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NEWS IN BRIEF

'BIP. EC OPENLY STEALING VOTES': RAHUL GANDHI SHARES POST CLAIMING SAME PERSON CASTING VOTE IN MULTIPLE **POLLS**

Diary Times Desk: Gandhi on Wednesday that the Commission alleged and BJP are colluding to carry out "vote chori" and "murder of democracy" is playing

In a post on X, Gandhi shared a post of the Congress claiming Congress claiming that a person voted in the Haryana, De and Bihar elections.

"Millions of members roam around different states casting votes.

"And to cover up this theft, all evidence is being erased," Gandhi alleged in his post.

together together openly stealing votes — the murder of democracy is happening live," he

Rahul Gandhi has been alleging "\ chori" by BJP collusion with EC. The polling in the two-phase Bihar Assembly election concluded on November 11, with the due November 14

GOVT KNOWS THERE ARE HOME-GROWN TERRORISTS TOO: CHIDAMBARAM AFTER CABINET RESOLUTION

Diary Times Desk : the

cabinet passed resolution condemning the Red Fort blast as a terror incident but steered clear of any mention of a foreign hand, former union home minister Chidambaram government knows that there are home-grown terrorists

He said the question to be asked is: "What are the circumstances Indian turn citizens educated persons -into terrorists?

have maintained before and after the Pahalgam terror attack that there are two kinds of terrorists foreign-trained infiltrated terrorists and home-grown terrorists. I said so in Parliament during the debate on Operation Sindoor. I was mocked and trolled for the reference to homegrown terrorists

DELHI'S RED **FORT**

CCTV SHOWS MOMENT CAR BLEW UP ON JAM-PACKED ROAD NEAR RED FORT



Diary Times Desk: Two days after a powerful explosion near Delhi's Red Fort killed at least nine people and injured nearly two dozen others, newly surfaced CCTV footage has captured the exact moment a white Hyundai i20 car detonated in the middle

The footage, obtained from a traffic camera positioned near Red Fort Metro Station's Gate Number 1, shows a slow-moving white Hyundai i20 surrounded by e-rickshaws, autos, and other vehicles before erupting into flames. The blast, which occurred at around 6:52 pm on Monday evening, sent shockwaves across the densely populated Old Delhi area, damaging nearby vehicles and

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has formally taken over the probe into what the Centre has described as a "heinous terror act".rushed to the scene, but by then the car was reduced to charred metal. Nine people were confirmed dead, and at least a dozen others suffered injuries.

Investigators have identified the vehicle as a white Hyundai i20 bearing registration number HR 26CE7674, believed to have been driven by Dr Umar Nabi, a 32-year-old medical professional and suspected member of a terror module with links to Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist organisation.

According to sources, Dr Umar Nabi purchased the i20 on October 29 from a Faridabad-based car dealer named Sonu. CCTV footage reviewed by investigators shows Nabi visiting a Pollution Under Control (PUC) booth near Royal Car Zone -- the same complex where Sonu's dealership operates -- shortly after buying the car.

After obtaining the PUC certificate, Nabi allegedly drove the car to Al-Falah Medical College, where it was parked next to a Swift Dzire owned by Dr Muzammil Shakeel, who has since been arrested in connection with a separate seizure of 2,900 kg of explosives. Dr Shakeel's vehicle, in turn, was registered in the name of Dr Shaheen Saeed, a doctor from Lucknow who was also arrested for terror

POPULIST GIMMICKS, DISMANTLING CHECKS: HOW THE GOVT JUST WON'T LET DELHI BREATHE

Diary Times Desk :Almost 10 years ago, on January 1, 2016, Delhi had dared to act. It launched the odd-even car-rationing scheme – a desperate but decisive action against the city's most visible polluter. As head of the Delhi government's policy think-tank, I had convened a team of leading environmental experts months earlier. Back then, Delhi didn't have a reliable pollution inventory – no clear data on what was poisoning us or in what proportion. Yet after weeks of analysis, the experts reached an emphatic conclusion: if Delhi wanted clean air, it had to strike at its biggest culprit – vehicular

Since then, study after study – from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Centre for Science and Environment, and TERI – has confirmed that vehicles are the single largest source of Delhi's PM2.5, contributing between 41% and 51% of the city's pollution.

Delhi has over 10 million registered vehicles — not counting the 6 million petrol and diesel vehicles already past the age limit of 15 and 10 years respectively. Along with the millions of cars, two-wheelers, and commercial vehicles that come into the city every day and spew out PM2.5 and NOx, you have a city poisoning itself on four wheels.

The polluted air is causing an unprecedented rise in asthma, lung diseases, heart problems, and strokes. Pollution kills more people in Delhi than obesity or diabetes. How is this then not a public health emergency on the same level as COVID? Why are there no daily health bulletins, no advisories, no emergency financing, no Mann ki Baat? Instead, Delhi has normalised a "pollution season" even as India proclaims itself a



EXIT POLLS

11 EXIT POLLS GIVE NDA **CLEAR MAJORITY IN BIHAR, 1 PREDICTS CLOSE CONTEST**



Diary Times Desk :Throwing up a clos contest, in sharp contrast to all other exit polls so far, Axis My India has predicted that the ruling NDA may even fall short of the majority mark in Bihar. The pollster has projected that the NDA

will win between 121 and 140 seats, the Mahagathbandhan 98-118 strategist-turned-politician 98-118 and Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party will end up between zero and two.

The majority mark in the 243-member Bihar Assembly is 122, and the lower end of Axis My India's prediction for the NDA puts it at one below that. On the other end, the upper end of 118 for the Mahagathbandhan, which has the RJD and Congress as the main constituents, will put it within touching distance of the majority.

The most worrying numbers for the NDA, however, will be the vote share prediction. The pollster has projected that the ruling alliance will get 43% of votes and the Mahagathbandhan will get 41 - a difference of only two percentage points.
If these figures end up being correct on

Friday, which is counting day, this would mean that the Bihar election is not as cut-and-dried as 11 other exit polls have suggested. Every other pollster has given the NDA a clear majority even on the lower end, with Vote Vibe predicting the lowest figure of 125. The most optimistic pollster, CNX, had predicted a lower end of 150 for the NDA and an upper end of 170, which would be higher than the two-thirds majority mark.

NDTV's Poll of Exit Polls, which is an aggregate, suggests the NDA will win 146 seats, the Mahagathbandhan 92 and the Jan Suraaj Party will end up with a solitary MLA.

CALLING RED FORT BLAST 'HEINOUS TERROR INCIDENT', UNION CABINET REAFFIRMS ZERO TOLERANCE TO TERROR



Diary Times Desk: The Union Cabinet and Cabinet
Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister
Narondra, Modi, on Wodowsday, condemned, the Narendra Modi on Wednesday condemned the November 10 Red Fort blast as a "heinous terror incident" perpetrated by anti-national forces and reaffirmed its commitment to zero tolerance for terrorism in all forms. The CCS and the Cabinet observed a two-minute silence in memory of the 12 people who died in the blast and directed that the investigation into the incident be pursued with utmost urgency and professionalism so that the perpetrators, their collaborators, and their sponsors are identified and brought to justice without delay

The situation continues to be closely monitored at the highest levels of the government. The Cabinet reaffirms the government's steadfast resolve to safeguard the lives and well-being of all Indians, consistent with its enduring commitment to national security and the safety of every citizen," a resolution passed by the Union Cabinet and shared by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini

In the resolution, the Cabinet said, "The country has witnessed a heinous terror incident, perpetrated by anti-national forces, through a car explosion near the Red Fort on the evening of November 10.

INDIA LOGGED HIGHEST NUMBER OF TB CASES IN 2024: WHO REPORT



Diary Times Desk: India accounted for the highest number of TB cases in 2024, followed by Indonesia, the Philippines, China, and Pakistan, said the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2025, as it called for increased funding to eradicate the disease.

Geographically, most people who developed TB in 2024 were in the WHO regions of South-East Asia (34 per cent), the Western Pacific (27 per cent) and Africa (25 per cent), with smaller proportions in the Eastern Mediterranean (8.6 per cent), the Americas (3.3 per cent) and Europe (1.9 per cent), the report said.

The 30 high-TB burden countries accounted for 87 per cent of all estimated incident cases worldwide, with eight of these countries accounting for two-thirds (67 per cent) of the global total.

India registered the highest, 25 per cent, of these cases, followed by Indonesia (10 per cent), the Philippines (6.8 per cent), China (6.5 per cent), Pakistan (6.3 per cent), Nigeria (4.8 per cent, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.9 per cent), and Bangladesh (3.6 per cent).

The WHO observed that TB remains a major global public health problem and progress in reducing the burden of disease falls far short of 2030 targets in most parts of the world.

Money allocation for the TB response remains grossly inadequate and

AXIS MY INDIA EXIT POLL **PUTS NDA AHEAD OF** MAHAGATHBANDHAN, RJD AS SINGLE-LARGEST PARTY



Diary Times Desk : The Axis My India Exit Poll on Wednesday predicted that the NDA would be ahead of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar but the RJD would emerge as the single-largest party when results for the Assembly polls are announced on Friday.

Axis My India's projections come a day after all major exit polls predicted a return of the NDA government in Bihar with a big victory over the Mahagathbandhan.

All exit polls unanimously forecast a poor electoral debut for Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraai.

Axis My India predicted the NDA to win 121-141 seats, and the Mahagathbandhan to win

98-118 seats. It gave 0-2 seats to the Jan Suraaj.

In its party-wise break-up, Axis My India predicted that the RJD would be the single-largest party getting 67-76 seats, followed by the JD(U) at 56-62 seats, BJP 50-56 seats, Congress 17-21 seats, Vikassheel Insaan Party 3-5 seats, and Left parties 10-14 seats.

According to the exit poll, the NDA would get a vote share percentage of 43 per cent, Mahagathbandhan 41 per cent, and the Jan Suraaj 4 per cent.

PM MODI VISITS DELHI BLAST VICTIMS AFTER RETURNING FROM BHUTAN, TO CHAIR SECURITY MEETINGS



Diary Times Desk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday afternoon landed in New Delhi after concluding his official visit to Bhutan and headed straight to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital to meet survivours of Monday's car blast near the Red Fort.

According to an official statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), "Upon landing from Bhutan, PM Modi went straight to LNJP Hospital to meet those injured in the Delhi blast. He interacted with the injured, wished them a speedy recovery, and was briefed by doctors and officials on their condition".

Later in the day, PM Modi is scheduled to chair a crucial meeting of the Union Cabinet, followed by a session of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), to review the situation and assess the broader security implications of the incident. The blast near the Red Fort Metro Station's Gate No. 1 on Monday evening claimed at least 10 lives and left around 20 others injured.

SC ASKS CENTRE TO GIVE STATUTORY STATUS TO DELHI RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to give statutory status to the Delhi Ridge Management Board (DRMB), saying without legal protection and effective governance; the Ridge's ecological integrity would be severely compromised.

We are of the view that without proper statutory protection, it would not be possible to properly preserve the integrity of the Ridge," a Bench led by CJI BR Gavai said, ordering removal of encroachments from the area. The nonnotification of Ridge as a reserve forest deprives the said area of any protection, it added.

Aimed at protecting the "green lungs" of the national capital, the verdict also asked the Centre to make it the single-window authority for all matters related to the Ridge Morphological Ridge.

RED FORT BLAST: POLICE PROBE SUSPECT'S 3-HOUR STAY AT MOSQUE BEFORE EXPLOSION

Diary Times Desk: The man driving the car that exploded near the Red Fort, killing 12 people and injuring several others, had visited a mosque near the Ram Leela Maidan, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Umar Nabi, an assistant professor at Al-Falah University and believed to have been behind the wheel of the car that went up in flames on Monday, had parked the vehicle at the Sunehri Masjid parking lot around 3.19 pm, the officer said.

Before that, Nabi had gone to a mosque on Asaf Ali Road, close to Ram Leela Maidan, where he allegedly stayed for nearly three hours and offered namaz.

"He stayed there for around three hours before leaving and heading towards the Red Fort. We are probing the matter from all angles, including a suspected fidayeen attack," a senior police officer told PTI.

LIQUOR SMUGGLING CASE: HC QUASHES DISMISSAL OF 26 COAST GUARD PERSONNEL, CITES PROCEDURAL LAPSES

Diary Times Desk: Quashing the dismissal orders of 26 Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel, who had been charged for smuggling liquor on board an ICG ship, over procedural lapses in proceedings against them, the Delhi High Court has ruled that procedural fairness and integrity are of utmost importance as they ensure an unbiased investigation and adjudication thereof.

The personnel concerned were posted on ICG Ship Sarthak, which was en route from Goa to Porbandar in Gujarat. Based on inputs, a search of the ship was carried out during which 1,512 bottles of liquor were found stashed in hidden places, in consequence of which they were dismissed from service in February 2024.

The 26 personnel fell under two categories based upon the type of proceedings they were subjected to. One category of 15 personnel faced summary trial proceedings and were awarded minor punishments. However, subsequently, the punishments were set aside and they were subject to fresh investigations by a board of inquiry (BOI), which ultimately led to their dismissal. The other was subjected only to BOI proceedings, based on the findings of which they were dismissed.



GUJARAT COURT HANDS LIFE SENTENCE TO 3 IN COW SLAUGHTER CASE; GOVT HAILS **VERDICT AS 'HISTORIC'**

Diary Times Desk: A sessions court in Gujarat's Amreli city has sentenced three persons to life imprisonment in a cow slaughter case and imposed a hefty fine of Rs 18 lakh on them, prosecution said on Wednesday.

This is the first instance in Gujarat where three persons have been handed life term in a cow slaughter case, it said

Sessions Court Judge Rizwana Bukhari on Tuesday pronounced the three accused -- Kasim Haji Solanki, Sattar Ismail Solanki, and Akram Haji Solanki -- quilty under various sections of the Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2017, in the Amreli cow slaughter case and sentenced them to life imprisonment, special public prosecutor (SPP) Chandresh Mehta said.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 18 lakh on the trio, he

BIHAR ELECTIONS: NO REPOLL **RECOMMENDED IN PHASE 2 ALSO, SAYS**

EC Diary Times Desk: The Election Commission on Wednesday said no repoll has been recommended in any of the polling booths of 122 assembly seats in Bihar that went to elections in the second phase.

It said this is for the first time in the recent history of the state that no repoll has been ordered.

In the first phase too, no repoll took place.

"After scrutiny, no discrepancy or malpractice was found at any of the polling station and no repoll was recommended. With this, over the two-phased Bihar elections zero re-poll has been recommended. This is a first in the recent history of elections in the state," the EC said in a statement.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, as many as 96 repolls were held.

NATIONAL

BOMB THREAT AT DELHI'S IGI AIRPORT, TURNS OUT TO BE HOAX

Diary Times Desk: Panic spread across the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) here as a bomb threat was received that turned out to be hoax, a fire official said.

According to Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a bomb-related call was received at 3.58 pm from the airport and multiple fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

A thorough checking was conducted on the premises and nothing suspicious was found, the fire department said.

According to an Air India Express spokesperson, "One of our flights to Varanasi received a security threat. In line with the protocol, the government-appointed Bomb Threat Assessment Committee was alerted, and all necessary security procedures promptly initiated.

RED FORT BLAST: 'NO CONNECTION,' SAYS AL-FALAH UNIVERSITY AFTER 3 OF ITS DOCTORS ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk: The Al-Falah university has come under scanner after the arrest of three doctors of the university in a suspected terror module.

The investigating agencies are now eyeing Al-Falah University, a sprawling 76-acre campus in the Muslimdominated Dhauj village in district Faridabad.

Defence experts are calling it a "white-collar terror ecosystem," where educated individuals were acting at the behest of Pakistan-backed handlers. Everyone wants to know how this university became a safe haven for alleged terrorists.

Meanwhile, the university issued a first official statement on Wednesday distancing itself from the three doctors arrested in connection with the so-called "white-collar terror module" and the recent high-intensity blast near Delhi's Red Fort

In the statement, Vice-Chancellor Professor (Dr) Bhupinder Kaur Anand said the university has "no connection with the said persons apart from them being working in their official capacities with the university".

RED FORT BLAST: POLICE RUSH TO NEW SEELAMPUR ADDRESS LINKED TO RED CAR, PROBE FORGERY ANGLE



Diary Times Desk: The Delhi Police rushed to an address in northeast Delhi's New Seelampur after learning that a red Ford EcoSport car, suspected to be linked to the Red Fort blast case, was registered at that location, an official said on Wednesday.

Police sources said the team immediately visited the site to verify the vehicle's ownership details after records showed the car was registered in the name of Dr Umer Un Nabi. Investigators suspect that forged documents might have been used to purchase the car.

"The address mentioned in the car's registration papers led the police to New Seelampur, where they questioned residents and verified documents," said the police source.

AIR INDIA EXPRESS MUMBAI-VARANASI FLIGHT GETS BOMB THREAT

Diary Times Desk: An Air India Express flight, carrying over 170 passengers, from the city to Varanasi received a bomb threat on Wednesday, sources said.

The airline said the plane landed safely at the Varanasi airport.

"One of our flights to Varanasi received a security threat. In line with protocol, the government-appointed Bomb Threat Assessment Committee was immediately alerted, and all necessary security procedures promptly initiated. The flight landed safely and all guests have been disembarked.

"The aircraft will be released for operations once all mandated security checks are completed," an Air India Express spokesperson said in a statement.

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER MANINDER SIDHU BEGINS THREE-DAY VISIT TO INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Canada's international trade minister Maninder Sidhu kickstarted a three-day visit to India on Wednesday to explore ways to advance bilateral trade and investment ties.

Sidhu will promote Canada's commitment to support and grow Canada-India commercial ties, including in artificial intelligence, clean technology and digital industries, and explore new opportunities for partnerships that benefit workers and businesses in both countries, the Canadian High Commission said.

He will also travel to Visakhapatnam to attend Confederation of Indian Industry's Partnership Summit on November 14.

"This visit to India will reinforce Canada's commitment to diversifying our trade relationships and attracting new investment.

RED FORT BLAST: OFFICIALS SAY 'CAR DRIVER' UMAR NABI HAD PLANNED FOR DEC 6 STRIKE

Diary Times Desk: Dr Umar Nabi who was driving the explosives-laden car that blew up near the Red Fort had planned a powerful blast timed around the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary on December 6, officials said on Wednesday.

The details of the plan have been pieced together after interrogation of the eight people arrested for their alleged links to the interstate 'white collar' Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror module centred in Faridabad and conversations with their family, friends and neighbours, the officials said.

Umar, a 28-year-old doctor based in south Kashmir's Pulwama district believed to have been killed in the November 10 Red Fort blast in which 12 people lost their lives, has emerged as key in the terror network spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

"...THEN WHO KILLED OUR CHILDREN", ASK FAMILIES OF NITHARI VICTIMS AFTER SC ACQUITS KOLI

Diary Times Desk: Grief and disbelief gripped the families of victims of the 2006 Nithari serial killings, a day after the Supreme Court acquitted Surendra Koli, the only convict in the case, and ordered his immediate release if not required in any other matter.

The anguished parents of the deceased children said they have now "accepted defeat" and left their hopes for justice "in the hands of God"."I have no hope now. We have accepted our defeat. The rest depends on God," 67-year-old Jhabbulal, father of a 10-year-old victim, said at his home in Noida's Sector 31.

skeletal remains of eight children from a drain behind businessman Moninder Singh Pandher's house at Nithari in Noida on December 29, 2006. Koli was the domestic help at Pandher's house at that time.



YEMEN'S HOUTHIS APPEAR TO PULL BACK FROM RED SEA SHIPPING ATTACKS

Diary Times Desk:

Yemen's Houthi rebels seem to have indirectly confirmed they have stopped their attacks on Israel and shipping in the Red Sea as the US-brokered ceasefire in Gaza continues to hold.

The Houthis have carried out a military campaign of attacking ships through the Red Sea corridor in what they describe as solidarity with Palestinians amid Israel's war on Gaza.

The group has launched numerous attacks on vessels in the Red Sea since late 2023, targeting ships they deem linked to Israel or its supporters. However, in an undated letter to Hamas's Qassam Brigades, recently published online, the Houthis have indicated that they have halted their attacks. The group has not formally announced it has ceased attacking ships in the region.

AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA AGREE TO UPGRADED DEFENCE PACT

Diary Times Desk: Australia and Indonesia say they are close to signing a "watershed" defence treaty that will upgrade their already close collaboration on security issues.

The treaty was approved on Wednesday by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who is on his first state visit to Australia, although the pact between the two countries will not be officially signed until January. The new agreement will commit Australia and Indonesia to "consult at a leader and ministerial level, on a regular basis on matters of security", the Australian leader said.

It will also facilitate "mutually beneficial security activities, and if either or both countries' security is threatened, to consult and consider what measures may be taken, either individually or jointly, to deal with those threats", Albanese said. "This treaty is a recognition from both our nations that the best way to secure that peace and stability is by acting together," he added.

"It signals a new era in the Australia-Indonesia relationship," he said, adding that the deal committed the two countries to "close cooperation in the defence and security field". "Good neighbours will help each other in times of

"Good neighbours will help each other in times of difficulties," Prabowo said.

RUSSIA'S FIRST AI HUMANOID ROBOT FALLS FACE-FIRST ON STAGE, VIDEO VIRAL

Diary Times Desk: The first artificial intelligence (AI)-powered humanoid robot in Russia tumbled face-first onto the stage, leaving the developers red-faced as the video of the incident went viral on social media. Introduced at a technology event in Moscow on Monday (Nov 10), the robot named Aldol walked gingerly on the stage to the soundtrack from the film Rocky, waved to the crowd and immediately succumbed, leaving those around the bot to rush for help.

After the fall, the robot's developers temporarily removed it from public view as engineers examined its balance systems and control software. Vladimir Vitukhin, CEO of Russian robotics firm Idol said he hoped that this "mistake will turn into an experience".

"This is real-time learning, when a good mistake turns into knowledge, and a bad mistake turns into experience," said Vitukhin, who attributed the fall to calibration issues, as per Newsweek.

JAMAAT, ALLIES ANNOUNCE INDIFINITE SIT-IN PROTEST NEAR JAMUNA

Diary Times Desk: Jamaat-e-Islami and seven likeminded parties has warned that they will take position in front of the Chief Adviser's residence Jamuna for an indefinite period to press home their five-point demands.

Jamaat's Nayeb-e-Amir Professor Mujibur Rahman came up with this announcement at a joint press conference on Wednesday.

The demands include issuance of the implementation order of the July Charter and holding a referendum on that order.

A meeting of the top leaders of the eight parties will be held on November 16. After that, a press conference will be held at Al-Falah Auditorium at 12:30PM, said Mujibur Rahman, adding that, if the five demands are not met before then, the parties will announce an indefinite sit-in in front of the Jamuna.



"FOREIGN STUDENTS GOOD FOR US": TRUMP'S U-TURN ON MAGA'S IMMIGRATION AGENDA

Diary Times Desk: In a major U-turn on his immigration agenda, US President Donald Trump has advocated for allowing foreign students to study in American universities. The American leader said foreign students are "good" for business practice and keep the country's higher education system financially strong

Speaking to Fox News, Trump pushed back on the MAGA (Make America Great Again) agenda and argued that a sharp reduction in students from China and other countries could put half the US colleges out of business.

"You don't want to cut half of the people, half of the students from all over the world that are coming into our country — destroy our entire university and college system — I don't want to do that," Trump told Fox News host Laura Ingraham.

When pushed to explain why he wouldn't reduce the number of students from foreign countries — in particular China— Trump argued that doing so would cause financial harm to the American higher education system and lead some schools.



BOMB BLASTS AND GUNFIRE HIT DHAKA AHEAD OF POLITICAL LOCKDOWN; SECURITY ON HIGH ALERT

Diary Times Desk: Several incidents of bomb blasts, gunfire, and arson in different parts of Dhaka have sparked major security concerns in the Bangladeshi capital ahead of next week's political demonstrations. According to police and local media reports, unidentified miscreants carried out a series of small crude bomb explosions late last night in areas including Motijheel, Paltan, and Mirpur, while reports of sporadic gunfire were also heard in parts of the city. Several vehicles and roadside shops were set on fire, prompting emergency responses police and fire service from personnel

Law enforcement agencies have described the incidents as "acts of sabotage" aimed at creating panic ahead of the November 13 'Dhaka Lockdown' programme announced by the banned Awami League. No casualties have been officially reported so far, though several areas witnessed temporary panic among residents.

A senior Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) official told reporters that security has been tightened across the capital, with checkpoints established at all major entry and exit points.

RUSSIAN JETS, CHINESE AD SYSTEM & INDIGENOUS MISSILES: IRAN IS PREPARING FOR "NEXT ROUND" OF CLASH WITH ISRAEL

Diary Times Desk: "Once a mirror is cracked, it never reflects the same."

In June, Israel and the US crossed a historic threshold by launching direct strikes inside Iran, something that both countries had avoided since the Iranian revolution of 1979.

Since that taboo has been shattered, direct strikes between Iran and Israel, separated by a distance of over 2,300 km, seem like fair game, and if reports are to be believed, the next Israel-Iran war is "only a matter of time."

In fact, both Tehran and Tel Aviv have been preparing for that eventuality and ramping up their weapons production for the next round of hostilities, with Iran focusing on ballistic missiles and Israel on air defense missiles.

Next Iran-Israel War "Only A Matter Of Time"

On November 9, the New York Times reported that the June strikes by Iran and the US failed to destroy the Iranian stockpile of enriched Uranium, and with negotiations on its nuclear program appearing to have reached.

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EXTREME HEAT RISK GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK AND TOOLKIT



Diary Times Desk :As the world faces record-breaking temperatures, a new Extreme Heat Risk Governance Framework and Toolkit was launched today at COP30 to help countries strengthen governance, coordination, and investment in response to escalating heat risks.

Developed by an international collaboration of national and global experts-led jointly by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN), and Duke University-the Framework and Toolkit respond to the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat. The initiative recognizes that extreme heat has become one of the most deadly, economically and ecologically damaging, and least managed climate-related threats worldwide.

The Framework and Toolkit were unveiled at the high-level event "Extreme Heat Risk Governance: A New Framework and Toolkit for Accelerated Action" at COP30, hosted by Luxembourg with participation from Selwin Hart, Special Adviser and Assistant Secretary-General for Climate Action, Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of WMO, Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and representatives from national governments, development banks, city leaders, and international organizations including the Rockefeller Foundation, EBRD, and the CREWS Initiative.

SABOTAGE' FROM CHINA, SAYS SPY

CHIEF
Diary Times Desk: Australia's spy chief says hackers linked to the Chinese government and military are targeting the country's critical infrastructure, warning the country was increasingly at risk of "high-impact sabotage". Mike Burgess, head of the Australian Security

Organisation Intelligence (Asio), said "unprecedented levels of espionage" meant a growing threat of "cyber-enabled sabotage" in the next five years. He singled out "one nation state no prizes for guessing which one - conducting multiple attempts to scan and penetrate critical infrastructure in Australia" and its allies, "targeting water, transport, telecommunications, and energy

AUSTRALIA AT RISK OF 'HIGH-IMPACT TALIBAN SETS 3-MONTH DEADLINE FOR TRADERS TO END RELIANCE ON **PAKISTAN ROUTES**

Diary Times Desk: Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar has told traders to reduce business with Pakistan and use other routes for the transit of goods.

At a press conference he told that the change is to protect the dignity of the country, as Pakistan has repeatedly blocked routes for their trade. The directive also aims to safeguard trade, industry and the rights of Afghans.

Traders are also instructed to redirect imports that currently come from Pakistan to alternative markets and countries.

THE COUNTRY THAT DOESN'T EXIST: HOW TRANSNISTRIA BECAME EUROPE'S MOST **MYSTERIOUS TRAVEL DESTINATION**

Diary Times Desk: Remember The Terminal, the Tom Hanks film where his character gets stranded at an airport because his home country suddenly "stops existing"?

Even though his story felt entirely fictional, there's a place in Eastern Europe where this idea plays out in real life. Yes, you read that right.

Transnistria, officially known as the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (PMR), sits wedged between Moldova and Ukraine. It declared independence from Moldova in 1990, but here's the twist, almost no one in the world recognises it as a country.

Yet, it has its own flag, parliament, army, police, border control, currency and even postage stamps. Think of it as a Soviet-era time capsule that somehow never moved on.

In The Traveller's List

Once a name only geopolitical analysts threw around, Transnistria is now finding fame on Instagram Reels and YouTube travel vlogs (including Indian travllers).

Its Soviet-style architecture, Lenin statues, and eerily preserved propaganda murals, bunkers make it feel like stepping into a living museum of the USSR. Tavellers can't seem to resist the allure of visiting a place that officially "doesn't exist".



"NEW YORK WILL TURN INTO **MUMBAI": REAL ESTATE BILLIONAIRE ON MAMDANI'S** WIN

Diary Times Desk: New York City is looking up to a "really tough time" under mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani. warned real estate billionaire Barry Sternlicht, who said he is considering moving his team out of the Big Apple. The Starwood Capital Group CEO blamed New York's trade unions for development sky-high management real estate costs in New York but cautioned the problems would worsen under the democratic socialist's regime.

After his victory, Mamdani has vowed to immediately start working to implement his campaign promises, including freezing rents in rentstabilised apartments, providing free bus services, creating a universal, free childcare programme for children ages 6 months to 5 years and opening five city-owned grocery stores, one in each borough.

WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE STOPPED SHARING INTELLIGENCE WITH U.S. **OVER BOAT STRIKES IN CARIBBEAN?**

Diary Times Desk : The Trump Administration has authorized a series of missile strikes on vessels in the Caribbean, alleged to be carrying drug shipments. 76 people have been killed in some 19 strikes thus far. Trump and his Administration argue the military action is necessary to curb the flow of drugs into the United States. The U.S. government has not yet released any evidence indicating that any of the targeted ships were smuggling drugs.

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, who also answers to the title "Secretary of following President Donald War" Trump's rebranding of the Defense Department, has so far led the charge in announcing many of the strikes, which he says are "protecting the homeland and killing these cartel terrorists who wish to harm our country and its people."

Per Hegseth, the U.S. most recently conducted "two lethal kinetic strikes" on "two vessels operated by designated terrorist organizations" in Caribbean.

Announcing the Nov. 9 military action via social media, Hegseth said: "These vessels were known by our intelligence to be associated with illicit narcotics smuggling, were carrying narcotics, and were transiting along a known narco-trafficking transit route in the Eastern Pacific "

He went on to add that the strikes were "conducted in international waters" and three male "narco-terrorists were aboard each vessel," with all six confirmed as killed.

INTERNATIONAL

US HOUSE SET FOR CRUNCH VOTE ON ENDING HISTORIC GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Diary Times Desk: A budget that would end the longest shutdown in US history is heading to the House of Representatives for a crunch vote on Wednesday.

On day 42 of the impasse, representatives are returning to Washington to decide whether to approve a Senate package that would fund federal agencies for two months. Republican leadership expressed confidence the spending plan would clear the lower chamber of Congress, despite their narrow majority. But top Democrats vowed to oppose it

President Donald Trump has indicated he will sign it into law. "We're opening up our country," he said on Tuesday at a Veterans Day event in Arlington, Virginia. "Should have never been closed."

The shutdown, which began on 1 October, has left a million federal workers unpaid, halted food stamps for low-income Americans, and delayed air travel for flyers ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.



UKRAINIAN FORCES PULL BACK UNDER FIERCE RUSSIAN PRESSURE IN ZAPORIZHIA

Diary Times Desk : Ukraine's top military commander has conceded that the army's situation has "significantly worsened" in parts of the southern Zaporizhia region, where Ukrainian forces have withdrawn from five villages after intense fighting against Russian troops.

News of the setback in Zaporizhia in southeastern Ukraine comes as Russia said earlier on Tuesday that its forces had pushed deeper into the eastern Ukrainian cities of Pokrovsk and Kupiansk.Video footage published by Russian war bloggers shows Moscow's troops riding motorcycles, travelling in battered cars and sitting on top of military vehicles as they poured into Pokrovsk, which Russian media has dubbed "the gateway to Donetsk" due to its strategic location.

"Using its numerical superiority in personnel and materiel, the enemy advanced in fierce fighting and captured three settlements," the commander-inchief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

HOW THE JAPAN PM'S TAIWAN REMARKS PROVOKED THE FURY OF CHINA

Diary Times Desk: Over the past week, China and Japan have been locked in an escalating war of words

It all started when Japan's new Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi, suggested that if China attacked Taiwan then Japan could respond with its own self-defence force.

Since then, foreign ministries on both sides have lodged serious protests with the other, and a Chinese diplomat made what some interpreted as a threat to behead Takaichi.

The spat touches on the historical animosity between China and Japan, as well as longstanding "strategic ambiguity" on the sovereignty of Taiwan.

Here's what to know.

What happened? A timeline

The current tensions were sparked at a parliamentary meeting in Japan last Friday.

SOLAR FLARE, STRONGEST OF 2025, CAUSES WIDESPREAD RADIO BLACKOUTS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

Diary Times Desk: A massive solar flare, classified as X5.1, erupted from the Sun on November 11, causing widespread radio blackouts across Europe and Africa, Space.com reported. The powerful flare triggered a severe R3-level radio blackout and disrupted high-frequency radio communications on the sunlit side of Earth. It was the strongest of 2025 and the most intense since October 2024. The X5.1-class flare has the potential to disrupt satellite communications, GPS and power grids.

The solar flare is part of a series of intense flares from sunspot AR4274, which has been producing significant solar activity in recent days.

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center stated that those flares were accompanied by coronal mass ejections (CMEs) that could combine and impact Earth overnight. It might cause strong (G3) geomagnetic storm conditions and widespread auroras.

FOG HELPS RUSSIAN FORCES PUSH DEEPER INTO KEY UKRAINIAN CITY OF POKROVSK

Diary Times Desk: Thick fog has enabled Russian troops to move further into the key strategic city of Pokrovsk in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's 7th Airborne Assault Corps says weather conditions, particularly dense fog, have prompted Moscow to intensify its bid to get increasing numbers into the ruined city and encircle Ukrainian forces.

Russian forces have spent more than a year trying to seize the city. Ukraine's military says there may now be 300-500 Russians there and President Voloydymyr Zelensky says the situation remains difficult.

Meanwhile, army chief Oleksandr Syrskyi says the situation on the front line in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region has "significantly worsened", with the loss of three settlements.

Syrskyi said however that Russia was most active around Pokrovsk. A video has gone viral on social media showing Russian soldiers openly driving through a hazy road on civilian cars and motorbikes.

The BBC has verified the location where the video was filmed as the southern outskirts of the town on the Selidove–Pokrovsk highway.

KHAWAJA ASIF'S "WAR" THREAT TO KABUL AFTER PAK TALIBAN CLAIMS ISLAMABAD ATTACK



Diary Times Desk: Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has warned Kabul of "war" following recent terrorist attacks in Islamabad. Accusing the Afghan Taliban regime of harbouring terrorists responsible for violence in Pakistan, Asif threatened that Islamabad was "compelled" to carry out strikes on Afghanistan.

Asif's statement came after 12 people were killed and 36 were injured in a suicide blast in Islamabad on Tuesday. The Pakistani Taliban (TTP) has claimed the suicide bombing.

Speaking in an interview with Geo News, the Pakistani minister said attacks on "terrorist sanctuaries" in Afghanistan "could not be ruled out" and war with Kabul "could definitely happen" after Tuesday's attack. Asif further alleged there was no "united government" in Kabul and claimed the Taliban regime was composed of various groups and factions with different interests and agendas.

S JAISHANKAR MEETS UK FOREIGN SECRETARY ON SIDELINES OF G7 MEETING



Diary Times Desk: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers Meet in Canada. The leaders affirmed the India–UK Vision 2035 for further strengthening cooperation between New Delhi and London across key sectors.

In a post on X on Wednesday (local time), Jaishankar said, "Glad to meet UK Foreign Secretary @YvetteCooperMP on the sidelines of #G7 FMM in Canada today. Acknowledged the positive momentum in our relations and reaffirmed the India-UK Vision 2035 for further deepening cooperation across key areas."

Glad to meet UK Foreign Secretary @YvetteCooperMP on the sidelines of #G7 FMM in Canada today.

Acknowledged the positive momentum in our relations and reaffirmed the *** Vision 2035 for further deepening cooperation.

'US DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TALENT': TRUMP DEFENDS H-1B VISA PLAN AFTER FEE HIKE

Diary Times Desk: US President Donald Trump appears to have softened his stance on his administration's aggressive immigration reforms, saying America needs to bring in foreign talent for certain fields.

The Republican leader acknowledged that longterm unemployed Americans cannot be tasked with complex roles in sensitive sectors like defence without extensive training, and the US needs skilled foreign nationals to fill such roles.

Trump was speaking to Fox News' Laura Ingraham when he was asked if his administration planned to deprioritise H-1B visas. He replied, "You do have to bring in talent."

When the host countered, "We have plenty of talent," Trump said, "No, you don't."

RUMORS SWIRL OF A PLOT TO OUST KEIR STARMER AS THE EMBATTLED BRITISH LEADER DENIES ATTACKING HIS RIVALS

Diary Times Desk: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was forced Wednesday to address reports that rivals in his Labour Party are plotting to replace him as leader, just two weeks ahead of a government budget announcement that could worsen his already dire poll ratings.

Several British news outlets quoted Starmer allies late Tuesday saying his job might be under immediate threat and singling out Wes Streeting, the health secretary, as a challenger whose "ambition" was being viewed with "particular suspicion." Those same allies briefed that Starmer would fight any challenge to his leadership.

Streeting dismissed the reports as "self-defeating nonsense," telling British media that he could "not see any circumstances.

PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSES 27TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL



Diary Times Desk: Pakistan's National Assembly on Wednesday (November 12, 2025) passed the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority during a ruckus-marred session, aiming to create a new position of the Chief of Defence Forces and set up a constitutional court.

The bill, which had stirred controversy for weeks, was presented in the National Assembly by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday (November 11, 2025), a day after the Senate approved the key legislation.

The National Assembly on Wednesday (November 12) approved all 59 clauses of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill amid opposition's boycott, completing the clause-by-clause voting process. Jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party members tore up copies of the bill and threw them towards the PM's chair.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the bill received 234 votes in favour and four against. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari attended the lower house session.

TRUMP PENS LETTER ASKING ISRAELI PRESIDENT TO PARDON NETANYAHU IN CORRUPTION TRIAL

Diary Times Desk: US President Trump penned a letter asking the Israeli president to grant a full pardon to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his ongoing corruption trial.

In a letter distributed by the Israeli president's spokesperson, Trump wrote, "I hereby call on you to fully pardon Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been a formidable and decisive War Time Prime Minister, and is now leading Israel into a time of peace."

For any other president, the letter would be an unusual intervention in the domestic politics of a foreign country. But it's only Trump's latest effort to intervene on behalf of one of his most vocal international supporters.

Netanyahu faces charges of fraud, bribery, and breach of trust in three separate cases which began in Trump's first term. He has entered a plea of not guilty and maintains his innocence.

19 BODIES, BLACK BOX RECOVERED AFTER TURKISH ARMY PLANE CRASH IN GEORGIA

Diary Times Desk : Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that 19 bodies of the 20 soldiers on board a Turkish C-130 military cargo plane that crashed in Georgia had been recovered, along with the aircraft's flight recorder.

The Turkish leader gave the update on the recovery efforts on Wednesday at a meeting of provincial heads of his governing Justice and Development (AK) Party in Ankara, the Anadolu news agency reported, hours after Turkiye's Ministry of National Defence confirmed that all 20 soldiers on board the plane had died.

"Ongoing work at the crash site is being closely monitored, and all necessary investigations will be done meticulously to clarify every aspect of the incident," Erdogan said, adding that search efforts were continuing to locate the remaining victim's body.

The ministry said a Turkish accident investigation team, in coordination with Georgian authorities, had begun inspecting the wreckage at the crash site in the Sighnaghi municipality of Georgia's Kakheti district early on Wednesday. The crash, Turkiye's deadliest military incident since 2020, happened about five kilometres (3.1 miles) from the Georgia-Azerbaijan border on Tuesday after the aircraft took off from the Azerbaijani city of Ganja.

'MAGA BACKLASH': LAURA INGRAHAM CHALLENGED TRUMP IN A WAY FEW FOX HOSTS **EVER DO**

Diary Times Desk: President Trump's Fox News interviewers are sometimes so promotional and deferential that little gets challenged, and almost no news is ever made.

However, Laura Ingraham was more strategic than that. On Monday, she sat down with Trump and scrutinized several of his policy proposals, channeling dissension within the pro-Trump ranks - and seemingly catching the president off guard.

Sounding skeptical of Trump's are way down" "costs defensiveness, the conservative Fox host asked, "Are you saying voters are misperceiving how they feel?"

Ingraham also asked about his stance on the government shutdown, his demolition of the Wing, and East understanding of Christianity.

TRUMP FLOATS \$2,000 TARIFF REBATE CHECKS. WHAT YOU NEED TO **KNOW**

Diary Times Desk:

President Donald Trump. America's embattled bv growing affordability problems, has once again floated a Sending unique solution: Americans rebate checks for the tariffs that his administration has collected.

"People that are against Tariffs are FOOLS!" Trump posted on Truth Social Sunday. "A dividend of at least \$2000 a person (not including high income people!) will be paid to everyone."

It's a bold promise with several significant complications.

What Trump proposed

Trump has frequently floated the idea of tariff rebate checks. Prior to this weekend's proposal, Trump in August had said Americans could receive a portion of the tariff revenue.

"We're taking in so much money that we may very well make a dividend to the people of America," Trump said at the time.

While American importers foot the initial tariff bill, they've been passing along some of those added costs to consumers, Americans meanina are indirectly paying for tariffs, too.

DOW SOARS MORE THAN 550 POINTS AS WALL STREET EMBRACES OPTIMISM THAT GOVERNMENT MIGHT REOPEN SOON

Diary Times Desk: The Dow surged higher on Tuesday, bolstered by optimism that the US government shutdown might come to an end this week.

The Dow gained 559 points, or 1.18%, and closed at a record high of 47.927.96. The broader S&P 500 gained 0.21%. Meanwhile, the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite fell 0.25%.

Stocks were mostly higher Tuesday after the Senate on Monday approved a funding measure to end the government shutdown. The bill now heads to the House for approval before being sent to President Donald Trump's desk.

"With the Senate passing the stopgap funding bill, it is likely that the government shutdown will end by the end of the week," Mohit Kumar, chief economist and strategist for Europe at Jefferies, said in a note.

Investors also rotated out of tech stocks on Tuesday and shifted into other sectors including health care, energy and consumer staples. That helped boost the Dow, which is less exposed to the tech and AI wave. Twenty-six out of 30 companies in the bluechip Dow closed higher on Tuesday.



MEGA MILLIONS JACKPOT NEARS \$1 BILLION AFTER THERE WERE NO **BIG WINNERS IN TUESDAY'S DRAWING**

Diary Times Desk: The Mega Millions jackpot is approaching \$1 billion dollars after there were no big winners in Tuesday's drawing.

The estimated prize for Friday's drawing is \$965 million - the eighth largest since the game began in 2002, Mega Millions said. The estimated cash payout is \$445.3 million.

The winning numbers from Tuesday were 10, 13, 40, 42, 46, and Mega Ball 1. It was the 39th drawing without a bia winner.

While no one hit all the numbers, three tickets snagged the game's second-tier prize, with one winning \$5 million and two winning \$3 million. The odds of winning any prize are 1 in 23, while the odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 290.5 million.

Changes to Mega Millions in April more than doubled the ticket price but slightly improved the odds of winning. Each ticket costs \$5 per play and includes multipliers of 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, and 10x.



AFFORDABILITY IS IN CRISIS. THE SOLUTION: YOU'LL NEVER OWN **ANYTHING AGAIN**

Diary Times Desk: Stubborn inflation continues to make the cost of living unbearable for many Americans. A number of inventive solutions have emerged - but with a common theme: putting consumers deeper into debt.

This week's 50-year mortgage proposal from the Trump administration is the latest example of the trend. Bill Pulte, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, remarked over the weekend on X that President Donald Trump's proposal would be "a complete game changer."

For many Americans, though, it may not be a good one.

The potential for a 50-year mortgage comes as the auto industry has been pushing seven-year car loans, which have become an increasingly popular option with the average price of a new car hitting a new record of more than \$50,000. And the explosion of buy now, pay later options online and at brick-and-mortar retailers has normalized taking on longer-term debt for purchases as small as food delivery.



BUSINESS FINANCE DIARY TIMES Shimla | Thursday | 13-11-2025



THE LAST-EVER PENNY WILL BE MINTED TODAY IN PHILADELPHIA

Diary Times Desk:

The American penny will pass away later today after prolonged illness. It was 238 vears old.

The last penny will be minted Wednesday afternoon at the US Mint in Philadelphia, overseen by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Treasurer Brandon Beach. President Donald Trump announced via social media in February that he instructed the Mint to stop making the oncepopular coin, citing the cost of production.

The penny costs nearly four cents to mint, more than the coin's worth. Once valuable enough to buy "penny candy" like gumballs and feed parking meters or toll booths, today the penny lives mostly in coin jars, junk drawers or "leave a penny/take a penny" trays.

The penny outlived its sibling, the half-penny, by 168 years. It's survived by the nickel, dime, quarter, and rarely seen halfdollar and dollar coins.

Despite its demise, the penny will remain legal tender.

BBC HOLDS SURPRISE BOARD MEETING TO WEIGH TRUMP'S LEGAL

THREAT

Diary Times Desk:

The BBC board held an unexpected meeting on Wednesday as the British broadcaster stares down a legal threat from President Trump, a source told CNN.

The person, who had direct knowledge of the meeting, said the board is not planning to issue any immediate statement afterward.

A BBC spokesperson declined to comment on the meeting.

Wednesday's meeting is the latest sign of a scramble inside the BBC to address the fallout from last week's Telegraph about a newspaper story serious editing error in a October 2024 documentary about Trump.

Lawyers for the president sent a demand letter to the BBC on Monday, one day after two top executives resigned amid the editing controversy.

A SEISMIC SHIFT IN COMPUTING IS ON THE HORIZON (AND IT'S NOT



AI) Times Desk : Creating revolutionary pharmaceutical drugs, testing new materials for cars and simulating how market scenarios can affect banks - these are just some of the tasks that could take months or years to develop, even with the most advanced computers.

But what if that timeframe could be cut down to minutes or hours?

That's the promise behind quantum computing, a field that's been studied for decades and has garnered increasing interest - and investments from tech giants and startups alike.

On Wednesday, IBM revealed its new experimental Loon processor and Nighthawk quantum computing chip, which can perform more complex computations than its predecessor. The past two years have seen quantum-related announcements from Google, Microsoft and other tech companies.

Quantum computing could potentially lead to a \$1.3 trillion increase in value across certain industries by 2035, according to McKinsey & Company.

SO LONG, PEAK OIL: WORLD DEMAND COULD NOW GROW UNTIL 2050, A TOP AGENCY SAYS



Diary Times Desk: Global demand for oil and natural gas could grow until 2050, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday, departing from previous expectations of a speedy transition to cleaner fuels following US

criticism of its climate focus.

The IEA also predicted in its annual outlook that the world would likely fail to meet its goal to cap the rise in temperatures to as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times to avoid the most devastating effects of climate change.

The Paris-based energy security watchdog has been under pressure from the United States for a shift in recent years toward a focus on clean energy policies as President Donald Trump called on American companies to expand oil and gas production.

During the Biden administration, the IEA predicted that global oil demand would peak this decade and said there should be an end to investment in new oil, gas and coal projects if the world wanted to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century.

'Peak oil'

Trump's Energy Secretary Chris Wright has called the IEA's demand peak projections "nonsensical." The agency is funded by member countries, with the US the largest contributor.

In its World Energy Outlook published Wednesday, the IEA predicted that under a "current policies scenario" oil demand would hit 113 million barrels per day by mid-century, up around 13% from 2024 consumption.

STATES

DIARY TIMES | Shimla | Thursday | 13-11-2025

France - Patri New line (25.7 Km, 764 Cr)

BAIL GRANTED TO CHURAH MLA IN SEXUAL **ABUSE CASE**

Diary Times Desk: In a temporary relief to BJP's Churah MLA Dr Hans Raj, the District and Sessions Court, Chamba, on Tuesday granted him interim anticipatory bail in the sexual abuse case.

A woman had filed a complaint at the Women's Police Station Chamba, on November accusing the legislator of sexually assaulting her when she was a minor. She alleged that Hans Raj had been sexually exploiting her ever since. Following the complaint, the MLA was booked under Section 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which deals with aggravated sexual assault on minors.

Hans Raj had filed the anticipatory bail application on Monday, after which the court sought a reply from the state. The court, however, has directed the MLA to cooperate in the ongoing investigation. The matter remains under judicial consideration and the final decision on his bail plea will be announced on November 22.

AICC APPOINTS OBSERVERS TO SELECT DISTRICT CHIEFS IN HIMACHAL: PARTY WORKERS MIFFED

Diary Times Desk: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed 12 observers for the selection of District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents in Himachal Pradesh under the "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan" initiative. The observers will gather feedback from the ground level to facilitate the selection of the party heads at the district level. "The observers will visit all districts of the state, meet party workers for their feedback on potential candidates and then submit their report to the party high command," said Chetan Chauhan, the AICC co-incharge for Himachal.

Chauhan said the appointed observers will be called for a meeting in Delhi shortly, where each of them will be assigned one district each for gathering the feedback.

AFTER RAJPURA-MOHALI LINK, ANOTHER KEY RAIL PROJECT IN PUNJAB GETS **CENTRE'S NOD**

Diary Times Desk: Days after sanctioning the Rajpura-Mohali railway link, the Railway Ministry has cleared another key project - the 25.72-km-long Ferozepur-Patti rail line.

A total budget of Rs 764 crore, including Rs 165 crore for land acquisition, has been approved for the project. Officials said the Punjab Chief Secretary has been informed about the sanction and asked to initiate the land acquisition process.

Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Bittu announced the development on Wednesday.

Sources said that apart from its strategic importance, the new rail section will provide a direct link between Ferozepur and Amritsar, reducing the distance between the two cities by 98 km.

ROPAR MAN, WANTED FOR 26 YEARS IN JAMMU HIT AND RUN CASE, HELD AFTER UK DEPORTATION

Diary Times Desk: A man, who had been absconding for 26 years in a case of rash driving allegedly resulting in the death of a person, was arrested by the Jammu police following his deportation from the United Kingdom to India, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Naveen Kousha, a resident of Ropar in Punjab, was wanted in connection with a case registered under Sections 304-A (causing death due to rash driving), 279 (rash driving) and 337 of the Rambir Panel Code (causing injuries) at the Jhajjar Kotli police station in 1999, they said.

A warrant under Section 512 CrPC had been issued against him by the court of Munsiff Jammu after he absconded in 1999, they said.

During this period, he had settled abroad and obtained permanent citizenship in the UK, officials added.

HC UPHOLDS PROTECTION FOR JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE: **IMPOSES RS 25,000 COSTS FOR** CONTEMPT PLEA AGAINST

Diary Times Desk: Reaffirming that judges cannot be hauled up for contempt for performing their judicial functions, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has dismissed with Rs 25,000 costs a contempt petition filed against a judicial officer after terming it legally untenable and contrary to settled principles protecting judicial independence.

Justice Nidhi Gupta held that "no contempt proceedings lie against a judicial officer for acts performed in the course of his/her judicial duties, as such acts are protected under law and are subject to correction only in appeal, revision, or other appropriate judicial remedy. The exercise of judicial functions cannot be made the subject matter of contempt jurisdiction."

The ruling came during the hearing of a contempt petition alleging violation of a status quo in a civil suit. The matter pertains to the possession of a property in Jalandhar Model Town.





YOUR HOROSCOPE

Ares

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.

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere

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.

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

Sagittarius
Today you should take all important
decisions of your career thoughtfully.
Employed people may have to face
some problems due to the start of a
new job in the workplace. Due to
financial gain for business people, you
can invest in a new business.
Problems like leg pain and headache
may bother you.

Virgo
Today you should take special control
over your speech and behavior. People in
employment will get success in the
workplace with the help of friends. People
doing business will get financial gain due
to some special offer, your financial
condition will be strengthened. Old
diseases of elders in the house may

Capricorn
Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the noblems of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of

Cemini
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 walking due to nerve pain problems.

checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

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 deling 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.

Aquarius
Today you may have to face huge
arguments in your family over small
matters. Employees will be suspended due
to indiscipline in the workplace. People
doing business should solve all the
problems of their customers in time. Due
to worsening weather, problems related to
cold and cough may increase in the
family.

Pisces
Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.

DELHI RED FORT BLAST: AL-FALAH UNIVERSITY UNDER SCANNER AFTER UNEARTHING OF TERROR MODULE

Diary Times Desk: Al-Falah university and its 76-acre sprawling campus the Muslimdominated Dhauj village in Haryana's Faridabad district has come under the scanner following the arrest of three doctors in connection with the "white-collar terror module" and the high-intensity explosion near Delhi's Red Fort.

With educated individuals found to be "acting at the behest of Pakistan-backed handlers", investigators are scrutinising how the university turned into a safe haven for such individuals.

According to the university website, it was established by the Haryana Legislative Assembly under the Haryana Private Universities Act.

J&K COPS DETAIN HARYANA PREACHER IN 'WHITE COLLAR' TERROR MODULE CASE

Diary Times Desk: A preacher from Haryana who allegedly helped store explosives in his rented home near Faridabad's Al Falah university was detained and brought to Srinagar early Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir police officials said.

Maulvi Ishtiyaq belongs to Mewat and would conduct religious sermons in the Al Falah campus, the centre point of an interstate 'white collar' terror module with links to the Red Fort blast in which 12 people were killed, the officials said.

It was from his rented home that police recovered more than 2,500 kg of ammonium nitrate, potassium chlorate and sulphur, they said.

The explosives were stored by Dr Muzammil Ganaie alias Musaib and Dr Umar Nabi, the man who was driving an explosives laden car which detonated outside Red Fort on Monday evening.

In total, 2,900 kg of explosive material was found. Of this, 360 kg of inflammable material suspected to be ammonium nitrate as well as arms and ammunition were recovered from Ganaie's rented accommodation in Faridabad.

SUPREME COURT ASKS PUNJAB, HARYANA TO SPELL OUT STEPS TAKEN AGAINST STUBBLE-BURNING

Diary Times Desk: Amid reports of stubble-burning resulting in worsening of air quality index (AQI) in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the governments of Punjab and Haryana to spell out the steps taken by them to check it.

"Let the Punjab and Haryana governments respond on the steps taken to control stubble-burning," a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai said, posting the matter for November 17.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 418 in the last 24 hours.

Amicus curiae Aparajita Singh submitted that farmers were avoiding detection by the satellite which passes the region by delaying stubble-burning and burning it after the satellite passes.



NO LINK WITH 'TERRORIST' DOCTORS, FULLY COOPERATING WITH PROBE AGENCIES: AL-FALAH UNIVERSITY

Diary Times Desk: Al-Falah University, located in Haryana's Faridabad district, on Wednesday issued an official statement distancing itself from the three doctors arrested in connection with the so-called "white-collar terror module" and the recent high-intensity blast near Delhi's Red Fort.

The 76-acre campus in the Muslim-majority Dhauj village has come under the scanner of central agencies after investigators uncovered alleged links between some of the detained individuals and Pakistan-backed handlers.

Officials are probing whether the campus was used as a cover or safe haven by those accused of facilitating activities with national security implications.

In a detailed statement, Vice-Chancellor Professor (Dr) Bhupinder Kaur Anand said the university has "no connection with the said persons apart from them being working in their official capacities with the University".

PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT DECLINES PLEA FOR CBI PROBE INTO IPS OFFICER'S DEATH

Diary Times Desk: More than a month after senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar "allegedly died by suicide", the Punjab and Haryana High Court today dismissed a seeking a CBI probe into the matter after UT furnished details of the probe before a division bench.

"It does not appear that there is any unnecessary delay or laxity in investigation till date.... No case for handing over investigation to any independent agency is made out and, therefore, the present petition stands dismissed," the bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry observed in the open court, before noted that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was already probing the matter.

Appearing before the bench, UT's senior standing counsel and senior advocate Amit Jhanji submitted hat 14 persons have been arrayed as accused in the case.

SCBA MOVES SUPREME COURT OVER 'PERIOD SHAMING' OF MDU WOMEN WORKERS



Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has moved the top court seeking directions to the Centre and the Haryana Government to conduct a detailed inquiry into allegations that female sanitation workers at Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU), Haryana, were asked to prove through pictures of their private parts that they were menstruating.

Terming it a "rampant violation of dignity, privacy and bodily autonomy" of women and girls in institutional settings across the country, SCBA has also sought guidelines to ensure that the right to health, dignity, bodily autonomy and privacy of women and girls are not violated when they are menstruating.

EDITORIAL

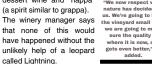
This Award-Winning Wine Is Made In One Of The World's Harshest Climates

Entering the winemaking business is not for the faint of heart. Doing so with no prior experience, on the edge of a desert where temperatures hit 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit), might be considered foolhardy. But for Rudie van Vuuren, the gamble paid off.

Van Vuuren is the managing director of Neuras Wine and Wildlife Estate, 140 miles south of Windhoek, Namibia, Situated in the foothills of the Naukluft Mountains, on the fringe of the Namib Desert, the boutique operation is, according to its owners, the driest vineyard outside of the Atacama Desert in Chile. Wrangling a hostile climate as well as hungry baboons, Neuras has

plotted a journey from amateur enthusiasm to award-winning winemaking, putting this remote corner of Africa on the grape-growing map.

In recent years the tiny vineyard has won international medals including golds and double golds, for its red wine, ruby (a spirit similar to grappa). The winery manager says





ature has decided for L. We're going to keep De vineyard small (and) We are going to make Sure the quality is

Van Vuuren had lived multiple lives before pursuing winemaking. A medical doctor who was also a member of the Namibian national cricket and rugby teams -and who played at World Cups in both sports - he became a conservationist.In 2009, Van Vuuren was in a helicopter, tracking a leopard, Lightning, which had been rescued then released into the wild. Suddenly below him appeared a desert oasis. The land, he learned, belonged to a retired Shell executive who had nurtured vines on a small area of his 14.500-hectare tract. Van Vuuren descended to inform him there was a big cat on his property and fell in love with the vineyard and its wine

"I went back and told Marlice (van Vuuren, Rudie's wife) about the place and she just said, 'Is there water? What's the camp look like? What do the roads look like?" he recalled. "I said. 'I didn't look at any of that, I just looked at the wine and we're going to buy Neuras."

In 2011, the vineyard and surrounding land became part of the couple's conservation program, the Naankuse Foundation

"It was perfect," said Van Vuuren. The site could be used as a release point for animals into the neighboring Namib Naukluft National Park, "and on top of that, you had the economic engine of winemaking" - the proceeds of which could fund their conservation work.

Without any professional winemaking, the Van Vuurens' engine was never likely to hit top gear. It took the couple over a decade to hire the right person to elevate their part-time venture into a serious business. That person was South African winemaker Braam Gericke

Gericke talks about winemaking in mystical terms ("it's not work, it's a form of art;" "you don't change vineyards based on what you want; vineyards change you") but his deft touch has paid dividends. "He was the one who cracked the code," said Van Vuuren.

Grapes are grown under netting to keep off hungry baboons and kudus (large antelopes) that roam the area. Each January, half a dozen employees harvest grapes by hand between 6 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. precisely, says Gericke, before the heat of the day sets in.



New Release Shows

EPSTEIN MENTIONED TRUMP MULTIPLE TIMES IN PRIVATE EMAILS

effrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender whose death by suicide has spawned intense scrutiny of the highprofile people he knew, mentioned Donald Trump by name multiple times in correspondence private over the last 15 years with an associate and an author in Trump's orbit, according to newly released emails from Democrats on the Oversight House Committee

The emails to longtime Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell, convicted of sex trafficking after Epstein's death, and the author Michael Wolff include conversations in which Epstein asserts spent significant Trump time with a woman whom Oversight **Democrats** describe as a victim of Epstein's sex trafficking. The emails also include a message in which Epstein asserts Trump "knew about the girls" - seemingly in reference to Trump's claim



together in social settings

that he kicked Epstein out of his Mar-a-Lago club for poaching young women who worked there, according to the newly released emails.

The emails were released Wednesday by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee, who obtained them after subpoenaing Epstein's estate earlier this year. Trump did not receive or send any of the messages, which largely predated his time as president, and he has not been accused of any criminal wrongdoing in connection with Epstein or Maxwell.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt criticized Democrats on the Oversight Committee House releasing the messages, claiming the members "selectively leaked emails to

the liberal media to create a fake narrative President to smear Trump."

"These stories are nothing more than bad-faith efforts to distract from President Trump's historic accomplishments, American with common sense sees right through this hoax and distraction from government opening back again." Leavitt said.

"I don't quite Wolff told CNN: remember the context. But I was engaged then in an in-depth conversation with Epstein about his relationship with Trump and this be seems to part of conversation.

In one email dated April 2, 2011, which CNN has independently reviewed, Epstein emailed Maxwell: "i want you to realize that that dog that hasn't barked is trump.. (REDACTED) spent hours at my house with him ,, he has never once been mentioned, police chief. etc. im 75 % there."

members of the House Oversight committee identified the person as Virginia Giuffre, one of Epstein's most prominent survivors who died by suicide in April, and accused Democrats of hiding her name because she had not alleged Trump to have done anything

Best Chance To See Them Tonight

NORTHERN LIGHTS JUST DAZZLED NIGHT SKIES AS FAR SOUTH AS FLORIDA



Kaitlan Collins

included emails

Wolff, including

January 2019

during Trump's

first term and

months before

Epstein died by

about seven

suicide in

The latest

between

one from

Epstein and

release also

Another option is an app called My **Aurora Forecast** & Alerts, available for download on both iOS and Android devices. This is a location-based app that gives viewing probability and forecasts.

powerful burst of energy from the sun streaming past Earth painted the night sky as far south as Florida with stunning northern liahts displays overniaht Tuesday.

The dancing red and green and purple hues were spotted across a vast portion the US and unusually far south: in Texas, Alabama, Georgia and even Florida. In case you missed it. there's another chance to see them in parts of the US Wednesday, albeit it may not reach as far south.

It's happening because several eruptions of energy from the sun, known as coronal mass ejections, or CMEs, have been interacting with Earth's magnetic field The Space Weather Prediction Center issued a G4 geomagnetic watch for Wednesday. G4 is the second-strongest level on the five-step scale. A G4 event was responsible Tuesday's displays

What a G4 storm means

Geomagnetic storms happen when solar wind rushes through Earth's magnetosphere. Charged particles from the sun interact with gases in the Earth's atmosphere and cause stunning northern lights, or glowing curtains of green, red and purple light that ripple across the sky

It's not all beauty and wonder; a G4 storm brings potential for voltage control problems in power systems, GPS navigation errors and intermittent issues with radio and satellite operations.

This latest round of solar

eruptions includes several CMEs from an active sunspot cluster Shawn Dahl, a space weather forecaster at the Space Weather Prediction Center, notes an additional CME is expected midday Wednesday. That could cause more aurora activity to occur Wednesday evening, with the best chance of viewing from northern New England into the Great Lakes. upper Midwest and Pacific

However, cloud cover will be an obstacle.

Northwest

Areas from the Dakotas to northern and central Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan might have the best shot at the clearest skies this evening. Viewing could be obscured by clouds in the Northwest, New England and upstate New York

For most people, the impacts will be limited to breathtaking skies. not power outages. But it's a good reminder that no matter how advanced we become as a society, the sun still calls the shots.

The resulting storm reached G4 levels, the second-highest on NOAA's five-step scale, and created a magnetic field that was "not only eight times stronger than what's normal .. also favorable for continued activity," Dahl said in a later update.

Forecasters are awaiting a third and final CME, which they expect will arrive on Earth at midday Wednesday and be even stronger than the previous two.

"That was the most energetic and strongest of this activity out there in space," Dahl said. "It was traveling significantly faster than these other two, and we think that's going to pack even a stronger punch than what we've already experienced.

A dark setting is essential to see the aurora so it's important to get away from light pollution if you want a good glimpse of the northern lights. It'll be easiest to see between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. local time, according to NOAA.







ARTS & INFOTAINMENT

HERMÈS HANDBAGS: WHAT EVERY COLLECTOR NEEDS TO KNOW

Diary Times Desk: Thierry Hermès began his career in 1837 making harnesses, and from the outset was fastidious in his devotion to materials, quality and craft. In 1880, Hermès and his sons introduced saddlery to their array of products.

In the 20th century, Hermès further enhanced its product range by adding accessories for women, including carrés, or silk scarves, and handbags. The techniques that for two centuries were used to craft the highest-quality saddles are still seen today in the ateliers where Hermès artisans stitch and sew Birkin and Kelly handbags by hand.

It takes a single expert craftsperson up to 40 hours to produce a Birkin bag. The stitch on which the brand's reputation is based — the saddle — cannot be replicated by a machine, as it requires two needles simultaneously passing through the same seam. If done correctly, the saddle stitch will never unravel — either on a saddle or a Birkin.

The birth of the Hermès Kelly

Emile-Maurice Hermès was the creative mind behind the first Hermès accessories. After the advent of the automobile, Emile-Maurice diversified the brand's offerings with an array of products that reflected the changing times. For example, Hermès became the first French firm to introduce the modern zipper mechanism in leather goods and clothing.

Among his many contributions was the 'Sac à dépêches', which was produced in 1935 for his wife. The bag would go on to achieve worldwide recognition 20 years later in 1956, when Grace Kelly, who had recently become Princess Grace of Monaco, used her 'Sac à dépêches' to shield her baby bump from the paparazzi. In an early instance of what might today be described as 'viral marketing', Hermès received so many requests for 'the Kelly bag' — as it immediately became known — that it was renamed in honour of the princess.

The origins of the Hermès Birkin

The story of the invention of the Birkin bag — the result of a chance meeting in 1983 between actress Jane Birkin and Jean-Louis Dumas, then creative director of Hermès — has become legendary among Hermès lovers. The two were seated next to each other on an international flight. When Dumas asked why she travelled with a simple straw tote, Birkin explained that most leather bags were too structured for her taste.

She wanted something much more casual, and the two came up with the design for the handbag on that flight — on the back of an airsickness bag. Since its inception, the Birkin has changed little in style or function.







DAVID HOCKNEY'S PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST (POOL WITH TWO FIGURES)

Diary Times Desk: David Hockney's Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures) is a story of two compositions. The first, started in 1971, was inspired by the serendipitous juxtaposition of two photographs on the artist's studio floor. 'One was of a figure swimming underwater and therefore quite distorted... the other was a boy gazing at something on the ground,' Hockney would later recall. 'The idea of painting two figures in different styles appealed so much that I began the painting immediately.'

The initial work was ultimately destroyed by the artist after months of working and reworking — as documented in Jack Hazan's film A Bigger Splash — but in April 1972, Hockney decided to return to the concept ahead of a planned exhibition at New York's André Emmerich Gallery, which was due to open just four weeks later.

Armed with his Pentax camera, Hockney travelled to a villa outside Saint-Tropez where he had first stayed a few years earlier. There, in an idyllic pool setting, he staged hundreds of photographs following his original composition, using an assistant and a friend as models.

Returning to his London studio, Hockney arranged the poolside photographs across the wall, along with a selection of shots of his former lover, Peter Schlesinger, in Kensington Gardens, wearing the same pink jacket. Taking cues from the assemblage, he worked 18 hours a day for two weeks solid, finishing the painting the night before the shippers came to transport it to New York. 'I must admit I loved working on that picture,' he would later recall, 'working with such intensity; it was marvellous doing it, really thrilling.'

Hockney's iconic swimming-pool motif was also arrived at almost by accident, when the artist first visited California in 1964. 'I came to Los Angeles for two reasons,' he said in 2009. 'The first was a photo by Julius Shulman of Case Study House #21, and the other was AMG's Physique Pictorial.' The house in question is a fluid, mid-century modernist glass-and-steel building in the Hollywood Hills, while Physique Pictorial was a male fitness publication known for homoerotic photography.

While on the final approach to Los Angeles, Hockney was struck by what he saw: 'I looked down to see blue swimming pools all over, and I realised that a swimming pool in England would have been a luxury, whereas here they are not.' Without realising it, he had discovered his greatest subject matter, and LA's pools would become the setting for many of his major works of the 1960s and 1970s.





BARCELONA HOLD INFORMAL TALKS WITH 29-YEAR-OLD PREMIER LEAGUE DEFENDER'S AGENTS – REPORT



Diary Times Desk: FC Barcelona have their sights on a new centre-forward for the summer of 2026, but there will likely be a few more additions, mostly in the defensive department.

A new centre-back is very much on the agenda, especially given that Inigo Martinez was let go without signing a replacement.

Meanwhile, a new right-back could also be on the wishlist for Hansi Flick, considering there is a lack of depth in the position, with the manager having to rely on Eric Garcia as cover for Jules Kounde.

Daniel Munoz on Barcelona's radar?

Amidst this, journalist Julian Capera of ESPN Colombia reports that there have been informal talks held between Barcelona and the agents of Crystal Palace right-back Daniel Munoz.

The 29-year-old defender is understood to be on the shortlist of targets prepared by the Catalans' sporting director, Deco.

BARCELONA MAKE £57M-RATED PROLIFIC SUPERSTAR THEIR FIRST-CHOICE TARGET TO REPLACE LEWANDOWSKI

Diary Times Desk: Roln a major development, a report from The Guardian in England claims that FC Barcelona have made Bayern Munich and England striker Harry Kane their top target to replace Robert Lewandowski in the summer.

Lewandowski, 37, is in the final year of his contract at the Catalan club, and so far, there have been no signs that he will be offered an extension.

In fact, the Blaugrana are already understood to be lining up candidates as possible successors for the veteran Pole.

Names like Etta Eyong of Levante and Julian Alvarez of Atletico Madrid have been mentioned, but it appears that Barcelona are considering raiding Bayern Munich to fill the position.

Kane at the top of the wishlist

Kane has been brilliant since joining Bayern Munich a couple of years ago, racking up 108 goals in 113 matches, 23 of which have come in the ongoing campaign.

BARCELONA VETERAN SUPERSTAR EMERGES AS JANUARY TARGET FOR TURKISH GIANTS

Diary Times Desk: Robert Lewandowski is staring at an uncertain future at FC Barcelona.

The 37-year-old striker's contract runs until June 30, 2026, and so far, there has been no development over a renewal.

The striker, for his part, has made it clear in recent interviews that he is in no hurry to resolve his future – one way or the other.

But, it is increasingly looking like the Blaugrana will move on from the 37-year-old Poland captain, with Harry Kane already being identified as a potential replacement.

Fenerbahce want Lewandowski in January

As already reported, AC Milan have set their sights on a move for Lewandowski for the summer of 2026.

Now, according to Turkish journalist Sercan Hamzaoglu (h/t Mundo Deportivo), Fenerbahce have informally inquired about Lewandowski's situation as they seek to secure his signing in January.

BARCELONA DEFENDER WITH CONTRACT EXPIRING IN 2026 OPENS UP ON FUTURE – 'I DON'T HAVE A PLAN B'

Diary Times Desk: Andreas Christensen is staring at an uncertain future at FC Barcelona, given that his current contract with the club expires at the end of the season.

Indeed, the Dane, who has once again struggled with fitness issues, will be a free agent in the summer of 2026, with there being no contract renewal offer from the Catalans yet.

Everything so far suggests that Barça might be looking to part ways with the 29-year-old centre-half, given the concerns surrounding his fitness.

Christensen discusses future

Now, speaking to Tipsbladet (h/t Mundo Deportivo), Christensen opened up on his future at Barcelona even as he prepares for Denmark's World Cup qualifiers against Scotland and Belarus.

"The situation doesn't create uncertainty for me. I think we're in a good position and there's nothing that can change my day-to-day life," admitted Christensen.



BARCELONA INSIST RFEF WERE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY ABOUT LAMINE YAMAL'S CONDITION AMID GROWING

rift

Diary Times Desk: Lamine Yamal's recovery remains a top priority for Barcelona, with the club's Medical Services maintaining constant coordination with the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to ensure his rehabilitation is handled with absolute care and precision.

Despite his withdrawal from Spain's recent squad, both institutions are said to be working in harmony, focused solely on one shared goal, which is the player's full and safe recovery.

Notably, the 18-year-old winger has been dealing with pubic discomfort in recent weeks, a delicate condition that demands patience and expert handling.

To strengthen their approach, Barcelona enlisted the help of renowned Belgian doctor Ernest Schilders, widely regarded as one of the foremost international specialists in this area of sports medicine.

RFEF DIRECTOR MOVES TO EASE TENSION BETWEEN BARCELONA AND SPAIN OVER LAMINE YAMAL – 'DONE FOR THE BOY'S BENEFIT'

Diary Times Desk : Following speculation about a possible rift between Barcelona and the Spanish national team, the Royal Spanish Football Federation's sporting director, Aitor Karanka, has spoken publicly in an effort to calm the situation.

The tension emerged after Lamine Yamal was withdrawn from Spain's squad for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers, with reports suggesting frustration within the Federation and at the club level over how the situation was handled.

Karanka, however, has moved to clarify the matter, insisting that the decision was based purely on medical advice and mutual understanding between both parties.

Addressing the issue, he firmly rejected claims of any internal conflict. "Unrest? That's no longer my concern. It's a matter for the doctors," Karanka said as quoted by Mundo Deportivo.

He went on to emphasise the transparency between the Federation and Barcelona, particularly through open dialogue with sporting director Deco.

"I have always said, even yesterday, that communication with all the clubs has been fantastic.