

ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

ED UNCOVERS GEORGE SOROS-BACKED FUNDING ROUTES TO INDIAN NGOS

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate has uncovered financial transactions linking billionaire philanthropist George Soros's Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF) to the NGO sector in India, raising concerns over possible violations of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms.

Investigators have found that SEDF, the social impact investment arm of the Open Society Institute (OSI), provided funds to three Indian companies—Rootbridge Services Pvt Ltd (RSPL), Rootbridge Academy Pvt Ltd (RAPL), and ASAR Social Impact Advisors Pvt Ltd (ASAR)—under the pretext of foreign direct investment (FDI) or consultancy/service fees. These companies received approximately Rs 25 crore between 2020-2021 and 2023-2024, despite OSI being under the scrutiny of the Home Ministry since May 2016 for “undesirable activities.” Since then, OSI has required prior government approval to send funds to FCRA-registered organisations in India.

According to the ED's findings, RSPL alone received Rs 18.64 crore from SEDF through Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS), valued at an inflated Rs 2.5-2.6 lakh per share based on the Discounted Cash Flow method. Authorities suspect this was a “colourable arrangement” to bypass FCRA restrictions, as SEDF is barred from directly donating to NGOs in India without Home Ministry approval. Similarly, RAPL, a company incorporated in 2019 to provide fundraising services for non-profits, received Rs 2.70 crore as “commission agent services” from SEDF. However, the ED noted that RAPL had not actually provided any services in return.



LOC NEWS

PAK ARMY OPENS FIRE AT LINE OF CONTROL IN J&K, INDIA RETALIATES: SOURCES



Diary Times Desk : In a significant violation of the ceasefire along the Line of Control, the Pakistani Army resorted to unprovoked firing at Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, sources in the Army have said.

"On April 1, a mine blast occurred in the Krishna Ghati sector while the Pakistan Army was patrolling along the Line of Control. This was followed by unprovoked firing and ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army," a source said. "Our troops responded effectively."

The Indian Army continues to dominate the Line of Control. The situation is under control," the Army source said.

No casualties were reported in the incident. And the Indian Army has reiterated the importance of upholding the tenets of understanding between the two countries' Director Generals of Military Operations to maintain peace along the Line of Control.

In their 2021 meeting, top officers of the two sides agreed to address concerns that may lead to violence. Both sides had agreed to all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the Line of Control.



RUMOURS BEING SPREAD THAT WAQF BILL WILL INTERFERE WITH MUSLIM AFFAIRS: SHAH

BJP'S WAQF BILL AIMS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION: J-K'S NC LEADER

Diary Times Desk : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asserted that for vote-bank politics, fear is being spread that the Waqf bill is interference in religious matters of Muslims and properties donated by them. Making an intervention in the Lok Sabha during a debate on the Waqf amendment bill, he said that non-Muslims in Waqf council and boards are meant purely for ensuring that the administration of properties is in accordance with stated aims. He underlined that Waqf is a type of charitable institution where a person donates his property for social, religious or public welfare purposes, without the right to take it back. Shah said the word 'donation' has special importance because donation can be done only of that thing which is our own property. No one can donate government property, he asserted. Addressing the House, Shah said vote-bank is being created by intimidating minorities and confusion is being spread in the country by creating an atmosphere of fear among the minorities.



Diary Times Desk : Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader Mian Altaf on Wednesday said the Waqf Bill brought in by the BJP government in the Parliament is to "divert" attention of the people from issues like unemployment and inflation in the country. Participating in the debate on the Waqf Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha, the MP from Anantnag-Rajouri seat in Jammu and Kashmir, who is also Muslim tribal leader of the region, said, "Sir, this bill will divide society. Our country is famous for secularism in the entire world. By bringing this bill and these kinds of laws, it would raise a question mark on the character of our secularism. We will be left hurt if somebody raises a question on India's secularism." Altaf said, "In addition to this, much is being said on this bill from the last three months." He termed it a "ploy" of the BJP government to "divert" the attention of the people from the issues faced by the country currently.

BIHAR BRIDGE COLLAPSE: SUPREME COURT PULLS UP STATE GOVT FOR REINSTATING SUSPENDED OFFICIALS

YOUR HOROSCOPE 03-04-2025



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Bihar Government saying officials suspended following incidents of bridge collapse were brought back after the furore died down. Certain officers were duly suspended after the bridge collapse incident only to be brought back after the furore over the incident died down," a bench led by CJI Sanjiv Khanna said. The bench, however, transferred a PIL filed by advocate Brajesh Singh on safety of bridges in the wake of several bridge collapses in Bihar to the Patna High Court. The Patna High Court could monitor, preferably on a monthly basis, the steps taken to ensure structural and safety audits of bridges in Bihar, it said and asked the petitioner, state authorities and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to appear before the high court on May 14. The state government said it had inspected around 10,000 bridges in the state. In its affidavit filed in response to the PIL, the state government talked about a number of schemes and policies but did not provide any reason for bridge collapse incidents, the bench noted.

Aries Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.

Taurus Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

Gemini Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

Cancer Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

Leo Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

Virgo Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

SUPREME COURT SLAMS TELANGANA CM REDDY FOR 'MOCKING' ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

Libra Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Scorpio Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Wednesday took strong exception to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's alleged statement in the state assembly that there would be no byelections even if the members of opposition BRS switched sides to the ruling Congress. "If this is said on the floor of the House, your Hon'ble CM is making a mockery of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution (Anti-Defection Law)," a bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih said. While hearing BRS MLAs' pleas against alleged delay on the part of Telangana Assembly Speaker in deciding disqualification petitions in respect of party MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress, the top court also asked the Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker why he took about 10 months to issue notices on disqualification petitions against BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress. "If the Speaker does not act at all, then the courts in this country - which not only have powers but also a duty as a guardian of the Constitution - would be powerless?"



Sagittarius Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

Capricorn Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

Aquarius Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

Pisces Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.



HIMACHAL NEWS: CM SUKHU SAID- TWO IN LAHAUL-SPITI, ONE MODEL HEALTH INSTITUTE IN EACH ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the state government has decided to establish one model health institution in each assembly constituency and two in Lahaul-Spiti. Out of these 69 model health institutions, 49 institutions have been completed. 4 to 6 specialist doctors will be posted in each model health institution. At present, dialysis services are being provided in 20 model health institutions. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the state government has decided to start dialysis facility in the remaining 49 hospitals at a cost of Rs 45 crore. This year, blood storage units will be set up in 11 model health institutions. With the cooperation of JICA, it has been decided to purchase state-of-the-art equipment worth Rs 1,700 crore to provide world-class treatment facilities in all the medical colleges and model health institutions of the state. Apart from this, 42 types of medicines are being provided free of cost to cancer patients, including free treatment facility, which also includes trastuzumab vaccine, which costs around Rs 40 thousand. A cancer patient needs 18 such vaccines in a year and the state government is spending around Rs 7 lakh per patient to provide these vaccines.



HP POLITICS: NARESH CHAUHAN SAID- FORMER JAIRAM GOVERNMENT PLAYED WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE

Diary Times Desk : Naresh Chauhan, Principal Media Advisor to the Chief Minister, has rejected the allegations of Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur regarding the budget received from the Centre and auction of liquor contracts. He alleged that Jai Ram Thakur played with the interests of the state during his tenure, while the tenure of the current state government has been full of achievements. Instead of cursing the state government, the Leader of Opposition should raise the voice of the interests of the state and its people before the Centre. He said that the Central Government has not released the Post Disaster Need Assessment amount of Rs 9 thousand crore. He said that the fund received by the state from the Centre is the right of the people here and the Central Government cannot deprive the people of Himachal of their rights. Talking to reporters in Shimla on Wednesday, Naresh Chauhan said that Himachal is moving towards becoming a self-reliant state and the state government's budget for the financial year 2025-26 will prove to be a milestone in realizing this resolution.

HIMACHAL NEWS: ONLINE APPLICATION FOR D.EL.ED ENTRANCE EXAM WILL START FROM THIS DAY, EXAM WILL BE HELD ON 29 MAY

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will conduct the entrance exam for two-year diploma course in elementary education on May 29. Candidates can apply for this from April 4 to 26. Candidates will have to apply online on the board's website. General category applicants will have to pay Rs 900, SC, ST, OBC, PHH and EWS will have to pay Rs 600 as application fee. Candidates will have to deposit the fee through application. Apart from this, the board will not accept fees through any other medium. After this, applications will have to be made from April 27 to April 29 with a late fee of five hundred rupees. Corrections will be made in the applications submitted from April 30 to May 2. Due to the application fee being affected, the board has not allowed the candidate to make online corrections in the category and sub-category. If any candidate also wants to make corrections in the category and sub-category, then he can apply offline by visiting the board office on the prescribed dates.

HIMACHAL NEWS: NEW DIRECTORATE CREATED FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO JOA IT, GROUP-C POSTS, OFFICE WILL BE BUILT HERE

Diary Times Desk : To streamline the recruitment process and increase employment opportunities for the youth, the government has decided to establish a Directorate of Recruitment in Shimla. This newly created directorate will act as the nodal agency responsible for direct recruitment to Junior Office Assistant (IT) and other Group-C posts in various departments of the state government. In a notification issued in the gazette on Wednesday, Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena clarified that the Directorate of Recruitment will work under the administrative control of the Personnel Department. Its office will be located in the premises of the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat. Detailed provisions regarding the head of the department, staffing pattern, budget, financial powers, recruitment processes and standard operating procedures (SOP) will be issued separately. In case of any ambiguity or interpretation related issues related to recruitment, the Personnel Department will have the authority to resolve them. Their decisions will be final and binding. With the hope of significant reduction in delays in recruitment processes and timely employment opportunities for the youth of the state.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: DEPUTY CM REACHED JWALAMUKHI TEMPLE, SAID- JWALA CITY WILL BE IMPROVED WITH A BUDGET OF 100 CRORES

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri on Wednesday attended the court of Mata Jwalamukhi at Shaktipeeth Shri Temple on Pancham Navratri and received the blessings of Mata by performing ritualistic worship. During this, priest Nitin Sharma conducted the worship according to traditional customs. The Deputy Chief Minister prayed for the prosperity and peace of the state by offering oblations in the Havan Yagna. He also visited Shayan Bhawan, Modi Bhawan and other small temples. While talking to journalists, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that he has come to seek the blessings of Mata Jwala on the auspicious occasion of Navratri. He said that he feels immense peace and comfort by coming here. He said that the state government has made a provision of Rs 100 crore in the budget, through which the development and beautification of the Jwalamukhi temple will be done. The Deputy CM said that the Jwalamukhi temple.

HIMACHAL: RESEARCH WILL BE DONE ON INCREASING THE DECISION MAKING CAPABILITY OF DRONES IN NIT, PROJECT WORTH RS 50 LAKH RECEIVED FROM ANRF

Diary Times Desk : Now in NIT Hamirpur, drones will be made more efficient in decision making with the help of gen-based model of AI (generative adversarial network). Assistant Professor of NIT Hamirpur has been approved a project worth about 50 lakhs under the Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). This will be the first time that gen-based model of AI will be used to make drones more decision efficient. This is likely to bring revolutionary changes in 3D mapping, especially in the field of construction. Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Department of NIT Hamirpur, Dr. Robin Singh Bhadauria will do research on this. In the research.

HIMACHAL : JALANDHAR SUPPLIER ARRESTED WITH 46 GRAMS OF CHITTA, EIGHT THOUSAND CASH, NABBED FROM HOTEL PARKING

Diary Times Desk : Solan police has arrested a supplier from Jalandhar, Punjab with a consignment of chitta. Police has recovered 46 grams of chitta and cash worth Rs 8,000 from the accused. Police has taken this action on the basis of secret information. Police has also seized the vehicle involved in this and started investigation. The accused is being presented in the court. It is being told that the accused was going to supply this chitta to the educational institutions in Solan and nearby areas. The special police team was on patrol in the city. Information was received that a brown coloured car is parked in the parking lot of a hotel in Barog. A youth named Ravi Kumar is sitting in it who is involved in the chitta business. Acting on the information, the police team raided the parking lot and recovered 46 grams of chitta and cash worth Rs 8,000 from the youth Ravi Kumar son of Baljeet Ram resident of village Sail Kiyana, post office Dayarpur tehsil Phillaur, Jalandhar Punjab sitting in the car.

'I AM DEEPLY SORRY': COMEDIAN KUNAL KAMRA APOLOGISES TO BANKER WHO ATTENDED HIS NAYA BHARAT SHOW, OFFERS FREE VACATION

Diary Times Desk : A 46-year-old banker from Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, had to cut short his 17-day trip to Kerala and Tamil Nadu after getting repeated calls from police and a legal notice. It happened after stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra's defamation case. Now, Kunal Kamra has reacted to the incident and offered the banker a free holiday. "I am deeply sorry for the inconvenience that attending my show has caused to you. Please email me so that I can schedule your next vacation anywhere you'd like in India," Kunal Kamra wrote on Twitter (now X). The banker, who attended Kamra's February 2 show at Mumbai's Habitat studio, received a notice on March 29 from Khar police asking him to give a witness statement under Section 179 of the CrPC. The banker claimed he showed police his ticket as proof but was still told he might have edited the video, which he denied. He was forced to return early from his holiday after being told officers might visit his home.

CHINA READY TO BUY MORE INDIAN GOODS, SAYS BEIJING'S ENVOY AS US TARIFFS LOOM

Diary Times Desk : As US President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs threaten to upend the global trade system, China has offered to import more Indian products and strengthen trade cooperation. Beijing's ambassador to New Delhi on Wednesday asked Indian enterprises to share "dividends of China's development" by seeking trade opportunities in the neighbouring country. "We are willing to work with the Indian side to strengthen practical cooperation in trade and other areas, and to import more Indian products that are well-suited to the Chinese market," Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong told Chinese state-backed newspaper the Global Times in an interview published on Monday. "We also welcome more Indian enterprises to cross the Himalayas and seek opportunities for cooperation in China, sharing the dividends of China's development," he said. Xu added that China hopes India will create a fair and transparent business climate for Chinese companies and further expand their mutually beneficial cooperation. This comes a day after Chinese President Xi Jinping told his Indian counterpart Droupadi Murmu that China and India should work more closely together. The remark was part of the Chinese leader's congratulatory messages to mark the 75th anniversary of the start.

"WAQF FOR POOR MUSLIMS, NOT THEFT," SAYS AMIT SHAH IN LOK SABHA



Diary Times Desk : Union home minister Amit Shah, speaking at the debate over the Waqf Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha this evening, presented a long list of properties that he said were given for Waqf. The list included land belonging to temples, other religions, the government and others. His point: "You cannot donate someone else's property. You donate something which is yours". It was a reinforcement of the government's contention that major lands and properties have been taken over by Waqf, there were last-minute saves in case of others. The Waqf, the government maintained, has become a ruse for land-grabbing. Citing examples, Mr Shah said the Karnataka High Court had to stop grabbing of 602 sq km by Waqf. "Properties in (Delhi's) Lutyens zone went to Waqf, and they started taking over government land... In Tamil Nadu, a 400-year-old temple property was declared as Waqf's. Land for a five-star establishment was given to Waqf for 12,000 a month... Several properties belonging to different religions were declared as Waqf property, including Chandra Shekhar Azad Park in Prayagraj," he said.

INDIA APPOINTS FORMER WORLD BANK, IMF ECONOMIST POONAM GUPTA AS CENTRAL BANK DEPUTY

Diary Times Desk : India appointed former World Bank and International Monetary Fund economist Poonam Gupta as the new central bank deputy governor for a three-year term, the government said on Wednesday. Gupta currently serves as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, India's largest economic policy research institute, and is also a member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The appointment comes at a crucial time as the South Asian nation is struggling to boost economic growth lagging at four-year lows, while also facing uncertainty from global geopolitical and economic uncertainties. India's economy is expected to have grown at 6.5% in the fiscal year ended on March 31, marginally higher than the government's initial estimate of 6.4%, but well below the revised growth rate of 9.2% for FY24. Gupta will replace Michael Patra, a career central banker who joined the Reserve Bank of India in 1985.

POLICE LATHI CHARGE HYDERABAD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROTESTING DEFORESTATION

Diary Times Desk : Tensions at Hyderabad Central University escalated as police continued to use lathi charge to disperse students protesting against environmental destruction in the Kancha Gachibowli area. The demonstrators, demanding stronger government intervention to prevent deforestation, clashed with authorities, leading to widespread condemnation from student groups and activists. Protesters accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government of suppressing democratic rights and failing to protect the environment. With unrest growing on campus, student unions and civil society organisations called for accountability. Authorities are yet to issue an official statement on the police action, while tensions remain high. In a related development, Gachibowli police arrested two individuals in connection with an incident of unlawful assembly, rioting, and assault on public servants near the university. The arrests follow clashes that erupted on March 30, 2025, when a group of individuals.

LALU PRASAD YADAV LEAVES FOR DELHI TO UNDERGO TREATMENT AT AIIMS

Diary Times Desk : RJD president and former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad was on Wednesday taken to Delhi for treatment at AIIMS, after being admitted to a hospital in Patna for a brief period, his son Tejashwi Yadav said on Wednesday. Talking to reporters, Tejashwi Yadav said his father had developed sores on his back and an arm, which he hopes to get operated upon in Delhi. "Lalu ji had reached the airport in the afternoon to board his flight for Delhi. My mother Rabri Devi was accompanying him. A sudden drop in blood pressure was noted following which we rushed him to the Paras Hospital," the former deputy chief minister said. According to Prakash Sinha, who led the team of doctors treating Lalu Prasad, "He was kept in the emergency ward where his condition improved after intravenous therapy. He wanted to know if he could go to Delhi in an air ambulance. We asked him to go ahead." However, Tejashwi Yadav, who is now the Leader of the Opposition, said "my father is a man of courage. He chose to travel by a normal flight".

SC QUESTIONS TELANGANA SPEAKER OVER DELAY IN DISQUALIFICATION NOTICES

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Telangana assembly speaker why he took about 10 months to issue notices on the petitions for the disqualification of BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih also took exception to a purported statement of Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in the assembly that there would be no bye-elections. "If this is said on the floor of the house, your chief minister is making a mockery of the Tenth Schedule," Justice Gavai observed. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution relates to provisions for disqualification on the ground of defection. The bench was hearing arguments on the pleas on the alleged delay by the Telangana assembly speaker in deciding the pleas seeking the disqualification. While one of the pleas challenged the November 2024 order of the Telangana High Court on the disqualification of the three MLAs, another petition was filed over the seven remaining legislators who defected.



CHINA LAUNCHES MILITARY DRILLS IN TAIWAN STRAIT

Diary Times Desk : The Chinese military announced new exercises Wednesday in sensitive waters near Taiwan, a day after Beijing launched drills to surround the self-ruled island it claims as its own. The exercises in the crucial Taiwan Strait waterway aim to "test the troops' capabilities" in areas such as "blockade and control, and precision strikes on key targets", Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesman of the Chinese military's Eastern Theater Command, said in a statement. The drills are located in the middle and southern parts of the strait, the military said, which is a vital artery for global shipping. The latest exercises come a day after China sent its army, navy, air and rocket forces to surround Taiwan, prompting Taipei to dispatch its own forces. Beijing has increased the deployment of fighter jets and naval vessels around Taiwan in recent years to press its claim of sovereignty, which Taipei rejects. Taiwan is a potential flashpoint between China and the United States, which is the island's most important security partner. China opposes Washington's support for Taipei, which Beijing insists is part of its territory and has threatened to forcefully bring under its control.

TRUMP TARGETS HARVARD, 59 US COLLEGES: HOW FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE AFFECTED

Diary Times Desk : After Columbia, US President Donald Trump is now targeting Harvard and Princeton, threatening them with funding cuts as part of a crackdown on what his administration claims is a failure to tackle antisemitism on campuses. The move has triggered concern over visa scrutiny and research opportunities for international students, particularly those from India. Immigration arrests and funding freezes are already affecting student life and academic roles. Harvard is at risk of losing \$9 billion in federal grants, while Princeton University has confirmed that several dozen research grants have already been frozen. Both developments follow a decision by the government last month to cancel \$400 million in grants to Columbia University. In a wider move, Trump signed an executive order in March to dismantle the Department of Education. Education Secretary Linda McMahon was instructed to "take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure" of the department.

AT LEAST 322 CHILDREN KILLED SINCE ISRAEL'S NEW GAZA OFFENSIVE, UNICEF SAYS

Diary Times Desk : The United Nations agency for children says that at least 322 children are reported to have been killed since Israel launched a renewed offensive in Gaza two weeks ago. Unicef said at least 609 other children were reportedly wounded during the same period. "The ceasefire in Gaza provided a desperately needed lifeline for Gaza's children and hope for a path to recovery," said Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell. "But children have again been plunged into a cycle of deadly violence and deprivation." Israel launched its renewed Gaza offensive on 18 March, blaming Hamas for rejecting a new US proposal to extend the ceasefire and free the 59 hostages still held captive in Gaza. Hamas, in turn, accused Israel of violating the original deal they had agreed to in January. Unicef said "relentless and indiscriminate bombardments" had resumed in Gaza, with 100 children killed or maimed every day in the 10 days to 31 March. Most of the children who were killed had been displaced and were sheltering in makeshift tents or damaged homes, it said.



TRUMP POSTS 'LIBERATION DAY' HOURS BEFORE US ROLLS OUT RECIPROCAL TARIFFS



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump proclaimed "Liberation Day" in the United States on Wednesday as he prepared to impose sweeping new tariffs that would escalate a trade war with global partners, increase prices and upend a decades-old trade order. Trump has kept the world guessing on the details of the tariff plans, which were still being formulated ahead of a White House Rose Garden announcement ceremony scheduled for 4 p.m. Eastern Time (2000 GMT). US stock indexes opened sharply lower on Wednesday, extending a selloff that has erased nearly \$5 trillion of value since February. The new duties are due to take effect immediately after Trump announces them, while a separate 25 per cent global tariff on auto imports will take effect on April 3. As of Wednesday morning, the White House had not published an official notice of either set of tariffs, as it is required to do before they take effect. The administration also has declined to comment on reports that Trump was considering a 20 per cent universal tariff.

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT ZARDARI TESTS POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS, PLACED IN ISOLATION

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari has tested positive for coronavirus and is currently in isolation, his physician said on Wednesday. Asif Ali Zardari, 69, was flown from Nawabshah to Karachi and admitted to a private hospital on Tuesday, following complaints of respiratory issues and fever. Dr Asim Hussain, the President's physician, told the media that Asif Ali Zardari has contracted coronavirus. "This was confirmed after multiple tests, and he has now been placed in isolation and his health is being monitored round the clock," he said. "A team of experts is taking care of the president and his condition is improving," Hussain added. According to local media reports, Asif Ali Zardari had gone to Nawabshah to offer Eid prayers on Monday and before that held a meeting with his party leaders on Sunday. Asif Ali Zardari has faced various health issues in recent years. He previously tested positive for COVID-19 in July 2022.

US ADMITS TO EL SALVADOR DEPORTATION "ERROR" AS ALARM DEEPENS OVER TRUMP POLICY

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump's hardline immigrant policy faced fresh scrutiny Tuesday after officials admitted an "administrative error" in the hurried deportation process had sent a man to a notorious El Salvador prison. The president's administration is pursuing a sweeping drive against migrants -- a key campaign promise -- touting the move as a crackdown on gang members and other violent criminals. But mounting claims that a number of individuals have flimsy or no connection to organized crime has prompted anger among rights groups, Democrats and even some Trump allies, including the influential podcaster Joe Rogan. A court filing Monday said a Salvadoran man was living in the United States under protected legal status until he was flown to El Salvador with hundreds of other alleged gang members earlier this month. Abrego Garcia was accused of being a gang member in 2019 but not convicted of any crime, and a judge ordered he should not be deported because he could be harmed in El Salvador.

VENEZUELA'S OIL EXPORTS FALL 11.5% OVER US TARIFFS AND SANCTIONS, SHIPPING DATA SHOW

Diary Times Desk : Venezuela's exports of crude oil and fuel fell 11.5% in March month-on-month as Washington's imposition of secondary tariffs and the cancellation of key licenses to operate in the U.S.-sanctioned energy sector led to delays and cargo suspensions, according to ship tracking data and documents. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration announced last week a 25% tariff on nations buying Venezuelan crude and gas, which will begin this week, and notified foreign partners of state-run oil company PDVSA it would revoke the authorizations it had granted to them to operate and export from the OPEC country. The measures followed the suspension of a key license for U.S. Chevron (CVX.N), opens new tab to produce oil in Venezuela and export it to the United States, which last year was the second largest market for Venezuela's crude. The Treasury Department set May 27 as the deadline for the companies to wind down operations and exports. Regular buyers of Venezuelan crude in China and India have suspended some cargoes for late March and April loading following the announcements. In total, 42 vessels departed Venezuelan waters in March carrying 804,677 barrels.

'TAKING OVER': HERE IS WHY AKALIS OPPOSE WAQF BILL, STAND WITH MUSLIMS

Diary Times Desk : The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) passed a resolution against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill during a Parliamentary Board meeting on Tuesday. The party's leader, Daljit S Cheema, reiterated the party's stance to stand with Muslims, saying "Minorities are an important part of India," and no law should be passed without consensus from the community. "We passed a resolution against the amendments to the Waqf Board. Minorities are an important part of India. You (Central government) are increasing the process of nomination and along with that, they are thinking of making non-Muslims a member of the Waqf Board," said the SAD leader. He likened the Waqf reform to the "taking over" of the Hazur Sahib Board for Sikhs in Nanded. "Before too, the Hazur Sahib board for Sikhs was there, there they increased the nominations and took it over. Now this starts happening with Muslim brothers as well, so the government should stop these things immediately," he said. The Takhat Sri Hazur Sahib board is responsible for the day-to-day running of Takhat Sahib and takes care of all the gurdwaras in the vicinity.



CBI ACCUSED OF MISUSING AGGRIEVED PERSON TO FABRICATE CASE AGAINST JUSTICE NIRMAL YADAV

Diary Times Desk : A Special CBI Court in Chandigarh has acquitted retired Justice Nirmal Yadav in the 2008 "cash at judge's door" case. The court, in a detailed 90-page judgment, dismissed all allegations against Justice Yadav, citing a lack of legal evidence. The case was registered 17 years ago, and the court ultimately found the prosecution's evidence to be hypothetical and assumptious. The case originated when a bag containing Rs 15 lakh was delivered to the residence of a sitting judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The CBI alleged that the bag was meant for Justice Yadav but was mistakenly delivered to another judge's residence due to a similarity in names. The CBI claimed that the money was paid to influence a favourable judgment related to a plot in Panchkula. However, the court questioned the credibility of the CBI's key witness, RK Jain, who had previously lost a case decided by Justice Yadav.

MAGISTERIAL PROBE ORDERED INTO PU STUDENT'S STABBING

Diary Times Desk : The UT Administration has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the stabbing incident during a music concert at Panjab University on March 28, which claimed the life of Aditya Thakur (22), a student of the University Institute of Engineering and Technology. Besides, the university authorities have banned the entry of outsiders on the campus from tomorrow. The directive applies to all campuses and buildings located in Sector 14 and Sector 25. The inquiry, ordered by the office of the District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner, will be conducted by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Central) Naveen. He has been asked to submit a report within two weeks. "The inquiry officer will have the liberty to associate any personnel of the university along with other stakeholders associated in organising the (Friday's) concert," read the order. The probe will consider various aspects, including the circumstances under which Aditya was stabbed during/after the concert and security lapses.

PUNJAB'S LARGEST SOLAR GROUP CAPTIVE PROJECT TO COME UP IN BATHINDA

Diary Times Desk : Swaraj Tractors, a division of the Mahindra Group, on Wednesday announced its collaboration with Mahindra Susten, the Group's clean-tech arm, to establish Punjab's largest solar group captive project—a 26-MW solar energy installation in Bathinda. This venture will scale up Swaraj Tractors renewable energy share to up to 50 per cent, the company has said. The solar energy project developed by Mahindra Susten, will supply clean energy to four Swaraj Tractor manufacturing facilities located in Mohali and Dera Bassi. The project is expected to generate approximately 60 million kWh of renewable energy annually, contributing to the abatement of around 54,600 tonnes of CO2 emissions. Commenting on the significance of this project, Hemant Sikka, President, Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, said, "With this ground-breaking solar project, we are taking a pioneering step in introducing green energy at such a large scale in tractor manufacturing for the first time in India. The initiative aligns perfectly with our vision of Transforming Farming and Enriching Lives, while advancing toward a sustainable future."

MINOR'S WELFARE PARAMOUNT: COURT DENIES PROTECTION TO COUPLE IN LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that granting protection to minors in live-in relationships would be like endorsing such arrangements — something the law strictly forbids to shield minors from exploitation and moral risk. Justice Sumeet Goel also made it clear that the minor's welfare and wellbeing was of paramount consideration. "In adjudicating upon a petition for protection wherein minors are involved in a live-in-relationship, the court must remain mindful of the fact that the paramount consideration remains the welfare and wellbeing of the minor in question. To extend the mantle of protection in such circumstances would, in effect, constitute an implicit approbation of a live-in arrangement involving minors, a proposition repugnant to the established statutory framework designed to shield the young and impressionable from exploitation and moral peril," Justice Goel asserted. The bench asserted that the law, in its wisdom, has carefully restricted the freedoms of minors, acknowledging their young age and vulnerability to undue influence and reckless decisions. Through legislative mandate, safeguards have been put in place to prevent any form of abuse or misconduct that could stem from the unrestrained discretion.

BIKRAM MAJITHIA'S SECURITY COVER SCALED DOWN, NOT WITHDRAWN: PUNJAB POLICE

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Police on Wednesday refuted reports claiming a complete withdrawal of security for Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia, clarifying that his security cover has only been scaled down following a reassessment of threat perception. The adjustment was made based on the latest recommendations of the Security Review Committee. "Security for any prominent individual is reviewed periodically based on threat assessment. Accordingly, it is either increased or decreased," a Punjab Police spokesperson said, adding that Majithia still retains sufficient security, including an escort vehicle and an adequate number of gunmen, ensuring his safety as per protocol. Officials reiterated that such decisions are routine and based solely on threat perception reports.

UNBORN CHILD ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT: HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk : A child in the mother's womb at the time of his father's death in an accident will be entitled to compensation under the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled. "Though the child was in the mother's womb on the day of the accident, he will be entitled to compensation under the MV Act," Justice Suvir Sehgal asserted, while doubling the compensation from Rs 8.84 lakh initially awarded by the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal. The ruling came in a case where Rakesh Kumar, riding a motorcycle, lost his life after being hit by a tractor. The accident occurred on October 1, 2015, and an FIR was registered the following day at Pundri police station for causing death by negligence and another offence under Sections 279 and 304-A of the IPC. Justice Sehgal observed that Rakesh Kumar's wife was pregnant at the time of the accident. She gave birth to a male child on November 18, 2015, nearly two months after the accident. The court held that the child, despite being unborn at the time, was entitled to compensation. Allowing the appeal for enhanced compensation, the court awarded an additional amount of Rs 9.29 lakh to the appellants-family, payable with an interest rate of 7.5% per annum from the date of filing of the claim petition. The appeals were accordingly disposed of.

VILLAGE COMMITTEES PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: HIMACHAL SPEAKER

Diary Times Desk : Emphasising the conservation of water, forests and land for ecological balance, Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania on Tuesday acknowledged the crucial roles village forest management committees playing in this direction. He was speaking at a felicitation event organised by the Forest Department in Ghatashni Gram Panchayat under the Dalhousie Forest Division. The event aimed to honour village forest management committees that have excelled in environmental conservation and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to forest fire prevention. The event saw participation from office-bearers and representatives of various rural forest management committees, along with officers, employees of the Forest Department, and a large number of local residents.

POWER LINE SHIFT DELAY HITS SOLAN HOSPITAL PROJECT

Diary Times Desk : Work on shifting a 33 KV power line from the construction site of the upcoming super specialty hospital in Solan has been delayed due to the Public Works Department (PWD) not depositing the full amount with the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL). Initially, the estimated cost for shifting the power line was Rs 38.96 lakh, later revised to Rs 53.65 lakh in November 2024. While Rs 38 lakh was deposited in February, the remaining amount is yet to be credited. An HPSEBL official confirmed that tenders would be invited only after the full amount is received. Health Minister DR Shandil, who reviewed the construction, directed officials to expedite the power line shifting. He emphasised that the 200-bed multi-purpose hospital, including a separate mother-child unit and a trauma centre, is a crucial project with Rs 100 crore allocated for its construction. Currently, 50% of the work has been completed. He highlighted that the third-level trauma centre will enhance emergency medical services for residents of Shimla, Solan and Sirmour districts, along with tourists.

ANOTHER SHOOTER ARRESTED IN BUMBER THAKUR CASE FROM HARYANA, BRINGING TOTAL ARRESTS TO SEVEN

Diary Times Desk : Another shooter from Haryana has been arrested for involvement in the shooting incident of former Congress MLA from Bilaspur, Bumber Thakur, police said today. The accused, identified as Bobby, son of Surender Singh and a resident of Dubaldhan in Tehsil Beri, Jhajjar, Haryana, was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) from Kharkhora in Sonapat. Bobby had been absconding since the shooting incident on March 14 in Bilaspur. SP Bilaspur Sandeep Dhawal, also a member of the SIT, confirmed the report and stated that the accused will be presented in court. According to Dhawal, eight accused were involved in the shooting incident, including three shooters and five conspirators. "One shooter remains absconding and will be arrested soon," he added. On March 14, Bumber Thakur was shot by unknown assailants in Bilaspur, sustaining a bullet injury to his thigh. His Personal Security Officer (PSO), Sanjeev Kumar, was also injured in the incident. Thakur received treatment at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), while his PSO was treated at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) Bilaspur.



NEPAL NATIVE MURDERED IN SHIMLA; ACCUSED ABSCONDING

Diary Times Desk : A Nepalese national was murdered in Theog subdivision, Shimla, on Wednesday allegedly by another Nepali worker with a sharp weapon. The deceased has been identified as Sushil, while the accused, Paras Ram, is currently absconding. According to a complaint filed by Sanjeev Kumar, a resident of Juggo village in Theog, he had hired Paras about 15 days ago to work in his orchards and had provided him accommodation in a shed near his residence. On March 31, Paras informed Kumar that he was going to Theog market for some work. However, on April 2, while Kumar was on his way to his orchard, he saw an unconscious man covered in blood. Upon closer inspection, he realised that the person was died. When Kumar attempted to contact Paras, he found that he was missing. Kurmar alleged that Paras, possibly under the influence of alcohol, had murdered Sushil before fleeing the scene. Acting swiftly, a police team reached the crime scene, recovered the body, and collected crucial evidence. The body was sent to a nearby hospital for post-mortem. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Theog, Siddharth Sharma, confirmed the incident and said a case has been registered under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

HPMC EARNS RECORD RS 5 CRORE PROFIT, TO RENT STORES, GRADING & PACKING LINES

Diary Times Desk : Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi today said that the Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC) had earned a record profit of Rs 5 crore in 2024-25. Negi, while addressing mediapersons after a meeting of the Board of Director of the corporation, said that the HPMC also produced record apple juice concentrate, over 2,000 metric tonnes, in the last financial year. He added that the HPMC was also planning to launch alcoholic beverages like schnapps, ciders, etc. The approval for the long-term renting of controlled atmosphere (CA) stores and grading and packing lines of the HPMC at multiple locations was also given at the meeting. Secretary (Horticulture) C Paulrasu and HPMC Managing Director Sudesh Mokhta attended the meeting. The HPMC will rent seven CA stores and 10 grading and packing lines on competitive rates through a tender process to ensure maximum utilisation of these assets. The Board of Directors also launched the HPMC's ready-to-drink apple juice in 250 ml, 500 ml and 1 litre packing. "The apple juice has no added sugar. This product is aimed at increasing the HPMC's presence.

HP COURT ADMITS WOMAN'S APPEAL IN BADOLI CASE

Diary Times Desk : Sessions Judge, Solan, Arvind Malhotra today admitted an appeal filed on behalf of a gang rape victim challenging a lower court's order on accepting the cancellation report filed by the Kasauli police on March 12 in a case in which the Haryana BJP president and a singer are the accused. The Kasauli police had booked Haryana BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli and singer Rocky Mittal, alias Jai Bhagwan, on charges of gang rape and criminal intimidation on a complaint filed by a woman on December 13, 2024, nearly a year and a half after the alleged crime took place on July 3, 2023. Appearing on behalf of the victim, advocates AS Gujral, Manjot Gujral and Gaurav Charaya pleaded that the Kasauli court had accepted the cancellation report submitted by the investigating officer without securing the presence of the complainant and without granting her an opportunity to file her objections. It was further stated in the appeal that it was necessary for the magistrate to have sent the final report to the special court, which alone was competent for holding the trial. The victim has sought to set aside the orders of the lower court, dated March 12, wherein the cancellation report was accepted.



ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU VS GUJARAT TITANS HIGHLIGHTS, IPL 2025: MOHAMMED SIRAJ, JOS BUTTLER SPOIL RCB'S HOMECOMING AS GT WIN BY 8 WICKETS

Diary Times Desk : Gujarat Titans produced an excellent all-round show to beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by eight wickets in their Indian Premier League match in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Set a target of 170, GT completed the chase with as many as 13 balls to spare. The swashbuckling Jos Buttler top-scored for GT with an unbeaten 73 off 39 balls, while opener Sai Sudharsan struck a 36-ball 49 as the two added 75 runs for the second wicket to put the visitors on course for their second victory in three matches. Sherfane Rutherford remained not out on 30 off 18. Earlier, Mohammed Siraj struck twice in the powerplay before RCB recovered to post 169 for eight after being sent into bat.



YASHASVI JAISWAL QUILTS MUMBAI, SUBMITS APPLICATION TO CHANGE TEAM: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : One of the brightest talents in Indian cricket, Yashasvi Jaiswal, has decided to take up a major change in his career. Jaiswal, who has played for Mumbai state team since his under-19 days, has reportedly decided to quit the team and join Goa from the next season onwards. Jaiswal is said to have written an email to the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) seeking a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to change his cricket state team. Arjun Tendulkar and Siddhesh Lad are some of the other cricketers from Mumbai who changed their team to Goa in the recent past. Jaiswal played for Mumbai recently in the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy campaign after returning from an underwhelming Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made participation in domestic red-ball cricket mandatory for Team India's stars, prompting the likes of Jaiswal, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, etc. to return to their respective state teams. But, from the next season, Jaiswal will be wearing the Goa jersey in domestic cricket. "He has sought an NOC from us and has cited that the reason for his move to Goa as personal," a source in the MCA told the Indian Express. "He wants to play for us and we welcome him.

KKR AIM TO STIFLE SRH WITH SPIN IN VITAL CLASH

Diary Times Desk : The finalists of IPL 2024 are finally facing off this season. Their respective situations though, aren't as pleasant in 2025. Three games down, Kolkata Knight Riders sit at the bottom of the table while Sunrisers Hyderabad find themselves only two places higher a day ahead of their clash at Eden Gardens. The two teams that piled on big scores last season, could potentially find themselves engaged in a low-scoring contest on Thursday. The stubborn standoff between Kolkata Knight Riders and the pitch curator at Eden Gardens seems to have come to an end, and at least for now it seems like the franchise has had its way. A day ahead of the contest against Sunrisers Hyderabad, two pitches were kept - a dry surface and a drier surface - and it is understood that the franchise has been allowed to take a final call on the surface they wish to play on. They have opted for the driest one. Even as the IPL rules do not allow for the franchises to dictate the making of the pitches, KKR are not alone to raise their grievance on the surface they would like to play their home games on. Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants have also joined the chorus in recent days. Dwayne Bravo, the mentor of KKR, made his stance clear ahead of the game - assess the conditions, adjust to the conditions.

GUWAHATI TO HOST INDIA'S SECOND TEST AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Diary Times Desk : India are set to face West Indies and South Africa in their upcoming 2025 home season. The hosts will play West Indies for only two Tests while they shall face the South Africans in all three formats spanning through the months of October to December. The home season will commence with the first Test against the West Indies in Ahmedabad on October 2 while the final Test of the series will be played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata from October 10. The West Indies last toured the Indian subcontinent for a Test series back in 2018 when they lost 2-0. South Africa's visit to India starts in the Test format as well, carrying on from the West Indies tour, with the first of the two Tests to be played in New Delhi November 14 while the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati is set to host its maiden Test match from November 22. The two teams shall then play three ODIs, all three to be played in the Eastern part of the country, in Ranchi, Raipur and Vizag respectively. The month-long tour will round up with five T20Is in Cuttack, Mullanpur, Dharamsala, Lucknow and Ahmedabad with the upcoming T20 World Cup to be played in March 2026 across India and Sri Lanka in mind.



"THINGS HAVE CHANGED, I WAS CAPTAIN, NOW...": ROHIT SHARMA ON MUMBAI INDIANS ROLE

Diary Times Desk : One of the most successful players in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL), Rohit Sharma has slotted into a new role that sees him mostly playing as an Impact Substitute this campaign. Just two editions ago, Rohit was the captain of the franchise before the Mumbai Indians decided to promote Hardik Pandya to the role. Even the vice-captain's role was allotted to Suryakumar Yadav, with Rohit being freed from all leadership roles. In a chat with the broadcasters, Rohit opened up on how his role has evolved over the years. Mumbai Indians have only won one of their first three games of the season. A difficult start, however, isn't something new for the franchise, which has learned to bounce back over the years. For Rohit, his role might have changed, but his mindset is still the same - to do the best for his team. "Since I started, things have obviously changed. I used to bat in the middle-order; now, I open the innings. I was the captain; now, I'm not. Some of my teammates from our championship-winning seasons are now in coaching roles. So, roles have changed, a lot has changed, but mindset remains the same. What I want to do for this team has not changed, and that is to go out there and win games and trophies.

BIG BLOW FOR INDIA SPINNER VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY, DROPS DOWN TO THIS SPOT IN T20 BOWLING RANKINGS

Diary Times Desk : India's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has dropped one place to third spot in the ICC men's T20 bowling rankings, while Hardik Pandya continues to top the all-rounders' chart issued on Wednesday. With 706 rating points, Chakravarthy trails behind leader Jacob Duffy (723) of New Zealand and West Indies' Akeal Hosein (707). Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (674) and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (653) are the other two Indians in top-10 at seventh and 10th positions respectively. Axar Patel is placed at 13th position. Young Indian left-handed opener Abhishek Sharma continued to occupy the second position in the T20 batting rankings, which is being headed by Australia's Travis Head, while England's Phil Salt is at the third spot. Two other Indians -- Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav -- are placed fourth and fifth respectively. Pandya managed to hold to his top spot among all-rounders with 252 rating points, followed by Dipendra Singh Airee of Nepal and Australia's Marcus Stoinis.