

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE BRS
UPHEAVAL AND
THE FUTURE OF K
KAVITHA

Diary Times Desk :

The suspension of Kalvakuntla Kavitha from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi is more than a disciplinary footnote. It is a political earthquake rocking the party. The BRS had been feeling the tremors for quite a while now. It started becoming apparent after the defeat of the BRS in the 2023 elections and became evident after the episode of a leaked letter from the daughter to the father. The quake that shook the party came when Kavitha named and pointed fingers at the top leadership of the BRS, all members of the extended family. It is now time for political aftershocks. Kavitha's timing in delivering her explosive blow was critical, coming as it does when the Central Bureau of Investigation is set to probe the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project that has been spoken about by the BRS as the jewel in Telangana's crown.

AMID RISING US
HEAT, RUSSIA
OFFERS INDIA
BIGGER OIL
DISCOUNTS:
REPORT

Diary Times Desk :

The price of Russian oil has dropped to a discount of \$3 to \$4 per barrel for India, as New Delhi still bears the brunt of US tariffs. According to a Bloomberg report, the price of Russia's Ural grade is being offered at a lower price for cargoes that will load in late September and October. The Trump administration last week doubled India's tariffs to 50 per cent to punish it for buying Russian oil and fuelling the Ukraine war. New Delhi, in 2022, had become a major importer of Russian crude at the start of the Russia-Ukraine war. Now, after repeated criticism from Washington, India finds itself closer to Moscow and Beijing, in a defiant show of ties. Even at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Russia and India share a "special" relationship. In a similar vein he also met Chinese President Xi Jinping, and the two countries pledged to be partners, not rivals.

UMAR
KHALID“5-YEAR JAIL WITHOUT TRIAL ITSELF
GROUNDS FOR BAIL”: UMAR KHALID’S
PARTNER

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court is the only option left, Umar Khalid's partner said on Tuesday after the high court rejected the bail plea of the activist who has been in jail since September 2020 in a conspiracy case linked to the northeast Delhi riots. Banjoysna Lahiri expressed the hope that they will get justice in the near future. "Keeping someone in jail for five years without any trial is in itself a ground for bail. But Mr Khalid's plea is again rejected by the High Court. We do not understand the reason because, as citizens, we only look up to courts for justice. We will go to the Supreme Court, as that is the only option left for us," Lahiri told PTI. The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) has also announced a solidarity march on September 13 to mark five years since

Mr Khalid's arrest. A former research scholar at JNU, he first came into the limelight after he was booked along with other students for allegedly raising inflammatory slogans in February 2016 on the university campus. JNUSU president Nitish Kumar alleged that student activists were being deliberately targeted while those responsible for instigating the violence had walked free.

"This is a pattern we are seeing continuously that bail is not given to people who raise their voice against the administration. The main culprits of the Delhi riots are now out of jail, and some of them are ministers and MLAs in the government. Student activists are put in jail, while the main culprits roam free and are given high regard," he alleged. On September 13, it would be five years since Umar Khalid was arrested and "we will march on that day in solidarity as we do every year," Kumar said.

Since his arrest, Mr Khalid, 38, had been granted interim bail for a week in December 2022 and then again for a similar duration in December 2024.

In February 2024, Mr Khalid withdrew his bail plea from the Supreme Court with his lawyer Kapil Sibal citing "change in circumstances" and saying they will try their luck in trial court.

Earlier in the day, the High Court dismissed the bail applications of Mr Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and seven other accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots.

“INDIA HOPEFUL OF CONCLUDING TRADE PACT WITH US BY
NOVEMBER”: PIYUSH GOYAL

Diary Times Desk : Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday expressed hope that India will conclude the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US by the fall or November this year.

He said that "a little bit" of geopolitical issues overtook the trade matters in the negotiations for the pact between the two countries.

"I do hope that things will get back on track soon and we will conclude a bilateral trade agreement by the fall, November or so, as was discussed by our two leaders in February," Mr Goyal said at the Annual Global Investor Conference 2025 in Mumbai.

In his virtual address, he said there is an excitement across the world to expand trading and business relations with India.

"We have had a little bit of geopolitical issues overtaking trade issues in our negotiations with the United States of America," he added.

India has already inked free trade agreements with Australia, the UAE, Mauritius, the UK and the four European nations bloc EFTA, he said.

"Lots happen, lots more to go...With the US, we are in dialogue with them on a BTA," the minister said earlier in the day at an industry chamber event on sustainability.

India and the US have been negotiating the pact since March. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed.

NEPAL, BHUTAN CITIZENS NOT
REQUIRED TO CARRY PASSPORT, VISA
TO ENTER INDIA: HOME MINISTRY

Diary Times Desk : The citizens of Nepal and Bhutan as well as Indians entering India by land or air from the two neighbouring countries will not be required to furnish a passport or visa, as earlier.

The members of the naval, military or air forces of India entering or exiting India on duty and the family members of any such person, when accompanying such a person on a government transport, will also not be required to carry a passport or visa, according to an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) following the enforcement of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. The requirement of a valid passport or other valid travel documents and a valid visa for entry into, stay in and exit from India shall not apply if "a citizen of India entering India by land or by air over the Nepalese or Bhutanese frontier, a citizen of Nepal or Bhutan entering India by land or air over the Nepal or Bhutan border or if he possesses a valid passport while entering or exiting India from or to a place other than Nepal or Bhutan but not from China, Macau, Hong Kong or Pakistan", the MHA said.

The provision is also applicable to Tibetans who have already entered India and are staying in the country or entering India if they have registered with the registration officers concerned and obtained certificates of registration, if they entered India after 1959 but before May 30, 2003 on the Special Entry Permit issued by the Indian embassy in Kathmandu, or if they entered India after May 30, 2003 till the date of the Act coming into force on the new Special Entry Permit issued by the Indian embassy in Kathmandu through the immigration post on the Indo-Nepal border, as designated by the Centre.

A person belonging to a minority community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- who were compelled to seek shelter in India due to religious persecution or fear of religious persecution and entered the country on or before December 31, 2024 without valid documents, including a passport or other travel documents, or with valid documents, including a passport or other travel documents.

NOIDA SCHOOLS SHUT ON WEDNESDAY DUE TO
HEAVY RAINFALL

Diary Times Desk : Schools in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar district will remain closed for students from nursery to Class 12 on Wednesday as heavy rains are predicted for the day, according to an official order.

The order applies to schools under the Basic Education Department, government-aided institutions, and those affiliated with the CBSE, ICSE and Madrasa Board, the district administration said in a statement.

However, all teaching and non-teaching staff working in basic education and composite schools have been directed to report to duty on time and perform departmental work as usual, it added.

The administration has asked all schools to ensure strict compliance with the order.

Gautam Buddh Nagar, among other places in the national capital region, has witnessed intensive spells of rain in recent days.

Schools Across Bulandshahr, Baghpat To Be Closed

As a precaution due to heavy rain, the administrations of the Bulandshahr and Baghpat have announced the closure of schools across both districts on Wednesday.

In Bulandshahr, Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Lakshmi Kant Pandey issued the order regarding the closure of all schools on Wednesday across the education boards up to class 12 due to rain.

In Baghpat, District Magistrate Asmita Lal issued similar orders for the closure of schools.

JOHN MEARSHEIMER

“COLOSSAL BLUNDER”: US
EXPERT ON TRUMP’S INDIA
TARIFFS

Diary Times Desk : John Mearsheimer, a leading American international relations expert and Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, has termed the Trump administration's India policy a "colossal blunder" and asserted that secondary tariffs on India for buying Russian oil "won't work."

"This is a colossal blunder on our part. It's hard to believe, but what's going on here? (Secondary sanctions) won't work with India. The Indians have made it clear that they will not cut off the importation of oil from Russia. Indians are not going to cave," he told the podcast platform "Daniel Davis Deep Dive" last week. Mearsheimer also accused Trump of "poisoning" a "terrific" relationship with India.

"So, when Trump moved into the White House this past January, relations between the United States and India were really terrific, and for the purposes of containing China, which is our principal foreign policy mission, having good relations with India is essential. But what's happened since then and now with these secondary sanctions is [that] we have poisoned relations with India," he added. "The Indians are furious with us, almost to a person. Trump has tried to call Modi four times, and Modi refuses to talk to him. And furthermore, Modi is moving closer to the Chinese, and he's moving closer to the Russians. So, this not only does it work, but it's indeed counterproductive. Nevertheless, here we are," he explained. Mearsheimer targeted Peter Navarro, the White House Senior Advisor on Trade and Manufacturing, for leading a failed strategy that does not have a "happy ending."

TEJASHWI YADAV DANCES,
MAKES REELS WITH YOUNG
ARTISTS IN PATNA

Diary Times Desk : Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav was spotted dancing with young boys at Patna's Marine Drive expressway after the Opposition's Voter Adhikar Yatra in the state. The video, shared by his sister Rohini Acharya on social media, went viral.

Accompanied by his nephew visiting from Singapore, Mr Yadav decided to go on a drive along the newly-inaugurated Marine Drive, where he came across a group of young artists making videos for social media.

Invited to join, Mr Yadav enthusiastically participated, learning trending dance moves and even mimicking Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan's signature steps. "The heart is still a child... fun time at Patna Marine Drive," wrote Rohini Acharya.

In one clip, he was seen dancing to the Bhojpuri song "Lalu bina chaalu ee Bihar na ho", which paid tribute to his father and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav. The video showed him making his way to the front of the crowd to perform a few steps as the children cheered.

He also joined other videos where the young artists lip-synced and delivered dialogues. The boys were then seen chanting slogans, "Tejashwi bhaiya zindabaad," while the RJD leader walked alongside them.

TIPRA MOTHA MLA ALLEGES THREAT BY BJP LEADER, PROBE
LAUNCHED

Diary Times Desk : Tipra Motha Party (TMP) MLA Philip Kumar Reang on Tuesday filed a complaint against BJP leader Pratik Dev Varma for threatening him inside the MLA hostel on Monday night. An FIR was filed in this regard against Mr Verma, who is the son of Telangana Governor and former deputy CM of Tripura Jishnu Dev Varma. "I was engaged in a discussion with my family members. At that moment, three people appeared near the stairs of my government quarter and wrongfully restrained me, interfering in our family discussion. I requested them to leave me alone. They became more aggressive and started uttering violent, abusive words targeting me. They also mentioned that they will slit my throat," the FIR quoted the Kanchanpur MLA as saying. In his complaint lodged at a police station in Agartala, he stated, "They said that they would bring more than 400 to 500 BJP workers to kill me and my family members. The said three persons came out from the MLA Hostel Room of Promode Reang, MLA from Santirbazar Assembly constituency.



NDA CALLS FOR FIVE-HOUR BIHAR BANDH ON SEPT 4 TO
PROTEST ABUSES HURLED AT PM, HIS LATE MOTHER

Diary Times Desk : The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) party has given a call for a five-hour bandh in Bihar on September 4 to protest against the abusive remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his late mother, Heeraben, during the Voter Adhikar Yatra launched by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Darbhanga.

Announcing the bandh call, Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal said that the bandh call will be effective from 7 am to 12 noon on September 4 (Thursday). However, railways and emergency services have been exempted from the ambit of the bandh, he told the media.

Jaiswal, who was watching PM Modi on TV in the party office, literally broke down. Slamming the Congress-RJD, BJP state president asked what bigger sin could be than abusing the PM's mother, who is no more and has nothing to do with politics.

AFFAIR, RAPE CASE, ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY, HOT PURSUIT: AAP
MLA'S HIGH DRAMA

Diary Times Desk : In a shocking development, a Punjab MLA arrested in a rape case has escaped from police custody after opening fire on cops and running a policeman over. Police are now in pursuit of the MLA and his aides, who fled in two vehicles -- a Scorpio and a Fortuner. Harmeet Pathanmajra, AAP MLA from Sanour, was arrested in Karnal this morning. As he was being taken to the local police station, Pathanmajra and his aides opened fire at the police team. When a cop tried to stop them, they ran him over and fled in two SUVs. Police later managed to intercept the Fortuner, but the MLA was in the other vehicle and is still on the run. Police teams are chasing him. At least three firearms have been seized from the Fortuner. Pathanmajra faces charges of rape, cheating, and criminal intimidation. The FIR was registered after a woman complained that the MLA lied to her that he was divorced and started a relationship with her. She has accused him of sexual exploitation, threats, and sending obscene material. According to the FIR, the 45-year-old complainant is divorced and has a daughter who stays abroad. She started a relationship with Pathanmajra, who told her he was divorced, around 2013. In 2021, the two married at a gurdwara in Ludhiana. But in 2022, when Pathanmajra contested the state polls from Sanaur, she found he had named his first wife in his affidavit. The MLA, she said, pressured her and kept saying that he would divorce his first wife.



TO SURVIVE TRUMP, INDIA NEEDS MORE
THAN JUST HANDSHAKES WITH XI AND
PUTIN

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's tariff 'punishment' meted out to India has been hailed as both a wake-up call and an opportunity by economists and geopolitical observers in India and abroad. Altering global trade dynamics by compelling nations like India to not just recalibrate their external relationships but also think deeper about internal reforms, this tariff regime is here to stay. Until Trump changes his mind once again. The populist president of the United States is currently wielding tariffs both as a trade protectionist measure and a tool of economic diplomacy. Any response by an affected country needs a similar two-pronged approach. India's response so far has been an assertion of its strategic autonomy by refusing to make any trade deal with the US under duress. It has also signalled through an uninhibited outreach to Russia and China through bilateral visits as well as multilateral fora, such as the recently concluded SCO summit.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
03-09-2025

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

IF GOVERNOR OR PRESIDENT DOES NOT FOLLOW SC TIMELINE, CAN THEY BE HAULED UP FOR CONTEMPT?: SC ASKS PARTIES

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court, on the sixth day of hearing in the Presidential Reference case, on Tuesday asked the parties what would be the consequences if the Governor or the President did not follow the timeline prescribed by it in its 8 April verdict.

"Can the Governor or the President be hauled up for contempt of court if they will not follow the April 8 verdict?" the top court asked. To this, one of the respondents, the Tamil Nadu government, through its lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi, replied that "deemed assent" to the Bills can be a consequence.

The apex court also observed that certain instances of delay in granting assent to Bills cannot justify the laying down of a blanket timeline for the Governors and President to act as per Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution respectively.

BIHAR TO ISSUE NEW TECH-DRIVEN VOTER ID CARDS: HOW THEY WILL WORK

Diary Times Desk : As Bihar prepares for assembly elections later this year, the Election Commission (EC) is introducing a new layer of technology into voter identification. After the final Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is published on September 30, voters in the state will reportedly start receiving new tech-enabled voter ID cards.

What Are Tech-Enabled Voter ID Cards?

These are upgraded versions of the traditional Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC). They will:

Carry updated photographs submitted by voters during the SIR process.

Include advanced security features such as QR codes to make duplication or forgery difficult.

Be issued in both physical and digital formats.

The digital version is called e-EPIC (Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card).

What Is e-EPIC?

e-EPIC is a non-editable, secure PDF version of the voter ID card.

It comes with a QR code containing details like the voter's serial number, part number, and demographic information.

Voters can download it on their smartphones or computers and store it digitally.

It works in addition to the physical card, so voters can use either.

"REBUKE TO TRUMP": WHAT US MEDIA REPORTED ON PM MODI, PUTIN MEETING

Diary Times Desk : The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in China became a stage for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin to showcase their unity amid US President Donald Trump's high tariffs on India over its Russian oil imports. The two leaders met for the first time after the tariff imposition and shared bonhomie with handshakes, hugs, and long talks. They even travelled together from the Summit venue to their bilateral meeting hall in the same car - for which Putin reportedly waited about 10 minutes for PM Modi.

Many pictures and videos of PM Modi and Putin walking hand-in-hand went viral. Another video showed the two leaders and Chinese President Xi Jinping sharing a lighter moment with smiles and handshakes. This show of friendship indicated that India would not ruin its ties with Russia despite the US threats.



WHY CHANDIGARH DOESN'T FLOOD AFTER HEAVY RAIN WHILE PUNJAB STRUGGLES

Diary Times Desk : As heavy monsoon showers lash North India, Chandigarh's natural drainage system - its network of choes (seasonal rivulets) - has once again proven crucial in keeping the city from flooding.

Chandigarh has five major choes, including Sukhna Choe, N-Choe, Patiala Ki Rao, and Dhanas Choe, that act as stormwater highways, carrying rainwater into the Ghaggar river system.

These choes are Chandigarh's safety valves. Without them the low-lying areas would be submerged after every heavy downpour.

Sukhna Choe also feeds into the iconic Sukhna Lake, while N-Choe carries a bulk of the stormwater through the heart of the city to Mohali.

A video on social media shows how monsoon rains are carried out in them to prevent the city from flooding and choking.

OVER 1K FRUIT TRUCKS STUCK ON JAMMU HIGHWAY

Diary Times Desk : A week-long closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway has left Kashmir fruit growers facing huge losses, with more than 1,000 fruit-laden trucks stranded carrying apples and pears worth crores.

The highway, which connects Kashmir with the rest of the country, was damaged by landslides and mudslides between Jakhaini and Chenani in Udhampur following heavy rains.

Although the Mughal Road is open, authorities have not permitted heavy vehicles to use it. The closure has come at the peak of the apple and pear harvest season. Each truck carries fruit worth somewhere between Rs 5 and Rs 10 lakh.



SRINAGAR STREETS SUBMERGED AS HEAVY RAIN CAUSES WATERLOGGING, TRAFFIC JAMS

Diary Times Desk : Rain lashed many parts of Kashmir on Monday evening, causing waterlogging and traffic jams in some areas of Srinagar, officials said.

The waterlogging in Residency Road, TRC Chowk, and Dal Gate, among other areas, caused inconvenience to commuters and shopkeepers. In some areas, vehicles had to wade through the flooded streets in the city.

Intermittent rain was still going on in some parts of the Valley.

The meteorological department said heavy and intense showers accompanied with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds were likely over many parts of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam.

It urged people to stay away from electric poles, old trees and loose structures, and advised against riding 'shikaras' and boating activities in all water bodies, including the Dal Lake.

DELHI CROSSES 1,000 MM RAINFALL MARK AS INTERMITTENT RAIN CONTINUES

Diary Times Desk : Delhi has breached 1,000 mm of rainfall for the season as rain continues to lash the national capital and its surrounding region. The city had already crossed its annual average rainfall mark of 774 mm last month.

Dark clouds hovered over the skyline, and steady rain was witnessed from morning hours, keeping the city wet throughout the day. The city crossed the 1,000-mm mark after two continuous days of intermittent showers lashed the city.

Breaking down the data, Delhi had recorded 963.4 mm of rainfall till August 31 this year. It received another 37.8 mm on September 1 and 16 mm till 5.30 pm on Tuesday, pushing the total past 1,000 mm.

Delhi had crossed its annual rainfall mark of 774.4 mm on August 14, the fastest such development since 2021, when this mark was reached on August 1.



RUSSIA'S PUTIN HAILS 'UNPRECEDENTED' TIES WITH CHINA AT TALKS IN BEIJING

Diary Times Desk : Russian leader Vladimir Putin said his ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping are at an "unprecedented level" as the two met in Beijing on the eve of a massive military parade. Putin described Xi as a dear friend; Chinese state media said relations were exemplary. Russia is to increase supplies of gas to China, while Beijing will offer visa-free travel to Russians during a year-long trial. Xi is also preparing to welcome North Korea's Kim Jong Un in what appears to be a show of solidarity with both aggressors in the Ukraine war. Xi will host China's largest-ever military parade on Wednesday to mark the 80th anniversary of the formal surrender of the Japanese at the end of World War Two. In May, Xi visited Moscow for Russia's celebrations to mark the defeat of the Nazis. Russia and North Korea rely on China to bolster their economies, and these meetings will allow the Chinese leader to signal the extent of his power and influence – at a time when Donald Trump is trying to do a deal with Putin to end the war in Ukraine.

HOW THE DEATH OF A DELIVERY DRIVER IGNITED INDONESIA

Diary Times Desk : Protesters have been killed, buildings torched and politicians' houses looted as anti-government unrest spreads across Indonesia – and the authorities respond with force. Mass demonstrations, fuelled by cost-of-living woes and public frustration with the political elite, first erupted in Jakarta on 25 August to condemn what many viewed as excessive pay and housing allowances for parliamentarians. By the end of the week, things had boiled over into violence. On Thursday night, following escalating clashes between demonstrators and authorities, police in Jakarta ran over and killed 21-year-old motorcycle rideshare driver Affan Kurniawan. President Prabowo Subianto and the chief of police apologised for his death – but it fuelled further discontent that has now spread to various corners of the archipelago, from West Java to the islands of Bali and Lombok. At least seven people had died in the protests by Monday, according to Indonesia's co-ordinating minister for economic affairs.

CHINA, RUSSIA PLEDGE NEW GLOBAL ORDER AT SHANGHAI COOPERATION SUMMIT

Diary Times Desk : China and Russia presented their vision of a new international order at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, where Beijing offered new financial incentives to countries aligned with the Beijing-led economic and security group. "Global governance has reached a new crossroads," Chinese President Xi Jinping told the summit on Monday, in remarks that were widely seen as a critique of the United States. "We must continue to take a clear stand against hegemonism and power politics, and practise true multilateralism," Xi said. Xi's remarks were echoed by those of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said the SCO would revive "genuine multilateralism" as it laid "the political and socioeconomic groundwork for the formation of a new system of stability and security in Eurasia". Xi and Putin spoke to more than 20 leaders, primarily from the Middle East and Asia, who had gathered on Sunday and Monday for the summit in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin.

AFGHANISTAN QUAKE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 1,400 AS SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS CONTINUES IN MOUNTAINOUS REGION

Diary Times Desk : Rescue teams continued to scour Afghanistan's mountainous east for survivors on Tuesday as the death toll from a strong earthquake rose to 1,400 with 3,000 people injured, an official said. "The injured are being evacuated, so these figures may change significantly," Yousaf Hammad, a spokesman for Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority, told The Associated Press. The earthquake caused landslides in some areas, blocking roads, but they have been reopened, and the remaining roads will be reopened to allow access to areas that were difficult to reach. The 6.0 magnitude quake struck late Sunday night in several provinces, flattening villages and leaving people trapped under the rubble of homes constructed mostly of mud bricks and wood and unable to withstand the shock. The majority of casualties were in Kunar province, where many people live in steep river valleys separated by high mountains. Helicopters are being used to evacuate the injured to hospital, and aid agencies said their teams were making journeys on foot to reach the most isolated areas because of the rough terrain and ruined roads.

FORMER NYC MAYOR RUDY GIULIANI INJURED IN CAR ACCIDENT



Diary Times Desk : Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani has been injured in a car accident in the US state of New Hampshire. Giuliani was a passenger in a Ford Bronco when it was struck from behind in the city of Manchester on Saturday evening, according to local police. "He was diagnosed with a fractured thoracic vertebrae, multiple lacerations and contusions, as well as injuries to his left arm and lower leg," a statement from his security guard, Michael Ragusa, said.

MODI-XI MEET, AND EVERYTHING THAT WAS LEFT UNSAID AT TIANJIN

Diary Times Desk : The global stage these days is bathed in an inevitable orange tint, associated with US President Donald Trump. This, unfortunately, imparts a somewhat florid colour to reportage on the Modi-Xi summit in Tianjin at the sidelines of the SCO summit. As it is with their hand-holding, hugs and camaraderie, Xi, Putin and Modi not only sent their own message to Trump but contributed to some breathless reportage. But the reality is that this important summit comes along a trajectory that took off well before Trump became the President of the US. After the process of putting the 2020 Galwan genie back in the bottle in October 2024, India and China began a re-engagement process. Following the "pull aside" conversation between Modi and Xi in 2022 in Bali around the G-20 summit, they held their first formal talks in five years in Kazan on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS summit in October 2024.

PUTIN HAILS 'UNPRECEDENTEDLY HIGH' RELATIONS WITH CHINA AS GAZPROM SAYS IT SIGNED NEW GAS DEAL

Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed a relationship with Beijing at an "unprecedentedly high level" on Tuesday, as the two countries reportedly inked a long-stalled agreement to build a massive new pipeline to send natural gas to China via Mongolia. Putin and Xi Jinping spent hours together on Tuesday, meeting with Mongolia's president, sitting down for their own formal talks, and sipping tea at the Chinese leader's official residence – in the latest show of solidarity between the two strongmen seeking to present a new world order. On Tuesday afternoon, Russia's state-owned energy company Gazprom announced that a legally binding agreement had been signed for the construction the massive Power of Siberia-2 gas pipeline, which Moscow has been trying to push off the drawing board for years. The deal is a major win for Putin, who has increasingly turned to China to replace Europe as its major gas buyer. It's also a collective show of defiance against US President Donald Trump, who is pushing countries to cut Russian energy imports as part of his attempt to end the war in Ukraine. The new pipeline will supply 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually from western Russia to northern China. Analysts have previously said it could offset nearly half of the gas exports to Europe that Russia has lost since the Ukraine war began.



CLASHES IN AUSTRALIA’S MELBOURNE AS THOUSANDS RALLY AGAINST IMMIGRATION

Diary Times Desk : Police in the Australian city of Melbourne have deployed pepper spray and baton rounds following “violent clashes” between protesters rallying against immigration and counter-demonstrators, according to local media.

The violence on Sunday took place as thousands of people rallied across major cities in Australia, including Sydney, Perth, Canberra and Brisbane, to demand an end to what they called “mass immigration”.

The Australian government has condemned the rallies, which took place under the banner of “March for Australia”, as racist, while Minister of Multicultural Affairs Anne Aly said the gatherings were “organised by Nazis”.

About 5,000 protesters, some draped in the Australian flag, and counter-protesters turned up in Melbourne, the SBS Network reported, citing the police.

The network said violent clashes between the two groups erupted “multiple times”, prompting the police to deploy the riot squad who used pepper spray and baton rounds to keep the groups apart.



HUNDREDS KILLED IN SUDAN LANDSLIDE, UN SAYS

Diary Times Desk : A landslide has killed at least 370 people in the remote Marra Mountains in western Sudan, a UN official has told the BBC.

Antoine Gérard, the UN’s deputy humanitarian co-ordinator for Sudan, said that it was hard to assess the scale of the incident or the exact death toll as the area was very hard to reach.

Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), the armed group in control of the affected area, had earlier said as many as 1,000 people could have died.

Days of heavy rain triggered the landslide on Sunday, which left just one survivor and “levelled” much of the village of Tarseen, the group said in a statement.

The SLM/A has appealed for humanitarian assistance from the UN and other regional and international organisations.

Getting aid quickly to the area would be difficult, Mr Gérard said.

“We do not have helicopters, everything goes in vehicles on very bumpy roads. It takes time and it is the rainy season – sometimes we have to wait hours, maybe a day or two to cross a valley... bringing in trucks with commodities will be a challenge.”

Many residents from North Darfur state had sought refuge in the Marra Mountains region.

PUTIN SAYS TRUMP ADMIN ‘LISTENING’ TO RUSSIA’S STANCE ON UKRAINE WAR

Diary Times Desk : Russia’s President Vladimir Putin said the United States was listening to its justifications for the invasion of Ukraine and claimed that Moscow and Washington had reached a “mutual understanding” about the three-and-a-half-year war.

“Now we see this mutual understanding, it’s noticeable,” Putin said at a bilateral meeting with Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico after talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Tuesday.

“We are very happy about this and hope this constructive dialogue will continue,” Putin added.

The Slovak prime minister, who has opposed Western sanctions on Russia and has been critical of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is the only European leader scheduled to attend China’s Victory Day parade on Wednesday.

Putin’s comments come as Moscow is still under pressure from the administration of US President Donald Trump to end the war in Ukraine.

Washington has imposed additional tariffs on India for purchasing Russian oil, a move aimed at increasing pressure on the Kremlin.

Trump claimed that he had made “great progress” after meeting Putin in Alaska last month, though no deal had been reached to secure an end to Europe’s deadliest war since World War II.

“TRUMP THREW AWAY INDIA TIES FOR FAMILY’S PAKISTAN DEALS”: EX-US OFFICIAL

Diary Times Desk : Former US National Security Advisor (NSA) Jake Sullivan has accused President Donald Trump of jeopardising America’s ties with India to favour his family’s business deals in Pakistan. The Biden-era official called Trump’s move to sacrifice the Washington-New Delhi relationship a “huge strategic harm” to the United States’ own interests.

“On a bipartisan basis, going back decades, the United States has worked to build its relationship with India, the world’s largest democracy-- a country that we should be aligned with on technology, talent and economics and so many other issues, and aligned with in dealing with the strategic threat from China,” Sullivan said while speaking at MeidasTouch, a YouTube channel.

He noted that India and the US have been able to make “significant progress” in strengthening their ties before President Trump “threw it aside” to favour Pakistan.

“Because of Pakistan’s willingness to do business deals with the Trump family, Trump has thrown the India relationship over the side,” the former US official said.

SHARIF CALLS FOR STRONGER PAKISTAN–RUSSIA TIES, SAYS ISLAMABAD RESPECTS MOSCOW’S RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that his country respects Russia’s relations with India, as he called for strengthening Islamabad’s ties with Moscow during his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin here.

The two leaders are in China to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin and attend a grand parade of the Chinese army here on Wednesday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

“Our relations have only improved over the past many years. Thanks to your commitment and interest in many areas. I also intend to decisively strengthen our bilateral ties,” Sharif told President Putin.

The prime minister also expressed gratitude to the Russian president for supporting Pakistan, which was viewed as “a balancing act in the region”.

CHINA’S VICTORY DAY MILITARY PARADE: WHO’S ATTENDING AND WHY IT MATTERS

Diary Times Desk : China is hosting a major military parade in capital Beijing on Wednesday, marking 80 years since the end of World War II.

In the country’s largest ever military parade, Chinese President Xi Jinping will welcome world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, presenting China’s military prowess and vision for the future.

What time does China’s Victory Day parade start?

The event will begin on Wednesday at 9am (01:00 GMT), according to China’s state-run Xinhua news agency.

The last time China hosted a victory day military parade was 10 years ago. That was the first time China organised a grand military parade to commemorate the end of the war.

What could we expect?

The parade will be a presentation of Chinese military might, comprising a choreographed showcase of advanced military equipment such as drones, hypersonic missiles and fighter jets.



US SANCTIONS SHIPPING NETWORK FOR SMUGGLING IRANIAN OIL DISGUISED AS IRAQI CRUDE

Diary Times Desk : The US Treasury Department on Tuesday sanctioned a network of shipping companies and vessels led by an Iraqi-Kittitian businessman for smuggling Iranian oil disguised as Iraqi oil.

The administration of President Donald Trump is keeping pressure on Iran while nuclear talks have stalled. A sixth round of negotiations was suspended after the start of a 12-day war in June. A senior Iranian official said on Tuesday that the path to nuclear negotiations is not closed but US demands for curbs on Iranian missiles are obstructing prospects for talks. The Treasury said the network, run by a businessman who is a citizen of Iraq and St. Kitts & Nevis and is based in the United Arab Emirates, operates primarily by covertly blending Iranian oil with Iraqi oil, which is then marketed intentionally as solely of Iraqi origin to avoid sanctions.

"By targeting Iran's oil revenue stream, Treasury will further degrade the regime's ability to carry out attacks against the United States and its allies," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.



WHY PAKISTAN IS RUSHING TO MEND FENCES WITH BANGLADESH

Diary Times Desk : When the foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, landed at Dhaka airport on a windswept, overcast morning on August 23, it was the first time in 13 years that such a senior Pakistani official had visited Bangladesh, which had broken from Pakistan 54 years ago.

Dar, who also serves as Pakistan's deputy prime minister, struck an optimistic tone, calling the "historic" tour the start of "a new phase of our reinvigorated partnership".

Acknowledging a thaw in bilateral relations, he pointed to the "significant progress" made over the past year. "We must work together to create an environment where youth from Karachi to Chittagong, Quetta to Rajshahi, Peshawar to Sylhet and Lahore to Dhaka join hands to face challenges and realise their shared dreams," Dar said, naming cities across both countries.

AZERBAIJAN CLAIMS INDIA BLOCKED ITS SCO FULL MEMBERSHIP BID OVER PAK SUPPORT

Diary Times Desk : Azerbaijan has alleged that India is seeking "revenge" against Baku on global forums due to its close ties with Pakistan. This came after Azerbaijan claimed India blocked Baku's bid for full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The Azerbaijani media has accused India of violating the principles of "multilateral diplomacy" by blocking Azerbaijan's ambition and claimed New Delhi's decision was linked to Baku's support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, during a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the Chinese city of Tianjin, congratulated Islamabad for what he called Pakistan's victory over India during military conflict earlier this year.

BESSENT SAYS 'ALL OPTIONS ARE ON THE TABLE' FOR FURTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA AS UKRAINE WAR CONTINUES

Diary Times Desk : Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said "all options are on the table" for further sanctions on Russia, as it continues its onslaught against Ukraine following an historic summit with President Donald Trump on US soil.

"President Putin, since the historic meeting in Anchorage, since the phone call, when the European leaders and President Zelensky were at the White House the following Monday, has done the opposite of following through on what he indicated he wanted to do – as a matter of fact, he has in a despicable, despicable manner increased the bombing campaign," Bessent said in an interview with Fox News.

"I think with President Trump, all options are on the table, and I think we'll be examining those very closely this week," Bessent continued.

The Trump administration has been, so far, reluctant to slap further sanctions on Russia in its continued efforts to reach peace between Russia and Ukraine, despite repeated threats.

Following the summit with President Vladimir Putin, Trump last month said he would know within "two weeks" whether Russia was serious about entering negotiations – invoking a deadline he has frequently cited, only to see it come and go without actions. But in those same comments, he floated the possibility of walking away altogether, a possibility he has yet to rule out, administration officials previously told CNN.

Trump reiterated in recent days that he would punish Russia with sanctions if it refuses to make peace, saying, "It will not be a world war but it will be an economic war." He did not set a deadline on when he might enact those economic penalties, however. The president quickly went on to say that he did not want to impose new sanctions or tariffs aimed at hurting Russia's economy, expressing hope that there is still a path toward brokering a deal to end the war. In an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation" on August 17, following the Alaskan summit, Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned that new sanctions would effectively end peace talks.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER PRODUCTION SEVERELY HIT BY CYBER-ATTACK

Diary Times Desk : A cyber-attack has "severely disrupted" Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) vehicle production, including at its two main UK plants.

The company, which is owned by India's Tata Motors, said it took immediate action to lessen the impact of the hack and is working quickly to restart operations. JLR's retail business has also been badly hit at a traditionally a popular time for consumers to take delivery of a new vehicle – but there is no evidence any customer data had been stolen, it said. The attack began on Sunday as the latest batch of new registration plates became available on Monday, 1 September.

The BBC understands that the attack was detected while in progress, and the company shut down its IT systems in an effort to minimise any damage.

SNAPBACK SANCTIONS EXPOSE IRAN'S DIPLOMATIC DILEMMA

Diary Times Desk : The E3 grouping of Germany, France and the United Kingdom have moved to trigger the powerful "snapback" mechanism of UN sanctions over Iran's nuclear program.

The snapback is a diplomatic tool that is part of a faltering October 2015 nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), under which signatories agreed to lift crippling international sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program in exchange for Tehran agreeing to curbs on its nuclear activities.

If Iran and the E3 nations fail to reach an agreement within 30 days, all previously lifted sanctions on Iran under the 2015 deal would be reinstated.

Iran said that it will not alter its position in the nuclear dispute.

"We are not fans of sanctions, but this time too, the Iranian people will neither back down nor bow to pressure," Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref told the ISNA news agency on Sunday. Aref questioned whether Germany, France and the UK have the legal authority to trigger the snapback mechanism. "Of course, if the snapback is implemented, the necessary decisions will be taken accordingly," Aref added, without providing details. A corresponding draft law has already been submitted to Iran's parliament.

POWERBALL JACKPOT
SOARS TO \$1.3 BILLION
AFTER NO TICKET
MATCHED ALL SIX
NUMBERS IN LABOR DAY
DRAWING

Diary Times Desk : The Powerball jackpot jumped to a staggering \$1.3 billion after there were no big winners in Monday night's drawing – the fifth-largest prize in game history.

The lucky numbers were white balls 8, 23, 25, 40, 53, and red Powerball 5, with a Power Play multiplier of 3.

While the largest prize went unclaimed, at least two tickets – sold in Montana and North Carolina – won \$2 million and 10 tickets across nine states garnered a \$1 million prize, according to the Multi-State Lottery Association, which runs the game. The next chance to win big will be Wednesday, the 41st drawing since the jackpot was last won in May.

If a player wins, they can choose to receive the \$1.3 billion as an annuitized prize paid over 30 years, with annual payments increasing by 5%, or a one-time lump sum payment of \$589 million, both before taxes.

The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 292.2 million, the association said.

CANDICE BERGEN ONCE
PLAYED VOGUE'S TOP
EDITOR. HER DAUGHTER
CHLOE MALLE WILL NOW
DO THE JOB FOR REAL

Diary Times Desk : It was announced Tuesday that Chloe Malle will succeed editor-in-chief, Anna Wintour, as the new top editor at Vogue. It's big shoes to fill as Wintour is considered the most influential and well known fashion editor of our time.

But Malle, 39, is used to following impressive footsteps as the daughter of actress Candice Bergen and famed director Louis Malle.

Coincidentally, Bergen played the character Enid Frick, who in Season 4 of "Sex and the City" was introduced as Vogue's editor-in-chief when Carrie Bradshaw, played by Sarah Jessica Parker, was contracted to do a column for the celebrated magazine.

GOLD PRICE HITS A NEW RECORD HIGH ON A WEAKER DOLLAR AND
EXPECTATIONS OF A US INTEREST RATE CUT

Diary Times Desk : Gold sailed past \$3,500 per ounce to a record high Tuesday, as a weaker dollar and mounting expectations of a Federal Reserve interest rate cut in September boosted the precious metal's appeal. The price of gold hit \$3,508.50 per ounce. Bullion has gained more than 30% so far this year. "A corollary of the weaker economic backdrop and expectations of US rate cuts is boosting precious metals," Capital.com financial market analyst Kyle Rodda said. "Another factor is the festering confidence crisis in dollar assets because of US President Donald Trump's attack on Fed's independence." Trump has criticized the Fed and its chair, Jerome Powell, for months for not lowering rates and recently took aim at Powell over a costly renovation of the central bank's Washington headquarters.



ELON MUSK'S XAI SUES APPLE AND
OPENAI OVER AI COMPETITION, APP
STORE RANKINGS

Diary Times Desk : Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's artificial intelligence startup xAI sued Apple (AAPL) and ChatGPT maker OpenAI in U.S. federal court in Texas on Monday, accusing them of illegally conspiring to thwart competition for artificial intelligence.

Apple and OpenAI have "locked up markets to maintain their monopolies and prevent innovators like X and xAI from competing," the lawsuit said.

The complaint said Apple and OpenAI conspired to suppress xAI's products, including on the Apple App Store. "If not for its exclusive deal with OpenAI, Apple would have no reason to refrain from more prominently featuring the X app and the Grok app in its App Store," xAI said.

Apple and OpenAI did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Earlier this month, Musk threatened to sue Cupertino, California-based Apple, saying in a post on his social media platform X that Apple's behavior "makes it impossible for any AI company besides OpenAI to reach #1 in the App Store."

LEADERS OF CHINA, RUSSIA,
NORTH KOREA AND IRAN GATHER
IN BEIJING FOR HUGE MILITARY
PARADE IN CHALLENGE TO THE
WEST

Diary Times Desk : For the last three days, Xi Jinping has played host in one of China's busiest port cities, welcoming leaders from across Asia and the Middle East for a carefully choreographed summit designed to showcase his vision of a new world order.

Now, the Chinese leader is set to exhibit a very different image with an ostentatious show of military might.

On Wednesday he will commandeer Beijing's main artery – the Avenue of Eternal Peace – for a major military parade showing off the country's cutting-edge hypersonic weapons, nuclear-capable missiles, and undersea drones, alongside thousands of goose-stepping soldiers.

Xi's message with his multi-day exercise of soft and hard power, is clear: China is a force that wants to reset global rules – and it's not afraid to challenge those of the West.

MAKE ART, NOT WAR: WHY AN ARTIST SPENT FIVE YEARS AND USED 35
MILLION BEADS TO TRANSFORM A SUPERSONIC JET

Diary Times Desk : Ralph Ziman estimates he was 13 or 14 years old the first time he had a gun pulled on him in anger. It was the mid 1970s, and he was with friends outside a shopping mall in the northern suburbs of his hometown of Johannesburg, South Africa. Someone may have looked the wrong way at a stranger's girlfriend – his memory is fuzzy. What isn't fuzzy is the sight of that stranger pointing a .45 Magnum in their direction. Luckily the situation de-escalated, and everyone walked away that day. But Ziman estimates by the time he was 50 he'd had a gun pulled on him 15 to 20 times. "I have to consider myself really lucky," he said. Unsurprisingly, he said he's "always been very anti-gun." Ziman is a commercial photographer and filmmaker-turned-artist who resides in Los Angeles today. For over a decade he has made weapons the focus of his work, using tens of millions of hand-threaded beads to turn artifacts of war into artworks.



**PUNJAB ACTIVATES
EMERGENCY****RESPONSES AS ALL 23
DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY
FLOODS**

Diary Times Desk : Punjab has activated emergency responses under the Disaster Management Act after all 23 districts are now affected by floods, caused either by the rivers in spate, controlled release of waters from the reservoirs of dams, or the incessant rain that lashed most parts of the state on Tuesday.

Till Monday, 12 districts were affected by the floods. In an order issued by Chief Secretary KAP Sinha on Tuesday night, the deputy commissioners have been empowered to act on their own in case of any threatening disaster situation. They have been asked to be prepared for emergency responses.

PWD, water resources and power departments have been asked to start repairs on a war footing. Telecom operators have been instructed to ensure mobile and landline connectivity. Even as the situation in flood-ravaged Punjab is yet to be assessed by the central teams, 30 flood-related deaths have been reported. The floods have affected 3,54,626 people. Around 19,600 people have been evacuated from affected areas, which also include 1,400 villages. Crops like paddy and cotton on over four lakh acres have been submerged.

**HEAVY RAINFALL TO
CONTINUE IN
HIMACHAL; ORANGE
ALERT ISSUED FOR FOUR
DISTRICTS**

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh is set to witness very heavy rainfall in isolated areas as the State's Meteorological Department has issued an orange weather warning for Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour and Kinnaur districts for September 3. A yellow weather warning has also been issued for Una and Bilaspur districts, resulting in few spells of heavy rainfall in isolated places of these districts during the next 24 hours. As per the Meteorological Department, rainfall will continue to occur across the state till September 8, with few spells of heavy rainfall on September 3.

**FORMER HIMACHAL PRADESH DGP ID BHANDARI PASSES AWAY IN
SHIMLA**

Diary Times Desk : Former DGP of Himachal Pradesh, ID Bhandari, a 1982-batch IPS officer, passed away today at Indira Gandhi Medical College in Shimla due to a heart attack. Bhandari, a native of Bilaspur district, lived in Shimla with his family. His last rites will be held at his native village in Bilaspur on Wednesday.

Throughout his career, Bhandari held several key positions in the police department, including DGP, CID, and ADGP, State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, before retiring in 2014. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri expressed deep grief over Bhandari's demise, stating that he served the state police organisation in various capacities with diligence and dedication.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH BRACES FOR
EXTREME RAINFALL; RED ALERT
ISSUED FOR 4 DISTRICT**

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh is set to witness extreme rainfall in isolated areas, as the State Meteorological Department has issued a red weather warning for Kangra, Kullu, Chamba, and Lahaul and Spiti districts for Friday.

Additionally, an orange weather warning has been issued for the rest of the state, due to which the state will experience heavy rainfall for the next few hours. As many as 1,311 roads, including six National Highways (NHs), were blocked for vehicular traffic as a result of heavy downpours that continue to wreak havoc across the state.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, as many as 257 roads, including NH 03, are blocked in Mandi; 241 in Shimla; 239 in Chamba; 168, including NH 305, in Kullu; 127, including NH 707, in Sirmour; 50 in Solan; 60 in Kangra; 44, including NH 505, in Lahaul and Spiti; 39, including NH 21, in Bilaspur; 37 in Una; eight, including NH 05, in Kinnaur; and seven in Hamirpur district.

**PARTY, GOVT FULLY PREPARED TO
TACKLE FLOOD AFTERMATH:
AAP'S SISODIA**

Diary Times Desk : AAP leader and former Delhi education minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday emphasised the need for a permanent solution to address the recurring floods in Sultanpur Lodhi, which has been ravaged by floods over the years. Sisodia is the first AAP national leader outside the state government to visit the flood-affected areas.

During his visit, Sisodia stated that the state government is working diligently to tackle the aftermath of the floods. He also expressed hope that the Centre will rise above politics and extend help to the state amidst the crisis. Accompanied by Rajya Sabha MP Balbir Singh Seechewal and AAP Sultanpur Lodhi halka in-charge Sajjan Singh Cheema, among others, Sisodia visited flood-affected villages in Sultanpur Lodhi. Sisodia highlighted the collective efforts of the AAP party leadership, state government ministers, MLAs, and Seechewal's volunteers in providing relief to the affected people. He praised the spirit of Punjab, evident in the way people are helping each other during the calamity.

**DECLARE PUNJAB FLOODS NATIONAL CALAMITY: RAJA WARRING TO
CENTRE**

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has demanded that the devastating floods ravaging two states and a union territory in northern India be declared a "national calamity". He questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi couldn't visit the flood-hit areas for an on-the-spot assessment, given his recent return from the SCO summit.

Warring criticised the state government's response, stating that it had completely failed in providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected people. He also targeted AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, asking why he was absent from Punjab during this crisis. "Shouldn't the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji visit Punjab's flood-hit areas?" Warring asked on X. "Since he is back from the SCO summit, we hope he will pay a visit to the flood-affected areas of Punjab and announce an immediate flood relief package for the state."

The PCC president emphasised that the devastation caused by the floods warrants their declaration as a "national calamity", affecting not only Punjab but also parts of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Warring also took a dig at AAP leaders, questioning their absence and silence during the crisis. "Where are Shri Arvind Kejriwal ji and Shri Manish Sisodia ji?" he asked, referencing Sisodia's previous comments about winning Punjab.



Depardieu To Face Trial

Film star Gerard Depardieu, one of the leading faces of French cinema, will face trial for allegedly raping actress Charlotte Arnould in 2018, in the latest blow to his reputation after he was convicted of sexual assault earlier this year.

Arnould first accused Depardieu of rape in 2018, saying the assaults occurred in his Paris home on two separate occasions when she was in her early 20s. Depardieu, 76, has denied wrongdoing in the case.

The Paris prosecutor's office confirmed on Tuesday that an investigating judge had ruled that the case should be sent before a court after Arnould posted about the news on her Instagram account. No court date has given.

"I think I'm having trouble realizing how huge this is. I'm relieved," Arnould wrote. Lawyers for Arnould and Depardieu did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Years after first rising to prominence in 1974 with "Going Places" and starring in scores of French-language movies, Depardieu has been at the centre of a growing number of sexual assault allegations in recent years.

Arnould, 29, an actress and former ballet dancer known for her work in theatre and voice acting, was present in the courtroom in May when Depardieu was found guilty in a separate case of sexually assaulting two women on a film set and handed an 18-month suspended prison sentence, which his lawyer said at the time he would appeal. During that trial, Depardieu's lawyer called her a liar in the courtroom.

In her Instagram post on Tuesday, Arnould referred to those comments, calling Depardieu's defense "outrageous and...absolutely unnecessary to uncover the truth."

Though Arnould's case was initially dropped, it was reopened in 2020 and prosecutors requested a trial for Depardieu in 2022.

Arnould has since become a vocal figure in France's #MeToo movement, expressing solidarity with sexual assault victims and demanding accountability in the film industry.



French movie star Gérard Depardieu was summoned to trial before a criminal court in Paris over allegations of rape and sexual assault against actor Charlotte Arnould.

"I feel relieved," Arnould wrote on Instagram on Tuesday after receiving the investigating judge's indictment order. "The order restores a form of judicial truth. I think I'm having trouble realizing how huge this is."

Arnould's lawyer, Carine Durrieu-Diebolt, was not immediately available for comment. She told Franceinfo media she was "extremely satisfied" and described the decision as a "moment of judicial truth in this case."

The case dates back to 2018, when prosecutors in Paris opened a preliminary investigation after Arnould accused Depardieu of raping her at his home.

Netanyahu and Israel's Military Deepens Over Assault On Gaza City



Dana Karni

In early August, Yair Netanyahu, the prime minister's son, derided the IDF chief on social media, accusing him of leading a "rebellion and attempted military coup reminiscent of banana republics in the 1970s." Netanyahu has not disavowed his son's comments.

Tensions between Israel's military and political leadership have sharply escalated over the past week, with the military chief directly confronting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a recent meeting over plans to expand the Gaza war, two Israeli officials told CNN.

Tens of thousands of Israeli reservists have begun reporting for duty to prepare for the massive operation, despite the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir repeatedly voicing reservations about the decision to take over Gaza City after almost two years of fighting.

According to two Israeli officials who were briefed on the exchange, in two recent security cabinet meetings about the Gaza City operation, Zamir challenged the decision to carry out the offensive, focusing on the potential risks to the 48 Israeli hostages remaining in Gaza, and to soldiers on the battleground. He also raised objections to the displacement of up to one million Palestinians in the process and its potential humanitarian and strategic ramifications.

The IDF spokesperson refused to comment on the quotes attributed to Zamir. CNN has reached out to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office for comment.



During nearly two years of war, tensions between government and military leaders have been frequent. Netanyahu has repeatedly attempted to deflect responsibility for the security lapses during the attacks of October 7, 2023, blaming security chiefs instead.

In the most recent stormy security cabinet meeting on Sunday evening, Zamir once again urged the ministers to consider the latest ceasefire proposal put forward by Egyptian and Qatari mediators that has been accepted by Hamas, the officials told CNN.

"There is a framework on the table, and we should take it," he said, according to the Israeli officials briefed on the meeting. Netanyahu chose not to raise the proposal or to put it on the cabinet's agenda, but Zamir nevertheless insisted on making his case. The officials said the IDF chief also warned that the decision to take over Gaza City will eventually lead to a full Israeli military occupation of the Gaza Strip, with Israel bearing complete responsibility for its entire population.

"You need to understand that your decision to conquer Gaza City means that you are going to a full military administration – the only one who will bear responsibility for the local population will be the IDF," he is said to have warned in comments that were leaked to a number of

Israeli media outlets and confirmed by CNN.

The IDF spokesperson refused to comment on the quotes attributed to Zamir. CNN has reached out to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office for comment.

Zamir's reservations were dismissed by Netanyahu, who refused to discuss the partial ceasefire deal. The prime minister cited US President Donald Trump, saying, "Forget the partial deals... Go in with full force and finish this," according to the sources. Netanyahu has instead insisted on a comprehensive deal that sees all the hostages released at once.

Only a minority of ministers expressed support for Zamir's position, including members of Netanyahu's Likud party. The prime minister's far-right political allies, on the other hand, have accused the chief of staff of leading a weak and defeatist approach that is preventing victory over Hamas, the officials said. The disagreements between Zamir and the government have deepened in recent weeks as reports of his opposition to the Gaza war expansion emerged.

INFA

'ethereal glow'

AUSTRALIAN BEACH IN AN ELECTRIC BLUE



Laura Paddison

Still, the algae has proved to be an extremely popular attraction. Hundreds of people have visited St. Kilda to experience it, Pensak said. "Being a city beach, we often don't get to see phenomena like this."

A beach in Melbourne, Australia has been bathed in a "ethereal glow" at nighttime this week thanks to bioluminescent algae adding a shimmering, electric blue hue to the water and sand. Richard Pensak first saw the algae — called Noctiluca scintillan and sometimes referred to as "sea sparkle" — on Sunday morning at St. Kilda Beach, about 4 miles from the center of Melbourne, a city in southeastern Australia.

By day, the algae bloom appears as a bright pinkish-orange cloud, said Pensak, a marine ecologist and a coordinator at Earthcare St Kilda, a local environmental group. It's at night when it transforms into a "stunning light display" lending the beach a "magical, ethereal glow," he told CNN.

There are reports the algae has spread along the north-western coast of Melbourne, Pensak added.

Nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural fertiliser running off fields and from wastewater treatment are said to be a contributory factor in the blue-green algae blooms. The spread of the invasive zebra mussel species is also understood to have played a role in the blooms, as they have made the water clearer, allowing more sunlight to penetrate, stimulating more algal photosynthesis.

The phenomenon is caused by a chemical reaction the algae produce when they are agitated or disturbed — if they are grabbed by a predator, for example, or experience a surge of movement from a wave or swimmer.

It "is likely a defence mechanism," Pensak said, as the bioluminescence can startle predators or attract larger predators to target those consuming the algae.

The algae are not known to be toxic, but they can be hazardous to fish due to their high ammonia content and their ability to lower oxygen levels. Extensive blooms off the Indian coast have been linked to fisheries declines.

These sparkling algal blooms are a natural phenomenon, but their abundance and length have increased rapidly since the 1990s, Pensak said.

Research has linked more frequent and intense blooms to warming oceans. As the water heats up, ocean layers mix less, which in turn makes it harder for nutrients to mix properly, creating conditions that favor the algae, Pensak said. "It can be a sign of an unhealthy ocean," he added.



The beach on the north coast, with its seven-mile stretch of sand and dunes, is popular with tourists.

The announcement comes amid growing concerns over the spread of the algae in waterways across Northern Ireland, and particularly at Lough Neagh.

A Daera statement said: "Blue-green algae was observed on part of Benone Beach on Thursday through the Daera monitoring programme for bathing waters."

"Analysis has confirmed high levels of blue-green algae and the department has issued the bathing water operator, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough council, an 'Advice against Bathing' notification. A spokesperson for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council said: "A temporary Advice Against Bathing Notice has been issued for Benone Strand from Friday 22nd August 2025."

"This is an escalation from the amber to red level in accordance with the Inter-Agency Blue Green Algae Protocol."

'AI-GENERATED' SINNER RACES INTO US OPEN QUARTERS

Diary Times Desk : World number one Sinner needed only one hour and 21 minutes – the second-quickest win in the men's singles this year – to achieve a 6-1 6-1 6-1 victory against Kazakhstan's Bublik. Within minutes of his defeat, 23rd seed Bublik wrote 'AI' in a comment on the US Open's Instagram post about the result – reiterating the description he made about Sinner going into Monday's fourth-round match. Bublik is one of only two men to beat Sinner this season, but the 24-year-old Italian ensured there was no chance of a repeat with a ruthless performance in New York.

"We had some tough battles this year, but we know each other's game really well," said Sinner, who has already won the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles this year.

"He had a tough match [in the third round], five sets, finishing late and he didn't serve as well as he usually does. Overall I'm very happy."



LAMMENS JOINS MAN UTD FROM ROYAL ANTWERP

Diary Times Desk : Lammens, 23, who is yet to win a senior cap for his country, arrives at Old Trafford on a five-year contract.

"I am extremely proud to be joining Manchester United. It is a real dream come true," said Lammens.

"The past few years have been an amazing journey, it's now ended in an incredible destination and hopefully the beginning of something special."

Lammens has made 64 appearances for Royal Antwerp and helped them win the Belgian Super Cup in 2023.

He was named in the Belgium national team squad for the first time in March.

United's director of football Jason Wilcox added: "Senne is an excellent young goalkeeper with great potential.

"We are delighted that he has chosen to join Manchester United after significant interest from a number of clubs."

Once a deal for Lammens was in motion, United ended their interest in Aston Villa's number one, Emiliano Martinez, 32, who won the World Cup with Argentina in 2022 and represented a more experienced and Premier-League proven option.

LIVERPOOL'S ISAK 'FOREVER GRATEFUL' TO NEWCASTLE

Diary Times Desk : The Sweden striker joined the Merseyside club on deadline day on Monday for a British record transfer fee of £125m after a drawn out transfer saga.

Isak scored in Newcastle's 2-1 win over Liverpool in the Carabao Cup final in March as the club won their first domestic trophy in 70 years.

However, in the summer he said he wanted to leave the Magpies and has not played for them this season.

Newcastle issued a terse 37-word statement on their website to announce that Isak had made the move to Anfield, but the 25-year-old offered a more heartfelt reflection on his time on Tyneside.

"I want to express my gratitude to my team-mates, the staff, and above all, the city of Newcastle and all the amazing supporters for the three unforgettable years we shared together," Isak said in a post on his Instagram account, external.

"Together, we have written history and brought the club to the place where it truly belongs.

POLISH MILLIONAIRE'S FIRM 'REVIEW BOMBED' AFTER HE SNATCHED CAP FROM CHILD AT US OPEN

Diary Times Desk : Polish CEO Piotr Szczerek and his company are at the receiving end of public ire after he was seen snatching a signed hat from a young fan at the US Open. Not long after the video of Mr Szczerek's act, described by many on social media as "embarrassing", went viral, his company, Drogbruk, was bombarded with negative reviews.

The clip shows Polish tennis player Kamil Majchrzak offering the cap he used during his match at the US Open to a young fan in the crowd. But Szczerek, standing next to the child, snatched it.

Users on Polish forums called the CEO a "thief," while Drogbruk saw its Trustpilot rating fall sharply to 1.1 stars. Some even said that he and his company should be banned from joining the sports events or sponsoring anything related.



'LIVERPOOL'S RECORD-BREAKING SUMMER HAS SURELY MADE TITLE A FORMALITY'

Diary Times Desk : Arne Slot's first season as head coach proceeded with Liverpool virtually unchallenged from Christmas onwards, sealing the formalities with four matches left and ending 10 points clear.

Liverpool's reaction to that was to embark on the biggest summer spending spree in European football history – £415m spent on recruiting a stellar collection of talent.

The previous record was the £400m spent by Chelsea in summer 2023 – and Liverpool would have spent £35m more had a deal for Crystal Palace captain Marc Guehi not collapsed as the window closed.

If Liverpool were tipped as champions before this blockbuster outlay, surely title number 21 is now a formality?

It is easy to make such a defining judgement, but it is even harder to look beyond Liverpool as champions as the window closes than it was before.

As the window closed on Monday, Liverpool had broken the previous British transfer record – potentially twice. They signed Germany midfielder Florian Wirtz from Bayer Leverkusen for an initial £100m, rising to a possible £116m.

Then they blew that out of the water when ending the summer's biggest transfer soap opera by landing Newcastle United striker Alexander Isak for £125m, which the Magpies say could jump to £130m with add-ons.

WHY MAN UTD SIGNED LAMMENS AHEAD OF PROVEN MARTINEZ

Diary Times Desk : The plan to aim for the Premier League title in 2028, the 150th anniversary of the club that started life as Newton Heath and turned into Manchester United, was first outlined by chief executive Omar Berrada to staff in September 2024.

Berrada doubled down on the aim in June this year in an interview with the respected United We Stand fanzine, stating: "Why not aim for it?"

The overall strategy of building for a better future was behind the decision taken less than 12 hours before the transfer window closed.

United told Lammens to board a private jet and fly to Manchester, rather than ask Aston Villa's Emiliano Martinez to head up the M6 to complete the move he had hoped would happen virtually since last season ended.

Sources say the dilemma was straightforward. Firstly, United know significant improvement is required this season after the debacle 2024-25 became. But 'Project 150' is the bigger plan Berrada and the club ownership are striving to achieve.