

# Army Chief Gen Dwivedi visits BRO headquarters

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (ANI)

INDIAN Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday visited the headquarters of the Border Roads Organisation in the national capital. During his visit, he was briefed by BRO officials on infrastructure development along borders and capacity development initiatives of the organisation. The Army Chief appreciated the efforts of BRO in nation-building.

"#GeneralUpendraDwivedi #COASvisitedHQ Director General Border Roads #DGBR. During his visit, he was briefed by Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, #DGBR on infrastructure development along our



Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi during his visit to the headquarters of the Border Roads Organisation.

(PTI)

borders and capacity development initiatives of Border Roads Organisation #BRO. #COAS appre-

ciated the efforts of #BRO in #NationBuilding," the Indian Army wrote on X.

# Turkey to submit request to join genocide case against Israel in UN court

ANKARA, Aug 7 (AP)

TURKIYE will file a request with a United Nations court on Wednesday to join South Africa's genocide lawsuit against Israel.

The declaration of intervention will be submitted at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the official said on condition of anonymity in accordance with regulations.

Turkiye, one of the fiercest critics of Israel's actions in Gaza, will become the latest nation to seek to participate in the case. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has frequent-

ly compared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler, accused his country of genocide, called for it to be punished in international courts and criticised Western nations for backing Israel.

In May, Turkey suspended trade with Israel, citing its assault on Gaza. In contrast to Western nations that have designated Hamas as a terrorist organisation, Erdogan has commended the group, calling it a liberation movement.

South Africa brought a case to the International Court of Justice late last year.

# China, Saudi, UAE agree to roll over cash-strapped Pakistan's USD 12 billion debt for one year

■ By Sajjad Hussain

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7 (PTI)

CHINA, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have agreed to roll over cash-strapped Pakistan's USD 12 billion debt for one year, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely to approve its USD 7 billion bailout package later this month.

After a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance on Tuesday, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb told reporters that there was no delay in the IMF Executive Board meeting, which is going to take place by the end of this month to approve the USD 7 billion Extended Fund Facility, the Express Tribune reported on Wednesday.

The Executive Board is scheduled to meet on August 28 to approve the USD 7 billion package, the report said,

quoting Government officials.

The development marks an end to the uncertainty over the timing of the Executive Board meeting, which was contingent upon the rollover of debts by Pakistan's three traditional creditors, it said.

Aurangzeb said the USD 12 billion cash deposits by China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would be rolled over for one year, like last time. Earlier, he had said that the IMF had asked for the rollover for three to five years before the Executive Board meeting.

However, he clarified that the requirement was to secure the rollover for one year but the Government was trying to have these rollovers for three to five years. He added that the three bilateral creditors had agreed to roll the loans over on the existing terms and conditions.

The IMF announced a staff-level agreement for USD 7 bil-

lion last month subject to the approval of the Executive Board and securing financing commitments from the bilateral and multilateral creditors.

The Finance Minister said there was no point in asking for an increase in the interest rates on these loans when the country's foreign exchange reserves had strengthened compared to a year ago. The IMF, he added, had identified only a USD 3-5 billion financing gap over the three-year programme period, which was quite manageable.

"Pakistan has also received an offer from a foreign commercial bank but we are waiting for the IMF Board approval to ask the lender to cut the offered interest rates," said Aurangzeb. The offer had come from a non-Gulf and non-Chinese commercial bank, he added, without disclosing the name.

# Rajpaksas announce heir as candidate for Lanka presidency

COLOMBO, Aug 7 (PTI)

NAMAL Rajapaksa, the 38-year-old heir to the Rajapaksa dynasty, was on Wednesday named as the SLPP candidate for the presidential election, thus officially ending Rajapaksa family's backing to the incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Sagara Kariyawasam, the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka People's Front (SLPP, also known locally by its popular Sinhalese name, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna), announced the younger Rajapaksa's candidacy early on

Wednesday morning at a ceremony at the party headquarters. Namal's entry has made the election a four-cornered contest. Besides, President Wickremesinghe, the main Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and the Marxist JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake are already in the fray.

The Rajapaksas - Mahinda, Basil and Gotabaya - were instrumental in Wickremesinghe winning the parliamentary vote in July 2022 to take over Gotabaya's remaining term.

It was soon after the unprecedented development of mid-April 2022 when the island nation declared its first-ever sovereign default since gaining independence from Britain in 1948 and almost civil war-like conditions followed as unrest spread amid locals over inflation and other economic stress that had led to Gotabaya's ouster.

Wednesday's development comes days after the SLPP lost nearly 100 of its MPs to Wickremesinghe after he announced his candidature as an independent.

**DARK  
MARK  
ON  
OLYMPICS**

**India  
explodes  
in  
protest**

More reports on  
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# VINESH DISQUALIFIED just before final

## Found 100 gm overweight INDIA ROBBED OF MEDAL



Contingent's Chief Medical Officer Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala said that every possible trick was used to ensure that Vinesh could be within the prescribed limit.

By Amanpreet Singh  
PARIS, Aug 7 (PTI)

**ANENTH:** nation's hopes were crushed under the weight of 100 grams.

With hours to go before Vinesh Phogat's gold medal bout on Wednesday, she stood on the scales: the figures on the display were horrifying. For her 50kg category bout, she was 100gm overweight, leading to an automatic disqualification on perhaps the biggest day of her sporting career.

No amount of pleading by Indian officials to get some more time to shed those 100gm was going to change the rules and so that's how it stayed, ending Vinesh's tale of resilience at the Olympics.

(Contd on page 5)

### Read Editorial

**UNFORTUNATE !!!**  
People in India felt that Vinesh was being subjected to some conspiratorial design to keep her altogether out of contention... India must prevail upon the Olympic Committee to change its decision... If the Games authorities do not accept that appeal, then India may have its own justification to withdraw from the tournament.

-- on page 8

## India lodges protest

- Wrestling Federation of India files appeal to UWW to reconsider the decision
- PM asked IOA chief P T Usha to take appropriate action: Mandaviya tells LS

NEW DELHI/PARIS, Aug 7 (PTI)

**THE** Indian Olympic Association lodged a strong protest with the United World Wrestling over Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked IOA chief P T Usha to take "appropriate action" in the matter, the Government said on Wednesday.

"I met Vinesh at the Olympic Village Polyclinic a short while ago and assured her of complete support of the Indian Olympic Association, Government of India and the whole country. We are providing Vinesh all medical and emotional support," Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha said in a statement after the stunning turn of events. "The Wrestling Federation of India has filed an appeal to UWW to reconsider the decision to disqualify Vinesh and IOA is following that up in the strongest possible manner," she added.

In a statement in the Lok Sabha, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the Government had provided all possible assistance to Phogat according to her requirement.

(Contd on page 5)

## Vinesh is champion for 1.4 bn Indians: President

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (PTI)

**PRESIDENT** Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday that wrestler Vinesh Phogat's "extraordinary feats" at the Paris Olympics have thrilled every Indian and made the country proud.

"While we all share her disappointment at the disqualification, she remains a champion in the hearts of 1.4 billion people," Murmu said.

"Vinesh Phogat's extraordinary feats at the Paris Olympics have thrilled every Indian and done the country proud," Murmu said in a post on X.

"Vinesh embodies the truly indefatigable spirit of Indian women, and her epic fortitude and resilience are already inspiring future world champions from India. I wish her many laurels in the future," the President said.

President Murmu is currently on a three-nation tour and on Wednesday she concluded her State visit to Fiji.

## 'India's pride' Vinesh will come back stronger: PM

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (PTI)

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday described wrestler Vinesh Phogat as a "champion among champions" and exuded confidence that she would come back stronger following her disqualification from the final Olympic bout.

"Vinesh, you are a champion among champions! You are India's pride and an inspiration for each and every Indian," Modi posted on X.

"Today's setback hurts. I wish words could express the sense of despair that I am experiencing. At the same time, I know that you epitomise resilience. It has always been your nature to take challenges head on," he said.

"Come back stronger! We are all rooting for you," Modi said.

Sources said, the Prime Minister also spoke to IOA president PT Usha and sought first hand information from her on the issue and the options India has in the wake of the setback.



Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha meets wrestler Vinesh Phogat after the latter was hospitalised following her disqualification from the Paris Olympics as she was found overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final match in Paris, France on Wednesday. (PTI)

# Bangladesh turmoil hits India Inc's mfg, sourcing

## Some Cos Shut Ops, Sales To Be Hurt Too

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** The political crisis in Bangladesh, which has taken a violent turn throwing normal life out of gear, has impacted Indian companies operating in the country.

FMCG company Marico's manufacturing operations in Bangladesh remain shut even as it claimed that a large majority of its retail sales force and distributors have now resumed operations. Marico which gets 44% of its international business and about 12% of its consolidated revenues from the country runs three factories in Bangladesh's Gazipur and Chattogram regions.

"The operating conditions in the market are gradually improving, however we remain watchful of the evolving situation....we expect our manufacturing operations to resume soon while we continue to maintain an adequate assurance of supply of our products to meet market demand in the interim," Marico said in a stock exchange filing on Wednesday, adding that the medium term prospects of its business in Bangladesh remains intact. The company sells a range of products including shampoos, edible oil, baby care and skin

care products in the market.

VIP Industries, which sources soft luggage, backpacks and duffle bags from Bangladesh, said that if situation in the country continues to remain tense and the political crisis has negative ra-

to Kolkata on Aug 4. Of the company's revenues, 20-25% are dependent on sourcing from Bangladesh.

Fevicol maker Pidilite Industries said that it is actively assessing the potential impact of the crisis on its busi-

### FROM FMCG TO LUGGAGE COS

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|---|--|
|  <p><b>Marico</b> Mfg ops shut. Bangladesh accounts for 44% of Marico's int'l biz &amp; 12% of consolidated revenue</p> |  <p><b>VIP Industries</b> 20-25% of revenues are dependent on sourcing from Bangladesh. Will rethink sourcing based on on how situation pans out</p> |
| <p><b>Pidilite</b> Has mfg facility and sells locally in the country too</p>    | <p><b>Dabur</b> Low exposure relative to peers though it has a mfg plant and sells products in the country</p>   |
| <p>➤ Asian Paints, Jubilant Foodworks are some other Indian cos that have exposure to Bangladesh</p> <p>➤ Among global cos, Unilever Bangladesh has temporarily shut ops</p>                              |  |

mifications for India in the long-term, it will devise a new sourcing strategy, possibly moving it to India that accounts for 70% of the company's total sourcing.

"With the demand for soft luggage coming down, we have already been scaling down our operations in Bangladesh," MD Neetu Kashiramka told TOI. VIP Industries said all its seven plants in the country's Mongla region are currently working; it however, moved its 20 Indian staff

ness operations in Bangladesh. MD Bharat Puri said that the company is hopeful of a swift resolution to the current situation. It has manufacturing facilities in a few international locations including Bangladesh and also sells locally in the country. Dabur said that it is closely monitoring the developments in the country. Analysts expect sales of companies operating in the country to remain under pressure until the crisis is resolved.

# Democrats pitch Harris-Walz team as 'ticket of joy' for US

## Hope It Will Open Doors For Kamala To White Votes, Blue Wall States

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

**Washington:** He taught in China, knows Mandarin, and is "therefore cozy with China". He was arrested for drunk driving. He quit the National Guard just before deployment in Iraq. He was governor of Minnesota during the Minneapolis riots. He's an uber-liberal west coast wannabe. MAGA Republicans are bombarding Kamala Harris' vice-presidential pick Tim Walz with political dirt within hours of him coming into the national limelight even as the new Democratic ticket is surging ahead in polls, the new energy and momentum evident at a raucous rally in Philadelphia, often referred to as the City of Brotherly Love.

Indeed, brotherly love was what was on display on Tuesday as Democrats quickly closed ranks, with Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro, who lost the intra-party race to be Harris' running mate, joining the event to endorse the Harris-Walz ticket even as Americans began scouring for information about a man who one survey showed 71% of respondents had never heard of.

What they are discovering is a high-relatable everyone's uncle whose folksy style and openhearted mannerism reportedly charmed Harris so much that she is risking losing Pennsylvania by picking him over Shapiro. Among the more endearing disclosures he reportedly made to Harris when he was being vetted: He had never used a teleprompter before.

Their pairing is now being presented to voters as a "ticket of joy", in contrast to the dark and dystopian view of America that Donald Trump is projecting if he loses. "Thank you...for



**NAMASTE WALZ:** 'Thank you...for bringing back the joy,' Tim Walz told Democratic prez nominee Kamala Harris in the opening moments of his address at a raucous rally in Philadelphia, after essaying a brief namaste

bringing back the joy," Walz told Harris in the opening moments of his address, after essaying a brief namaste.

What Walz brings to the table, according to Democratic strategists, is a broader appeal to white rural and suburban voters who remain leery of the first woman of colour nominated for the White House race by a major party. Party panjandrums are hoping that even if he swings 1 or 2% of white voters in the so-called Blue Wall states that are won or lost narrowly, including neighbouring Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, it will pave way for Harris to reach the 270 electoral votes needed to win the prez race.

Whether that will work in practice is yet to be tested since traditionally, outside of the optics, the vice-presidential choice is inconsequential in drawing votes, something Republican candidate Donald Trump also stated last week in reference to his own running mate. Trump supporters meanwhile are already sowing fears about Walz's liberal policies, including generating memes ridicu-

ling him as "Tampon Tim" because his administration provides free menstrual products to students in Minnesota public schools. But Walz is unapologetic about his policies that includes codifying abortion rights and free school meals for children. Questioned about this in one interview, Walz joked about himself, "What a monster! Kids are eating and having full bellies so they can go learn, and women are making their own healthcare decisions!"

Every bit of Walz mid-western charm was evident at the boisterous rally where he was introduced to a partisan crowd whose own governor was disdained, but which still enjoyed the Minnesotan's verbal salvos, including a risqué shot at his rival JD Vance, also from heartland America, asking him to "get off the couch and show up" to debate him. The salty aside was a reference to the liberal canard online about Vance fornicating with a sofa, one of several such lurid memes and themes both sides are generating in an election campaign that is increasingly going below the belt.

# Interim govt takes over today, Yunus calls for end to violence

## Council Of 15 To Take Oath, Says Army Chief

AKM Moinuddin

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh, lumbering through chaos, confusion and violence for three days, will get an interim govt Thursday with Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus at the helm, marking a homecoming for the self-exiled 84-year-old former "banker to the poor" after years of battling corruption and other cases slapped by the erstwhile Sheikh Hasina administration.

Army chief Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman held a presser to

► **EDIT PAGE: Can banker to poor save democracy?**

announce a possible 8pm swearing-in, hours after Yunus's scheduled 2.10pm (Dhaka time) arrival by an Emirates flight from Paris via Dubai.

On Wednesday, a Bangladesh court overturned Yunus's conviction in a case relating to labour law violations. Yunus was out on bail after being handed a 6-month jail sentence in January.



Thousands turned up for a rally of main oppn Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Dhaka Wednesday. The party called for polls in 3 months. In her first public speech since 2018, delivered via video link, **BNP chief Khaleda Zia urged the youth, 'no destruction, no anger and no revenge, we need love and peace to rebuild our country' | P 19**

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"Let us ensure that we make the best use of this new victory. Let us not lose this victory because of any mistake of ours," Yunus said in an appeal to the people of Bangladesh before heading to Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport. "This is a beautiful country, with lots of exciting possibilities. We must protect and make it a wonderful

country for us and for our future generations."

The banker-economist, who won the peace Nobel in 2006 for pioneering micro-credit in his native country through Grameen Bank, said he was "looking forward to going back home, see what's happening, and how we can organise ourselves to get out of the trouble we are in".

## Yunus sees 'many opportunities to heal rifts' with India

Though some countries, such as India, backed ousted PM Sheikh Hasina and earned the enmity of the Bangladeshi people as a result, there will be many opportunities to heal these kinds of rifts and resume bilateral alliances and close friendships soon, said Muhammad Yunus in an article in *The Economist* Tuesday. Yunus, who described Hasina's ouster as the "second liberation" of Bangladesh, also called for reviving Saarc, which has been blocked by India over Pakistan's support to cross-border terror. TNN

In Dhaka, the army chief said the interim govt, which he termed "an advisory council", might have 15 members. "He (Yunus) is very eager to do this," Waker said in a TV address. "I am certain he will be able to take us through a beautiful democratic process... we will benefit from this."

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