

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

##### US DEPORTS ANMOL BISHNOI, WANTED IN BABA SIDDIQUI MURDER CASE, TO INDIA

##### Diary Times Desk :

The United States on Tuesday deported Anmol Bishnoi – the younger brother of mob boss Lawrence Bishnoi and a conspirator in the murder of Nationalist Congress Party lawmaker Baba Siddiqui.

The US' Department of Homeland Security told his son, Zeeshan Siddiqui, of the deportation in an email that was shared with NDTV. "This email is to inform you ANMOL BISHNOI has been removed from the United States by the federal government. The offender was removed on November 18, 2025."

Bishnoi is expected in India on November 19.

Anmol Bishnoi is wanted by India in connection with several violent crimes, including Siddiqui's murder in October 2024 and that of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in May 2022. He is also wanted over gunshots fired outside Bollywood star Salman Khan's Mumbai home in April 2024.

##### HOW BIHAR'S REGIONS TIPPED THE SCALES

##### Diary Times Desk :

The narrative surrounding the recent Bihar assembly election has been constructed in several overlapping ways. It has been interpreted as an expression of gratitude to, and trust in, a leader who is perceived to deliver on promises; as evidence of women emerging as anchors of voting decisions in poor households; and as a demonstration of how a tone of masculine arrogance can weaken emotional connect with voters. Across these different readings lies one clear lesson for the political class: admiration does not automatically translate into endorsement, especially among an electorate as politically attuned as Bihar's. The verdict itself has left little ambiguity. The NDA increased its tally dramatically, from 125 seats in 2020 to an emphatic 202. By contrast, the Mahagathbandhan suffered its worst performance since 2010, finishing with just 35 seats. These headline numbers are striking enough.

##### DELHI RED FORT CAR BOMB

##### HOW THIS J&K CLERIC RADICALISED 4 DOCTORS, STARTED RED FORT CAR BLAST PLAN



This was hours before Umar-un-Nabi, aka Umar Mohammad, drove the Hyundai i10 across Delhi and detonated it outside the Red Fort. Ahmed met Shakeel and Nabi in 2023, while accompanying a patient, whose identity and link to the terror conspiracy are unclear at this time, to the Government Medical College in Srinagar.

They exchanged phone numbers and in messages and calls over the next two years, Ahmed would radicalise both Shakeel and Nabi; to such an extent the latter, in a video that emerged this week, calmly discusses suicide bombing, which he called "a misunderstood concept". Sources told NDTV Shakeel and Nabi also introduced other colleagues to Ahmed, who used extremist ideology and material – shared via a channel on messaging app Telegram – to try and radicalise them too. Ahmed also arranged meetings with Jaish terrorists in south Kashmir. Investigations have also revealed a list of 10 names believed to be 'key' members of this cell, including Umar-bin-Khattab, alias Hanjulla, a Pak-based operative with whom Irfan Ahmed was in touch.

**Diary Times Desk :** The terrorists behind the Delhi Red Fort car bomb – who have been labelled the 'terror doctors' because they were bonafide medical professionals in their day jobs, though their licences have now been cancelled – were radicalised after coming in contact with a Maulvi Irfan Ahmed, sources said.

Last week intelligence sources revealed Ahmed's name to NDTV and confirmed that he is a resident of Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian. Further details, though, were sketchy.

NDTV can now reveal the first meeting between Ahmed – who has links to terrorists from the Pakistan-backed Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group – and (former Dr) Muzamil Shakeel, who worked at the Al-Falah Hospital in Haryana's Faridabad, which rapidly became the centre of this terror cell.

It was in Shakeel's possession – in two rented rooms in Faridabad – that cops found 2,950 kg of explosives, including ammonium nitrate used in the car bomb.

##### BJP MLA TURNS TRAFFIC COP FOR A DAY IN BENGALURU

**Diary Times Desk :** Senior BJP MLA Suresh Kumar took the role of a traffic police constable and managed peak hour traffic for two hours in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

"Following traffic rules is a matter of fundamental duty; when right is replaced by duty, every resident can contribute to minimise the traffic jam," Kumar told NDTV after he managed traffic at the city's Bhashyam Circle in Rajajinagar.

The former education minister performed duty as a traffic cop as a part of the "Traffic Cop for a Day," an initiative launched by the Bengaluru Traffic Police, where citizens can volunteer to help manage traffic and offer suggestions to ease congestion. They'll get to work along with officers or staff of the jurisdictional station by registering through the BTP ASTraM app.

"I gained immense experience by working as a traffic police constable for a day, and I enjoyed this work. This initiative by the Bengaluru Traffic Police is truly welcome. The experience of controlling traffic during the peak hour at Bhashyam Circle in Rajajinagar this morning was unforgettable," Kumar said in a Facebook post.

He has also shared a video where he can be seen wearing a traffic police jacket and working along with other police personnel, managing traffic, interacting with them, manning the signal control post, and questioning the public who violated traffic rules at the junction.



##### TAMIL NADU CM MK STALIN, ACTORS AJITH KUMAR, ARAVIND SWAMY, KHUSHBU GET BOMB THREATS; SECURITY BEEFED UP



**Diary Times Desk :** CNG pumps across Mumbai and neighbouring areas witnessed long queues for the second straight day on Tuesday, as supply disruptions caused by damage to a key gas pipeline continued to hamper refuelling for vehicles.

Most CNG pumps, including those operated by Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), saw long queues from early morning-particularly of black-yellow taxis and autorickshaws-with several drivers reporting wait times of three to four hours, compared to the usual 15 to 30 minutes.

As per Mahanagar Gas Limited, the disruption began on Sunday after third-party damage to GAIL's main supply pipeline inside the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers (RCF) compound hit gas flow to MGL's City Gate Station at Wadala - a key entry point to the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) supply to the city.

"I've been waiting in the CNG pump queue since 4 am and I still don't know when my vehicle will be refilled, as there are scores of taxis ahead of me," taxi driver Sitaram Rajak told PTI.

He was waiting in the long queue at the Tardeo MGL CNG pump for refilling.

Rajak said he wanted to refill CNG early, hoping to earn well with fewer cabs operating on the roads.

MGL on Monday said, "Rectification work is in progress and the restoration of gas supply is expected by November 18 noon." The Piped Natural Gas supply to households remained unaffected, it added.

##### PROTECTING BIG CATS IS PROTECTING PLANET: ENVIRONMENT MINISTER AT COP30



**Diary Times Desk :** India has urged global leaders to step up efforts to protect big cats, saying that securing the future of these species will ensure a safe, long-lasting life for mankind.

Addressing the high-level Ministerial Segment on the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) at the ongoing UNFCCC COP30 Summit here on Monday, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav warned that a decline in big cat populations will destabilise the entire ecosystem.

IBCA is an India-led global initiative to conserve seven big cat species: the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma. The alliance aims to promote collaboration among member countries to curb illegal wildlife trade, conserve habitats, and mobilise resources for conservation efforts.

"Where big cats thrive, forests are healthier, grasslands regenerate, water systems function, and carbon is stored efficiently in living landscapes," Yadav said.

He called for renewed global cooperation to protect big cat species and their habitats as part of integrated climate and biodiversity action.

"Ecological challenges today are deeply interconnected and require linked solutions. Big cats are apex predators, regulators of ecological balance, and sentinels of ecosystem health," Yadav noted.

The minister also highlighted that declines in big cat populations lead to destabilised ecosystems, weakened resilience to climate change, and loss of natural carbon sinks.

Yadav highlighted how conserving big cat landscapes directly strengthens carbon sequestration, watershed protection, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.

##### DK SHIVAKUMAR

##### 'ASK AN ASTROLOGER': DK SHIVAKUMAR ON KARNATAKA LEADERSHIP CHANGE QUERY



**Diary Times Desk :** "What is wrong with having aspirations?" was Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's response when asked about several Congress legislators openly expressing their desire to be included in the state cabinet. Downplaying the talks of a leadership change in the state, he said the question should be asked of an astrologer.

"What's wrong with MLAs and MLCs having aspirations? The Chief Minister has the option of making MLAs and MLCs ministers. Those who work hard for the party will all have aspirations. Can we say it's wrong? They would have struggled for the party, made sacrifices and worked hard, so what's wrong with having aspirations?" he said.

His remarks come amid speculation over a possible cabinet reshuffle in Karnataka.

The buzz was fuelled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's meeting with Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, in Delhi on Saturday. He also met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge this evening.

When Shivakumar, who returned to Bengaluru from Delhi this evening after meeting Kharge, was again asked about the possibility of a leadership change, he said, "Consult an astrologer to predict cabinet expansion or leadership change".

There has been ongoing speculation about a potential change in the chief ministership when the Congress government reaches the halfway mark of its five-year term in November, which some have dubbed the "November revolution," citing an alleged power-sharing agreement involving Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.

##### TELANGANA REELS UNDER COLD WAVE CONDITION



**Diary Times Desk :** Several places in Telangana continue to reel under severe cold wave conditions, with 13 locations recording on Tuesday morning.

The lowest temperature of 7 degree Celsius was registered in Sirpur, Kumuram Bheem – Asifabad district, in the State

At 7.1 degree Celsius, Kohir mandal in Sangareddy district continued to face cold weather conditions. The other areas where less than 10 degree Celsius temperatures were observed– Sonala (7.7) in Adilabad, Bantwaram (8.1) in Vikarabad, Ibrahimpatnam (8.2) in Rangareddy, Rudrangi (8.4) in Rajanna Sircilla, Bibipet (8.5) in Kamareddy, Rayapole (8.6) in Siddipet, Makloor (8.9) in Nizamabad, Bheemaram (9.0) in Jagtial, Havelighanpur (9.3) in Medak, Kuntala (9.4) in Nirmal and Balanagar (9.9) in Mahabubnagar.

According to the Telangana Development Planning Society, the State's average minimum temperature was 12.9 degree Celsius on Tuesday as against the normal 19.4 degree Celsius, which is a departure of -6.6 degree Celsius. The average minimum temperature is 18.2 degree Celsius in November.

J&K POLICE BUST ATTEMPT TO REVIVE BANNED KASHMIRI  
WOMEN TERROR GROUP



**Diary Times Desk :** The J&K Police's Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) uncovered a major linkage between the terror outfit JeM and the banned women terror group Dukhtaran-e-Millat during raids at multiple locations in the Valley on Tuesday, sources have told NDTV. Dukhtaran-e-Millat was headed by Asiya Andrabi, who was arrested in 2018. These searches were part of an ongoing crackdown against social media abusers operating in connivance with handlers across the border, who have been deliberately engaged in furthering terrorist, secessionist, and separatist agendas, NDTV has learnt. The raids, sources said, were carried out at multiple locations in Kashmir, including Srinagar, Budgam and Kulgam districts in connection with an investigation into fresh terror recruitment by terror outfits. The Counter-Intelligence unit also carried out searches at the super speciality hospital at Shireen Bagh in Srinagar.

DELHI BLAST CASE: PHOTO  
EMERGES OF DR SHAHEEN,  
MUZAMMIL BUYING BREZZA,  
THEY PAID WITH CASH

**Diary Times Desk :** Shaheen Saeed and Muzammil Shakeel, the co-accused in the Delhi bomb blast case, bought a new Maruti Suzuki Brezza, which was among the thirty-two cars that were being prepped to carry explosive materials and/or deliver bombs, sources close to the investigators told NDTV on Tuesday.

A picture accessed by NDTV shows Saeed and Shakeel, the two doctors affiliated with the Al-Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad who have now been arrested, buying the silver-coloured car at a showroom on September 25. Sources said they made the payment in cash. It was found on the campus of the Al-Falah School of Medical Sciences and Research Centre in Haryana's Faridabad, a varsity that is now central to the Delhi car blast case.

"WILL QUIT IF JDU FULFILLS 2 LAKHS PROMISE": PRASHANT  
KISHOR AFTER BIHAR LOSS

**Diary Times Desk :** Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor, in his first reaction after the party's drubbing in the recently-concluded Bihar Assembly polls, took a 'maun upvas' (vow of silence) for "failing to change the government". Kishor, while speaking to the media, took full responsibility for the party's poor performance.

"We tried very positively from our end. We failed to change this government. We tried a lot from our end, but it seems we failed somewhere. I take all the blame on myself as I failed to let people understand. We will do our introspection. I am sorry I failed in our efforts. I will be on a 'maun upvas' (vow of silence) for a day," the poll strategist-turned politician said.

Kishor's party, which contested 238 of Bihar's 243 Assembly seats, flopped terribly as it failed to win any of them. The ruling NDA alliance - led by the BJP and Nitish Kumar's JDU won with 202 seats (BJP 89 and JDU 85), with Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ram Vilas) emerging as the other key contributor with 19 seats.

BLUEPRINT READY FOR NITISH KUMAR CABINET, TALKS HELD  
WITH AMIT SHAH: SOURCES

**Diary Times Desk :** A broad consensus has been reached on the formation of the cabinet of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Bihar. The oath ceremony will be held on November 20. Sources said leaders of Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United have held talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda in Delhi. Sources said there is also a chance that a woman could be picked for the post of the Deputy Chief Minister. The cabinet will address regional equations and accommodate all parties of the alliance, not just a single party, sources said. There will be two new entrants for ministerial berths. Parties of Chirag Paswan and Upendra Kushwaha will also receive representation. In terms of caste equations, the previous government had 11 upper castes, 10 OBCs, seven EBCs, five Dalits, two Mahadalits, and one Muslim in the cabinet.



'MOCKERY OF GOVERNANCE': JAIRAM  
RAMESH CRITICISES SC'S U-TURN ON  
GREEN CLEARANCES

**Diary Times Desk :** Congress leader Jairam Ramesh did not wait for the ink to dry on the Supreme Court's latest move: a 2:1 decision to recall its own judgment that had barred the Centre from granting post-facto environmental clearances.

"It is most disappointing that the outgoing Chief Justice of India has opened a door for a review of the May 16, 2025, judgment of the two judge bench of the Supreme Court that had barred retrospective environmental approvals," Ramesh wrote on X (formerly Twitter) soon after the news of the judgment broke.

His comments came as the Supreme Court, by a 2:1 majority on Tuesday, recalled its own 16 May Vanashakti judgment.

EVERY INDIAN TO HAVE E-PASSPORT BY  
2035, 80 LAKH ISSUED SO FAR: FULL  
DETAILS HERE

**Diary Times Desk :** To further enhance the security standards of passports and expedite travel, the Ministry of External Affairs has initiated the process of issuing e-passports nationwide. According to officials, the government has issued over 80 lakh e-passports as of May 2025, and the government has set 2035 as the target by which all Indian passports in circulation will be chipped. If you have been issued a new passport or renewed your passport on or after May 28, 2025, it will be an e-passport.

Although this new passport appears similar to the old one, it features an e-chip embedded under the Ashoka Pillar on the cover, which contains all the information about the passport holder.

E-passports are more secure  
E-passports will not only prevent the use of fake passports and misuse of documents but will also reduce the time taken during airport immigration.

Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary, Consular Passport and Visa Division, Ministry of External Affairs, stated that e-passports are secure, time-saving at airports, convenient for holders, and compliant with the regulations established by international airports.



DELHI BOMBER VISITED  
PULWAMA HOME WEEK  
BEFORE BLAST, GAVE HIS  
PHONE TO BROTHER

**Diary Times Desk :** In the first confirmation that the chilling video by the Delhi suicide bomber, Dr Umar Mohammad alias Umar-un-Nabi, was shot at least a week before he blew up an explosives-laden car near the Red Fort, sources have told NDTV that the clip was on a phone Nabi had given to his brother at their house in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama earlier this month.

Ever since the video of Nabi terming suicide bombings "martyrdom operations" emerged on Tuesday, speculation has been rife about when it was shot and the sequence of events leading up to the bombing, in which 13 people were killed.

Sources have told NDTV that a week before Nabi carried out the attack on November 10, he had visited the family's house in Pulwama. Before he left for Faridabad, where he worked at the Al Falah University as an assistant professor in the General Medicine department, Nabi handed over one of his two phones to his brother.

"GHOST OF BASTAR": THE  
RISE AND FALL OF MAOIST  
LEADER MADVI HIDMA

**Diary Times Desk :** For more than two decades, the forests of Bastar whispered one name with dread - Madvi Hidma. A phantom to security forces, a legend among Maoists, and the mastermind behind India's deadliest Naxal attacks, Hidma's story was a mix of brutality, brilliance, and near-mythical survival.

Today, that chapter has finally closed. Hidma, the most feared guerrilla commander of the CPI (Maoist), was killed in an encounter in the dense Maredmilli forests along the Chhattisgarh-Andhra Pradesh border on Tuesday morning. With him fell his wife Rajakka and four of his closest fighters, ending an era of ambushes that scarred India's internal security history.

To understand the weight of this moment, one must rewind to Tadmetla in 2010, where 76 CRPF personnel were slaughtered in an ambush so meticulously crafted that senior officers still refer to it as "the day the jungle swallowed a battalion."

It was Hidma's debut on the national map as a lean, little-known company commander who designed an attack that stunned even seasoned anti-Naxal strategists. Ten years later, investigators would confirm what insiders already knew: the Tadmetla massacre wasn't just an attack; it was the coronation of a new Maoist warlord. And that was only the beginning.

RED FORT CAR BOMB BLAST: SRINAGAR  
COURT GRANTS CUSTODY OF CO-  
CONSPIRATOR TO NIA FOR TRANSIT TO  
DELHI



**Diary Times Desk :** A Srinagar Court has ordered three days transit remand of an accused to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody to enable the agency to produce the accused in the Red Fort car bomb blast case before a Delhi Court.

The car bomb blast killed at least 15 persons and left dozens injured.

In a statement released on Monday, the NIA said that Jasbir Bilal Wani @ Danish was a key associate of Dr Umar Nabi who was in the i20 car that exploded near Red Fort.

Danish had allegedly provided technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast.

NARAYANA MURTHY'S ENDORSEMENT  
OF A '9,9,6 CHINA' WORK WEEK  
REKINDLES DEBATE ON INDIA'S WORK  
CULTURE

**Diary Times Desk :** N R Narayana Murthy has once again ignited a national conversation by advocating a 72-hour work week for India's youth, drawing inspiration from China's "9-9-6" culture of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week. Speaking recently, the Infosys co-founder said that India must embrace extraordinary discipline and hard work if it wants to close the economic gap with global competitors. He pointed to China as an example of a country where long hours, intense commitment and productivity have gone hand-in-hand in driving rapid economic growth.

Murthy recalled that senior professionals in his network visited Chinese cities—beyond the glossy metropolitan centres—to understand the country's fierce work ethic. According to him, nations rise only when their citizens combine smart work with sustained effort.

'JAICHANDS WILL HAVE TO PAY PRICE, FACE CONSEQUENCES': TEJ  
PRATAP ON 'INSULT' TO SISTER ROHINI ACHARYA

**Diary Times Desk :** RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav on Tuesday came out in support of his sister Rohini Acharya following her recent public allegations of humiliation by her brother Tejashwi Yadav and the latter's aide Sanjay Yadav, and also urged the Centre and the Bihar government to order a probe if his parents were subjected to any form of mental harassment.

The former Bihar minister, who lost the election from Mahua Assembly seat, voiced his sentiments in support of his sister Rohini Acharya in a post on his X handle, blaming the crisis on 'Jaichand', a metaphor for traitors.

He also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Bihar government to investigate if his parents have been subjected to any form of mental harassment.

AL-FALAH UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDER'S BROTHER, ON THE  
RUN FOR 25 YEARS, ARRESTED  
IN FRAUD CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** In a dramatic development spanning two states, the probe into alleged fraud and irregularities linked to Faridabad-based Al-Falah University, the varsity central to the Delhi car blast case, has taken a sensational turn. While the Delhi Police have summoned university founder-chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui for questioning, his younger brother Hamud (Hamood) Ahmad Siddiqui, who had been on the run for nearly 25 years, was arrested by Madhya Pradesh Police in Telangana's Hyderabad in connection with multiple investment fraud cases registered in Mhow in 2000.

Fifty-year-old Hamud, wanted in at least four cases, including a 1988 case related to rioting and attempted murder, was arrested on Sunday in Hyderabad's Gachibowli area and brought to Mhow on Monday.

According to Indore Rural Superintendent of Police Yangchen Dolkar Bhutia, Hamud had been operating a stock-market investment firm in Hyderabad.

CAN INDIA DENY DHAKA'S REQUEST TO  
EXTRADITE SHEIKH HASINA? WHAT  
RULES SAY

**Diary Times Desk :** After Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's ousted prime minister, was sentenced to death in absentia for "crimes against humanity", the interim government in Dhaka urged India to immediately extradite the deposed leader.

Hasina has been living in exile in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of a student-led uprising that ended her 15-year iron-fisted rule.

Hasina, along with her former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who is also believed to be in India, was earlier declared a fugitive by the court.

Hasina was convicted on five charges of crimes against humanity and was sentenced to prison until natural death for making inflammatory remarks and ordering the extermination of student protesters through the use of helicopters, drones, and lethal weapons.



IRAN'S WATER CRISIS IS A  
WORRYING SIGN OF THINGS TO  
COME

**Diary Times Desk :** I've put the word "evacuation" in the title of this piece in quotes because it's not clear where Tehran's 9.8 million people, or some significant number of them, would evacuate to as water supplies run dangerously low. Iranian President Massoud Pezeshkian has been criticized for saying out loud how bad the situation is: "If it does not rain in Tehran by December, we should ration water; if it still does not rain, we must empty Tehran."

Doubtless, Iranian water authorities will force severe restrictions on Tehran's residents if the rains—which have been 82 percent below the long-term averages for the past year—do not come. And there is almost certainly room to conserve. But the relentless heat (and thus increased evaporation from reservoirs) and lack of rain are not something that can be put down to water system mismanagement unless (as you should) you count not understanding and reacting to climate change as a failure of management.

TRUMP SAYS HE'LL 'WORK  
SOMETHING OUT' AS MAMDANI  
SEEKS WHITE HOUSE MEETING

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has mentioned that New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani had requested a meeting with him. "The mayor of New York, I will say, would like to meet with us and we'll work something out," Trump said. "He would like to come to Washington and meet, and we'll work something out." This comes as New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani signalled on Monday that he is willing to meet President Donald Trump, stating that his team has already reached out to the White House and that he would travel to Washington if it could help address the city's affordability crisis.

"I will go to make the case to the president," he said, emphasizing his commitment to meeting anyone who can support New Yorkers facing rising costs and shrinking programs like SNAP. Mamdani has also urged Trump to reverse SNAP cuts affecting low-income families during the recent government shutdown. "The president ran a campaign where he promised to deliver cheaper groceries.

ONCE THOUGHT TO BE A MYTH, THIS RARE WHALE WAS FINALLY SEEN IN THE  
WILD IN MEXICO

**Diary Times Desk :** A breakthrough discovery off the coast of Baja California in June 2024 has stunned the scientific community. A rare species of beaked whale, the ginkgo-toothed beaked whale, was seen alive for the first time in history. After years of research and tracking, a team of scientists finally confirmed the existence of these elusive creatures. Their findings were published in Marine Mammal Science, shedding light on one of the ocean's most mysterious species. In the world of marine biology, some species remain tantalizingly out of reach, known only by fleeting sounds or the occasional carcass washed ashore.

The ginkgo-toothed beaked whale, one of the ocean's most mysterious mammals, was one such enigma. For five years, a team of researchers led by Elizabeth Henderson and supported by Oregon State University set out to locate this elusive creature.

MAN ARRESTED IN MURDER OF TIKTOK  
INFLUENCER GIRLALALA IN LAUDERDALE  
LAKES: BSO

**Diary Times Desk :** A man has been arrested on a murder charge in the fatal shooting in Lauderdale Lakes of an influencer who he's been in a relationship with for several years, authorities said. Shanoyd Whyte Jr., 25, is facing a first-degree murder charge in the fatal shooting of 21-year-old Maurice Harrison, also known as Giralalala, Broward Sheriff's Office officials said. Giralalala, a transgender influencer and popular hairstylist from Pompano Beach, had over 235,000 followers on TikTok and tens of thousands of followers on Instagram. The shooting happened around 7 p.m. Friday near the 3300 block of Northwest 37th Street.

NESTLE ACCUSED OF RISKING BABIES'  
HEALTH IN AFRICA

**Diary Times Desk :** Nestle is adding sugar to baby food tailored to the African market, according to a new investigation by a nongovernment organisation (NGO), which has accused the company of "double standards" by not adhering to health standards applied to richer nations. According to the report, released on Tuesday by Public Eye, a Swiss group monitoring human rights violations by Swiss companies overseas, most of the samples it tested of Nestle's Cerelac infant cereals on sale in African countries contained added sugar, while equivalent products sold in Europe do not. This runs counter to 2022 guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO), which warns that early exposure to sugar can create a lasting preference for sugary products and contribute to obesity in children. In Switzerland, where the food-and-drink multinational company is headquartered, Nestle's main baby cereal brand is sold with zero added sugar. In other European markets, including Germany and the United Kingdom, where Cerelac baby cereals are also sold, all products for babies from six months onwards have no added sugar.



FROM POWER TO PERIL:  
SHEIKH HASINA JOINS LIST  
OF 9 WORLD LEADERS WHO  
FACED DEATH SENTENCES

**Diary Times Desk :** The sentencing of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death on November 17 has drawn global attention to the volatile nature of political power. While the situation in Dhaka remains fluid, Hasina is not the first head of state to face the ultimate penalty following a shift in regime. Throughout modern history, coups, revolutions, and military interventions have frequently resulted in former leaders being tried and condemned. Following the recent developments in Bangladesh, here is a look at nine prominent heads of state who were sentenced to death, ranging from those who were executed to those whose sentences were later commuted.

The most recent addition to this list, Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death on November 17, 2025, following her ouster amid significant political turmoil. The charges were brought by the new regime, though the proceedings have sparked international debate regarding due process and judicial transparency.

MOVE OVER CRYPTO BROS,  
THE AI PACS ARE HERE TO  
BUY THE NEXT ELECTION

**Diary Times Desk :** The crypto community was able to help buy itself a friendly administration in the 2024 election by pouring money into political action committees, and now the AI industry looks like it is planning to follow the playbook heading into the midterms. According to CNBC, the biggest PAC in the game has already picked its first target: a Democratic congressional candidate who helped pass a bill creating guardrails for AI.

The Leading the Future PAC—which counts among its backers billionaire Marc Andreessen of Andreessen Horowitz fame, OpenAI co-founder Greg Brockman, and Palantir co-founder Joe Lonsdale—reportedly has over \$100 million in its coffers already, with the intention of pushing candidates who are willing to work with the AI industry (read: not regulate it).

Alex Bores, a New York State Assembly member who is running for Congress in 2026, does not meet the criteria. He was the co-sponsor of the Responsible AI Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which was New York's first significant attempt to require major AI companies to implement safety measures to mitigate any catastrophic disasters. The bill, which has overwhelming support from New Yorkers according to polling, passed in the New York state assembly and senate without issue, but still sits on Governor Kathy Hochul's desk.



EU TO REJECT INDIA’S BID FOR CARBON BORDER TAX EXEMPTION IN TRADE-TALK HURDLE, SAYS REPORT



**Diary Times Desk :** The European Union will turn down India’s request for an exemption from its carbon border tax in a setback that threatens to complicate already-sensitive trade negotiations both sides are hoping to wrap up before the close of the year, London’s Financial Times reported Tuesday.

India has proposed imposing its own export fee on goods facing the EU’s carbon levy, including steel, aluminium and fertilisers. Under this idea, exporters would be charged according to the value of shipments, rather than the carbon intensity of production.

Brussels, however, is unconvinced.

The FT reported that according to four EU officials, the model would do little to encourage Indian industry to cut emissions and could open the door to similar demands from the US and other trading partners.

The EU’s carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) is designed to protect European heavy industries, which must purchase emissions permits — currently around €80 per tonne — under the bloc’s carbon market.

INDIA POISED TO GAIN FROM NEW US TARIFF EXEMPTIONS ON KEY AGRICULTURAL GOODS

**Diary Times Desk :** India is expected to gain from the US decision to roll back reciprocal tariffs on certain agricultural products such as tea, coffee and spices, the commerce ministry said on Monday. A White House Executive Order issued on November 12 excludes coffee, tea, tropical fruits, fruit juices, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes, beef and certain fertilisers from the April 2 reciprocal tariff regime. The exemptions took effect on November 13. The Commerce Ministry said that while this applies to all trading partners, it creates a level playing field for Indian exporters.

IS SRI LANKA SAFE? WHAT SOLO FEMALE TRAVELLERS SAY ON REDDIT, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM

**Diary Times Desk :** That was the question hurled at a woman on a solo road trip through Sri Lanka, moments before a stranger exposed himself. Her morning had begun with a peaceful sunrise swim. Locals had helped her at a petrol station when her fuel gauge failed. It was the kind of travel day that makes you fall in love with a place. But things changed quickly when a man on a scooter kept slowing down in front of her, then reappeared near a bus stop where she’d paused for a drink. A friendly chat turned increasingly uncomfortable as he asked where she was staying. She said no. He asked his question again. Then came the exposure.

‘AMERICANS CAN’T MAKE CHIPS’: TRUMP BLASTS US WORKFORCE, SAYS TAIWAN STOLE INDUSTRY

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump defended his support for H-1B migrant workers Monday, telling reporters Americans “don’t know how to make microchips” as the U.S. attempts to rebuild its domestic chip industry. Trump said the U.S. workforce lacks the technical skills needed to manufacture semiconductors—a critical industry he claims is set for a massive comeback. “For instance, if you’re going to be making chips — we don’t make chips too much here anymore,” Trump said. “But we have to train our people how to make chips, because... we lost that business to Taiwan, very, very foolishly.” Trummp emphasized that the U.S. chip market will soon rebound, predicting a surge in domestic production “within a few years,” though he dismissed the 2022 Chips Act—intended to boost American manufacturing—as a failure. “The Chips Act was a disaster,” Trump said. “Chip makers are all coming back... and maybe even the majority of the chip making in the world will be right in the United States.”



“BLEW MY STACK”: TRUMP SAYS SHOUTING OVER TRADE POLICY GAVE HIM HOARSE VOICE

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump stated that he developed a hoarse voice from what he described as a heated exchange with representatives of a foreign nation that, according to him, attempted to alter an existing trade agreement. Trump’s noticeably raspy voice drew attention during a meeting with the White House task force on the FIFA World Cup 2026 on Monday (local time), where a reporter asked whether he was feeling well. Trump responded, “I feel great. I was shouting at people because they were stupid about something having to do with trade and a country, and I straightened it out, but I blew my stack at these people.” Asked to identify the country involved, Trump declined to provide specifics. “A country wanted to try and renegotiate the terms of their trade deal,” he said. “And I wasn’t happy about it.” When questioned further, he replied, “Why would I say that to you?”

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS JR REJECTS HIS SISTER’S ACCUSATION HE USES COCAINE

**Diary Times Desk :** Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s estranged sister, a senator, publicly accused him Monday of being a longtime drug addict whose alleged cocaine dependence has led to problems in his governance, including corruption, allegations that his spokesperson said was a recycled issue that has long been disproven. Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro said Sen. Imee Marcos’ baseless accusations against her own brother may have been a desperate attempt to distract ongoing investigations into a corruption scandal involving flood control projects that may implicate her allies in the Senate. “Sen. Imee, I hope you’ll be a patriot and help in the investigation that your own brother has been doing and condemn all the corrupt,” Castro said. “Don’t side with them, don’t hide them. Let President Marcos work to stop all the corruption.” An independent fact-finding commission created by Marcos, a Senate committee and government agencies have been investigating allegations that influential members of Congress and the Senate have pocketed huge kickbacks from construction companies, which had won lucrative contracts to build flood-control projects, which turned out to be substandard, incomplete or nonexistent. The scandal has sparked outrage in an Asian country long prone to deadly flooding.

## US COLLEGES SEE 17% DROP IN NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AMID TRUMP POLICIES

**Diary Times Desk :** The number of newly enrolled international students at US colleges and universities dropped by 17% this autumn following new restrictions on student visas and other Trump administration policies, according to a report released on Monday.

Among the schools citing declines in new enrollments, 96% said visa application concerns were a factor, and 68% cited travel restrictions, according to the nonprofit Institute of International Education, which collected data from 825 US higher education institutions.

As part of its increased scrutiny of legal immigration, the Trump administration has instituted a number of policies aimed at international students, including efforts to cap their enrollment at US universities.

Additionally, the US State Department has authorised consular officers to ask visa applicants to make their social media accounts public in an effort to identify any who may be hostile toward the United States. Some student visas have been revoked, and students seeking new visas have faced delays.



## TRUMP SAYS US MAY STRIKE MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS NEXT, AFTER BOAT ATTACKS

**Diary Times Desk :** United States President Donald Trump says he may expand his unprecedented strikes against Latin American drug cartels to include Mexico, the Reuters news agency and the TV network NBC report.

"Would I launch strikes in Mexico to stop drugs? It's OK with me. I've been speaking to Mexico. They know how I stand," he told reporters at the Oval Office on Monday. "We're losing hundreds of thousands of people to drugs. So now we've stopped the waterways, but we know every route."

Trump did not say how or when such strikes could take place. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has previously stated her opposition to any such attacks on her country's soil.

Jeff Garmany, an associate professor of Latin American studies at the University of Melbourne, told Al Jazeera opposition from Mexico City may fall on deaf ears.

## UK'S SWEEPING ASYLUM LAW CHANGES: HOW WILL THEY IMPACT REFUGEES?

**Diary Times Desk :** Shabana Mahmood, the United Kingdom's home secretary, has said the country's asylum system is "not working" and is placing "intense strain on communities" ahead of proposals for major government reforms that would end refugees' automatic right to settle permanently in the UK.

Speaking to the BBC on Sunday, Mahmood said undocumented migration is "tearing the country apart".

The government's proposals, to be unveiled on Monday, will have two main prongs. First, they would end the automatic path to settled status for refugees after five years. And second, they would remove state benefits from those who have the right to work and can support themselves.

After a summer of fierce protests outside hotels housing asylum seekers and an anti-immigration march in London, Mahmood also announced new plans to curb small-boat crossings from France as well as to return refugees to their home countries once it is safe to do so.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that net migration – the number of people entering a country minus the number leaving – had hovered around 200,000 to 300,000 people per year since 2011.

## VENEZUELA'S MADURO 'READY TO TALK' AS US RAMPS UP PRESSURE

**Diary Times Desk :** Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro has said that he is willing to hold face-to-face talks with representatives of the Trump administration as US pressure on him grows.

Maduro made the comment hours after US President Donald Trump said he had not ruled out deploying ground forces to the South American country.

The Trump administration has accused Maduro – whose re-election last year was dismissed as rigged by many countries – of being the leader of a drugs cartel.

Maduro has denied the allegation and accuses the US of trying to incite a war to gain control of Venezuela's oil reserves.

Since Trump was sworn in to a second term in office in January, the US government has been increasing its pressure on Maduro.

It has doubled the reward it offers for information leading to his capture to \$50m (38m) and in August launched a counternarcotics operation.

## INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY 2025: CHECK DATE, SIGNIFICANCE AND HISTORY

**Diary Times Desk :** International Men's Day will be observed on November 19, dedicated to honouring the contributions men make to their families, society, and the world. The main objective of this day is to set good examples and raise awareness about the health and well-being of men and boys. Theme Of International Men's Day

The theme for International Men's Day 2025 is "Celebrating Men and Boys." This theme aims to highlight inspiring stories and raise awareness about the challenges men and boys face. The day also encourages initiatives that promote their better health and quality of life.

In addition, the celebration supports efforts to strengthen better gender relations and recognises the important roles men and boys play in society.

Why International Men's Day Is Celebrated

According to the official website, the idea of a special day for men has existed since the 1960s.

## US TO SELL F-35 JETS TO SAUDI ARABIA, TRUMP SAYS AHEAD OF CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT

**Diary Times Desk :** The US will sell F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, President Donald Trump told reporters ahead of a White House meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"We will be doing that. We will be selling F-35 jets," Trump said.

"They've been a great ally."

The leaders are expected to discuss deals on defence and civilian nuclear power during Tuesday's White House visit, the first by the de facto Saudi leader since journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed and dismembered at the hands of Saudi agents seven years ago.

A US intelligence assessment said Prince Mohammed approved the operation that led to the killing. The crown prince denied any role in the murder.

Prince Mohammed's last visit was during Trump's first term in 2018, the same year as Khashoggi's murder in Istanbul.

While former President Joe Biden did not host the crown prince and promised to make the country a "pariah" over its human rights record, Biden did visit Saudi Arabia in 2022 to reach agreements on other issues. Biden said he raised Khashoggi's murder in that meeting.





CHINA SUSPENDS JAPANESE FILM RELEASES AMID DIPLOMATIC ROW OVER TAIWAN



**Diary Times Desk :** Chinese film distributors have suspended the release of two Japanese anime films amid an escalating diplomatic row over Taiwan. Crayon Shin-chan the Movie: Super Hot! The Spicy Kasukabe Dancers and Cells at Work! will not be screened in mainland China as originally scheduled, Chinese state-run broadcaster CCTV said on Tuesday.

The move comes as relations between Tokyo and Beijing are at their lowest ebb in years following Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's suggestion that Tokyo could intervene militarily if China attempted to take control of Taiwan. CCTV said distributors made the "prudent" decision to postpone the releases in view of the overall market performance of Japanese films and "Chinese audience sentiment".

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA AS SAUDI ARABIA'S MBS MEETS TRUMP IN THE US?

**Diary Times Desk :** Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) is set to meet United States President Donald Trump in his first trip to Washington in eight years. The agenda for the MBS-Trump meeting reportedly includes US-Saudi security ties, weapons deals, trade and investment and Trump's ambition to have Saudi Arabia join the Abraham Accords and normalise relations with Israel. The high-profile visit could shape Saudi-US ties and the region for years to come. Here's all you need to know: When is the meeting, and what's the schedule? The meeting will take place on November 18 in the US capital, Washington, DC. Trump is reportedly pulling out all the stops to impress the crown prince, with a lavish welcome ceremony to greet him when he steps off the plane. A sit-down meeting with Trump at the Oval Office tops the agenda.

'HE HATES INDIAN POPULATION': TRUMP'S SON LEVELS MAJOR CLAIM AGAINST ZOHRAN MAMDANI

**Diary Times Desk :** Eric Trump, the second son of US President Donald Trump, has intensified his criticism of New York City's incoming mayor, Zohran Mamdani, asserting that the mayor-elect "hates the Indian population."

Trump made the remark during a conversation with Fox News commentator Sean Hannity, where he argued that major American cities are being reshaped by what he described as an aggressive far-left agenda. According to him, this ideological swing has left large corporations struggling under policies aligned with socialism.

While speaking to Hannity, Trump lamented what he sees as the decline of New York, insisting that the city was once the "greatest city in the world" but no longer holds that title "because of politics."

NETANYAHU SLAMS VIOLENCE BY "EXTREMISTS" AMONG ISRAELI WEST BANK SETTLERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the violence of a "handful of extremists" among Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, following clashes and attacks on Monday.

"I view with great severity the violent riots and the attempt by a handful of extremists to take the law into their own hands," Netanyahu said, calling the perpetrators "a group that does not represent" Israeli settlers in the Palestinian territory. Homes and vehicles were torched and vandalised in a Palestinian village in the West Bank on Monday evening after demonstrators earlier clashed with security forces dismantling an illegal settler outpost in the same area.

90 RAFALE JETS "LOST" AFTER INDIAN LOI! WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF AS UKRAINE, FRANCE SIGN PAPERS FOR 100 AIRCRAFT?

**Diary Times Desk :** Ukraine is on a fighter jet buying spree. In the past 30 days, Kyiv has signed two Letters of Intent (LoIs) to purchase 250 modern warplanes.

Last month, as EurAsian Times reported, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed an LoI with Sweden for buying as many as 150 Saab Gripen-E fighter jets.

If the LoI materialises, Ukraine will become the largest operator of the Gripen E fleet, flying more than double the number of Gripen E/F jets than even Sweden, the country that manufactures them.

On top of that, Zelenskyy signed another LoI with French President Emmanuel Macron on November 17, paving the way for the purchase of the SAMP/T next-generation air defense system and up to 100 Rafale jet fighters.

Again, if the LoI materialises, Ukraine will become the largest foreign operator of the Rafale fighter jets, putting it ahead of the UAE, which signed an agreement to purchase 80 Rafale F4 variants in December 2021, valued at around €16 billion (approximately US\$19 billion).



WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL STABILISATION FORCE FOR GAZA?



**Diary Times Desk :** On Monday, the UN Security Council passed a US-sponsored resolution which backs US President Donald Trump's 20-point plan for ending Israel's war on Gaza.

Among the clauses was one that supported the creation and deployment of an international stabilisation force (ISF) to provide security and oversight of the ceasefire agreement in Gaza. In theory, this security body will work with Israel and Egypt to "demilitarise" the Gaza Strip and will reportedly train a Palestinian police force.

Despite the passing of a resolution that "acknowledges the parties have accepted" the Trump plan, Israeli air strikes on Gaza continued, including on areas on the Palestinian side of the yellow line.

What is the ISF?

The ISF is envisioned as a multinational force that would deploy to Gaza to help train police, secure the borders, maintain security by helping demilitarise Gaza, protect civilians and humanitarian operations, including securing humanitarian corridors, among "additional tasks as may be necessary in support of the Comprehensive Plan".

## INVEST IN CRYPTO? HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR 2025 TAXES

**Diary Times Desk :** When it comes to voluntarily paying taxes on time to the IRS, crypto investors may not have a great record. At least, not according to an IRS review from 2023, which showed “the potential for” a mere 25% compliance rate.

Translation: Only about a quarter of crypto investors are likely voluntarily complying with their tax obligations.

But that low rate is likely to rise, because 2025 is the first year that investors with accounts on centralized crypto exchanges are subject to third-party reporting.

If you sold or exchanged crypto this year and conducted those transactions on a centralized exchange such as Coinbase, the exchange is now required to report your sales and exchanges to the IRS on Form 1099-DA (Digital Assets). You'll get a copy too, and it should be sent to you by January 30, 2026 in time for you to file your 2025 tax return.

## TARGET AND STARBUCKS ARE BOTH LOOKING FOR A TURNAROUND. THEY'RE TEAMING UP ON AN EXCLUSIVE NEW DRINK

**Diary Times Desk :** Two of America's most embattled retail chains are working together to drum up some excitement from customers this holiday season. They sure could use it.

Beginning Monday, a Frozen Peppermint Hot Chocolate drink will be available exclusively at Starbucks cafés inside Target stores. The vast majority of Target's 2,000 locations include a Starbucks, but this marks the first-ever holiday drink collaboration between the two companies.

Retailers have been under immense pressure this year as inflation and tariffs drive consumer sentiment near record lows. A number of consumer brands said on their quarterly earnings calls with Wall Street analysts that low-income consumers in particular are growing increasingly cost-sensitive, and they're cutting back on non-essentials.

## AMERICA IS GRAPPLING WITH AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER SHORTAGE. CAN AI HELP?

**Diary Times Desk :** The longest government shutdown in US history shook travel plans across America earlier this month as a shortage of air traffic controllers resulted in thousands of delayed or canceled flights.

But even the end of the shutdown doesn't fix the the broader air traffic controller shortage that's been plaguing American flyers for years.

Artificial intelligence, with its ability to analyze troves of data and potentially upend industries, might be able to help. After all, some in the field have called AI as impactful on everyday life as electricity or fire.

While AI does have some practical uses in aviation like crunching data on weather patterns or aircraft trajectories, experts highlighted a range of reasons why the technology won't be a substitute for air traffic controllers anytime soon – or likely ever.

“It's a human system, and it's human-centered for sure because it demands almost near perfect performance,” said Ross Sagun, a former pilot and air traffic controller with more than 50 years of flight experience. “The smallest mistakes can turn into giant disasters.”

## 'EVERYONE IS HUNKERING DOWN.' THE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS IS RATTLING MOM-AND-POP SHOPS

**Diary Times Desk :** Surging import costs. Mounting payroll and healthcare expenses. A shortage of affordable loans. And a stressed-out workforce. Small businesses are facing mounting pressure from America's affordability crisis.

Doug Scheffel, owner of a family-run ETM Manufacturing in Massachusetts, laid off about a quarter of his employees in April as the Trump administration's haphazard tariff rollout dented demand for the machine parts and sheet metal his company sells.

“Everyone is hunkering down and building up cash. It's never been this bad,” Scheffel told CNN in a phone interview. “It's very uncertain and impossible to plan in this environment.” Small businesses are the backbone of the US economy, accounting for the vast majority of total businesses in the nation, nearly half of all employees and the bulk of the job growth. Like other small businesses, ETM Manufacturing can't take advantage of growth opportunities because financing is so expensive. The average rate on a new urban small business term loan was over 7% at the end of last year, according to the Kansas City Fed, but many small businesses face rates well north of 10%.

## STOCKS AND BITCOIN SLIDE AS NERVES FRAY AHEAD OF NVIDIA EARNINGS

**Diary Times Desk :** Wall Street kicked off the week on a sour note, with stocks and bitcoin tumbling as a risk-off attitude spread through markets.

The Dow closed lower by 557 points, or 1.18%. The broader S&P 500 fell 0.92%. The Nasdaq Composite fell 0.84%.

Wall Street's fear gauge, the VIX, jumped 13%. CNN's Fear and Greed index traded in “extreme fear” and hit its lowest level since early April.

Stocks fell on Monday as investors' nerves intensified ahead of two key events this week: Nvidia (NVDA), the star of the artificial intelligence boom, is set to report earnings on Wednesday. And on Thursday, the September jobs report — long delayed because of the government shutdown — is set to be released.

These two events will provide more insight about the issues that are “top of mind” for Wall Street, according to José Torres, senior economist at Interactive Brokers.





LAWSUITS CLAIM  
ROBLOX ENDANGERS  
KIDS. NEW AI AGE  
VERIFICATION AIMS TO  
BLOCK THEM FROM  
CHATting WITH  
ADULTS

**Diary Times Desk :**  
If Roblox users want to chat on the online gaming platform, they'll soon have to verify their age by providing a government ID or by letting an artificial intelligence age estimation tool photograph their face. The move comes as the platform faces a string of lawsuits and other claims that it has enabled sexual predators to connect with and abuse children. Roblox said the updated policy will make it easier to prevent young users from connecting with adult strangers. Roblox is a platform where users can create and play online games and interact with each other. Unlike many other online platforms, Roblox allows users under the age of 13; the platform has long advertised itself as a fun way for children to learn how to code. It has more than 150 million users globally, one third of whom are under 13.

HOME DEPOT'S  
BUSINESS IS STUCK.  
THAT'S A BAD SIGN FOR  
THE ECONOMY

**Diary Times Desk :**  
The housing market is frozen, and consumers are nervous about the economy. That's a bad recipe for Home Depot.

The bellwether for US consumers and the housing market said Tuesday that its sales at US stores open for at least one year rose only 0.2% last quarter. It also cut its profit forecast for the year.

Home Depot attributed the slowdown to consumers cutting back on remodeling projects and big home upgrades. Mortgage rates have been stuck between 6% and 7% in recent years, leading fewer people to buy and sell their homes. "We believe that consumer uncertainty and continued pressure in housing are disproportionately impacting home improvement demand," Home Depot CEO Ted Decker said in a statement. Home Depot's (HD) stock slipped 3% during pre-market trading Tuesday. Shares have dropped roughly 8% this year.

WHY CRYPTO IS MELTING DOWN AND STOCKS KEEP FALLING



**Diary Times Desk :**  
Bitcoin and stocks are sliding – and investors say more turbulence could be in store.

Just six weeks after notching a record high above \$126,000, bitcoin has plummeted more than 26%. The cryptocurrency on Tuesday morning traded just below \$92,000, erasing all of its gains for this year.

US stocks were lower on Tuesday, extending a recent slide. The Dow fell 605 points, or 1.3%. The S&P 500 fell 1.3%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite slid 1.88%. Wall Street's fear gauge, the VIX, jumped 8%.

Bitcoin late Monday had dipped below \$90,000 for the first time in seven months before paring some losses early Tuesday. In Wall Street terms, bitcoin is in a bear market – when a price falls more than 20% from a recent peak. Bitcoin has shed more than \$600 billion in market value during its tumble, according to CoinMarketCap data.

Investors in recent weeks have increasingly shunned risky assets like AI stocks and crypto. Not helping: uncertainty about whether the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next month.

WHY SOME ELITE INVESTORS ARE TURNING ON THE DARLING OF THE  
AI RALLY



**Diary Times Desk :**  
Three prominent investors with almost nothing in common are dumping their shares of Nvidia, the computer chip juggernaut that went from relative obscurity to the world's first \$5 trillion valuation in just three years. It's hard to overstate Nvidia's superlatives. On its own it makes up 8% of the total value of the S&P 500. Its annual net income grew more than 580% between 2023 and 2024.

It's become almost a joke on Wall Street that the company consistently blows past expectations, notching quarter after quarter of financial gains, thanks to seemingly bottomless demand for Nvidia's sophisticated chips, which are key to building artificial intelligence models like OpenAI's ChatGPT or Anthropic's Claude.

So why sell now? Isn't betting against Nvidia now a bit like betting against the 1995 Bulls? (As in, you'd be out of your mind to do so)? Maybe not. There are any number of reasons why investors would sell Nvidia, but the timing of these recent moves is fueling concerns that the company – and by extension, the entire AI industry – is part of a speculative bubble that's bound to burst.

On Monday, a regulatory filing showed tech billionaire Peter Thiel's hedge fund had, sometime in the three months ending in September, sold its entire stake in Nvidia – all 537,742 shares, which would be worth about \$100 million as of September 30, the last day of the quarter. The disclosure, three days ahead of Nvidia's upcoming earnings release, rattled investors, who are already nervous about when, or whether, they'll see a return on their AI investments.

Thiel's revelation came days after Japanese conglomerate SoftBank said it had sold all of its Nvidia holdings for \$5.8 billion. And earlier this month, Michael Burry – the "Big Short" investor who anticipated the housing market's collapse in 2008 – disclosed that his hedge fund had bought \$9.2 million in "put" options against Nvidia and Palantir, another AI darling, essentially wagering that their stocks will fall.

**RAULANE: THE  
MYSTERIOUS, VIBRANT  
FESTIVAL OF HIMACHAL  
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD  
OF, BUT MUST SEE**

**Diary Times Desk :** Pictures of masked dancers have suddenly taken over social media – but few know the significance behind them.

In the remote valleys of Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh, a centuries-old tradition steeped in mystery and ritual is now making headlines.  
What is Raulane?

The Raulane Festival is a solemn yet deeply spiritual celebration that honours celestial beings called 'Sauni' and bids them farewell as spring approaches. The surreal costumes, the masked men, and the mystical winter ritual rooted in ancient folklore have become the internet's latest fascination. During the celebrations, two men are chosen to embody a symbolic spiritual couple: Raula (the groom) and Raulane (the bride). They wear heavy woollen garments, thick gloves, and masks – every inch of skin is concealed. In this transformation, they become a link between villagers and the sauni.

**WOMEN CRICKET  
WORLD CUP WINNERS  
BAT FOR AWARD FOR  
THEIR COACH**

**Diary Times Desk :** Pawan Sen, a cricket coach, has produced four women international cricketers, including two world cup winners in Renuka Thakur and Harleen Deol, in the last 12 years. Despite this stellar record, his efforts have largely gone unnoticed and unrewarded until now. "His tireless efforts and dedication is the reason behind our success, but his efforts haven't been awarded yet. It's high time his role and efforts are recognised and rewarded appropriately," said Renuka Thakur, a member of the World Cup winning women's cricket team.

Sen has been associated with women's cricket since 2009 when Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) started the first-ever residential cricket academy for women in Kangra. The academy was later shifted to its current location in Dharamsala. "We were just 12-13 years old when he took us under his wing.

## ILLEGAL MINING: 'ADMINISTRATIVE LAPSE OR WILFUL NEGLIGENCE?' ROPAR MLA CHADHA FIRES MISSIVE AT DC, SSP

**Diary Times Desk :** Ropar AAP MLA Dinesh Chadha has written to the district administration, asking it to implement the new Punjab State Mining Policy-2025 to curb illegal mining in its jurisdiction. Quoting news on illegal mining published in The Tribune, Chadha, in a strongly worded letter to the Ropar Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), has demanded immediate action and strict enforcement of the policy. In his letter, Chadha has stated that recent investigative reports in an English newspaper have shown excavators and tippers operating in riverbeds during late-night hours in Ropar district. "If newspapers and channels can capture the footage so openly, how can the administration claim ignorance?" he wrote, questioning the vigilance of the district authorities. Chadha stated that the Punjab Government, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, implemented the Mining Policy-2025 in July this year with the aim of fully regularising mining operations and eliminating illegal structures that previously flourished due to lax monitoring.



## **PSEB REFORMS COMPUTER SCIENCE: BOARD TO SET PAPERS, EXTERNAL PRACTICAL EXAMS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Recognising the importance of computers and digitalisation in today's world, Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) has announced significant reforms to the teaching and evaluation of the computer science subject.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the academic council under the leadership of chairman Dr Amarpal Singh.

Although the subject is already compulsory from Class6 onwards, it has so far been a grading subject only, with its marks not adequately reflecting a student's overall academic performance. For Classes10 and 12, the Board has decided that the question-paper preparation and its evaluation will now be done by the Board itself, whereas previously it was done at the school level.

From now on, the practical examination will be conducted by external examiners to ensure objectivity and maintain a higher standard of assessment.

## TRANSPORT COMPANY IN-CHARGE SHOT DEAD AT AMRITSAR BUS TERMINAL

**Diary Times Desk :** A transport company in-charge was shot dead on Tuesday morning at the interstate bus terminal (ISBT), Amritsar, here today. The deceased, identified as Makhani, was hit by four bullets and died on the spot. Police recovered six empty shells from the scene and are scanning CCTV footage to identify the attacker.

Initial investigation suggests the incident stemmed from a heated dispute between employees of two private bus transport over picking up passengers first. Eyewitnesses told police that the argument had been going on for some time before one of the employees, in a fit of rage, pulled out a weapon and opened fire. The assailant fled immediately after the shooting. Police confirmed that the preliminary cause was a clash over bus timing and passenger boarding priority. ACP Gagandeep Singh said police teams reached the spot soon after receiving the call and cordoned off the area. The accused employee is currently on the run, and a hunt has been launched to arrest him.

## YOUR HOROSCOPE

## Aries

Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.

## Taurus

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

## Gemini

Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

## Cancer

Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

## Leo

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

## Virgo

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

## Libra

**Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.**

## Scorpio

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

## Sagittarius

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

## Capricorn

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

## Aquarius

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to discipline 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.



RED FORT BLAST CASE:  
ED RAIDS 25 PREMISES  
LINKED TO AL FALAH  
UNIVERSITY IN DELHI-  
NCR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Tuesday morning carried out search operations at around 25 premises linked to the Al Falah University in Delhi-NCR, officials said.

In a coordinated enforcement operation at 5:15 am, the ED officials conducted searches as part of the agency's ongoing investigation into alleged financial irregularities, use of shell companies, accommodation entities and money laundering. The role of the Al Falah Trust and related entities is under investigation. Key personnel overseeing finance and administration have also been covered during the searches, ED sources said. Nine shell companies linked to the group, all registered at a single address, are under examination.

MATURE, MARRIED  
WOMAN CANNOT  
CLAIM RAPE ON  
PROMISE OF MARRIAGE:  
HC

**Diary Times Desk :** A married, fully mature woman cannot claim rape on the ground of a promise to marry, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has held, while ruling that consent given in such circumstances does not amount to inducement. The assertion came as the court quashed rape charge against an advocate after finding that the complainant – also a practising lawyer with a subsisting marriage – had been in a long-standing consensual relationship. “When a fully mature, married woman consents to sexual intercourse on a promise of marriage and continues to so indulge, it is merely a reckless disregard of the institution of marriage, not an act of inducement by misconception of fact,” the Bench ruled. Justice Shalini Singh Nagpal asserted it was evident from the undisputed documents that the complainant's status was that of a married woman. Her claim that the petitioner had physical relations with her on the promise of marriage was outrightly unacceptable.

HARYANA PROMOTES IPS OFFICERS ALOK MITTAL, AS CHAWLA TO DGP RANK

**Diary Times Desk :** The Haryana government has promoted IPS officers Alok Mittal and Arshinder Chawla, currently serving as additional directors general of police, to the rank of directors general of police.

Both Mittal and Chawla are 1993-batch officers.

Mittal is currently posted as ADGP, Anti-Corruption Bureau, while Chawla is currently the director of the Haryana Police Academy in Madhuban, Karnal.

The order promoting the officers was issued on Tuesday.



PUNJAB HAS NO WATER, WHY  
CAN'T YAMUNA WATER BE DIVERTED  
TO HARYANA: BHAGWANT MANN

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday said the Union government had agreed to defer as many as 11 Punjab-related sticking agenda items that were part of the deliberations during the meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Faridabad on Monday.

Mann said that of the 28 items that were up for discussion at the meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, 11 were related to Punjab, and most of them involved water-sharing between states.

Mann said Shah had ordered a status quo on most of the items related to Punjab and referred the issue pertaining to the ratios for staffing of Chandigarh administration and institutions to the standing committee of the Northern Zonal Council.

Mann said the Himachal government had raised a fresh claim, saying that as a successor state, it has a 7 per cent claim on the staffing in Chandigarh.

HARYANA DGP VISITS AL FALAH  
VARSITY, DIRECTS OFFICIALS TO  
PROBE HOW 'VICIOUS' ELEMENTS  
MADE IT THEIR HIDEOUT

**Diary Times Desk :** Haryana DGP O P Singh on Tuesday visited the Al Falah University in Faridabad, and directed top officials to probe the “security lapses” leading to some doctors joining a ‘white-collar’ terror module and making the institute their hideout.

The university in Faridabad's Dhouj has come under the scanner following the busting of the ‘white-collar’ terror module and the blast near the Red Fort on November 10 that claimed 15 lives.

The DGP later held a joint meeting with the Faridabad deputy commissioner and commissioner of police, and told them to ensure that “the faculty members who have been missing since the incident are located at the earliest”. He also directed the officers to alert the Central agencies about such individuals.

FARIDABAD TERROR MODULE: DR NISAR’S WIFE, DAUGHTER UNDER HOUSE  
ARREST; NIA, ED PROBE



**Diary Times Desk :** While tightening its grip on Al-Falah University in Faridabad, the investigating agency has placed the doctor-wife and MBBS-student daughter of Dr Nisar-ul-Hasan under house arrest inside the university campus. Dr Nisar, who is linked to a terrorist module, was arrested in West Bengal. The investigating agencies have not yet confirmed the status, but a senior police officer said agencies are questioning the wife and daughter of the suspected terrorist.

Sources said the agency barred several MBBS students, along with Dr Nisar's wife and daughter, from leaving the campus and took their mobile phones into custody. Their call-detail records and other data are being examined.

What are US aims toward Venezuela? The historical parallel is Panama – not Iraq

More than two decades ago, on January 24, 2004, I landed in Baghdad as a legal adviser, assigned an office in what was then known as the Green Zone. It was raining and cold, and my duffle bag was thrown into a puddle off the C-130 aircraft that had just done a corkscrew dive to reach the runway without risk of ground fire. Young American soldiers greeted me as we piled into a vehicle, sped out of the airport complex and then along a road called the “Highway of Death” due to car bombs and snipers.

What has our country gotten itself into? That was my first thought on that harrowing ride,

and over the course of a year in the country and then across subsequent presidential administrations, I often counseled prudence and caution when setting American foreign policy objectives. That is especially the case when it comes to the use of military power, the application of which must be tied to clear, articulated and achievable aims.

You might think the current situation in Venezuela – where the US has now deployed 15% of its naval power and is conducting

ground exercises nearby – triggers a cautionary tale to stop before our country once again finds itself in a situation that we do not fully understand with uncertain consequences.

Not so fast.

The situation in Venezuela today has little comparison to Iraq and far more resembles Panama 35 years ago, before the US military operation to remove a dictator and install an elected government that enjoyed vast support from the population there. That mission was a success, and Panama today is a functioning democracy, friendly to the US, albeit not without problems from crime to corruption.

Is it possible that we are so paralyzed by the Iraq (and Afghanistan) experience, to miss an opportunity to improve the lives of Venezuelans and stability in our own hemisphere along the lines of Panama?

Venezuela and Panama: Similar Pretex

On December 20, 1989, President George H.W. Bush addressed the nation to define the rationale behind the mission he had just ordered into Panama. He explained that Panama was led by “an indicted drug trafficker,” Manuel Noriega, who would soon “be brought to justice” in the US. Bush added that Noriega annulled democratic elections, and that the winners of those elections would soon take power in Panama City likely with broad support. Noriega’s regime also threatened and harmed Americans, including the recent death of an American soldier, shot by Noriega’s security services.

Finally, Bush discussed the strategic importance of the Panama Canal, and Washington’s commitment to existing treaties that Noriega was unlikely to honor.

Against that backdrop, Bush explained the goals of the mission: “To safeguard the lives of Americans, to defend democracy in Panama, to combat drug trafficking, and to protect the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaty.”



Brett H. McGurk

In any case, before the US embarks on a policy to replace Maduro, whether by military means or otherwise, there should be a congressional debate to weigh pros and cons, something that today also is not happening due to dysfunction in Washington.



Rob Kuznia

In recent years, these Chinese middlemen have essentially become the go-to bankers for the biggest players in the US drug trade, authorities have said, wresting control from Latin American interests in what has amounted to a bloodless coup.

Chinese Gamblers, Cartel Cash

THE SECRET PIPELINE THROUGH LAS VEGAS’ BIGGEST CASINO

Lei Zhang walked out of the desert heat into the cool air of a Las Vegas casino floor, his eyes hidden behind sunglasses. Zhang strolled past the buzzing crowds around the blackjack tables, skirted the clanging slot machines and headed to a hotel room.

He carried with him a satchel full of cash and a dark secret: He was a key player in a suspected global money-laundering scheme – one that catered to high-rolling Chinese gamblers and that investigators would later tie to some of the world’s most dangerous criminal gangs.

For years, authorities have battled an illicit black market for US dollars fueled by strict Chinese government restrictions on its citizens. Affluent Chinese nationals looking to bypass those rules pay middlemen to procure millions in cash – often sourced from Mexican cartels looking to rinse clean their illicit profits from



“They haven’t received as much scrutiny as financial institutions have in the past,” said Ian Messenger, founder and CEO of the Association of Certified Gaming Compliance Specialists in Toronto. “That is changing, with cases like Wynn.”

fentanyl and other drug sales.

Now, a CNN investigation that included a review of hundreds of pages of court documents and interviews with more than half a dozen law enforcement sources reveals new details about a little recognized participant in this booming market: American casinos.

At one high-profile casino, some of the staff were even in on the scheme.

Last year, Wynn Las Vegas agreed in a non-prosecution agreement to pay the federal government \$130 million for essentially helping to put illegal money in the hands of big-stakes gamblers in the largest criminal forfeiture by a casino in US history. The casino, which was founded by Steve Wynn, who stepped down as the CEO of Wynn Resorts in 2018, was fined another \$5.5 million by state regulators in May

to resolve the same case.

But the details of the multiple criminal cases that sparked those massive fines have largely been kept under wraps – until now.

A key factor in those settlements, investigators said, was evidence gathered in the case against Zhang and three other defendants, all of whom admitted to helping wealthy Chinese gamblers avoid currency restrictions so they could spend tens of thousands of dollars at Wynn and other casinos. At Wynn, the fraud was often facilitated by employees.

Law enforcement officials told CNN they had evidence that money provided by Zhang and others – none of whom were employed by the Wynn casino, but rather worked as middlemen providing gamblers with cash – came from prostitution, human smuggling and the street sale of deadly drugs.

At the casino, gamblers skirted “foreign and U.S. laws governing monetary transfer and reporting,” including the Bank Secrecy Act or Anti-Money Laundering laws, the Department of Justice said.

Neither the casino nor the four defendants admitted to knowingly laundering money for cartels or anyone else. But some investigators said that their actions helped bad actors hide the source of their illicit money.

INFA

International Soccer’s 148th-Best Team

PULLING CROWDS OF NEARLY 50,000 PEOPLE

On a steamy Tuesday night in June, 42,570 Hongkongsers packed into a spectacular new harborside stadium located in their city’s urban heart.



James Legge

“Kai Tak is giving me this feeling that we are stepping forward together as Hong Kong football, with the better venue, to play and provide better experiences for the fans,” said Chan. “And hopefully, we can create something great together.”

Built on the site of a former airport, the 50,000-seat Kai Tak Sports Park was completed this March – and has been the crucible of a resurgence in support for the local team, where a red sea of fans now regularly cheers on the players.

Ranked 148th in the world – just between Ethiopia and the Solomon Islands – Hong Kong’s soccer team has never seen home crowds of this size, with attendances even for crucial qualifiers normally under 15,000.

But recent games have pulled in audiences more like those at top-tier international matches.

“We never had this many fans watching the Hong Kong team,” said Shinichi Chan, the 23-year-old rising star who is a regular starter of the team. “The stadium is becoming our new home.”

Chester Cheung was among the crowd on June 10, a day he won’t forget. That night, Hong Kong defeated India 1-0 in the Asian Cup qualifiers – a series of matches deciding which teams go to the continent’s showcase

event in Saudi Arabia in 2027. For Cheung, a core member of a Hong Kong fan group, watching the team’s debut at the brand-new stadium was “a dream come true.”

“I cried,” said the 29-year-old, who spent two to three months preparing for the game with his organization Chisinlo, named after a Cantonese phrase meaning “crazy people”.

Arriving three to four hours before the game, Cheung and his mates from the group prepared flags, drums, megaphones, banners, and face-painting stickers. They also helped display a huge tifo, which they had a hand in designing.

The fans’ energy set the stage for the players.

“Wearing the Hong Kong team jersey, walking out of the tunnel, and seeing all the fans supporting Hong Kong is such an unbelievable feeling,” recalled Chan, who played midfielder at the game against India. “It is always going to be in my mind and push me ever harder to play better football.”

The momentum rolled into to the next home game, where more than 45,000 fans filled the stands – a new record for the team – during a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh last month.

Cheung said the team’s debut at Kai Tak was “a very good entry point” for those who had not watched much soccer before, as many of them were attracted by social media videos of that game and decided to give the following games a try.

And on Tuesday, Hong Kong will face Singapore at its third home game at Kai Tak, and tickets are already sold out.

The packed stands should come as little surprise in a city with a rich soccer tradition going back to its time as a British colony. Hong Kong’s first professional league was established as early as 1908, one of the oldest in Asia. It flourished in the 1970s and 80s, but since then has lost fans lured by globalized European leagues, in particular the English Premier League.

The team’s more hardcore fans in the past have also been outspoken supporters of Hong Kong’s unique Cantonese identity, culture and language, something that has occasionally caused political frictions with local authorities. Britain handed the Asian financial hub back to China in 1997 under an agreement where it is meant to keep a level of autonomy for 50 years.

In addition to serving as the home stadium for the city’s soccer team, the Kai Tak Sports Park is central to Hong Kong’s bid to reclaim its status as Asia’s premier destination for mega-events, after losing out to rival cities like Singapore and Tokyo in attracting some of the world’s biggest stars.

But for Cheung, who has followed the Hong Kong soccer team at different home venues for 10 years, the best part about Kai Tak Sports Park is the air conditioning – not to be sniffed at in a subtropical city of sweltering humid summers.



## REMEMBERING RENÉ BEYER: MUCH-LOVED PROPRIETOR OF BEYER CHRONOMETRIE — THE OLDEST WATCH RETAILER IN THE WORLD

Diary Times Desk : Muriel Zahn-Beyer describes her brother René as ein tausendsassa. The German phrase has no direct English translation, but it means something like 'dancing in a thousand fields'.

'He collected watches and was fascinated by coloured gems and porcelain,' she explains. 'He was a passionate beekeeper and loved trains and gastronomy. He would travel three days just to visit a restaurant he had been recommended. He didn't mind — René had an infectious passion for beautiful things.'

In 1996, the eighth generation, René and Muriel, took over the operational management of the family business: Beyer Chronometrie, the oldest — and arguably the most extraordinary — watch retailer in the world.

Located at number 31 on Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich's famous central boulevard, this 'temple to timekeeping' is home to spaces for selling fine new and vintage watches; traditional workshops and futuristic laboratories for a team of conservators, restorers and goldsmiths; and a private museum that contains several hundred historical clocks and watches.

In just over a year's time, Beyer Chronometrie will have been at its current location for a century, having first moved to Switzerland from Germany in 1822. The company was founded in the German town of Donaueschingen by Matthäus Beyer back in 1760 — making it older than the United States.

René and his predecessors successfully navigated the firm through world wars, economic crashes and global pandemics. They also took care to safeguard the family's illustrious ties to the industry.

For example, in 1956, Rolex founder Hans Wilsdorf gifted René's father Theodor a custom Day-Date, in appreciation of the fact that the store had agreed to stock his 'oyster', the world's first water-resistant watch, back in 1932. Similarly, in 1888, Theodor's grandfather, Adelrich Beyer, became one of the first retailers to sell IWC Schaffhausen watches — as a result of which, the store is now IWC's oldest continuously operating retailer.

Beyer's closest ties, however, lie with Patek Philippe. In 1842, just three years after Antoni Patek had made the company's first pocket watch, Adelrich's grandfather, Stephan, agreed to sell them.



## MASTERWORKS BY ROTHKO, MONET, PICASSO AND HOCKNEY LAUNCH THE FIRST NIGHT OF CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK 20TH/21ST CENTURY ART WEEK TO \$689 MILLION AND COUNTING

Diary Times Desk : On the heels of buoyant sales in Paris and London, Christie's 20th and 21st Century Art sales week in New York began on Monday 17 November 2025 with The Collection of Robert F. and Patricia G. Ross Weis followed by the 20th Century Evening Sale, which together achieved \$689,795,000 selling 96 per cent by lot and 97 per cent by value.

The energy in the sale room was palpable, with competitive bidding on the phones, in the room and online. Spontaneous applause erupted from shoulder-to-shoulder bidders periodically throughout the night as many works sailed past their estimates.

Masterworks by Mark Rothko, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and David Hockney each achieved prices in excess of \$40 million. The evening saw new artist records set for Beauford Delaney and Leonor Fini, while works by John Singer Sargent and František Kupka each set a record for a single work on paper by the artist. A new record was also set for a wire sculpture by Alexander Calder.

The Collection of Robert F. and Patricia G. Ross Weis

On 17 November auctioneer Adrien Meyer, Global Head of Private Sales and Co-Chairman of Impressionist and Modern Art, took the rostrum to lead a packed saleroom for The Collection of Robert F. and Patricia G. Ross Weis. The collection achieved a total of \$218,066,000, selling 89 per cent by lot and 92 per cent by value.

The crown jewel of the Weis collection, Mark Rothko's No. 31 (Yellow Stripe) (1958), was the top lot of the night, selling for \$62,160,000. This part of the evening was led by the stunning Rothko as well as Picasso's tender 1932 portrait of his beloved muse Marie-Thérèse Walter, which realised \$45,485,000. The sale presented one of the most thoughtful private collections of 20th-century art in the United States, previously unseen for decades.

Henri Matisse's Figure et bouquet (Tête ocre) (1937), fetched \$32,260,000, soaring past its high estimate and inspiring a thoroughly positive night for the artist. Piet Mondrian's Composition with Red and Blue (1939-1941) realised \$23,060,000. Max Ernst's bronze icon of Surrealist sculpture, Le roi jouant avec la reine, conceived in 1944 and cast in 1961, fetched \$20,185,000.



AC MILAN DRAW UP A PLAN TO SIGN BARCELONA VETERAN  
SUPERSTAR – REPORT



**Diary Times Desk :** The future of Robert Lewandowski at FC Barcelona has become a topic of debate in recent weeks, given that his contract expires at the end of the season.

So far, there has been no indication that the Catalans will offer him an extension, despite the positive form being shown by the striker for club and country in recent games.

Given his potential availability as a free agent in the summer, Serie A giants AC Milan have positioned themselves as a suitor for the Poland captain.

Now, according to TuttoSport (h/t SPORT), Milan have already decided to pursue Lewandowski and hope to win the race with a significant offer of at least two years, provided that Barcelona choose not to renew his contract.

The Rossoneri’s plan is to secure the short-term loan of a striker this January to address their attacking problems, then go all in for Lewandowski from June onwards to make him the team’s main goalscoring reference.

BARCELONA JOINED BY MAN CITY IN  
RACE FOR €40 MILLION-RATED  
BUNDESLIGA ATTACKER

**Diary Times Desk :** FC Barcelona are keeping a very close eye on the Bundesliga, with a number of players on their radar for the summer window of 2026.

Established players such as Harry Kane, Serhou Guirassy, and Nico Schlotterbeck are all being monitored by the Blaugrana.

At the same time, some up-and-coming players, like TSG Hoffenheim’s Fisnik Asllani, are also being looked at. Another player belonging to this category happens to be Said El Mala of 1.FC Koln.

Barcelona are monitoring the 19-year-old forward as a possible option to reinforce their left flank, with Hansi Flick and his staff members understood to be his admirers.

Manchester City also want Said El Mala. However, according to Sky Germany (h/t SPORT), Premier League heavyweights Manchester City have also taken an interest in Said El Mala.

Indeed, the 19-year-old German talent has impressed Pep Guardiola, who is now following him closely.

FLICK CALLS UP A NEW FACE FROM  
ACADEMY TO BARCELONA FIRST-TEAM  
TRAINING AMID INJURY CONCERNS

**Diary Times Desk :** With the international break almost out of the way, FC Barcelona have begun preparations for the resumption of La Liga action this weekend.

The Catalans lock horns with Athletic Club on Saturday, 22 November, in a game that will mark their return to the Spotify Camp Nou after more than 900 days away.

Leading up to the game, the Blaugrana look set to welcome Raphinha and Joan Garcia back into the scheme of things, with the pair recovering fully from their injuries.

Pedri, too, is closing in on a comeback, but did not train with the group today, as Barcelona do not wish to take any risks by rushing him back.

Guillem Victor called up

According to Sergi Capdevila of SPORT, Hansi Flick called up young right-back Guillem Victor to first-team training today. This comes amidst growing concerns with injuries in the right-back position.

A few days ago, Xavi Espot was injured while on duty with the Spanish U-19 national team.

BARCELONA MAINSTAY NOT TRAINING WITH GROUP AS CLUB UNWILLING TO  
TAKE ANY RISKS

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona returned to work this week after several days of rest for the players who were not involved with their national teams, but the big focus at the Ciutat Esportiva was Pedri.

According to a report from Carlos Monfort in SPORT, the midfielder has still not resumed full training with the rest of the group.

Furthermore, although the general feeling around his recovery remains positive, the technical staff is determined not to rush anything, especially given how delicate his recent injuries have been.

The mood inside the club is calm, but also extremely careful.

As such, the training took place with a very small group due to the large number of players currently away on international duty. Even with the reduced numbers, Pedri was one of the absentees when the squad assembled on the pitch.



BARCELONA VP PROVIDES  
UPDATE ON FULL CAMP NOU  
REOPENING – ‘THE FORECAST  
IS THAT...’

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona’s long-awaited return to the Spotify Camp Nou has sparked enormous excitement, and ahead of the historic moment, club vice president Elena Fort offered deeper insight into what this comeback truly represents.

For the fans, who have waited more than two years to return home, her reflections helped place the scale of the project into proper context.

Before sharing her first major message, Fort wanted to remind just how demanding the reconstruction has been. She explained the current phase by saying,

“It has been a long, complex process. An intense process, but also an exciting one. These are works of incredible dimensions,” she said on El Larguero.

“It is the most important private civil engineering project currently underway in Europe.

“Over the past few months, we have learned what was being done well and what was not. Many factors have led us to go beyond what we had initially planned.

“The important thing is to be able to say that we are coming back and that we will be able to enjoy this stadium, which still has a lot of work ahead of it. We are in the middle phase, we still have time.”

**BARCELONA PREPARE  
SURPRISE MOVE WORTH €25-  
30M FOR BRAZILIAN WINGER –  
REPORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona’s scouting department appears to be widening its lens once again in Brazil, with a new report from SPORT revealing that the club are seriously assessing a move for Vasco da Gama sensation Rayan.

The young winger is one of the brightest prospects in South American football right now,

and Barcelona are believed to be weighing up an offer in the region of €25-30 million, though the internal debate is far from settled.

Rayan’s rise has been rapid, and his performances have already caught the attention of several Premier League sides, who view him as a long-term investment.

As such, Roma have entered the race and have reportedly begun initial talks with Vasco da Gama, although nothing has been finalised.