

NEWS IN BRIEF

VANDE MATARAM MAKES US EXPERIENCE MATERNAL AFFECTION OF MA BHARATI: PM MODI

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called upon citizens to share their suggestions for celebrating the 150th year of 'Vande Mataram', India's national song, which was composed on November 7, 1896, by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

Speaking during the 127th episode of his monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister said, "In 'Mann Ki Baat' now, let's talk about a subject that is very close to everyone's hearts. This subject is our national song — India's national song, 'Vande Mataram'.

A song whose very first word evokes a surge of emotions in our hearts. 'Vande Mataram' — this one word contains so many emotions, so many energies."

22-YEAR-OLD LAW STUDENT'S STOMACH CUT OPEN, FINGERS CHOPPED OFF IN KANPUR: COPS

Diary Times Desk :

A 22-year-old law student's stomach was cut open, his fingers chopped off after an argument with a medical shop operator in Kanpur, police said.

Abhijeet Singh Chandel, a first-year law student at Kanpur University, is admitted to a local hospital. The student needed 14 stitches to his head and his condition is said to be critical, police said.

The argument began over the price of a medicine, and it soon escalated into a full-blown fight between the law student and the medical shop attendant, Amar Singh. Amar Singh was joined in by his brother, Vijay Singh, and two more people, Prince Raj Srivastava and Nikhil.

The four attacked the student on his head, and he fell to the ground with blood trickling down his face. The attackers then hit the student on his stomach and cut it open with a sharp object, police said.

After being injured in the attack, Abhijeet ran towards his house shouting for his life, but the attackers caught him again and chopped off two fingers of one of his hands, police said.

MAZAGON DOCK IN MUMBAI



The programme aims to modernise India's marine fisheries sector and enhance deep-sea fishing capacity through cooperative societies and Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs).

A Joint Working Group has been constituted by the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Cooperatives to accelerate cooperative-led deep-sea fishing initiatives.

India's marine fisheries sector has traditionally operated on a modest scale, with fishermen using conventional vessels that typically venture only 40-60 nautical miles from the coastline. This has limited both catch volumes and economic returns.

The new vessels are expected to enable fisheries cooperatives to tap into India's Exclusive Economic Zone and high seas, particularly around Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The initiative could unlock opportunities in high-value fisheries such as tuna, potentially boosting seafood exports and strengthening coastal livelihoods, the statement added.

The government has positioned the programme as part of its push towards self-reliance and strengthening the Blue Economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

AMIT SHAH TO BOOST DEEP-SEA FISHING COOPERATIVES IN MUMBAI

Diary Times Desk : Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will distribute state-of-the-art deep-sea fishing vessels to beneficiaries at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai on Monday, marking what the government has termed a "historic milestone" in cooperative-led deep-sea fishing.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, and Union Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol will attend the event.

The vessels are being provided under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, with each unit costing Rs 1.2 crore, according to an official statement.

The initiative is jointly funded by the Maharashtra government, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), and the Union Department of Fisheries.

INDIA'S AIR POLLUTION CRISIS: CONGRESS CALLS OUT THREAT TO BRAINS AND BODIES

Diary Times Desk : Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said the air pollution crisis is no longer just a respiratory issue but a full-blown assault on our brains and bodies.

"Our current PM2.5 standard is eight times higher than the WHO's annual exposure guideline and four times higher for 24-hour exposure," he said.

"Despite the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched in 2017, PM2.5 levels continue to rise, and every single Indian now lives in areas exceeding WHO limits," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications wrote on X.

Ramesh also said air pollution has become a "public health catastrophe and a national security threat" that endangers India's society, healthcare system, and future workforce.

Citing the State of Global Air 2025 report, Jairam Ramesh noted that nearly 2 million deaths in India in 2023 were linked to air pollution, a 43 per cent rise since 2000.

He said nearly 90 per cent of these deaths were caused by non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, lung cancer, diabetes, and even dementia.

India records 186 air-pollution-related deaths per 100,000 people, more than ten times the rate in high-income nations, he said.



INDIA TO CONTEST RUSSIA CRUDE CURBS, CITE FREE PASS FOR GERMAN FIRMS



Diary Times Desk : India plans to diplomatically raise the issue of the country being 'singled out' by the US and the UK and asked to stop buying crude oil from Rosneft while Germany has been given an exemption. Rosneft is a Russian firm that has been sanctioned by the US and the UK. The step is being taken to avoid the imposition of secondary sanctions.

Sources said, "The matter of India being singled out and asked to stop crude oil purchases from Russia will be raised at an appropriate diplomatic level with the UK and the US."

The move comes after Germany has been given a waiver by the UK by way of a 'special licence', allowing companies to work with two German subsidiaries of Rosneft.

The cases of Germany and India are near identical, said the sources. Rosneft owns a 49.13 per cent stake in its subsidiary Nayara Energy Ltd, a Gujarat-based refinery that was sanctioned by the European Union on July 18 and by the UK last week.

Speaking at the Berlin Global Dialogue on Friday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asked why India was singled out for new US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, while Germany had been given exemption for Rosneft's subsidiaries.

8,000 ZERO-ENROLMENT SCHOOLS EMPLOY 20,000 TEACHERS IN INDIA: MINISTRY DATA



Diary Times Desk : Data from the Union Education Ministry has revealed that approximately 7,769 government schools across India, with zero student enrolment, continue to employ around 20,000 teachers, costing the exchequer ₹1,800 crore annually in salaries. The findings, part of a nationwide audit under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, highlight Uttar Pradesh with the highest number at 2,890 such schools, followed by Bihar (1,350), Madhya Pradesh (980), and Odisha (750).

According to PTI, these schools, primarily in rural areas, have no students due to factors like low birth rates, migration, and preference for private institutions, yet remain operational with fully paid staff. The ministry noted that each school employs an average of 2-3 teachers, with salaries ranging from ₹4 lakh to ₹10 lakh annually, depending on experience and location. The issue was flagged during a review of the PM SHRI scheme, prompting the Centre to direct states to close or merge these schools to optimize resources.

Uttar Pradesh's Basic Education Department reported 1,297 schools with zero students in 2024-25, down from 3,104 in 2022-23 due to prior mergers, while Bihar's Education Secretary Baidyanath Yadav cited local resistance to closures as a challenge. The ministry plans to reallocate teachers to nearby functional schools and repurpose vacant buildings for community use, with a deadline for state action plans set for December 2025.

70 LAKH BIHARI MIGRANT WORKERS

HOMECOMING VOTE: MIGRANT WORKERS RETURNING FOR CHHATH PUJA COULD DECIDE BIHAR POLLS



Diary Times Desk : With nearly 70 lakh Bihari migrant workers returning home for the Chhath festival on October 27-28, just a week before the first phase of Bihar Assembly polls, political experts expect a surge in voter turnout across the state's 243 constituencies.

The Assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 6 and 11, with counting and results scheduled for November 14.

According to estimates, around 2.5 to 3.1 crore Biharis work outside the state, including 80-90 lakh who migrate annually for work as labourers, masons, mechanics, and other trades.

The migrant workers coming home, mostly labourers and employees working in factories, construction sites, and offices across India, are being considered a decisive voter bloc. Many of them are likely to stay back and vote, especially in districts that recorded low polling in 2020.

Both the NDA and Mahagathbandhan (opposition grand alliance) are urging migrant workers to "stay back and vote," portraying it as a duty to ensure a better future for Bihar.

"The majority of those who come (for the festival) belong to Scheduled Castes and marginalised communities whose families benefit from government welfare schemes. Their womenfolk will certainly think of the NDA, not the RJD," claimed a BJP leader.

INDIAN NAVY TO ACQUIRE NEW LPDS, LIGHTWEIGHT TORPEDOS AND GUN SYSTEMS



Diary Times Desk : The Indian Navy's requirement for LPDs is long known, with a Request for Information (RFI) released in 2021. The RFI had called for four 200 meter long vessels with electric propulsion and the capacity to embark 900 troops.

The RFI also required the LPDs to have a through deck capable of accommodating helicopters of various types, making the ship a LHD rather than an LPD. The ship was also required to be heavily armed, with 16 anti-ship missiles and 32 VLSRSAM missiles.

Contrary to initial reports which suggested that the four LPDs will cost ₹80,000 crores (\$9 billion), the DAC approval is worth about ₹33,000 crores (\$3.75 billion). In fact, all the proposals cleared in the meeting, including ones for the Indian Army and IAF, amounts to just ₹79,000 crores.

This brings into question the number, size and features of LPDs proposed by the Navy, primarily whether the ships will be similar to known requirements. Any inclusion of offensive armament also remains to be seen. The ships will have a displacement of over 20,000 tons.

FIVE CHILDREN TEST HIV POSITIVE AFTER BLOOD
TRANSFUSION IN JHARKHAND; CIVIL SURGEON SUSPENDED



Diary Times Desk : Taking serious note of the alleged negligence by health officials after five children contracted HIV from transfused infected blood at Sadar Hospital in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, Chief Minister Hemant Soren has ordered the suspension of the Civil Surgeon and other officials found responsible for the lapse.

The Chief Minister also announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to each of the affected families, along with free treatment for the children suffering from the infection.

"Following reports of HIV-infected blood being transfused to children suffering from Thalassemia in Chaibasa, instructions have been given to suspend the West Singhbhum Civil Surgeon and other concerned officials," Hemant Soren said in a post on X.

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY SHOWS
SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT BUT
STILL IN 'POOR' CATEGORY

Diary Times Desk : Delhi's air quality showed a slight improvement on Saturday morning, with the AQI in 'poor' category at 261, marking a drop from the 290 recorded a day before, CPCB data showed.

However, Anand Vihar was in the 'severe' category with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 415, the highest among all the monitoring stations in the capital, according to the Sameer app developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Seven stations recorded 'very poor' AQI, while the rest remained in the 'poor' category. According to the CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The minimum temperature settled at 16.9 degrees Celsius in the capital, 0.3 notch below normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

US-PAKISTAN RELATIONS DON'T COME AT EXPENSE OF INDIA:
MARCO RUBIO

Diary Times Desk : The US is seeking to expand its strategic relationship with Pakistan but those ties don't come at the expense of Washington's relations with India, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

Just like India has ties with countries that the US doesn't, the vice versa applies, Rubio told reporters on Saturday on board a flight to Doha.

"It's part of a mature, pragmatic foreign policy," he said. "I don't think anything we're doing with Pakistan comes at the expense of our relationship or friendship with India, which is deep, historic, and important."

The US's pivot toward Pakistan under President Donald Trump has irked New Delhi and coincided with a fraying in ties between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Look, we're fully aware of the challenges with regards to India and everything else, but our job is to try to create opportunities for partnerships with countries where it's possible," Rubio said. "And we've had a long history of partnering with Pakistan on counter-terror and things of that nature. We'd like to expand it beyond that, if possible."

PRESIDENT MURMU INAUGURATES PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN
GHAZIABAD



Diary Times Desk : Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a private hospital in Ghaziabad, the President said that the health service is an integral part of national development, and no citizen should be deprived of effective medical services. She said that by serving in the field of health, medical professionals are also serving the country. "I appreciate all of you for your commitment. I am pleased to know that Yashoda Hospital has been working sincerely in line with national health priorities," she said. Emphasising the role of healthcare in nation-building, the President said, "Health service is an integral part of national development. Protecting people from diseases and improving their health standards is among the top priorities of the government." She highlighted that the government is continuously expanding health infrastructure and medical services across the country. "These efforts will contribute to building a healthy and developed India," she added.

CHHATH POLITICS: AAP-BJP FACE OFF
OVER 'FAKE GHAT' AND YAMUNA
POLLUTION

Diary Times Desk : A political row erupted in Delhi on Sunday after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of setting up a "fake Yamuna ghat" with filtered water for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Chhath Puja celebrations.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, in a post on X, said that the BJP had "made a mockery of the sacred Chhath festival" by creating a special setup for the Prime Minister while ordinary devotees were left to pray in the polluted Yamuna.

"Prime Minister Modi will celebrate Chhath in a filtered-water Yamuna, while our poor Purvanchali brothers and sisters are being forced to offer prayers in the filthy, polluted waters of the real Yamuna," Delhi AAP president Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

CBI TAKES OVER INVESTIGATION OF
KARUR STAMPEDE CASE

Diary Times Desk : The CBI has taken over the probe of the Karur stampede, in which 41 people were killed during a political rally of actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), officials said Sunday.

A special team of the CBI has already visited the site at Velusampuram in Karur, Tamil Nadu, they said.

Forty-one people lost their lives and over 60 injured in the stampede that occurred at the TVK meeting addressed by Vijay on September 27.

As per procedure, the CBI has re-registered the FIR of the state police and also informed the local court about the development, they said.





ACTOR VIJAY TO MEET
KARUR STAMPEDE VICTIMS'
FAMILIES IN
MAMALLAPURAM
TOMORROW

Diary Times Desk : Actor and Tamilaga Vетtri Kazhagam (TVK) Chief Vijay will meet the families of those who lost their lives in the Karur stampede on Monday morning at a private hotel in Mamallapuram. According to party sources, families from Karur and a few other districts are being brought to the venue by special buses arranged by the TVK. "The meeting would start around 7:30 am and, as of now, it's going to be a private affair and media access is unlikely. Vijay will be individually meeting each of the families," a member of the party's communications team told NDTV. "It's an indoor programme," a senior police officer told NDTV.

DGCA EXTENDS DUTY
HOURS OF PILOTS ON
BOEING 787S; PILOT
ASSOCIATION DEMANDS
WITHDRAWAL OF ORDER

Diary Times Desk : Due to the need to reroute flights on account of the closed Pakistani airspace, the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has permitted the extension of the Flight Duty Period (FDP) by one hour on select Boeing 787 flights from Sunday (October 26). The move has invited criticism from a leading pilot body, which has demanded immediate withdrawal of the order. The FDP has been extended to 14 hours from the existing 13 hours on eight Dreamliner flights, which operate with two crew members. FDP is the time during which a flight crew member is on duty for the purpose of operating an aircraft. It starts when the crew is required to report for flight duty and ends when the aircraft comes to rest at the end of the final flight and the engines are shut down. The regulator has also extended the Flight Time by 30 minutes, from 10 hours to 10.30 hours. "The exemptions will be valid from October 26, 2025, upto March 31, 2026," the DGCA said. Air India is the only airline that presently operates the Boeing 787 model. This is the same model involved in the horrific Ahmedabad crash on June 12 this year. The order also adds that the crew must be provided an additional one hour rest at the layover station.

The regulator states, "The exemption is to prevent passenger inconvenience, flight disruptions and downstream roster irregularities."

ODISHA ON HIGH ALERT AS DEEP
DEPRESSION INTENSIFIES IN BAY OF BENGAL



Diary Times Desk : The Odisha government on Sunday put all 30 districts on alert as the depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a deep depression and is slowly moving towards the east coast, officials said.

Odisha will experience very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall on October 28 and 29, they said.

The IMD has issued a red alert for five Odisha districts - Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam - and orange and yellow alerts for several other districts.

The weather office also hoisted Distant Cautionary Signal No-1 (DC-1) at all ports of Odisha and advised fishermen not to venture into the sea till October 29.

IF INDIA BLOC WINS BIHAR, WAQF ACT
WILL BE "THROWN INTO DUSTBIN:
TEJASHWI YADAV

Diary Times Desk : If the INDIA bloc is voted to power in Bihar, the Waqf (Amendment) Act would be "thrown into the dustbin", the opposition coalition's Chief Minister candidate Tejashwi Yadav said on Sunday.

Addressing back-to-back public rallies in the Muslim-dominated Katihar, Kishanganj and Araria districts, Yadav said his father, Lalu Prasad, the RJD chief, never compromised with communal forces in the country.

"But Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has always supported such forces, and it is because of him that the RSS and its affiliates are spreading communal hatred in the state as well as in the country. The BJP should be called 'Bharat Jalao Party'. If the INDIA bloc comes to power in the state, we will throw the Waqf Act into the dustbin," he said.

ON VOTER ROLL REVISION, MK STALIN ASKS CADRE TO BE
CAUTIOUS AT EVERY BOOTH

Diary Times Desk : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin has accused the BJP-AIADMK alliance of attempting to win elections through the Special Intensive Revision or SIR by allegedly removing the names of working-class people, minorities, Scheduled Castes, and women from the voters' list - a move he said "will not work in Tamil Nadu".

In a letter to DMK cadres, Stalin urged them to remain cautious at every polling booth to ensure that people's voting rights are protected.

The Chief Minister also invited all levels of DMK functionaries to attend a special session titled "My Polling Booth, Winning Booth", scheduled to be held at Mahabalipuram on October 28.

NEW TWIST IN SATARA
DOCTOR SUICIDE CASE:
WOMAN'S FALSE
POSTMORTEM REPORT CLAIM

Diary Times Desk : The doctor in Maharashtra who died by suicide has signed a fake postmortem report, a woman from Satara has alleged. The woman, Bhagyashree Maruti Pachangne, from a village in the district, is the mother of Deepali Maruti, who, she alleges, did not die a natural death and but her postmortem report does not corroborate that. Bhagyashree Pachangne has claimed that the doctor was under pressure to alter the postmortem report. She has also demanded a thorough investigation into her daughter's suspicious death.

Doctor's Suicide
The doctor was apparently under pressure to give false medical reports. In a suicide note that she penned on her palm, she has accused a police officer -- sub-inspector Gopal Badane -- of sexual assault and a techie, Prashant Bankar, of mental harassment.

'FRAUD DRIVER, DRUNK BIKER': THE
MAKING OF ANDHRA BUS TRAGEDY
THAT KILLED 20

Diary Times Desk : A bus driver who got his licence based on a fake academic certificate, a biker who made the reckless choice of riding drunk and a travel company that bypassed guidelines during renovating the bus -- the fire tragedy in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool, which has claimed 20 lives, shows how gaps in our road safety processes can have devastating consequences.

Miriyala Lakshmaiah, the driver of the double-decker bus that met with the horrific accident, has been arrested. The investigators have found that Lakshmaiah, who studied only up to Class 5, managed to get a heavy vehicle driving licence with a fake Class 10 certificate. According to licensing rules, anyone driving a transport vehicle needs to have studied at least up to Class 8. These rules, however, are often flouted, and people use fake academic documents to obtain their driving licence.





HARRIS 'CONCERNED' SHE DID NOT
ASK BIDEN TO QUIT RACE

Diary Times Desk :

Former US Vice-President Kamala Harris has expressed concern that she did not ask Joe Biden to pull out of the race for the White House. In an interview with the BBC for Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, she said: "I do reflect on whether I should have had a conversation with him, urging him not to run for re-election."

After months of speculation about his health and mental acuity, President Biden ended his re-election bid in July 2024 after a disastrous performance in a debate against Donald Trump a few weeks earlier.

Harris, who stepped in as the Democratic nominee but lost to Trump, has revealed in her book about her three-month campaign that she did not discuss with President Biden her concerns over his ability. Nor did the then 81-year-old raise the issue with her.

PAKISTAN NAVY CHIEF SAYS FORCE
CAPABLE OF DEFENDING MARITIME
FRONTIERS AS NEW HOVERCRAFT
INDUCTED

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan is capable of defending its maritime frontiers, the country's naval chief said on Saturday, as he inducted three state-of-the-art 2400 TD hovercraft to further strengthen the navy's operational capabilities, according to an official statement.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf made the remark while visiting forward posts in the country's creek region, where he reviewed operational preparedness and combat readiness.

Addressing officers and men on the occasion, he said the induction of the new platforms symbolized the Pakistan Navy's vision to modernize and bolster the country's defense.

"We know how to defend our sovereignty and every inch of our maritime frontiers from Sir Creek to Jiwani," he said, according to a statement circulated by the Directorate General Public Relations.

Ashraf reaffirmed the navy's "defense capabilities stand as strong as our unwavering morale, from the shores to the sea."

The official statement said the newly inducted hovercraft were capable of operating over a variety of surfaces, including shallow waters, sand dunes, marshy and boggy littoral zones and could move in areas where traditional craft are neither suitable nor designed to operate.

KREMLIN: IT IS WRONG TO TALK ABOUT
CANCELLATION OF PUTIN-TRUMP
SUMMIT, RIA REPORTS



Diary Times Desk : The Kremlin on Sunday said it was wrong to talk about cancellation of a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump, but added that preparation for it was needed, Russian agencies reported.

"Presidents cannot meet for the sake of meeting, they cannot just waste their time, and they are open about that. That's why they instructed (Russian Foreign Minister Sergei) Lavrov and (U.S. Secretary of State Marco) Rubio to prepare this process. The process is complicated," RIA agency quoted the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying.

DUBAI TO LAUNCH ITS NEXT ICONIC
LANDMARK: A FLOATING MUSEUM
CELEBRATING ART, INNOVATION AND
HERITAGE

Diary Times Desk : Dubai is once again pushing the boundaries of architecture and imagination with its latest cultural marvel - the Dubai Museum of Art (DUMA). Designed to appear as if it's floating above the waters of Dubai Creek, this striking new landmark promises to blend modern design with the city's rich culture, art and innovation.

Announcing the project, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, described DUMA as "a museum that floats above Dubai Creek to enhance its artistic brilliance."

He said the project "reflects the civilization spirit of Dubai and be a mirror to its culture and arts. It adds a new variety to its landmarks and architectural beauty."

Sheikh Mohammed also praised Abdullah Al Futtaim and his son Omar for helping to bring this cultural vision to life, describing DUMA as "a model of the private sector's responsibility towards its community and its neighbouring city."

HURRICANE MELISSA
STRENGTHENS AS IT
BARRELS TOWARDS
JAMAICA

Diary Times Desk : Hurricane Melissa is forecast to become a rare category five storm as it turns towards Jamaica, bringing life-threatening flash flooding and landslides.

The cyclone, which had winds of up to 120 mph (195 km/h) as of 06:00 GMT, is currently turning north-west in the Caribbean and is expected to make landfall by Tuesday, according to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC).

It warns of power cuts and damage to infrastructure as Melissa brings up to 30 inches (76cm) of rain and sea level surges as high as 13ft (4m) above ground. "Seek shelter now," residents have been told.

Melissa is the 13th hurricane in this year's Atlantic season, which typically ends in November.

A category five hurricane is the strongest type, with winds of at least 157mph.

While Melissa is set to weaken to a category four before reaching Jamaica, the NHC said there was "very little practical difference in the overall impacts" upon landfall, and that the hurricane will be "at least that intensity" when it hits the island. With tropical storm-strength winds and rain already expected well before it passes over central Jamaica - including potentially the capital, Kingston - it warns that "preparations should be rushed to completion".

MEET TIMOTHY MELLON, THE
DONOR WHO GAVE \$130
MILLION TO PAY US TROOPS
DURING SHUTDOWN

Diary Times Desk : Billionaire Timothy Mellon has donated \$130 million to help fund US troops during the ongoing government shutdown, according to The New York Times. The reclusive heir and major financial backer of President Donald Trump has made the contribution anonymously.

Trump announced the donation on Thursday, referring to the donor only as a "patriot", a "great American citizen", a "substantial man", and a friend, without disclosing his name.

The amount is intended to ensure that active-duty service members continue receiving their pay despite the budget deadlock that has disrupted government operations.

Who is Timothy Mellon?

Born in 1942, Timothy Mellon is the grandson of former US Treasury Secretary Andrew W Mellon and a descendant of Thomas Mellon, an Irish immigrant who built a vast banking and real estate empire after arriving in the US in 1818, as per the BBC.

FROM VIETNAM TO MOROCCO: 10 CHEAPEST COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE IN
2025

Diary Times Desk : Travel doesn't have to cost a fortune. In 2025, several countries offer incredible experiences without stretching your wallet. From bustling street markets to serene mountain retreats, these destinations allow you to explore culture, nature, and adventure on a budget. Whether it's tasting exotic cuisine, discovering historic sites, or relaxing on pristine beaches, there are plenty of affordable options for every kind of traveller. With the right planning, even international adventures can fit a modest budget. Vietnam offers a mix of rich history, vibrant cities, and breathtaking landscapes at very low costs. Street food costs just a few Rs, and budget hotels range from Rs 800-1,500 per night.





AI MINISTER "PREGNANT" WITH "83 CHILDREN": ALBANIA PM'S BIZARRE ANNOUNCEMENT



Diary Times Desk : Albania's AI-generated minister, Diella, is "pregnant," Prime Minister Edi Rama has announced. He revealed plans to create "83 children", or assistants, one for each Socialist Party member of parliament.

"We took quite a risk today with Diella here and we did very well. So for the first time Diella is pregnant and with 83 children," he said at the Global Dialogue (BGD) in Berlin. Rama said the "children", or assistants, will record everything that happens in parliament and keep legislators informed about discussions or events they miss.

"Each one...will serve as an assistant for them who will participate in parliamentary sessions, and will keep a record of everything that happens and will suggest members of parliament. These children will have the knowledge of their mother," Rama said.

He expects the system to be fully operational by the end of 2026.

TRUMP RAISES TARIFFS ON CANADIAN GOODS OVER REAGAN ADVERT

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump has said he is adding 10% to US tariffs on goods imported from Canada, after the province of Ontario aired an anti-tariff advertisement featuring Ronald Reagan. Calling the advert a "fraud", the US president lashed out at Canadian officials for not removing it ahead of the World Series baseball championship. Prime Minister Mark Carney said in response that Canada was ready "to continue to build on the progress we had been making" in trade talks, but added that it was developing trade relationships with other countries.

Canada is the only G7 country to not reach a deal with the US since Trump began seeking to levy steep tariffs on goods from major trading partners.

IN 1ST CALL WITH TRUMP, NEW JAPAN PM SAYS "STRENGTHENING ALLIANCE TOP PRIORITY"

Diary Times Desk : Japan's new prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, told US President Donald Trump that strengthening their countries' alliance is her government's "top priority", in their first phone call on Saturday.

Takaichi also told Trump that Japan is "an indispensable partner" in terms of the US's strategies towards China and the Indo-Pacific, according to comments posted on the Japanese premier's official website.

"I conveyed to him that strengthening the Japan-US Alliance is the top priority for my administration's foreign and security policy," she said, according to the post.

EAST TIMOR JOINS ASEAN; THAILAND, CAMBODIA SIGN EXPANDED BORDER CEASEFIRE

Diary Times Desk : East Timor's Prime Minister told leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that it was a "dream realised" for his nation to be admitted to the bloc and an opportunity as it seeks to boost its struggling economy.

"Today, history is made," Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao told the other leaders as the flag of East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, was added to the other 10 on the stage at a formal ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

It was the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) first expansion since the 1990s and was more than a decade in the making.



PAKISTAN SEEKS CLOSER TRADE, INVESTMENT AND DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH BANGLADESH

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza has said Islamabad was willing to deepen ties with Dhaka as he met Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus here.

"Our two countries will support each other," Chief Adviser Yunus's press wing quoted Mirza as saying during the meeting, which was held at his official Jamuna residence late Saturday.

The press wing statement said they "discussed a wide range of issues concerning Bangladesh-Pakistan relations, including growing importance of bilateral trade, investment and defence cooperation". It said they exchanged views on the growing challenge of "misinformation and the misuse of social media by non-state actors to undermine peace and stability across various regions".

"Fake news and disinformation have flooded social media. It is being used to sow chaos. There must be a concerted global effort to combat this menace," the statement quoted Yunus as saying to the Pakistani military leader.

HEZBOLLAH MOUTHPIECE CLAIMS NEW ATTACK BY DRONE KILLED ONE

Diary Times Desk : According to reports from Lebanon, one person was killed in a drone attack in the village of Harouf in the south of the country.

According to the newspaper Al-Akhbar which echoes the views of Hezbollah, the target of the drone attack is a relative of Abbas Hassan Karaki. The latter was the logistics commander of the 'Southern Front' headquarters of the terrorist organisation, who was eliminated yesterday in an IDF drone attack in southern Lebanon.

One of three drones launched from Lebanon hit Netanyahu's holiday residence on Saturday. His spokesperson said the prime minister was not in the vicinity at the time of the attack and there were no casualties. Afif said that if in the previous attack Netanyahu was not hurt, "the coming days and nights and the [battle]fields are between us." Afif appeared to be hinting that Hezbollah might carry out similar attempts in the future. He also said there would be no negotiations with Israel while fighting continues and acknowledged that some Hezbollah fighters have been taken captive by the Israeli military.



US AND CHINA AGREE FRAMEWORK OF TRADE DEAL AHEAD OF TRUMP-XI MEETING

Diary Times Desk : The US and China have agreed the framework of a potential trade deal that will be discussed when their respective leaders meet later this week, the US treasury secretary has said.

Scott Bessent told the BBC's US news partner CBS that this included a "final deal" on TikTok's US operations and a deferral on China's tightened rare earth minerals controls.

He also said he did not anticipate the 100% tariff on Chinese goods threatened by US President Donald Trump coming into force, while China will resume substantial soybean purchases from the US.

Both nations are seeking to avoid further escalation in a trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to hold talks on Thursday in South Korea.



TWO ARRESTED OVER THEFT OF JEWELS AT LOUVRE MUSEUM IN PARIS

Diary Times Desk : Two suspects have been arrested over the theft of precious crown jewels from Paris's Louvre museum, French media say.

The Paris prosecutor's office said one of the men had been taken into custody as he was preparing to take a flight from Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Items worth €88m (£76m; \$102m) were taken from the world's most-visited museum last Sunday, when four thieves wielding power tools broke into the building in broad daylight.

France's justice minister has conceded security protocols "failed", leaving the country with a "terrible image".

The Paris prosecutor's office said in a statement that the arrests had been made on Saturday evening, without specifying how many people had been taken into custody.

One of the suspects was preparing to travel to Algeria, police sources have told French media, while it is understood the other was going to Mali.

TRUMP SIGNS THAILAND-CAMBODIA CEASEFIRE PACT AT ASEAN SUMMIT IN MALAYSIA

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump has presided over the signing of a ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia and announced several trade deals on his first visit to Asia since re-entering the White House.

Trump cosigned the ceasefire on Sunday with his Malaysian, Thai and Cambodian counterparts on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim joined Trump for a ceremony marking the deal, which builds on a ceasefire that halted deadly border fighting in July.

"We did something that a lot of people said couldn't be done," Trump said.

TRUMP DANCES WITH MALAYSIAN PERFORMERS, INTERNET PRAISES HIS ENERGETIC MOVES

Diary Times Desk : After a 23 hour flight from Washington, US President Donald Trump made a lively arrival in Malaysia's capital. In a video shared by Rapid Response 47, the 79-year-old Trump is seen dancing to the beat of drums on the airport tarmac near Air Force One, his energetic moves drawing smiles from those around him.

He is seen dancing alongside colourfully costumed dancers representing Malaysia's major ethnic groups, including Borneo indigenous people, Malays, Chinese, and Indians. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim also joined the president, swaying to the music.

Trump's visit is part of a five-day mission to expand America's presence in Asia and strengthen trade ties. His plans include meeting newly elected Japanese leader Sanao Takaichi in Tokyo and Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea. A last-minute meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un near the Demilitarized Zone is also possible.

Social media is buzzing with reactions after a video shows President Trump dancing in Malaysia. Users are praising his moves, with many commenting on his energy, style, and rhythm, calling the moment both entertaining and memorable.

One user commented, "Trump making dancing great again."



ASIM MUNIR, SHEHBAZ SHARIF "GREAT PEOPLE": DONALD TRUMP'S HIGH PRAISE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has said Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and its Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, are "great people" and assured that Washington, DC, will soon resolve the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Trump is in Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur after he mediated the truce between Thailand and Cambodia. The long-awaited peace agreement was signed in his presence.

Speaking to the media, he said this is going to be a "very long peace". "This is one of eight wars that my administration has ended in just eight months. We're averaging one a month," he claimed.

"There is only one left. I heard that Pakistan and Afghanistan have started up. But I will get that solved very quickly. I know them both," Trump added, referring to the conflict that started two weeks ago and has claimed scores of lives. "Pakistan... the Field Marshal and the Prime Minister are great people, and I have no doubt we are going to get that done quickly. That one started up a few days ago. And I just feel it's something I can do."

EAM JAISHANKAR MEETS SINGAPORE FM BALAKRISHNAN, DISCUSSES GLOBAL SCENARIO, BILATERAL COOPERATION

Diary Times Desk : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday held a "very useful" meeting with Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, exchanging views on the evolving global and regional landscape while exploring new avenues to deepen India-Singapore cooperation.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, where both ministers participated in high-level regional diplomatic engagements.

In a post on X, EAM Jaishankar said, "Good to meet FM Vivian Balakrishnan of Singapore. A very useful exchange on the global and regional scenario, as well as opportunities for strengthening India-Singapore cooperation."

Before he engaged with the Singaporean FM, the EAM held talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on the sidelines of the summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The two held talks on India-Malaysia bilateral cooperation.



HAPPY
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INTERNATIONAL

DIARY TIMES

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LEGACY OF WHITE HOUSE EAST WING TRUMP RAZED



Diary Times Desk : Betty Ford reportedly said that if the White House West Wing is the "mind" of the nation, then the East Wing – the traditional power centre for first ladies – is the "heart."

That "heart" beat for more than 100 years as first ladies and their teams worked from their East Wing offices on everything from stopping drug abuse and boosting literacy to beautifying and preserving the White House itself. It's where they planned White House state dinners and brainstormed the elaborate themes that are a feature of the US holiday season.

That history came to an end after wrecking crews tore down the wing's two stories of offices and reception rooms last week. Gone is an in-house movie theatre and a covered walkway to the White House, captured in so many photos over the years. An East Wing garden that was dedicated to Jacqueline Kennedy was also uprooted, photographs show.

ISRAEL CONDUCTS STRIKE TARGETING ISLAMIC JIHAD MEMBER IN GAZA

Diary Times Desk : The Israeli military said on Saturday that it conducted an air strike targeting an alleged Islamic Jihad member in central Gaza, despite a ceasefire brokered by US President Donald Trump. For the past two weeks there has been a fragile truce between Hamas, an ally of Islamic Jihad, and Israel -- although the latter reserves the right to defend itself and its forces from attacks.

"A short while ago, the IDF (army) conducted a precise strike in the Nuseirat area in the central Gaza Strip targeting a terrorist from the Islamic Jihad terrorist organisation who planned to carry out an imminent terrorist attack against IDF troops," the military said.

Inside the Hamas-run territory, the Al-Awda hospital confirmed it had received wounded for treatment after a strike in Nuseirat.

"The hospital has received four injured people following the Israeli occupation's targeting of a civilian car in the Al-Ahli Club area in Nuseirat Camp in central Gaza," the hospital said.

1 DEAD, 6 INJURED IN MASS SHOOTING AT US UNIVERSITY DURING HOMECOMING EVENT

Diary Times Desk : One person was killed and six more were wounded in a shooting Saturday night at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University, where gunfire erupted during outdoor festivities as students and alumni celebrated homecoming at the historically Black school.

A person who had a firearm was detained, and officials are investigating the possibility that there was more than one shooter but don't believe there is any active threat to the campus, Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe said during a brief news conference early Sunday.

"We don't have a lot of answers about exactly what happened," he said. "What I will tell you is that today we're operating as if this is not an incident where someone came in with the design to inflict mass damage on a college campus."

TRUMP'S WEEK IN ASIA: CORRESPONDENTS ON THE WINS AND POTENTIAL LOSSES

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has arrived in Asia for a whirlwind week of diplomacy, which includes a much-anticipated meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

Top of the agenda will be trade – an area where tensions between the world's two biggest economies have once again been ramping up.

Trump landed in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, as a summit for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or Asean, begins on Sunday. He will then visit Japan and finally South Korea, where the White House says he will meet Xi.

So what are the wins Trump and other leaders are hoping for, and what are the pitfalls?

Our correspondents explain what you should know about the week ahead.

Inking new trade deals that provide opportunities to American businesses while keeping the tariff revenue flowing into the US Treasury is sure to be a central focus of Trump's Asia trip.

While there are multiple players in the global trade dance, the key to Trump's success or failure is China. And Trump's scheduled meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the sidelines of Apec – the first since 2019 – could set the course for US-China relations for the rest of Trump's second term in office.

As the US president has acknowledged, draconian tariffs on Chinese imports are unsustainable.



PAKISTAN MINISTER WARNS OF "OPEN WAR" WITH AFGHANISTAN IF PEACE TALKS FAIL

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan and Afghanistan on Saturday began the second round of peace talks in Istanbul even as Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif reportedly continued to engage in aggressive rhetoric by warning Kabul of an "open war" if the talks fail.

The first round of Pakistan-Afghanistan talks, mediated jointly by Qatar and Turkey, took place in Doha on October 18-19.

While the Afghan delegation is led by Deputy Interior Minister Rahmatullah Mujib and includes Anas Haqqani, brother of the Afghan Interior Minister Noor Ahmad Noor, Pakistan is represented by a two-member delegation of security officials.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, who had led the first round of talks on Saturday, reportedly said in Sialkot that the outcome of the fresh round of talks would likely be revealed by Sunday.

RUSSIA SAYS IT HAS TESTED NUCLEAR-POWERED BUREVESTNIK MISSILE

Diary Times Desk : Russia has tested the nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile, Moscow's top general has said.

"We have launched a multi-hour flight of a nuclear-powered missile and it covered a 14,000km (8,700-mile) distance, which is not the limit," Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov told President Vladimir Putin in a televised meeting.

The low-flying experimental weapon, first announced in 2018, has been hailed as having a potentially unlimited range and the ability to evade missile defences.

Western experts have previously cast doubt over missile's strategic value and Russian claims of having successfully tested it.

Putin said a "final successful test" of the weapon had been held in 2023, but the claim could not be independently verified. Of at least 13 known tests, only two had partial success since 2016, according to an arms control campaign group.

Gen Gerasimov said the missile was in the air for 15 hours during the test on 21 October.

He said the missile's vertical and horizontal manoeuvring were tested and were found to be up to specification, according to Russia's Tass news agency.

"Therefore, it demonstrated high capabilities to bypass missile and air defence systems," Tass reported Gen Gerasimov as saying.



BOEING CAN HIKE 737 MAX PRODUCTION TO 42 PLANES PER MONTH, FAA SAYS

Diary Times Desk :

Boeing can hike 737 MAX production to 42 planes per month after the Federal Aviation Administration lifted a 38-plane-per-month cap that had been in place since January 2024, the agency and planemaker said on Friday.

The FAA imposed the unprecedented production cap shortly after a 2024 mid-air emergency involving a new Alaska Airlines 737 MAX 9 that was missing four key bolts.

The announcement is a significant milestone for the U.S. planemaker, which was plunged into a safety crisis following the mid-air incident.

The FAA said on Friday its safety inspectors "conducted extensive reviews of Boeing's production lines to ensure that this small production rate increase will be done safely."

STOCKS SINK ON CONCERNS ABOUT REGIONAL BANK LOANS

Diary Times Desk : US stocks closed lower Thursday as jitters spread on Wall Street about credit market turmoil and regional banks' exposures to bad loans.

The Dow fell 301 points, or 0.65%. The broader S&P 500 dropped by 0.63%, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite moved 0.47% lower.

Volatility has returned to Wall Street amid rising US-China trade tensions, concerns about historically expensive stocks and brewing trouble in the banking industry.

Regional bank shares tumbled Thursday after two lenders disclosed issues with borrowers, stoking nerves about the health of the credit market — and the potential for negative spillovers into the stock market and broader economy.

Zions Bancorp (ZION) sank 13% after the bank disclosed it would take a \$50 million loss in the third quarter because of a bad loan. Western Alliance Bancorp (WAL) dropped 10.8% after it disclosed it is suing a borrower over allegations of fraud.

"Credit quality worries are plaguing Wall Street today as fears mount that there are multiple large lenders with heavy exposure.

STOCKS RALLY AND DOW CLOSES ABOVE 47,000 FOR FIRST TIME AFTER COOLER-THAN-EXPECTED INFLATION REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Better-than-expected inflation data Friday morning sparked an end-of-week rally in stocks, sending the Dow, S&P 500 and tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite soaring to fresh record highs.

The Dow gained 473 points, or 1.01%, and closed at 47,207.12. The blue-chip index closed above 47,000 for the first time ever.

The broader S&P 500 climbed 0.79%. The Nasdaq gained 1.15%. Wall Street's fear gauge, the VIX, sank 5%.

Wall Street sentiment got a boost Friday after Consumer Price Index data for September showed annual inflation heated up in September but less than expected.

That boosted expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates at its upcoming policy meetings next week and in December.

Fed rate cuts can lower savings and borrowing rates, encouraging spending and investing and boosting business activity, creating a sustained tailwind for the stock market.



WHY THIS ANALYST SAYS THE AI BUBBLE IS 17 TIMES BIGGER THAN THE DOT-COM BUST

Diary Times Desk : At this point, even the concept of an "AI bubble" seems to be a bubble. (In fact, Deutsche Bank analysts said last month that the "AI bubble" bubble has already burst.)

Perhaps some corners of the internet are bored of the bubble talk. That's not making the market any less, um, bubbly.

Just this week, the Financial Times wrote that 10 AI startups — not a dollar in profit among them — have gained nearly \$1 trillion in market value over the past 12 months. (That is, to use a technical term, bananas.)

Even as Wall Street analysts and tech media increasingly question the hype, drawing uneasy comparisons to the late 1990s, the AI industry's response has been to shrug and watch their valuations tick higher and higher. The AI faithful believe the technology will disrupt (in a good way, hopefully!) virtually every aspect of modern life, from phone operating systems to pharmaceuticals to finance.



ANOTHER 'SHE-CESION' IS REARING ITS HEAD: WOMEN ARE LEAVING THE WORKFORCE AT ALARMING RATES

Diary Times Desk : There's a chilling trend emerging in the job market: Women are dropping out of the US labor force at some of the highest levels in history.

An estimated 455,000 women left the workforce between January and August this year, a period when the overall labor force has held relatively steady, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows.

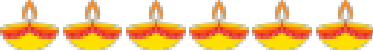
Only the pandemic saw a larger exodus for that period, according to BLS records that go back to 1948.

Economists are sounding the alarm: The losses, if continued, not only stand to erase the historic gains made by women in recent years but also risk stifling US economic growth.

"It's diminishing both current and potential growth in the economy," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG. "You want an economy that has as many people who want to have their hat in the ring working and their talents as possible. It's not a zero-sum game. It's not men or women. We need everybody. We need all hands on deck."

In the years leading up to the pandemic, the labor force participation rate for prime working-aged women (25-54 years old) rose faster than that of their male counterparts.





COMPANY RECALLS 2
MILLION POUNDS OF
BARBECUE PORK JERKY
THAT MAY CONTAIN
METAL WIRE

Diary Times Desk :

A South Dakota company is recalling more than 2.2 million pounds (998,000 kilograms) of Korean barbecue pork jerky sold at Costco and Sam's Club stores because the product may be contaminated with pieces of metal, federal health officials said Friday.

LSI, Inc., of Alpena, voluntarily pulled the product after customers complained about finding pieces of wiry metal in the jerky, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. Company officials said the metal came from a conveyor belt used in production. No confirmed injuries have been reported,

The recall includes 14.-5-ounce (410-gram) and 16-ounce (450-gram) plastic pouches of meat jerky labeled "Golden Island fire-grilled pork jerky Korean barbecue recipe." Roughly four dozen lots of jerky are affected. The products have a one-year shelf life with best-by dates ranging from Oct. 23, 2025, to Sept. 23, 2026. The packages contain the establishment number M279A inside the USDA mark of inspection.

People shouldn't eat the recalled jerky and should throw it away or return it to stores for refund.

THE FED CAN'T HELP
AMERICA'S YOUNG
TECH WORKERS WHO
ARE STRUGGLING TO
FIND A JOB

Diary Times Desk :

Hundreds of thousands of young Americans fresh out of college with a computer science degree have struggled to find a job over the past year. And their luck may not change anytime soon. The Federal Reserve began to lower interest rates last month to support the labor market and is expected to deliver another rate cut in the coming days. Companies across most industries, including technology, have pumped the brakes on hiring this year, hesitant to make those kinds of investments without knowing the full effects of President Donald Trump's sweeping economic policies.

TRUMP SAYS HE'S INCREASING TARIFFS ON CANADA BY 10% AFTER
ONTARIO'S REAGAN AD



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump said Saturday he is increasing the tariff on Canada by 10% over current levels, further escalating trade tensions over what he called a "fake" ad that featured parts of an anti-tariff speech by former President Ronald Reagan in 1987. "Canada was caught, red handed, putting up a fraudulent advertisement on Ronald Reagan's Speech on Tariffs," Trump posted on Truth Social, adding, "Because of their serious misrepresentation of the facts, and hostile act, I am increasing the Tariff on Canada by 10% over and above what they are paying now." The president's post came after he said Thursday he was terminating trade talks with Canada, threatening once again to upend the crucial economic relationship between the United States and its second-biggest trading partner. The new tariff is Trump's latest salvo in his global trade agenda after he imposed a levy of 100% "over and above" any tariffs on China in retaliation for new export controls Beijing imposed on rare-earth minerals earlier this month.

WHY HALLOWEEN CANDY IS GETTING MORE EXPENSIVE AND LESS



Diary Times Desk : Even the joy of Halloween will cost more this year, with less chocolate than in years past.

Expect more packages of tangy gummies, riding off a meteoric high last year. Your kid's trick-or-treat bag may be filled with a lot of pumpkin-spice-filled-anything. And like last year, cocoa bean industry experts are expecting high price tags to be passed down to consumers.

And with high cocoa prices, every producer from specialty chocolate makers to candy giants are changing up how they sell their treats. For consumers, this could mean less chocolate per package, higher prices and less cocoa content – meaning less chocolate-y chocolate – compared to before.

Overall, candy is 10.8% more expensive this Halloween season than last year, according to an analysis of NielsenIQ data conducted by progressive think tank Groundwork Collaborative and shared first with CNN. That's nearly quadruple the overall rate of inflation.

In 2024, Halloween candy prices only rose 2.1%, the analysis found.

Halloween spending is no fun-sized matter. Americans shelled out \$7.4 billion in Halloween chocolate and candy sales in 2024, a 2.2% increase from 2023, the National Confectioners Association said.

Escazú Chocolates, a bean-to-bar chocolate shop in Raleigh, North Carolina, sources most of its beans from Latin America. The shop said it has always worked with smaller farmers and paid them three to four times the commodity price of cacao – which essentially sets the minimum wage. The spike in prices has pushed up what Escazú pays those workers as well.

Other cost-cutting measures include offering a smaller hot chocolate size, advertising non-chocolate ice cream toppings and moving to a cheaper location in Raleigh to save on rent.



RICE FOR KIDS FOUND
INFESTED WITH WORMS

Diary Times Desk : Rice meant for distribution among children was found infested with rice weevil larvae and moth worms in 10 Anganwadi centres here, officials said on Saturday.

During a routine inspection conducted by the State Food Commission, 10 Anganwadi centres under the Dhar Chandna Circle in Kupvi subdivision, including Gaonkhar, Dhar-I, Dhar-II, Sharad, Bethadi, Dak, Bavat, Oran, Mushadi and Majhgaon, were found locked, a statement issued on Saturday said.



FIVE HOUSES GUTTED AT
THEOG, COW BURNT
ALIVE



Diary Times Desk : As many as five families were rendered homeless after their houses were gutted by a fire in Theog subdivision of Shimla district today. However, no loss of human life was reported but a cow perished in the fire.

As per officials, the incident took place around 10 am at Namana village in Theog when the fire broke out in the houses of Sant Ram, Balak Ram, Hari Ram, Rati Ram and Layak Ram and spread quickly.

Locals informed the Fire Department and also tried to put it out but the houses were destroyed. In the meantime, district administration officials also reached the village to take stock of the situation.

Theog SDM Shashank Gupta said that the exact cause of the fire and the total loss suffered were being ascertained. He added that Rs 5,000 each was granted as immediate relief to the affected families, who shifted to the houses of their relatives.

ARREST WARRANT AGAINST CANADA-BASED NRI JAGMAN SAMRA; RECENTLY
UNDER SPOTLIGHT FOR FAKE CM MANN VIDEO

Diary Times Desk : The Faridkot police has obtained an arrest warrant from a local court against Canada-based NRI Jagmandeep Singh, also known as Jagman Samra, a resident of Phaguwala village in Sangrur. Samra recently drew attention for allegedly circulating a fake video of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on social media.

The warrant relates to an older case in which Samra had escaped from judicial custody. He was originally arrested by the Ferozepur Police in a cheating case registered on November 28, 2020, at Talwandi Bhai Police Station, and was lodged in Faridkot Central Jail as an undertrial. While in custody, Samra was admitted to Guru Gobind Singh Medical College Hospital in Faridkot for treatment on December 23, 2021. On February 1, 2022, he escaped from the hospital by deceiving the jail staff assigned to monitor him.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT BANS SALE
OF 112 'SUBSTANDARD' DRUGS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Government has banned the sale of 112 "substandard" drugs in the state following a list of such items issued by the Central Government. This follows recent instances of consumption of certain medicines leading to fatalities.

"These drugs have been declared as substandard drugs by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). The Health Department, Punjab, has completely banned the sale of these medicines," Health minister Balbir Singh said in a social media post on Sunday.

"Please do not use any of the medications listed above. If any of these medicines are being sold in any medicine shop, then immediately inform the Health Department. Your health is the priority of the Punjab Government," he said.

The list contains details of the product, batch number, manufacturing date, company producing the item and the test results leading to the ban. Apart from medicines, some energy drinks and oral rehydration solutions are under the government scanner over adverse health reports.



SAND PRICES PLUNGE 30% AFTER
PUNJAB LAUNCHES 'JISDA KHET,
USDI RET' FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Diary Times Desk : The state government's "Jihda Khet, Usdi Ret" scheme has led to a steep 30-35 per cent fall in sand prices across the region within just two weeks of its launch. The initiative, aimed at helping farmers whose fields were filled with sand and silt during recent floods, has resulted in a surge of sand supply in the market.

Sand that was selling for Rs 90-95 per quintal a fortnight ago is now available for Rs 60-62 in the retail market, while wholesale prices have dropped from Rs 75-80 to Rs 45-47 per quintal. Most of the sand reaching the Faridkot area is being sourced from flood-affected districts such as Fazilka, Ferozepur and Moga. Under the "Jihda Khet, Usdi Ret" campaign, flood-hit landowners are allowed to lift or de-silt sand and river material from their agricultural land without obtaining any permit or NOC. The district administrations have notified several villages near the Sutlej river, including 29 in Moga's Dharamkot area, for this purpose. The exemption, meant solely for land restoration, will remain valid until December 31.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
27-10-2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.



GANGSTER SUNIL
SARDHANIA HELD AT
DELHI AIRPORT FOR
ATTACK ON SINGER
FAZILPURIA, PROPERTY
DEALER'S MURDER

Diary Times Desk : Gangster Sunil Sardhania, the main accused in the firing on Haryanvi singer Rahul Fazilpuria and the murder of property dealer Rohit Shaukeen, was arrested from the Delhi International Airport in the early hours of Sunday, police said.

The accused had returned to India from Costa Rica and was arrested upon his arrival at the airport. However, sources claimed he was deported from Zurich, Switzerland and brought to India.

According to police, Sardhania and his associate Deepak Nandal had claimed responsibility for the firing at Fazilpuria's vehicle in Sector 71 on the Southern Peripheral Road on July 14 and for shooting dead Shaukeen near Palm Hills society in Sector 77.

"The accused was involved in planning and providing shooters and weapons for the firing at singer Rahul Fazilpuria, the murder of Rohit Shaukeen, and an attack at a property dealer's office in Gurugram," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Karan Goel said.

ANOTHER BATCH OF
YOUTHS DEPORTED
FROM US

Diary Times Desk : Another group of youths has been deported from the United States for illegal entry. Among the deported youths, 16 belong to Karnal district, 14 to Kaithal and five to Kurukshetra. They were brought to Karnal, Kaithal and Kurukshetra under police supervision and have been handed over to their family members after brief inquiry. Earlier this year between January and July, several youths of the state had been deported by the US. As per the data available, most of the deported youths are between 25 and 40 years of age. However, the deported youths and their family members are in deep distress and aren't speaking to anyone. The families who had pinned hopes on a better future abroad are now heartbroken and speechless.

LAWRENCE BISHNOI AIDE LAKHWINDER SINGH DEPORTED FROM US, ARRESTED BY
HARYANA POLICE

Diary Times Desk : The Special Task Force (STF) of Haryana Police has achieved a major breakthrough in its operations against organised crime.

It arrested gangster Lakhwinder Singh alias Lakha, a close associate of Lawrence Bishnoi, after his deportation from the US.

Lakha, a resident of Titram village in Kaithal district, had been operating from the US since 2022 under the directions of Anmol Bishnoi, police said.

He was allegedly involved in around a dozen extortion and firing cases related to organised crime in Haryana and Punjab.



HARYANA GOVERNOR MEETS
DECEASED ASI'S FAMILY,
ANNOUNCES RS 2.5 LAKH FOR ELDER
DAUGHTER'S EDUCATION

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Governor Aseem Kumar Ghosh on Sunday visited the residence of Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar, who allegedly shot himself dead on October 14, at Julana in Jind district, officials said.

After offering condolences to the ASI's mother, Indravati, and wife, Santosh, the Governor announced a financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh for the education of the elder daughter of the deceased, an official statement said.

Ghosh said that as the head of the state, he was pained by the loss of two of its 'sons' – IPS Y Puran Kumar and ASI Sandeep Kumar. With the passing of Sandeep Kumar, the society has lost a hardworking, honest and dedicated individual, while the police department suffered an irreparable loss, said Ghosh, who was accompanied by his wife, Mitra Ghosh.

YOUTUBER FACING SPYING
CHARGES DENIED BAIL

Diary Times Desk : The court of Additional Sessions Judge Dr Parminder Kaur has dismissed the bail plea of YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who is facing charges of espionage and was arrested about six months ago.

Rejecting the bail application, the ASJ stated that there is a reasonable apprehension that her release could impede the ongoing investigation. Malhotra (33) was arrested by Hisar police on May 16 under provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). She is currently in judicial custody. In a detailed order, the court took serious note of the video shoot of Pandoh dam by her and observed, "The allegations in the present FIR are not of the common, garden variety. They relate to alleged activities prejudicial to the security, unity and sovereignty of the State – including contact and exchange of information with an official of a foreign mission, recording and retention of visual material of sensitive infrastructure (Pandoh dam and adjoining areas), alleged entry into restricted portions of a defence training area and the possession and handling of material which, if established, falls within the ambit of the Official Secrets Act and BNS provisions."

POLITICAL LEADERS ATTEND ANTIM ARDAS OF IPS OFFICER Y PURAN KUMAR IN
PANCHKULA

Diary Times Desk : A large number of political leaders and government officers attended the 'antim ardas' (final prayer) of Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar at Gurdwara Nada Sahib in Panchkula on Sunday.

Kumar, a 52-year-old 2001-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, allegedly shot himself dead at his Sector 11 private residence here on October 7.

The prayer was held in the Diwan Hall of Nada Sahib Gurdwara in Haryana. Kumar's wife and IAS officer Amneet P Kumar, two daughters, and her brother Amit Rattan, the AAP MLA from Bathinda Rural in Punjab, attended the prayer. Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, Haryana Congress president Rao Narender Singh, Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, former Punjab minister Raj Kumar Verka, and former MP Ashok Tanwar were among the prominent politicians present.





Everyone hates JoJo Siwa

The world of JoJo Siwa, the child star who became a pop star who became a TV star, is even smaller than it appears onscreen.

Her homebase, Studio Siwa, is perched on an indiscreet corner in Burbank, California. Next door to a gun store, it's a bare, black dance studio with a green room that smells like sweaty feet. Curious passersby can easily squint through the tinted windows to catch Siwa, at work in her unglamorous fishbowl.

Siwa holed up there recently with her dancers and team to prepare for a European tour. The other day, while she was scrolling through her phone to play the new track, "I'm Still Dancing," a survivor's anthem in the vein of Elton John's "I'm Still Standing," something creaked in the cavernous studio.

"We have a ghost," she said, as her four backup dancers giggled politely. "Her name's Veronica." Seconds later, Siwa was back to performing a song about her haters, wearing a homemade jersey bedazzled with her own name.

Siwa has teetered between niche fame and lucrative stardom for more than half her young life. As a child, she bore the brunt of coachzilla Abby Lee Miller's rage on "Dance Moms" before abandoning reality TV for the orange pastures of Nickelodeon, presiding



Scottie Andrew

"Everything makes you who you are tomorrow, all your experiences," her mom reminded her, nearly quoting Siwa's song "Yesterday's Tomorrow Today," a confusingly named relic from this bygone era.

over an extremely successful merchandising empire. At 17, at the peak of her toy-selling earnings, she came out as queer in a TikTok set to Lady Gaga's "Born This Way." She appeared on "The Masked Singer" and the endurance competition show "Special Forces." Last year, at 21, she embarked on a slightly more grown-up phase of fame during which she described "gay pop" as a "new genre of music" and painted her face like a KISS Kewpie doll.

"It's hard, because some stuff I look back at and I'm like, 'JoJo, what were you doing?'" she said. Siwa and those in her small, sparkly orbit swear that now she's more herself than ever; happier, too. So, who is the new and improved JoJo Siwa she's desperate for the world to know now — on tour, on TV, on TikTok?

"Here's what I know about myself: I know that I'm 22. I know that I'm about 5-foot-8, 5-foot-9 on a good day. I know that I have a right foot and a left foot. I know that I have blue-green-hazel eyes. And I know my teeth are fake. And I know that my name is JoJo. Everything else is just a human life and is ever-changing. Everything else. And it's beautiful," she said.

An afternoon spent in Siwa's company is full of rambling, unrealized observations about the person she is or wants to be. It is rare that, at 22, someone's got their whole "thing" figured out, and she's been a lot of things: A workhorse, a starlet, a role model, a self-proclaimed "bad girl," a perma-kid, an anxious adult begging people to take her seriously.

The only thing consistent about Siwa is that she's very good at making people mad.

Gay pop gets a pivot
Last year, she tried to drag her music into adulthood in what she envisioned as her own version of Miley Cyrus "Bangerz" era. But rather than twerk on MTV or film a nude music video, Siwa took long pulls of Fireball onstage at Pride concerts and wore decapitated teddy bears on her head while singing about lesbian heartbreak. She made several goofily sweeping statements about "a new genre of music ... called 'gay pop'" and claimed that no other star of her generation had "made this dramatic of a change" artistically. She released an EP of new, slightly more adult music that even a polite review in Rolling Stone likened to an "identity crisis."



THE WHITE HOUSE'S EAST WING IS NOW DEMOLISHED

Here's What Was Lost

Amid the rubble and rancor memorializing where the East Wing of the White House once stood, President Donald Trump and his team are trying to dig out. Public outrage has been piling up over the sudden demolition to make way for the sprawling, golden ballroom he has long craved. Trump says the new construction will be a monument to the country's greatness, even as his team insists there is nothing unusual in how he is going about it.

Tom Foreman
Brower notes of the East Wing, "If you were going to a Christmas party, that's where you would enter. It was a beautiful space — gorgeous portraits lining the walls of first ladies over the years."



And in a blend of social and serious matters, civilian visitors passing through the East Wing in 2010 could pause to write cards to service members in overseas conflicts.

Never mind that Trump has dismissed the East Wing as "a very small building" that was "never thought of as being much." Brower and plenty of others saw it as a treasure. "I certainly had a lot of reverence for it because it was the first lady's domain. It's the only place she has to really call her own," she said. Initially a carriage entrance during the term of President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902, it became the modern East Wing as millions of tourists see it each year — or did — under his distant cousin, President Franklin Roosevelt some 40 years later. The build-out was a practical matter: With World War II raging, an emergency underground bunker had been constructed on the

spot and needed the building to hide it. "So in a sense," Brower says, "it's always been a bit of an afterthought, and some people within the White House call it Siberia because ... you always want to be as close to the West Wing and the Oval Office as possible, and the East Wing is obviously removed." Accordingly, the East Wing has always been considered a seat of soft power — more about social events than the political punch-ups in the West Wing. The East Wing is where throngs of well-wishers swirled beneath streetlamps in 1911 to wish President William Howard Taft and his wife, Helen, a happy 25th anniversary. It is where President Dwight Eisenhower sat in the private movie theater to watch "High Noon," where President John F. Kennedy saw "From Russia With Love" just before he was assassinated; where President Richard Nixon — perhaps ironically — saw "The Sting"; and where President Bill Clinton gathered staff and political pals to watch the Super Bowl. The East Wing is where a photographer in 2009 caught President Barack Obama running playfully down a hall with his dog, Bo. The Portuguese water dog was a gift from Sen.

INFA

Doctor's Decades Of Deception

HOW A DNA TEST SOLVED A MEDICAL MYSTERY

Summer McKesson struggled to breathe for years. Doctors told her it was because her blood would not stop clotting — and they couldn't figure out why.



Chelsea Bailey
She sent screenshots of the results to a trusted group of friends, and they discussed different theories. Then, later that night, she sent a message to her newly discovered half-siblings through the 23andMe website.

A single clot alone can be lethal; but the recurring and unexplained clots that formed in McKesson's heart and lungs were a medical mystery.

After multiple surgeries to remove clots and scar tissue, McKesson traveled to the Mayo Clinic, where she sat in a conference room while renowned physicians and specialists worked through her case on a whiteboard.

But even they were baffled.

"To hear that even they had never seen it before," she told CNN through tears, "I came back (home) just crushed at that point."

Desperate for answers, McKesson said she turned to 23andMe, hoping the DNA analysis service, which claims to offer insights into its clients' genetic health history, might unlock some clues to her condition.

But her quest for answers would unearth a family secret — and a doctor's decades-old deception

that has ensnared multiple families across the country. Ask your parents about Dr. Peete McKesson never questioned her genetics — or considered 23andMe — until a team of surgeons performed an urgent, open-heart procedure in 2022 to remove clots from her heart and lungs. As she recovered, McKesson said her surgeon dropped another bomb.

While operating, he'd noticed the connective tissue that supports her organs was stretchy and unusually fragile. He told her the complication — coupled with McKesson's willowy build and Amazonian height — could be a sign of an inherited disorder called Marfan syndrome.

His suspicions were correct. A geneticist confirmed McKesson's diagnosis, and said her clotting disorder was also genetic, which ushered in a host of lifelong health challenges.

Her heart would now need to be constantly monitored, and she will eventually need at least one more major heart surgery.

But the diagnosis was puzzling for another reason: both of her conditions are genetic and, as far as she knew, no one else in her family had them.

McKesson, 43, said she didn't have a full picture of her family's health history because her father died when she was a teenager. So, she signed up for 23andMe, submitted a DNA sample, and waited.

The results arrived in her inbox in October 2023. "I was just sitting on my couch after work, and kind of quickly pulled up the results on my phone," McKesson recalled. At first, she said, she was curious to learn more about her family's ethnic background.

"Growing up, I always was like ... 'I don't look like any of y'all. No one has my nose. I'm a foot taller than everyone,'" she said, adding her family used to joke that she was adopted. While there weren't many surprises in her family's ancestry, McKesson said when she navigated to the "family members" section of the site, she drew up short:

The test showed she had seven half-siblings.





FRENCH CLOCKS OF THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES — A GUIDE FOR THE NEW COLLECTOR

Diary Times Desk : A staple of the French decorative arts in the 18th and 19th centuries, French clocks occupy a vital role in any well-rounded collection. These antique timepieces — often featuring ormolu (gilt bronze) and other luxurious materials — not only blend seamlessly with furnishings of their own period; they also offer the perfect counterpoint when set amongst modern furniture or contemporary art.

The ormolu clock-cases of France embody the intersection of functional objects and bronze sculpture. Most French clocks, until the reign of Louis XVI, employed relatively simple clockwork mechanisms. Although timekeeping grew more precise over the course of the 18th century, collectors valued these objects less for their mechanical innovation than for the brilliant decorative artistry of their cases and the renowned names of their designers. The designs of these magnificent cases evolved constantly to reflect the fashions of the elite tastemakers of their day, ranging from the playful Rococo creations of the Louis XV period, defined by inventive organic shapes, to the stately and restrained Neoclassical forms of the Louis XVI style, recalling the majesty of Antiquity.

Types of French ormolu clocks

Clocks in 18th-century France were manufactured in distinct forms and types, each according to its placement in the interior. The most common of these were mantel, cartel, bracket and longcase or *régulateur*. Mantel clocks, as their name suggests, were set on fireplaces as well as furniture, including bookcases and *cartonniers*. Cartel clocks were hung on the wall. A cartel clock's size provides a clue to its intended placement: small and delicate clocks were often hung in alcoves, whereas larger ones were destined for more prominent locations where they could be fully admired for their size and lavishness.

Contemporaneous paintings depicting interiors often feature such clocks in situ. Longcase clocks stood against the wall, integrating with the grandest works of case furniture in the room, as well as the carefully composed wall elevations and *boiseries* that surrounded them.

Regardless of type, French clocks were executed with the utmost artistry. A single clock was the product of master artisans from multiple trade guilds, including the clockmaker, or *horloger*, as well as the *bronzier*, the *chaser*, the *gilder* and the *enameller*. Clocks incorporating luxurious materials such as marble and porcelain necessitated even further expertise from yet more *maîtres* of the trades. French clocks sometimes bear as many as three signatures, reflecting the makers of the case, the movement and dial, and the enamelling for the dial.



MOROCCAN MODERNISM: A GUIDE TO THE CASABLANCA ART SCHOOL

Diary Times Desk : Shortly after joining the teaching staff of the Casablanca Art School in 1964, Mohamed Melehi insisted that all the Greco-Roman busts be removed from the studios — and all the plaster casts of classical sculptures, too. These were to be replaced by a selection of rugs made by Berber women.

On the face of it, this might seem an unremarkable act. However, it represented the entire ethos of a school that newly promoted the native over the imported — a school nowadays considered a vital example of 20th-century modernism.

The first major exhibition in Europe devoted to the Casablanca Art School opened at Tate St Ives in the UK in 2023, before transferring to Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE, and the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in Germany in 2024.

The show was described by its curator, Morad Montazami, as a moment of 'rehabilitation', in that it communicated how avant-garde art wasn't produced solely in Europe and North America — despite traditional, Western accounts of art history long suggesting that it was.

The exhibition covered the school's heyday, from 1962 to 1987, but to understand what made it special, some historical context is called for.

During the course of the 19th century, France exerted an ever-growing colonial influence in Morocco. In 1912, the country became a French protectorate. The Casablanca Art School was founded in Morocco's biggest city the following decade. It adopted an *Ecole des Beaux-Arts* model, with classes typically involving easel painting and working from life models or statues.

After the Second World War, a nationalist movement in Morocco grew, culminating in independence from France in 1956. 'Artistic change took longer to happen, though, than political change,' says Montazami. 'Colonialism doesn't stop affecting a culture the minute a country is independent. It lasts until such time as a local ecosystem incubates and emerges to subvert it.'

'This wasn't simply an aesthetic revolution, but a pedagogic one,' says Montazami. 'Students were encouraged to look beyond Western academic traditions and focus on local ones instead.'

They investigated Arab and Berber heritage, and made excursions across Morocco to visit calligraphers, potters, tanners, weavers and jewellers. The aim was to assimilate into their work the methods, techniques and styles of these artisans. There was no longer to be any distinction, as there had been in the school's early years, between fine and applied arts.





LAMINE YAMAL FACES HOSTILE RECEPTION AT SANTIAGO BERNABEU



Diary Times Desk : Barcelona’s young sensation, Lamine Yamal, is facing an intense reaction from the Santiago Bernabéu crowd during the latest Clasico.

The boos were loud and persistent, and they stemmed from more than just his talent on the field.

The 18-year-old’s words in the Kings League and his active presence on social media have only added fuel to the fire. Yamal clearly played a role in stirring anticipation ahead of the match. From the moment he stepped onto the pitch for warm-ups, a distinct tension was noticeable. But the atmosphere reached its peak during the player presentation.

One by one, the stadium’s PA system announced Barça players’ names, building anticipation. When it was time for the number 10, Lamine Yamal, a gust of noise hit him – resounding whistles, drawn out and unrelenting.

OFFICIAL: BARCELONA STARTING LINEUP AGAINST REAL MADRID

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona have announced their starting lineup for the first El Clasico of the 2025/26 season against Real Madrid.

Due to a number of injuries, manager Hansi Flick has had limited options, but he has put together a squad based on form and fitness to tackle one of the season’s most important fixtures.

With key players like Joan Garcia, Marc-Andre ter Stegen, Andreas Christensen, Gavi, Dani Olmo, Raphinha, and Lewandowski unavailable, the choices were largely predetermined.

Flick has opted for a balanced lineup to maximise both defensive stability and attacking threat despite the absences.

In goal, Wojciech Szczesny will start, while the back four will consist of Jules Kounde, Pau Cubarsi, Eric Garcia, and Alejandro Balde.

The midfield is anchored by Frenkie de Jong and Pedri, with Fermin Lopez, currently in a scintillating form, playing in a more advanced attacking midfield role.

Barcelona’s attacking trio sees Marcus Rashford on the left wing, Ferran Torres leading the line, and Lamine Yamal on the right.

This setup allows the team to retain width and pace while providing creative support in the centre of the pitch.

PROOF: WHY JUDE BELLINGHAM’S GOAL VS BARCELONA SHOULD HAVE BEEN RULED OUT

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona have endured a rough start to the first El Clasico of the 2025/26 season.

Hansi Flick’s men have looked far from their best, especially in defence, where both full-backs have struggled to contain the relentless pressure from Real Madrid’s front line.

The Blaugrana found themselves punished early on when Kylian Mbappe finally broke through to open the scoring.

Although Barcelona managed to find an equaliser soon after, their defensive lapses continued to cost them dearly.

Jude Bellingham restored Madrid’s lead, exposing once again the fragile nature of Barcelona’s backline.

Referee Cesar Soto Grado has had a busy evening at the Santiago Bernabeu, with VAR already stepping in to review multiple key incidents. In fact, two major actions required video review in the opening stages of the clash.

A potential penalty was ruled out following a check, and Mbappe’s initial goal was disallowed. However, when the Frenchman did eventually find the net again, there was little Barcelona could do to stop him.

BARCELONA KEY DEFENDER TO START AGAINST REAL MADRID DESPITE MISSING TWO TRAINING SESSIONS THIS WEEK

Diary Times Desk : According to a recent report from SPORT, Jules Kounde is confirmed to start for Barcelona in the highly anticipated clash against Real Madrid.

Despite missing training sessions on Wednesday and Thursday due to a minor knock suffered in the Champions League against Olympiakos, Kounde returned to full training on Friday and impressed the coaching staff with his recovery.

Hansi Flick has decided to trust him to play from the start.

Kounde to lead defensive efforts During training, Kounde was rehearsed as a full-back, and the plan is for him to take on the responsibility of containing Real Madrid’s dangerous winger, Vinicius Jr.

With Kounde on the right side, the central defensive pairing will feature Pau Cubarsi and Eric Garcia.

On the left, Alejandro Balde, fully recovered and in excellent form, will provide both defensive cover and attacking support, particularly against Kylian Mbappe’s runs.

BARCELONA NEW SIGNING WAS IN ADVANCED TALKS TO JOIN BUNDESLIGA CLUB LAST SUMMER – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Ronny Bardghji was one of Barcelona’s three major signings during the summer transfer window, alongside Joan Garcia and Marcus Rashford.

While Garcia and Rashford have both emerged as key components in Hansi Flick’s setup, Bardghji is still looking to make that elusive breakthrough.

The youngster, though, has shown a lot of potential and certainly has the ability to become a first-team regular at Barcelona.

Bardghji was close to joining Stuttgart However, Bardghji’s career trajectory could have panned out very differently as the young forward was in advanced talks with Stuttgart last summer, reports Florian Plettenberg.

The forward, though, had no desire to join the Bundesliga club and opted for a move to Barcelona at the end.

A move to Stuttgart could have been an interesting one for Bardghji, though, as the German outfit is excellent when it comes to nurturing talents.

BARCELONA AMONG NUMBER OF TOP CLUBS INTERESTED IN SIGNING 15-YEAR-OLD FRENCH TALENT

Diary Times Desk : According to Mundo Deportivo, Barcelona are closely monitoring Montpellier U19 forward Lacine Megnan-Pave, who has quickly emerged as one of the most exciting young strikers in French football.

Despite growing attention from several European giants, Barcelona appear confident that their project and player development structure could convince the youngster to join La Masia. Megnan-Pave, just 15 years old, has already made a strong impression with Montpellier’s U19 side, scoring two goals in five games this season.

His powerful performances have also earned him recognition with France’s youth teams, where he continues to demonstrate maturity and composure beyond his years.

These displays have naturally drawn attention from major clubs, including Arsenal, but Barcelona’s interest is considered more serious and long-term.

