

MODI IN VARANASI

NARENDRA MODI IN VARANASI: PM LAUNCHES PROJECTS WORTH ₹2,200 CRORE

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi on Saturday, August 2, and gave his parliamentary constituency a massive development boost by launching multiple projects worth around ₹2,200 crore.

From roads to riverfronts, schools to smart electricity, temples to tourist hubs, the projects span key sectors and aim to achieve holistic urban transformation, cultural rejuvenation, improved connectivity, and enhanced quality of life in Varanasi.

"For my family members in Kashi, tomorrow, August 2, is a very special day. Around 11 in the morning, I will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for several projects related to education, health, sports, tourism, and connectivity. On this occasion, I will also have the privilege of releasing the 20th instalment of PM-Kisan," PM Modi wrote on X.

Road and connectivity

PM Modi inaugurated the widening and strengthening of key roads such as the Varanasi-Bhadohi road and Chhitauni-Shool Tankeshwar road. A new railway overbridge at Hardattpur will ease congestion on the busy Mohan Sarai-Adalpur stretch.

He laid the foundation for multiple urban and rural road projects — including corridors at Lahartara-Kotwa, Dalmandi, Gangapur, and Babatpur — and new railway overbridges at Level Crossing 22C and Khalispur Yard.



KASHMIR

MILITANT KILLED IN KULGAM, SECOND MAJOR ENCOUNTER IN A WEEK IN KASHMIR



Diary Times Desk : An unidentified militant was killed in an overnight gunfight with security forces in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, the Indian Army said on Saturday.

The encounter began on Friday evening after a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Indian Army, and paramilitary forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in Akhal village, following intelligence inputs about militant presence in the area.

"Intermittent and intense firefight continued through the night," the Army's Chinar Corps posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Alert troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the noose while maintaining contact. One terrorist has been neutralised by the security forces so far."

Police sources said that security forces had received information about a larger group of militants being present in the area. "The inputs suggest that four to five militants were hiding in the area," a police official said.

This is the second major gunfight reported in Kashmir in the past week. Last week, three Pakistani militants were killed in a firefight in a mountainous area on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that those militants were responsible for the April 22 attack on tourists in Pahalgam, where 25 tourists and a local pony rider were killed in the Baisaran meadow. The incident drew widespread condemnation and escalated tensions between India and Pakistan.

"WAS COERCED TO TAKE PM MODI'S NAME": PRAGYA THAKUR ON MALEGAON CASE

Diary Times Desk : In a stunning claim, former BJP MP Pragya Thakur has said investigators tried to coerce her into naming Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and others in connection with the 2008 Malegaon blast case. Ms Thakur was acquitted in the case along with Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Shrikant Purohit and five others by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Thursday. The former MP's claim comes on the heels of the judgment in the case revealing that a witness who had turned hostile had also claimed that he was forced to implicate Yogi Adityanath and four others linked to the RSS, including Indresh Kumar, a senior member of the organisation. Mehboob Mujawar, a former Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) member, had also alleged that senior officers in the squad had ordered him to arrest RSS chief Bhagwat, but he had refused to obey. The court had rejected these allegations, but did not stop Mr Mujawar from reiterating them on Friday, claiming that the objective behind the order given by his seniors was to take the probe in the "wrong direction" and make it appear like a "saffron terror case".



MANI SHANKAR AIYAR FIRES 'OP SINDOOR' BROADSIDE AT SHASHI THAROOR

Diary Times Desk : Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar has taken a swipe at party MP Shashi Tharoor's foreign visits as part of India's global outreach to inform other nations of Pakistan's role behind the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. Mr Aiyar said none of the 33 countries where India sent MPs to present the country's views on Pakistan's state policy of sponsoring terrorism had blamed that country for the terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 tourists. Mr Aiyar took particular aim at Mr Tharoor, who the Centre had selected for the delegation to the US, despite the Congress not recommending his name. "None of the 33 countries that Tharoor and his team visited blamed Pakistan for the Pahalgam terror attack. Neither the UN nor the United States have held Pakistan responsible," Mr Aiyar told news agency IANS.

WHAT IS FASTAG ANNUAL PASS? FEATURES, PRICE, AND BENEFITS EXPLAINED AHEAD OF AUG 15 LAUNCH

Diary Times Desk : Easing the hassle of travelling through the highways countrywide, the FASTag Annual Pass will launch on Independence Day (August 15). Introduced by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, the annual pass will be available only for private vehicles at designated National Highway (NH) and National Expressway (NE) toll plazas. Here is everything you need to know about the FASTag annual pass. What is the FASTag Annual Pass? Effective from August 15, 2025, the FASTag Annual Pass allows free passage of private car/jeep/van at designated National Highway (NH) and National Expressway (NE) fee plazas for one year or 200 trips (whichever is earlier). What is the price of FASTag Annual Pass? The FASTage Annual Pass is priced at Rs 3,000 for the base year 2025-26. The payment can be made through the Rajmargyatra mobile application or the NHAI website. How to activate FASTag Annual Pass? The Annual Pass will be activated after verifying the eligibility of the vehicle and the associated FASTag. Once the Rs 3,000 payment is confirmed, the Annual Pass will be activated on the registered FASTag within two hours.

AMARNATH YATRA SUSPENDED FROM TOMORROW, A WEEK BEFORE IT WAS TO END



Diary Times Desk : The annual Amarnath Yatra in Kashmir closed a week before it was to end. Officials cited adverse weather conditions and its impact on the yatra route as the reason for ending the Yatra prematurely. While Yatra, which was to end on August 9 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, was suspended three days ago citing weather conditions, the administration today announced that yatra will not resume from tomorrow. "Due to the recent heavy rains, critical repair and maintenance works are required on both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes. It has been observed that due to the continued deployment of men and machinery on the tracks from tomorrow, we will not be able to resume Yatra. The Yatra will therefore remain suspended from 3rd August onwards from both the routes," said Mr Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. According to Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, around 4 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave this year even as the number of yatris have witnessed a sharp decline in last one week.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

03-08-2025

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.

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.

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: CM SUKHU SAID – RELIGION IS A MATTER OF PERSONAL FAITH AND THE STATE’S APPROACH SHOULD BE SECULAR

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presided over the second session of the national conference ‘Constitutional Challenges: Perspective and Path’ organized by the Law, Human Rights and RTI Department of the All India Congress Committee at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday. Speaking on the subject of religion and constitution, the Chief Minister said that religion is a matter of personal faith and the state’s approach should be secular, in which every religion should be respected and the ancient traditions of peace and harmony of the country should be maintained. Following the ideology of Sarva Dharma Sambhaav, the spirit of brotherhood should be nurtured in the country, which is a strong foundation of secularism and religious freedom. Sukhu said that every religion is respected in our country and the diversity of the country is the strength of the country. He said that we are known for our religious tolerance and in the absence of these rich values, situations of violence and conflict arise in the society. The Chief Minister said that religion connects people and religion should not be used to divide people. Every effort should be made to separate religion from politics. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh, Dr. Abhishek Singhvi, Alka Lamba, Pramod Tiwari and others also presented their views on this occasion.



24 CHILDREN OF DANTHAL SCHOOL FORCED TO STUDY IN UNSAFE BUILDING, RECEIVING EDUCATION IN THE SHADOW OF FEAR

Diary Times Desk : The death of children due to the collapse of a government school building in Rajasthan has shaken the country. Government claims of safety in schools are strong on paper, but on the ground they are falling flat. Drops dripping from the roof, plaster falling from the walls and children in the shadow of fear... this is the picture of many government schools. In many places in disaster-hit Himachal, children are forced to study in unsafe buildings. To address these concerns, our special campaign ‘Kaisi Hai Pathshala’ is starting from today. Government Primary School Dantahl under Education Block Sangrah of Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh has been running in an unsafe and dilapidated building for about eight years. Here about 24 children are forced to receive education in the shadow of fear. Government claims of safety of children and fear-free environment in schools.

CM SUKHU MET UNION MINISTER, SOUGHT FOREST LAND FOR HIMACHAL’S DISASTER-AFFECTED PEOPLE

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav in New Delhi. He apprised the Union Minister of the damage caused by the recent cloudburst and heavy rains in the state. He said that apart from buildings, infrastructure, roads, bridges, water supply schemes, residential properties, precious human lives have also suffered huge losses during this monsoon. Sukhu urged the Union Minister to allow allotment of one bigha land for the rehabilitation of disaster-affected families who have lost their land. As 68 per cent of the state is in forest area, he stressed the need to relax forest norms for rehabilitation.

He also discussed about silting in rivers and urged to give necessary instructions for disposal of silt for disaster prevention. He urged that separate norms should be set for the hill states .

HOLOGRAMS WILL BE INSTALLED ON LIQUOR BOTTLES SOLD IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, THESE BENEFITS WILL BE THERE; KNOW

Diary Times Desk : Holograms will now be installed on liquor bottles sold in Himachal Pradesh. The Tax and Excise Department has taken this decision to stop the sale of fake and illegal liquor. To prepare 10 crore holograms during a year, the department has invited applications from companies through Electronics Corporation.

This new system is being started in the state under the World Bank funded Track and Trace System. Under this, it will be made mandatory to put a hologram linked to QR code on every bottle of liquor sold in Himachal. The government has started the Track and Trace System to keep account of every bottle sold in the state. In this episode, now the exercise of linking the hologram to the QR code has been started.

The quality of liquor can be detected by scanning the hologram and QR code with a mobile phone. The government has taken this decision to maintain the purity of liquor in Himachal Pradesh. It will be made mandatory to sell liquor bottles by putting QR code with hologram track on them. Under the new system, every bottle coming out of the liquor bottling plant will have a security hologram, QR code and a bar code on the liquor box. After reading the bar code from the plant, the liquor boxes will be sent out.

After reaching the warehouse, the bar code of the liquor boxes will be scanned again. This will ensure that the liquor has been delivered to the right depot. When these boxes are sent to the retail shop, even then their batch number will be able to tell which liquor box or bottle has gone to which retail store or shop. People buying liquor will also be able to check the quality of the liquor by scanning the bottle’s QR code and hologram separately at the shops. Scanning will reveal where and on which date the liquor was made. This new system of the department will help in catching fake liquor. Excise Commissioner Dr. Yunus said that selling legal liquor will increase the government’s revenue. It has been decided to start this system to stop the supply of illegal liquor brought into the state from outside areas.

HIGH COURT REPRIMANDS HPU IN CONTEMPT CASE, ORDERS REGISTRAR TO APPEAR

Diary Times Desk : High Court reprimands HPU in contempt case, orders registrar to appear

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has strongly reprimanded Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) for contempt of court orders. During the hearing, the court found that the previous orders have not yet been complied with, while the Supreme Court has upheld this decision. The court of Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua has ordered the registrar or the concerned officer of the university to be present in the court during the next hearing. The next hearing of the case will be on August 7. The advocate appearing for the university said that the decision has been complied with under the office order of July 30, but it was opposed by the advocate of the petitioners.

He said that the decision has not yet been complied with. He told the court that the court had directed in its decision of September 7, 2021 that the services of the petitioners before regularization should be counted not only for seniority but also for other service benefits. This work was to be done within 6 weeks and in case of failure to do so, there was an instruction to pay with interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. Accepting the facts presented on behalf of the petitioners, the court said that there is no mention of the payment due to the petitioners in the office order dated 30 July 2025. Prima facie it appears that the respondents have violated the decision.

SHIMLA NEWS: 267 DANGEROUS TREES TO BE CUT IN THE CITY, REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT

Diary Times Desk : After the increase in incidents of falling of trees due to continuous rain and strong winds in the capital, the Forest Department has surveyed the dangerous trees and submitted the report to the Urban Development Department.

267 dangerous trees have been identified in the report. These include dry, uprooted and green standing trees. The department has recommended cutting 14 of these trees for development work. Permission has been sought from the sub-committee of the government to cut these trees. 117 trees have been found dry, of which 47 trees are on government land and 70 on private land. Apart from this, there are 43 green trees which have either fallen or have

'HE HAS HIS OWN REASONS': SHASHI THAROOR ON RAHUL GANDHI BACKING TRUMP'S 'DEAD ECONOMY' REMARK

Diary Times Desk : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said he would not comment on Rahul Gandhi's remarks about US President Donald Trump's "dead economy" comment, but said India's trade ties with America are important and should not be affected.

Tharoor, who represents Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, said, "I don't want to comment on what my party leader has said. He has his own reasons for saying it. My concern is much more that our relationship with the US, as a strategic and economic partnership, is important for us."

The Congress leader said India must protect its strong trade ties with the US, emphasising that America is one of the country's biggest export markets, with around \$90 billion worth of goods going there annually.

"We are exporting something like 90 billion worth of goods to America. We can't therefore be in a position where we are going to lose that or have it diminish significantly."

A FACT-CHECK FROM POLL BODY AFTER TEJASHWI YADAV'S "NAME MISSING" CLAIM

Diary Times Desk : Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav today claimed that his name had been omitted from the state's draft electoral roll. The Election Commission of India (ECI), however, has firmly rebutted the claim, terming it "factually incorrect".

Mr Yadav claimed that nearly 65 lakh voters have been removed from the state's draft electoral roll, ahead of assembly elections scheduled this year. The Election Commission yesterday released the draft voter list for Bihar, following a month-long special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

"My name is not there in the electoral roll. How will I contest the elections?" he asked.

The poll body countered by saying that Mr Yadav's name does appear in the draft roll, listed at Serial Number 416. The row comes just days after the Election Commission was forced to respond to separate allegations of electoral manipulation made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Mr Yadav further attempted to verify his voter details using what he claimed was his Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number -- a unique alphanumeric code printed on voter IDs -- but allegedly failed to retrieve his information.

FORMER MP PRAJWAL REVANNA GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPE OF DOMESTIC WORKER

Diary Times Desk : A special court for elected representatives in Bengaluru on Saturday sentenced former Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna, 34, to life Imprisonment in one of four rape cases registered against him in Karnataka's Hassan district in 2024.

Special sessions court judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat pronounced the order on Saturday. The former Hassan MP was convicted on Friday under sections 376(2)(k) (rape in a position of control or dominance over a woman), 376(2)(n) (repeated rape), 354A (sexual harassment), 354B (assault to disrobe), 354C (capturing images), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code and under Section 66(E) of Information Technology Act 2008.

Prajwal, the grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda and the son of the former Karnataka minister H D Revanna, was convicted of raping a woman who worked as a domestic worker in a farm house owned by his family while "being in a position of control or dominance".

The former MP has been in prison since May 31, 2024, when he was arrested on his return from Germany where he had fled after the emergence of explicit videos of sexual attacks on women. The videos, reportedly recorded by him on his mobile phone, were leaked ahead of the April 26, 2024 Parliament election in Hassan where Prajwal was the candidate for the JDS-BJP alliance.

ODISHA: 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL SET AFIRE IN PURI, AIRLIFTED TO AIIMS DELHI, DIES

Diary Times Desk : The 15-year-old girl in Odisha's Puri district who was allegedly set on fire by three unknown men on July 19 died on Saturday while receiving treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi.

The minor, who had suffered 75% burn injuries, was airlifted to AIIMS Delhi the next day for advanced treatment.

The girl, a Class 10 student, was allegedly set ablaze in Bayabar village under Balanga police limits. She had alleged that three bike-borne youths kidnapped her, rendered her unconscious, and set her on fire on the Bhargavi riverbed on July 19. The girl managed to flee the scene and took shelter at a nearby house. She was immediately admitted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar the same day, where police recorded her statement.

A day later, she was airlifted to AIIMS New Delhi, where she underwent skin grafting as well as daily administration of immunoglobulin injections to stop the spread of infection.

CRUDE POLITICS: INSIDE INDIA-RUSSIA OIL TIES AMID TRUMP'S TARIFF TANTRUM

Diary Times Desk : India's energy strategy has undergone a major reorientation over the last three years, placing Russia at the heart of its crude oil imports. Before the Russia-Ukraine war, India's crude oil imports from Russia amounted to 0.2 per cent. Fast forward a few years, and Russian oil has surged to become India's top source.

During the Cold War, India adopted a policy of non-alignment, but it refused to endorse Western efforts to counter Soviet-led communism. The result was a diplomatic relationship with Moscow that included extensive arms transfers, technology sharing, and diplomatic support.

Even after the Soviet Union's collapse, Russia has remained India's most significant arms supplier. A substantial portion of India's military platforms -- especially those in the Navy and Air Force -- are either Russian-made or use Russian components.

'NO FORMAL TALKS ON F-35 JETS YET': INDIA CLARIFIES AFTER TRUMP TARIFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Diary Times Desk : The government on Friday clarified that there have been no formal discussions yet on the potential sale of F-35 fighter jets to India, despite a reference in the India-US joint statement earlier this year.

In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said: "The US will undertake a review of its policy on releasing fifth-generation fighters (such as the F-35) and undersea systems to India. No formal discussions have been held as yet on this issue."

This statement comes in the backdrop of PM Narendra Modi's February visit to US, during which the two sides elevated defence and strategic cooperation, but without finalising key hardware acquisitions like the F-35.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was also asked whether any proposal had been made by the US regarding the F-35, and about the role of American diplomats in reducing tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

"MADE-UP CONVERSION STORY": TRIBAL GIRLS AFTER BAIL TO KERALA NUNS

Diary Times Desk : Kumari Lalita Usendi, her voice firm but emotional, says she feels good that she has been proven innocent. "Jyoti Sharma sent bhaiya and sister to jail without any proof. Today we got bail, and it feels good," Ms Usendi said.

Another young tribal girl, Kamleshwari Pradhan, breaks into tears while speaking to NDTV.

"There was so much violence, sir... it was our first time traveling like this... they dragged us to the police station, Jyoti Sharma beat us. It was terrifying," Ms Pradhan said.

In a dramatic turn of events in the much-politicised conversion and trafficking case in Chhattisgarh's Durg, a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur granted conditional bail to two Catholic nuns from Kerala and a tribal youth from Chhattisgarh, who were arrested amidst a wave of controversy and political grandstanding.

The court, while granting bail, ruled that each accused must deposit Rs 50,000 in bond and submit their passports, forbidding them from leaving the country without permission.

"We were on our way to Agra for work. Jyoti Sharma accused us of religious conversion and human trafficking. These are false allegations. We've been attending prayers since childhood. What she says is a lie," Sukanmati Mandavi said.

5.4-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE JOLTS ISLAMABAD, KP AND PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : A 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck parts of Pakistan, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Islamabad, leaving residents in a state of panic, ARY News reported. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), the earthquake occurred at 2:04 AM PST at a depth of 102km, with its epicentre located in the Hindukush Mountain region in Afghanistan. Tremors were also felt in various areas of Afghanistan and Tajikistan, NSMC stated.

The earthquake was felt in numerous districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, Swat, Malakand, Nowshera, Charsadda, Karak, Dir, Mardan, Mohmand, Shangla, Hangu, Swabi, Haripur, and Abbottabad, as per ARY News. Tremors were also felt in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Lahore, Attock, Taxila, Murree, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Ferozwala, Muridke and other parts of Punjab.

According to ARY News, the quake caused widespread panic, prompting people to rush out of their homes and recite verses from the holy book. However, no losses of life or property were reported. Notably, Pakistan is considered one of the most seismically active countries in the world, situated in a region where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates collide.

FROM LAOS TO BRAZIL, TRUMP'S TARIFFS LEAVE LOT OF LOSERS; BUT EVEN WINNERS WILL PAY PRICE

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump's tariff onslaught this week left a lot of losers – from small, poor countries like Laos and Algeria to wealthy US trading partners like Canada and Switzerland. They're now facing especially hefty taxes – tariffs – on the products they export to the United States starting Aug 7.

The closest thing to winners may be the countries that caved to Trump's demands – and avoided even more pain. But it's unclear whether anyone will be able to claim victory in the long run – even the United States, the intended beneficiary of Trump's protectionist policies. "In many respects, everybody's a loser here," said Barry Appleton, co-director of the Centre for International Law at the New York Law School. Barely six months after he returned to the White House, Trump has demolished the old global economic order.

TRUMP FIRES LEAD OFFICIAL ON ECONOMIC DATA AS TARIFFS CAUSE MARKET DROP

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has fired the boss of one of America's most important economic institutions hours after weaker-than-expected jobs data stoked further alarm about his tariff policy.

On social media Trump claimed that Erika McEntarfer, commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), had "RIGGED" jobs figures "to make the Republicans, and ME, look bad".

The unprecedented move by the White House sparked accusations that Trump was politicising economic data.

The Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer, said the president was "a bad leader" who "shoots the messenger" for weak statistics.

US stock markets were rattled on Friday after Trump, a Republican, forged ahead with his plans to raise import tariffs on goods from countries around the world.

Figures were then released by BLS showing that employers in the US added just 73,000 jobs in July, far below forecasts of 109,000 new roles.

The agency also revised down employment growth in May and June, reporting 250,000 fewer jobs than previously thought. It was the largest downward revision in employment figures – apart from the Covid-era – since 1979. It is not unusual for the BLS to amend jobs figures as more data comes to light, however. During Joe Biden's presidency, statistics for 12 months over 2023-4 were retroactively revised downward by 818,000 jobs.

EX-MALI PM CHARGED OVER X POST SUPPORTING JAILED CRITICS OF MILITARY RULERS

Diary Times Desk : A former prime minister of Mali has been charged with "undermining the credibility of the state" following a social media post about his visits to political prisoners, according to a prosecutor. Moussa Mara held the post of prime minister for a brief eight months from 2014 until 2015. He was previously summoned for questioning following a July 4 post on X in which he spoke of visiting the prisoners and promising to ensure them justice.

"As long as the night lasts, the sun will obviously appear!" he wrote and added, "We will fight by all means for this to happen as soon as possible!" Mara remains in jail with a trial scheduled for September 29. His lawyers condemned the proceedings in a statement on Friday. Mara's arrest is the latest in a crackdown on dissent by Mali's military rulers following the country's first pro-democracy rally since soldiers seized power nearly four years ago.

US NUCLEAR SUBMARINE PROGRAMME: FACTS, IMPACT AND ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump announced on August 1 that he had instructed two nuclear submarines to be repositioned to what he termed "the appropriate regions," in response to recent comments from former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The statement, made through social media, has sparked concerns over the escalating rhetoric between the two nuclear powers. Trump's directive follows Medvedev's reminder that Russia retains Cold War-era nuclear strike capabilities, a statement made after Trump warned him to "watch his words".

"Based on the highly provocative statements of the Former President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev ... I have ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that," Trump said in his post.

What is the move all about

Trump's move is seen largely as a symbolic flex of military muscle rather than a shift in defence posture. Security experts, cited by Reuters, said that the US already maintains a continuous underwater presence with its fleet of nuclear submarines.

The Ohio-class submarines, which form the backbone of the US sea-based nuclear deterrent, are capable of launching Trident II D5 ballistic missiles, each with multiple thermonuclear warheads that can reach targets over 4,600 miles away.

GERMANY SAYS AID ENTERING GAZA STILL 'VERY INSUFFICIENT'; SOURCE SAYS BERLIN MULLING WAYS TO PRESSURE ISRAEL

Diary Times Desk : The amount of aid entering Gaza remains "very insufficient" despite a limited improvement, the German government says after ministers discussed ways to heighten pressure on Israel. Germany "notes limited initial progress in the delivery of humanitarian aid to the population of the Gaza Strip, which, however, remains very insufficient to alleviate the emergency situation," government spokesman Stefan Kornelius says in a statement.

"Israel remains obligated to ensure the full delivery of aid," Kornelius adds. The German government, traditionally a strong supporter of Israel, also expresses "concern regarding reports that large quantities of humanitarian aid are being withheld by Hamas and criminal organizations."

US WARNS OFFICIALS, LIMITS KARACHI HOTEL ACCESS POST THREAT

Diary Times Desk : The United States has temporarily limited visits by government personnel to high-end hotels in Karachi, Pakistan, after receiving a report of a threat, the State Department said on Friday.

"The US Consulate General Karachi received a report of a threat directed at high-end hotels in Karachi," the department said in a security alert.

"The US Consulate General in Karachi has temporarily limited visits by official US government personnel to these hotels."

The State Department said it sometimes declares areas in foreign countries, such as tourist attractions, hotels, markets, shopping malls and restaurants off-limits to official US government personnel in response to such threats.

The security alert urges people to avoid the areas and crowds, keep a low profile and stay alert in places frequented by tourists and citizens of Western countries.

ISRAEL AIRDROPS AID INTO GAZA WITH SIX COUNTRIES, DENIES CLAIMS OF STARVATION

Diary Times Desk : The Israel Defence Forces on Friday announced that it had air-dropped aid into the Gaza Strip in coordination with six other countries, Jerusalem Post reported. As many as 126 packages containing food were airdropped for the residents of southern and northern Gaza by six countries, the IDF said.

This marked the first joint operation conducted with three European countries. The operation was conducted with the United Arab Emirates, Jordan.

KABADDI PLAYER AJMER SINGH KILLING: MURDER CHARGES AGAINST 4 PUNJAB COPS, 2 OTHERS

Diary Times Desk : In a nine-year-old fake encounter case, the Faridkot district court has framed murder and conspiracy charges against six individuals, including four Punjab Police personnel and two liquor contractors from Bathinda.

The court found prima facie evidence to proceed under multiple serious offenses, including murder (IPC Section 302), destruction of evidence (Section 201), criminal conspiracy (Section 120-B), criminal intimidation (Section 506), rioting (Sections 148 and 149) and relevant sections of the Arms Act (Section 27).

The case pertains to the alleged staged police encounter of Ajmer Singh, a Kabaddi player and liquor vendor, in May 2016.

His mother, Manjit Kaur, a resident of Sri Muktsar Sahib, had moved the court, accusing police officials of executing her son in cold blood and later branding him a gangster.

Manjit Kaur alleged that two influential liquor contractors, Dharampal alias Dharmi and Amarjit Singh Mehta, conspired with police officials due to business disputes with her son.

The accused police personnel have been identified as Sub-Inspector Lachman Singh, Constables Parminder Singh and Dharminder Singh, and Home Guard jawan Kabal Singh. All six accused are currently out on bail.

12-YEAR-OLD BOY KILLED, 8 PERSONS HURT AS SNATCHER'S BIKE COLLIDES WITH CAR IN HOSHIARPUR

Diary Times Desk : A 12-year-old boy died and eight others were injured after a car overturned here following a collision with motorcycle-borne snatchers fleeing after robbing a woman, police said on Saturday.

The accident happened in Possi village near Garhshankar on Friday night. Three motorcycle-borne snatchers, who were fleeing towards Mahilpur, collided with a car. Five occupants of the car and the three snatchers were injured.

According to Mahilpur SHO Ramandeep Kaur, the deceased minor was identified as Karanjot Singh, and the injured occupants of the car were identified as Lovepreet Singh, Anu, Sonia Rani, Jugraj Singh and Harpreet Singh, all residents of Dhade Kalan.

They were rushed to the Civil Hospital in Garhshankar, while two of them who sustained serious injuries were referred to separate hospitals in Hoshiarpur, she added. Two of the snatchers were identified as Rahul Kumar and Rohan, both residents of Chabbewal. The identity of the third accomplice is yet to be ascertained.

LAND POOLING POLICY: FEEDBACK FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO BE FURTHER TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, SAYS CM MANN

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said feedback from all stakeholders, including farmers, over the Land Pooling Policy will be further taken into account. He said his government has introduced a progressive Land Pooling Policy in the state to promote planned and sustainable development.

Mann reiterated that this is a people's government, and every decision is made in consultation with the public.

Mann was speaking to reporters after paying obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Katalgarh Sahib here and prayed for peace, progress, and prosperity in the state.

HOURS AFTER JOINING BJP, KHARAR REALTOR RANJIT GILL'S HOUSE, OFFICE RAIDED BY PUNJAB VIGILANCE

Diary Times Desk : Hours after Gillco Valley realtor Ranjit Singh Gill joined the BJP, Punjab Vigilance Bureau officials raided his residence in Chandigarh and his office in Kharar on Saturday morning.

There was heavy police presence outside Gill's Gillco Valley office in Kharar, while a Vigilance Bureau team was stationed at his residence in Sector 2, Chandigarh.

Gill remained unavailable for comment, but his close associates confirmed the raids, describing them as "a political vendetta." Although VB remained tight-lipped about the proceedings, AAP leaders linked the raids with SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia's case.

According to BJP sources, Gill was allegedly pressured to join the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which led to his sudden, late-night switch to the BJP on Friday. "That is why he joined BJP abruptly. And by morning, the Vigilance Bureau was at his door," said a BJP leader who was present during Gill's induction into the party at Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's official residence in Chandigarh.

MAN HELD FROM AMRITSAR FOR THREATENING PUNJAB MP RANDHAWA'S SON



Diary Times Desk : A man was arrested from Punjab's Amritsar for allegedly threatening Congress MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa's son, police on Saturday said.

The preliminary probe, however, revealed no link with any gangster in the matter, they said. The accused, identified as Gagandeep Singh, made the threatening comments, police said.

The senior Congress leader had on Friday alleged that jailed gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria has threatened to kill his son.

Batala Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Suhail Qasim Mir said Gagandeep Singh hails from this city but was currently staying in Amritsar.

BROTHER OF NCP LEADER'S KILLER ARRESTED IN ABOHAR BUSINESSMAN MURDER CASE

Diary Times Desk : In the murder case of Wear Well Emporium co-owner Sanjay Verma, the Punjab Police today brought a gangster's brother from Mumbai jail on a production warrant and arrested him. The suspect, identified as Pravin Rameshwar Lonkar, was presented in court and the police obtained a three-day remand for interrogation.

Yesterday, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, and Delhi's former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia visited Verma's relatives and assured them that all the accused in the murder case would be arrested soon.

Sanjay Verma was shot dead by two armed youths outside his showroom around 10.15 am on July 7. The shooters were waiting for him just opposite the showroom in Bhagat Singh Chowk and fled within a few minutes using a bike that was abandoned near the Sitto Gunno road to escape in a car.

SAD LEADER BIKRAM MAJITHIA'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL AUGUST 14

Diary Times Desk : A Mohali court on Saturday extended the judicial custody of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia, who was arrested in a disproportionate assets case, till August 14.

Majithia, who is lodged in New Nabha jail in Patiala, was produced before the court through video conferencing.

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau had arrested the Shiromani Akali Dal leader on June 25. He was sent to judicial custody on July 6 and his remand was later extended on July 18.

According to the FIR registered by the Vigilance Bureau, its preliminary investigation has revealed that more than Rs 540 crore worth of "drug money" was laundered in several ways and Majithia had allegedly facilitated it.

The Vigilance Bureau's FIR against Majithia stemmed from an investigation being carried out by a Punjab Police Special Investigation Team into a 2021 drug case.

In 2021, Majithia was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, on the basis of a 2018 report of the anti-drug Special Task Force.

Majithia had spent more than five months in Patiala jail and walked out of prison in August 2022 after the Punjab and Haryana High Court granted him bail. —with PTI

IMD PREDICTS ABOVE
NORMAL RAIN IN HIMACHAL
TILL SEPTEMBER

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh, which has suffered immense loss of life and properties since the onset of monsoon season in June, will get no respite as heavy rainfall is very likely to continue across the state for the next two months. As per the State's Meteorological Department, Himachal will receive normal to above normal rain in August and September. While in August, the state is expected to receive above normal rain with the exception of Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba and Kinnaur districts, which are likely to receive below normal rain, the state is also very likely to witness above normal rain in the second half of the South-West monsoon season.

The state also recorded a 2 per cent rainfall deficit in July as it received 250.3 mm rain as compared to the average 255.9 mm rain. Shimla district recorded the highest rain surplus in July as it received 357.9 mm rain as compared to average 210.2 mm rain, thus taking the total rain surplus to 70 per cent. Similarly, Mandi — which has been the most affected district due to disasters triggered by torrential rains — recorded 49 per cent rain surplus as it received 574.7 mm rain as compared to 386.5 mm average rain.

**SHIMLA RESIDENTS DUPED IN
DIGITAL ARREST SCAMS;
OVER RS 5.9 CRORE
EXTORTED**

Diary Times Desk : A man losing Rs 38 lakh to "escape" an income tax raid, a father giving Rs 93 lakh to "save" son in a rape case — these are among the cases of digital arrest scam reported in the cyber crime police station in Shimla. A total of 12 cases of so-called "digital arrest" were reported in the state in 2024 and 2025, and a total of Rs 5.91 crore were taken from the victims, out of which Rs 33 lakh have been recovered, Superintendent of Police (SP), State CID, Cyber Crime, Dinesh Kumar, told the PTI on Saturday.

"It was a normal call, and the caller, introducing himself as an officer, told me that an amount of Rs 6 crore has been deposited in my bank account and the income tax team is on its way to my house. I was duped of Rs 38 lakh after three days of digital arrest to resolve the issue," said a victim, whose case was registered on July 7.

BRIDGE COLLAPSES, MALANA DAM BREACHES AMID FLASHFLOODS
IN KULLU

Diary Times Desk : The ancient village of Malana in Kullu district -- known for its unique lifestyle and social structure -- was cut off when the heavy currents of Malana river washed away the sole bridge to the village. Also, a dam at the Malana-I Hydropower Project in Kullu district also breached following continuous heavy rainfall, triggering flash floods and widespread panic downstream.

The surge of water swept away heavy machinery, including a hydra crane, dumper truck, rock breaker, and a vehicle.

The horrifying footage of the incident has gone viral, showing powerful currents tearing through the dam site.

No casualties have been reported. The Parvati River, swollen by the rains, has seen a significant rise in water level and continues to pose a threat as it flows into the Beas River near Bhuntar.

A total of 285 roads, including the Chandigarh-Manali and Manali-Leh national highways, were closed for vehicular traffic following landslides and floods in Himachal Pradesh on Friday.

Of these, 175 roads were closed in the rain-ravaged Mandi district, followed by 67 in Kullu, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). It added that 314 power distribution transformers and 221 water supply schemes were affected across the state. The Manali-Leh NH-3 was closed at Jispa in Lahaul and Spiti district as floods in Masheran nallah scattered big rocks and debris on the road, the videos of which have gone viral. The floods also damaged fields of several people.

4 COPS SUSPENDED IN SOLAN FOR LIQUOR
TRANSPORT DURING CM'S CHANDIGARH VISIT

Diary Times Desk : In a swift disciplinary action, the Solan police have suspended four police personnel — one sub-inspector and three constables — after a video surfaced, allegedly showing them loading cartons of liquor into a police escort vehicle in Chandigarh.

The vehicle had reportedly been deployed as part of the Chief Minister's security convoy during his official visit to the Union Territory on Friday.

The incident came to light after a bystander captured a video of the policemen in uniform handling boxes suspected to be liquor cartons and loading them into a marked police vehicle. The footage quickly spread on social media, sparking outrage and raising serious questions about the misuse of official machinery.

Following preliminary verification, Superintendent of Police, Solan, Gaurav Singh, ordered the suspension of the four officials.

"We have suspended four personnel based on the contents of the video, which is currently under detailed inquiry. One of the suspended individuals is of sub-inspector rank, while the other three are constables," said Singh.

Out of the four, two personnel belong to the 6th India Reserve Battalion (IRB), while the other two are from the Solan district police force.

PONG DAM WATER LEVEL NEARS DANGER
MARK; ALERT ISSUED IN KANGRA,
HOSHIARPUR

Diary Times Desk : The water level in Pong Dam reservoir in Kangra district has surged alarmingly in the last 24 hours, prompting an alert in parts of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has announced that excess water will be released tonight through the dam's spillway.

According to a communique from the Additional Superintending Engineer (Water Regulation), the reservoir level touched 1361.07 feet on Saturday morning — significantly higher than the 1328.45 feet recorded on the same day, last year. The maximum storage capacity of the dam is 1,410 feet, with 1,390 feet marked as the danger level.

With an average inflow of 87,586 cusecs recorded this morning, the BBMB has ordered to release 18,995 cusecs through the turbines.

The sudden rise is attributed to heavy rainfall in the Beas catchment area and the release of water from Pandoh Dam in Mandi district in the last few days.

Local tributaries like Dehar Khud, Buhal Khud and Dehri Khud were also in spate, further contributing to the inflow of water in Pong Dam.

HIMACHAL: HEAVY RAINS FLOOD SEVERAL AREAS IN UNA; ROADS BLOCKED,
INFRASTRUCTURE AFFECTED



Diary Times Desk : Normal life was thrown out of gear as heavy rains throughout the night flooded several areas in Himachal's Una district.

Since Friday evening, Una received extremely heavy rainfall measuring 222.8 mm, leading to water accumulation on roads, in markets, and other areas, severely impacting daily life.

The Chandigarh-Dharamshala National Highway has also experienced flooding in places, with water entering some residences, officials said on Saturday.

Local drivers and shopkeepers faced considerable difficulties. Around 10 feet of water flooded homes behind the nearby Patanjali store, prompting residents to climb onto roofs to seek safety. This flood-like situation has resulted in significant losses for the industrial sector, residential neighbourhoods, and government offices, reports said.

Barnoh village was heavily inundated, with a father and his son, both migrant labourers, trapped near a brick kiln as water flooded the area after the intense rains on Friday night.

SHUBMAN GILL OPTS FOR BOLD TACTIC WITH NEW BALL AS INDIA DEFEND 373 TO WIN

Diary Times Desk : England are out to bat in the final hour on Day 3 of the fifth Test at The Oval against India. England have reached 24/0 after 4 overs, chasing a target of 374, with Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett at the crease. India managed 396 in their second innings, led by Yashasvi Jaiswal's century (118), half-centuries by night watchman Akash Deep and Ravindra Jadeja, and an explosive late knock by Washington Sundar. Shubman Gill-led India are now relying on Mohammed Siraj and their pace battery to deliver crucial early wickets. India need to win this match in order to level the series and retain the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

**ALEXANDER ISAK TO RETURN TO TRAINING WITH NEWCASTLE UNITED**

Diary Times Desk : Alexander Isak is returning to the UK and is set to resume training with Newcastle United following a spell working individually at Real Sociedad.

Isak has been training alone at his former club's Zubietta Facilities in the Basque country, but is now set to return to Newcastle's base – although the majority of the rest of the first team squad are currently on a pre-season tour in Asia.

The news of Isak's return comes the day after The Athletic reported that Newcastle had rejected a formal bid from Liverpool of £110million for the Sweden international, who wants to leave St James' Park this summer.

Liverpool's stance is that they are not inclined to bid again after the quick rebuttal to their first offer, but their interest in the player is ongoing.

The Premier League champions initially made an informal approach to Newcastle, expressing interest in doing a deal in the region of £120m, as reported by The Athletic on July 15.

SAINA NEHWAL, PARUPALLI KASHYAP 'TRYING AGAIN' LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER ANNOUNCING SEPARATION: 'SOMETIMES, DISTANCE...'

Diary Times Desk : Days after announcing her separation from husband Parupalli Kashyap, India badminton star Saina Nehwal shared a picture with him on Instagram, saying the duo are "trying again" to make it work. The 35-year-old Saina Nehwal, who won a medal for the country at the Olympics, shared a picture with Kashyap with a beautiful backdrop of the sea and mountains.

"Sometimes distance teaches you the value of presence. Here we are—trying again," she wrote as the caption.

Last month, Saina Nehwal stunned one and all as she announced her separation from husband Kashyap. It must be mentioned that the duo have been together for more than six years. Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap got hitched in 2018.

"Life takes us in different directions sometimes. After much thought and consideration, Kashyap Parupalli and I have decided to part ways. We're choosing peace, growth, and healing for ourselves and each other. I am grateful for the memories and wish nothing but the best moving forward. Thank you for understanding and respecting our privacy during this time," Nehwal had said on Instagram.

Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap both rose through the ranks at the Pullela Gopichand academy in Hyderabad. Saina is viewed as a long-time pioneer of Indian badminton, having won a bronze medal at the Olympics and also attained the number one ranking.

Saina Nehwal won the Arjuna Award in 2009 and the Khel Ratna Award in 2010. She continues to remain the only Indian female shuttler to have held the world No.1 ranking. On the other hand, Kashyap became a household name after winning a gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. He had also won the bronze medal in the 2010 edition of the Games. He was the first Indian male shuttler to make it to the quarterfinals of the Olympic Games, achieving the feat in the 2012 London Olympics.

RAVINDRA JADEJA CREATES HISTORY, BREAKS GARY SOBERS, SUNIL GAVASKAR'S WORLD RECORDS; BECOMES 1ST PLAYER TO...

Diary Times Desk : Ravindra Jadeja continued his dream run on the England tour and scored yet another fifty in the second innings of the fifth Test at the Oval. Jadeja has been on fire in the series, scoring over 500 runs, including a hundred and five fifties – the first Indian player to do so while batting at No. 6 or below. He has proved why he is rated so highly and is considered one of the best all-rounders in the world.

Yashasvi Jaiswal scored 107 and Akash Deep played a 66-run innings to get India's lead over the 250-run mark; however, that was below the safe score on the pitch. Jadeja held fort for the team and got the lead near the 350 run mark.

Ravindra Jadeja Scripts History
Meanwhile, the fifty at the Oval was Jadeja's sixth fifty-plus score in the series. Jadeja thus became the first player in the world to score six fifty-plus scores in a series in England while batting at six or lower. The record was held by Garfield Sobers, who made five fifty-plus scores in 1966. This was also Jadeja's 10th fifty-plus score in England – all while batting at No. 6 or lower, the joint-most by a visiting player, surpassing nine by Garfield Sobers.

LIONEL MESSI'S INDIA VISIT DETAILS: VENUES, DATES, TIMING AND TICKET PRICES

Diary Times Desk : If all the pieces fall in place, football devotees in Kolkata will have the first sighting of iconic Lionel Messi after a decade, and the City of Joy will be the first stop in the Argentine's whirlwind journey across Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi, culminating in a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The sources privy to the development informed PTI that all arrangements have been finalised including booking the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, but an official confirmation from Messi is still awaited.

"It's been finalised and we are waiting for an official announcement from Messi, maybe on his social media handle anytime soon," said the source.

"As of now we have agreed on the proposed itinerary and we are just awaiting an official announcement from his social media, which would be in anytime soon," the source added.

As per the itinerary, Messi will land in Kolkata on the night of December 12 around 10pm and will stay for two days and one night -- the longest stop on his tour.

TOTTENHAM CAPTAIN SON HEUNG-MIN TO LEAVE PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB

Diary Times Desk : After 10 years with Tottenham Hotspur, captain Son Heung-min announced on Saturday that he plans to leave the English Premier League club.

At a media conference in Seoul, Son, appearing at times to be holding back tears, said his decision to leave the Spurs was 'the most difficult' of his career and said the club was supporting him as he looks to move on to another team.

Spurs will face Newcastle United in a preseason friendly on Sunday in Seoul in what could be the final match of Son's time at Spurs.

"Before we start the press conference, I just want to share the information that I have decided to leave this club in this summer," Son said. "Respectfully, this club is helping me to my decisions. So I just wanted to share this information before we start the conference."

"I came to North London as a kid, 23 years old, very young age, a young boy came to London who even didn't speak English and leaving this club as a grown man is a very, very proud moment." "So I just want to say thank you to all of the Spurs fans that gave me so much love and felt like it was my home," he said. "It was one of the toughest decisions I ever made. So I hope the goodbye is always also in a good timing you know."