

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**"EX-PM THANKED ME FOR MEETING HAFIZ SAEED": YASIN MALIK'S EXPLOSIVE CLAIM**

**Diary Times Desk :**

In a sensational claim, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) terrorist Yasin Malik, who is serving a life sentence in a terror funding case, has said that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh personally thanked and expressed gratitude to him after he met Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed in Pakistan in 2006.

In an affidavit submitted in the Delhi High Court on August 25 and seen by NDTV, Malik claimed that the meeting in 2006 was not his independent initiative but was held at the request of senior Indian intelligence officials as part of the backchannel peace process with Pakistan. The Alleged Role of Intelligence Bureau According to Malik's statement, then Special Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB), V. K. Joshi, met him in Delhi before his visit to Pakistan.

**"DON'T DISMISS GRIEVANCES": ANDHRA MINISTER RAPS DKS OVER CEO'S POTHOLE POST**

**Diary Times Desk : A**

Bengaluru CEO's lamentation about potholes and traffic jams on the metropolis' roads has escalated into a political spat between the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh governments, with the latter trying to persuade BlackBuck chief and co-founder Rajesh Yabaji to relocate to Vizag.

On Thursday night Andhra Human Resources Minister Nara Lokesh followed his relocation appeal with a jibe at Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's 'can't blackmail governments', telling the Congress leader to not 'dismiss people's grievances'.

"Here's what sets Andhra Pradesh apart from others - we don't dismiss our people's genuine grievances as 'blackmail'! We treat them with the dignity and seriousness they deserve."

Nara Lokesh's response followed Mr Shivakumar telling NDTV, "... he (Mr Yabaji) cannot threaten the government.

Blackmailing a government won't work. We have to serve the people of the state. Take this on record, no one will leave Bengaluru."

## MANIPUR'S IMPHAL

## 2 ASSAM RIFLES SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION, 5 INJURED IN AMBUSH NEAR IMPHAL



**Diary Times Desk :** Two jawans of the Assam Rifles were killed in action, and five others have been injured after their truck was ambushed by a group of gunmen on the outskirts of Manipur's Imphal this evening. Those injured have been taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Imphal. The unidentified gunmen fired at the paramilitary forces' 407 Tata vehicle while it was travelling from its Patsoi company operating base to Nambol base at 5.50 pm. This is on the same road that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken during his recent visit to Manipur a week ago, sources said. The ambush site is in the middle of Imphal and Churachandpur. "In the general area, Nambol Sabal Leikai, the column was ambushed by unidentified terrorists on the Highway in the denotified area of Manipur. In the ensuing action, two personnel of the Assam Rifles were martyred and five were injured," said the official statement.

The Assam Rifles unit was moving on NH-2, "during hours of darkness", when it was ambushed, it added.

As of now, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Search operations are underway to catch the armed men involved in the incident.

Manipur governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla condemned the attack and expressed profound grief and extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the soldiers who were killed in the line of duty. He also conveyed prayers for the speedy recovery of those who sustained injuries in the incident.

Mr Bhalla said that such acts of violence will not be tolerated under any circumstances and warned that they will be met with the strongest resolve to safeguard peace and stability in the region.

The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is applicable in the entire state of Manipur, except in 13 police station areas of five districts in the valley region. Nambol comes under the Bishnupur district, which is not under AFSPA coverage. AFSPA was last extended in March 2025 for six months. It will be up for review again this month-end.

There are nine banned Meitei terrorist groups in Manipur, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs' list of banned organisations. They have been responsible for attacks on the Assam Rifles in the past, including the killing of Colonel Viplav Tripathi, his wife and son in an ambush in Churachandpur district in November 2021.

## "AIM WASN'T TO BELITTLE SUFFERING": SAM PITRODA CLARIFIES PAK REMARK AMID ROW

**Diary Times Desk :** Congress's Sam Pitroda, mired deep in another controversy after his "at home in neighbouring countries" remark, has issued a clarification saying it was only meant to "emphasize the shared history and people-to-people bond in the Indian subcontinent". His aim was "not to ignore pain, conflict, or the grave challenges we face from terror and geopolitical tensions," he said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

"My intention has always been to call attention to the realities we face: concerns about the electoral process, the importance of civil society and youth, and India's role - both in its neighborhood and globally," he said in the statement.

"If my words have caused confusion or hurt, I want to clarify that my aim was never to belittle anyone's suffering or undermine legitimate concerns - but to foster honest conversation, empathy, and a more grounded and responsible approach to how India sees itself - and is seen - by others," his statement read.

In an interview with news agency IANS, Mr Pitroda had underscored the need to keep the focus of foreign policy on the neighbourhood first. Lately, there has been turbulence in both Nepal and Bangladesh and India's relation with the latter has become strained.

Without going into details, Mr Pitroda had said, "Our foreign policy, according to me, must first focus on our neighbourhood. Can we really substantially improve relationships with our neighbours? I've been to Pakistan, and I must tell you, I felt at home. I've been to Bangladesh, I've been to Nepal, and I feel at home. I don't feel like I'm in a foreign country."



## UMAR KHALID, SHARJEEL IMAM TO STAY IN JAIL AS TOP COURT DEFERS BAIL PLEA HEARING



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned to September 22 the hearing on bail pleas of activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima and Meeran Haider in the UAPA case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots in Delhi.

A bench of Justices Arvind Kumar and Manmohan deferred the pleas.

The activists have challenged a September 2 Delhi High Court order which denied bail to nine people, including Khalid and Imam, saying "conspiratorial" violence under the garb of demonstrations or protests by citizens could not be allowed.

Besides Khalid and Imam, those who faced bail rejection are Fatima, Haider, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa Ur Rehman, Athar Khan, Abdul Khalid Saifi and Shadab Ahmed.

The bail plea of another accused, Tasleem Ahmed, was rejected by a different high court bench on September 2. The high court said the Constitution affords citizens the right to protest and carry out demonstrations or agitations, provided they are orderly, peaceful and without arms, and such actions must be within the bounds of law.

While the high court said the right to participate in peaceful protests and to make speeches in public meetings was said to have been protected under Article 19(1)(a), and couldn't be blatantly curtailed, it observed the right was "not absolute" and "subject to reasonable restrictions".

## "GEN Z HAS SHOWN ITS RESOLVE": BJP VS CONGRESS AS ABVP WINS DELHI UNIVERSITY POLLS



**Diary Times Desk :** The Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls have triggered a sharp political clash between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, with both parties framing the outcome as a reflection of the mood of India's youth.

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva termed it a rejection of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by Gen Z voters.

"The Gen Z that Rahul Gandhi often talks about has already shown its resolve by saving Delhi, and today's victory of ABVP is a slap in the face for Rahul Gandhi," Mr Sachdeva said.

"The entire country knows that whenever it comes to speaking in favour of the nation's enemies or those playing into the hands of foreign powers, Rahul Gandhi is always seen standing with them. Gen Z, too, now clearly understands in whose hands the country is truly safe," he added.

The Congress, however, dismissed the BJP's interpretation and accused the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) of using intimidation during polling.

Congress leader Ajay Rai alleged, "I believe the atmosphere during the election seemed good when I went there, but the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) members engaged in hooliganism, beat up students, and won the election through complete violence and intimidation." The ABVP, the student wing of the BJP, emerged with a decisive edge in the 2025 DUSU polls, securing three of the four key posts. Aryan Maan was elected President, while ABVP's Kunal Chaudhary and Deepika Jha clinched the Secretary and Joint Secretary positions. The Congress-backed NSUI, however, managed to win the Vice President's post with Rahul Jhansla.

## KIREN RIJJU

**"WAKE UP AT 4 AM, DELETE 2 VOTERS": RAHUL GANDHI'S LATEST GETS A BJP RETORT**



**Diary Times Desk :** Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju lashed out at Rahul Gandhi Friday after the Congress MP reprised yesterday's 'vote chori' barb - "wake up at 4 am, delete two voters in 37 seconds, then go back to sleep" - at the Election Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Mr Gandhi, he said, had to accept that his leadership of the Congress had "failed", resulting in multiple electoral defeats and the youth of India moving to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr Rijju also said Rahul Gandhi had "abused" India's democratic system after leading the Congress on that string of defeats and declared, "The nation won't believe Rahul Gandhi.."

"The poor, the farmers, and the common people consider PM Modi their leader. After losing elections, if Rahul Gandhi keeps blaming the system to hide his weaknesses, no one can accept it. The country has changed and, under PM Modi's leadership, India has progressed," he said.

"People like Rahul Gandhi want to stop the engine that is driving India forward..." Earlier today Mr Gandhi posted a 37-second excerpt from his PowerPoint presentation from Thursday, which he said had "100 per cent bullet-proof evidence" of his allegations.

In the clip he pointed out how, at 4 am on December 19, 2022, someone had opened, completed, and submitted forms to delete two names from the voter roll, all within 36 seconds.

"Wake up at 4 am, delete two voters in 36 seconds, then go back to sleep - that's how vote theft happened! The election watchdog stayed awake, watching the theft and protecting the thieves."

## "GO SEE PREAMBLE": SUPREME COURT JUNKS PLEA IN BANU MUSHTAQ-DUSSEHRA ROW



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has rejected a petition challenging the Karnataka government's decision to invite Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq as the chief guest to Dussehra festivities at the famous Chamundeswari Hills on Monday. A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta slammed the petitioner while questioning the grounds to challenge the High Court order rejecting the plea.

Justice Nath asked the petitioner to go and read the Preamble to the Indian Constitution and asked how he might expect the state to differentiate between its subjects on basis of religion.

Reminding the petitioner that the Dussehra celebrations are, in fact, an event organised by the state government, the top court cited past precedents, including one in which Kannada poet KS Nissar Ahmed was invited as chief guest to the event.

Justice Nath asked, "Were your fundamental rights not affected back then?"

Senior Advocate PB Suresh, who appeared for the petitioner, told the court the invitation to Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate a religious ceremony infringed upon fundamental rights under Article 25, which says the State cannot interfere with religious activity of citizens.



"AMERICAN MENTALITY MUST END": INDIAN TECHIE BEFORE HE WAS SHOT DEAD BY US COPS



**Diary Times Desk :** The 30-year-old Indian techie, who was shot by the police in California earlier this month, was reportedly harassed and racially discriminated against by his former employer, colleagues and roommates to an extent that his "food was poisoned".

In a LinkedIn post days before his death, Mohammed Nizamuddin, from Mahabubnagar in

Telangana, claimed to be a "victim of racial hatred" and had called for an end to "American mentality".

He said he was paid unfairly and "wrongfully terminated" from his job, and the situation turned worse when he was forced to vacate his accommodation.

Nizamuddin was shot by the California police after he allegedly stabbed his roommate at his accommodation in Santa Clara with a knife on September 3, officials said. He was also found pinning down his roommate, who had sustained several injuries. His family, however, alleged racial discrimination and demanded a thorough probe into the circumstances leading to his death.

5TH SUSPECT IN FIRING AT ACTOR DISHA PATANI'S UP HOUSE INJURED IN ENCOUNTER



**Diary Times Desk :** The fifth suspect in the firing incident at actor Disha Patani's home in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly last week has been injured in a police encounter today. The encounter took place in the forests of the Shahi police station area in Bareilly.

The suspect Ramniwas alias Deepak alias Deepu (19), a resident of Bedkala village in Rajasthan - was carrying a reward of Rs 25,000.

He was allegedly involved in the recce of the actor's ancestral home.

AFTER OP SINDOOR, PAK TERRORISTS SHIFTING TO THIS REMOTE REGION TO REBUILD

**Diary Times Desk :** Following India's Operation Sindoor, which targeted and destroyed nine major terrorist hideouts across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and mainland Pakistan, groups long embedded in the country have begun relocating. Terrorist organisations Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) are establishing new bases deep inside Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, near the Afghan frontier.

On May 7, India executed strikes targeting an array of well-known terror infrastructure across PoK and Pakistan's Punjab. Using stand-off precision missiles, the Indian Air Force and Army hit a network of facilities belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen.

The 9 Targets

Markaz Subhanallah (Bahawalpur, Punjab): A 15-acre JeM headquarters long associated with recruitment, training and indoctrination.



THE LONELY LIFE AND DEATH OF DELHI'S ONLY AFRICAN ELEPHANT



**Diary Times Desk :** Animal welfare activists in India are mourning the death of a much-loved elephant they long sought to rehabilitate.

Shankar, the lone African elephant at Delhi's zoo who spent much of his life in isolation, refused food on Wednesday and collapsed by evening. Despite veterinary efforts, the 29-year-old male died within 40 minutes, officials said.

For 24 years, Shankar endured a lonely existence - including at least 13 spent in solitary confinement. The cause of his death is not known yet. "Investigation regarding the cause of death has been ordered," zoo director Sanjeet Kumar told BBC. Shankar was among two African elephants that arrived in India in 1998 as a diplomatic gift from Zimbabwe to former Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma. But Shankar's companion died in 2001, said Mr Kumar.

FIVE MORE BODIES FOUND IN RAIN-RAVAGED CHAMOLI, TOLL RISES TO SEVEN



**Diary Times Desk :** Five more bodies were found in the rain-ravaged villages of Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday as rescue teams dug through debris and waded through sludge in search of the missing. With this, the death toll due to landslides and flooding in the area has climbed to seven.

Two bodies were found on Thursday, officials said.

As rescuers pulled out the bodies, the family members of the victims broke down.

FIRST JAISH, NOW LASHKAR TERRORIST TEARS APART PAK OP SINDOOR CLAIMS



**Diary Times Desk :** Days after a Jaish-e-Mohamad (JeM) commander exposed Pakistan's claim on Masood Azhar's connection with the Bahawalpur camp, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative has accepted that the terror group's headquarters at Markaz Taiba in Muridke was destroyed by Indian armed forces under Operation Sindoor.

In a widely circulated video on social media, LeT commander Qasim admitted that the Muridke terror camp, which was destroyed in the May 7 operation, was being rebuilt 'bigger than before'. Muridke is a city in the Sheikhupura district in Pakistan's Punjab province.

FAMILIES OF FOUR AI CRASH  
VICTIMS SUE BOEING IN US



**Diary Times Desk :** Families of four passengers, who died in the Air India plane crash in June, have filed a negligence lawsuit in a US court against Boeing and aircraft parts manufacturer Honeywell International alleging that a faulty fuel cutoff switch led to the crash, according to a statement.

The lawsuit has sought compensatory and punitive damages for the wrongful deaths of four passengers on Flight 171, a US-based law firm said in a statement. In one of the worst aviation disasters in India's history, 260 persons, including 241 passengers, died after the Tata Group-owned Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating Flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after taking off from Ahmedabad on June 12.

According to the lawsuit, filed in Delaware Superior Court by the Lanier Law Firm, flight data indicated that an Air India pilot accidentally shut off fuel to Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner's engines, causing a complete loss of thrust necessary to complete the takeoff. The fuel cutoff switch, manufactured by Honeywell and installed by Boeing, is designed with a locking mechanism to prevent unintended cutoff of fuel supply to the engines mid-flight. India's nodal aircraft investigation agency, Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is probing one of the country's deadliest air disasters in more than three decades, had in its preliminary report said fuel switches to the engines were cutoff within a gap of one second immediately after takeoff and caused confusion in the cockpit before the plane crashed into a building.

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut off (the switch). The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it had said. But the lawsuit says these switches are installed in a "high traffic" location immediately behind and adjacent to the thrust levers that pilots continuously manipulate during takeoff. "In addition, documents show that both Honeywell and Boeing knew the locking mechanism could easily be turned off inadvertently or could be missing altogether," it said.

THIS IS THE ONLY WILDLIFE RESERVE IN INDIA TO  
SEE RARE BLACK TIGER



**Diary Times Desk :** The Similipal Tiger Reserve of Odisha, Mayurbhanj district, is one of the most biodiverse reserves in India. It is found in more than 2,700 square kilometres in the greater Similipal Biosphere Reserve, and is unique due to its rare wildlife, dense forests, and magnificent waterfalls. What is quite unusual, though, is the fact that it is the only place in India where the rare black tiger was recorded. The black tiger is a rare genetic defect that leads to a mechanism of making the stripes of the tiger very broad and dark to give the effect that the tiger is almost all black. These sightings are very rare in the entire world, yet a few have been recorded in Similipal, and thus it is considered a unique tourist attraction to wildlife lovers and researchers. The Sixty-six species are found in sal forests, grasslands and river valleys, which form a fertile ecosystem of Similipal.

INDIA EXPECTS SAUDI ARABIA TO KEEP  
IN MIND MUTUAL INTERESTS: MEA ON  
PAK DEFENCE PACT

**Diary Times Desk :** India on Friday said it expects Saudi Arabia to keep in mind "mutual interests and sensitivities" in the bilateral strategic partnership in the wake of Riyadh sealing a strategic defence pact with Pakistan. The "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" signed on Wednesday by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman states that "any aggression against either of the two countries shall be considered as an aggression against both". "India and Saudi Arabia have a wide-ranging strategic partnership that has deepened considerably in the last few years," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "Our expectation is that our strategic partnership with Saudi Arabia will be pursued keeping in mind mutual interests and sensitivities, within the framework of this partnership," he said. Jaiswal was responding to a question at his weekly media briefing.

BENGALURU SCHOOL VAN  
STUCK IN OPEN DRAIN AS  
CIVIC MESS CONTINUES

**Diary Times Desk :** In yet another incident of civic mess in Bengaluru, a school minivan got stuck in an open drain this morning. The accident occurred on the Panathur-Bellandur road when the minivan was carrying students to a school in Doddanekundi. A video shows one of the tyres stuck in the drain with students inside the minivan. No injuries were reported in the incident. The school administration is now investigating whether the driver was at fault. Last week, a school bus carrying children nearly toppled after slipping into slush on a Bengaluru road, which has long been in a poor and pothole-ridden condition. A dashboard camera footage in the car behind the bus shows the driver attempting to overtake another school bus from the left on the Balagere Main Road. In the process, the vehicle carrying about 20 students veered slightly off the road, causing one of its tyres to sink into the soft ground. The bus tilted and almost toppled over on one side.

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES  
AVAILABLE UNDER NEW DEFENCE PACT  
WITH SAUDI ARABIA: DEFENCE  
MINISTER ASIF

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan has declared that its nuclear capabilities will be available under the new Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia, sharply raising the stakes of a pact already seen as a game-changer in the Gulf and South Asian security. "We have armed forces that are battle-hardened....Our military has been tested recently...What we have, our capabilities, will absolutely be available under this pact," Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said in an interview with a Pakistani news channel, underscoring the breadth of Islamabad's commitment to Riyadh. Since Pakistan became a nuclear state, "not a single agency like the IAEA or even the West has ever challenged us being a responsible nuclear power," Asif insisted. He said Pakistan's nuclear installations were open to inspections. "We are an abiding nuclear power."

'WORLD MUST LEARN FROM INDIA ON HOW TO START &  
TERMINATE CONFLICT': IAF CHIEF AP SINGH

**Diary Times Desk :** The world has to learn a lesson from India on how to start and terminate a conflict at the earliest possible opportunity, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said on Friday, highlighting the clear goals set by India while carrying out Operation Sindoor. In an address at an event, the Air Chief Marshal said full freedom was given to the military for the operation and that no restrictions were imposed on it by the political leadership. Asserting that the primacy of the air power was on display during the May7-10 conflict with Pakistan, he said the S-400 missile system has turned out to be a game-changer as the enemy was in disarray in view of the range and power of the weapon. Air Chief Marshal Singh said many of Pakistan's military bases were damaged. "A lot of their infrastructure, radars, control and coordination centres, their hangars, aircraft, suffered a lot of damages," he said. The Indian Air Force chief also took a pot-shot at those who sought proof of the efficacy of the 2019 Balakot air strikes as he showed some graphic details of damages suffered by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Singh said a continuation of the operation could have impacted "our preparedness for the next one." "It will affect our economy. It will affect the general progress of the country."



## NATO SLAMS 'RECKLESS' MOSCOW AFTER INTERCEPTING RUSSIAN JETS OVER ESTONIA



**Diary Times Desk :** NATO said Friday it had scrambled aircraft to intercept Russian jets violating Estonian airspace, calling it proof of Moscow's "reckless" behaviour and the alliance's readiness to counter it.

"Earlier today, Russian jets violated Estonian airspace," alliance spokesperson Allison Hart posted on X.

"NATO responded immediately and intercepted the Russian aircraft," she wrote. "This is yet another example of reckless Russian behaviour and NATO's ability to respond."

Tallinn said the three Russian MiG-31 fighter jets had entered its airspace over the Gulf of Finland, remaining for 12 minutes.

A NATO official said they were met by Italian F-35 aircraft, deployed as part of an alliance mission in the Baltic region.

"Europe stands with Estonia in the face of Russia's latest violation of our airspace," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen wrote on X.

"As threats escalate, so too will our pressure," said the EU chief, who Friday put forward a 19th package of sanctions targeting Moscow over the Ukraine war for approval by the bloc's member states.

The EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas -- formerly Estonia's prime minister -- condemned the third violation of EU airspace in under two weeks as an "extremely dangerous provocation" by Moscow.

After incidents over Poland and Romania, the latest violation "further escalates tensions in the region," she said, vowing the European Union would "continue to support our member states in strengthening their defences."

"Putin is testing the West's resolve," Kallas said. "We must not show weakness."

## TRUMP HAD PERSONALLY ASKED THAT LONDON MAYOR NOT BE INVITED TO BANQUET

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump reignited his feud with London Mayor Sadiq Khan during his state visit to the United Kingdom, unleashing another round of sharp criticism in their long-running clash. Addressing reporters aboard Air Force One on Thursday, Trump disclosed that he had personally asked that Khan not be invited to the state banquet hosted in his honour.

The US President described the London Mayor as "among the worst mayors in the world," accusing him of failures on crime and immigration. When questioned on Khan's absence from the banquet, Trump said: "I didn't want him there, I asked for him not to be there, I don't want that." He added, "Sadiq Khan the mayor of London wasn't welcomed, and he did not attend."

"It was requested that he not attend," Trump further remarked, claiming Khan had shown interest in being present at the event. Continuing his attack, Trump said, "Crime in London is through the roof. Mayor Khan has done a terrible job, and on immigration he's a disaster."



## TRUMP SAYS TIKTOK DEAL "APPROVED", SET TO VISIT CHINA NEXT YEAR



**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump on Friday said that the TikTok deal with China has been approved. Following a phone call with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, Trump also stated that he would visit China in the "early part of next year" and that he would meet him at a regional summit to take place at the end of October in South Korea.

In a Truth Social post, Trump also said that Xi would come to the United States "at an appropriate time".

"The call was a very good one, we will be speaking again by phone, appreciate the TikTok approval, and both look forward to meeting at APEC!," Trump wrote, referring to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, a grouping of 21 economies on the Pacific Rim.

The Chinese leader highlighted the importance of bilateral ties and urged the US to avoid putting unilateral trade restrictions, according to China's official news agency Xinhua.

The talks come in the aftermath of Trump's tariff war with China that strained ties between the two largest economies. However, the two leaders spoke on trade too, defusing tensions over China's restrictions on the export of rare earth elements, used in everything from smartphones to fighter jets.

## POLICE FIND REMAINS THEY THINK ARE US MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING HIS DAUGHTERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Human remains, believed to be of a man wanted on suspicion of murdering his three daughters, aged nine, eight and five, have been found in the US state of Washington. Police had been searching for Travis Decker since officers found his phone and the bodies of his girls Paityn, Evelyn and Olivia in a remote campground on 2 June. His truck was also found nearby. While positive identification has not yet been confirmed, preliminary findings suggest the remains belong to Travis Decker," Chelan County Sheriff's Office said on Thursday in a statement. The remains were discovered in a remote wooded area south of the town of Leavenworth, in Washington state, officials said.

## NEPAL EX-PM OLI TAKES SHOT AT INDIA IN 1ST STATEMENT POST OUSTER, WARNS OF THREAT TO NEPAL'S SOVEREIGNTY

**Diary Times Desk :** After being ousted following youth-led protests in Nepal earlier this month, the nation's former prime minister K.P. Sharma Oli, in his first public statement, took a dig at India over the 2015 blockade on its southern border and made a reference to deals with China.

In a statement on Facebook on Nepal's Constitution Day Friday, Oli reflected on the historical struggle to establish the constitution in Nepal, calling it "a future line written by the Nepalese people for themselves".

"The constitution was issued overcoming the blockade and the challenges arising over the country's sovereignty," Oli wrote in Nepali, referencing the 2015 blockade that was blamed on India following the declaration of Nepal's new constitution.

Between September 2015 and February 2016, Nepal faced a severe blockade at its southern border in which trucks carrying fuel, medicine and other vital supplies were barred from entering the nation. The blockade was led by ethnic minorities who said they were discriminated against in the new constitution. It caused severe shortages of essential goods. Then-PM Oli had raised the issue internationally, including with the UN.

## TRUMP AGAIN TAKES CREDIT FOR INDIA-PAK CEASEFIRE DURING UK VISIT



**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump again claimed credit for India-Pakistan cessation of hostilities. However, this time the remark came in the presence of UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"We did seven, and most of them were not thought to be settleable. We did India, we did Pakistan, that's two nuclear countries, and that was purely for trade. You wanna trade with us, you have to get along, and they were going hot and heavy," Donald Trump said during a press conference with Keir Starmer in London.

Trump was referencing the recent India-Pakistan conflict in May, where he had claimed credit several times for brokering a ceasefire between the two nuclear nations, using trade as leverage.

IBAN OFFICIAL DISMISSES TRUMP'S HOPE TO 'TAKE BACK' AFGHAN AIRBASE



**Diary Times Desk :** A Taliban official has rejected the idea that the US could retake a key airbase in Afghanistan after President Donald Trump told reporters he wanted it back. Zakir Jalal, who works in the Taliban's foreign ministry, said the idea of the US maintaining any military presence in Afghanistan was "completely" rejected during talks between the two sides before the Taliban returned to power. It came after the US president hinted retaking Bagram airbase – the epicentre of Nato forces in

Afghanistan for two decades – might be possible "because they need things from us". The base was handed to the Afghan military shortly before the Taliban took control of Afghanistan. Trump said at a press conference in the UK on Thursday the US "gave it to them for nothing".The complete withdrawal of US troops was part of a deal signed during Trump's first administration in 2020, and finished under Joe Biden's in 2021. But Trump said in March he had planned to keep Bagram airbase "not because of Afghanistan but because of China". Trump reiterated the importance of its location on Thursday, saying one reason to take Bagram back was because "it's an hour away from where China makes its nuclear weapons". It is unclear exactly what he is referring to: a BBC Verify investigation in July noted there is a nuclear testing site about 2,000km (1,243 miles) away, in north-western China. Trump has also repeatedly said that China has since established a presence at the base, which is north of the capital, Kabul. The Taliban have denied the claim. But a BBC investigation – which examined 30 satellite images from late 2020 to 2025 – found very little activity at the base since the Taliban returned, and no evidence to support China's presence at the base. On Friday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said "China respects Afghanistan's territorial integrity and sovereignty", adding that "the future of Afghanistan should be in the hands of Afghan people". The Taliban's Zakir Jalal, meanwhile, wrote on social media platform X: "Throughout history, Afghans have not accepted a military presence, and this possibility was completely rejected during the Doha talks and agreement, but the doors are open to other engagement."

MINISTER REJECTS TRUMP'S CALL FOR MILITARY TO TACKLE ILLEGAL MIGRATION



**Diary Times Desk :** The UK military is focused on defending the nation rather than stopping asylum seekers from crossing the Channel, a cabinet minister has said. US President Donald Trump suggested that military intervention could be used to deal with illegal migration to the UK during his state visit this week.

7.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS RUSSIA, TSUNAMI WARNING ISSUED

**Diary Times Desk :** A powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Russia's far eastern Kamchatka peninsula early Friday, rocking buildings and prompting authorities to issue a tsunami alert. Videos posted on Russian social media showed furniture and light fixtures shaking in homes, while another showed a parked car rocking back and forth on a street. The quake struck 128 kilometres (80 miles) east of the region's capital, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, and at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres (six miles), the US Geological Survey (USGS) reported. The local branch of Russia's state geophysical service gave a lower estimated magnitude of 7.4. It reported at least five aftershocks.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL REJECTS RESOLUTION TO EXTEND IRAN SANCTIONS RELIEF



**Diary Times Desk :** The United Nations Security Council has voted not to permanently lift economic sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme, delivering a major economic blow that Tehran claims is "politically biased". A resolution on Friday to block the sanctions fell in the Security Council by a vote of four to nine, meaning European sanctions will return by September 28 if no significant deal is reached beforehand. Russia, China, Pakistan and Algeria voted to stop the sanctions from being reintroduced. Nine UNSC members voted against sanctions relief – the United States, Britain, France, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Denmark, Greece, Panama, and Somalia, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency. Guyana and South Korea abstained. The vote follows a 30-day process launched in late August by Britain, France and Germany – known as the E3 – to reinstate sanctions unless Tehran meets their demands. "Today's action is hasty, unnecessary and unlawful. Iran recognises no obligation to implement it," Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's permanent representative and ambassador to the UN, said at the session on Friday.

FROM MELANIA'S HAT TO EPSTEIN'S GHOST: TAKEAWAYS FROM TRUMP'S UK VISIT



**Diary Times Desk :** Pomp and politics, warm words, tech deals and a sumptuous state banquet. Britain pulled out all the stops to welcome US President Donald Trump. Here are five things to take away from the president's historic second state visit. – Protest-free zone – Trump critics drummed, chanted and waved their banners in protest at his visit in both London and Windsor. Around 5,000 people took part in the London demonstration while Trump was being given the red carpet treatment in Windsor Castle, 35 kilometres (22 miles) away. There was little chance of the president noticing though as he revelled in pomp and pageantry behind the castle's impregnable ramparts, before flying by helicopter to Chequers, the country residence of Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

MACRON FORCED TO PROVE HIS WIFE IS NOT A MAN: HOW THIS BIZARRE CASE BEGAN

**Diary Times Desk :** The Macrons in France are fighting a bizarre 'gender conspiracy' against the country's First Lady, Brigitte Macron, with President Emmanuel Macron being forced to "prove" that his wife is not a transgender woman. Their lawyer, Tom Clare, said that the President is planning to present "photographic and scientific evidence" to a US court, months after suing a US far-right influencer and political commentator, Candace Owens, for defamation.

According to Mr Clare, the French President would be presenting pictures of his wife pregnant and raising her children in court. "These folks are obviously important on the world stage, but they're also human beings, and it's offensive and hurtful to them to be accused of effectively criminal acts and conspiring to lie to the world about their identities. It is incredibly upsetting to think that you have to go and subject yourself to put this type of proof forward," Mr Clare said during a podcast on the BBC. The blogger even provided "evidence" which she claimed was a childhood picture of Ms Macron's brother that looked similar to the First Lady.



US BLOCKS UN CALL FOR GAZA CEASEFIRE FOR SIXTH TIME

**Diary Times Desk :** The US has for the sixth time vetoed a draft resolution at the United Nations Security Council that would have demanded an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages. US deputy Middle East envoy Morgan Ortagus said the text did not go far enough in condemning Hamas or recognise Israel's right to defend itself. All 14 other members of the Security Council voted in favour of the draft resolution – which described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as "catastrophic" and called on Israel to lift all aid restrictions. It comes as the UN's humanitarian office warns that the last lifelines for civilians are collapsing in Gaza City as Israel expands its military offensive. On the global stage, Israel and its closest ally look increasingly isolated. Speaking prior to the vote, Ortagus said Washington's opposition to the resolution should "come as no surprise". "It fails to condemn Hamas or recognise Israel's right to defend itself, and it wrongly legitimises the false narratives benefitting Hamas, which have sadly found currency in this council," she said.



ISRAELI AIR STRIKES HIT SOUTHERN LEBANON

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel has carried out a large wave of air strikes in southern Lebanon, saying it was targeting positions of the Iranian-backed armed group Hezbollah. The attacks came after evacuation warnings were issued for several locations. There has been no immediate report of casualties. Israel has carried out air strikes on people and places it says are linked to Hezbollah almost every day despite a deal that ended the war with the group in November. The Lebanese prime minister called on the international community to urge Israel to stop what he described as intimidation and attacks, and to fulfil its ceasefire obligations. Footage posted online showed huge plumes of smoke in Mais al-Jabal, one of the locations hit. An Israeli military spokesman said the targets were infrastructure belonging to Hezbollah and in response to the group's attempts to re-establish activities in the area. He provided no evidence.

IAN BREMMER SAYS MODI'S DRIVE WITH PUTIN SENT DEFIANT MESSAGE TO US: 'FORCED TRUMP TO...'

**Diary Times Desk :** Eurasia Group president and geopolitical analyst Ian Bremmer has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin's much-talked-about limousine ride during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in China was a meaningful gesture that sent a direct message to Washington, which penalised India's continued purchase of Russian oil through steep tariffs. Bremmer, in conversation with ANI, recalled that PM Modi, unlike other SCO countries did not sign on the Belt and Road initiative, and also skipped Beijing's World War II commemoration and military parade. "What Modi did do and I think it's meaningful was he got into Putin's limousine, just like Putin got into Trump's limousine in Anchorage a week or so before, and made it very clear -- as Trump was saying he would increase tariffs on India over oil purchases from Russia.

IN A FIRST UNDER NEW MIGRANT SCHEME, UK DEPORTS INDIAN NATIONAL TO FRANCE



**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian national became the first person to be deported from the United Kingdom to France under the new returns treaty between the two European neighbours to curb illegal English Channel crossings on small boats. Britain's Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood called the unnamed India's deportation "an important first step" in the UK government's campaign to curb illegal migration orchestrated by "smuggler gangs." "Today, we have dealt a blow to the smuggler gangs. The removal of small boat migrants to France has begun. I will do whatever it takes to secure our borders – and this is a vital first step," she said. "It sends a message to people crossing in small boats: if you enter the UK illegally, we will seek to remove you." Britain's interior ministry said further removals were expected later this week and next week, while the first legal arrivals from France were expected "in the coming days".

OVER 5,00,000 PROTEST IN FRANCE AGAINST MACRON'S AUSTERITY POLICIES

**Diary Times Desk :** Last September, during the high-level week of the 79th United Nations General Assembly, I interviewed the UN Secretary-General's spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, while walking through the Rose Garden at the UN headquarters in New York.

Inside the UN building, speeches were being delivered on the topics of peace, multilateralism, and shared responsibility. Outside, the mood was very different: a few blocks away, protestors lined the sidewalks, traffic was paralysed by motorcades, and there was a palpable sense of cynicism in the air.

I had spent the day speaking with local New Yorkers, diplomats, aid workers, and observers who all expressed the same feeling: a loss of faith in the United Nations.

With wars raging in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine, people I interviewed questioned whether the UN was even relevant anymore.

So, as Stephane and I walked, I asked him pointedly: "Do you think people expect more from the United Nations than it can actually do?"

He said, "One of the important things – and that is a responsibility of you and the media, in a way – is to explain what the UN is, right? The Secretary-General of the UN is not an omnipotent, powerful person who starts conflicts and ends conflicts, right? On the political and security issues, which are really led by the Security Council, it is the member states. And those powerful member states are at a deadlock." That conversation stayed with me. At the time, I took his words as a challenge. Over the past year, in my reporting and analysis, I have tried to do what he asked – explaining to audiences that the UN is a forum of 193 member states, not a world government with unlimited powers.

I've reminded people that its successes and failures ultimately reflect the willingness—or unwillingness—of nations to act. And yet, a year later, I can't shake the feeling that even these explanations fall short. The public's trust in the UN feels lower today than ever before, and no amount of context can change the reality that people are deeply disillusioned.

I saw that disillusionment up close just before the high-level week of the 79th session of the General Assembly.

MI6 LAUNCHES DARK WEB PORTAL TO ATTRACT SPIES IN RUSSIA

**Diary Times Desk :** MI6 is launching its own dedicated portal on the dark web in the hope of attracting new spies online, notably from Russia. Secure messaging platform Silent Courier aims to strengthen national security by making it easier for the intelligence agency to recruit, the Foreign Office said. Potential agents in Russia and around the world will be targeted by the UK, it adds. Outgoing MI6 Chief Sir Richard Moore On Friday appealed to potential spies globally to anonymously access the dark web by following instructions on MI6's own YouTube video. In his final public speech as MI6 Chief, Sir Richard launched the worldwide recruiting drive targeting potential spies in Russia, China, Iran, North Korea and elsewhere. In the same speech delivered from Istanbul on Friday morning, he expressed scathing criticism of President Putin, saying "there is no evidence" the Russian president has any interest in a negotiated peace, "short of Ukrainian capitulation". "He is stringing us along". He added that Putin cannot succeed in Ukraine and said Putin has "bitten off more than he can chew", adding that Russia's economy and demography are in long term decline and "Putin's war is accelerating".



HATE CRIMES AGAINST INDIANS IN US CONTINUE UNABATED; GUJARATI WOMAN SHOT DEAD IN SOUTH CAROLINA, VIDEO SURFACES

**Diary Times Desk :** In what appears to be another hate crime, a Gujarati woman was shot dead in South Carolina. The accused has been described as a masked gunman who entered a store and shot dead the Gujarati woman businessman. The deceased was a resident of Borsad town in Anand district, Gujarat. Shot eight times. Kiran Ben Patel, who had lived in South Carolina for over two decades, was counting cash before closing the store when a masked gunman approached and shot her. The woman tried to escape and ran out of the store, but the gunman chased after her, shooting her eight times.

NORTH KOREA'S KIM JONG UN OVERSEES DRONE TESTING, KCNA SAYS



**Diary Times Desk :** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the testing of unnamed drones on Thursday and ordered their capabilities be strengthened through artificial intelligence, state media KCNA said on Friday. Kim supervised the test of suicide drones with AI technology in March. On Thursday, Kim was satisfied with the test results of North Korea's 'Kumsong' tactical unmanned attack aircraft and an unmanned strategic reconnaissance aircraft, and approved a plan to further strengthen unmanned aerial vehicles' capabilities, KCNA said. Kim also inspected on Thursday the construction of a large greenhouse farm in Sinuiju, which borders China, KCNA said. The rapid development of artificial intelligence and advanced technology has clearly affected warfare, as seen in the Russia-Ukraine war. With no risk of casualties on the attacking side, unmanned drone attacks can explicitly reshape the paradigm of modern warfare. In March, KCNA reported that Kim had inspected the performance test of "AI suicide attack drones." Considering Kim's repeated attention to this technology, he seems to be personally invested in developing advanced unmanned weapons to bolster his country's military capabilities.

ISRAEL GETS HIGH-TECH IRON BEAM 450 LASER INTERCEPTION SYSTEM AGAINST AIRBORNE THREATS: WHERE DOES INDIA STAND?

**Diary Times Desk :** Iron Beam 450 Laser Interception: Israel has been entangled in a war with not only Hamas but also with Lebanon and Iran. When hundreds of missiles and drones are fired at Israel, Tel Aviv uses a variety of air defence systems to intercept and hunt the threats down. Now, Israel has taken a giant leap in air defense technology with the successful completion of trials for the Iron Beam 450 — the world's first operational high-energy laser interception system. The breakthrough marks a critical milestone, as Israel prepares to integrate the futuristic system into its air defense shield by the end of this year. Notably, during the recent Operation Sindoor against Pakistan, India also faced variety of missiles and drones threats which were intercepted and neutralised. This highlighted the need of having low-cost air defence system to protect the nation.

ZEBRA COWS AND TEFLON FOOD MAKE IG NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

**Diary Times Desk :** A plan to reduce calorie intake by adding Teflon to food and painting cows to look like zebras so they might get bitten by flies less are among the winning research projects of this years Ig Nobel prizes. The tongue-in-cheek award for silly but inventive scientific endeavour also recognised a study of "the extent to which a certain kind of lizard chooses to eat certain kinds of pizza" and "discoveries about the physics of pasta sauce". Winners in categories from literature to biology were recognised at a ceremony at Boston University on Thursday. "Every Ig Nobel prize winner has done something that first makes people laugh, and then makes them think," said Marc Abrahams, founder of the awards. Researchers in the US and Israel took home the Ig Nobel award for chemistry thanks to their project to see if Teflon, the plastic anti-stick coating commonly used on pots and pans, provided a good means of bulking up food without adding calories.

ISRAEL IS TESTING THE BOUNDARIES OF GULF NATIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel is testing just how far Gulf partners will let it run amok in the region while equities and interconnects deepen. The UAE signal is the clearest: if Israel moves to annex the West Bank, Abu Dhabi is prepared to downgrade the normalization path, which could mean ambassadorial recall and visibility limits for Israeli defense firms for starters. That's leverage, not rupture, and it's already being floated to Washington as much as it is to Tel Aviv. The Saudi side of things is slower and more conditional. For Riyadh, any Saudi move towards normalization with Israel is tied more closely to a U.S. security package, nuclear file terms, and a real pathway on Palestine. None of which is likely near-term. Has Israel gone too far for the Gulf? Gaza and the recent Doha operation narrowed everyone's room for maneuver, but the UAE model is to contain damage, not slam on the brakes. Unless annexation becomes an explicit policy for Israel, we don't see normalization with Israel being completely derailed, but we do see it being slowed down, especially for the optics. Energy is the reason Israel thinks it can push further. When Israeli offshore output stutters, Egypt, for one, scrambles, with blackouts risks.





## EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSES FRESH ROUND OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

**Diary Times Desk :** The European Commission has proposed a 19th package of sanctions against Russia to member states, according to its president Ursula von der Leyen Friday, as she said Europe is increasing its pressure on Moscow in light of its displays of "contempt for diplomacy and international law" over the past month. Von der Leyen cited recent large-scale drone and missile attacks against Ukraine, as well as the violation of EU airspace with Russian drones in Poland and Romania, as reasons for the new sanctions package. "Again and again, President Putin has escalated. And in response, Europe is increasing its pressure," she said, according to an EU Commission press release. As part of the measures, Von der Leyen said the Commission will ban imports of Russian Liquefied Natural Gas.

## MORE BAD NEWS FOR AMERICANS BATTLING HIGHER PRICES: WINTER HEATING BILLS ARE ABOUT TO RISE

**Diary Times Desk :** This year's winter heating bills may send a shiver down many Americans' spines.

The cost of staying warm at home is expected to jump an average of 7.6%, to \$976 this season, according to a new estimate from the National Energy Assistance Directors Association. The spike stems from increases in electricity and natural gas prices, as well as a forecast for a somewhat colder winter.

The projection comes as many consumers are still feeling the squeeze from pricier summer electric bills, as well as continued higher costs for groceries, health insurance and other essentials. At the same time, the amount of federal assistance available to help people cover their utility bills is expected to remain flat.

Just how much more Americans will have to pay this winter depends greatly on how they heat their home and where they live, according to the association.

## NVIDIA WILL TAKE A \$5 BILLION STAKE IN INTEL, JOINING THE US GOVERNMENT AS A MAJOR SHAREHOLDER

**Diary Times Desk :** Nvidia said on Thursday that it would buy \$5 billion worth of Intel's common stock, becoming another major shareholder in the beleaguered company just weeks after the US government took a roughly 10% stake.

The tech giant, which makes artificial intelligence chips, will pay \$23.28 per share, it said in a joint press release. The purchase will give Nvidia around 4% or more of Intel after new shares are issued to complete the deal, Reuters reported.

Intel shares (INTC) surged 22.77% on Thursday and posted their biggest single-day gain since 1987. Nvidia shares (NVDA), meanwhile, gained 3.49%.

Last month, US President Donald Trump and Intel announced that the government was making an \$8.9 billion investment in Intel's common stock, with Trump calling it "a Great American Company that has an even more incredible future." "This is a great Deal for America and, also, a great Deal for INTEL," Trump wrote on Truth Social at the time.



## HYUNDAI CEO FOUND OUT ABOUT ICE RAID AT GEORGIA BATTERY PLANT ON THE NEWS



**Diary Times Desk :** When the US Department of Homeland Security conducted its largest single-site enforcement operation in history at the Hyundai – LG Battery Plant in Georgia earlier this month, Hyundai's CEO was working out of his California office. He said he found out about it on the news.

"I could not believe what I saw because I would've known normally before the news," CEO José Muñoz told CNN in a media roundtable Thursday.

Muñoz said that the EV battery plant in Ellabell, Georgia, is operated by South Korea's LG Energy Solution, which is likely why he wasn't notified right away. More than 300 South Korean workers were detained by ICE during a raid at the joint venture on September 4th and were deported back to South Korea last week. Muñoz says he's been in touch with the Trump administration since the raid.

"I think both governments, South Korea and the US are working activity to try to ensure that situation like this don't happen again," Muñoz told reporters.

## THERE'S NO 'MATERIAL INFLATION FROM TARIFFS,' SAYS NEW CENTRAL BANKER STEPHEN MIRAN

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump's widespread tariffs aren't boosting inflation, so interest rates should be lowered quickly to prevent America's labor market from deteriorating, Federal Reserve Governor Stephen Miran said Friday in his first public comments as a monetary policymaker.

The Fed on Wednesday announced a quarter-point rate cut, the first reduction in nine months, in an attempt to prevent unemployment from surging. Fed Chair Jerome Powell in a news conference described it as a "risk management cut," suggesting the Fed isn't behind the curve.

Miran, however, disagrees. He was the lone dissenter on the Fed's latest decision, favoring a large, half-point cut instead. His appointment has brought a new voice to the Fed — one with unconventional views on the economy — in support of aggressive rate cuts in the months ahead.





ASIA’S BILLION-DOLLAR  
MOONCAKE MARKET IS  
GOING GREEN —  
ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE  
WAY YOU’D EXPECT

**Diary Times Desk :**  
The dessert-stuffed Dubai chocolate bar, of viral TikTok fame, has seen many imitators.

Its chocolate snap and pistachio-pastry crunch has inspired everything from milkshakes to croissants.

Now, Hong Kong-based Conspiracy Chocolate is reimagining it again: this time, as a mooncake.

The bean-to-bar brand, launched by chocolate-obsessed couple Amit Oz and Celine Herren in 2018, has produced mooncakes before that more closely resemble the traditional Chinese treat, which is typically made with sweet lotus seed paste and savory salted duck egg yolk in a soft pastry casing.

But this year, the duo wanted to do something more fun and accessible.

Over four months, Conspiracy Chocolate developed its own version of Dubai-based FIX Dessert’s knafeh-filled chocolate bar, which it says is less sweet and removes the tahini for a more concentrated pistachio flavor in its homemade nut paste.

POPE LEO CRITICIZES  
HUGE CEO SALARIES IN  
FIRST INTERVIEW AS  
CATHOLIC LEADER

**Diary Times Desk :**  
Pope Leo XIV has criticized how the salaries of chief executives dwarf those of their employees, singling out Tesla’s trillion-dollar compensation package for Elon Musk.  
Leo, speaking during his first sit-down media interview, cited income inequality as one of the factors behind polarization in society.

“CEOs that 60 years ago might have been making four to six times more than what the workers are receiving ... it’s (now) 600 times more than the average workers are receiving,” the first American pope said.

The pope also referenced news reports that Elon Musk was on track to become the world’s first trillionaire.

WITH THE JIMMY KIMMEL SAGA, THE MEDIA IS LEARNING WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE

**Diary Times Desk :**  
Late last year, ABC News spent \$16 million to settle a defamation lawsuit with President Donald Trump. At the time, you could squint and see the business sense of it: Just pay up, say you’re sorry and this will all blow over. It’s not blowing over. And it won’t.  
Across Corporate America, companies are learning the hard way that giving Trump what he wants won’t appease him — it will only stoke his appetite. (It seems some folks have forgotten the sage wisdom underpinning Laura Joffe Numeroff’s 1985 classic “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.” Spoiler alert: The mouse has some more demands.)  
Just hours after the head of the Federal Communications Commission, Brendan Carr, made vague threats to suspend ABC’s broadcast license over comments by Jimmy Kimmel during his show, the network pulled the plug on the comedian’s late-night show indefinitely.  
Just five months after the original ABC settlement, rival CBS paid an almost identical settlement — \$16 million, covering legal fees and a pledge to Trump’s presidential library — to avoid fighting an easily winnable lawsuit brought by the president. Why?



YOU CAN NOW BUY A \$2,000 IPHONE



**Diary Times Desk :**  
Back in 2017, consumers balked at the idea of a \$1,000 iPhone. Now, some shoppers may end up paying double that if they choose Apple’s latest top-of-the-line model.

The iPhone 17 Pro Max, the larger variant of Apple’s Pro phone that launches today along with the iPhone 17, 17 Pro and iPhone Air, costs \$2,000 if buyers choose the version with two terabytes (2TB) of storage. Phones with extra storage typically cost more, but this is the first time Apple has released a 2TB option for the iPhone, making it one of the most expensive phones on the market.

CHINA’S DEEPSEEK SHOOK THE TECH WORLD. ITS DEVELOPER JUST REVEALED THE  
COST OF TRAINING THE AI MODEL

**Diary Times Desk :** Chinese artificial intelligence developer DeepSeek spent just \$294,000 on training its R1 model, much less than reported for US rivals, it said in a paper that is likely to reignite debate over Beijing’s place in the AI race.

The rare update from the Hangzhou-based company — the first estimate it has released of R1’s training costs — appeared Wednesday in a peer-reviewed article in the academic journal Nature.

DeepSeek’s release of what it said were lower-cost AI systems in January prompted global investors to dump tech stocks as they worried the new models could threaten the dominance of AI leaders including Nvidia.

Since then, the company and its founder Liang Wenfeng have largely disappeared from public view, apart from pushing out a few product updates.  
Sam Altman, CEO of US AI giant OpenAI, said in 2023 that the training of foundational models had cost “much more” than \$100 million — though his company has not given detailed figures for any of its releases.  
Training costs for the large language models powering AI chatbots refer to the expenses incurred from running a cluster of powerful chips for weeks or months to process vast amounts of text and code. The Nature article, which listed Liang as one of the co-authors, said DeepSeek’s reasoning-focused R1 model cost \$294,000 to train and used 512 Nvidia H800 chips. A previous version of the article published in January did not contain this information.

NEED TO RESIST  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
MIGRANTS: PUNJAB  
MINISTER, FARM  
UNIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** Industry and Power Minister Sanjeev Arora on Thursday extended support to the migrant workforce in the wake of the rising sentiment against them in some parts of the state. "There must be no discrimination against migrant labourers anywhere in India. We are a democratic and secular nation where everyone enjoys equal rights. Punjabis, too, work and run businesses in other states. While all violent incidents are deplorable and will be dealt with firmly under the law, one isolated incident cannot be allowed to create fear or disrupt harmony. Law and order will take its course against the alleged culprit," he said. He was responding to The Tribune query regarding the passing of resolutions by some panchayats in Hoshiarpur, Ropar, Nawanshahr, Mohali, Bathinda and Malerkotla against undocumented migrants, asking them to leave villages.

Arora assured the industrialists that there would be no shortage of labourers in the state.

UPCOMING ASSEMBLY  
SESSION WILL ADDRESS  
ISSUES RELATED TO  
DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT FUNDS:  
PUNJAB FM

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said on Friday that the necessary amendments to the Disaster Management Act, Mining Acts, and other related laws will be taken up in the upcoming assembly session after approval from the state cabinet. "Aam Aadmi Party is dedicated to the welfare of flood-hit families, and the session will reflect that commitment."

Calling the Rangla Punjab Charhdi Kala fundraising campaign a "game-changer," Cheema said that the overwhelming contributions from Punjabis worldwide have strengthened the efforts to restore normalcy. Expressing gratitude to the diaspora for extending a helping hand in these testing times, he said the fund would boost the courage of families who suffered heavy losses due to nature's fury.

PROCESS TO RECRUIT 200 DOCTORS, 400 NURSES UNDERWAY: HIMACHAL  
HEALTH MINISTER

**Diary Times Desk :** Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil, while chairing the meeting of the governing body of Rogi Kalyan Samiti of HP Dental College, Shimla, here today, said the government had started the process for filling up the post of 200 doctors and 400 nurses to strengthen the health infrastructure. He said 28 dialysis centres had been approved in Adarsh Swasthya Sansthans in nine districts to ensure better health services to the people. Keeping in view the acute shortage of class-IV employees in the dental college, the governing council was requested to provide approval to outsource or hire class-IV employees through Rogi Kalyan Samiti. Shandil said people were getting quality health services with the introduction of new technique and technology.



LAND POOLING POLICY JUNKED,  
PUNJAB REVERTS TO 2013 ACT FOR  
MOHALI ACQUISITIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** After scrapping the contentious Land Pooling Policy 2025, the Punjab government has decided to revert back to an earlier 2013 land acquisition act for acquiring land in Mohali.


The Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) will acquire acres for Eco City 3 in New Chandigarh, 300 acres for low-density housing in Mullanpur, and 3,400 acres for the Aerotropolis extension project under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, For Mullanpur, landowners may be offered villas of varying sizes, but final norms need Cabinet approval as the area falls in an eco-sensitive zone.

Earlier, 1,700 acres of land was acquired for A, B, C and D blocks under the 2013 policy. But the Aerotropolis project had been delayed due to prolonged litigation involving 240 acres of land for the last four years.

ROPAR IRONY: AUTHORITIES  
PREACH CLEANLINESS UNDER  
SWACHHTA PAKHWADA AS  
RESIDENTS GRAPPLE WITH  
GARBAGE CRISIS

**Diary Times Desk :** Even as government agencies observed Swachhta Pakhwada across Ropar district in Punjab with much fanfare through cycle rallies and essay writing competitions, the urban areas of Ropar, Anandpur Sahib and Nangal continue to reel under a garbage crisis. For the past six days, sanitation services have been on a standstill due to the ongoing strike by contract and outsourced employees of municipal councils. The striking employees have been staging dharnas in front of their respective MC offices, bringing garbage collection to a halt. As a result, waste is littered on roadsides and in parks, leading to unhygienic conditions. Residents have complained that despite repeated appeals, no concrete solution has emerged.


The municipal authorities, unable to mobilise sanitation workers, have advised residents to personally dump their waste at designated solid waste dumping sites.




### YOUR HOROSCOPE

20-09-2025


**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.




**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.



HC DECLINES TO QUASH  
FIR IN LOAN FRAUD  
CASE INVOLVING EX-  
MLA SUBHASH  
CHOUDHARY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has dismissed a petition seeking quashing of a seven-year-old FIR registered in a case of alleged loan fraud. Former MLA Subhash Choudhary, among others, is an accused in the case.

The FIR, dated October 15, 2018, was registered at Buria police station in Yamuna Nagar for cheating, forgery and other offences under Sections 406, 409, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B IPC on the complaint of the Branch Manager of Yamuna Nagar Central Co-operative Bank's Odhri branch. It alleged that barren land was mortgaged by showing it as cultivable for availing loan facilities.

Appearing before Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya's Bench on accused Deep Chand's plea against the State of Haryana and another respondent for quashing the FIR, the State counsel contended that sufficient material had been found during investigation that the petitioner, along with co-accused, "committed forgery and manipulated the revenue records to submit false documents with a view to defrauding the bank"

**HARYANA ORDERS DOCTORS TO WRITE PRESCRIPTIONS IN CAPITAL LETTERS TO PREVENT MEDICATION ERRORS**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Haryana, has written to all civil surgeons that "all diagnoses/prescriptions shall be written in capital/bold letters." He added, "The instructions shall be applicable only in case of handwritten diagnosis/prescription and shall cease to apply once computerised typed prescriptions are adopted. Furthermore, you are directed to inform all private hospitals through the IMA (Indian Medical Association) of your respective district."

Similar instructions were issued first on May 27 and then again reiterated on September 18, following a judgment pronounced by the Punjab .

HARYANA INDUSTRIALISTS SEEK RELIEF FROM POWER, WATER CLEARANCE WOES

**Diary Times Desk :** A delegation of industrial associations from across the state met Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in Chandigarh on Thursday and submitted a memorandum seeking urgent relief from power-related issues and difficulties in obtaining permissions from the Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA). The delegation was led by Vinod Khandelwal, state chairman of the Haryana Chamber of Commerce and Industries (HCCI), and Vinod Dhamija, chairman of its Panipat chapter. Dhamija said power supply has become a major concern. "Industries are being forced to pay line loss charges despite having independent feeders, which is an undue financial burden. Apart from this, untimely power breakdowns have led to huge losses," he said. He also raised objections to the steep rise in fixed charges. "The government has increased the fixed charges from Rs 165 per KVA to Rs 290 per KVA. Such a sudden jump has nearly doubled the burden on industries. The hike should be gradual," Dhamija added. "Ambulances, equipped with doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, will address post-flood health challenges and protect residents from waterborne and other diseases."



REIMBURSE LIFE-SAVING  
TREATMENT IN NON-EMPANELLED  
HOSPITAL: HC

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that medical reimbursement claims cannot be rejected merely because treatment is taken in a non-empanelled hospital in an emergency. The court also propounded the "test of essentiality and emergency" after holding that life-saving treatment, if undergone in compelling circumstances on medical advice, must be reimbursed.

Stressing that the preservation of life formed a part of Article 21 of the Constitution and was required to be accorded the highest priority, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar also made it clear that the State was obliged to ensure timely medical care and could not expect residents to defer life-saving procedures only because the chosen hospital was not on its approved list. "The test of essentiality and emergency comes into play, which dictates that if the medical procedure was undergone by the petitioner in an emergency, on the advice of a doctor based on medical record, the reimbursement for the same must be made," he asserted.

GOVT DECLINES NOD TO  
INVESTIGATE IAS OFFICERS IN  
FARIDABAD MC SCAM

**Diary Times Desk :** The Haryana Government has turned down proposals from the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) seeking permission to investigate four IAS officers in connection with the multi-crore Faridabad Municipal Corporation (MC) scam. The officers had served as MC Commissioners of Faridabad at different times in the past.

The rejection covers at least five FIRs registered at the ACB's Faridabad police station between 2022 and 2023, all linked to alleged financial irregularities and inflated project costs in civic works.

In FIR No. 11, registered on March 24, 2022, permission to probe IAS officer Yash Garg has been denied. The case pertained to the alleged "irregular" enhancement of costs for interlocking paver block work in Ward 14 from Rs 53.82 lakh to Rs 1.97 crore. Contractor Satbir Singh was named as the main accused. Permission to investigate IAS officers Sonal Goel and Anita Yadav in this FIR had already been granted earlier.

OVER RS 5-CR TRANSACTIONS IN 6 MONTHS—HOW POLICE TRACED 12  
ACCOUNTS LINKED TO CYBER FRAUD

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major breakthrough against cybercriminals, the state Cyber Crime police have traced 12 bank accounts suspected of being used in large-scale online fraud. These are among 91 suspected accounts identified across the state. All 12 accounts were opened at a Kotak Mahindra Bank branch in Sector 12, Karnal.

One of these accounts recorded suspicious transactions of over Rs 5 crore within just six months. The account was opened in the name of a fruit and vegetable trading business. As many as 14 complaints were filed against this account on the National Cyber Crime Portal (NCRP), including one from Haryana.

Though the account documents showed an annual turnover of Rs 20 lakh, police investigations revealed transactions almost 30 times higher, raising concerns. Pulkit Bhardwaj, a resident of Sant Nagar, Karnal, has been booked in connection with the case under Section 318(4) of the BNS, confirmed SP Ganga Ram Punia.







WHAT ARE THE GCC’S AIR DEFENCE CAPABILITIES?



**Diary Times Desk :** The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) Joint Defence Council held an emergency session in Doha, Qatar, on Thursday, to discuss urgent regional security measures in response to the recent Israeli strike on a Hamas office in Qatar's capital, which killed six people.

GCC Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi said the attack on the State of Qatar can be considered an attack on all GCC countries. AlBudaiwi said member states would activate joint defence mechanisms, enhance intelligence sharing, coordinate aerial positions, activate an early-warning system against ballistic missiles and carry out joint training exercises, including a regional air force drill.

Qatar is the seventh country Israel has bombed since the start of this year. The GCC was established to promote cooperation on security, economics and politics, and it often coordinates positions on regional and international issues. In 2023, GCC countries collectively spent \$114.5bn on their militaries. Saudi Arabia accounted for the largest share, budgeting for at least \$69bn and ranking as the world's seventh-largest military spender, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at \$20.7bn, Qatar at \$9.02bn, Kuwait at \$7.77bn, Oman at \$6.5bn and Bahrain at \$1.4bn, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Military Balance 2024. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the US operates a broad network of military sites, both permanent and temporary, across at least 19 locations in the region. Of these, eight are permanent bases in five of the six GCC countries – Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – as well as in Egypt, Iraq and Jordan. Al Udeid Air Base was established in Qatar in 1996 and is the largest US military base in the Middle East. Covering an area of 24 hectares (60 acres), the base accommodates almost 100 aircraft as well as drones. This base, which houses some 10,000 troops, serves as the forward headquarters for US Central Command (CENTCOM) and has been central to operations in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

L&T TECHNOLOGY SERVICES JOINS THE MIT MEDIA LAB TO COLLABORATE ON AI-LED INNOVATIONS

With access to world-class research and breakthrough problem-solving opportunities, LTTS will explore next-gen technologies in Mobility, Sustainability and Tech Bangalore, India & Boston, Mass., United States – Business Wire India

L&T Technology Services (BSE: 540115, NSE: LTTS), a global leader in AI, Digital & ER&D Consulting Services, today announced a multi-year membership agreement with the MIT Media Lab, one of the world’s most prestigious research institutions. As a consortium Lab Member, LTTS intends to explore next-generation advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), underscoring its commitment to driving transformational innovation in Mobility, Sustainability and Tech.

As part of the agreement, LTTS will engage in active discussions and information exchange with the Media Lab’s unique cross-disciplinary ecosystem that brings together researchers, innovators and industry leaders.

The collaboration not only emphasizes practical AI innovation but also accelerates technology-driven advancements by linking LTTS’ expertise in AI and engineering with the Media Lab’s unique research approach. Together, they intend to explore sustainable engineering solutions that redefine industries, from creating smarter mobility systems to rethinking infrastructure for a greener future.

“We are delighted to join the MIT Media Lab, a dynamic and creative interdisciplinary research sandbox,” said Amit Chadha, CEO & Managing Director, L&T Technology Services. “This collaboration underscores LTTS’ commitment to pushing the boundaries of engineering excellence. From exploring Agentic AI to early AGI application roadmaps, we are setting a course to shape the future of industries reliant on Mobility, Sustainability and Tech.”



HOW MARCUS RASHFORD LED BARCELONA PAST NEWCASTLE IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WITH A SENSATIONAL BRACE

**Diary Times Desk :** Marcus Rashford led Barcelona to a 2-1 win against Newcastle United in their Champions League opener.

The Manchester United loanee broke the deadlock in the 58th minute with a superb header from Jules Kounde's left-footed cross. And his second goal was even better, a thunderous strike from distance nine minutes later that beat Joan Garcia via the underside of the crossbar.

There was late hope for Newcastle as Anthony Gordon scored from Jacob Murphy's perfectly weighted low cross, but they couldn't find an equaliser in stoppage time. Every team in the Champions League has now played once, so let's take a very premature look at the table.

Club Brugge, Sporting CP and Union St. Gilloise are the surprise packages in there.



MANCHESTER UNITED VS CHELSEA: KICK-OFF TIME, HOW TO WATCH, STATS, TEAM NEWS

**Diary Times Desk :** Manchester United will be Chelsea's first non-London opponents in the 2025-26 Premier League as the two giants clash at Old Trafford on Saturday.

United come into the game after a sore defeat in the Manchester derby last weekend that has left them with four points after four games this season (W1, D1, L2).

Chelsea were outclassed at Bayern Munich, although their domestic form sees them enter game week 5 undefeated (W2, D2).

Cole Palmer's return to the starting XI will be a lift for Enzo Maresca and he'll hope for a repeat of the last time they faced each other, when Chelsea won 1-0 at Stamford Bridge in May.

Ruben Amorim, meanwhile, is looking for consecutive home game wins for the first time since taking charge, and he will hope that the additional days of rest and training afforded to his team can make a difference and they can build on the dramatic last-minute win over Burnley on Aug. 30.

NEWCASTLE CAN'T AFFORD TO DWELL ON 'BIG EMOTIONAL' NIGHT

**Diary Times Desk :** These are the levels in the Champions League.

Newcastle United had more shots on target (six) and a higher xG (1.46) than Barcelona in a 2-1 defeat at St James' Park.

But it was the Catalan giants, and Marcus Rashford, that were clinical in front of goal on Thursday.

Though Anthony Gordon got on the scoresheet late on, this was a night where Newcastle were made to rue not taking their chances when the score was goalless.

All the while, record signing Nick Woltemade watched on from the bench for the opening hour as Eddie Howe tried to "make sure he stays fit".

Given their lack of alternatives up front, Newcastle are conscious of being careful with Woltemade, who came off with cramp on his goalscoring debut against Wolves at the weekend.

Not least with a packed run of fixtures against Bournemouth, Bradford City, Arsenal, Union Saint-Gilloise and Nottingham Forest to come in the next couple of weeks.

ERLING HAALAND SETS INCREDIBLE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RECORD. NOT EVEN CRISTIANO RONALDO OR LIONEL MESSI MANAGED IT



**Diary Times Desk :** Another goal, another record for Erling Haaland. The Manchester City striker became the fastest player to score 50 goals in the Champions League in a 2-0 win over Napoli on Thursday – reaching the landmark in his 49th game in European club soccer's top competition. Haaland surpassed the previous record by former Manchester United and Real Madrid forward Ruud van Nistelrooy, who took 62 games to reach that total. "He seems to break every record going. At his age, it's unheard of what he's doing," City teammate Phil Foden said.

REPORT: BAYERN MUNICH, FC BARCELONA, REAL MADRID ON LIST OF DESTINATIONS FOR JUVENTUS STAR DUŠAN VLAHOVIĆ

**Diary Times Desk :** Juventus striker Dušan Vlahović has had quite a start to his season and the timing could not be better for the Serbian as the three clubs that he would – allegedly – like to go to, are all potentially going to need a striker next season.

According to a report from La Gazzetta dello Sport journalist Giovanni Albanese (via @iMiaSanMia), Vlahović would be okay with moves to Bayern Munich, FC Barcelona, and Real Madrid:

Dušan Vlahović is expected to leave Juventus when his contract expires next summer, barring any unexpected turnaround. From January, he will be able to negotiate a pre-contract agreement with another club. Vlahović was up for sale this summer, but ultimately stayed in Turin. The only destinations he was willing to leave Juventus for were Real Madrid, Barcelona and Bayern.

Vlahović has four goals and one assist in four games across all competitions so far this season. If Harry Kane leaves Bayern Munich summer, Vlahović could be a viable successor. In the past, Bayern Munich has had interest in Vlahović.

Man....the weekend. We all need it, so let's get it kicked off with some talk on Bayern Munich!

'SLOT TIME': LIVERPOOL'S RECORD-BREAKING RUN OF LATE WINNERS

**Diary Times Desk :** As you may have noticed, Liverpool have made a habit of staging big finishes this season having secured dramatic victories in a succession of games with late -- and, in some cases, exceptionally late -- match-winning goals.

In fact, coach Arne Slot's side have now won five consecutive games right from the start of the 2025-26 campaign with late goals, with four of those goals coming beyond the 90-minute mark. It's led to the phrase "Slot time" appearing on social media every time the Reds snatch another victory just as the final whistle approaches.

All four of the Reds' four Premier League fixtures this season have been won with a goal scored after the 80th minute (a first for any Premier League club in history) and this week's victory over Atlético Madrid in the Champions League extended that run to a fifth game in all competitions. No other team across Europe's top five leagues has mustered a run of late winners to match Liverpool's current four-game domestic streak in at least the last 15 years, and Wednesday's 3-2 climatic triumph against Atleti also marked the first time since at least 2012-13 that any top European side have won five back-to-back games across all competitions with winning goals in the 80th minute of later before the start of October.

