

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 FRIENDS, BOTH NAMED RAMESH, WERE TRAVELLING ON KURNOOL BUS; ONE SURVIVED, ONE PERISHED

Diary Times Desk :

In a tragic twist of fate, two namesake friends who had shared a decades-long bond were travelling with their families on the same bus that caught fire, leaving 20 dead in Kurnool district on Friday.

While one family escaped with their lives, the other perished in the tragedy.

Gururajiah said his brother-in-law G Ramesh, wife Anushka, and their two children died while travelling from Hyderabad to Bengaluru after a short trip. A family friend and survivor, N Ramesh, said he broke the bus window to escape after the locked rear emergency door trapped passengers, saving his family of three-wife and children.

ANDHRA BUS FIRE: CASE REGISTERED AGAINST 2 BUS DRIVERS FOR NEGLIGENT DRIVING

Diary Times Desk :

A case was registered against the two bus drivers for alleged negligent and over-speed driving in connection with the bus fire here in the wee hours of Friday, which left 20 people dead, a police official said.

Based on a complaint by one of the survivors, N Ramesh, the Uliandakonda Police in Kurnool district registered the case.

The Bengaluru-bound private bus caught fire after colliding with a two-wheeler, with the blaze being triggered after the motor bike with its fuel cap open was dragged underneath the vehicle, leaving 20 people dead.

"We have registered a case against the two bus drivers on the basis of survivor N Ramesh's complaint, accusing them of negligent and over-speed driving in the Kurnool bus fire," the official told PTI. Most of the victims were charred beyond recognition, police said. The dead included two children and the biker, while nine people suffered injuries.

CM NITISH KUMAR



district's Keoti, he alleged, "Our 'chacha' (Nitish Kumar) is not in control of things. He has been hijacked by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, who are operating in Bihar from outside." The RJD leader appealed to people to vote for a "Bihari" and not "Bahri" (outsiders) in the ensuing assembly elections.

Yadav promised that he would present a clean government if the opposition alliance came to power in the state.

The former deputy CM also said that he will ensure a government that would listen to the people's grievances and provide affordable medicines and jobs to them.

"As a Bihari, I feel anguished to see the poor condition of Bihar. It gives me pain when I see widespread unemployment, rampant corruption, and a prevailing sense of impunity present among criminals. Despite 20 years of the NDA rule in Bihar and 11 years at the Centre, the state's per capita income is the lowest and farmers remain poor," Yadav claimed.

He also charged the central government with using probe agencies against opposition leaders, including him and his family members. He said, "Lalu Yadav did not fear Modi. His son would also not be afraid." Yadav said people want a Bihar that is "free of corruption and crime, and attracts investment for growth".

He appealed to voters to "give Tejashwi a chance. What the NDA government has failed to do in 20 years, I will do in 20 months." The RJD leader announced that if voted to power.

NITISH KUMAR WILL NOT BE MADE CHIEF MINISTER IF NDA WINS: TEJASHWI YADAV

Diary Times Desk : Asserting that Bihar is still a "poor" state despite the 20 years of rule by the JD(U)-led NDA in the state, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Friday claimed that CM Nitish Kumar will not be made the chief minister if the ruling alliance is again voted to power.

Yadav also alleged that Kumar has been hijacked by the BJP, and two people from Gujarat – ostensibly referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah – are "controlling" Bihar.

The chief ministerial candidate of the INDIA bloc accused the Centre of shielding corrupt leaders and criminals in the state. Addressing a rally at Simri Bakhtiyarpur in Saharsa district, Yadav claimed, "Amit Shah has made it clear that elected legislators will decide the CM of Bihar after elections. Nitish Kumar will not be made the CM if the NDA is voted to power again." Taking a jibe at Kumar, also the JD(U) supremo, at a poll rally in Darbhanga

KERALA TO BE DECLARED INDIA'S FIRST 'EXTREME POVERTY-FREE' STATE ON NOVEMBER 1

Diary Times Desk : Kerala is set to make history once again. On November 1, the state's formation day, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will officially declare Kerala as 'extreme poverty-free', the first Indian state to achieve the feat, and only the second region in the world after China to do so.

The landmark announcement will take place at Thiruvananthapuram's Central Stadium, in the presence of all state ministers, local body representatives, and film icons Kamal Haasan, Mammootty, and Mohanlal, who will attend as chief guests. The Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheshaan has also been invited to the event, which will feature cultural performances before and after the main ceremony.

"This is a historic moment. Kerala has become the first Indian state to eradicate extreme poverty," said Local Self-Government Minister M.B. Rajesh and Education Minister V. Sivankutty at a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram.

Extreme poverty is defined as a condition in which individuals or families are unable to afford even the most basic necessities - food, shelter, healthcare, education, and clothing.

The World Bank sets the threshold at living on less than \$2.15 per person per day (around Rs 180). India's own measurement, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) developed by NITI Aayog, goes beyond income and includes indicators like nutrition, housing, sanitation, education, and access to basic services.

According to the 2023 NITI Aayog MPI, Kerala already had the lowest proportion of multidimensionally poor citizens in India, with just 0.55 percent of its population classified as such, followed by Goa (0.84 percent) and Puducherry (0.85 percent).



GOVERNMENT BACKS WOMEN FOR NIGHT SHIFTS, ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR EMPLOYERS

**Diary Times Desk :**

Weeks after announcing amendments to ensure all safeguards under the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act and issuing suitable notifications under the Factories Act, the Delhi government has formally allowed the engagement of women workers in night shifts at shops and commercial establishments.

The notification, issued on Thursday, follows a high-level meeting chaired by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in July, where it was decided that women employees could work night shifts in the national capital with their written consent, as part of efforts to ensure 'ease of doing business' and promote 'maximum governance-minimum government.'

Delhi, being the national capital, should have set an example for other states, but restrictive and outdated laws had long discouraged businesses and economic activity, the L-G said.

The notification further states that every employee will be entitled to double pay for overtime and a maximum of 48 working hours per week, in accordance with the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act. Internal Complaints Committees will also have to be constituted at workplaces.

ATTEMPT TO HURL SHOE AT CJI: SC TO HEAR CONTEMPT PLEA AGAINST ADVOCATE RAKESH KISHORE ON MONDAY



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court will hear on October 27 a petition seeking initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against advocate Rakesh Kishore for allegedly attempting to hurl a shoe at CJI BR Gavai during court proceedings on October 6.

According to the cause list of October 27 uploaded on the top court's website, the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) contempt plea will come up for hearing before a Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joyymalya Bagchi.

Attorney General R Venkataramani had on October 16 granted his consent to initiate criminal contempt of court proceedings against Kishore who allegedly attempted to hurl a shoe at CJI BR Gavai on October 6 over alleged insult to Sanatan.

"I hereby grant my consent under Section 15(1)(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, for the initiation of contempt proceedings against Rakesh Kishore before the Supreme Court of India," Venkataramani said in a letter to SCBA president Vikas Singh who had sought his consent on the issue.

"No person can have any reason whatsoever to scandalise the court. Throwing or attempting to throw any object aimed at the Hon'ble Judges, or shouting at judges to find fault with the conduct of proceedings will be scandalous.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

PM MODI URGES PEOPLE TO SHARE CHHATH PUJA SONGS AHEAD OF FESTIVITIES



Diary Times Desk : As Chhath Puja begins from Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged people to share songs related to the festival, saying he would repost them over the next few days.

Taking to social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "Chhath, the grand festival dedicated to nature and culture, is approaching. Devotees across Bihar and the country are already engaged in preparations with devotion. Songs dedicated to Chhathi Maiya further enhance the grandeur and divinity of this sacred occasion. I request you to share songs related to Chhath Puja with me. I will share them with all my countrymen over the next few days."

The four-day Chhath Puja celebrations this year will be observed from Saturday to October 28. The festival is a revered occasion dedicated to worshipping the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya, seeking blessings for prosperity and well-being.

Chhath Puja is one of the most significant Hindu festivals, primarily observed in Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is also celebrated in parts of Nepal and among Indian communities across the world.

Dedicated to the worship of the Sun god and his sister Chhathi Maiya, the festival emphasises purity, gratitude, and the well-being of one's family.

With roots tracing back to the ancient eras of Satyuga and Dwapara Yuga, Chhath Puja is believed to be among the oldest known forms of Sun worship. Devotees observe the festival with strict discipline.

JAISALMER BUS TRAGEDY CAUSED BY AC SHORT CIRCUIT, FSL REPORT CONFIRMS



Diary Times Desk : A forensic report has confirmed that the devastating bus fire near Thaiyat village in Jaisalmer, which claimed 26 lives, was caused by a short circuit in the vehicle's air-conditioning system, officials said on Friday.

The incident occurred on October 14 after the private bus travelling to Jodhpur caught fire, barely 10 minutes after it left Jaisalmer.

The joint report by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) teams from Jodhpur and Jaipur ruled out the presence of any explosives or firecrackers inside the bus.

Investigators found that the fire originated from the AC unit mounted on the roof, whose wiring was connected directly to the engine.

"The spark from the wiring caused smoke and the spread of carbon monoxide inside the bus, leading to suffocation of passengers. As soon as the window broke, the oxygen inflow caused the flames to intensify," an official said.

TAMIL NADU TO RECEIVE RAIN AS CYCLONE LIKELY TO FORM OVER BAY OF BENGAL



Diary Times Desk : A low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by the morning of October 27, IMD said on Friday. With an active Northeast monsoon season underway, Tamil Nadu is expected to receive rainfall over the next two to three days due to the system. The India Meteorological Department said the low-pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal moved slowly west-northwest and remained stationary over the same region. "It is likely to move west-northwestwards, intensify into a depression over the southeast and adjoining central Bay of Bengal by October 25, further into a deep depression by October 26, and into a cyclonic storm over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal by the morning of October 27," the IMD bulletin stated.

INDIA SCALED BACK ON RUSSIAN OIL PURCHASES ON TRUMP'S REQUEST: WHITE HOUSE

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump has been "increasingly frustrated" with the lack of progress on putting an end to the Russia-Ukraine war, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Thursday (local time) during a press briefing here. Following the peace deal in the Middle East and the end of the Israel-Palestine war, Leavitt expressed confidence in the newly imposed "hefty" sanctions on Russian oil companies, repeating the claim that India, along with other countries, will scale back oil purchases from the country. "If you read the sanctions and look at them, they are pretty hefty. I saw some international news this morning that China is scaling back oil purchases from Russia. We know India has done the same at the President's request."

RAJASTHAN OFFICIAL SUSPENDED FOR SLAPPING FUEL PUMP STAFF IN VIRAL VIDEO

Diary Times Desk : The Rajasthan government has suspended a state civil service officer for allegedly slapping a CNG pump staffer in Bhilwara after an altercation, a video clip of which went viral on social media, officials said.

The Department of Personnel issued an order suspending Chhotu Lal Sharma, who was posted as sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) in Pratapgarh, on Thursday night, citing administrative reasons.

During his suspension period, Sharma will be attached to the Secretariat, Personnel Department, in Jaipur, the order said. The action followed after Sharma and a CNG pump employee were caught on camera on Wednesday, slapping each other after a dispute over refuelling the former's vehicle. The incident, which was captured on CCTV camera, showed the SDM arguing with the employees, who allegedly refused to refuel his vehicle before another. Police have arrested three petrol pump staff – Deepak Mali, Prabhu Lal Kumawat and Raja Sharma – in connection with the incident, and further investigation is underway, officials said.

FROM ONLINE PROPAGANDA TO PLANNED BLASTS: HOW 2 MEN BECAME ISIS' DELHI OPERATIVES



Diary Times Desk : They were young, educated, and lived what seemed to be ordinary lives. But behind their smartphone and laptop screens, the two men were slowly drawn into the dark web of ISIS propaganda and eventually allegedly converted it into a plot to strike Delhi on Diwali. The two men – Md Adnan Khan, alias Abu Muharib (19), from Delhi's Sadiq Nagar, and Adnan Khan, alias Abu Mohammad (20), from Bhopal – were arrested in a pre-emptive operation that likely averted a major tragedy, according to officials. The duo, described as "highly radicalised", had allegedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and were working under the command of a handler operating from the Syria-Turkey border. According to investigators, the men had been instructed to carry out a terror strike in a crowded Delhi location on Diwali, targeting a prominent mall and a public park.

WHEN NDTV FLEW IN A PLANE THAT MAKES, STUDIES ARTIFICIAL RAIN

Diary Times Desk : A successful test run done, Delhi is set to witness its first artificial rain on October 29, bringing relief from air pollution after AQI dipped dangerously after Diwali. The science of creating artificial rain was witnessed by NDTV's science editor Pallava Bagla when he flew in a plane that studied the outcome.

NDTV's 2018 flight comes into focus as Friday's trial saw small amounts of silver iodide and sodium chloride – compounds used to induce artificial rain – being released from an aircraft over Delhi's Burari area. Cloud seeding typically requires a moisture level of around 50 per cent. Since the area only had under 20 per cent moisture in the air, no rainfall occurred.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences had in 2018 launched a massive experiment in Maharashtra to understand the business of cloud seeding, at a time the year's monsoon was below par for the entire country.

JAISHANKAR TAKES SWIPE AT PAKISTAN OVER TERRORISM, SAYS UN SYSTEM 'NOT WELL'

Diary Times Desk : External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Friday (October 24) took a veiled swipe at Pakistan, saying multilateralism loses credibility when a member of the UN Security Council shields groups behind attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at an event in New Delhi marking the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, Jaishankar said: "When a sitting Security Council member openly protects the very organisation that claims responsibility for the barbaric terror attack such as at Pahalgam, what does it do to the credibility of multilateralism?"

He added that few issues exposed the UN's weakness more sharply than its response to terrorism. "If victims and perpetrators of terrorism are equated in the name of global strategy, how much more cynical can the world get? When self-proclaimed terrorists are shielded from the sanctioning process, what does it say for the sincerity of those involved?" His remarks were seen as aimed at Pakistan, currently serving as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. India has accused Pakistan of being behind the April terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians, an allegation Islamabad has denied.



**IN 4-PAGE SUICIDE NOTE,
DOCTOR WHO WAS RAPED
ACCUSED MP OF
PRESSURING HER**

Diary Times Desk : The doctor who died by suicide in Maharashtra's Satara and accused a police officer of raping her four times also left behind a four-page suicide letter in which she said she was pressured to issue fake fitness certificates of accused in police cases and was harassed when she refused, it has now emerged. The pressure, she says in her letter, was exerted not only by police officials but even, in one case, by a member of Parliament and two of his personal assistants.

The 26-year-old, who worked as a medical officer at the Phaltan sub-district hospital in Satara, had written on her palm that she had been raped four times by Sub-Inspector Gopal Badne and subjected to mental and physical abuse for over five months. The woman had been serving in the hospital for 23 months and was just a month away from completing her bond period - requiring service in a rural area - after which she intended to pursue a post-graduate degree.

**AT BIHAR RALLY, PM MODI
PREDICTS 'RECORD' NDA
MANDATE, TARGETS RAHUL,
RENEWES 'JUNGLE RAJ'
ATTACK ON RJD**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exuded confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would return to power in Bihar with record majority under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Kicking off the election campaign from Bihar's Samastipur district, PM Modi said that NDA would not only gain full majority but also break all previous records in the coming assembly elections. "NDA will break all previous records this time," he asserted. NDA's performance was at its best in the 2010 assembly election when it got 206 seats with Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) bagging 115 seats alone. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won 91 seats in the 243-member Bihar assembly.

The prime minister doubled down on his "jungle raj" claim against the RJD, saying the state must keep them at bay and vote for good governance. "RJD, Congress indulged in scams and their leaders are out on bail. Now they are trying to steal 'Jannayak' tile of Karpoori Thakur," he remarked.

He said that late Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur didn't get his due during RJD-Congress regime.

**"WE SAW HER OFF AT BUS STAND": ANDHRA
BUS FIRE LEAVES FAMILIES DEVASTATED**



Diary Times Desk : The air around Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool bus accident site is thick, not just with the stench of smoke, but with the palpable grief of shattered families. The devastating fire that consumed the ill-fated bus has turned young dreams into cinders, leaving behind heartbreaking scenes of despair and rage.

At the heart of the tragedy is the story of 23-year-old Anusha, a bright light whose future was tragically cut short. Anusha had secured a coveted job in Bengaluru last year, a source of pride that now haunts her parents.

"How I wish my daughter never got that job in Bengaluru," wailed Anusha's father, his voice raw with regret. He and his wife are inconsolable, recounting their last moments with their daughter.

"We saw off my daughter at the bus stand," the father sobbed, a routine farewell now turned into a lifelong nightmare.

**LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM OVER BAY OF
BENGAL TO BRING HEAVY RAIN TO
CHENNAI, NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS**

Diary Times Desk : A new low-pressure area has formed over the Southeast of the Bay of Bengal and adjoining the South Andaman Sea early Friday, triggering a fresh spell of northeast monsoon rains in the North coastal region of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai.

The Met Office said the system, which developed under the influence of an upper air cyclonic circulation, is likely to move in west-northwest direction and would become more marked in the next 24 hours.

An orange alert has been issued for Chennai, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur districts on October 27, warning of heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.

Parts of Chengalpattu and Ranipet are also expected to receive intense showers during the said period.

**GRAND ALLIANCE TURNS TABLE ON RUDDERLESS NDA SHIP
STRUGGLING FOR A CAPTAIN**

Diary Times Desk : While Congress leader and former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday (October 23) declared the Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD's) Tejashwi Prasad Yadav as the chief ministerial face of the Grand Alliance and Mukesh Sahni of the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) as the deputy chief minister on the other hand the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), especially the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appear to be a badly divided house on this count.

As Union home minister Amit Shah on October 16 asserted that the decision in this regard would be taken by the newly elected legislators of the Bihar NDA after the assembly election, three days later another senior BJP leader R.K. Singh, who was till June 2024 a respected member of the Narendra Modi cabinet.

**CORN, SOYBEANS AND
TARIFFS: THE NEW US-INDIA
TRADE FLASHPOINTS**

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump said this week he spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi mainly about trade, and that PM Modi had assured him India would limit its oil purchases from Russia.

After the United States sanctioned Russia's top oil producers on Wednesday, Indian refiners - major buyers of cheap Russian oil - said they are set to sharply cut imports, potentially clearing a key hurdle to a US-India trade deal.

**WHY INDIA WANTS A TRADE DEAL WITH
THE USA**

India faces steep 50% tariffs on its exports to the United States - with half of the duties aimed at punishing Russian oil purchases - putting pressure on key industries including textiles, jewellery, seafood, leather, and engineering goods that employ millions of people.

Some reports say the United States could cut tariffs on Indian imports to 15-16% from 50%, with the deal likely to hinge on energy and agriculture.

**SIR OF TAMIL NADU ELECTORAL ROLLS
WILL BEGIN IN A WEEK: ELECTION
COMMISSION TELLS MADRAS HIGH
COURT**

Diary Times Desk : The Election Commission of India (ECI), on Friday, informed the Madras High Court that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Tamil Nadu electoral rolls would commence in a week. The submission was made before the bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G Arul Murugan. The court was hearing a petition filed by former AIADMK MLA B Sathyanarayanan seeking directions to the Election Commission to conduct a complete and transparent re-verification of the 229 booths in T Nagar Constituency.

Appearing before the bench, the Standing Council for the ECI, Niranjan Rajagopal, submitted that the SIR for the Tamil Nadu electoral rolls would commence in a week and that the petitioner's grievance would be effectively redressed through the revision. The court took note of the submissions and adjourned the case by a week.





TRUMP SAYS HE'S ENDING TRADE
TALKS WITH CANADA OVER TV ADS

Diary Times Desk :

President Donald Trump announced he's ending "all trade negotiations" with Canada because of a television ad opposing US tariffs that he said misstated the facts and called "egregious behaviour" aimed at influencing US court decisions.

The post on Trump's social media site came on Thursday night after Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he aims to double his country's exports to countries outside the US because of the threat posed by Trump's tariffs. Trump's call for an abrupt end to negotiations could further inflame trade tensions that have already been building between the two neighbouring countries for months.

Trump posted, "The Ronald Reagan Foundation has just announced that Canada has fraudulently used an advertisement, which is FAKE, featuring Ronald Reagan speaking negatively about Tariffs."

"SAUDIS CAME TO US AND SAID,
'PLEASE LEAVE HIM ALONE'": EX-CIA
AGENT ON US NOT 'KILLING' PAK
NUCLEAR SCIENTIST AQ KHAN

Diary Times Desk : Former officer in the USA's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), John Kiriakou, in a stunning revelation, disclosed that the America had refrained from eliminating Abdul Qadeer Khan, the architect of Pakistan's atomic bomb and a prolific proliferator of nuclear technology, after 'direct intervention' by the Saudi government.

In an interview with ANI, the former agent, who spent 15 years in the CIA as an analyst and later as part of its counterterrorism operations, said the US had full operational details of Khan, including his whereabouts and daily routine, but was told to stand down following Saudi pressure.

"A colleague of mine was dealing with A Q Khan," Kiriakou said. "If we had taken the Israeli approach, we would have just killed him. He was easy enough to find. We knew where he lived. We knew how he spent his day. But he also had the support of the Saudi government.

'I'M ASHAMED': INDIAN RESIDENT REACTS AFTER DIWALI FIREWORKS SET HER
HOUSE ON FIRE IN CANADA

Diary Times Desk : Two homes in Edmonton, Canada, caught fire on Monday night after fireworks from a Diwali celebration ignited nearby properties, police confirmed. The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) said three men had been charged with arson, urging residents to celebrate responsibly, Times of India reported.

In an official statement, police said, "Light up your home, not your neighbour's roof." They confirmed that the blaze originated from fireworks set off in a backyard during the festival, spreading quickly to adjacent houses.

The incident sparked widespread discussion in the Mill Woods community on Facebook, with many members of the Indian diaspora expressing shock and disappointment.

TRUMP TO BE PRESIDENT FOR THIRD
TERM, INNER CIRCLE HAS A PLAN:
BANNON



Diary Times Desk : Steve Bannon, a former White House advisor to US President Donald Trump, claimed on Thursday (local time) that several members of Trump's inner circle are serious about him serving a third term, adding that there is a "plan" to get it done. Bannon, who was Trump's former strategist during his first term and a loyal supporter of the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, made these remarks in an interview with The Economist.

"He's gonna get a third term. Trump is gonna be president in '28, and people just sort of [need to] get accommodated with that," he added. When asked about the 22nd Amendment, which prevents candidates from being "elected to the office of the President more than twice," Bannon said there are many "different alternatives." Without elaborating further, he said that at an appropriate time, they would lay out a plan.

ZOHRAN MAMDANI CALLED 'FRAUD
CLASS' AS NEW YORK MAYOR ELECTION
HEATS UP

Diary Times Desk : Zohran Mamdani, the New York City mayoral frontrunner, is facing criticism after being seen dining at Omen Azen, an upscale sushi restaurant in Manhattan. The state assembly member from Queens who has built his campaign around supporting the working class was photographed at the SoHo hotspot alongside his wife.

The restaurant, known to attract wealthy clientele and celebrities such as Yoko Ono, offers items like a \$145 seasonal tasting dinner, a \$93 kobe beef hot pot, and a \$92 wagyu steak. A 12-piece sashimi combo costs \$50.

Actor and comedian Michael Rapaport posted the images on Tuesday evening, calling out Mamdani. "How's a so-called 'working class' mayoral candidate like Zohran Mamdani eating at OMEN SUSHI tonight, one of the priciest joints in NYC?" Rapaport wrote.

'MUSHARRAF HANDED
OVER CONTROL OF
PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR
ARSENAL TO US', CLAIMS
FORMER CIA OFFICER JOHN
KIRIAKOU

Diary Times Desk : John Kiriakou, former CIA Officer, has said that the US threw millions of dollars to Pakistan under the leadership of former President Pervez Musharraf, and in a way 'purchased' him.

In an interview with ANI, Kiriakou said that Pakistan was deep buried under corruption and former PM Benazir Bhutto led a lavish life in the Gulf while the common people starved.

Kiriakou, who served 15 years in the CIA, first as an analyst and later in counterterrorism, said, "Our relations with the Pakistani government were very, very good. It was General Pervez Musharraf at the time. And look, let's be honest here. The United States loves working with dictators. Because then you don't have to worry about public opinion and you don't have to worry about the media anymore. And so we essentially just purchased Musharraf."

He said that Musharraf then let the US do anything they wanted.

ALASKA AIRLINES RESTORES
OPERATIONS AFTER TECH
OUTAGE GROUNDS FLIGHTS

Diary Times Desk : U.S. carrier Alaska Airlines said early on Friday it had restored operations following a technology outage that grounded flights across all airports and led to the cancellation of more than 229 flights.

"We are working to get our operations back on track as quickly and safely as possible," the airline said, adding that further flight disruptions were likely.

Alaska Air Group said it does not yet have an estimate of the financial impact the disruption may have on its fourth-quarter results.

It requested a temporary ground stop on Thursday evening, which also affected Horizon Air, a subsidiary of Alaska Airlines, according to a Federal Aviation Administration advisory.

The airlines said the halt was lifted at 11:30 p.m. local time (0630 GMT) on Friday.





AS TRUMP MAKES RARE VISIT TO MALAYSIA, PM ANWAR'S BALANCING ACT
FACES TEST



Diary Times Desk : When US President Donald Trump lands in Malaysia for Southeast Asia's headline summit this weekend, he will be delivering Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim a diplomatic coup. US presidents rarely visit Malaysia, a multiracial nation of 35 million people sandwiched between Thailand and Singapore, which for decades has maintained a policy of not picking sides in rivalries between great powers.

Trump is just the third US leader to travel to the Southeast Asian country, which is hosting a Sunday-to-Tuesday summit for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), following visits by former US Presidents Barack Obama and Lyndon B Johnson. After skipping ASEAN summits in 2018, 2019 and 2020, Trump, whose disdain for multilateralism is renowned, will be attending the gathering of Southeast Asian nations for just the second time. The US president will be joined by a host of high-profile leaders from non-ASEAN countries, including Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

TRUMP WANTS TO 'FREEZE' RUSSIA-
UKRAINE WAR: WHO GETS WHAT IF
THAT HAPPENS?

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump has suggested freezing the war in Ukraine at its current front lines and using these lines as a starting point for future negotiations over territory.

Peace talks aimed at ending the war in Ukraine have so far stalled despite Trump boasting during his presidential campaign last year that he could end the war in "24 hours" after his inauguration.

Russia insists that it must be allowed to keep all the land it has seized from Ukraine and be granted more if it is to consider a ceasefire. Ukraine has balked at this, and Trump has failed to move either side.

AIRCRAFT CRASHES ON TAKE-OFF AT VENEZUELAN AIRPORT, KILLING TWO CREW
MEMBERS

Diary Times Desk : A twin-engine Piper PA-31T1 aircraft crashed during take-off at Paramillo Airport in Venezuela's Tachira state on Wednesday morning, claiming the lives of two crew members. NDTV reported that the small aircraft, bearing registration YV 1443, failed to gain altitude as it attempted to depart around 09:52 a.m. local time. Witnesses reported the plane stalled shortly after liftoff before crashing back onto the runway and erupting in flames.

The National Institute of Civil Aeronautics (INAC) confirmed emergency and firefighting teams arrived on scene immediately. The agency has activated the Junta Investigadora de Accidentes de Aviacion Civil (JIAAC) to investigate the crash in accordance with Venezuelan regulation.



PAKISTANI WOMAN TAKES
ON 'PERIOD TAX' IN
LANDMARK CASE: 'I HID MY
PAD LIKE IT WAS
NARCOTICS'

Diary Times Desk : The high cost of menstruation in Pakistan has drawn fresh attention after 25-year-old Mahnoor Omer filed a landmark case seeking to remove taxes on sanitary pads. The young lawyer and activist argues that these products should be declared essential goods, highlighting how the so-called 'period tax' makes female hygiene products largely inaccessible to millions of women across the country.

Omer, who grew up in Rawalpindi, around 16.5 kilometres from Islamabad, comes from a middle-class family. Her father is a businessman and her mother a homemaker. She began advocating for human rights as a teenager, distributing 'dignity kits' for low-income women in her neighbourhood. Omer also recalls her own struggles accessing sanitary pads.

"I used to hide my pad up my sleeve like I was taking narcotics to the bathroom," Omer told Al Jazeera. "If someone talked about it, teachers would put you down." She added that a classmate once told her that her mother thought pads were "a waste of money." "That's when it hit me," Omer said. "If middle-class families think this way, imagine how out of reach these products are for others."

POPE TO JESUIT MAJOR
SUPERIORS: "THE CHURCH
NEEDS YOU AT THE
FRONTIERS"

Diary Times Desk : "The Society of Jesus has long been present where humanity's needs meet God's saving love." Pope Leo XIV affirmed this during his audience on 24 October with global Jesuit leaders gathered in Rome for a 10-day meeting. "Today, I repeat: the Church needs you at the frontiers – whether they be geographical, cultural, intellectual, or spiritual", the Holy Father said, encouraging Jesuits to continue their service to the Church and the world, despite rapid cultural, economic, and political changes.

Father General Arturo Sosa led the group of about 100 Jesuits, including Provincials and Regional Superiors, Presidents of Conferences, General Counsellors, Secretaries, and staff translators.

Presenting the delegation to the Pope, Father Sosa reiterated the Society's availability –as individuals and as an apostolic body –to serve the universal mission of the Church, wherever the Holy Father desires. He also recalled that in 2019, Pope Francis gave the Society orientations to guide its mission through the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs).



THREE THINGS WE LEARNED FROM CHINA'S BIG POLITICAL MEETING THIS WEEK

Diary Times Desk : A four-day meeting of hundreds of Chinese Communist Party (CPC) delegates, chaired by General Secretary Xi Jinping concluded on Thursday, with the release of a communique. The broad document highlights major points in the next five-year plan for China's economic development. Here are three of the main things we have learned from the meeting and what the communique says:

The corruption purge may be larger than we thought
China watchers have been looking at the official numbers regarding attendance this week. You would need a pretty good excuse not to turn up to a Plenum session chaired by Xi. For example, very serious illness. And yet, of the 205 members of the Central Committee, only 168 were there.



INDIAN MAN "EARNS" RS 40 LAKH BY MOONLIGHTING IN US, FACES 15-YEAR JAIL

Diary Times Desk : Mehul Goswami, a 39-year-old Indian-origin New Yorker, was arrested by the US authorities on charges of "grand larceny" for moonlighting as a contractor while he was working for the New York State Office of Information Technology Services. In a joint investigation, the New York State Inspector General's Office and the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office found that Goswami's illegal conduct was tantamount to the misuse of \$50,000 in taxpayer money, according to US media reports. Goswami was reportedly working for the New York State Office remotely. It was his primary job, but simultaneously, he started working as a contractor for GlobalFoundries-- a semiconductor company-- in Malta from March 2022. An anonymous email reportedly triggered an investigation against Goswami over allegations that he worked for a private employer during the same hours he was supposed to be fulfilling his responsibilities as a state employee.

PUTIN WARNS OF 'OVERWHELMING, STUNNING' RESPONSE IF UKRAINE GETS TOMAHAWK MISSILES

Diary Times Desk : If Ukraine is given long-range weapons like Tomahawk cruise missiles to strike deep inside Russia, Moscow's response will be "overwhelming, stunning", President Vladimir Putin said in his televised remarks on the sidelines of the XVII Congress of the Russian Geographical Society here on Thursday.

Putin was responding to reporters on the cancellation of the Budapest summit and fresh sanctions on Russia's two biggest oil corporations, and the possibility of Zelensky getting long-range weapons to strike deep inside Russian territory. He described the latest sanctions as yet another attempt to pressure Russia. "Not a single self-respecting nation can bow to outside pressure, especially a nation like Russia," Putin said, reminding that most of the American sanctions on Russia were imposed in Trump's first term in office.

EU FAILS TO BACK FROZEN RUSSIAN CASH LOAN - BUT VOWS TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

Diary Times Desk : EU leaders have agreed to help support Ukraine's "financial needs" for the next two years - but stopped short of releasing billions of euros in frozen Russian cash to help fund the country's defence on Thursday night. A decision to use €140bn (£122bn) in Russian assets held in a Belgian clearing house was pushed back until December after concerns were raised by Belgium. The controversial move would be on top of sanctions the bloc has imposed on Russia - the latest targeting the Kremlin's oil revenues. The Brussels meeting came ahead of a London summit on Friday, where UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer will urge European leaders to boost long-range missile supplies to Kyiv. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is set to attend the meeting of the so-called "coalition of the willing", alongside Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte, Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Netherlands' Dick Schoof. Other leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, will join virtually. European ministers held talks in Brussels on Thursday about how billions of euros worth of frozen Russian cash could be made available to Ukraine as a so-called "reparations loan".



US 'FRUSTRATED' WITH RUSSIA FOR LACK OF INTEREST OR ACTION ON PEACE DEAL; SAYS NEW SANCTIONS APPROPRIATE, NECESSARY

Diary Times Desk : The imposition of new sanctions on Russian oil companies by the United States was "appropriate and necessary", a sign of the frustration over the slow progress being made on a potential Russia-Ukraine peace deal, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Thursday (local time).

"The president (Donald Trump) has always maintained that he would implement sanctions on Russia when he felt it was appropriate and necessary. And yesterday was that day. The president has also long expressed his frustration with Vladimir Putin (Russian President) and both sides of this war (Russia-Ukraine)", Leavitt said during a press briefing at the White House.

Criticising the lack of "interest or action" from the Russian side to move towards peace, Leavitt said that while a potential meeting between President Vladimir Putin and President Trump is "not completely off the table" the US would rather have a tangible positive outcome from a meeting.

CAN ISRAEL ANNEX THE WEST BANK IF THE US SAYS NO?

Diary Times Desk : Two bills aimed at annexing the occupied West Bank have limped through Israel's parliament, the Knesset, on Tuesday night in defiance of both the United States and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing Likud party. Responding to news of the vote, US President Donald Trump said simply, Israel is "not going to do anything with the West Bank". Meanwhile, his vice president, JD Vance, who was in Israel to safeguard the ceasefire that the US brokered for Gaza earlier this month, went further, describing the vote as "weird" and adding, "I personally take some insult to it."

The occupied West Bank, along with East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967. Since then, Israeli settlements have continued to be built, despite being illegal under international law, and, in the case of settlement outposts, under Israeli law as well.

There are currently about 700,000 Israeli settlers living in 250 illegal settlements on Palestinian land in the West Bank and East Jerusalem combined. About half a million of these are in the West Bank.



WHAT'S IN REAGAN ADVERT THAT'S CAUSED US-CANADA TRADE TALKS COLLAPSE?



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has said he will halt all trade negotiations with Canada immediately over an advert in which his predecessor Ronald Reagan says tariffs "hurt every American".

The ad, sponsored by Canada's province of Ontario and released last week, features excerpts of an address Reagan gave in 1987 focusing on foreign trade.

Trump called the advert "FAKE" while The Ronald Reagan Foundation said it "misrepresents" the former president's address.

While the minute-long advert only includes excerpts from the original, five-minute-long address, it does not alter Reagan's words.

It does however alter the order in which he made the comments.

TEAM TRUMP FLAGS "DISTURBING PATTERN" AFTER "ILLEGAL" INDIAN TRUCKER KILLS 3

Diary Times Desk : The White House has slammed the state of California for issuing a commercial vehicle licence to a "criminal illegal alien", after an undocumented Indian-origin truck driver, Jashanpreet Singh, caused a deadly eight-vehicle crash in Ontario, killing three people. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt also highlighted what she called a "disturbing pattern" of commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) being issued to illegal immigrants in the United States.

What The White House Said

"I can confirm that California gave this individual a licence, and it is something that the Department of Transportation has already looked into... He killed three people, and he first entered the United States in 2022 through the southern border, and he was released into our country by the previous administration," Leavitt said, addressing a press conference.

US SAYS SIX KILLED IN NEW STRIKE ON ALLEGED DRUG BOAT IN CARIBBEAN

Diary Times Desk : US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Friday that the US had carried out another strike against a ship alleged to belong to drug traffickers.

The operation took place in the Caribbean Sea, against a group Hegseth identified as the Tren de Aragua criminal organisation.

Hegseth said "six male narco-terrorists" were on board and killed.

The US has carried out a series of strikes on ships in the region, in what President Donald Trump has described as an effort to curtail drug trafficking.

Hegseth posted a video on X showing the operation. It begins by showing a boat in crosshairs, before it explodes into a cloud of smoke.

TRUMP WILL MEET XI IN SOUTH KOREA, SAYS WHITE HOUSE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump will meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in South Korea on 30 October on the sidelines of a summit in Asia, the White House has confirmed.

The meeting between Xi and Trump has been in the works for weeks but was called into question as tensions between the world's two largest economies continued to rise.

It will be the first face-to-face meeting for both leaders since Trump's return to office.

Trump has threatened to impose an extra 100% tariff on Chinese goods from November if China does not roll back its tightened restrictions on its rare earth exports.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed the meeting in a briefing on Thursday

The bilateral meeting will happen at the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit (Apec), which takes place from the 31 October - 1 November this year in South Korea's eastern city of Gyeongju.

"We have a pretty long meeting scheduled," Trump had said earlier. "We can work out a lot of our doubts and questions and our tremendous assets together."



LOUVRE HEIST LIFT-MAKER SEIZES THE MOMENT WITH NEW AD CAMPAIGN

Diary Times Desk : A German company inadvertently embroiled in the Louvre Museum heist after one of its lifts was used in the theft is making the most of its free publicity - by launching a new advertising campaign.

Werne-based firm Böcker this week published a social media post featuring the now-famous image of its furniture ladder extending up to a balcony outside the Gallery of Apollo.

"When you need to move fast," reads a banner under the image. "The Böcker Agilo transports your treasures weighing up to 400kg at 42m/min - quiet as a whisper."

Video has emerged of the alleged thieves escaping on the mechanical ladder after stealing €88m worth (£76m; \$102m) of France's crown jewels on Sunday.

The company's managing director, Alexander Böcker, told news agency AFP on Wednesday that, when it became clear no one was injured in the heist, it had used "a touch of humour" to draw attention to the family-run business.

'MUSHARRAF HANDED OVER CONTROL OF PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL TO US', CLAIMS FORMER CIA OFFICER JOHN KIRIAKOU

Diary Times Desk : John Kiriakou, former CIA Officer, has said that the US threw millions of dollars to Pakistan under the leadership of former President Pervez Musharraf, and in a way 'purchased' him.

In an interview with ANI, Kiriakou said that Pakistan was deep buried under corruption and former PM Benazir Bhutto led a lavish life in the Gulf while the common people starved.

Kiriakou, who served 15 years in the CIA, first as an analyst and later in counterterrorism, said, "Our relations with the Pakistani government were very, very good. It was General Pervez Musharraf at the time. And look, let's be honest here. The United States loves working with dictators. Because then you don't have to worry about public opinion and you don't have to worry about the media anymore. And so we essentially just purchased Musharraf."

He said that Musharraf then let the US do anything they wanted.



THE GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN'S IMPACT
IS SPREADING THROUGH
THE ECONOMY

Diary Times Desk :
"The shutdown is stifling our ability to grow," said Grant Richardson, who founded a wine import company, Pangea Selections, in 2019. Richardson can't close on a six-figure Small Business Administration loan while the federal government is shut down, but the impasse hasn't given him a break on the roughly \$20,000 in tariffs that he expects to fork over this month. The entrepreneur from Austin, Texas, is still waiting to receive roughly \$10,000 in business tax credits for the quarter. And he can't seal a deal with a California winemaker to launch a new product line because the government is not approving new labels for bottles during the funding lapse. "The government is still taking money from us, but it's not paying out what it owes," he said, referring to the tax credits. The shutdown has frozen many of the government's key functions, such as lending and processing tax credits. And now without pay, hundreds of thousands of federal workers across the country have pulled back on spending, creating economic ripple effects.

TRUMP'S SANCTIONS TARGET RUSSIAN 'WAR ATM,' BUT THE REAL TEST IS ENFORCEMENT

Diary Times Desk : After nine months of attempting to coax Russia into concessions using only incentives – whether by holding talks on repairing diplomatic relations or hosting a major bilateral summit on US soil – the Trump administration in an unexpected reversal announced "massive sanctions" Wednesday on Moscow's two biggest oil producers.

Just one week earlier, President Donald Trump had backed away from supplying long-range Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine after a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who secured an invitation to a second bilateral summit, this time in Budapest.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, among the more hawkish members of Trump's Cabinet regarding Ukraine, was tasked with preparing that summit.

WHAT IS BINANCE, AND WHAT CZ'S PARDON COULD MEAN FOR US
CRYPTO INVESTORS

Diary Times Desk : Changpeng Zhao, one of the wealthiest and most influential figures in the cryptocurrency industry, is back in the spotlight this week after securing a pardon from President Donald Trump – a reprieve that renews concerns that those with deep pockets have been able to buy their way out of trouble under Trump 2.0.

It is hard to overstate how much Zhao, who goes by "CZ," has shaped the crypto industry since he launched Binance in 2017 and grew it into the world's largest trading platform for digital assets. Put simply: If you want to take, say, \$100 from your bank account and use it to buy or sell cryptocurrencies virtually anywhere in the world, Binance facilitates that process, and takes a small fee off of every trade. It also offers more complex financial services like margin trading and "staking," a way for investors to earn passive returns on their crypto holdings. Not only is Binance by far the world's biggest crypto exchange, as measured by both user count (280 million globally) and trading volume (more than \$217 billion daily), it boasts 40% of the market share among centralized crypto exchanges.



WHAT THE RONALD REAGAN AD THAT GOT TRUMP SO ANGRY WAS
REALLY ALL ABOUT

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump has canceled trade negotiations with Canada over what he called a "fake" ad that featured parts of an anti-tariff speech delivered by conservative hero and former President Ronald Reagan. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute also said the ad misrepresented the former president's words.

It wasn't fake. It was edited. But Reagan really did spend a five-minute speech – an April 25, 1987, national radio address that the Reagan Library has published on YouTube – railing against tariffs. It was a full-throated expression of support for free and fair trade.

The ad, purchased by the government of Ontario and broadcast on major US television networks, aired clips of the address, delivered from Camp David, where Reagan was soon to meet the prime minister of Japan at a time when American attitudes toward Japan were hardening.

In the recent past, Japanese companies like Toyota and Sony had flooded America's market with high quality but inexpensive cars and electronics, harming the business of great American brands, including General Motors and RCA.

"They fraudulently took a big buy ad saying that Ronald Reagan did not like Tariffs, when actually he LOVED TARIFFS FOR OUR COUNTRY, AND ITS NATIONAL SECURITY," Trump posted. "Thank you to the Ronald Reagan Foundation for exposing this FRAUD."

AMERICA'S INFLATION IS BACK AT 3%. THAT'S HIGHER THAN NORMAL BUT
NOT OUT OF CONTROL

Diary Times Desk : The cost of living got even more expensive for Americans last month, with prices rising at the fastest pace since the start of the year. Consumer prices rose 0.3% in September, which drove the annual rate of inflation from 2.9% to 3%, the highest it's been since January, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data released Friday. Gas prices, which shot up 4.1% overall and 4.2% for regular unleaded fuel (both the largest monthly increases since August 2023), were the biggest culprit behind the monthly increase, BLS data shows. Food prices rose at a more moderate pace than they did in August (a month when grocery prices leapt by the highest rate in nearly three years). And housing-related inflation also continued its lengthy slowdown. Economists were expecting that inflation would continue to pick up speed, rising 0.4% for the month and 3.1% from the year before, according to FactSet estimates.

Excluding food and energy, which can be quite volatile, the core measure of CPI rose 0.2% in September, with an annual inflation rate settling out at 3%.



The measures, ranging from tech and rare earth restrictions, are expected to be major points of contention during the talks.



TWO ARRESTED WITH
110G OF CHARAS IN
NAGROTA BAGWAN

Diary Times Desk : A team from the Nagrota Bagwan police station in Kangra district have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 110 grams of charas from their possession, SP Ashok Rattan said here today.

The peddlers have been identified as Chandan Rana (29), a resident of Mundi village in Dhira tehsil, and Akshay Kumar (29), a resident of Valoh village in Thural tehsil, both belonging to Kangra district.

Acting on a tip-off, the police team was patrolling near the Shivji Mandir at Nagrota Bagwan where the accused were trying to sell the contraband. The team acted swiftly and caught them red-handed along with the drugs.

A case has been registered against the duo under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at the Nagrota Bagwan police station. The SP said that the accused had been involved in the illegal drug trade for a long time and were under continuous surveillance. An investigation was underway, he added.

CHAMBA MULLS
SETTING UP REAL-TIME
LANDSLIDE
MONITORING SYSTEM

Diary Times Desk : A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Repaswal to discuss the establishment of a real-time landslide monitoring system in Chamba district in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi. The Deputy Commissioner said that the system would be developed based on feedback regarding similar landslide-monitoring mechanisms already installed by the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) in other parts of the state. The aim was to assess the functionality, reliability and practical utility of the proposed equipment before large-scale implementation. Repaswal said that considering the increasing frequency of landslides during the monsoon season, the district administration was actively exploring the installation.

CM BHAGWANT MANN FORMS FLYING SQUAD TO MONITOR ROAD QUALITY IN
PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has announced the constitution of a new CM Flying Squad to check the quality of link roads being constructed in the state.

The squad includes senior officials from the Punjab Mandi Board and the Public Works Department (PWD).

Davinder Singh, Baldev Singh, Manpreet Singh Dua and Rajiv Saini—all Superintending Engineers—would oversee the quality of construction work in the Malwa, Majha and Doaba regions.

It may be mentioned that the Chief Minister recently started the repair scheme for 19,492 km of link roads from Tarn Taran.

A total of Rs 3,425 crore would be spent on this scheme.



POLICE, MC DEMOLISH
ENCROACHED PROPERTY OF
BROTHERS INVOLVED IN DRUG
TRADE IN MOGA

Diary Times Desk : Taking action against drug traffickers and illegal encroachments, the Moga police, in coordination with the Moga Municipal Corporation, on Friday demolished the house of two brothers involved in the drug trade. The property — on Lal Singh Road in Moga — was found to have been illegally constructed and belonged to brothers Arun and Rahul, who, along with their family, had been occupying the premises.

According to the police, both brothers have a serious criminal background, with eight cases registered against them, including three under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, involving commercial quantities of narcotics. One of the accused is currently lodged in jail.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ajay Gandhi, who was present at the site, said that the demolition drive was part of a sustained campaign against illegal encroachments linked to criminal elements.

SRIGANGANAGAR YOUTH DIES IN
TRUCK ACCIDENT IN SAUDI
ARABIA

Diary Times Desk : Gurkirtan Singh, a youth from Sangatpura village near the Indo-Pakistan border in Sriganganagar, died in a tragic truck accident in Dammam, located on the coast of Persian Gulf in Saudi Arabia. The family is now working to bring his body back to India through the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Embassy.

According to information, Gurkirtan had gone to Saudi Arabia on a work visa and was working as a truck driver. A youth who worked with him informed the family that the accident occurred on Diwali day. Gurkirtan was loading goods onto a truck when a major accident occurred while the vehicle was reversing. He was struck and severely injured by a large boulder and died in the hospital during treatment. Gurkirtan's family is financially weak. His father, Gurnam Singh, worked as a mason and had barely managed to raise the money to send his son abroad. However, fate had other plans. Villagers are trying to console Gurkirtan's inconsolable mother, Chhinderpal Kaur. Villagers said that Gurkirtan had recently visited the village on a two-month leave for Rakshabandhan before returning to Saudi Arabia.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

25-10-2025

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.



NEW AIRPORTS IN
HISAR, AMRAVATI,
PURNIA AND RUPSI
ADDED TO WINTER
SCHEDULE 2025:
MINISTRY OF CIVIL
AVIATION

Diary Times Desk : India's domestic aviation network is set to expand further this winter, with new airports at Hisar, Amravati, Purnia and Rupsi joining the operational map under the Winter Schedule 2025 (WS25).

The latest schedule, effective from October 26, 2025 to March 28, 2026, proposes a 5.95 per cent rise in weekly departures compared to last year's winter schedule.

According to data, a total of 26,495 weekly departures have been approved to and from 126 airports across the country. In comparison, the Summer Schedule 2025 (SS25) operated 25,610 weekly departures from 129 airports. While new airports such as Hisar and Amravati mark an expansion of regional connectivity, operations have been suspended at Aligarh, Moradabad, Chitrakoot, Bhavnagar, Ludhiana, Pakyong and Shravasti airports this season.

CENTRE MOVES TO
APPOINT NEW CJI

Diary Times Desk : With barely a month left for the retirement of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, the Centre on Thursday initiated the process for the appointment of his successor.

The government has formally written to CJI Gavai, who is due to retire on November 23 on attaining the age of 65, to name his successor, sources said.

According to the memorandum of procedure on the appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and High Court judges, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office should be appointed as the CJI.

CJI Gavai is expected to recommend Justice Surya Kant — the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court — as his successor.

HARYANA GOVT HIKES DEARNESS ALLOWANCE, DEARNESS RELIEF BY 3%

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana Government on Friday announced an increase in the rates of Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) payable to its employees and pensioners/family pensioners. As per the latest order, those drawing pay and pension under the 7th Pay Commission structure will now receive DA and DR at the rate of 58 per cent, up from the existing 55 per cent of basic pay and pension/family pension. The revised rates will take effect from July 1, 2025.

According to a letter issued by Anurag Rastogi, Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary (Finance Department), the enhanced DA and DR will be paid along with salary and pension for October 2025. The arrears for the months of July to September 2025 will be released in November 2025.



MAN URINATES FROM MOVING CAR
IN GURUGRAM, TWO ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk : The Gurugram police have arrested two youths for allegedly performing a disgraceful act on a moving Thar car. One of them allegedly urinated through the window of the Thar, and the video went viral on social media. According to the police, the arrested accused are identified as Mohit (23) and Anuj (25), residents of Hajar. The police have also seized the black Thar vehicle from their possession. The police became aware of a video circulating on social media showing the driver of a Thar car driving recklessly, with another boy standing outside the window of the moving car on Old Railway Road late last night. Another boy was seen urinating out of the window of the moving car. Taking cognisance of the viral video, an FIR was registered at the New Colony police station. During the investigation, the police arrested both accused today. During interrogation, it was revealed that the Thar vehicle used in committing the crime belongs to accused Mohit. On the day of the incident, accused Anuj was driving the vehicle carelessly and negligently, while accused Mohit had committed the shameful act of urinating while standing in the window of the moving vehicle.

BJP LEADERS SELL NCR DREAMS
TO BIHAR VOTERS

Diary Times Desk : Targeting a landslide victory in Bihar, the BJP is selling the Gurugram-Faridabad model to voters, promising better employment opportunities in the twin NCR cities. Since both districts account for the maximum number of migrant population in the NCR, the party has put all MLAs of the area on duty in Bihar to woo voters. The party has constituted a team of 10 star campaigners led by CM Nayab Saini, which includes Badshahpur MLA and Industry Minister Rao Narbir, ULB Minister Vipul Goel, Union MoS Krishan Pal Gujjar, state minister Rajesh Nagar, and Gurugram MLA Mukesh Sharma. These public representatives are camping in various Bihar districts since over a week now. Saini visited the poll-bound state on October 18 and asked people to choose the party for Haryana-like development. "Gurugram and Faridabad are providing employment to a large section of migrants from Bihar. We are not just working for the welfare of those settled in our cities, but also are indirectly improving the condition of their households. We met people who told us how after coming to Haryana, specifically to NCR districts, changed their life.

FATHER-SON DUO SHOT DEAD IN HARYANA'S SONEPAT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

Diary Times Desk : A shocking incident of daylight murder has shaken the residents of Kharkhoda in Haryana's Sonapat district. Two assailants in a Scorpio car opened fire on a father-son duo riding a bike, killing them on the spot.

The deceased have been identified as Dharamveer and his son Mohit, residents of Gopalpur village.

The incident occurred on Friday around 10 am near Thana Kalan Chowk on the Kharkhoda bypass. According to eyewitnesses, Dharamveer and his son Mohit were riding their bike towards Kharkhoda when a Scorpio car sped up from behind and the attackers in it opened fire on the bikers. The attackers attempted to flee the scene in their Scorpio car but their vehicle collided with a divider and was damaged. The two attackers then abandoned the car and fled on foot, snatching a bike belonging to a youth from Turkpur village. Upon receiving the information, police from Kharkhoda police station arrived at the scene and took both bodies into custody. They were sent to Sonapat Civil Hospital for post-mortem.





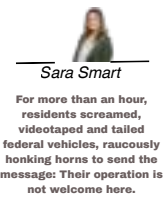
When Masked Agents Descended On A Chicago Suburb

In the quiet village of Mount Prospect, nestled just northwest of Chicago's city limits, residents were sheltering from the cold and rain on a sleepy Sunday afternoon watching TV, scrolling through social media and enjoying midday coffee at home. As rain pattered against windows, and trees lining the streets swayed, flurries of urgent texts began ricocheting from one end of the neighborhood to the other, and panic set in as some residents put on their shoes and hurried out the door. "ICE IS HERE," one text between Mount Prospect neighbors said.

"F**king helicopters. Ice at Owen Park," read another. "On our way," one neighbor replied.

The historic suburb quickly devolved into a scene that has become familiar to places like nearby Chicago and elsewhere across the country as President Donald Trump works to execute his

Day 1 promise to crack down on immigration and crime: A Homeland Security helicopter whirred overhead, several SUVs and trucks with tinted windows drove slowly past houses, and around two dozen masked federal agents meandered



Sara Smart
For more than an hour, residents screamed, videotaped and tailed federal vehicles, raucously honking horns to send the message: Their operation is not welcome here.

through yards and walked down sidewalks, according to images and interviews with residents. Neighbors stepped out of their homes to document the agents who had descended on their community, joining a coalition of opposition to the president's unwavering determination to detain and deport undocumented migrants en masse – a resistance effort spreading throughout US cities that have seen their workers, schoolchildren and community members swept up in ICE raids.

"The Rapid Response network confirmed high levels of immigration enforcement activity in Rolling Meadows, Wheeling, Prospect Heights & Mt. Prospect," read a text from an ICE activity alert system run by a local immigrant rights group, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. "At least 4 people have been detained." Without knowing exactly where she was headed, Mount Prospect resident and small business owner Dawn Ardito grabbed her phone and driver's license and rushed out the door after receiving some of the texts. She had reached only the end of her block before spotting the first set of SUVs with dark windows driven by men in masks and fatigues. She followed the cars to a nearby street with even more SUVs and agents. Ardito joined the handful of neighbors who had gathered, recording the federal officers with her phone, asking them what they were doing and demanding they leave.

"You don't belong here," Ardito said she told immigration enforcement agents. "Our neighbors, they do belong here. Our community members, they do belong here." Agents told residents they were looking for an "escaped criminal," describing the person to Ardito and others as a "gang member" at one point, then a "murder suspect" and "sex offender" as the operation went on. CNN has reached out to the Department of Homeland Security about the operation. Mount Prospect police said they encountered the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers while responding to a 911 call about a person running through a nearby backyard. Officers left after they "confirmed these were federal agents," and didn't participate in the operation, "as this would be in violation of Illinois State Law and the Trust Act," Officer Greg Sill said in a statement.

Another person living in Mount Prospect who was mobilized by the texts, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisal, said she hoped to chase out the agents with her screams like she'd seen in videos on social media of similar encounters around Chicago. "People should be coming out of their houses and confronting (agents)," the resident said. "I have neighbors who are terrified to leave their houses.

Inside Mongolia's 'Mars Camp'

THE EXTREME ADVENTURE THAT WANTS TO TURN TOURISTS INTO ASTRONAUTS



Rosanna Philpott
Meals will feature freeze-dried Mongolian dishes – like rehydrated dumplings or mutton stews – designed to mimic astronaut rations while honoring local culture.

It's day 25. You wake up in your bunk pod in a snow-capped Martian landscape, far from civilization. Outside it's -30 degrees Celsius (-22 degrees Fahrenheit). After meditating and eating a breakfast of freeze-dried dumplings, you and your six-person crew don space suits over your thermal underwear and head out into the sandstorm on a mission.

This isn't a fever dream. It's a month-long survival challenge deep in Mongolia's Gobi Desert that's designed to simulate life on Mars — for tourists. The project, called the MARS-V Project, is under development by MARS-V, a non-governmental organization based in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. They're working to build a fully-fledged Mars analog station in the Gobi to prepare for human travel to the red planet — and expect to welcome the first tourists to the mock Mars camp by 2029.

Why Mongolia? Nowhere on Earth mimics the geography and climate of Mars more closely than Mongolia's Gobi. An arid, barren landscape with extreme temperature swings from 45 to -40 degrees Celsius (113 to -40 degrees Fahrenheit). The iron oxide-tinted soil has a reddish hue, making it look eerily Martian.



"Minus 27 degrees Celsius (-16.6 degrees Fahrenheit) would be a warm day," laughs the CEO. Crews wear thermal base layers, overalls, and analog spacesuits when working outdoors.

This combination of isolation, altitude and temperature is what makes the site so scientifically valuable as a training ground for scientists and astronauts — and as a test site for equipment and rovers.

For MARS-V, it also offers another potential: tourism. "Your objective is to survive in an environment that is very, very isolated," says Enkhvuvshin Doyodkhuu, MARS-V CEO. "You have to have this simulation mindset that you're on another planet: you need to feel that if you don't follow protocol, you die."

Surviving the simulation Each participant will have to pass physical, psychological and mental agility tests, then undergo a three-month virtual astronaut training program on everything from oxygen

protocol to the psychology of isolation.

Once you arrive in Mongolia, it's three days of in-person drills in Ulaanbaatar with your new teammates before handing in your phone and beginning the ten-hour journey by bumpy road to the site, drifting away from civilization across "It's surreal," says Doyodkhuu. "This feeling of vastness, of endless empty space — the Gobi really gives you that "Mad Max" kind of feeling. It's beautiful if you think about it, but it can be overwhelming to some."

Your home for the month? Mars "habitats" — interconnected modular pods with living quarters, a laboratory, and a greenhouse. Each day begins with the same strict daily regimen that real astronauts might face: vitamins, meditation, exercise, breakfast, and a team briefing for the day ahead. s stretches of pale-red dust.

"Meditation has to be a big part of the program," says Doyodkhuu. "One very risky thing when it comes to Mars pioneers is we don't really know what's going to happen with their psychology, because no other person has been away from Earth that long."

Doyodkhuu says the Mars simulation for tourists could have a similar psychological effect.

INFA

Cheeky Instagram Ad

LOUVRE HEIST-MAKER CAPITALIZES ON PRODUCT'S NOTORIETY



Sophie Tanno
Alexander Böcker, the German company's managing director and third-generation owner, told CNN in a statement that he and his wife were "shocked" when they first saw the news on Sunday and realized "that our lift had been misused for this robbery."

As French police, government officials and top executives at the Louvre Museum continue to scratch their heads over how thieves managed to brazenly steal priceless jewelry in broad daylight, a German company is seizing the moment and grabbing its 15 minutes of fame.

Böcker, the firm that manufactured the furniture lift apparently used in the audacious robbery, has taken to social media to show there is no such thing as bad publicity. In a tongue-in-cheek Instagram post, the company, based in Werne, northwestern Germany, posted an image of the scene following the incident and captioned it: "The next time you need things to move quickly. The Böcker Agilo transports your treasures weighing up to 400kg at 42 meters per minute – whisper-quiet thanks to 230 V E-motor."

The unidentified thieves, who remain at large, made off with historic jewels worth more than \$100 million after breaking into the world-famous Paris museum in broad daylight on Sunday morning, when the museum was already open to visitors. Video footage appears to show that they entered through a second-floor balcony after gaining access with a truck fitted with the lift.

Alexander Böcker, the German company's managing director and third-generation owner, told CNN in a statement that he and his wife were "shocked" when they first saw the news on Sunday and realized "that our lift had been misused for this robbery." Then, once it became clear that nobody had been injured, the business owner's entrepreneurial spirit kicked in. "Once the initial shock had subsided, black humour took over," he said in the statement. "We joked around a bit, had some fun and came up with some initial slogans." The feedback to the company's post, published on Monday, has been "overwhelming" and mostly positive, according to Böcker.

In an interview with Reuters, he said: "Luckily for us, most of the people got the humor and know that we are not involved in the robbery and we were very pleased with the reaction so far." The Louvre's director, Laurence des Cars, told a French Senate committee hearing on Wednesday that the museum's aging camera system did not cover the eastern balcony of the Apollo Gallery, where the robbers used an angle grinder to break in. Des Cars told the hearing that the "absolutely obsolete, even absent, technical infrastructure"

to monitor the country's most valuable treasures was a "terrible observation" for the world's largest museum. She said she had offered her resignation to Culture Minister Rachida Dati after the robbery, but it was rejected.

According to Böcker, the Agilo is mainly used in construction and to transport heavy goods during removals and is not meant to transport people.

The specific model used in the heist was sold to a customer in the Greater Paris area who rents it out, according to Böcker's statement. But it was apparently stolen from the owner during a demonstration for a prospective customer.

"It appears that the company lettering has been removed and the number plates replaced," he added.





STEFAN EDLIS AND GAEL NEESON BUILT AN UNFORGETTABLE COLLECTION DEFINED BY HUMANITY AND HUMOUR

Diary Times Desk : 'In the art world there are a lot of followers — a few leaders and a lot of followers,' the late collector Stefan Edlis quipped in the 2018 art world documentary *The Price of Everything*. Before passing in 2019 at age 94, Edlis, along with his wife, Gael Neeson, built one of America's most important collections of post-war and contemporary art. Embracing works that were both joyful and defiant, the discerning couple established themselves as steadfast cultural leaders championing work that uprooted conventions and broadened the definition of what art could be. This November, Christie's is honoured to present more than 40 groundbreaking works of art and design from the couple's collection during the November marquee week in New York, first on 19 November in the 21st Century Evening Sale and followed by the Post-War & Contemporary Art Day Sale on 20 November. Additional offerings from the collection will appear in December and through 2026.

Iconic, playful and strikingly forthright examples by America's leading contemporary artists lead the selection. 'Humour and meaning were the touchstones of their collection. They wanted to live with works that helped them understand the underbelly of society but were also joyful, whether Ed Ruscha's *How Do You Do?* (2003), an iconoclastic Urs Fischer sculpture or a Diego Giacometti console,' says Sara Friedlander, Christie's Deputy Chairman of Post-War and Contemporary Art. In addition to artworks by Ruscha and Fischer are pieces by George Condo, John Currin, Marlene Dumas, Jeff Koons, Claes Oldenburg and Cindy Sherman. Also featured are works of avant-garde and Art Deco design by Giacometti, Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann and Jean Dunand, amongst others.

Resilience reflected through collecting

Born in Vienna in 1925 and raised Jewish, Edlis fled Nazi-occupied Austria for the United States in 1941 with his mother and two siblings. He then served in the US Navy during World War II, after which he made moulds for a toolmaker. By 1954 Edlis was running the company, and 11 years later he set up on his own, establishing what became the Apollo Plastics Corporation. During a ski trip to Wisconsin in 1974, Edlis met Neeson, a medical technician living in Europe.

The couple soon returned to America and, under the guidance of notable Chicago collector Gerald Elliot, set about on a lifelong journey devoted to the arts. An early recommendation by Elliot, Larry Rivers's *Four Mollys* (1957), will be offered at Christie's in 2026.



PAINTINGS FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN: 'ANYONE WITH AN EYE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH THEM'

Diary Times Desk :

It was in 1998, in the *Princes, Poets and Paladins* exhibition at the British Museum, that the public first caught a glimpse of a priceless collection of Indian and Islamic paintings owned by Prince Sadruddin and Princess Catherine Aga Khan. Amassed over 45 years, the 140 paintings, drawings and manuscripts, dating from the 14th century, were of exceptional beauty and vigour.

'It would be impossible to form such a collection today,' says Edward Wilkinson, Christie's global head of Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Art. 'Prince Sadruddin began acquiring these works in the 1960s, when fine examples of Indian and Islamic art were still easily available on the market.'

Born in France in 1933, the philanthropist and United Nations diplomat Prince Sadruddin was the younger son of Sultan Muhammed Shah, Aga Khan III, the leader of the Nizari Ismaili Shia dynasty. His grandmother was a descendant of Fath Ali Shah Qajar, the second Shah of Qajar Iran, through whom the family inherited a library of Persian books, mystical texts and astrological treatises.

As a child, Prince Sadruddin was captivated by the luminosity of these manuscripts, and fascinated by the inventiveness and delightful complexity of the paintings by master craftsmen.

At Harvard in the 1950s, Prince Sadruddin came into contact with Islamic scholars and classicists who guided his interests. He also solicited advice from his peers, among them Stuart Cary Welch, who later became an internationally renowned Islamic art expert. 'In those days, Islamic art was a neglected field, so you could pick up a good page of Kufik calligraphy, an Islamic script, for less than \$100,' recalled Prince Sadruddin.

When the prince married Princess Catherine in 1972, the couple began collecting in earnest, filling their beautiful 17th-century chateau on the shores of Lake Geneva with exquisite examples of textiles, rugs and paintings from Persia and India. Artworks from the Pahari hills and the Deccan and Safavid courts were selected for their beauty and symbolism.

What makes an art collection more than the sum of its parts? 'The rare and unusual,' says Wilkinson. 'The prince and princess never followed a set of rules of sticking to genres or specific periods — they acquired what resonated with them personally.'





CONFIRMED: HANSI FLICK WILL MISS EL CLASICO AS BARCELONA
APPEAL REJECTED BY COURT



Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona have been informed that Hansi Flick will not be allowed to sit on the bench at the Santiago Bernabeu for this Sunday's El Clasico against Real Madrid.

The Administrative Court for Sport (TAD) has rejected the appeal filed by the Catalan club, which sought to overturn the sanction imposed on the German coach after the Appeals Committee upheld the Disciplinary Committee's original decision. As a result, Flick must serve the suspension and will be unable to lead the team from the touchline.

His assistant, Marcus Sorg, will take charge in the technical area and make in-game decisions, while Flick follows the match from another section of the stadium, maintaining constant communication with his coaching staff.

It is worth noting that, as Barcelona have confirmed, Sorg will also handle the pre-match press conference on Saturday at the Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper before the team travels to Madrid in the afternoon.

BARCELONA TARGET'S AGENT GIVES
IMPORTANT UPDATE HIS FUTURE –
“NOTHING IS TRUE”

Diary Times Desk : The future of Julian Alvarez has been a key talking point in the market lately, especially amid Atletico Madrid's troubles this season.

The Argentine international has been an evident outperformer since joining the club in 2024, having racked up 36 goals and 11 assists in just 68 matches.

However, Atletico Madrid have been unable to perform and live up to Martinez's expectations this season, which has led to speculation about his future.

In recent times, Barcelona have emerged as one of the potential suitors for Alvarez, as the club look to find a long-term replacement for Robert Lewandowski.

Julian Alvarez's agent on his future

In light of these speculations, Julian Alvarez's agent, Fernando Hidalgo, has recently given an update on the player's future, notably denying all the rumours.

BARCELONA LEGEND OPINES ON LAMINE
YAMAL'S COMMENTS AIMED AT REAL
MADRID – ‘ADD A LITTLE SPICE TO THE
CLASICO’

Diary Times Desk : Lamine Yamal has been the talk of the town heading into Sunday's El Clasico, especially after comments on Real Madrid.

In a recent interaction, the Barcelona winger accused Real Madrid of 'cheating' – something that didn't go well with Los Blancos.

Even the Barcelona camp view Yamal's comment as 'stupid' while Real Madrid have found it disrespectful, with Dani Carvajal set to confront the player after the Clasico.

Andreas Iniesta backs Lamine Yamal

In the wake of controversy surrounding his comment, Yamal has received some much-needed support from Barcelona legend Andreas Iniesta.

Participating in the International Congress on Health Communication (h/t Mundo Deportivo), Iniesta said Yamal's dig at Real Madrid should be merely seen as a way to add more spice to El Clasico.

BARCELONA SUPERSTAR COULD MISS AN ADDITIONAL MONTH IF INJURY
RELAPSE IS CONFIRMED

Diary Times Desk : Earlier today, reports emerged confirming that Raphinha has been ruled out of FC Barcelona's upcoming La Liga clash against Real Madrid.

The Brazilian winger had resumed normal training after missing close to a month of action due to a hamstring injury.

However, it has been suggested that the forward had some issues on Thursday that stopped him from completing the training session.

Raphinha showed up at the Ciutat Esportiva this morning but left the facilities even before his teammates stepped out on the pitch to train.

Extended absence for Raphinha?
Now, according to Javi Miguel of AS, Raphinha's situation is a concerning one for Barcelona as he could face more time out on the sidelines.



BARCELONA HAT-TRICK HERO
REVEALS REAL MADRID WERE
INTERESTED IN HIM – ‘IT’S
TRUE’

Diary Times Desk : Fermin Lopez is currently one of the most in-form players for Barcelona as they gear up for the season's first El Clasico.

The Spanish international is coming on the back of a hat-trick against Olympiacos and is a favourite to occupy the attacking midfield position for Barcelona this weekend.

With Dani Olmo, Gavi, and now Raphinha firmly ruled out of Sunday's clash, Fermin Lopez's creativity in the final third will be integral for Barcelona.

Real Madrid were interested in Fermin. However, Fermin's career trajectory could have ended very differently as Real Madrid were interested in his services at one point.

This has been revealed by Fermin himself, in a recent interaction with Catalunya Radio (h/t SPORT), ahead of the Clasico.

LAMINE YAMAL'S COMMENTS
SEEN AS ‘DISRESPECTFUL’ BY
REAL MADRID; CARVAJAL TO
INTERVENE

Diary Times Desk : Lamine Yamal has been in the news of late, with his off-the-pitch lifestyle causing some concerns at Barcelona, even prompting sporting director Deco to seek the intervention of his agent, Jorge Mendes.

Now, Yamal has once again grabbed the headlines and for the wrong reasons as well, after claiming Real Madrid 'steal and complain', just days before El Clasico.

In an interaction with Kings League club Porcinis' president, Ibai Llanos, the Barcelona star, when asked if Porcinis reminded him of Real Madrid, he said, "Yes, they steal, they complain."

Dani Carvajal to step in
According to Mundo Deportivo, the statement from Lamine Yamal did not sit well with Real Madrid, who consider his comment 'disrespectful'.

Even within the Barcelona camp, Yamal's comment has been broadly seen as 'stupid', and something that does not reflect well on him.
Now, with Real Madrid clearly hurt from Yamal's statement, the club's senior player, Dani Carvajal, is expected to speak to Yamal after El Clasico on Sunday.
One can only imagine how hostile the environment might become for young Yamal, especially considering the fact that the match will be held at the Santiago Bernabeu.