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Spain's Sanchez in Morocco to mend fences after crisis

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Iran threatens Israel with retaliation

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Mickey Arthur experiment will backfire

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Briefs

Sultan seeks positive US' role

DNA

WASHINGTON: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged the United States to play its due role and help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute in line with the UN Security Council resolutions. He expressed these views in a meeting with Senator Chris Van Hollen in Washington today. Referring to the situation in the held territory, AJK President said that Modi government's 5th August 2019 unilateral move has pushed the region into a quagmire of chaos and uncertainty.

Sherry blames IK for inflation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday accused Imran Khan of trying to convince the people that he was not responsible for the terrorism and inflation rise in the country. In a series of tweets, the Federal Minister presented a charge sheet against the former prime minister by raising ten clear queries for him to justify his conduct. Senator Rehman said, "He (Imran Khan) says, he is not accountable, the previous regimes prior to his government are responsible.

IMF deal to help Pakistan

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail Thursday while speaking at the World Islamic Economic Forum Conference said the issues of the government with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be resolved and the default threat will be averted. Miftah Ismail said that the IMF team is in Pakistan currently and all the issues with the government will be resolved which will ultimately avert the threat of Pakistan being defaulted.

Combating terrorism Pakistan urges Afghanistan to uphold vows

Pakistan expects cooperation from Afghan interim govt as Terrorism a common threat

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said it does not believe in finger pointing because terrorism is common threat for both Pakistan and Afghanistan. This was stated by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, while replying to a question during her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday. She went on to say government has started investigation into suicide attack in Peshawar. Precious lives were lost in terror attack. Pakistan expects cooperation from Afghan interim government. Terrorism is common threat for both Pakistan and Afghanistan. We hope no country will allow its soil to be used for terrorism. The Spokesperson expressed Pakistan's resolve to root out the evil of terrorism and safeguard the security of every citizen. She said we do not believe in accusations or finger pointing. However, we would reiterate our expectations that no country should allow its territory to be used for perpetrating terrorism against Pakistan. It is time that the commitments made to the world are fulfilled with sincerity and in good faith actions. Responding to another question, the Spokesperson said Pakistan has a foreign policy that prioritizes developing good relations with all countries. She said we have constructive dialogue

with all countries, including Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union, and our neighbors. She said bilateral relations with Russia, including economic cooperation, will further deepen in future. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch informed that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will undertake a two-day visit to Sri Lanka from tomorrow. The Spokesperson said that the Minister of State will participate in the 75th Independence Day of Sri Lanka as a Guest of Honour. In addition to attending the Independence Day events, she will call on the Sri Lankan leadership and hold a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. The Spokesperson further said Pakistan and Sri Lanka have historic ties that have grown steadily in all aspects of bilateral cooperation. We also have worked closely in multilateral forums including SAARC. The visit of the Minister of State would contribute to enhanced understanding between the two countries and signal Pakistan's support for Sri Lanka in a difficult time. She said earlier, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari undertook an official visit to Moscow at the invitation of Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov from 29-30 January 2023. This was Foreign Minister's first visit to Moscow which coincided with the 75th anniversary of

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Fawad warns of Article 6 if polls delayed

Says Sharif, Zardari families have no political future



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry made it clear that the elections was the sole panacea to the prevailing problems currently confronting the country and those who were creating obstacles in holding the polls within 90 days were violating constitution and would face Article 6. Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Fawad, who was flanked by PTI senior leaders Hammad Azhar, Shahbaz Gill and Ali Awan, said that the

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Sheikh sent on 2-day physical remand

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Thursday approved a two-day physical remand of Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in a case registered against him for levelling allegations against former president Asif Ali Zardari. The former

PICTURE ON PAGE 02

minister, who is a close aide of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, was arrested from Murree Motorway, police confirmed this morning, in a move that drew strong criticism from the former premier.

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KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling the plaque of unit 3 of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (K-3). - DNA

Maryam to meet Khaqan Abbasi



STAFF REPORT

BAHAWALPUR: As her promotion to the party's high rank is well in debate, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice-President Maryam Nawaz said Thursday that she would meet Shahid Khaqan Abbasi following his resignation from the party's office upon Maryam's elevation. The former prime minister resigned from the party's position on January 3 - but it came to light a day earlier - and maintains that it is not appropriate for him to share the same party rank with Maryam. Maryam, who is also the party's chief organizer, said that she would call on Abbasi, and both of them would share their thoughts on the party's matters.

IHC rejects PTI plea against ECP verdict

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday turned down a petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in the prohibited funding case. A larger bench, headed by

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PM inaugurates third unit of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant

The Premier calls All Parties' Conference on Feb 7, invites Imran Khan also

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated K-3, the third unit of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant in Karachi today which will produce 1,100 megawatts of electricity. The project has been completed with assistance of China. Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister stressed the need of fully tapping coal, wind and solar energy potential of the country to meet energy demand and reducing dependency on imported fuel for energy purpose. He said K-3 is a step forward in cooperation with Pakistan's trusted friend China. He also congratulated the scientists and workers of Pakistan and China which led to the completion of the project. The Prime Minister said in view of 27 billion dollars energy import bill, Pakistan requires alternative and cheaper sources of energy including solar, wind, hydel and nuclear. He said Pakistan is gifted with enormous resources with

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PTI MNAs move LHC against ECP notification

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Forty-three former lawmakers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have knocked on the doors of the Lahore High Court, requesting it to set aside the Election Commission of Pakistan's notifications removing them from their National Assembly seats. Petitioner Muhammad Riaz Khan Fatyana and 42 other lawmakers filed a petition through Barrister Ali Zafar on Thursday, requesting the court to set aside the two notifications through which their resignations were accepted by

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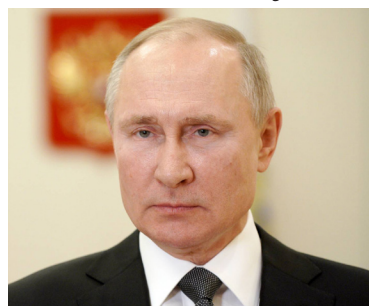
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Putin compares Ukraine war with victory over Nazi Germany

Citing Germany's decision to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine, he claims history was repeating itself

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin has compared Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the fight against Nazi Germany, in a speech to mark the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of the Battle of Stalingrad. Citing Germany's decision to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine, he claimed history was repeating itself. "It's unbelievable but true," he said. "We are again being threatened by German Leopard tanks." Germany is one of many countries helping Ukraine defend its territory. Russia launched its bloody, full-scale invasion almost one year ago, prompting Western countries to send weapons and aid to the government in Kyiv. Speaking in Volgograd - the modern name for Stalingrad - Mr Putin hinted that he could move beyond conventional weapons. "Those who hope to defeat Russia on the battlefield do not



understand, it seems, that a modern war with Russia will be very different for them," the 70-year-old leader said. "We are not sending our tanks to their borders, but we have the means to respond. It won't be limited to the use of armoured hardware. Everyone must understand this." Mr Putin was in Volgograd to mark the anniversary of the end of the Battle of Stalingrad, the decisive World War Two conflict which saw Russia capture nearly 91,000 German troops and turn the tide of the

war. Over a million people perished in the battle - the bloodiest of World War Two. Throughout the war in Ukraine, Mr Putin has falsely sought to present the conflict as a battle against nationalists and Nazis - who he claims are leading the Kyiv government. And he returned to the theme throughout his speech. "Now, unfortunately, we see that the ideology of Nazism, already in its modern guise, in its modern manifestation, again creates direct threats to the security of our country," he said. "We are once again forced to repulse the aggression of the collective West." But he vowed that while it was "unbelievable but true" that Russia was again being threatened by German tanks, Moscow had an answer for any country that threatened it. Volgograd was temporarily renamed Stalingrad for the day to mark the occasion, and earlier this week a new bust of the former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin was unveiled.

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Tanks to Ukraine benefit US at cost to all

Following Germany's decision to supply Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine and authorize other countries transferring the tanks they have leased from it to the country, Poland, which has been at the forefront of European calls to supply Ukraine with advanced weaponry, is already calling for the NATO countries to supply Ukraine with F-16 fighter jets. "If this was a decision of the whole of NATO, I would be for sending these fighter jets," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told the media. Although he claimed that "NATO is not participating" in the conflict, it is playing a disingenuously dangerous game under the direction of Washington. The Western countries have been reluctant to send weapons that could be used to attack deep inside Russia for fear of sparking a direct conflict with Russia. But supplying Ukraine with tanks, long-range missiles and potentially strike aircraft will require them to keep a tight leash on Kyiv. Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said that it is "impossible to justify" the sending of tanks with arguments about supplying Ukraine with "defensive weapons". And the Russian embassy in Berlin said Germany's decision was "extremely dangerous" and takes the conflict "to a new level of confrontation". Although the United States and the United Kingdom have ruled out any deliveries of advanced fighter planes to Ukraine for now, other NATO countries have shown themselves more open to the idea. Politicians in the Netherlands have been receptive to the idea of sending Ukraine the F-16 jets it wants, and France has said there is "no taboo" on supplying Ukraine with fighter jets. The decision to send Western-made battle tanks came after months of lobbying from Kyiv and weeks of intense discussions among Western partners. The key moment came last week when, under pressure from allies including Poland, and with the US agreeing to provide Ukraine with 31 M1 Abrams tanks, Berlin approved sending 14 of its tanks to Ukraine and said it will issue the appropriate transfer permits to partner countries that want to "quickly deliver Leopard 2 tanks from their stocks to Ukraine". That represents a major shift in Germany's policy. Germany has been extremely cautious about providing military assistance to Ukraine, a stance that has increased "mistrust" toward Germany, especially from "Central and Eastern European countries", Morawiecki said. But some in Germany even warned that it might trigger World War III. Although that voice is falling on deaf ears in Berlin. Legacy of World War II and the Cold War in Europe should not mislead the European countries into being the spearhead for the US' efforts to permanently weaken Russia and engineer regime change in the country, as pushing Russia into an existential struggle would indeed be ruinous for all. It is the US that is winning geopolitically and economically from the conflict in Ukraine.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



An enlarged AUKUS to fuel confrontation

Responding to a question about the United Kingdom House of Commons Defence Select Committee raising the possibility of expanding AUKUS to include India and Japan at a routine briefing on Wednesday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman called it an attempt to "provoke military confrontation through military cooperation". The trilateral security partnership established by the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia is typical Cold War thinking, which has increased the risks of nuclear proliferation while exacerbating an arms race in the Asia-Pacific, sabotaging the peace and stability of the region. Such a move will not only complicate the security situation in the region, but also bring additional strategic uncertainty to it. While the defense authorities in London are keen on increasing the UK's military presence in the "Indo-Pacific" and engaging more closely with security partners in the region, their allegedly peace-oriented moves are actually sowing the seeds of antagonism in the region and worsening every stakeholder's security environment. Aside from the inevitable consequence of deepening strategic distrust and escalating tensions, the vision of an enlarged AUKUS may not bear the fruit its masterminds anticipate. Considering Tokyo's conspicuous enthusiasm for international and regional security mechanisms aimed at containing China, there may be little doubt about the Japanese government embracing such a proposal. New Delhi, however, may find itself in a dilemma over joining such a security alliance. India has indeed strayed far from its longstanding previous policy of non-alignment. As a member of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with the US, Australia and Japan, it has shown that it is keeping a wary eye on the so-called China threat. Both AUKUS and Quad are nothing but geopolitical tools of the US to contain China. London has advocated the formation of a NATO-like military alliance in the "Indo-Pacific". The idea of AUKUS enlargement has also been read as an attempt by the UK to engineer a Quad+AUKUS framework. Although there has been increasing momentum to tilt the Quad more toward security issues, its broad agenda, ranging from COVID-19 to climate change and to science and technology, enables it to maintain the impression that it is less about geopolitical confrontation and more about collaboration between and among "like-minded" countries. By joining the explicitly anti-China AUKUS, however, New Delhi would be voluntarily tying itself to the West's anti-China chariot. For all their border disputes and skirmishes, direct confrontation with China would not be in the best interest of India.

India's bulldozer regime is evicting Muslims, killing justice

Nazimuddin Siddique

Most of the families are Muslim, and everything – homes, schools and mosques – was to be demolished. The story rightly made international headlines, and eventually, the country's Supreme Court put a hold on the eviction for now, arguing that authorities needed to come up with a resettlement and rehabilitation plan first. Yet the incident in Haldwani, 296km (184 miles) from national capital New Delhi, captures a broader pattern of injustice masquerading as law and order that's playing out across India under the majoritarian

In the northern Indian city of Haldwani, about 4,000 families faced homelessness in December after the High Court of the state, Uttarakhand, ordered their eviction from land claimed by the Indian Railways. Most of the families are Muslim, and everything – homes, schools and mosques – was to be demolished. The story rightly made international headlines, and eventually, the country's Supreme Court put a hold on the eviction for now, arguing that authorities needed to come up with a resettlement and rehabilitation plan first. Yet the incident in Haldwani, 296km (184 miles) from national capital New Delhi, captures a broader pattern of injustice masquerading as law and order that's playing out across India under the majoritarian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which rules federally and in most states. The bulldozer is central to this strategy. Muslims are the target. And unlike in Haldwani, affected people and communities only rarely get even a temporary reprieve. Nowhere is this more evident than in the northeastern state of Assam, some 2,000km (1,242 miles) away from New Delhi, where the BJP has ruled since 2016. Thousands of Muslim families have been forcibly evicted since 2021 from land they had been residing on for decades. Since 2016, police have shot at and killed protesters in at least two instances. The campaign to render families homeless has picked up steam in recent weeks. On December 19, about 250 families were evicted in the Nagaon district of Assam. A week later, 47 families' homes were destroyed in Barpeta district. In the Lakhimpur district, hundreds of families were evicted in early January. These numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. There's a method to the madness. The Miya Muslim community – whose ancestors, many generations ago, settled in Assam from East Bengal, then an integral part of British India (and now Bangladesh) – is facing

the brunt of the evictions and demolitions. The community is often targeted, especially by the Hindu right, as "illegal immigrants" and the word "Miya" is frequently used as a pejorative. Last year, authorities arrested Miya Muslims who had set up a museum dedicated to the community's cultural artefacts. Assam's BJP Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma effectively accused museum organisers of cultural appropriation, arguing that the items on display weren't unique to the Miya Muslim community. The idea behind the inhuman and violent evictions is to keep Muslims landless and impoverished: Muslims have a higher poverty rate and lower literacy rate than the national average. Research has shown that Indian Muslims have lower upward mobility than people from even those Hindu castes and tribes that have traditionally been discriminated against. In Assam, landlessness is a chronic problem among marginalised groups, accentuated by annual floods and the perennial problem of riverbank erosions. Many vulnerable communities settle on government-owned land as they look to earn a living by working among local communities and on farmland. Instead of addressing this problem of landlessness, the Assam government is singling out Miya Muslims from among those occupying state-owned land, only because of their faith, and is evicting them. Elsewhere, this epidemic of evictions is being used to either collectively punish Muslims or attack activists from the community who have dared to raise their voices against government injustices. In New Delhi, homes of Muslims were demolished – including for a while after a Supreme Court order to halt the forced eviction – last April, days after inter-religious tension in the neighbourhood. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, authorities demolished the homes of Muslims who had protested against controversial remarks by a BJP spokesperson against Prophet Muhammad last July. The state of Madhya Pradesh – also ruled by the BJP – has used the

same tactic, too. These are attacks on the rights of citizens. The government machinery, with gigantic police forces in riot gear, excavators and in some cases even elephants, carry out the evictions. In most cases, the demolitions have been carried out without any warning or legal notices. At one of Assam's eviction sites, people who had their homes demolished set up tarpaulin tents by the roadside. Government officials came and removed even that temporary shelter. Where are they supposed to go now? I had no answer. When I asked those rendered homeless, they didn't, either. This is barbaric. This is cruel. It isn't just homes that these people are losing. Often, their standing crops are destroyed, their trees felled. Even toilets are turned into rubble. In many cases, the victims are poor, and are forced to sleep in the open in harsh weather – often hungry, and without access to food or clean water. Women don't have the privacy of a toilet. Their plight and losses are mostly invisible in mainstream news. The civil society representing minorities has no space in the media, and the civil society representing the majority is silent. Perhaps that's why Abdul Khaleque, among those evicted in Lalung Gaon of Nagaon district said to me: "Let the government shoot us; we do not have any place to go." Of course, Miya Muslims, and marginalised communities in India more broadly, aren't unfamiliar with the violence unleashed on them by the state and by non-state actors. In Assam, Miya Muslims have long had their citizenship questioned – they're frequently othered as encroachers who are somehow, not Assamese. Evictions are the latest weapon to target Muslims in Assam and across India. While the Supreme Court intervened in the Haldwani case, it's unclear whether others who have suffered will ever receive justice. And that, ultimately, is the biggest casualty of what the BJP and its governments are doing. Their bulldozers are demolishing the very concept of justice for Indian Muslims.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Local bodies elections 2022 in AJK

Chaudhry Muhammad Latif



Before going to causes of this change, it may be pointed out that the composition of the civil society and texture of civil services in AJK are both distinctly different from that prevalent in Pakistan. The social norms in AJK are healthy, humble, and human, thus are admirable. The political leaders here do differ in their manifestoes but they never desire to destroy

After a long time, on the repeated orders of Supreme Court of AJK, Local Bodies (LB) Elections 2022 were held in 3 phases, division wise. A strange and special feature of these elections is the emergence of a large number of independent candidates. In Muzaffarabad Division total seats 664, Independent 115, Ruling party 197, PML (N) 127, and Pakistan Peoples Party 194. While in Poonch Division total seats 779, Independent seats 255, Ruling party 229, PML (N) 116, PPP 113. Similarly in Mirpur Division total seats 1075, Independent 315, Ruling party 373, PML (N) 231 and PPP 140. Before going to causes of this change, it may be pointed out that the composition of the civil society and texture of civil services in AJK are both distinctly different from that prevalent in Pakistan. The social norms in AJK are healthy, humble, and human, thus are admirable. The political leaders here do differ in their manifestoes but they never desire to destroy their adversaries. In civil services there is a powerful element of lent officers on deputation from Pakistan. They are suppose to safeguard the supreme interests of Pakistan in this small but sensitive area. They occupy the posts of Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary, Inspector General of Police and Accountant General as per Karachi Agreement. They are legally empowered under Rules of Business 1985. The learned Chief Secretary is the head of services in order to maintain the equilibrium in political field and to ensure justice and fairness to civil servants. In the early decades of AJK all the political parties were local and they had cordial relations with all political parties in Pakistan. Any political party ruling in AJK was treated alike by any political party ruling in Pakistan. In the year 1975, PPP made a thrilling entry in AJK politics and formed the government with the first Prime Minister in AJK under the provision

of Interim Constitution Act 1974. With this political change other political parties in Pakistan also established their counter parts and thereby ushered in an era of harsh contest and competition inheriting friends foes from Pakistan. Main drawback in this political change, however, was that they badly failed to guide, supervise and control their counterpart ruling party in AJK and their failure tarnished their image and prestige in AJK. During several tenures of their rules in AJK the PPP suffered a setback when they appointed a representative from Faisalabad who had been vested with so much powers that he undermined the status and authority of elected government in AJK. He held no constitutional nor legal position in Pakistan nor in AJK. As such his gross intervention in government affairs caused damage to the party. However, with bold struggle the current leadership has rectified and restored the position of PPP in AJK and they seem to turn the table any time. The second strong political force in AJK was PML (N) for which there was overwhelming political support due to their performance in AJK and Pakistan. In their recent rule of 2013 to 2018 they assigned the task of monitoring AJK affairs to a prominent leader of Pakistan, Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq. He, violating merit, nominated Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan from AJK. His unbridled rule has been diplomatically criticized and condemned by his own Speaker Legislative Assembly, and Senior Minister of his government while participating in Roze News TV programme. They declare the style of governance as one man rule. They levelled allegations of nepotism in services and his repeated violations of the jurisdiction of Public Service Commission as such the civil services and public at large got fed up with his style of government. Consequently, the disgruntled the political per-

sonalities preferred to contest elections as independent candidates. Hence the victory of a large number of independent candidates in LB polls 2022. It appears the outcome of circumstances obtaining in the state. It also seems distrust in political system altogether due to bad governance by political parties in recent past. On the other hand, the role of lent officer also has all along been deplorable. It is third time that thousands of adhoc appointees are being regularized in service without reference to PSC. The plea for this unconstitutional decision is that adhoc appointees have not been regularly selected by the PSC despite their services exceeding ten years. But this is the fault and failure of PSC which could be directed to expedite the selection process instead of committing violation of law and judgements of Supreme Court. The PSC should give test only for the posts of AC, ASP, ACF, for which the appointing authority, government has already proscribed the syllabus and for the rest of posts only the interview is enough for which system is available with the PSC. Another astonishing factor in AJK civil service has been that Adhoc appointees had been promoted to higher grades upto B-22. Although revenue department in AJK has no duty of recovery of revenue as AJK is exempt from this lavy. Despite DMG group has occupied seventeen posts of secretary to Government in violation of service rules. One example is that of Chaudhry Imtiaz Ahmed, Secretary Forest, whose date of birth is 04-04-1975, induction in service in 2005, grant of B-20 4-05-2018, appointment as Secretary 20-10-2020, and his retirement is 3-4-2035. The service rules require five year for B-18, 12 year for B-19 and 17 year for B-20. Other departments are waiting for justice and fairness from lent officers.

–The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocates Supreme Court of AJK.

Briefs

EU sets new sanctions on Russia as war nears one year

BRUSSELS: The EU will impose new sanctions on Russia on the first anniversary of the war against Ukraine, the president of the European Commission said on Thursday.

"We will introduce with our G7 partners an additional price cap on Russian petroleum products. By Feb. 24, exactly one year since the invasion started, we aim to have the 10th package of sanctions in place," Ursula von der Leyen said at a joint news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv. She explained that Russia has already been paying a "heavy price" for its war on Ukraine since only the current price cap on oil export costs Moscow €160 million (\$176 million) according to the EU's estimates.

Von der Leyen and 15 members of the European Commission traveled on Thursday to Ukraine's capital Kyiv to hold talks with the government ahead of the EU-Ukraine Summit. The summit will take place on Friday with the participation of Von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel, and Zelenskyy. "Our presence in Ukraine today gives a very clear signal. The whole of the European Union is in this with Ukraine for the long haul," von der Leyen said. "We will stand up for Ukraine as we stand up for the fundamental rights and the respect of the international law," she asserted. — Agencies

Poland pushing for WWII compensation

ANKARA: Poland is pushing for World War II compensation from Germany. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Arkadiusz Mularczyk said: "We believe there is scope for discussion, for examining these historical and political issues that influence the life of our country today."

He added that the politicians in Washington showed a noteworthy interest in the matter and the report by Warsaw on the damage by German occupation in 1939-1945. Mularczyk said: "Many Congressmen were surprised that Germany had never paid war reparations to Poland ... Here in the United States, where property rights are so strong ... many Congressmen were shocked that Germany had robbed Poland and hadn't paid compensation to this day. "And so it was a cognitive shock and I see scope for cooperation here because Germany's conduct is incompatible with the standards of the rule of law and the protection of human rights," he added.

Indian journalist released from jail after 2 years

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian journalist Siddique Kappan has been released from prison more than two years after his arrest while travelling to report on an alleged rape. He was arrested in October 2020 in Uttar Pradesh state, where a young Dalit woman had died after she was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men. The case had sparked protests in India. Police accused Mr Kappan of conspiring to create law and order trouble and incite violence, which he denied. Three men who were in the car with him that day were accused of similar offences. Mr Kappan's arrest was condemned by press freedom activists, who fear India is becoming increasingly unsafe for journalists. Last year, the country dropped eight places and was ranked 150 on the 180-country World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders. But it took more than a month after that for him to be released due to procedural delays.

Zeroing in on terrorist network behind attack

Speaking during a press conference in Peshawar about the blast, KP IG Police revealed that they have found the network of terrorists behind attack

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Inspector General of Police (IGP) Moazzam Jah Ansari on Thursday while refuting all the conspiracies that emerged regarding the suicide attack in Peshawar pleaded to the people not to "provoke his force". Speaking during a press conference in Peshawar about the blast, Ansari revealed that they have found the network of terrorists behind the attack. "We will avenge every drop of blood of our martyrs," assured KP's top cop. He added that the police has acquired the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage of the suicide bomber in which he can be seen in a police uniform, riding a motorcycle and wearing a face mask. "The explosion was so powerful that the shockwaves did not find ways to escape, hence, forcing the roof of the mosque to collapse," said the IG Ansari. He added that the mosque also lacked pillars and everyone in the mosque at the time of the attack came under roof debris. The KP police chief said that close to 10-12kgs of trinitrotoluene (TNT) was used in the attack.

"It took us 26-28 hours to clean up. We could have done cleaning in mere two hours. But our first target was to look for survivors then we went towards extracting the martyrs," said IG Ansari. While talking about the people spreading rumours, Ansari urged them not to create hurdles in the police work. "We want to deliver to our families and our children. Do not make the bodies of our loved ones a subject of politics. Kindly end the speculations and let us do our work," said IG Ansari. He added that he will share all details once the investigation is complete. The IG assured that he would avenge the deaths of the people martyred in the blast but appealed for time to complete the investigation.

While explaining the time taken in the investigation, the police chief said that it takes one person 24 hours to scan a day's footage and 100 people are required to look at all cameras. He also shared that he himself had seen the footage of the suicide bomber. "I have seen his face in the CCTV [footage] and we have crosschecked. He is dressed in a police uniform with a casual jacket. He was wearing a helmet on a motorcycle. We have also traced the bike and we are in the stage of tracing further details," he said. "We are close to [tracing] the network of terrorists behind the attack," said IG Ansari. While expressing his grief over the attack caused due to the security lapse, IG Ansari said: "I blame myself for the security lapse. My jawans are all my children. They did not stop the bomber as they considered it him one of their own as the bomber was in a police uniform." He shared that the bomber entered the mosque at 12:37pm, adding that he asked one of the police

constables about the mosque. He added that his question indicates that he was unaware of the place and was sent by someone to carry out the attack.

He further noted that: "There's a complete network behind him. He is not a lone ranger. We will talk with the evidence in hand. We are burning the midnight oil in this investigation and we are exploring every possibility." Regarding the provocation, he said: "We were busy in funeral preparations and the conspiracies were attempted to provoke our people to launch a protest. If they take the law into their own hands then who would be the law enforcer in the streets?" "My people do not need the protection of anyone because they are the protectors. Some nefarious elements have made this issue controversial. I have conveyed to everyone that your way is not of protest but help in finding the bomber," he concluded. Monday's attack on a mosque in the Police Lines area of Peshawar was the deadliest in a decade to hit the restive city near the Afghan border and comes amid a surge in violence against law enforcement agencies. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the colossal blast. The blast martyred more than a 100 and injured over 200. The bomber struck as hundreds of worshippers gathered for noon prayers in a mosque that was purpose-built for the police and their families living in a highly fortified zone.

Greece, Italy face persisting drug shortages

WEB DESK

ATHENS: Pharmacists in Greece and Italy have pinpointed two main reasons for the persisting drug shortage in the two countries. The first is the limitation by China and India on the export of raw materials needed for drug production, and the second is the ongoing war in Ukraine. Speaking to Anadolu, Konstantinos Lourandos, the president of the Pharmaceutical Association of Attica, said the main problem behind the medicine shortages in Europe is the shortage of raw materials used by the industry. However, the situation in Greece is different. Greece imports medicines but some big pharmaceutical depots re-export them to the countries where they are priced higher, Lourandos said. Therefore, according to him, Greek authorities should find a way to prevent the re-export of medicines.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Aviation hosted dinner in honor of visiting UAE delegation. — DNA

Jewish extremist attacks church in Jerusalem: Israeli police

The Israeli police, for its part, said in a statement that it "arrested an American tourist suspected of vandalizing a statue in a church in the Old City of Jerusalem"

JERUSALEM: A Jewish extremist on Thursday attacked a church in the Old City of East Jerusalem, said Israeli police. Eyewitnesses told Anadolu that an "extremist" toppled a statue of Jesus in the Church of the Flagellation on the Via Dolorosa in the Old City. The witnesses added that one of the guards at the church had managed to take control of the extremist before the

Israeli police arrived at the church and arrested him. Speaking to Anadolu, Majid al-Rishq, one of the church's guards, said he saw the perpetrator several times in the area, and this morning he saw him wearing a Jewish Kippah. He said he stopped him while attempting to destroy a statue of Jesus with a hammer before the Israeli police came to arrest him. Al-Rishq, who has been working in the church for 20 years, said the extremist entered the church with two tourist groups from Spain and Indonesia. After that, he heard a loud voice hitting, and when he rushed to the place, he found him trying to destroy the statue of Jesus. He added that the extremist tried to assault him with the hammer but was able to control him and handed him to the Israeli police. The Israeli police, for its part, said in a statement that it "arrested an American tourist suspected of vandalizing a statue in a church in the Old City of Jerusalem." — Agencies

Imran urges Alvi to take note of agencies' meddling in politics

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has urged President Arif Alvi to take note of alleged interference by the intelligence agencies and the establishment in political affairs and seek an explanation from the "black sheep operating in state organisations". In a letter written to the president on January 29, Imran said, "Today, the PTI Core and Parliamentary Committees met and unanimously passed a resolution requesting you as the President and the Supreme Commander of the armed forces to take note of brazen interference by intelligence agencies and some other sections of the establishment in the political sphere. "The most recent reflection of this was the K-P governor's statement saying he could not give a date for the elections to the K-P legislature, as

that would be given by the intelligence agencies and the establishment." The resolution further drew the president's attention to the "brazen acts of abductions, sham FIRs, custodial torture and threats being meted out to the PTI workers and leaders". "The resolution calls on you [President Alvi] to take notice and take action against all these actions that contravene the Constitution, laws of the land and fundamental human rights." On January 29, the PTI chief chaired a meeting of the PTI Core and Parliamentary Committees, which was attended by PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, General Secretary Asad Umar and other party leaders. On this occasion, the meeting unanimously passed a resolution, which stated that the PTI leadership drew the attention of the President of Pakistan and the Supreme Commander of armed forces to the statement of Governor KP that an election date for the KP Assembly would be given by the agencies and establishment. "The PTI leadership calls on the President to take notice of this growing interference by the intelligence agencies and other sections of the establishment in the political sphere. In addition, he must take note of FIRs, abductions, custodial torture and threatening phone calls against the PTI workers and leaders, being carried out at the behest of these black sheep in state organisations." — DNA

8 PAF officers promoted to the rank of AVM

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has promoted 08 PAF Officers to the rank of Air Vice Marshal. The promoted Air Officers include Air Vice Marshal Imran Qadir, Air Vice Marshal Ghazanfar Latif, Air Vice Marshal Shahryar Khan, Air Vice Marshal Nauman Waheed, Air Vice Marshal Mehr Yar Saqib Niazi, Air Vice Marshal Abuzar Khan, Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Asif Aslam and Air Vice Marshal Gulam Shabbir. Air Vice Marshal Imran Qadir was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in



June, 1992 and received the coveted Sword of Honour. He has served as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Training-Officers) and is currently holding the prestigious office of Advisor to Chief of the Air Staff for Operations, Audit and Evaluation Cell at Air Headquarters, Islamabad.

Air Vice Marshal Ghazanfar Latif was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in May, 1993. During his illustrious career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing and an Operational Air Base. Air Vice Marshal Shahryar Khan was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in May, 1993. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing, Military Training Wing and an Operational Air Base. Air Vice Marshal Nauman Waheed was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in May, 1993. During his career, he has commanded a Support Wing, a Fighter Squadron and an Operational Air Base.

Air Vice Marshal Mehr Yar Saqib Niazi was commissioned in Engineering Branch of Pakistan Air Force in June, 1992. During his illustrious career, he commanded Engineering Wing of an Operational Base, served as Director Weapon System Management (JF-17), Managing Director (Mirage Rebuild Factory) and Commandant (Tech) at PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek. Air Vice Marshal Abuzar Khan was commissioned in Engineering Branch of Pakistan Air Force in June, 1992. During his career, he has commanded an Engineering Wing, served as Director Weapon System Management (Trainer) and Project Director as well as Managing Director at Aircraft Rebuild Factory.

President Alvi appoints Shahzad Atta Elahi as AG

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday approved the appointment of Advocate of Supreme Court Barrister Shahzad Atta Elahi as Attorney General of Pakistan. The president appointed Barrister Shahzad Elahi on the position after Mansoor Usman did not assume the office after his appointment. President Alvi made the said appointment under Article 100 of the Constitution and Rules of Business. IHC decides to constitute larger bench to hear petition seeking disqualification of Imran ISLAMABAD, FEB 02 (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has decided to constitute larger bench to hear the petition seeking disqualification of Imran Khan for hiding the information about his alleged daughter in nomination papers. The petition came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Chief Justice (CJ) Amir Farooq. The CJ IHC said in his remarks it is objection from Imran Khan that he is not public office holder now. It has to be confirmed from Election Commission office what is present status. We call the notification from election commission regarding denotification of Imran Khan. The petitioner had challenged the affidavit of Imran Khan he had filed in 2018. The court has decided to constitute larger bench. — APP

JIT probing into Arshid Sharif murder to submit report

ISLAMABAD: the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigating into murder of senior journalist Arshid Sharif has arrived here from Dubai. The team will present its report in Supreme Court (SC). JIT has obtained important information about the case from Dubai. According to police sources the JIT probing into Senior journalist murder case has returned to Pakistan and it will file report in SC this week. JIT had left for Dubai on January 12 and it moved to Kenya after conducting a week long inquiry.

The 5-member special JIT is being led by DIG Headquarters Owais Ahmad. The other members are Deputy DG IB Sajid Kayani, Muhammad Aslam grade 20 officer from ISI, Director cyber crime Waqad ud Din Sayyed from FIA and Muhammad Afzal from MI. The investigation officer of the case inspector Shahbaz also accompanied the JIT in Dubai and Kenya.

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The team collected information about the meetings and contacts of last days of Arshid Sharif. JIT will compile its report during the ongoing week and submit it in SC. — Online

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