

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**“LECTURE ON RIGHTS DEEPLY IRONIC”: INDIA DEBUNKS PAKISTAN’S PROPAGANDA AT UN**

**Diary Times Desk :** India has slammed Pakistan's hypocrisy at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), saying it is "deeply ironic" that a nation with a record of minority persecution can lecture others on human rights. Speaking at the 34th Meeting of the 60th Session of the UNHRC in Geneva on Wednesday, Indian diplomat Mohammed Hussain asked Islamabad to "confront the persecution of minorities on their own soil."

"India finds it deeply ironic that a country like Pakistan seeks to lecture others on human rights. Instead of spreading propaganda, Pakistan should confront the persecution of minorities on their own soil," Hussain said.

**MAHARASHTRA GOVT ALLOWS ALL ESTABLISHMENTS, THEATERS TO OPERATE 24\*7; BUT RESTRICTS BARS AND WINE SHOPS**

**Diary Times Desk :** In a big step, the Maharashtra government has allowed the establishments in the state to operate 24 hours a day, to boost business and enhance the experience of night-life for the people. The order, issued by the Industries, Energy, Labour and Mining Department through a circular, mentioned that all the shops to operate 24\*7.

The only exception are businesses that serve alcohol like permit rooms, beer bars, and wine shops, reports said.

The decision comes at a time when many locals were complaining about police personnel and authorities troubling them from operation in the night. According to circular, one of the key requirements for these businesses and establishments to function full day is that they must ensure that each of their employees get one weekly break of 24 consecutive hours. This is part of the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments Act, 2017. The decision is likely to increase the earnings of shop owners, especially during the festive season this month.

**IMPORT DUTIES ON SEVERAL PULSE**

Currently, duty-free imports of yellow peas, tur and urad has been allowed till March 31, 2026, bengal gram and masoor has imported duty of 10% valid till end of FY26. Over 3.5 MT of yellow peas, used as an economical substitute of chana used in the food processing industry, have been imported since December 2023. In December 2023, the government had allowed duty free import of yellow peas and the relaxation was extended from time-to-time. In its report, the CACP also stressed the need to develop new high-yielding climate resilient varieties and make quality seed available to farmers. Stagnant production and the import policy conflict "Pulses production has stagnated in the recent years mainly due to technology fatigue resulting in deceleration in area and yield, and unrestricted cheap imports of pulses, particularly yellow peas, gram, and lentil," it stated. According to CACP, average imports of around 2.7 million tonnes between 2018-19 and 2022-23, sharply rose to 4.8 MT in 2023-24 and hit a new record of 7.3 MT in FY25. The report stated that between 2020-21 and 2024-25, import dependency in pulses increased from 9% to 23.1%.

**HIKE TARIFFS ON PULSES IMPORTS, CACP TELLS GOVT**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which recommends minimum support price (MSP) of crops to the government, has called for increasing the import duties on several pulse varieties such as gram and lentils and imposing complete ban on yellow peas imports.

The CACP's views, expressed in a recent report – "Price policy for rabi crops: the marketing season 2026-27" – is in the backdrop of the government frequently resorting to duty-free imports of key pulses, leading to depressed local prices that are hardly remunerative to farmers. The dichotomy between the random import policies, and the stated objective of achieving self-sufficiency in the production of these protein-rich staples has been highlighted by many experts.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet approved a Rs 11,440 crore "Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses", as a centrally sponsored scheme that will be operational between 2025-26 and 2030-31.

**COMIC MUNAWAR FARUQUI IN GANG'S CROSSHAIRS FOR JOKES ON HINDU GODS: SOURCES**

**Diary Times Desk :** Stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui is in the crosshairs of gangsters Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar because they believe his jokes on Hindu gods hurt the community's sentiments. Sources in the Delhi Police shared this information after its counter-intelligence team managed to foil a plot to murder Faruqui in Delhi.

According to the sources, the counter-intelligence team of Delhi Police had received information that shooters Rahul and Sahil, the accused in a triple murder case in Haryana, were recently seen in Delhi. Police set a trap to catch the two. The shooters were on a bike around 3 am when police asked them to stop. But they opened fire on the police party. The cops retaliated, shooting the criminals in the leg before taking them into custody.

During questioning, police found that the shooters were in Delhi to target Faruqui on the instructions of Godara and Brar, who are now abroad. Police also found that the shooters conducted a recon of the comedian in Mumbai and Bengaluru before coming to Delhi.

In fact, sources said, the shooters had planned to target Faruqui in Bengaluru and were waiting for him outside an event venue. But Faruqui left in a different car, and this foiled the plan. The 33-year-old comedian has been in trouble in the past for his jokes on Hindu deities. In 2021, he was arrested in Madhya Pradesh under the law against hate speech and spent over a month in jail before being granted bail.

**BLOOD TESTS SHOW NO DRUG USE BY PRANJAL KHEWALKAR, OTHERS IN PUNE RAID CASE, SAYS FSL REPORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** The blood reports from FSL in the Pune 'drug party' raid case have shown that none of the seven accused, including former Maharashtra minister Eknath Khadse's son-in-law Dr Pranjal Khewalkar, had consumed drugs, an official said on Thursday.

The Pune Crime Branch had raided a studio apartment in the upscale Kharadi area in the early hours of July 27, following which Khewalkar and six others were arrested.

Police at the time had claimed 2.7 grams of a cocaine-like substance, 70 grams of a ganja-like substance, a hookah pot, various hookah flavours, and liquor and beer bottles were seized during the raid and subsequent search.

"The report from the forensic science laboratory has confirmed the drugs seized during the raid were cocaine, ganja and MD (mephedrone). However, the blood reports of Dr Khewalkar and the other six accused have come nil. No traces of these substances were found in their blood," the senior Crime Branch official said. "The reason for the negative blood reports was that the raid was conducted immediately after the party had begun, and the accused had not yet consumed the drugs. However, the 'nil' blood reports from FSL have no bearing on the case, as our charges are based on possession of contraband and not consumption of drugs," he added.

**DUSSEHRA CELEBRATED ACROSS PUNJAB, HARYANA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Dussehra celebrations lit up the skies on Thursday evening as towering effigies of Ravana, his son Meghnad and brother Kumbhakarna went up in flames at various places in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashmi, which symbolises the triumph of good over evil, commemorates Lord Ram's victory over Ravana.

Celebrations at several places, including Amritsar, Mohali, Ludhiana, Patiala, Pathankot in Punjab and Panchkula, Karnal, Rohtak, Ambala in Haryana were held.

Large crowds gathered to watch the effigies of Ravana, Meghnad and Kumbhakarna setting ablaze in the evening. Haryana Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh extended his greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra.

"I wish a very Happy Dussehra to all citizens of our country and to the people of Haryana. May Goddess Durga bless all with a happy, healthy and prosperous life," said Ghosh in a message on the occasion.

**DROUPADI MURMU'S INTERVENTION****RAPE ON FALSE PROMISE OF MARRIAGE: SC QUASHES CASE LODGED BY WOMAN AGAINST COLLEAGUE**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has quashed a case of 'rape on the pretext of marriage' filed by a woman from Madhya Pradesh against her colleague, saying the criminal proceedings were started as an afterthought and with an ulterior motive.

"We are of the view that the FIR and the chargesheet against the appellant-accused ought to be quashed," a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Karol said, allowing the appeal of the accused man.

The top court took note of the fact that the appellant-accused had initiated legal processes/administrative processes against the complainant (woman) much before she lodged the FIR in question.

These included a show-cause notice issued by the employer regarding her continued acrimonious behaviour against the Appellant-accused, with the ultimatum that should she not respond to the notice with the requisite clarification, she would be relieved of her employment, it noted.

"It is only thereafter that the subject FIR was lodged. Further, the same was lodged four months after the alleged incident of forced sexual intercourse with the complainant," the Bench said, "If the description of the offence is taken at face value, right at the first instance.

Pointing out that the FIR was lodged four months after the alleged incident of forced sexual intercourse with the complainant, the Bench said, "If the description of the offence is taken at face value, right at the first instance.

**16-YEAR-OLD MUSLIM GIRL SET TO DEBUT AT KERALA KALAMANDALAM, FIRST TIME IN INSTITUTE'S HISTORY**

**Diary Times Desk :** A Muslim girl will perform the classical dance form Kathakali at the Kerala Kalamandalam here, for the first time in 95 years since the deemed university was first established in 1930.

Sabri, 16-year-old daughter of photographer Nizam Ammas, will be performing the 'Krishna vesham' — her favourite — when she makes her debut on the Kalamandalam stage along with several of her classmates in the evening.

The 16-year-old said that her "dream was going to become a reality" and that it was difficult to find words to express her excitement.

"I am happy I am getting to perform the dance that I always wanted to," she added. Sabri, whose day starts at 4.30 am and ends 12 hours later at the institute, is excited to be there and intends to pursue a career in dance, especially Kathakali.



## 10 CHILDREN AMONG 13 KILLED DURING DURGA IMMERSION IN MADHYA PRADESH

**Diary Times Desk :** Two accidents during the immersion of Goddess Durga idols in Madhya Pradesh left at least 13 people dead on Thursday, including ten children.

In the Ingoria area near Ujjain, a tractor-trolley packed with devotees crashed through a railing and fell into the Chambal River after a 12-year-old reportedly turned on the ignition by mistake, causing the vehicle to lurch forward. Officials said 12 children fell into the water, but only 11 could be pulled out by local residents, leaving one child unaccounted for. Two of the rescued children died during treatment.

A crane later hauled the vehicle out as police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams expanded the search along the riverbank to look for the missing child.

In Pandhana tehsil of Khandwa district, a group of 20-25 villagers from Arda and Jamli was headed for immersion when their tractor-trolley overturned into a pond.



## 6 CHILDREN DIE OF KIDNEY FAILURE IN 15 DAYS IN MADHYA PRADESH, 2 COUGH SYRUPS BANNED

**Diary Times Desk :** In a heart-wrenching tragedy that has shaken Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, six children have died of kidney failure in the past 15 days.

What initially appeared to be a routine wave of seasonal fever has now taken a sinister turn, with investigators suspecting contaminated cough syrup laced with toxic diethylene glycol as the cause of the deaths.

According to distraught families, the children, all under the age of five, had first complained of a cold and mild fever. Local doctors prescribed routine medication, including cough syrups, after which the children seemed to recover. But within days, the symptoms returned, followed by a sudden and alarming decrease in urine output. The condition quickly worsened into kidney infections.

Despite being rushed to Maharashtra's Nagpur for advanced treatment, three of the children died there.

"Our children had never even been sick before," said a grieving parent. "This time, they had a small fever. After the syrup, their urine stopped. We couldn't save them."

The turning point came when kidney biopsies revealed the presence of diethylene glycol contamination, a toxic chemical often associated with pharmaceutical poisoning. Most of the victims had been administered Coldrif and Nextro-DS syrups.

## TEACHER DUMPS 4TH CHILD IN FOREST OVER GOVERNMENT JOB, HE SURVIVES UNDER ROCK



**Diary Times Desk :** He cried under the open sky with the cold forest floor for a cradle. His companions in the first hours of life were ants crawling on his skin. This is the story of a three-day-old baby in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara, who was pinned under a stone and left to die by his parents.

The infant endured a night of cold, insect bites, and near-suffocation beneath a stone before villagers, alerted by his crying, found him. The cries pierced the silence of Nandanwadi forest at dawn. Villagers pulled the stone away to find a bloodied, shivering infant alive against all odds.

Police say the father, Bablu Dandoliya, a government teacher, and mother, Rajkumari Dandoliya.

## WEEK AFTER LADAKH VIOLENCE, 26 PROTESTERS RELEASED IN GOODWILL GESTURE

**Diary Times Desk :** The government has released 26 men detained during violent protests in Ladakh last week - over demands for statehood and constitutional safeguards - to help settle frayed nerves and demonstrate an intent to resolve this matter peacefully, without further clashes or deaths.

Ladakhi leaders and the families of the 26 men gathered to receive them as they walked out of the Leh District Jail Thursday morning. They were welcomed with a khata, a ceremonial white scarf symbolising honour and respect in the Himalayan territory.

Tsering Dorje Lakruk, Co-Chairman of the Leh Apex Body, was also present to honour the 26 men upon their release. The government's gesture of goodwill followed Mr Lakruk declaring the LAB, which represents the Buddhist majority in the region, will withdraw from talks over the detention of protesters, including environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk.

## 'OVER 100 YEARS, WE RESISTED GREED, FOCUSED ON CHARACTER BUILDING': RSS CHIEF

**Diary Times Desk :** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said the Sangh, despite being lured by greed and invited to join politics, has stuck to its core mission of 'vyakti nirman' (character building) for the past 100 years.

Addressing swayamsevak at the annual Vijayadashmi event in Nagpur, which also marked the centenary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Bhagwat said his speech aimed to share conclusions drawn from the organisation's century-long experience.

He stressed the need for gradual, step-by-step reforms in the global system to avoid destruction. India must present a development model based on a "holistic and integrated outlook" and present it to the world, he said.

The world needs to be shown the path of 'dharma', the RSS chief said, adding that dharma is beyond worship, customs or traditions, and it connects all.

Over the past 100 years, the RSS was offered allurements and was even invited to join politics, but it continued doing only one work, which is running 'shakhas', he said.

## PM MODI SPEAKS TO MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, WISHES HIM SPEEDY RECOVERY

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Mallikarjun Kharge and wished him a speedy recovery on Thursday, a day after the Congress president underwent a procedure for pacemaker implant.

Kharge, 83, was admitted to MS Ramaiah Hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday and underwent the procedure the next day.

Priyank Kharge said that his father's condition is stable and he is doing well.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Spoke to Kharge Ji. Enquired about his health and wished him a speedy recovery." "Praying for his continued well-being and long life," the prime minister said.





A CENTENARY OF NATION-BUILDING: MY EXPERIENCE OF RSS

**Diary Times Desk :**  
This Vijayadashami, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh completes one hundred years of its journey dedicated to nation building through character-building of individual citizens. It was founded by a far-sighted visionary, Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, on this day in 1925, when the country was passing through the darkest phase of its national life. An enslaved nation's history, identity, and culture were systematically being destroyed by the colonial rulers and their theological collaborators - foreign Christian missionaries. They had mischievously fabricated its past - shaming its history, language, faith, and cultural heritage. The invidiously contrived history was vigorously peddled in schools, colleges, as well as public and private discourses. People were continually orchestrated to believe that adopting the language, faith, and mannerisms of the British was the only way to their brighter future and spiritual salvation. The nation's sense of selfhood was emasculated. Mahatma Gandhi had summed up the devastating impact of the colonial rule in his Round Table address to the British on October 20, 1931, using an apt metaphor for Bharat - a Beautiful Tree that perished because the British had dug and destroyed its roots.

INTERNET CUT FOR 48 HOURS IN UP'S BAREILLY AMID "I LOVE MUHAMMAD" POSTERS ROW

**Diary Times Desk :** Internet services were suspended for 48 hours Thursday afternoon - till 3 pm on Saturday - in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly division amid ongoing tension over the 'I love Muhammad' poster row and in light of Dussehra and Durga Puja festivities this weekend.

Police have been asked to be vigilant at grounds hosting Ramlila and Ravan Dahan shows, which draw massive crowds.

In the order announcing the internet shutdown, the district administration said 'there is a possibility of social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and WhatsApp... being misused to spread rumours and incite communal tension.' The step was taken to maintain peace, it said. In addition, security has been ramped up in the area. Apart from local police, the PAC, or Provincial Armed Constabulary and Rapid Action Force were also deployed.

Security forces also operated drones in various areas to maintain law and order.

BANDMATE, CO-SINGER ARRESTED IN ZUBEEN GARG DEATH CASE, TOTAL NOW 4: SOURCES



**Diary Times Desk :** The Assam Police SIT investigating the death of singer Zubeen Garg has arrested his bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and co-singer Amritprava Mahanta, taking the total arrests in the case to four, sources told NDTV on Thursday. Both Goswami and Mahanta were with Garg at the yacht party during the North East India Festival on September 19. The 52-year-old went for a swim and was found floating face down in the water. Sources in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) said Goswami was seen, in videos, swimming very close to Garg while Mahanta recorded the entire incident on her cellphone. Both of them were questioned over the past six days. Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma and North East India Festival manager Shyamkanu Mahanta were arrested on Wednesday, and the sources said they need to interrogate Goswami and Amritprava Mahanta with them.

INDIA'S BIG WARNING TO PAKISTAN AGAINST AGGRESSIVE APPROACH

**Diary Times Desk :** In a clear message to Pakistan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday warned the neighbouring country against any aggression towards the Sir Creek region and said that any such move would be met with a "resounding response" that could change "history and geography". The defence minister made the remarks at a military base near the border city of Bhuj in Gujarat as he celebrated Dussehra with soldiers and performed 'shastra puja' (worship of weapons) on the occasion. Singh also said that the Indian military successfully achieved all the objectives of Operation Sindoor and starting a war with Pakistan by escalating the situation was not its aim. However, his comments on the disputed Sir Creek drew much attention. "Any aggression by Pakistan in the Sir Creek area will be met with a resounding response that will change both history and geography."

TALIBAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT INDIA IN HISTORIC DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH

**Diary Times Desk :** In a landmark development that could reshape regional geopolitics, Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi of the Taliban government is all set to visit India on October 9. This will be the first high-level visit from Kabul to New Delhi since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, marking a new chapter in India-Taliban engagement. The United Nations Security Council has confirmed that Muttaqi has been granted a temporary exemption from international travel restrictions, allowing him to visit New Delhi between October 9 and 16. The exemption underlines the significance attached to the visit, both by the Taliban administration and by regional powers seeking to recalibrate ties.

Indian diplomatic circles have been preparing for this moment for months. Since January, Indian officials, including Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and senior IFS officer J.P. Singh, have held multiple rounds of dialogue with Muttaqi and other Taliban leaders, often meeting in neutral venues like Dubai.

DELHI BABA'S WOMEN AIDES ARRESTED, HAVE CONFESSED TO PRESSURING STUDENTS: COPS

**Diary Times Desk :** Three women aides of Delhi Baba, who has been accused of sexually harassing at least 17 students at a private institute in Delhi, have been arrested. The women were working in different positions at Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management in Vasant Kunj, where the self-styled godman, Chaitanyananda Saraswati, served as chairman. Chaitanyananda Saraswati, whose original name is Parthasarathy, was accused of sexual harassment in August. The complaint also named these three women for allegedly convincing women to give in to his demands and delete evidence against him. He was arrested early Sunday from a hotel in Agra and was remanded to five-day police custody on Sunday.

The women, Shweta Sharma (Associate Dean), Bhavna Kapil (Executive Director) and Kajal (Senior Faculty) have been arrested for their role in abetment, intimidation and destruction of evidence in the case.

HAPPY DUSSEHRA 2025: BEST WISHES, QUOTES, AND WHATSAPP GREETINGS TO SHARE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

**Diary Times Desk :** Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami, is a major Hindu festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil. This year, the festival will be observed on October 2. According to Hindu mythology, Dussehra marks two significant events: Goddess Durga's triumph over the buffalo demon Mahishasura, and Lord Ram's victory over the demon king Ravana. In West Bengal, the day also marks the conclusion of the grand Durga Puja celebrations. Devotees offer prayers to Goddess Durga on the final day, seeking blessings for the well-being of their families. A unique tradition followed in the region is sindoor khela, where married women apply vermilion to each other and celebrate with music and dance. In the evening, the visarjan (immersion) procession is carried out with great enthusiasm as people bid an emotional farewell to Maa Durga to the rhythmic beats of the dhak (traditional drums).





VIDEO: 2 DELTA JETS COLLIDE ON TAXIWAY AT NEW YORK AIRPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Two Delta Air Lines regional jets were involved in a low-speed collision on a taxiway at LaGuardia Airport Wednesday night, resulting in at least one injury.

According to a statement from Delta, the wing of a jet preparing for departure to Roanoke, Virginia, struck the fuselage of another aircraft that had just arrived from Charlotte, North Carolina. A flight attendant sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to a hospital, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey confirmed. No injuries were reported among the passengers. Both aircraft were operated by Endeavor Air, a regional carrier for Delta Connection. Delta stated that the remainder of the airport's operations were not affected by the incident. The airline also said it would cooperate fully with authorities to investigate the collision. "The safety of our customers and employees is our top priority," Delta said in a statement. "We apologise to our customers for the experience."

DENTAL DRAMA: CHINESE GIRL CLIMBS DOOR FRAME TO AVOID ROOT CANAL



**Diary Times Desk :** In a hilarious and an innocent attempt, a young girl in Jiangsu, China, has stolen the Internet's spotlight after a video of her trying to escape a root canal procedure by climbing a door frame like "Spiderman" went viral. The incident occurred at the Beimei Yongkang Dental Clinic in Yancheng city, where the girl visited with her family. As the dentist and nurse prepared for the procedure, the girl became visibly anxious and suddenly rushed to the door, starting to climb the frame with impressive agility. The clinic's surveillance cameras captured the entire episode.

UN EVENT IN GENEVA MARKS GANDHI'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY, CALLS FOR NON-VIOLENCE EDUCATION

**Diary Times Desk :** A special side event was held at the United Nations in Geneva on Thursday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, focusing on education as a tool to prevent human rights abuses through the principles of non-violence. The event, titled "Celebration of International Day of Non-Violence: Preventing Human Rights Abuses and Violations Through Education on the Principles of Non-Violence," was organised by RADDHO, Interfaith International, Brahma Kumaris and other NGOs. Diplomats, civil society representatives and international observers attended the gathering. The UN General Assembly first proclaimed October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence through resolution A/RES/61/271 on June 15, 2007, to spread Gandhi's message of peace, tolerance and dialogue. A short film highlighting Gandhi's life and principles was also showcased during the Geneva event.

VENEZUELAN STUDENTS HELP TURN PLASTIC WASTE INTO SCHOOL DESKS



**Diary Times Desk :** Piles of discarded plastic and broken school furniture are being given a second life in northwestern Venezuela, where a local foundation is turning waste into desks for students.

El Zulia Recicla, based in Zulia state's capital, Maracaibo, has refurbished 160 desks so far using plastic waste collected by students.

Instead of building new furniture, the foundation repairs damaged metal frames and replaces missing parts with molded plastic panels made in its workshop.

"We show people that the desks they use today – with damaged wood, falling apart – can be restored," said Nicolino Bracho, the foundation's research director.

UAE EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH NAMIBIA IN COMBATING WILDFIRES IN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK



**Diary Times Desk :** The United Arab Emirates has expressed its solidarity with the Republic of Namibia in combating wildfires in Etosha National Park, one of Africa's largest reserves, which have caused significant damage. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) expressed the UAE's sincere condolences and sympathy to the government and people of Namibia over this tragedy.

ATTEMPTED ATTACK AGAINST IDF CHECKPOINT AVERTED



**Diary Times Desk :** An attempted attack IDF against a checkpoint in the Benjamin Division area was successfully thwarted today, according to an IDF spokesperson.

The Army announced that two terrorists arrived at the location and attempted to run over the forces stationed there.

One of the terrorists who was armed, attempted to shoot at the forces and was neutralised. The second terrorist was arrested.

There were no casualties among the forces.

FM SA'AR: BRITISH AUTHORITIES ALLOWED TOXIC ANTISEMITISM TO CONTINUE



**Diary Times Desk :** Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar has condemned the attack on a synagogue in Manchester on Yom Kippur, in which two Jews were murdered.

He wrote on X that he was "shocked by the deadly attack on the holiest day for the Jewish people,"

"The truth must be told -- blatant and rampant anti-Semitic and anti-Israel incitement, as well as calls in support of terrorism, have recently become commonplace on the streets of London, in cities across Britain, and on its campuses", the Foreign Minister emphasised.

"The British authorities have not taken the necessary action to curb this toxic wave of antisemitism; in fact, they have allowed it to continue.", he said.





ISRAELI NAVY INTERCEPTS BOATS ATTEMPTING TO BREAK GAZA BLOCKADE,  
ARRESTS ACTIVISTS AND EUROPEAN LAWMAKERS



**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli naval forces boarded most of the vessels in a flotilla attempting to break Israel's blockade of Gaza on Thursday and detained dozens aboard, including European lawmakers, drawing widespread condemnation.

The Global Sumud Flotilla was the largest yet to try to break the blockade, and it comes at a time of growing criticism of Israel's conduct in Gaza, where its offensive has laid waste to wide swaths of territory and killed tens of thousands of people. Activists said they hoped that the sheer number of boats would make it more difficult for Israeli authorities to intercept them all, but Israel's Foreign Ministry declared the operation over on Thursday afternoon.

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS 'GLOBAL  
SUPPORT', INCLUDING FROM PM  
MODI, FOR TRUMP'S GAZA PEACE  
PLAN

**Diary Times Desk :** The White House has highlighted the "global support", including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for President Donald Trump's "visionary" plan for peace in war-battered Gaza.

President Trump's "groundbreaking plan for peace in Gaza has galvanised a chorus of international praise as the potential pivotal turning point after years of devastating war," the White House said in a statement on Wednesday.

WOMAN WHO WAS CONFRONTED BY  
MICHIGAN CHURCH GUNMAN SAYS  
SHE INSTANTLY FORGAVE HIM FOR  
KILLING DAD

**Diary Times Desk :** A woman who was inside a Michigan church when her father and three other people were killed says she and the gunman locked eyes during the chaos and she was able to look into his soul, seeing his pain and a feeling of being lost. She said she instantly forgave him "with my heart". "He let me live," Lisa Louis, 45, wrote.

A photo of a handwritten statement that Louis wrote was posted on Facebook. She described how she encountered the shooter and she also made a plea to the public for peace.

NEED TO BLOCK 'INEXPENSIVE' TECH CONSULTANTS: LUTNICK HINTS AT MORE  
H-1B CURBS



**Diary Times Desk :** US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has strongly defended the Trump administration's proposed overhaul of the H-1B visa system, arguing that the United States should only admit the "most highly skilled and highly paid" foreign professionals, while blocking the entry of low-cost technology consultants. He termed the entry of "inexpensive" tech consultants into the US as "wrong" and insisted that it "should be eliminated". Speaking on the administration's proposed \$100,000 one-time H-1B application fee, set to take effect from February 2026, Lutnick said the move was aimed at curbing abuse of the system, which is currently oversubscribed "seven to 10 times". He added that there would be a significant number of changes in the H1B visa process when it goes into effect next year. The Commerce Secretary, while speaking to a US news channel, argued that visas should prioritise highly paid, highly skilled workers such as doctors, educators and engineers, not low-cost technology consultants.

AFTER A GAP OF 5 YEARS,  
INDIA AND CHINA TO  
RESUME DIRECT FLIGHTS  
FROM OCTOBER 26

**Diary Times Desk :** After a gap of five years, India and China will resume direct flight services later this month as part of efforts to rebuild their ties that came under severe strain following a border standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The announcement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) summit in China's Tianjin city.

Indian carrier IndiGo and China Eastern will be the first two airlines to resume direct flights between the two countries, people familiar with the development said.

EIGHT KILLED IN PROTESTS  
IN PAKISTAN-OCCUPIED  
KASHMIR



**Diary Times Desk :** At least eight people have been killed in four days of violent protests in Pakistani-occupied Kashmir, Pakistani officials said on Thursday, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif set up a committee of senior officials to resolve the ongoing clashes.

Only limited information has so far reached the outside world about the full extent of the protests, which broke out when thousands of people from nearby towns converged on regional capital Muzaffarabad on Monday.

Authorities have since cut off phone links and internet access to the region, where control is divided between Pakistan and India, which have disputed the territory since the two countries were formed in 1947.

Photos from Muzaffarabad showed riot police firing tear gas on a bridge on Wednesday.

Three policemen and five civilians have been killed so far, two security officials in Islamabad said. The officials said clashes between demonstrators and police had not abated since the protests began on Monday.



AFGHANS REJOICE AS INTERNET RETURNS AFTER TALIBAN BLACKOUT

**Diary Times Desk :** Afghans have taken to the streets to rejoice in the restoration of internet and telecom services after the Taliban government shut them down, provoking widespread condemnation. Local reporters said communications were resuming, while internet monitor Netblocks said network data showed a "partial restoration" of connectivity. A source close to the government confirmed to BBC Afghan that the internet was back by order of the Taliban prime minister. The 48-hour blackout disrupted businesses and flights, limited access to emergency services and raised fears about further isolating women and girls whose rights have been severely eroded since the hardline Islamist group swept back to power in 2021. On Wednesday evening hundreds of Afghans took the streets in the capital city Kabul to spread the word that the internet was back.



TRUMP TO MEET XI IN 4 WEEKS WITH BIG SOYBEAN PUSH AFTER TARIFF WAR

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump signaled Wednesday that he plans to push Chinese leader Xi Jinping on US soybean purchases when they meet, as American farmers grapple with fallout from his trade wars. "The Soybean Farmers of our Country are being hurt because China is, for 'negotiating' reasons only, not buying," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "I'll be meeting with President Xi, of China, in four weeks, and Soybeans will be a major topic of discussion," he added. Trump said last month that he would meet Xi on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in South Korea starting at the end of October. He also said that he would travel to China next year.

The talks come after Washington and Beijing engaged in a tit-for-tat tariffs war earlier this year, imposing escalating duties on each other's exports. While both sides have since agreed to de-escalate tensions, this has been a shaky truce with lingering effects. Trump on Wednesday reiterated plans to use some US tariff revenues to aid farmers, while taking aim at his predecessor Joe Biden for not enforcing an earlier trade pact with Beijing that involved a step up in farm purchases.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN UPDATES: TRUMP CALLS FOR CULLING 'DEAD WOOD' IN GOVERNMENT AMID SHUTDOWN

**Diary Times Desk :** The federal government on Thursday entered its second day of a shutdown amid an impasse on Capitol Hill over competing congressional spending bills. President Donald Trump and Republicans have cast blame for the shutdown on Democrats' health care demands, while Democrats insist Republicans need to negotiate. The Senate is scheduled to return Friday for another vote. The Trump administration has threatened mass layoffs of some federal workers during the shutdown. Johnson defends Trump's threat to cut federal workers Johnson defended the president's threats to fire federal government workers or withhold funding from congressionally-approved projects on Thursday. The speaker argued that Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Democrats blocking the House-passed bill handed "the keys to the kingdom" to Trump.

WILL EUROPE USE RUSSIAN ASSETS TO FUND UKRAINE? COULD MOSCOW HIT BACK?

**Diary Times Desk :** European Union leaders are considering a "reparations plan" that would use frozen Russian state assets to provide Ukraine with a \$164bn loan to help fund its reconstruction after the war with Russia ends. Leaders expressed a mixture of support and caution for the plan on Wednesday as they met in the Danish capital, Copenhagen, days after drones were spotted in Denmark's airspace, prompting airport closures. While the drones in Denmark were not formally identified as Russian, other European countries, including Poland, Romania and Estonia, have accused Russia of drone incursions into their airspace in September. "I strongly support the idea," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson also said he was "very much in favour" of the plan. Others said there could be legal complications, however.

OUTRAGE AFTER SHEIKH HASINA'S AIDE SEEN HANDCUFFED TO HOSPITAL BED BEFORE DEATH

**Diary Times Desk :** The Muhammad Yunus government in Bangladesh is under fire for human rights violations after the death of a senior Awami League leader. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, 75, who served as Bangladesh's Industries Minister under the Sheikh Hasina government, died while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. After his death, images of Humayun cuffed to a hospital bed went viral on social media, triggering widespread outrage and condemnation from rights activists and legal experts. Humayun had been in prison since he was arrested in connection with cases of murder and vandalism during the student-led protests in Bangladesh in 2024. "Keeping handcuffs on a dying or dead person is inhuman and a stark violation of human rights."

TWO DEAD, THREE INJURED IN ATTACK NEAR SYNAGOGUE IN UK'S MANCHESTER; SUSPECT SHOT BY POLICE

**Diary Times Desk :** Two people were killed after an assailant drove a car into pedestrians and stabbed a security guard near a synagogue in England on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, British police said.

Greater Manchester Police said officers had shot the suspect after being called to the scene at the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in the Crumpsall district of the city in northern England.

Police acted after a witness said a car had rammed members of the public and that one man had been stabbed. The suspect was believed to be dead but officers could not confirm this "due to safety issues surrounding suspicious items on his person", with a bomb disposal unit called to the scene. SECURITY GUARD ATTACKED As well as the two people who have been confirmed dead, three others were in a serious condition. After the attack, police were seen ushering a large group of mostly Jewish elderly men -- some in tears, many looking shocked -- away from the synagogue. Some were wearing white robes, others were in suits and wearing a skullcap





A DEADLY CAR RAMMING AND STABBING ATTACK TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE A  
SYNAGOGUE IN NORTHERN ENGLAND. HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW



**Diary Times Desk :** At least two Jewish worshippers were killed and several others injured in a car ramming and stabbing attack outside a synagogue in the English city of Manchester on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer flew back to the UK early from a European security conference in Denmark to chair a national emergency meeting after Thursday's attack.

UK authorities announced heightened security measures at synagogues across the country after police declared a terrorist incident – against the backdrop of rising antisemitism and other forms of religious hatred worldwide following the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 attacks and Israel's war in Gaza. Here's what we know about the violence, and what may come next. Armed officers swiftly arrived at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in the Manchester suburb of Crumpsall, after receiving a call from a member of the public at 9:31 a.m local time (4:31 a.m. ET) on Thursday, the city's police said.

HAMAS MILITARY LEADER IN  
GAZA OBJECTS TO CEASEFIRE  
PLAN, BBC UNDERSTANDS

**Diary Times Desk :** Mediators have made contact with the head of Hamas's military wing in Gaza, who has indicated he does not agree to new US ceasefire plan, the BBC understands.

Izz al-Din al-Haddad is thought to believe the plan was designed to finish Hamas, whether the group accepts it or not, and so is determined to fight on.

US President Donald Trump's 20-point framework to end the war – which has already been accepted by Israel – stipulates that Hamas disarm and have no future role in governing Gaza.

It is thought that some of Hamas's political leadership in Qatar are open to accepting it with adjustments – but have found their influence limited as they do not have control of the hostages held by the group.

There are believed to be 48 hostages still being held in the Palestinian territory by the armed group, only 20 of whom are thought to be alive.

Another stumbling block for some in Hamas is that the plan requires them to hand over all of the hostages over the first 72 hours of the ceasefire – giving away their only bargaining chip.

Even with Trump's guarantee that Israel would abide by the terms, there is a lack of trust within the group that Israel would not resume its military operations once it had received the hostages – particularly after it attempted to assassinate the Hamas leadership in Doha in an air strike last month, in defiance of the US.

"IT WAS LOVE": PHILIPPINE  
FAMILY MOURNS GIRL WHO  
DIED SAVING FAMILY IN  
QUAKE

**Diary Times Desk :** In front of Juvy Ytang lay 11 caskets— all victims of a landslide triggered by a powerful 6.9-magnitude earthquake on Tuesday in the central Philippines. Among them was her 17-year-old daughter, Lady Jane, who died saving her family, one of at least 72 people killed in the quake that struck off the island of Cebu. Ytang, 45, recounted how her daughter rushed into a room in their home in Bogo City, shouting frantically as the ground shook, telling her to protect her two-month old baby brother. Lady Jane threw herself over her family members in a desperate attempt to shield them from falling debris.

CHINA'S JOBLESS YOUTH AREN'T HAPPY  
WITH A PLAN TO ATTRACT FOREIGN  
PROFESSIONALS WITH A NEW 'K-VISA'

**Diary Times Desk :** A new visa category launched by the Chinese government to attract young science and technology professionals is causing fervent backlash in China, where well-educated young people are already struggling to find work.

The new "K-visa," launched October 1, has been touted by Chinese officials as a boon for the country's development – and widely seen as a part of Beijing's bid to gain an edge in its technology rivalry with the US as President Donald Trump pushes to slash federal funding for research and tightens restrictions on international students and workers. But many voices across China have made clear they have a different view. Discussion of the K-visa category has dominated social media discussion in recent days, where top-trending hashtags related to the visa have reached roughly half a billion views in the space of two days.

TRUMP HOLDS PHONE AS NETANYAHU  
DIALS QATAR TO APOLOGISE FOR  
ATTACK

**Diary Times Desk :** Whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a scripted apology to Qatar is a speculation that erupted after the White House circulated a stark black-and-white photograph showing US President Donald Trump gripping the phone while Netanyahu appeared to read carefully from a page. Captured in the Oval Office on Monday, the image is said to depict Netanyahu's conversation with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani. US officials said the call was set up at Trump's insistence during his meeting with Netanyahu. During the exchange, the Israeli leader apologised for the airstrike targeting Hamas officials in Doha. The September 9 strike killed five people, including the son of senior Hamas figure Khalil al-Hayya. Although Trump initially denied having advance knowledge of the operation, he was reportedly enraged that Netanyahu acted unilaterally.

WHEN PRIMATOLOGIST JANE GOODALL COMPARED TRUMP TO  
MALE CHIMPANZEES

**Diary Times Desk :** Renowned chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall died on Wednesday at the age of 91. Today, a day later, one of her old interviews, in which the famed primatologist compared US President Donald Trump to chimpanzees, has resurfaced.

In 2016, during Trump's first presidential race, Jane Goodall had drawn the comparison, remarking, "In many ways the performances of Donald Trump remind me of male chimpanzees and their dominance rituals."

Goodall, who spent years studying chimpanzees, appeared to make the connection while explaining the animal's pursuit of dominance. "In order to impress rivals, males seeking to rise in the dominance hierarchy perform spectacular displays: stamping, slapping the ground, dragging branches, throwing rocks. The more vigorous and imaginative the display, the faster the individual is likely to rise in the hierarchy, and the longer he is likely to maintain that position," she told the Atlantic.

Goodall's remark made waves during the US election campaign. Later, during an interview in 2022 with MSNBC's Ari Melber, Goodall stuck to her words when reminded of her past comments.

The host, Melber, played a montage of Trump hugging and kissing the American flag, and calling himself a "perfect physical specimen."





### THE ROOT RETURNS TO BLACK OWNERSHIP

**Diary Times Desk :**  
The Root, a groundbreaking website for and about Black America, is returning to Black ownership for the first time in years.

Ashley Allison, a Democratic political strategist and CNN commentator, said Thursday that she is acquiring The Root from G/O Media, a digital media holding company controlled by a private equity firm.

Allison said she plans to invest in video content, strike new partnerships with experts, and launch in-person experiences for The Root's readers.

"This isn't about making more content but rather about making meaning of this moment," Allison said, a describing a precarious political time "when journalism is under attack and audiences are seeking independent sources for news."

### WARREN BUFFETT'S BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY SET TO MAKE ITS BIGGEST DEAL IN THREE YEARS

**Diary Times Desk :** Berkshire Hathaway, the Warren Buffett-owned conglomerate, has announced its biggest deal in three years with the planned acquisition of OxyChem for \$9.7 billion.

This will be Buffett's biggest deal since he paid \$11.6 billion for Alleghany, an insurance company, in 2022. Buffett, 95, recently announced he was stepping down as CEO at the end of the year.

OxyChem is the chemical business of Occidental, in which Buffett is a major investor. About \$6.5 billion of the all-cash deal announced Thursday will be used to pay down Occidental's debt, which has ballooned to more than \$20 billion.

According to its website, OxyChem makes a variety of chemicals that are used in IV bags, swimming pools and caustic soda, which is "central to the production of pulp, paper and aluminum, and is used in battery recycling."

"OxyChem has grown under Occidental into a well-run, safely operated business with best-in-class employees, and we are confident the business and those employees will continue to thrive under Berkshire Hathaway's ownership," said Occidental CEO Vicki Hollub in a press release.

### DOW, S&P 500 HIT RECORD HIGHS AS WALL STREET SHRUGS OFF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN CONCERNS FOR NOW

**Diary Times Desk :**  
Stocks closed slightly higher on Wednesday as the US government officially entered a shutdown and Wall Street grappled with the uncertain implications for the economy.

The Dow rose 43 points, or 0.09%. The broader S&P 500 rose 0.34% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite rose 0.42%. The S&P 500 and Dow both closed at record highs.

The government at midnight officially shut down for the first time in seven years after lawmakers failed to agree on a funding bill. Stocks had opened lower Wednesday morning before turning higher during the day as investors tried to look past concerns.

The gridlock on Capitol Hill is set to put many federal employees out of work indefinitely, in addition to stoking uncertainty about the fate of regularly scheduled releases of key economic data.

"While the government shutdown introduces a new layer of uncertainty for markets, they have historically been short-lived and, as a result, have had minimal impact on the economy," Adam Turnquist, chief technical strategist at LPL Financial, said in a note.



### ELIZABETH WARREN CALLS FOR TRUMP TO RELEASE THE JOBS REPORT DESPITE SHUTDOWN

**Diary Times Desk :** Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren is calling on the Trump administration to release the September jobs report on Friday despite the ongoing government shutdown, a Senate aide told CNN on Thursday.

The monthly jobs report, compiled and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is arguably the most critical piece of US economic data released each month. Its importance is even greater now, given concerns about weakness in the job market and the rising unemployment rate.

Employees furloughed at the BLS have told Warren's office the September labor data has been collected and is likely ready to be released, the Senate Banking Committee aide said.

"Let's be clear: the jobs data scheduled to come out this Friday has undoubtedly been collected and the President must release it," Warren, the top Democrat on the committee, said in a statement to CNN.



### TESLA SALES HIT A RECORD IN THE THIRD QUARTER, PUSHING MUSK'S WEALTH PAST HALF A TRILLION

**Diary Times Desk :**  
Tesla sales surged to a record in the third quarter as American buyers rushed to buy its cars before a \$7,500 federal tax credit expired on September 30.

The company sold a record 497,099 vehicles worldwide from July through September, a tally just ahead of the company record set in the final three months of 2024. That's also up 29% from the 384,122 sold in the second quarter, and up 7% from the third quarter of 2024. It was also the first quarter this year that Tesla posted a year-over-year sales gain.

But the gains might not last. The EV buyer tax credit, passed by the Biden administration in 2022, was eliminated as part of President Donald Trump's broad spending and tax bill. Experts say the sales that took place ahead of its expiration will likely depress sales in the months ahead. And even with the third quarter spike, Tesla's year-to-date sales are down 6% compared to the same time period in 2024.





AS THE US  
GOVERNMENT HITS  
PAUSE, TRUMP’S  
ECONOMIC CHAOS  
ONLY ACCELERATES

**Diary Times Desk :**  
Giant tariffs are up in the air, once again. No official economic data will come out during the government shutdown. And once the business of the US government does resume, it's anyone's guess who the president will tap to run the Bureau of Labor Statistics now that the administration has been forced to claw back its disastrous first pick.  
Let's step back on the off-chance that the reliability of government statistics wasn't your top priority this week...  
In normal times, when the US government is functioning, we the people are entitled to a steady stream of reports that allow us to take the temperature of the US economy. In these not-normal times, when the federal government has shut down, that data stream dries up because the agencies that produce them can't staff their operations without funding from Congress.

META WILL SOON USE  
YOUR CONVERSATIONS  
WITH ITS AI CHATBOT  
TO SELL YOU STUFF

**Diary Times Desk :** Meta will soon use what people tell its artificial intelligence chatbot to get even better at selling them things.  
The company said on Wednesday that users' chats and interactions with Meta AI will soon be used to target them with even more personalized ads. Users will start seeing notices of the change next week, but it won't kick in until December 16.  
Meta already targets users with ads based on what they post and click on, as well as who they're connected to, on its social media platforms. That data enables Meta to infer what users might buy. But in conversations with Meta's chatbot, users could directly tell the company about what they're shopping for or the trip they'll soon be packing for or what problems they have that a product could solve.  
  
The company will also use data from Meta AI to help decide what kinds of content users see on its site.

TAIWAN BOUGHT OVER \$1.3 BILLION WORTH OF A RUSSIAN OIL  
PRODUCT THIS YEAR, REPORT SAYS



**Diary Times Desk :** Taiwan imported \$1.3 billion worth of the petroleum product naphtha from Russia in the first half of this year, more than from any other country, according to a new report.  
The purchases come despite Taiwan's opposition to Russia's war in Ukraine, backed by some sanctions on Moscow.  
Taiwan's reliance on Russia for naphtha also exposes it to potential moves by China to disrupt those supplies. Beijing, which claims the self-governing island as its territory despite having never controlled it, maintains close ties with Russia and could lean on Moscow to cut off the flow of naphtha to Taiwan.  
Naphtha is an essential feedstock in the petrochemical industry for producing some raw materials critical for the manufacturing of electronic components and semiconductors – industries core to Taiwan's economy. Taiwan has spent more than \$4.9 billion on purchases of the oil derivative from Russia since Moscow launched its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in 2022, according to the report released Wednesday by Helsinki-based research institute Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

A NEW RULE MEANS SOME 401(K) CONTRIBUTIONS WILL NO LONGER  
BE TAX-DEFERRED. HERE’S WHO WILL BE AFFECTED



**Diary Times Desk :** A new rule is going into effect next year that will affect high earners who make “catch-up contributions” in their 401(k)s or other tax-deferred workplace retirement plans.  
  
The rule, which was created under the Secure 2.0 retirement law, will essentially eliminate the immediate tax break for catch-up contributions that you get for the bulk of your other contributions to a 401(k) – or 403(b), 457(b), Simplified Employee Pension Plan (SEP) or SIMPLE IRA.  
  
Here’s a breakdown of what will change and who, specifically, will be affected.  
  
How it will work  
Currently, if you’re over 50 and max out your 401(k) contributions up to the federal cap (which is \$23,500 this year), you are eligible to make additional “catch-up” contributions above that amount if you choose. The limit on catch-up savings this year is \$7,500 (or if your employer allows it, up to \$11,250 for participants between the ages of 60 and 63). Those limits are adjusted for inflation annually.  
  
Until now, you could choose for all of your 401(k) contributions to be made tax-deferred. That means the amount gets taken out of your paycheck before tax – thereby lowering your income tax bill today – and the contributions are allowed to grow tax-deferred until you start taking distributions in retirement.  
  
But, starting next year, if you’re over 50 and made more than \$145,000 in FICA wages – which is the income subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes – in the prior year, any so-called “catch-up contributions” you make will automatically be subject to income tax. In other words, they will be treated as Roth 401(k) contributions.



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.



JUST 5 DAYS AFTER GST CUT, VITA HIKES GHEE PRICES

**Diary Times Desk :** Even as the reduction in GST rates recently brought down the rates of some essential commodities, driving the government to launch the nationwide Savings Festival, Vita – a cooperative society under the government – took a dramatic turn on the rate of ghee.

Sources said after reducing the prices on September 22, Vita increased the prices five days later. The GST on ghee, butter, cheese and dairy spreads was reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, which should have brought down the price of a litre of ghee by around Rs 42 (on a Rs 600 pack). However, Vita passed on only partial relief, reducing a 1-litre ghee pack by Rs 20 and a 15-litre tin by Rs 300.

On September 27, it again hiked the prices. A litre pack now is costlier by Rs 20, and the price of a 15-litre tin has gone up by Rs 290. It puts the prices nearly at the pre-GST cut level, leaving the consumers high and dry during festive season, despite the much-hyped GST cut for festive savings.

HARYANA CM ANNOUNCES BIG RELIEF FOR FLOOD-HIT FARMERS IN STATE

**Diary Times Desk :** Giving a major relief to farmers affected by recent heavy rains and floods, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today announced several financial support measures, including deferment of electricity bill payments and postponement of crop loan recovery. The CM said electricity bills for tubewell connections, which were due up to July 2025, can now be paid from January 2026 without any additional charges. "This decision will directly benefit 7.10 lakh farmers by easing their immediate financial burden," Saini said while addressing a press conference here.

On crop loans, the CM announced that in villages where over 50% of crops were damaged and farmers suffered losses of 33% or more, recovery of kharif season loans taken from cooperative societies has been deferred. Such farmers will also be provided fresh crop loans for the upcoming rabi season, benefitting nearly 3 lakh farmers.

DUSSEHRA CELEBRATED ACROSS PUNJAB, HARYANA

**Diary Times Desk :** Dussehra celebrations lit up the skies on Thursday evening as towering effigies of Ravana, his son Meghnad and brother Kumbhakarna went up in flames at various places in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashmi, which symbolises the triumph of good over evil, commemorates Lord Ram's victory over Ravana.

Celebrations at several places, including Amritsar, Mohali, Ludhiana, Patiala, Pathankot in Punjab and Panchkula, Karnal, Rohtak, Ambala in Haryana were held.

Large crowds gathered to watch the effigies of Ravana, Meghnad and Kumbhakaran setting ablaze in the evening. Haryana Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh extended his greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra.



YOUTUBER WASIM AKRAM ARRESTED IN PALWAL FOR 'SPYING' FOR PAKISTAN'S ISI

**Diary Times Desk :** The Palwal police have arrested a YouTuber, Wasim Akram, on charges of spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and High Commission. Wasim allegedly had been in contact with Pakistani agents for the past three years and met with them in Delhi, providing SIM cards. The police recovered several WhatsApp chats from Wasim's phone, some of which were deleted, and are working with the cyber cell to recover them.

Another Pakistani spy, Taufiq, was arrested by Palwal police last week, and both accused are currently on police remand. Wasim, a resident of Kot village in the Hathin area of district Palwal, used to create videos on the history of Mewat on YouTube. According to the police, Wasim came into contact with Pakistani agent Danish in 2021 while applying for a visa to Pakistan. Although his family denies his travel to Pakistan, interrogation revealed shocking facts.

Another Pakistani spy Taufiq, a resident of Alimev village, was arrested on September 26, revealing the name of YouTuber Wasim. Taufiq had been sending sensitive information to Pakistan since 2022.

FARMERS IN DISTRESS AS 40K-QUINTAL BAJRA LYING UNSOLD AT JHAJJAR GRAIN MARKET

**Diary Times Desk :** Over 40,000 quintals of bajra that arrived at the Jhajjar grain market remain unsold, leaving farmers distressed. Procurement agency officials claim that the produce exceeds the permissible limits of damage and discolouration, making it ineligible for the purchase.

"This is a double whammy for farmers. My 120 quintals of bajra have been lying unsold at the market for nearly a week. Initially, our crop got 50 per cent damaged due to waterlogging. And now, the agency is not procuring it on grounds of damage and discolouration," said Pradeep, a farmer from Patauda village.

He urged the state government to intervene and relax procurement norms, arguing that the quality issues stemmed from a natural calamity beyond the farmers' control.

CHEQUE BOUNCE CASES CAN BE COMPOUNDED EVEN AFTER CONVICTION OR DISMISSAL OF PLEA: HC

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that cheque dishonour offence under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act can be compounded at any stage of litigation – even after an accused has been convicted by a magistrate and the appeal against the conviction has been dismissed by the sessions court.

Relying on the new statutory scheme under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and established Supreme Court precedents, Justice Sumeet Goel ruled that the high court retained the plenary powers to quash convictions where disputes were essentially personal in nature and the parties have reached a genuine compromise.

"The statutory provision of Section 359 of BNSS and Section 147 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, when examined along with Section 528 of BNSS, in the guiding light of Supreme Court judgments, lead to the unequivocal conclusion that the offence under Section 138 can be compounded at all stages of litigation, including when the matter has reached the high court after having been conclusively dealt with by the Magisterial as also the Sessions Court," Justice Goel observed.





# It Was The Worst Flight Of His Life

It was set to be the worst flight of Anesu Masube's life. The day before, he'd received the devastating news that his mother had passed away. Anesu was living in Washington, DC. His family lived 7,000 miles away in Zimbabwe. In the depths of grief, he had to try to get home. In a daze, Anesu booked a flight. It was two days before Christmas, 2017. There were barely any seats. "Only Virgin Atlantic was available, with a connecting flight that was going from DC to London, and London to Johannesburg, then Johannesburg to Harare," Anesu tells CNN Travel today. "And because of the last-minute nature... I got a middle seat."

This wasn't just any middle seat. "I don't even know how to explain these seats, but I had never sat on a plane where I felt like, 'Ah, I'm not gonna make it the seven hours, sitting here,'" recalls Anesu. "I was so cramped, almost sitting sideways, and it just... again, this is the worst moment of my life, I'm mourning my mom."

Someone being really nice to me at a moment that I really needed it. And we just started speaking."

Some of Anesu's family had encouraged him to wait to travel until after Christmas. They weren't convinced he'd make it in time for the funeral. "But I stubbornly still booked it, because I wasn't doing it for anyone but myself. I wanted to grieve my mother. And I know if my mother was alive, she would have stopped that funeral to make sure that I arrived."

So, Anesu squeezed all 6 feet 3 inches of himself into the cramped middle seat. He tried to block out his surroundings with headphones. He tried to breathe deeply. None of it was helping. Trying to stay calm and logical, Anesu thought about his next step. He figured he could try asking the flight attendant if it was possible to move seats.

"But I didn't want to give a problem without a solution," he says. Anesu glanced around the cabin. It was pretty packed. But then he zeroed in on the emergency-exit row. A single passenger was sitting there. She seemed to have the row to herself. "So I asked the flight attendant — first of all, I showed them where I was sitting and the situation, and then I asked them if they could move me somewhere else, maybe to that exit seat."

The flight attendant told Anesu they'd wait until boarding was complete and then she'd see what she could do. "And then the doors closed, and then she came back to me, and she said, 'Green light, you're good to go.'"



Anesu grabbed his backpack and walked down the plane. He prepared himself to apologize to the fellow passenger who'd previously won the seat lottery — a whole row to herself — who was now set to share the space with his long legs. He hoped it wouldn't be awkward. He just wanted to switch off and focus on getting home. "But as soon as I sat down, she was very nice to me. She had a big smile. I think she made a joke: 'Welcome to Paradise.' Something like that... That was almost the opposite reaction I was imagining or expecting in my head, if I was expecting anything at all," recalls Anesu.



Francesca Street

"I just remember from that moment onward, it was an unexpected kindness. Anesu, 'I was so Someone being really nice to me at a moment that I really needed it. And we just started speaking.'"

# Fight For Recognition

## As Afghan Women's Soccer Squad is Announced

Five young women are staring anxiously at a laptop. This is the call they've long been waiting for. A flurry of mixed emotions takes over as they each learn they have been selected by FIFA for the Afghan women's refugee soccer squad.



Amanda Davies

Sitting across from her in their living room in the English city of Doncaster, Abdul Raziq said that hiding his daughter's youth team kit was painful given how hard she worked for it while playing in Herat. Revisiting that memory makes them both visibly emotional.

The exiled Afghan soccer players have been pushing for the right to play for their country ever since they fled Afghanistan when the Taliban swept back into power four years ago.

CNN Sports spent two days in September with several of the athletes based in the north of England. They are among dozens who were evacuated to countries including Australia, the United States and Portugal. "Obviously, it's just an amazing moment for all of us, I can't wait to share it with my family," goalkeeper Elaha Safdari tells CNN Sports. "I'm sure that my parents are going to be proud of me, and they're probably going to see me on TV," the 21-year-old adds before she breaks into tears. Her parents were forced to stay in Afghanistan for health reasons, leaving Safdari and her brother to start over by themselves as refugees in England.



"The Taliban took my dream away and I'm just eager - I'm just hungry to play," goalkeeper Safdari says. But she also can't shake the frustration over the team's ongoing battle for recognition.

The 23-player squad — announced publicly on Wednesday by FIFA — is set to play a series of matches in a friendly tournament in Dubai this month, overseen by the world soccer governing body and preceded by a training camp. They will face Chad, Libya and the United Arab Emirates. FIFA president Gianni Infantino has hailed the creation of the women's team as a "landmark" moment. However, the initiative stops short of being recognized as the country's national team, and that has always been the players' ultimate goal. FIFA's regulations call for recognition by the Afghan Football Federation (AFF), which has banned women's sports altogether. FIFA's own gender equality statutes say that gender discrimination "is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion," but the governing body still recognizes the AFF. "I am very grateful for it happening after four years — FIFA giving us the opportunity and basically opening the doors and being welcoming for us," says defender Narges Mayeli.

"But I myself would prefer the Afghanistan's women national team title, and I feel like quite a lot of my teammates are on the same page with me at this point."

Mayeli says she remains undeterred despite not making the squad. "We're going to keep pushing, anyway," she adds with a smile. And then there is the fact that FIFA chose Afghan women's refugee team as the name of the group. While the athletes are fully aware of their circumstances, it's a term that often makes them feel like outsiders, especially when they step onto the pitch. "We want more than that from FIFA," player Zainab Mozaffari tells CNN Sports. "We are tired of getting called 'refugee.'" Asked for comment, FIFA told CNN Sports in a statement that "the organization of the Afghan women's refugee team represents a significant and landmark step forward in giving Afghan players the international platform and recognition to which they aspire. "Despite the complex and exceptional challenges and circumstances, we believe that we are on the right track and proud of what has been achieved so far, even in the early stages of delivering this landmark strategy," the statement added.

INFA

# Hamam Regularly

## WHAT REALLY HAPPENS INSIDE A TURKISH BATH

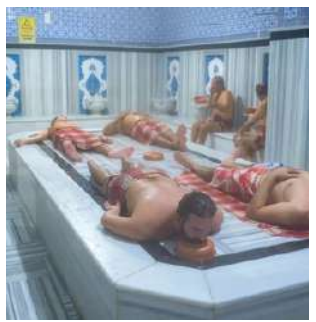


Lisa Morrow Of the 237 hamams in Istanbul, only 60 remain in operation. In general, most smaller hamams have only one set of facilities meaning men and women bathe separately at different times, and sometimes on different days.

Cocooned in the warm embrace of the hamam, sounds are muffled. Gentle light from oculi, "eyes" in a large dome overhead, etches patterns across the marble surfaces below. Running water and softly dripping taps lap at the edges of consciousness like a lullaby. In the steamy, almost mystical atmosphere of a Turkish bath, the world stands still. Going to a hamam is very different from being in your bathroom at home, or even in a private room at a day spa when it's just you and your therapist. "In a bath or shower you are alone but a hamam is a public space," says Ahmet İğdirilgil, architect and expert on the culture and history of Turkish baths. "It is a social place and a unique place in history for women to be social outside of their houses without needing permission." In the past, women from wealthy families attended the hamam regularly. Some even had a hamam in their own home. Each woman used personalized items such as a hamam tasi — a bowl with embossed motifs, sometimes even set with jewels — to pour water over her body. They also used satin cloth embroidered with silk or linen edged with lace, and peştemal, or towels. Traditionally made from pure cotton, the best ones

have a hand-finished edge, a selvedge rather than a hem to stop them unravelling. Numerous sophisticated rules pertaining to cleanliness for every occasion — "after sex, menstruation, or having a baby," İğdirilgil continues — from prayer through to marriage and childbirth, have been established and refined over the centuries. Even now, women in small towns still go to the hamam to escape their housewifely roles or look for brides for their sons. İğdirilgil explains that each hamam has at least three sections, carefully designed to enhance the experience. First is the entrance area, traditionally heated by a soba, a Turkish wood burner, or a fire. This space contains changing rooms and a lounge section for resting after your bath. A small door opens into a semi-warm room with toilets, depilatory services and kurna, marble basins. The main and largest section has a göbek taşı, a raised marble platform at its center, with more kurna along the walls. Some hamams have smaller rooms called halvet, hot rooms, off to the side of the göbek taşı or even a halvet in each corner. "The structure is very important because it is a journey into the hamam and back," İğdirilgil says. "The second two rooms always have a dome and the height of

the room is always more than the width. The openings in the dome add to the atmosphere and increase the sense of space. They seem like stars in the sky and it is like looking at the cosmos." This is particularly true of Cağaloğlu Hamam. Built in 1741 to raise revenue to fund Sultan Mahmut's library, it has a bright white marble interior. The overall effect is one of floating on a cloud. With the "heat, humidity, and the sound, murmurs like a heartbeat, you feel like you are in the womb," says İğdirilgil. Elif Kartal, guest relations and operations manager of Zeyrek Çiniili Hamam, has worked in Turkish baths for almost 20 years. She says that while most hamams offer a similar set of services such as kese, a body scrub that uses a special glove, and Turkish köpük masaj, a Turkish foam massage, "there are differences in the functioning of these baths between each other, sometimes according to preference and sometimes according to their structural condition."





**NIGERIAN MODERNISM IN LONDON: 'A BOLD NEW LANGUAGE FOR ART'**

**Diary Times Desk :** 'Young artists in a new nation, that's what we are,' wrote the impassioned twenty-something Uche Okeke in October 1960. 'We must grow with the new Nigeria... [which] places huge responsibilities upon men and women in all walks of life, [but a] much heavier burden on the shoulders of contemporary artists. I've strong belief that with the dedication of our very beings to the cause of art... we shall triumph.'

Okeke penned these words in the manifesto for the Zaria Art Society, a radical collective he had recently co-founded at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology (NCAST) in the city of Zaria in northern Nigeria. The precise nature of the growth and dedication he demanded will be discussed below.

For now, let's focus instead on the timing of Okeke's manifesto, written as it was just days after Nigeria became independent from Britain. Political upheaval provided the backdrop to a period of extended artistic innovation in the years leading up to — and following — the country's declaration of independence on 1 October 1960.

The art in question is widely referred to as Nigerian Modernism, and it's the subject of a major new exhibition at Tate Modern in London. The show features 250 works from public and private collections worldwide, by artists such as Okeke, Jimoh Akolo, El Anatsui, Ben Enwonwu, Ladi Kwali and Bruce Onobrakpeya.

'The output of these figures was quite diverse, but the common thread running through the exhibition is of artists synthesising different influences to generate a bold new language for art in Nigeria,' says Osei Bonsu, Nigerian Modernism's curator.

The country has a rich artistic heritage dating back to the terracotta Nok sculptures of ancient times, via the bronzes made in the Kingdom of Benin between the 15th and 18th centuries.

The British began establishing colonial interests in the area in the 1850s, and these were formalised in 1914 with the official creation of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

Ben Enwonwu, an artist sometimes described as the godfather of Nigerian Modernism, was born three years later. At school he was taught by Kenneth C. Murray, an English expatriate who had been given a supervisory role in art education nationwide by the colonial government.

**THREE PAINTINGS BY LUCIAN FREUD — EACH MARKING A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN HIS CAREER**

**Diary Times Desk :** Sitting for a portrait by Lucian Freud was an intense process.

Each of Freud's many sitters had a different experience. The important thing for the artist was that they connected with him in some way. Part of the reason he liked to paint friends, family and lovers rather than professional models, he said, was that the latter had 'grown another skin, because they've been looked at so much'.

Freud also turned his gaze upon himself a great deal across his career — like Rembrandt, producing self-portraits from youth through to old age. He worked from a mirror, and said that he found these paintings among his greatest artistic challenges.

'I don't accept the information I get when I look at myself,' he said. 'That's where the trouble starts.'

On 15 October 2025, three major works by Freud — two portraits and one self-portrait — are being offered in the 20th/21st Century: London Evening Sale at Christie's. Woman with a Tulip, Sleeping Head and Self-portrait Fragment come from the same private collection, none of them having appeared on the market for more than 30 years.

Freud painted them in a period between the 1940s and the 1960s, and each work marks a pivotal moment in his career.

Self-portrait Fragment, circa 1956

In Self-portrait Fragment, the artist's face materialises amid open space. His skin's complexity is explored with nuanced colour. Each shadow, furrow and gleam is precisely captured and animated by the brushwork's texture.

Painted in 1956, during the breakdown of Freud's second marriage, to Lady Caroline Blackwood, the work might be seen as an image of dissolution. The artist touches four fingers to his face as if to verify his own presence.

Self-portrait Fragment encapsulates a marked shift in Freud's technique in the late 1950s. Where before it had been crisp, graphic and exacting, now it was growing more intricate and richly worked, thanks in part to his substitution (under Francis Bacon's influence) of finely pointed sable brushes for coarse hog's-hair ones. This approach would become increasingly pronounced in the years and decades ahead.





FERRAN TORRES CALLS FOR CALM AFTER BARCELONA SUFFER  
FIRST DEFEAT OF SEASON TO PSG



**Diary Times Desk :** Ferran Torres called for calm and said there was no need to “dramatize” Barcelona’s 2-1 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League.

Hansi Flick’s side suffered their first defeat of the season to the reigning European champions, but Torres says there wasn’t too much between the two sides at Montjuic.

“The game has gone very crazy, we have not been able to take the dominance back to where we wanted. We’re having a lot of games, it’s no excuse, but we have to focus on the one at the weekend,” he told DAZN.

“It’s today’s game, I don’t think we are behind. I think the first half hour was spectacular, but we didn’t know how to maintain it. I am sure that with the passage of time we will maintain it.

‘RECOVER, RESET AND GO AGAIN’ –  
MARCUS RASHFORD SENDS MESSAGE TO  
BARCELONA AFTER PSG DEFEAT



**Diary Times Desk :** Marcus Rashford has reacted to Barcelona’s 2-1 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League with a motivational message to his team-mates. The England international picked up his fourth assist of the season for Barcelona during the game to set up Ferran Torres, but it wasn’t enough as PSG fought to back to take all three points. Rashford has acknowledged it’s a tough one for Barcelona but is already looking forwards. He posted on Instagram: “We fought, but the result wasn’t on our side last night. We recover, reset and go again as a team.”

HOW UNCERTAINTY OVER GLASNER  
FUTURE LAYS HEAVY ON PALACE



**Diary Times Desk :** Crystal Palace have never had it so good. Social media has been awash with Eagles fans posting excitedly about their first European campaign – as their league phase adventure in the Conference League starts with Thursday’s match against Dynamo Kyiv in Poland. Palace are riding high following last season’s historic FA Cup success, their triumphant return to Wembley in August to lift the Community Shield by defeating Liverpool, and an unbeaten start that has Palace third in the Premier League. Yet, amid the giddiness, uncertainty is on the horizon. Captain Marc Guehi has nine months left on his contract and, unless there is an unexpected turn of events, the England centre-back will leave Selhurst Park at the end of the season.

‘AGAINST THEM, IT’S  
DIFFICULT NOT TO PANIC’ –  
PSG BOSS LUIS ENRIQUE  
PRAISES BARCELONA’S  
PERFORMANCE

**Diary Times Desk :** Paris Saint-Germain manager Luis Enrique spoke highly of Barcelona after his team secured a 2-1 win over the Blaugrana on Matchday 2 of the UEFA Champions League.

The victory came in the final minutes, but Enrique was quick to highlight the quality of football displayed by both sides.

“It was an excellent match between two teams that don’t just kick the ball, but rather try to hurt each other with the ball.

“It was a spectacle to see so many quality players on the pitch,” he said.

Acknowledging Barça’s talent and youth Enrique also admitted that Barcelona held the upper hand in the first half. “With their goal, we felt behind, but thanks to a great move by Nuno [Mendes], we managed to regain our form.

NEWCASTLE DYNAMISM  
SHOWS A ‘RETURN TO BEST  
STYLE’

**Diary Times Desk :** Lotto Park had started to empty.

But those hoarse Newcastle United fans standing in the away end did not want to go home after watching the visitors defeat Union Saint-Gilloise 4-0 in Brussels.

“This is the best trip I’ve ever been on,” the travelling support repeatedly sang at full-time.

They had just seen their side record their biggest Champions League win thanks to two penalties from Anthony Gordon and goals from Nick Woltemade and substitute Harvey Barnes.

Such a prospect once felt unimaginable for Geordies when Newcastle were fighting relegation not so long ago.

But Eddie Howe’s side have qualified for the Champions League in two of the past three seasons.

And this was a night where Howe’s players showed they belonged at Europe’s top table with an emphatic away win, the club’s first in the competition since 2003.

“They should [believe] and there’s no reason why we can’t win games at this level home and away,” Howe said. “We have got the players and the squad to do that.

“Maybe you have to do it to believe it yourself, but I’m already there. I know we can.”

MAN UTD COMPLETE FIRST SUMMER TRANSFER AS FABRIZIO ROMANO DROPS  
EXCITING NEWS



**Diary Times Desk :** Manchester United have completed their first summer transfer as Fabrizio Romano drops the exciting news.

Despite spending more than £200m last summer, United have made a disappointing start to the new campaign. Having already lost three of their opening six league games, head coach Ruben Amorim is under mounting pressure to turn things around as he approaches one year at Old Trafford.

And while questions remain over Amorim’s future, the club has wasted no time in planning ahead by securing one of South America’s brightest prospects. The update was delivered by the transfer guru Fabrizio Romano.

He wrote: “Manchester United have now sealed and signed deal to bring in 17 year old Colombian talent Cristian Orozco. \$1m transfer fee from Fortaleza in deal valid from summer 2026.

“MUFC lawyers approved all the contracts, deal coordinated by lead scout Antonaccio. Here we go.” The agreement will allow Orozco to officially join next summer when he’s 18 and eligible to complete his move to England.