the White House said. That is the same rate the US has set for Cambodia and Malaysia. Indonesia also agreed to address non-tariff barriers

to US goods and to remove restrictions on exports to the US for critical minerals and other industrial commodities, the White House said. Indonesian and US companies also reached 11 deals this week worth USD 38.4 billion, including purchases of US soybeans, corn, cotton and wheat, cooperation in critical minerals and oil field recovery, and joint ventures in computer chips.

Public Notice: That, undersigned advocate has issued the public notice on behalf of my client Bank State Bank of India Br. APMC, New Mondha RACPC code no. 61077 Tq. & Dist. Nanded (MH). That, Mr. Panduram Raghooji Aglaw has entered into sale agreement for purchasing the one flat i.e. flat no. 102 at 1st floor its built-up area 722 Sq. Ft. & carpet area 65.9 Sq. Ft. & its boundaries East-flat no. 108, West-flat no. 104, South-flat no. 101 and North-Road out of survey no. 182 & CTS no. 7918, 7919 situated at village Jagamwadi, Govindraj Apartment, Nanded from Mr. Somesh Rajabhai Deshpande and Mr. Mahesh Rajabhai Deshpande, therefore he has demanding loan before my client Bank for purchasing the said flat. Look into record that, original Reg. sale deed bearing no. 4486 dt. 31/12/1996 has been lost, therefore Mr. Somesh Rajabhai Deshpande has lodged the missing complaint before P.S. Bhaynagar, Nanded on 13/02/2026. That, Mr. Panduram Raghooji Aglaw has demanding the loan for purchasing the said property, therefore my client Bank calling the objection regarding the mortgage of above property, if anybody having the objection, any interest on the said property etc. therefore same may raise objection in writing within seven (07) days with undersigned advocate address. If no anybody raises the objection within period thereafter my client Bank mortgage said property, hence take this note. Through Advs. A. M. Khan, State Bank of India Nanded Mob 942346961 pr. Aurangabad (MH)

LOKMAT TIMES • Anchor

Venezuela okays amnesty that could release hundreds detained for political reasons

The approval marks reversal for authorities in South American nation

CARACAS

Venezuela's acting president on Thursday signed into law an amnesty bill that could lead to the release of politicians, activists, lawyers and many others, effectively acknowledging that the government has held hundreds of people in prison for political motivations. The approval marks a reversal for authorities in the South American nation, who for decades have denied holding any political prisoners. It is the latest policy reversal following last month's stunning US military raid in the country's capital, Caracas, to capture then-President Nicolas Maduro. The measure is expected to benefit opposition members, activists, human rights defenders, journalists



and many others who were targeted by the ruling party over the past 27 years. But families hoping for the release of their loved ones - some of whom have been gathered outside detention facilities for weeks - say that acting President Delcy Rodriguez has failed to deliver on earlier promises to release prisoners. In the days after Maduro's January 3 capture, Rodriguez's government announced it would release a significant number of prisoners. However, relatives and human rights watchdogs have criticised the slow pace of releases and the restrictive conditions under which many have been placed after leaving prison. The new law was not a prerequisite for the government to free prisoners, but families held out hope that it could speed up releases. Some gathered outside detention facilities in Caracas grew impatient as hopes of immediate releases were disappointed Thursday night.

- Rodriguez, who proposed the bill late last month, signed the measure into law shortly after it was approved by the country's legislature.
She said during the signing that it showed that the country's political leaders were "letting go of a little intolerance and opening new avenues for politics in Venezuela."
The bill's purpose is to grant people "a general and full amnesty for crimes or offenses committed" during specific periods since 1999 that were marked by politically-driven conflicts in Venezuela, including "acts of politically motivated violence" in the context of the 2024 presidential election. Aftermath of that polls led to protests and the arrest of more than 2,000 people, including minors.

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking) Head Office: "Udyog Sarathi", Marol Industrial Area, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093 Tel.: (022) 262-268700/54/2773 | Fax: 022-26871587 | Website : www.midcindia.org TENDER NOTICE Subject: Tender Notice for Selection of Service Provider for providing Facility Management and Maintenance Services for Servers, PCs, Printers, Laptops, Scanners, Plotters, LAN and Peripherals for MIDC offices across Maharashtra. Name of Work: Selection of Service Provider for providing Facility Management and Maintenance Services for Servers, PCs, Printers, Laptops, Scanners, Plotters, LAN and Peripherals for MIDC offices across Maharashtra. MIDC's Official Website: www.midcindia.org Tender document available on: https://www.mahatenders.gov.in/ Tender ID: 2026\_MIDC\_1279570\_1 Availability of tender document on website for online bid: From 18/02/2026 to 12/03/2026

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur, 302020 AUCTION NOTICE Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis. The details of the cases are as under: Table with columns: Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors, Dues As on, Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice, Date of Possession, Description of Property, Reserve Price For Property, Earnest Money, Date & Time of Auction, Place of Tender Submission, Tender Enclave, Opp. More Mall, Dargha Road, Aurangabad-431005, Maharashtra, India. Terms & Conditions: 1) The person, taking part in the tender, will have to deposit his offer in the tender form provided by the AFL which is to be collected from the above branch offices during working hours of any working day, super scribing "Tender Offer for name of the property" on the sealed envelope along with the Cheque/DD/pay order of 10% of the Reserve Price as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED payable at Jaipur on/before time of auction during office hours at the above mentioned offices. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of the available interested parties at above mentioned office of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED The inter-se bidding, if necessary will also take place among the available bidders. The EMD is refundable if the bid is not successful. 2) The successful bidder will deposit 25% of the bidding amount adjusting the EMD amount as initial deposit immediately or within 24hrs after the fall of the hammer towards the purchase of the asset. The successful bidder failing to deposit the said 25% towards initial payment, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 15 days after the confirmation of the sale by the secured creditor; otherwise his initial deposit deposited amount will be forfeited. 3) The Authorised officer has absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale process without assigning any reason therefor. If the date of tender depositing or the date of tender opening is declared as holiday by Government, then the auction will be held on next working day. 4) For inspection and interested parties who want to know about the procedure of tender may contact AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED 201, 202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur-302020 or Ugasen Rina-9875959867 or respective branch during office hours. Note: This is also a 15/30 days notice under Rule 9(1)/8(6) to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor of the above said loan accounts about tender inter se bidding sale on the above mentioned date. The property will be sold, if their outstanding dues are not repaid in full. Place : Maharashtra Date : 21-02-2026 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited